

EAST MELBOURNE JOLIMONT

community magazine 3002

HAVE YOUR SAY

*on what life should be like
in east melbourne*

5x4 HAYES LANE PROJECT

an exciting building

CONCERN ABOUT AIRCRAFT NOISE

taking off

WINTER
2013

EAST MELBOURNE JOLIMONT

community magazine 3002

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EMHS

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



east melbourne group

With financial assistance from



Presidents Message

Welcome to the first edition of the East Melbourne and Jolimont community magazine for 2013.

This magazine is produced by volunteers of the local residents' association, the East Melbourne Group Inc. (EMG). It is supported by local advertisers and is distributed free to every mailbox in the precinct by local volunteers.

Do you love East Melbourne/Jolimont? Would you like to see its environment protected and improved? If so, please join the EMG. This is what we do. We listen to the community and advocate on its behalf in dealing with the council, governments, VCAT, the MCC, developers and the community at large. We also encourage community relations by organising social functions. Membership is inexpensive and is open to owners and renters. Please contact us on 9415 7570 and we will be very happy to provide you with a membership application or go to our website www.emg.org.au

The EMG has been operating since November 1953. This financial year is our Diamond Jubilee year.

We have much to be proud of – from protection of the elms in George Street in 1953, through to construction of the East Melbourne library, to the preservation and improvement of our parks and gardens and median strips today. Our outstanding community, architecture and environment prove what a strong residents' association can do.

And like the Queen, we will celebrate this year.

In doing this, we are very conscious of the need to provide both traditional gala events and to extend the reach and inclusiveness of our social functions.

On 10 July we will host a community dinner dance at the Australian Club. It is an open invitation to all members of our community and we would welcome many new faces. Contact the EMG on 9415 7570 for more information.

This will be followed by events like a picnic in the park, Christmas drinks and a community garden party at Bishops Court in February next year which we hope will provide something for everyone.

EMG is preparing a strategic plan to 2020. Whilst we celebrate our diamond jubilee we will look forward to see how we can better enhance and protect our wonderful suburb. To this end we are seeking input from residents and business operators through a survey and discussion groups. More information is on page 15.

Please give us your views in the survey, and join the EMG if you are not already a member. Every opinion, and every EMG membership, strengthens our voice and our influence in protecting and improving the East Melbourne and Jolimont we all love.

Bernard Wheelahan AM
President

PLAY TIME at Holy Trinity

A new playgroup held each Wednesday at Holy Trinity has filled a gap in our community.

For pre schoolers of any age, accompanied by an adult, children can connect with others through stories, music and art.

Parents, grandparents and nannies as well as the children are enjoying playgroup. According to Tanya, mother of Isabella, 'It is a very warm and welcoming environment with different activities and play stations to suit bubs and toddlers of all ages. Isabella especially loved the water station and the blocks.'

Dorothy Hughes, Children and Families Minister Facilitator for the Diocese of Melbourne has provided valuable guidance and leadership in establishing the playgroup. She is pictured here with children Jade, Nora and Isabella.

The group operates each Wednesday from 9.30am to 11am during school terms at the corner of Clarendon & Hotham Streets East Melbourne. For more information contact Margaret Webster 0412 486 838 margaretjwebster@hotmail.com



Concern about aircraft noise TAKES OFF



Living in East Melbourne is being spoilt for many by persistent helicopter and aircraft noise.

Over about five years residents have noticed an increase in noise emanating from the sky. And in the past few months noise levels have become intolerable.

Last financial year, 1125 complaints were received by Airservices Australia - the government body responsible for airspace management - about aircraft noise in Melbourne. Complaints have come from suburbs including East Melbourne, Fitzroy, Kensington and the city.

According to Shelley Faubel, EMG committee member driving this campaign for change, Airservices Australia Noise Complaint Information Service provided a map which verifies the concerns of residents as it clearly shows how aircraft circle, often numerous times, over East Melbourne. On one weekend in April 127 aircraft passed or circled over our suburb and this is not unusual.

Helicopters often hover for extended periods to film events at the MCG or for traffic reporting and news. The excuse given for news helicopters preferring a spot adjacent to the Hilton to hover for extended periods is that the advertising at the MCG is oriented to the north and must be captured in the shots. Residents directly under that helicopter or close by must endure the loud thudding for almost the entire duration of the game. On Anzac Day a helicopter was mostly in that one spot for four hours.

The aircraft noise problem is worse on weekends with joy and training flights. The issue seems to be that the airspace above our residential area is unregulated and aircraft can fly as they wish, including at low altitudes.

It is not only the disturbance created by noise and vibrations that worries people. It is the potential for an accident over our densely populated residential area and the fright it can create for people and pets when aircraft are particularly low and loud. Noise levels of up

to 80 decibels have been recorded locally and this approaches the level (85 decibels) at which damage to hearing occurs.

As stated by Shelley Faubel, 'We are not trying to make the airspace over East Melbourne a no-fly zone or prevent emergency service, patient transports and defence force helicopters doing their job. But there are way too many other helicopters and fixed wing aircraft flying over and around East Melbourne and damaging the quality of life in the area for many people.'

Our local member, Adam Bandt met with concerned residents in May to better understand their concerns.



Residents woken each morning at about 6am by traffic helicopters above Hoddle Street wonder how necessary the presence of a hovering helicopter is in alleviating traffic congestion.'

Charlie Hohnen has been registering complaints with AirServices Australia since 2008. AirServices Australia admits that there is a problem but indicates that nothing can be done.

Charlie said, 'We acknowledge that living close to the city and close to the MCG will have some downside in noise terms but it is

becoming ridiculous that we should have to put up with the levels being imposed on us for the sake of sports fans who want to watch TV or joy flyers who want to gawp at people's backyards.'

The East Melbourne Group is supporting residents who find the noise a problem and it is seeking a reduction in unnecessary noise from air traffic in the skies above East Melbourne.

Residents are asking for East Melbourne to be included in controlled airspace so that flight plans must be lodged and limits put on the length of time an aircraft can hover in the one place.

