

EAST MELBOURNE 3002

community magazine JOLIMONT

**Community Christmas Party
& Carols – 14 December**

Residential Zoning disappointment

EMG questions rate increase

PRODUCED BY

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

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Taken by Amelia Stewart with
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Bishopscourt

PHOTOGRAPHY

Siusan MacKenzie

With financial assistance from



A thriving community

has many benefits

Murray Hohnen

As we move towards a brand new year, I thought I might take this opportunity to talk about a couple of matters that I have been pondering

The first concerns a period of self examination the East Melbourne Group (EMG) has been going through. It began when Bernard Wheelahan was President and he initiated a conversation asking whether EMG, its objectives and structures are still relevant in its 60th year. It also asked how EMG should engage with our local community at a time when the demographic make up of East Melbourne is changing and so many people are preoccupied with making a living, managing diminishing leisure time and unconvinced about the merits of voluntary groups organised along traditional lines.

I think these deliberations have reconfirmed EMGs relevance and its objectives. We are still wrestling with how to maintain, and grow our membership base and tap the talents of our members as volunteers.

Belonging to a thriving community has many benefits. Living in this beautiful suburb on the edge of one of the world's great cities it is hard not to enjoy what we have. It didn't happen by chance. Many people have worked hard to make our suburb what it is.

Local government issues need constant monitoring by people with the best interest of the local community at heart.

The East Melbourne Group started 61 years ago as a group of residents trying to stop elm trees being removed from George Street. The elms that were saved are now providing more than just shade to the streets. They and the new street plantings provide a green backdrop that gladdens hearts and helps reduce temperatures in the middle of summer. Did our predecessors in the East Melbourne Group imagine that they would leave such a legacy?

Keeping our human scale suburb as we like it and protecting street scapes, buildings, green spaces and amenity require constant vigilance and a united effort. Local government issues need constant monitoring by people with the best interest of the local community at heart. Recently we persuaded the City of Melbourne to shelve its proposal for paid parking along Albert Street. We have also made submissions on behalf of our members on a number of proposed planning scheme changes likely to adversely affect our suburb.

There is also the matter of the social glue that helps our community stick together.



Murray Hohnen, EMG President

Think of the program of lunchtime films at the library, the trivia night at St Peter's, the garden party in February, dinner at the Johnston Collection, the recent Women with Style luncheon and the upcoming Christmas Party in the grounds of Bishopscourt. Think too of the quarterly editions of this magazine and the monthly email updates to members as well as the EMG website, that all help to keep you abreast of local issues and connected to each other. It all takes work but I am sure you will agree, it is worth it to make East Melbourne the place where we love to live.

For those of you who are not members, the EMG would welcome your participation and the skills you are able to contribute. Firstly your membership will add to our numbers and help ensure that the EMG's voice continues to be heard. And of course, a small investment in your community inevitably pays a handsome dividend through the friendships and contacts that you make. Your involvement might be as simple as delivering our quarterly magazine in your street or joining one of our sub-committees that provide focus on parks and gardens, amenities and social and communication issues or the constant heritage and planning challenges.

The views of young people and families and new residents are particularly important to ensure we understand the needs and perspectives of a new generation of residents. If you are not already a member please fill out the form on page 16.

Apart from my call for membership, volunteers and renewal let me end by thanking our current members and our many volunteers for your participation during the year. Your memberships are fundamental to EMGs existence. Your work as volunteers delivering magazines, organising social functions, fundraising, cooking, providing venues, acting as our eyes and ears or serving on committees is all greatly appreciated and I thank you for it.

With best wishes for Christmas and the new year to everyone in East Melbourne.

East Melbourne Community Christmas Party & Carols

Sunday 14 December from 6.15pm

Christmas is a time of celebration and an opportunity to catch up with friends and family and think of those less fortunate. The East Melbourne community Christmas party provides the occasion to do all of these.

Everyone is invited to join in the fun on the lawns at Bishops court, corner of Clarendon and Gipps Streets, East Melbourne.

\$5 per head will be collected at the gate

This will provide you with a songbook and candle for the carol singing.

BYO chair or picnic rug.

If you want to start your evening with a delicious spit roast dinner you need to pre-order by 10 December at www.emg.org.au \$22 a head or \$10 for a child up to 12 years. Vegetarian option available.

Alternatively, you can join in the fun without ordering a meal.

Buy drinks from the bar or have coffee and a slice of home made cake as the sun goes down.

Musical Entertainment

A fabulous group of local artists will lead the carol singing including music theatre artists John Lidgerwood and Simone French along with Alex Lidgerwood and colleagues from the Opera Studio with its Director, Linda Thompson. Laurie Moore and Penny Holmes will provide the musical accompaniment. Jingle bells made by the Melbourne Men's Shed will help the little children get involved.

On this special East Melbourne night:

- ★ Gates open from 6.15pm
- ★ Spit roast dinner served from 6.30 – 7.30pm
- ★ **Children's entertainment from 6.30 – 7.30pm**
- ★ The carol singing begins at 7.30pm
- ★ Father Christmas arrives at 8.30pm
- ★ The musical fun will continue until 10pm

Let's join together to:

- ★ Enjoy a meal and a drink
- ★ Light up the night with our carol sing-a-long & music
- ★ Share the magic of Christmas with our children and grandchildren
- ★ Enter the raffle to win a magnificent Christmas hamper
- ★ Make Christmas Day better for a less fortunate teenager by donating a gift card suitable for distribution by Anglicare on Christmas Day

The East Melbourne Group is hosting this celebration with the gracious support of Philip and Joy Freier at Bishops court.

'It is a pleasure to have opportunities for our local East Melbourne community to meet and build our friendships. For Christians and many others in Australia, Christmas is a special time of gathering and celebrating. I look forward to joining with friends and neighbours to celebrate, sing Christmas carols and generally contribute to the enhancement of our community.' *The Most Reverend Dr Philip Freier, Archbishop of Melbourne.*

Local businesses have made valuable contributions to make this event a success.