Approaches have been made to various authorities and our local member, Adam Bandt, met with concerned residents in May to better understand their concerns. He subsequently spoke in the House, arranged to have a Senator put some questions to AirServices when they came before the Senate Estimates Committee, and is exploring the possibility of getting representatives from Airservices and the Ombudsman to meet with the East Melbourne Group and local residents.

When speaking in the House he said, 'I am pleased to support the community in their efforts to preserve the amenity in the area and their right to quiet enjoyment. The community is preparing a petition on this issue, which I will table before the House in due course.'

If you are affected by this problem, please contact the East Melbourne Group on 9415 7570 to sign the petition. You may also wish to contact Airservices Australia to lodge a complaint. Phone 1800 802 584 or go to the complaints form on the website www.airservicesaustralia.com

BISHOPSCOURT

A BATTLE ROYAL

Lotte Mulligan

In June 2000 the East Melbourne Group engaged - and won - a major heritage battle.



For over two years various proposals were put forward for a sub-division of East Melbourne's oldest and most significant building and the last remaining urban estate in the City of Melbourne. The EMG persuaded the Heritage Council, the City of Melbourne and finally the National Trust to refuse any sub-division of the grounds of Bishopscourt.

The Melbourne Anglican Trust Corporation had determined, at that time, to subdivide the historic grounds and gardens facing Hotham Street in order to build up to four double-

storeyed residences. These buildings would not only have destroyed the historically significant gardens, but would also have obscured the building itself. This victory of the EMG – a veritable St. George – meant the defeat of the dragon of inappropriate development on the area's most significant ground.

We employed Meredith Gould, the heritage architect who had classified East Melbourne's built environment in 1983. She argued that the house had two frontages of equal significance – towards Clarendon Street and towards Hotham Street and that the proposed subdivisions would have obscured and devalued the building's 'front lawn' aspect. Professor Miles Lewis argued that no development should be allowed on the site and a whole phalanx of arborists, together with members of the Australian Gardens History Society spoke at the hearing about the value of individual trees and of the historical value of the whole garden layout. The Anglican Diocese's opposing argument of undue financial hardship was given short shrift.

As a result of the Heritage Council's findings the gardens have been restored to their nineteenth century magnificence by volunteers with initial assistance from the Australian Garden History Society and support from Archbishop Peter Watson and his wife Margo. The austere beauty of the bluestone structure remains visible from both its front lawns. Indeed the work of restoring the grand old house itself, as well as the historic gardens that surround it, has been undertaken by the present Archbishop, Archbishop Freier and his wife Joy. East Melbourne and the Diocese are fortunate to have gained leaders who not only makes it their business to listen to the local population but who have the interests of heritage at heart. The gardens will be part of the Open Garden Scheme in early November

This case, more perhaps, than any other with which I was associated, shows how crucial it is that residents and their representatives take on the Leviathan of inappropriate development and fight for the preservation of their home patch.



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FROM LITTLE THINGS BIG THINGS GROW

5X4 PROJECT

East Melbourne is home to a very small but very exciting building project.

Siusan MacKenzie

This is a unique inner city dwelling set on an unusually small footprint. It has been designed, built and powered with passive and active eco-driven processes, materials and performance considerations.

This is the idea of client and project manager Ralph Alphonso who has already built townhouses in Hayes Lane. His father's throw-away question about what he was going to do with the adjacent leftover land, which housed a lean to shed, had Ralph's head spinning with ideas.

Through his work as a photographer Ralph has been exposed to much innovative architectural and construction work. He has drawn on this experience and his contacts to bring to fruition his dream of turning the 5m x 4m pocket of land into a sustainable living space he himself would want to live in.

After much world-wide research about the use of small spaces he became very aware of how he was using and wasting his existing living space. This all served to inform the design of the project.

The One Planet Living principles will be used as a guide for the physical design of the project, with adaptation around behaviour to reduce ecological footprints in a city. It will also provide a platform for educating people about the process.

The 5x4 Hayes Lane Project will demonstrate and encourage debate around sustainable living, a healthy form of settling the city of Melbourne more closely and how to achieve these aims through best practice design and living.

The project was presented to the United Nations Earth Summit in Rio, Brazil in 2012 and is supported locally by groups such as The Conservation Foundation, City of Melbourne and Beyond Zero Emissions. You can follow the development of the 5x4 project at www.fivexfour.com

T A Men's Shed I for Melbourne

Following advice from the City of Melbourne Councillors and Staff, men from East Melbourne along with representatives of Kensington, Southbank and Docklands have formed a management committee to set up a Melbourne Men's Shed.

The concept of a men's shed is that of a community organisation where men can:

- meet and enjoy each other's company; and
- converse, share and develop new skills amongst themselves,

One of the main reasons for the creation of men's sheds was to improve the overall health

of the older male population of Australia. Being part of a men's shed provides an environment that is safe, stimulating and interesting where men can foster new friendships and mateship. No pressure, a chat and a cuppa to underpin working on some interesting tasks.

The statement of purpose of the Melbourne Men's Shed is;

In a safe environment provide the opportunity for men to:

- drop in
- learn new skills
- share knowledge
- build friendships
- get involved in community life
- support selected community projects: and
- improve health outcomes

The committee has taken advice from the Australian Men's Shed Association and is looking at the operation of other suburban

sheds to inform its planning. There are over 650 men's sheds in Australia.

Documentation relating to the incorporation of The Shed has been lodged with Corporate Affairs Victoria. This is a necessary first step before progressing with finding premises, opening a bank account, obtaining insurance, recruiting members etc.

Until there is a firm offer of premises and related facilities it isn't possible to actively recruit members or develop a firm program. The now disused Mobility Centre at Federation Square has been identified by the City of Melbourne (CoM) as a possible location for the MMS to start life. If this is available for lease from Federation Square and CoM is prepared to contribute to its funding, it will need some modifications before it can be operational. While the new shed might start out at a single location, it is envisaged that there could be multiple sites in the future.