- **Caine Real Estate** supplies fabulous design and marketing support.
- **Dixon Advisory** will light up the night with candles and assist to produce a songbook.
- **Epworth Health** has ensured Father Christmas makes a visit.
- **Mercy Health** will provide magical entertainment for the children.
- **Park Hyatt** has made possible children's face painting by Little Sparks.

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'For me, Christmas is a time to celebrate and reflect on the year that was and share the spirit of the season with family and friends. At Park Hyatt Melbourne, we believe in giving back to our community and we look forward to working more closely with the East Melbourne Community in the New Year. I look forward to meeting you all at the upcoming Christmas Party.'

Brett Sweetman, GM Park Hyatt Melbourne

'Epworth Freemasons has a proud tradition in the provision of health services in East Melbourne dating back over 70 years. We are proud to support this local community event and look forward to it being a part of it. We thank you for your continued support.'



David Nowell, Executive Director Epworth Freemasons

'We have been based in East Melbourne for



seven years and have a real desire strengthen our connection with the local community and help out where possible. We felt assisting the East Melbourne Group to deliver local events was the best way to provide a real, tangible difference in the community.'

Ashley Woodhead, Associate Director Dixon Advisory

'Staff and residents at Mercy Place East Melbourne are looking forward to participating in this wonderful community event during this special time of year.'



Margaret Alexander, Service Manager Mercy Health

The East Melbourne Group is an outstanding municipal initiative that celebrates and fosters a real sense of community within our beautiful suburb. Caine Real Estate is proud to support this wonderful collection of East Melburnians and invite all new residents to join in and embrace this unique and special community.



Jacob Caine, CEO Caine Real Estate

Women with Style

A procession of women with glamorous hats stopped traffic as they made their way down Wellington Parade towards Tippler & Co on the Friday of race week. The Women with Style lunch hosted by the East Melbourne Group was really just an excuse to dress up, drink champagne and connect with friends and neighbours from across the suburb.

'A fabulous sense of community resulted, we all left the best of friends and we are looking forward to doing it again next year,' said Rosie Smith.

Simone French entertained with a bracket of songs inspired by stylish women including Nina Simone, Whitney Houston and Kylie Minogue. Guest speaker Jo Shiers provided tips on style. The women each took away a bag of goodies provided by local businesses including **Zigbi Hair**, **East Melbourne Dental** and **Ernst Hillier** chocolates.

Four lucky women took away fabulous raffle prizes supplied by the **Runway Room**, **Betty McDowell Hawthorn**, **Endota Spa Richmond** and **Tippler & Co**.

As Jill French said, 'So much more fun to play ladies in East Melbourne than trudging out to Flemington.'



Gus from Tippler & Co gets his style on!



DIANA AND MARY: HEAVEN AND HELL

Sylvia Black

I started to write a short piece on the statues of East Melbourne but quickly built up a list of over thirty candidates. There are the fifteen sporting giants in Yarra Park for a start. Then there is a number of important people in the parliamentary precinct and along the Spring Street boundary including four premiers, General Charles Gordon, Pastor Sir Doug Nicholls and Lady Gladys Nicholls, Sir William Clarke and a couple of poets. The Fitzroy Gardens are home to at least nine statues of random subjects. Too many statues for one article so I have chosen to write about two of my personal favourites. With a predominantly male cast to choose from I confess to a strong gender bias.

Diana and the Hounds is to be found outside the southern entrance to the conservatory in Fitzroy Gardens. Here Diana strides ahead, carrying a bow, with dogs by her side. She is purposeful and confident. As protectress of the forests, perhaps she has a possum in her sights. Her statue was the first to be erected in the Fitzroy Gardens following the removal of the disintegrating copies of ancient classical sculpture erected there in the 1860s. The new bronze Diana replaced an old cement version of the Louvre's *Diana of Versailles*. The sculptor was William Leslie Bowles. He finished the mould in 1939 but the onset of the Second World War delayed its casting in London and it had to run the gauntlet of German U-Boats on its return to Australia. It was erected at a cost of £750 and unveiled by the Lord Mayor, Councillor Coles on 4 September 1940.



Only a few metres away, inside the north door of the conservatory, is *Mary Gilbert*. On 30 August 1835 the passengers of John Pascoe Fawkner's ship, *Enterprise*, disembarked on the banks of the Yarra and proceeded to set up camp. Among these first settlers were James Gilbert, a blacksmith and his pregnant wife, Mary. Mary Gilbert is recognised as the first white woman to live in the Port Phillip settlement and her son was the first white child born here. Transported to Tasmania in 1829 for housebreaking Mary ended her days destitute and living in a bark humpy near Tumut NSW. In 1878 when her clothes caught fire, burning her to death. The statue of her by Ailsa O'Connor was unveiled on 26 November 1975 by the Lady Mayoress, Mrs Ronald Walker.

If anyone can tell us about the small statue in Garden Ave which does not appear on any public records we would be fascinated to learn more.

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Books we've loved

Aimee Rhodes, East Melbourne Library Team Leader

Burial Rites is the debut novel by Australian author Hannah Kent. It is an historical murder mystery based on the true story of Agnes Magnúsdóttir, the last person to be condemned to death in Iceland.

Set in the country's isolated north in 1829, the book follows Agnes's journey from prison to wait out her fate on the farm of District Officer Jon Jonsson, where she works as an unpaid farm assistant. Jonsson's family are resistant to having a murderess in their midst, and Agnes does not initially establish herself as a sympathetic person in their eyes.