For more information contact Tony Bright, Chairman 0413 334 069

ZACHARY ARCHIE & CHIFLEY



Albi makes friends with Lucy in the park.

It sounds like a firm of solicitors but it is in fact just a few of the dogs of East Melbourne I've met since becoming a dog owner myself.

Siusan MacKenzie

Our new puppy definitely opens the door to conversation with strangers and children. Dog owners routinely stop on the path for a chat while their pets introduce themselves, or reacquaint, in their own unique way. It is funny though, how I usually come away knowing the name of the dog but not always that of the owner. There's Zachary, Bambi, Turtle, Dave, George, Charlie, Nelson, Rocky, Yuki, Beema, Morgan, Champagne, Bill, Winston, Chifley and Watson to name just a few.

Our puppy has certainly changed my view of life. Not only personally but also how I view our neighbourhood.

To begin with I no longer need an alarm clock knowing he is hanging on ever so patiently for a pee, and the penalty for getting up late is the need for a thorough floor clean before work.

Yarra Park has become central to our lives as Albi runs free and learns to stand up to the big guys who meet there each day.

Instead of glimpsing East Melbourne as I drive through, I now look more closely at its ebb and flow as I meander up and down the streets with Albi several times a day.

I've watched with interest as an old friend's garden was recently transformed by its new owners. I notice when pipes break and drains over flow such as the stream which often runs down Hotham Street.

I know where the magpies nest in Powlett Reserve and ducks waddle in the Fitzroy Gardens so I am mindful of keeping a tight reign.

Sadly I also soon notice new graffiti; know there is someone who lazily leaves a pile of full doggy bags in a lane off Gipps Street; and saw where a driver damaged the new median strip almost as soon as it was laid.

On a brighter note I now own a replacement computer cable - mine was chewed through by a teething pup - courtesy of another dog's dad, someone we didn't know before owning Albi.

Pets are part of the family for six out of every ten households in Australia - one of the highest rates of pet ownership in the world. I am pretty sure in East Melbourne it must be even higher. And there is a lot to be said for how owning a dog can connect you to the community in which we live.



POWLETT RESERVE

Julia Armour and her grandson Sebastian enjoying a sunny winter afternoon in the new sandpit at Powlett Reserve. Julia made the comment, 'It is a shame that the swings have been decreased from four to two as the park is so popular winter and summer with the growing number of young families.' She also thought BBQs would be a great addition so all three generations of residents could make better use of the area. The East Melbourne Group is currently working on that!

East Melbourne HISTORICAL SOCIETY

It's not possible to live in East Melbourne without feeling a sense of pleasure and privilege.

Within walking distance of the city across two of Melbourne's most beautiful parks, with ready access to trams and trains, East Melbourne's position is unparalleled. We have a wealth of Victorian buildings, houses and businesses, which form part of a rich history of Melbourne's establishment and settlement. Much of Melbourne's early society is reflected in the lives of those who lived here in the beginning: Governor Charles La Trobe, Bishop Charles Perry and Mrs. Frances Perry, Peter Lalor, William 'Big' Clarke, Redmond Barry, Margaret McLean and countless other significant Melbournians.

If you are interested in the stories - the people, the places and events - which shaped this suburb, think about joining the East Melbourne Historical Society. We hold lectures every two months, publish a newsletter three times a year, as well as staging exhibitions, doing research and producing booklets about our neighbourhood.

Why not come along to our next lecture, meet your neighbours, stay for supper and learn

something new about your suburb? For more see our website emhs.org.au

Our next lecture will be held at Clarendon Terrace, 210 Clarendon Street, East Melbourne on Wednesday, 21 August at 8.00 p.m. Dr. Barbara Lemon will talk on Janet, Lady Clarke and Women's Philanthropy in Australia. Having made this the subject of her doctoral thesis she is now a recognised expert in her field. Members free; non-members \$5.00. Annual subscription \$25.00. Contact Deirdre on 9417 3229 or drdrbasham@gmail.com for bookings or membership enquiries.



Janet, Lady Clarke circa 1880.

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A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Those of us who have discovered the delights of living in a village within a city and settled in East Melbourne permanently, might not think we have much use for a serviced apartment offering temporary accommodation.

But increasingly, more of us are opting for apartment living – adapting well to less space, trading off unused rooms for functional efficiency. So while scaled-down

accommodation may have its rewards, what happens when we are faced with hosting overnight guests or next-gen families?

The answer is: we outsource! More of us are finding this common business buzzword transitions easily into a working solution for residents – in particular, apartment dwellers.

Commuting business people who prefer the wide streets of our suburb to the crowded confines of the CBD have already taken up temporary residence in our preferred postcode, booking into serviced apartments including Tribeca, the Quest or Birches. They drive or fly in from regional Victoria, interstate and overseas, knowing they will be spoilt for choice of style and amenities close to cafes, wine bars and restaurants.

For guests who prefer to limit their use of the kitchen facilities in a serviced apartment to breakfasts or light snacks, there are home delivery options. Exercise is, quite literally, a walk in the park. There is tennis and a children's playground at Powlett Reserve. The CBD is a tram, \$10 taxi ride or a stroll away across Fitzroy and Treasury Gardens.

Permanent residents, too, are now outsourcing serviced apartments in growing numbers. Less angst for hosts, and our visitors appreciate their own space and a chance to relax between re-bonding moments with family and friends.

While tariffs are usually fixed, there may be room for negotiation if there is an expectation of regular bookings or a relationship builds between client and preferred provider.



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Commuting business people who prefer the wide streets of our suburb to the crowded confines of the CBD have already taken up temporary residence in our preferred postcode, booking into serviced apartments including Tribeca, the Quest or Birches.

For business people the cost – from an average of around \$150 per night – may be tax deductible. Residents looking for an equitable alternative to a pull-out couch for temporary guests, may see it as a saving of thousands of dollars they could otherwise feel obliged to spend upscaling to a larger apartment.