Burial Rites is a novel that draws you quickly into its world and does not let you leave. Kent's descriptions of place are so vivid that I felt myself walking with the characters through the rural landscape, up and down unwelcoming hills, waiting for winter and Agnes's fate to arrive. Agnes was found guilty of the murder of two men, one of whom was her lover, but as the story unfolds the reader learns of the ambiguities surrounding the lead-up to the event, the event itself and its aftermath. Despite knowing that the book is based on historical fact and what would eventually become of Agnes, I found myself drawn to her as her story unfolded, desperately hoping until the last page that her story would not unfold in the way that I knew it inevitably would.

As readers learn more about Agnes and her life and circumstances, we are well and truly drawn into her world – a world in which she never had a fair chance, into which she was born and remained powerless against corrupt forces.

Burial Rites is based on rigorous historical research. Kent first visited Iceland as a school student on exchange, and after falling in love with both the place and Agnes's story, continued her research for many years as she completed the novel.

The novel has won a slew of awards, including the Victorian Premier's Literary Award, People's Choice Award, the Fellowship of Australian Writers Christina Stead Award, and the ABIA Literary Fiction Book of the Year. It has been shortlisted for the Stella Prize, the Guardian First Book Award and the Victorian Premier's Prize for Fiction, among others.

Burial Rites is an engrossing, beautifully written and heart-wrenching read, and I highly recommend it to anyone who prefers their historical fiction to be firmly and convincingly set in place and time.

HOUSE TOUR:

T'was The Night Before Christmas

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Siusan MacKenzie

Well, I am not sure about you – but I know what I prefer to do on a cold winter morning and that is stay in bed until a decent hour! However, since becoming the Coordinator of Anglicare Victoria's Homeless Support Services Louise Lang's personal preferences have had to take a back seat. As one of the breakfast team, Louise arrives at St Peter's opposite the fire station in East Melbourne, at 7.00am rain, hail or shine to make a start on the daily breakfast program.

The team consists of two Anglicare staff members and three or four volunteers. At 7.30am, when all is ready, the gates are open to let in the participants. There is

often a great rush as people are keen to get their first coffee of the day, and in no time, the stocks of sugar, milk and cereal have to be replenished. Over the next hour and a half, the team is kept busy washing dishes, checking stocks, chatting with clients and just generally keeping things ticking over. Twice a month when corporate volunteers help, participants enjoy a cooked breakfast.

Serving anywhere between 50 and 80 participants each morning Louise said, 'We aim to provide a warm, welcoming, comfortable and safe place to be. They can rely on us as the breakfast program is run seven days a week, 365 days a year!'

On Christmas Day, the team tries to do something a bit special but it is a dilemma, as many participants just want it to be 'another day' because Christmas time can be so difficult to cope with.

The breakfast program does more than provide nourishment according to Louise.

'Clients often have particular needs and we do our best to work towards meeting them. They can vary from a small food parcel, to a change of clothes, a clean pair of socks or jocks, a place to charge their phone or some information on a local service.'

Shower vouchers for use at Travellers Aid at Southern Cross as well as \$5 Telstra cards to help people feel a little more normal and in touch.

Other services often visit including the Royal District Nursing Service and staff from the local Homeless Outreach Psychiatric Services team at Clarendon Clinic.

9am is pack up time and everything is cleaned up and put away for the next day. Staff head off to St Mark's Community Centre in Fitzroy where they operate a drop in Centre for a similar client base. Volunteers continue their day whether it is at work in the city, University or to their next activity in retirement. My husband and I look forward to being part of the team at St Peter's on Christmas morning.

If you would like to discuss
volunteering options
contact Louise at
louise.lang@anglicarevic.org.au

Residential Zone disappointment

Murray Hohnen

Outgoing Planning Minister Guy has refused the City of Melbourne's proposed residential zones for all areas except South Yarra.

This means that the areas of East Melbourne, Kensington, Parkville, North Melbourne and Carlton proposed by the City of Melbourne to be Neighbourhood Residential (NRZ), will all be just General Residential.

The Minister made his decision on 4 November, just before the caretaker period began, for gazettal on 27 November – two days before the election.

The report of the review panel to which the East Melbourne Group (EMG) made a public submission that the whole of East Melbourne should be accorded the highest protection ie NRZ classification, has not yet been released.

The Minister's decision is a huge disappointment to EMG and a set back to our efforts to keep human scale development in our suburb.

As more information becomes available, we will continue to provide updates.

FOR KING AND COUNTRY

– ordinary people extraordinary commitment

Jill Fenwick

Federal Member for Melbourne Adam Bandt opened the exhibition *For King and Country: East Melbourne Volunteers and the Great War*. Commemorating East Melbourne citizens who served overseas between 1914 and 1918, the exhibition was the culmination of eighteen months of research by a dedicated group of volunteers, supported by the Anzac Centenary Grants Program, a generous donation from Peter Fielding and the equally generous support of Caine Real Estate.

The first convoy of 16 ships left Station Pier between 17 and 21 October 1914, joining the rest of the fleet at Albany, Western Australia, before leaving for Egypt and the Gallipoli campaign.

Nearly 800 men and women connected with this tiny suburb of East Melbourne and Jolimont enlisted. On the other side of Punt Road, nearly 2000 people from the larger suburb of Richmond joined up, the largest number from any single locality in Australia.

This exhibition was not simply a project commemorating a group of soldiers and nurses who served in the war, but also offered a slice of precious social history and a snapshot of East Melbourne a century ago, creating a link between the present community and that of 1914-18.

According to Jill Fenwick, President of the East Melbourne Historical Society, 'We get a glimpse of people who lived and worked here before their lives changed for ever with the war.'



EMHS President Jill Fenwick and Peter Fielding.



Adam Bandt (above) and Paul Caine (below) were among the guests at the opening night.



These were men and women like George Wood, a devoted schoolmaster of Scotch College, from Lansdowne Street; flamboyant motor cycle racer, Henri Lamande; the gambler who fled his debts, Sydney Clement; the orphan boy, Stan Lyons, who claimed to be 20 when he was only 18; the promising footballer, Joe Pearce and Nurse Edith Cameron, who served at Gallipoli, then in the 1st Casualty Clearing Station behind the front lines at the Somme battles.

Most especially, we get a glimpse of the extraordinary contribution made by ordinary men and women who enlisted for the Empire, for the nation, for adventure, or even for a much-needed pay packet. Some were killed in action; some died of wounds, others survived but were scarred in various ways. The lucky ones went on to lead seemingly normal lives.

'Every sort of soldier, light horse, infantry, engineers, doctors, gunners and sappers, even bicycle corps messengers came from homes in East Melbourne and someone from every street was represented in the exhibition,' said Jill.

The exhibition ran from 17 October, the day the first ships of the convoy left Melbourne, to the end of November.



EMG questions rate increase

The East Melbourne Group received numerous calls about the latest Council rate notices and this prompted us to do some investigation.

Council rates are a contribution each ratepayer makes towards community services provided by their local council. Rates also contribute to the cost of running local councils.

According to Council's website, how much you pay depends on the value of your property. The City of Melbourne uses the Net Annual Value (NAV) as its basis for calculating rates. For residential properties, the NAV is a mandatory five per cent of the property's value. For commercial properties, the NAV is based on the annual rental income.

Residential and commercial rates are calculated using the total NAV figures and the Council's annual budget requirements.

Firstly, the City of Melbourne determines how much revenue it needs to raise to deliver its services and programs. It divides this sum by the NAV figure to calculate a rate in the dollar, which is then applied to each property's NAV.

For example, in 2014-15 the City of Melbourne required revenue of \$399m (of which rates contribute \$226.5m) to cover its expected costs. To raise this sum, using NAV as the basis, it was calculated that residential

properties should pay 4.0 cents for every dollar of their NAV, while commercial properties should pay 4.6 cents in the dollar on their NAV.

Some properties, such as those owned by the Australian and Victorian governments, and those used for charitable purposes, are not subject to local government rates.

Individual ratepayers with a grievance are advised to engage in a conversation with Council during the objection period.

However, the percentage increases we saw in our rate notices did not seem to reflect property value increases. Based on a sample of data provided to EMG by members, in the most extreme case, rates have increased 46% in two years and one owner experienced an increase of nearly 10% one year and a drop of 8.6% the following year. The massive increases and in some cases a decrease seemed inconsistent and not in line with the explanation provided on the website.

Whilst EMG's research is based only on a small sample of the properties in East Melbourne, it shows an overall increase in excess of 20% in the past twelve months.



EMG wrote to Council asking if there is any reason why rates could not be linked to a set rate increase, i.e. CPI or a fixed percentage each year making it easier for property owners to calculate and budget. EMG was advised that Council officers have no power to change the legislative framework and therefore officers are not prepared to 'debate the fairness and equity' as requested. Individual ratepayers with a grievance are advised to engage in a conversation with Council during the objection period.

The introduction of a capping policy is currently not under consideration by Council.

Council CEO Dr Kathy Alexander provided this information in relation to residential East Melbourne.

- The overall average value of 3,443 properties has increased by 11 percent
- The average property valued at \$922,505 has received a rate increase of 10 percent
- Houses (635) have increased in value by 16 percent thus a higher rate rise
- Apartments (2808) have increased by 8 percent thus a lower rate rise
- These rate changes are higher than many other suburbs in the City of Melbourne due to the disproportional growth in property values across different property types
- Council records indicate that some 2651 residents contacted Council regarding rates and 337 ratepayers lodged valuation objections.

General revaluations are conducted every two years and a key outcome is the redistribution of rate burden across the city. In simple terms, should an individual property valuation change differently to the city wide average, the rate applicable to the individual property will differ from the average. The city average residential changes in 2014 are a 3.6 percent rate increase and 3.0 percent valuation increase.

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5 YEARS ON: YARRA PARK & THE MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

This article has been written by Stuart Hamilton who is a member of the Yarra Park Advisory Committee, which advises the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) Trust on the operation, improvement and management of Yarra Park. It represents his views and not necessarily those of the Committee or the East Melbourne Group.

Five years ago this month the Victorian Parliament passed the Melbourne Cricket Ground and Yarra Park Amendment Act 2009, the main effect of which was to transfer responsibility for management of Yarra Park from the City of Melbourne to the MCC Trust which subsequently delegated responsibility for day-to-day management to the Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC). A few months later, Yarra Park was listed on the Victorian Heritage Register, and the Act came into effect. How has Yarra Park fared in those 5 years?

The Park is still used as a car park

I give a mixed report. There is a lot to be positive about. The State Government allocated \$6 million for landscape and park improvement works and the MCC Trust \$18 million for the Water Recycling Facility. This funding has nearly all been spent: the Water Recycling Facility is operating successfully to supply water to the Park, the MCC turf and Punt Rd Oval and should serve to mitigate the effect of future droughts on the Park; substantial landscaping work has been undertaken to improve the health and amenity of the Park, and some new park furniture (seats, drinking fountains, signage, playground upgrade) is being installed. Yet to come is a major (at least 125) tree-planting program, mainly to replace removed or dying trees.



The Park overall looks better than it has for some time, partly because the previous drought has broken, but undoubtedly also because of the work undertaken.

However, there are caveats. The Park is still used as a car park for football and international cricket at the MCG, and for 'major events' at Melbourne & Olympic Park (the tennis etc). Quite apart from the traffic chaos engendered, this continues to put strain on the Park, and makes the task of rejuvenation somewhat of a labour of Sisyphus. Although it is closed to parking in bad weather, and parking areas rotated to spread the load, significant damage is still being done – and persists some weeks after the end of the footy season.