The Birches' Jenny Kerr says she has many locals on her lists who book accommodation for occasional and regular guests, in addition to business commuters who think of a serviced apartment as their 'city pad'.

'Locals have said they see accommodation for occasional guests as the exception to the rule when they scale down from a family home to an apartment after their children have grown and moved on. But they want them to stay in an environment of a similar living standard to

their own when they visit.

'It is the same for their visitors, who see staying close but living separately as breathing space for both hosts and guests. Time spent together is then all stress free. No chores, plenty of room to spread out and hang clothes, and the guests feel they are not imposing on their hosts as they otherwise might.'

'At Birches we are happy to welcome guests with pets. I have repeat bookings for locals scheduling home renovations – painting, having floors polished or carpets cleaned. Short stays close to home eliminate the stress of moving, even temporarily, into an unfamiliar location to stay with relatives. Especially if a loved dog can stay here with them, too.'

MORE THAN JUST A CUPPA

Glenda Banks



They are there every morning, an informal, interchangeable group who maintain a finger on the pulse of the East Melbourne community.

Some are serious walkers who stop by for a coffee break, others call in on their way to work, and some just come for a chat.

There are other, smarter cafes in the village but 'the George' has become something of a social hub. Issues are discussed (what about those helicopters!) and security alerts are passed around – as are pictures of grandchildren. Note is made of who might need a hospital visit or a helping hand.

Regulars including Marlene Mackintosh, Prue Forster, Frank and Ruby Coppens and Deirdre Basham can be seen at the outside tables in summer or inside, around grouped tables, in winter. Others pause for a quick hello or linger for a while to raise a concern or celebrate good news.

The influence the George group wields is significant. In the run-up to the recent election of Melbourne's Lord Mayor, some voiced doubts about Robert Doyle's approachability. Word went around and within a few days the candidate turned up in his shirtsleeves and sat down with them to listen to their concerns.

Result? Lord Mayor Doyle subsequently progressed plans for a community garden and a men's shed, and is talking to VicRail about cleaning up the land around Jolimont Station, and to owners of unoccupied properties in the area about keeping them in good repair.

Local resident Dr Susan Barker comments, 'The underlying social value of groups such as those who gather at the George Café is incalculable. Apart from the value to the community that flows on in the way of advocacy and neighbourly assistance, there is the value of such social interaction to an individual.'

george POWLETT
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VOLUNTEERING IS SO GOOD FOR YOU

Moira Rayner

When I became Victoria's last Commissioner for Equal Opportunity in 1990, I finally had an acceptable reason to resign from my overload of voluntary commitments. I had managed to commit myself to membership of no fewer than 18 committees and voluntary projects as well as a full time job.

Volunteering for too much had been a failure of discernment which later led to disastrously poor judgment and some bad decisions.

Volunteering is, however, essential for building the society we want, even now when most middle-aged mums work and every worker is accessible through 'smart' technology at any hour of day or night. What we need is balance and that includes a sense of connection to our community.

Robert Putnam wrote in his pioneering study of regional government in Italy, Making Democracy Work, that high levels of civil society are communities in which citizens are 'bound together by the horizontal relations of reciprocity and co-operation, not by vertical relations of authority and dependency.' He proved that where there was significant participation in choral societies, interest groups and volunteer groups, there was dramatically healthier and more effective government.

I still volunteer. It is still where I find not only life, but sense of reward. I am however more discerning than I once was. I am convinced that this kind of voluntary work is how we, the people, build a better kind of government, of the people, by the people and for the people, because we shape it from the ground up. And it seems to be good for our health as well.

International researchers in the field of preventive medicine say volunteers are happier and healthier than those who do no unpaid work and doctors should recommend it.

Dr Stephen Post, from Stony Brook University in New York, said volunteering produced health benefits because it provided meaningful activities, made people feel like they mattered and helped them adjust to change. We have just celebrated National Volunteering Week. Why not join something local, and help build the kind of community you want. Start with the East Melbourne Group, maybe.

According to the ABS General Social Survey 2010:

- 36% of the adult population volunteered.
- The estimated number of volunteers in Australia doubled from 1995 to 2010.
- Slightly more women (40%) than men (37%) volunteered.



Libby Marsden, volunteer at Bishops court

**EXPERTS SAY
DOCTORS SHOULD
RECOMMEND IT.**

- People aged 45-54 years reported the highest rate of volunteering.
- Young people represented 9.4% of all people who had volunteered in the previous 12 months
- Young people most commonly volunteered for groups related to sport and recreation.
- Employed people (whether full time 38% or part time or 44%) had a higher volunteering rate than those who were unemployed or not in the labour force.



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EYE AND EAR

CELEBRATES 150 YEARS



The Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital is commemorating 150 years of serving the Victorian community.

A ceremony at Government House in February officially opened the celebrations, followed by a street party held on April 7. The Eye and Ear is also hosting a series of public lectures, scheduled to run throughout the year.

It is often said that we cannot know where we are going until we understand where we have been, and it is only in looking back at the rich and changing history of the Eye and Ear, that we begin to understand its place in the Victorian community today.

Chief Executive Officer Ann Clark said the innovative work undertaken at the Eye and Ear has earned the hospital an international reputation for excellence.

'We are the home of the bionic ear and are now well on the way to becoming the home of the bionic eye, with the successful implant of the first prototype last year,' said Ms Clark.

'The 150th anniversary is a significant milestone and an exciting chance to look back and celebrate.'

The hospital, the third oldest in Melbourne, treats over a quarter of a million patients each year through outpatient clinics, emergency and specialist eye and ear services compared with just over 2,000 during the 1860s.

Founder Dr Andrew Gray established the hospital in Albert Street, East Melbourne in 1863. Known as the Eye and Ear Infirmary, Dr Gray

later told the Royal Commission the infirmary was launched with just '£5 and one bed.'

The Infirmary, known as The Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital from 1873, was established in response to a large number of eye and ear diseases Dr Gray encountered in Victoria when he first arrived from Ireland in 1859. This included eye and ear complaints commonly caused by poor living conditions, both among miners capitalising on the gold rush and within the general population.