I continue to put the view that in the longer term, public transport access should be improved (including an upgrade to Richmond Station, long promised but yet to be delivered) and several smaller parking structures provided nearby for those without access to public transport, enabling car parking to stop. In the short-term, ways of mitigating the damage continue to be explored (such as improved 'cross-overs' for cars from the paths to the paddocks), but are second-order solutions at best.

Many dog owners continue to be unhappy with the designated off-leash area.

The green cover of sections of the Park is being reduced (continuing a trend that started 150 years ago!). A part of the park between the Great Southern Stand and Brunton Avenue is being developed as the 'Southern Plaza' to provide permanent set-down and parking facilities. The Richmond Football Club managed to snaffle a strip behind the turf wicket area for additional parking during the redevelopment of Punt Road Oval – and has kept it.

Many dog owners continue to be unhappy with the designated off-leash area, some of which is close to Punt Road, and instead use the paddock in the north-east section of the Park. The MCC declines to designate this as off-leash as it is nervous of liability if a dog harms a child at the nearby playground, and is not providing seating as requested by dog owners for this. Some discussion is taking place about a possible compromise.

However the fundamental problem for Yarra Park, now that the initial capital funds have been used, is that future funding (including for tree planting) has been made dependant on surplus revenue from car parking which itself, through the degradation of the Park it causes, makes Park management more expensive.

While the MCC and MCG clearly understand their obligations towards the Park on behalf of the people of Victoria, it is almost inevitable that their perspective is fundamentally focussed on the MCG. The statues appearing along 'MCC Avenue' represent an incursion into the park of monuments to sporting heroes previously and rightly concentrated around the MCG concourse. The new Yarra Park logo appearing on the signage (see photo) illustrates the point perfectly – an avenue of trees parts deferentially to reveal the Peoples' Ground – the apparent purpose of the Park's existence.



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Prue Forster

There are many people living in East Melbourne who have led fascinating lives and make a great contribution to our society. Prue Forster is one of them. She is a cycling, kayak paddling octogenarian who has lived in George Street for around 25 years and is a stalwart of the local community.

Prue was born in Swan Hill in 1929, the daughter of an English mother and a soldier-settler who had served at Gallipoli. She remembers a great deal of antagonism towards 'the British' in Swan Hill. She was four when the family moved to Bairnsdale. They shared a big house with others ('just like *Cloudstreet*') for a short time before they moved to Brighton to Tommy Bent's old house.

Aged 18, Prue went nursing at Royal Melbourne Hospital. It was a good career choice, and allowed her to follow a range of career options, as she grew older. A major back operation at 22 meant she didn't complete the course but she met her future husband Frank Forster while at RMH and married him at 24. Frank was training as an obstetrician and gynaecologist and to further his studies they sailed on the Oronsay for the UK. Richard, their eldest child, was born in London. John, Katy and Gordon were born when they returned to Australia and the family lived in Hawthorn for 40 years.

Prue volunteered for two years with the Brotherhood of St Lawrence and was then employed by the school medical service in 1975, visiting schools in West Heidelberg and Preston. She remembers the playground at West Heidelberg being covered with broken glass, known locally as 'Heidelberg confetti'. Later she was appointed to the Aboriginal Health Service, and joined a group of nurses going to country areas such as Shepparton and Warnambool.

When an independent Aboriginal Health Service was proposed in Gertrude Street, Fitzroy, Prue was asked to come and help set it up. She studied at night for a Graduate Diploma in Health Education but retired from this work in 1989 to nurse Frank before he died in 1995.

Since then she has looked after overseas students who live with her while completing their studies in Australia and she thrives on the contact and friendships that have developed. Prue is a parishioner of Holy Trinity and she helps with the playgroup which operates there each Wednesday.

The Cottage by the Sea organisation has been Prue's charity of choice. For years she worked and fundraised tirelessly for this organisation, which provides seaside holidays at Queenscliff for children from inland areas.

She sings in a choir and attends every ballet, play, film, concert and exhibition she can, sometimes surprising people with her open mindedness. Hers is a life of activity and adventure, which is fuelled by her East Melbourne friendships, and sense of connection. Most days begin with a coffee and a chat with friends in the George, only a few steps from home.

Charlie Hohnen



Albert Heights Serviced Apartments is an ideal accommodation choice for visitors to Melbourne. Located ten minutes walk from the Melbourne CBD, Albert Heights offers you spacious apartments accommodation, tranquility in the heart of the Melbourne city and is walking distance to many of Melbourne's attractions and events. Our apartments are conveniently close to most institutes, hospitals and offer an excellent standard of accommodation and service at a very reasonable rate.

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'Easy Reading is Damn Hard Writing'

Nathaniel Hawthorne

Rob McColl

Local Michael Webster – Chair of the Melbourne Writers Festival (MWF) – always tries to make time for his energetic labradoodle Oscar to do some socialising. Except in August, that is, when his responsibilities with the MWF take precedence and he is busy overseeing a program of events designed to inspire and entertain Melbourne's keenest readers and writers. And as the final touches are being put to proceedings, another reason not to sleep is Melbourne's title as a UNESCO City of Literature – a title Michael played a part in securing – and the expectations that go with it.

Michael says Melbourne's legitimacy as a City of Literature is tied to an 'insatiable appetite in Melbourne for books, for reading, and for people interacting with authors'. This year's MWF numbers were sound evidence of this appetite, with 56 000 attending. Although this was the festival's highest attendance ever, Michael says, 'the problem now is that I say that we should make 60 000 next year, so it's relentless'. There is a really ambitious, creative team behind MFW, which, as many will know, secured high-profile, award-winning, controversial author Salman Rushdie as a guest this year. Rushdie is an exemplar of the author both serious and personable'

according to Michael. 'On the one hand, we expect them [authors] to go to the garret and write and not talk to anybody and be isolated and in their own head, and then we expect them to drop all that and go out and become entertainers and talk about it – the market demands that.' When asked about the feasibility of hosting a MWF event in East Melbourne, Michael says, 'let's say we had a theme of Victorian inner-city architecture, which you might identify with East Melbourne, and there's a venue, there's no reason why we couldn't have an event here – we have them in Docklands, and North Fitzroy, and Footscray'.