The anniversary comes as the hospital prepares for major redevelopment works this year.

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MEMBER
FOR
MELBOURNE



**HERE FOR
EAST MELBOURNE
& JOLIMONT
RESIDENTS**

As your local Member of Parliament I am keen to listen to any concerns or ideas you may have.

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WILDLIFE IN SUBURBIA

Charlie Hohnen

No I don't mean the sort Barry Humphries loved to snipe at nor the ones that most local residents would like to take potshots at, namely our furry possum friends.

I mean the wildlife that exists in our suburb hardly noticed by the human residents but also making the most of what East Melbourne has to offer.

A powerful owl made its home in East Melbourne for a while, substantially reducing the possum population. Unfortunately the powerful owl has no pity for its victims, tearing them limb from limb and leaving various bits scattered on the ground. When you feel particular animosity towards a local possum, reflect that they do

occasionally come off second best.

Buff-banded rail are odd little birds that scuttle along the ground like roadrunners. A pair of banded rail raised a couple of chicks too, in the Hotham Street shrubbery at Bishops Court, darting away under the foliage if anyone approached. Just as they had come, they went, off to greener pastures once the chicks were fledged.

A tawny frogmouth was spotted sitting in a local fountain recently. When approached it flew up into an elm. But when it was in the same fountain in the same position a week later a call to Wildlife Victoria brought someone to catch it. Sadly it turned out to have a broken hip and had to be euthanased. Full marks to the birdlovers who knew that the behaviour was not quite right and made sure that the creature was put out of its pain.

Several wood duck pairs raised numerous ducklings by the pond in Treasury Gardens this year and there are now up to twenty plump

ducks foraging in the grass by the pond in the mornings. Some of them wander up to the Grey Street fountain, providing neighbourhood children and grandchildren with much entertainment.

Birds move in and out of an area as food supplies wax and wane. But if you look carefully there are other creatures hiding in gardens and making a very good living in suburbia. Very pretty little geckos often live in crevices in bluestone walls and come out for sun and insects. Sometimes they lurk under terracotta saucers or in one sad case under doormats.

There's the fox who came to lunch, sitting in a tree next to the Deanery in Hotham Street, observing the lunching volunteers with ears pricked and alert. He probably gets a duck dinner or two in the Treasury Gardens. Wood ducks roost up in trees, which mightn't help with a tree climbing fox on the prowl.

What wildlife lurks in your piece of suburbia?



HOUSE TOUR MURMUR (mûr'mər)

An installation by guest curator, Melbourne-based artist Roslynd Piggott, as part of the annual 'house of ideas' series

1 JULY 2013 – 23 OCTOBER 2013

FAIRHALL

A house-museum with a superb collection of Georgian, Regency & Louis XV antiques regularly rearranged within a domestic setting

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Looking at new scents and aromas through objects created to capture or conjure them from the second half of the 18th century onwards

1 JULY 2013 – 23 OCTOBER 2013

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The Johnston Collection is an independent not-for-profit museum

ABOUT THE JOHNSTON COLLECTION

The Johnston Collection is a house-museum of fine and decorative arts centred in an historic East Melbourne townhouse.

William Robert Johnston's house *Fairhall*, collection and estate were bequeathed to the people of Victoria after his death in 1986 'as a place of historical and educational interest'.

For over twenty years, *Fairhall* has displayed works from Johnston's collection, and is currently rearranged for three themed tours per year.



THE JOHNSTON
COLLECTION

More green thumbs than space

The East Melbourne Community Garden Association Inc. (EMCG) is located at the rear of Sinclair's cottage in the Fitzroy Gardens and this has been the home for the group since 2009.

Over the last 12 months the association has been endeavouring to locate a permanent home as the current site is operated on a short term lease from the City of Melbourne and this lease expires in December 2014.

While some discussions about a possible future location have been had with several authorities, nothing has as yet been resolved.

The Community Garden's objectives are to promote community spirit and engagement, sustainability, health and well-being, making a contribution to the broader community and education and skills development.

Just 14 plots are available at the current site and all these are allocated and being worked. There is a waiting list of 55 East Melbourne families.



The pop up garden plot behind Fed Square



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Level 1, 126 Wellington Parade, East Melbourne 3002

GIPPS ST

Work on the median strip in Gipps Street, driven by local residents with support from EMG, is now complete. Residents in the area are very satisfied with the impact it has had on slowing down through traffic and how it has improved the streetscape.



PROFESSOR BUXTON ADVISES EMG *watch out because loss is incremental*

Barbara Paterson

Professor Michael Buxton is Professor of Environment and Planning at RMIT University. He spoke at the EMG'S Annual General Meeting in March on the implications of changes in the planning system for inner city heritage and amenity issues.

His views have been formulated in a context of extraordinary fast-paced change and unprecedented powers vested in the Planning Minister. This is a summary of what he had to say.

The purpose of these documents is to set the overarching planning policy for Melbourne over the next 30 to 40 years. Metropolitan strategic planning should be long-term and, ideally, bi-partisan. There have been good examples in the past such as Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works strategic planning in 1954 and 1971 and later, government plans in 1987 and the early 1990s. By contrast, Professor Buxton describes the current discussion paper as a dreadful document which lacks vision, is full of generalities and fails to indicate the direction in which the government wishes to go. It will be the sixth strategic plan for Melbourne in 25 years. In particular, the crucial issue of how to reconcile the intensification of inner city development with residential amenity is not addressed. The consultation process with key interest groups and citizens is inadequate. The government has pre-empted major strategic initiatives by prior policy and statutory decisions.

HERITAGE AND AMENITY

The government seems not to understand that heritage and amenity are everything, underpinning liveability and identity, and that heritage is an economic asset via tourism.