For aspiring writers, Michael's advice is to get an agent, 'unless you know a publisher who is publishing books of a similar genre to yours'. But before all that, Michael emphasises the following – 'If you've got a passion to write, you should write.' It seems passion is the key word. There isn't much money in the arts, Michael admits, and those two weeks in August are intense, but always present somewhere, is a passion for what he does and why he does it.

And now, with all that hard work done, and another successful festival behind him, Michael can give Oscar's social calendar his full attention, and head back to the park.



Michael and Oscar.

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Planned works for East Melbourne, 2014-15

People living in and around Albert Street and Powlett Reserve have witnessed much road and path improvement work in recent weeks, which prompted us to ask the City of Melbourne what else is on their agenda for the 2014-15 period.

Footpath and road works

Road, kerb, drainage and footpath works are planned for the following locations:

- Albert St (south side) between Spring St and Nicholson St
- Powlett St (east side) between Albert St and Victoria Pde
- Powlett St (west side) between Grey St and Albert St
- Berry St (west side), East Melbourne
- Jolimont Road both sides between Jolimont St and Wellington Pde South, Jolimont.
- Jolimont St north side between Charles St and Agnes St
- Albert Street between Simpson and Hoddle Sts
- Albert Street between Clarendon and Powlett Sts

- Gisborne Street between Albert and Parliament Place
- Hayes Lane

The City of Melbourne is planning to install new drainage infrastructure on Wellington Parade South, as well as a pedestrian refuge and kerb extensions on Clarendon Street at Gipps Street later in the year.

A master plan will also be developed in 2014-15 for Wellington Parade in consultation with Yarra Trams who are in the early stages of planning the upgrade of tram infrastructure from Spring Street through to Punt Road. Opportunities for further streetscape improvement works will be identified by the master plan and budget sought for implementation.

Fitzroy Gardens Visitor Centre

The City of Melbourne is in the final stages of fitting out the Fitzroy Gardens Visitor Centre and landscaping on the site of the stormwater harvesting facility.

Construction of both the new depot and the visitor centre commenced in January 2013 and is near completion. Landscaping



works for the new garden area are currently underway and the visitor centre is expected to open by the end of 2014 ahead of an official launch early next year.

The visitor centre will provide information and interpretive display material and act as a base for a range of programs and walks in Fitzroy Gardens. It includes a small café area.

It has been designed to include a number of energy-reduction features including a 'green wall' of climbers on the west side to modify the micro-climate temperature levels in the visitor centre and a system for circulating natural air for cooling in the summer, which will reduce the need for air conditioning. Treated stormwater from the tank under the new garden area will be used in the toilets.

Other works to take place in Fitzroy Gardens in 2014-15 include:

- Minor refurbishment of the River God Fountain water jets and rockwork, and some replanting
- Hydraulic upgrade of Boy on a Turtle Pond and re-start of waterfall to run on recycled water
- Renewal of some sections of pathways in the south west sector of the gardens
- Repairs to the timber footbridge opposite the Pavilion café
- Stream improvement works
- Bulb planting in mulched avenue trees
- Garden bed irrigation

Other parks works

- Treasury Gardens – Upgrade of lighting and water sprays in JFK pond
- Albert Street – tree irrigation
- Birrarung Marr – wildflower planting
- Darling Square – removal of old lights and pathways upgrade
- Weedon Reserve (the triangle in Wellington Pde near Hoddle Street) – upgrade of irrigation and pathways.

East Melbourne Library

The East Melbourne Library will undergo a first floor renovation to swap the local history/meeting room and staff room to provide better accommodation and use of the spaces. Construction is expected to begin in January.

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Grand homes on the move

PROPERTY UPDATE



Jacob Caine, CEO Caine Real Estate

2014 has been a busy year with an unusually liberal offering of grand East Melbourne homes, more so than in any of the almost 15 years we have operated in the suburb.

George Street witnessed two magnificent mansions offered and sold. Vale Street recorded three impressive sales, Hotham a further two strong results and Powlett Street, one of the strongest with at least six significant sales.

East Melbourne appears to be cycling through a transition of home ownership from retirement age East Melburnians to younger families and 'lifestyle' purchasers. This may have the effect, long-term, of shorter resale timeframes as this demographic is more prone to transfer around the globe.

Despite the increased availability of fine homes, demand for East Melbourne houses remains intense; should the trend continue we don't anticipate that demand diminishing.

And little ones too...

The grand old homes haven't been the only stars of the sales scene. With steady availability (relatively speaking for East Melbourne) we have enjoyed much street theatre as the entry level offerings have been keenly contested. The most extreme example has been the recent offering of 62 Grey Street, East Melbourne where 6 strong bidders vied for the opportunity to be the new owner, with almost 100 bids taking the property many hundreds of thousands over the reserve. The desire to live in and be part of this historic precinct is fierce, and available only to the fortunate and determined few.

On the subject of community sport, having experienced local and international lifestyles, the residents of East Melbourne know all too well the joys of the unusually strong sense of community that exists here. With the capacity to 'walk to' most places – work, sport, social or cultural – the frequent meeting on the streets embeds a neighbourly knowledge that rarely exists in the average busy suburban lifestyle. It's subtle; it's special, and sought after.

Heritage Helps

Over the years, we have had many comments about the restrictive nature of property upgrading and renovation in East Melbourne. The East Melbourne Group and their tireless conservation efforts have helped retain the unique and precious street scapes that are the envy of many cities both here and overseas.