DEVELOPMENT

It is clear that Matthew Guy (Mr Skyscraper) wants a much taller city but this is not stated anywhere. The major options for intensification are not discussed. Planning in Melbourne should not simply be an issue of high-rise versus outer-suburban development. Another option would be mixed-use, medium-sized developments on appropriate sites. Perhaps the Government does not want to be clear on strategy and welcomes the opportunity to encourage development in an environment in which it is poorly restricted.

PLANNING ZONES

These planning zones further deregulate planning and render strategic planning obsolete. Professor Buxton points out that the final result is virtually the same as the initial government proposal. This is despite numerous submissions so there is not much sense that the Government is listening.

Neighbourhood residential – this is the strongest in terms of control

General residential – strong controls on multi-storied developments

Residential growth – a default of 2 dwellings per lot, a height control of 8 metres (down from 9), retail and office prohibited but there are many exemptions, multiple accommodation allowed, height control on residential premises but not commercial ones.

Business zones will be 'a free-for-all' and these zones surround East Melbourne.

RETAIL USE

There is no real restriction on retail use in Section 2. For example, decision guidelines use phrases such as 'where compatible with residential use' and 'scale and intensity of development.' The eight metre height limit

does not apply for retail developments in this context. Local councils cannot get rid of retail exemptions but they can write local policy and make wise decisions.



ADVICE FOR EAST MELBOURNE

Look closely at what is happening because loss is incremental. The government has pre-empted major strategic initiatives by prior policy and statutory decisions.

EMG could increase its level of protection by lobbying for an amendment to the local policy applying to East Melbourne concerning retail development.

CONCLUSION

At present, what we have is a de facto policy by a government which is facilitating development by use of the planning rules, which implement the development ideology as part of deregulated governance. The new planning zones further deregulate planning, rendering strategic metropolitan planning obsolete. The effect is that community groups are always on the back foot, resisting inappropriate development in an ad hoc fashion. It is the responsibility of government to plan strategically in the public interest.

OUT WITH THE OLD AND IN WITH THE NEW

New Avenues of Silky Oaks have been planted in the north east corner of the Fitzroy Gardens to replace a number of old trees. They will provide a blaze of golden blooms in years to come.





TELL US WHAT WOULD MAKE LIVING IN EAST MELBOURNE BETTER FOR YOU

ENTER & WIN!



Have your say and go in the draw to win a remedial massage.

The East Melbourne Group (EMG) is a non profit residents' association representing the interests of the East Melbourne and Jolimont communities. It was formed 60 years ago in 1953 when residents were galvanised into action by the threatened destruction of mature elm trees in George Street.

Times change and the EMG committee is keen to know more about what you think they should be focusing on now and into the future.

Please take a few moments to provide your point of view and go in the draw to win a one hour remedial massage provided by Touch Point massage therapy in Bridge Road Richmond. (insert logo). You may prefer to complete the survey online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SC98X7N>

1. WHICH AGE GROUP DO YOU BELONG TO

- a. Under 18 ☐
- b. 18 – 30 ☐
- c. 31 – 45 ☐
- d. 46 – 59 ☐
- e. 60 plus ☐

2. ARE YOU

- a. A resident of East Melbourne ☐
- b. A visitor to East Melbourne ☐
- c. Working in East Melbourne ☐

3. IF YOU ARE A RESIDENT, HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN EAST MELBOURNE

- a. Less than one year ☐
- b. Between 1 – 4 years ☐
- c. Between 5 – 10 years ☐
- d. Between 11 – 20 years ☐
- e. 20 years plus ☐

4. PLEASE TELL US HOW IMPORTANT EACH OF THE FOLLOWING ARE TO YOU IN RELATION TO THE WORK OF THE EMG FOR THE EAST MELBOURNE COMMUNITY

	VERY IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	OF LITTLE IMPORTANCE	UNIMPORTANT	NOT RELEVANT TO ME
Preserving, protecting and enhancing historic buildings and the heritage character of the suburb					
Preserving, protecting and enhancing the boulevards, streetscapes and laneways					
Ensuring planning and building works are monitored to protect the suburb from inappropriate					
Monitoring general amenity including such things as infrastructure, noise, graffiti, crime, bike lanes					
Preserving, protecting and enhancing parks and gardens, median strips and roundabouts					
Resident parking					
Social connection through things as the community magazine, community website, community forums					



	VERY IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	OF LITTLE IMPORTANCE	UNIMPORTANT	NOT RELEVANT TO ME
Organising social gatherings such as dinners, cocktail functions and less formal events					
Monitoring traffic flow in the area					
Keeping in touch with council to ensure adequate consultation on issues affecting local people					
Access to a range of cafes and restaurants					
Access to a variety of facilities for children – play groups, child care, toy library, library, playgrounds					
Access to a range of recreation facilities to suit all ages – tennis, exercise circuit, bocce court etc					
Events to connect the community such as the fiesta in 2012,					
Areas for dog owners to let their pets safely off the leash					
Being given the opportunity to have a say about significant community developments					
Establishing a community facility where large groups can come together to meet, exercise, socialise, hold discussions, and learn.					
A community garden facility to suit a large group of participants					
Establishing a men's shed					

5. IN ORDER OF PRIORITY, WHAT ARE THREE THINGS (IMPROVEMENTS OR NEW INITIATIVES) THAT WOULD MAKE YOUR QUALITY OF LIFE IN EAST MELBOURNE BETTER NOW?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

6. ARE YOU CURRENTLY A MEMBER OF THE EAST MELBOURNE GROUP? Yes ☐ No ☐

7. IF YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER OF THE EAST MELBOURNE GROUP, WHY NOT? YOU MAY MARK MULTIPLE BOXES.

- a. Didn't know it existed ☐
- b. Don't know how to join ☐
- c. Not aware of the benefits / work it does ☐
- d. Not relevant to me ☐
- e. The cost is prohibitive ☐
- f. Can't see the value ☐
- g. Other, please explain _____

8. IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE EAST MELBOURNE GROUP, WHY DID YOU JOIN? YOU MAY MARK MULTIPLE REASONS.