Caine Management Team Alex, Paul and Jacob.

JINGLE BELLS



Members from Melbourne Men's Shed have been busy crafting jingle bells for use by children at the East Melbourne community carol singing. After testing out a few variations members decided to up-cycle pine off cuts to create a safe and practical shaker. Projects such as this provide members with three key benefits – an opportunity to contribute to the younger generation and a fun activity while developing the fledgling sheds capacity to develop saleable products to generate a modest income.

Programs Officer Tony Bright



MMS members Tony Gualano - East Melbourne, Tamir Mirza - South Yarra, Ray Brett - Doncaster East and John Howarth - Jolimont.

East Melbourne Group

emg.org.au

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

East Melbourne Group strives to foster and enhance the strong community spirit of East Melbourne and Jolimont but needs your input! By joining EMG, you can ensure that its focus remains broad and diverse to reflect our community.

Thank you very much for your interest. You may like to visit our website www.emg.org.au for further information.

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



PEOPLE & PETS *you meet on the streets*



SIMONE FRENCH

Simone is just about to graduate from the Victorian College of the Arts where she has studied acting. With her background in music theatre, she is looking forward to combining her skills to create original performance works. She displayed her talents performing a bracket of songs by stylish women at the Women in Style luncheon. She loves living in East Melbourne and being able to get around so easily on her bike. For Simone it is the closest thing to being in the city without fighting for space and feeling as if you are on top of people. She makes good use of the parks to meet friends for picnics and yoga.



JASON AGOSTA

Jason is a podiatrist who has practiced in East Melbourne's medical hub since 2001. His background as a competitive distance runner representing Australia led to his fascination with the effect of materials such as shoes, surfaces and insoles on the body. His practice focuses on general foot and post operative care. Jason is the podiatrist for numerous high profile sporting teams and athletes, including being on call for the Australian Open though not all of his patients fall into that category because everyone wants their feet to feel comfortable. He still makes time at the end of the day for a run around our local parks.



TURTLE

Turtle is a 10-year-old Cavalier King Charles Spaniel and an unashamed daddy's boy who snuggles down each night at the back of owner Brett's pillow. At the 2012 Fiesta he was judged 'dog most like owner' when he paraded with his 'mother' proudly wearing matching beads. He is unashamedly a snob and will not deign to socialise with dogs that are not from around here. He thinks Darling Square is his private park and only his friends are allowed to wander and play there. He misses many of the friends he met as a pup including Mister, Dragon and Archie who have sadly all passed away.



SIMONE MCGRATH

Simone, a physiotherapist, has lived in 3002 for 17 years. As well as the parks and streetscapes so good for walking and running, she enjoys the wonderful community and the great friendships that have developed over that time. When her children were younger she was very involved with Childcare Cooperative. To stay connected when children went off to various schools a book club was formed and it is now supported by Fiona from the library. Simone loves the community building that can be achieved through resources like the library, the childcare cooperative and the community garden – something her family has been involved with for just over a year. She thinks a local primary school would add strength to our community.



TENEAL DYER

I have heard Teneal described as the happiest shop assistant in East Melbourne. And it is true; she is always smiling and cheerful as she greets people from behind the counter at the IGA where she has worked for the past two years. Most of the people she meets in the afternoons have had a long day at work or school and many are visitors to our hospitals so she thinks the least she can do is give them a smile on the way home. Away from work, she likes to spend time on her Xbox, something she often speaks about with her regular customers. One thing she cannot understand about East Melbourne is why only one side of the tram strip in Victoria Pde. has sprinklers meaning that side is lush and the other dry.



GRAHAM SHEPHERD

Old friend Alan Bacon had been encouraging Graham and Marion to move to East Melbourne since 1973. They finally arrived in 1995 and have been hooked ever since. Graham gets a great deal of pleasure working with the East Melbourne Historical Society and learning endless old and new things about the suburb and making many great friends in the process. His one great wish for East Melbourne is that Hoddle Street would disappear or at least all of the traffic. He thinks it is like crossing the Styx – perhaps there is no way back. He heads in the opposite direction for his daily walks to enjoy the beauty of Melbourne's seasonal changes in the gardens and along the river.

Community Noticeboard



SWEET CHILLI JAM

Makes about 3 cups



- 3 large red capsicums, seeded & chopped
- 7 long red chillis, seeded & chopped
- 2 cloves garlic crushed
- ½ cup white wine vinegar
- 2 cups white sugar
- 50gm pkt jamsetta

Process capsicum, chilli and garlic in a food processor until finely chopped – not mush.

Transfer to a large saucepan and add vinegar.

Cover and bring to simmer over low heat then cook for 10 minutes.

Stir in the sugar and Jamsetta until sugar dissolves.

Increase heat to medium and bring to the boil. Cook uncovered for 5 minutes or until it reaches setting point.

Spoon into jars warmed and sterilised in the oven. Seal tightly and leave to cool.

Delicious with cheese or give as a tasty gift!

POLLY WOODSIDE PIRATES



Learn the pirate talk, do the pirate walk, sing the pirate songs and go on a treasure hunt on the ship to find the lost treasure!

Join an exciting hour-long interactive theatre production at Polly Woodside with lots of swordfights and songs and plenty of hearty pirate action.

January 5 to 24. Book Tickets: 1300 122 344

2015 SUNSET SERIES CONCERTS



The ever popular Sunset Series of Concerts will be staged again in the Fitzroy Gardens.

Keep the weekend evenings of 10 & 11 and 17 & 18 January free and gather your friends together for a picnic and to enjoy concerts on the Saturdays and dance events on the Sundays.