- a. It is a matter of social responsibility to contribute to keeping the suburb 'nice' ☐
- b. The community needs an organized voice to advocate for it ☐
- c. Protecting amenity in our suburb is most important to me ☐
- d. I like the community connection provided by social events ☐
- e. Protecting heritage is most important to me ☐
- f. Protecting our parks and gardens is most important to me ☐
- g. I am/was looking for support in dealing with an issue ☐
- h. The membership fee is reasonable ☐
- i. Other, please explain _____

PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU WOULD YOU LIKE TO:

- Know more about the East Melbourne Group ☐
- Be notified of community events ☐
- Know more about how you can get involved as a local volunteer in our community ☐
- Participate in a further small group discussion about issues raised in this survey ☐
- Go in the draw to win a fabulous one hour remedial massage provided by Owen at Touch Point Massage Therapy, 374 Bridge Road Richmond ☐

AND PROVIDE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Please note your contact details will only be used in relation to the area of interest you identified above.

Please return your completed survey to EMG via:

- the letterbox in the door of red brick Hut on the corner of Powlett and Albert Street in Powlett Reserve,
- post to EMG 152 Powlett Street East Melbourne 3002
- or complete the survey online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SC98X7N>

Thank you for taking the time and effort to help EMG better understand and meet your needs as a member of our community.

PEOPLE & PETS *the you meet on streets*



Anna Rhoden

Vet nurse at All Creatures on Hoddle Street Anna takes her role of caring for the local animals to heart. She likes our strong community where pet owners are mostly responsible. When Darling Square resident, 94 year old Una, fell and broke her hip no one in her family was willing to take responsibility for her beloved dog, Bentley. Out of the kindness of her heart Anna stepped in and now cares for him and much to Una's delight also takes him to visit her. In between caring for animals Anna is an accomplished musician. She is currently in three bands and in 1991 she won an ARIA Award with the Killjoys.



Tara Watson

One of the reasons Tara was drawn to live in East Melbourne three years ago was the attraction of having the Fitzroy Gardens as her backyard. She loves the parks and the proximity to almost everything she needs. Tara enjoys walking our streets and cycling with her daughter to school and swimming lessons. She is so passionate about sustainable transport that it's her job! Her only disappointment about living here is the lack of opportunity to 'meet local people my own age' and with the same strong sense of community. Tara played an integral management role in last year's Fiesta and did meet many other volunteers that way.



Scout

Scout, aka 'Gunnerson Jive Xanadu', was born in Mansfield in 2005 and spent seven years there as a breeder. Her move to East Melbourne last December was a major transition. From a quiet working life on a farm she was suddenly confronted with trams, traffic, AFL crowds, and city sounds and smells. She refused to walk on polished floors or to climb stairs and started at every sound. Like all good Labradors however she was soon persuaded that the city, like the country, is a reliable source of food and security - especially food! As a result she adapted and she socialised, and is now a very contented member of the 3002 canine fraternity.



John Campbell

John walks and walks, often decked out in the latest Paddy Pallin gear, and is always happy to have a chat. He said he now does on average eight kms a day for exercise - it used to be much more - enjoying the many parks and gardens nearby. John has lived in the area for 34 years and always in the same home. For most of his career John was a Commonwealth public servant with the Defence Department. He much prefers the freedom of being retired! Now he does a big trip every two years to the most unlikely places like the Arctic Circle, the Antarctic and Russia and soon he is off again to the far reaches of Scotland and the Outer Hebrides. John has always been interested in landscape photography so his travels provide the perfect opportunity to practise his hobby.



Don Hauser

Don has lived in Jolimont since 1995 but conducted a business at the same address since 1982. He enjoys the area as mainly a convenient and quiet pocket surrounded by busy roads. Since retirement Don and his wife Jill, have been kept busy with their interest in history. Don wrote and published a book which traced central Melbourne's printing industry dating back to 1835. More recently he initiated the casting of two bronze memorials to commemorate 300 people, including Don's grandfather and uncles, who all migrated to the Ballarat goldfields from the small village of Nieder-Weisel in Germany. Many descendants of the original 55 families who left home to find a better life, attended dedications at Smythesdale outside Ballarat, and in the German village.



Brooke Purcell

Brooke is originally from Virginia in the USA and she worked in New York prior to coming to Australia in 2010 with her Melbourne born husband. They came looking for a slower pace of life yet Brooke has been delighted to find a lot of the things she enjoyed most about NY are here in East Melbourne. Beaut restaurants and large parks all within walking distance make her feel right at home. Being able to leave the car at home and walk with baby Riker to cafes, the maternal and child health nurse, mother's group and the new local play group is wonderful. The only downside to our neighbourhood for Brooke is the lack of free parking which makes it difficult to invite friends to visit.

Community NOTICEBOARD

CITY GALLERY EXHIBITION

The City Gallery presents a free, annual program of exhibitions that draw on the City of Melbourne's extensive art and heritage collection. Devised by specialist curators, each show explores aspects of the city's cultural, historical and artistic life.

The gallery's central location helps it deliver on its role as a sponge and a mirror to urban life. All you have to come with is a spare fifteen minutes and an inquiring mind.

Cluster is a typographic exploration by Stephen Banham of a hidden network of stories – the street naming themes that run throughout our city & suburbs.



Inside the conservatory

Take a moment to smell the flowers

On our doorstep is the Fitzroy Garden's Conservatory opened in 1930. The distinctive building copies the Spanish mission architectural style and hosts five separate floral displays each year, each well worth a visit. Open seven days 9am – 5pm.



HOLY TRINITY FOURTH THURSDAY BOOK CAFÉ

Good books – great authors & delicious afternoon teas

Pop in for a browse, to borrow or buy on the fourth Thursday of each month! 2 pm – 4 pm For information call 9817 2197

EAST MELBOURNE LIBRARY IS THE PLACE TO BE THESE JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS.

Cosy up for some Winter activities. Places are limited so book now!
Badge making - Kids to 8 Years, Friday 5 July, 2pm to 3pm

Badge making - 8 to 12 Year olds
Sparkly bits provided and hope you like hot chocolate
Wednesday 10 July, 3pm to 5pm

Family Games Night – bring the whole family. We are so going to eat popcorn! Tuesday 9 July, 6.00pm to 8pm

Stomperrific Storytime – It's Stompin' time! Kids to 5 years
Wednesday 3 July, 10.30am to 11am

For more Melbourne Library Service events see What's On
<http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/MelbourneLibraryService>

Chinatown Market Day

Until December, the third Friday of every month is market day in Chinatown. Dive into Heffernan Lane in Chinatown for hawker-style stalls and a true night market vibe.



PEOPLE PAINTING PEOPLE

Watch Victorian Artist Society portrait painters in action at 430 Albert Street on the weekend of 20 & 21 July. Bookings essential. Ph. 9662 1484. Proudly supported by the City of Melbourne.

BOOK GROUP

A couple of book groups exist in East Melbourne, but we are looking at starting another one as the existing groups are full. If you are interested, please contact Shelley Faubel - faubelfamly@hotmail.com or 9419 2027.

The Melbourne International Film Festival

MIFF is a film-lover's paradise. See international premieres, red carpet glamour and the best global cinema. The 2013 festival runs from 25 July – 11 August.

Established in 1952, the Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF) is one of the oldest film festivals in the world and the most significant screen event in Australia. An iconic Melbourne event, the festival takes place annually in the heart of the city, presenting an acclaimed screening program alongside industry and celebratory events. Go to www.miff.com.au for all the details of this year's program and pricing.

OPEN HOUSE MELBOURNE

Mark your diaries - 27 and 28 July 2013. Open House Melbourne unlocks 111 of the city's significant buildings to explore – and all for free. If you love your city and its architecture, history and design, you'll love Open House Melbourne. Go to www.openhousemelbourne.org for details of which buildings will be opening their doors this year.

Laneway Learning

This is the name for a ragtag series of evening classes held in Melbourne. They are super cheap (generally \$12), super informal and are taught by ordinary people from the local community; florists teach about flowers, scientists about science and bookworms about books. You can find a full list of upcoming classes at www.lanewaylearning.com. Attending them is less about becoming an expert overnight and more about getting some top tips to take home and practice later.

THE MIRROR OF THE WORLD EXHIBITION

The Mirror of the World exhibition showcases many of the rare, beautiful and historically significant books held in the State Library's collections. Mirror of the World provides an overview of the history of book production, design and illustration, with a display of fine examples from the Library's collections dating from the Middle Ages to the present day. Located in the galleries overlooking the magnificent La Trobe Reading Room at the State Library of Victoria corner Swanston and La Trobe Streets, this exhibition celebrates the unique place of books in our hearts and minds. This is a free event 10am – 5pm M-F until December.



Eli & Grandma in the park

Hands on & home made.

Want to learn to cook in a local home kitchen? Do you just wish you could throw together a decent meal after work or impress your mates on the weekend, but have little or no clue where to start? If you don't want a fancy expensive cooking school, then this might be your answer. It doesn't matter if you are young or old. Everyone needs to know how to cook. Spend a few hours with me and I'll have you cooking something delicious in no time. Call Siusan 0438 405 406 for more information.



Nic, Charlotte & Phoenix

Warm up with this yummy zucchini and leek soup

Wash and slice 2 leeks (white part only), 2 sticks of celery (including leaves), 3 big zucchinis, 1 carrot, 1 large potato (peeled). Heat a tablespoon of olive oil and stir the vegetables for about 5 minutes but don't brown. Add 4 cups of chicken stock (1 large carton), pepper and salt to taste. Bring to simmer and cover until vegetables are soft – about 15 minutes. Add about 2 tablespoons of roughly chopped parsley. Puree with a stick mixer or one cup at a time in a blender. Return to the saucepan, add 1/3 cup of light cream and reheat without boiling. Serve with crusty bread on a cold night. Yummo.

Local Property Update

East Melbourne continues its position as the jewel in the crown of Melbourne's property.

Since 1 January 2013 the suburb has had sixty reported sales transactions totalling just shy of \$64 million - an average sale price of \$1.25 million.

A sale price of \$5.155 million was achieved for 120 Powlett Street in February, making it the

highest sale price for a house thus far in 2013. Two apartments at 150 Clarendon have achieved sale prices in excess of \$6 million proving yet again that this superb complex is the pinnacle in luxury apartment living.

The recent completion of the 144 Jolimont Rd complex has added a new dimension of luxury living to the Jolimont precinct - congratulations to the developers. An agreement has been reached between Mirvac and the Freemason's for the redevelopment of the Dallas Brooks complex. We look

forward to planning approval, at which time we will report back with further information.

June 2013 sees 38 properties currently for sale in the suburb. Many of these properties are outstanding representation of the glorious East Melbourne terrace. The allure of owning and living in East Melbourne has never been greater, and we anticipate the enormous successes of the first six months of 2013 to continue, and accelerate over the second half of the year.



Paul Caine
Caine Real Estate

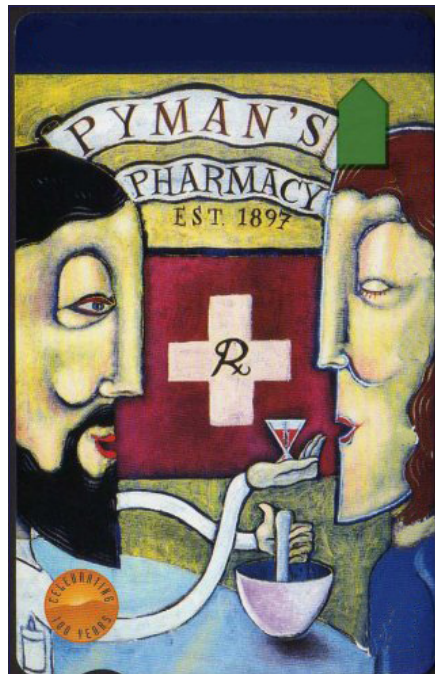
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