HOLY TRINITY CHRISTMAS SERVICES TIMES



Christmas Eve

6.00 pm: Family Service with Carols

11.30 pm: Sung Eucharist and Blessing of the Crib

Christmas Day

8.00 am: Sung Eucharist with Carols

10.00 am: Sung Eucharist with Carols

WEDNESDAY SUMMER NIGHT MARKETS



Queen Victoria Market's Night Market is the place to meet every Wednesday night during summer. More than just a market, it also offers a unique platform for emerging designers, artists and musicians to showcase their talents. With over 60 foodies serving up street food from across the globe it is the place to be every Wednesday night until March 25th 2015.



Yonga Yoga in Darling Square

NEW YEAR'S EVE

WITH A DIFFERENCE!

Federation Square's free New Year's Eve celebrations will be a party to remember with African beats, samba dance, circus acts and neon lights.

Reflecting the rich cultural diversity of Melbourne, the Square will be illuminated in a kaleidoscope of colour and so will you! Wear your brightest colours or crystal whites to glow under a canopy of ultraviolet lights as you are guided through easy dance steps.

Starts 8:00pm.



GRAFFITI REMOVAL

If you want to get objectionable graffiti removed from or near your property, you can contact the City of Melbourne by phone on 9658 9658.



BOHEMIAN MELBOURNE - ARTIST, REBEL, HIPPIE, HIPSTER?

A free exhibition at the State Library Swanston Street, Melbourne from 12 December to 22 February 2015

Revealing Melbourne's enduring counter-cultures, Bohemian Melbourne celebrates a who's who of creative free spirits through their art and the bohemian legacy that has shaped the character of this city from 1860 to today. It traces individuals who have pushed against convention in their lives and art, from Marcus Clarke, Albert Tucker and Mirka Mora to Barry Humphries, Vali Myers and Nick Cave. Bookings not required.



CARLTON FARMERS' MARKET

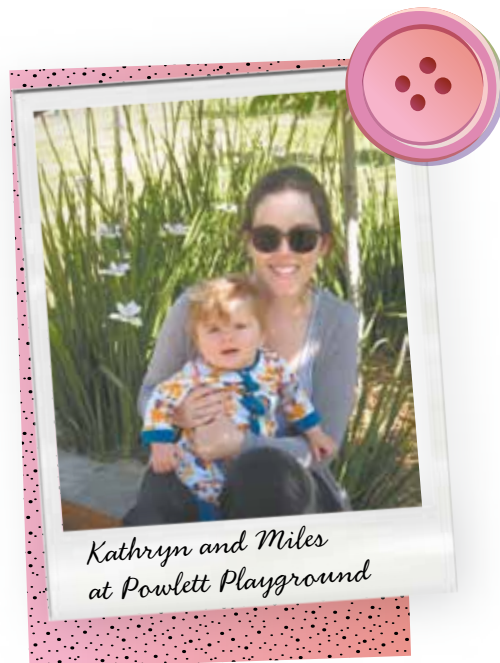
Join in a celebration of local food at the Carlton Farmers' Market, held on the first and third Saturdays of each month, until 21 March at Carlton Primary School. (No market 3 January 2015).

Enjoy a coffee and breakfast at the market bring your shopping bags as the market is plastic bag free. Access from Palmerston Street, parking on Rathdowne Street and surrounding streets.



NIKON-WALKLEY PRESS PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION AT THE STATE LIBRARY

Look through the lenses of Australia's best press photographers in this exhibition, showcasing 89 works by photojournalists shortlisted for the prestigious Nikon-Walkley awards. From moments in sport and news to photographic essays and portraits, see the events of the year captured by Australia's top press photographers. Heartbreak, triumph, jubilation, devastation – it's all on show in this free exhibition until 8 February.



Kathryn and Miles at Powlett Playground



Beautiful historic Powlett Street

GREEN FINGERS AT BISHOPSCOURT

For more than 12 years, Helen Page OAM, well known horticulturalist and garden history champion, was the tireless leader of volunteer gardeners at Bishopscourt. During this time the garden was progressively renewed and Helen must take full credit for sustaining the exceptional elms and other trees through the prolonged drought. During her stewardship, the garden was open twice for the Open Garden Scheme.

Helen recently returned to Bishopscourt to join Archbishop Philip and Joy Freier with John and Gillian Isbel to plant a tree commemorating her contribution.

The tree is an incense cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*), a replacement for an original specimen which died and was removed. It has been planted in the south west corner of the garden near a *Ceanothus* sp. planted some years ago in memory of Helen's father, an Anglican clergyman.

The work of the gardeners continues. On the third Wednesday of each month the extended group of volunteers gathers to prune, clip, rake and plant and debate the way forward. On most Thursdays of the other weeks, a smaller group does much the same. The garden continues to be a valuable outlet for those who enjoy pottering in a beautiful place. New volunteers are always welcome and details available from Libby Marsden (9836 3673) or Charlie Hohnen (9416 0164).



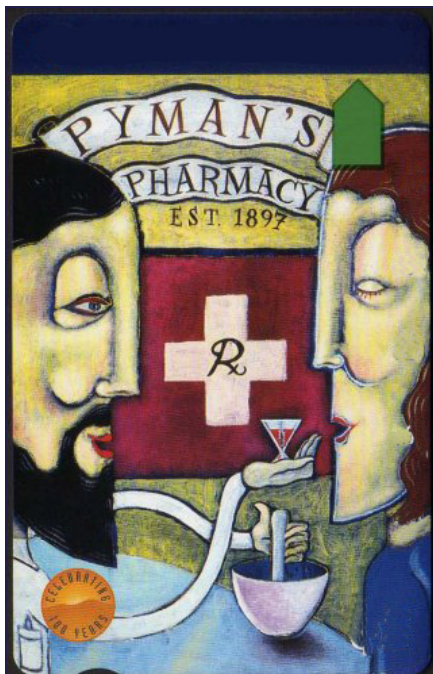
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