BATTLE STATIONS AT EASTERN HILL

MELBOURNE

AUTUMN 2009

ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL INVESTIGATION

國.

The East Melbourne News

The East Melbourne News is a quarterly publication produced by the East Melbourne Group Inc. and sponsored by Mercy Health.

The East Melbourne Group Inc. 152 Powlett Street East Melbourne 3002 ABN 16624318008

Editorial and Production

Editor:	Margaret Wood	Page 5
News Team:	Anna Macdonald Percy Schlossberger Genevieve Morgan	Page 6
Advertising: Publisher:	Lynden Wilkie Carmel Bourke Composite Colour	Page 7

The East Melbourne Group Inc.

Established in 1953, the EMG is believed to East Melbourne, protect local parks and gardens and improve the residential amenity of the area.

East Melbourne Group Committee

Office

Officers:			`150 Clarendon' UPDATE
President: Senior Vice-president: Junior Vice –president:	Fiona Hinrichsen Genevieve Morgan Percy Schlossberger	Page 13	Crime Watch report
Secretary: Treasurer:	Anna Macdonald Brian Chaplin	Pages 14-15	Notice Board
Committee:			

Natalie Forsyth	Barbara Paterson
Bill Gillies	Stuart Hamilton
Lorraine Holschke	Ian Mitchell
Margaret Wood	Joanna Pace

Advertise in the

East Melbourne News

A circulation of 4000 copies is distributed quarterly to every residence and business mail box in East Melbourne, plus Local and State Government Offices.

Contact:

The EMG Office 152 Powlett Street East Melbourne 3002 Phone: 03 9415 7570 Fax: 03 9415 7546 Email: admin@emg.org.au For further inquiries

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FRONT COVER: Eastern Hill Fire Station East Melbourne Built 1893



The East Melbourne News is supported by the City of Melbourne's Community Grant Program.

Community asks Environment Council to investigate Yarra Park

A high level of community concern over Yarra Park has been conveyed to the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council.

The VEAC, at the request of the Minister for Environment and Climate Change, will investigate how Crown Land contributes to the city's liveability and whether it can be improved.

It will systematically identify and assess the uses, resources, condition, values and management of Crown land and public authority land in metropolitan Melbourne.

Members of the East Melbourne community, fed up with the decline of Yarra Park, sent submissions calling for an end to the unsustainable practice of using the park as a car park for the whole of the Sports and Entertainment Precinct.

The current 5 year Yarra Park Car Parking Agreement expires at the end of 2010.

The investigation into public land in Metropolitan Melbourne by the VEAC, the first in 20 years, follows recent assessments by the Council to identify and evaluate the extent, condition, values, management, resources and uses of River Red Gum forests in National Parks.

In its recent submission to the VEAC, the East Melbourne Group has detailed its view on car parking in Yarra Park and the destruction it causes. It calls for State Government to either build a car park over the Jolimont railway yards or alternatively, introduce mandatory 'ticket and ride' program to all events.



Above: Car parking in Yarra Park

During the Commonwealth Games, Yarra Park was closed to car parking and public transport was included in the ticket. The arrangement was generally regarded as a successful exercise over the two week period of the Games.

A new era of care for older residents



Opening in mid-2009, Mercy Place East Melbourne is a new service providing residential care in an elegant environment for older members of the community.

Located at Verona Lane, off Gipps Street, Mercy Place is operated by Mercy Health, a Catholic community benefit organisation founded and owned by the Sisters of Mercy who hold a special place in local history.

For nearly 80 years the Sisters of Mercy have lived and worked in East Melbourne. They are very much part of the community and have been at the forefront of advances in health care since the establishment of Mercy Private Hospital in 1935. Their foresight ensured the building of Mercy Maternity, the iconic public hospital renamed Mercy Hospital for Women.

Opened in 1971, the hospital was the birthplace of more than 150,000 Victorians up to its relocation to Heidelberg in 2005. Mercy Hospital for Women continues to provide specialist care for women and families. John Ballard, CEO of Mercy Health, is a resident of East Melbourne and has a personal interest in supporting the local community. "The opening of Mercy Place East Melbourne reflects our commitment to the care of our community by providing services matched to the needs of East Melbourne residents. I am delighted to continue the heritage of the Sisters of Mercy through this new facility."

For more information on Mercy Place East Melbourne contact Annie Murphy, Director of Nursing on 9261 2014 or amurphy@mercy. com.au.

Above: Artist's impression of Mercy Place East Melbourne

Community office gets a refit

The small heritage building in Powlett Reserve, built in 1938, has been given a make-over by the City of Melbourne.

Occupied by the East Melbourne Group for the past 4 years and used as an administrative office and meeting room, the `Old Men's Shelter' as it is called on the Heritage Register, is also affectionately called the `Hut' by EMG members.

The building has received new roof tiles, paint works inside and out, a new kitchenette and floor coverings. The building is also the office of the East Melbourne News.

The old roof tiles will be recycled to re-clad rotundas in city parks.

Enquiries regarding membership of the East Melbourne Group Inc., the East Melbourne News or any matters concerning the East Melbourne community, contact the `Group's' administrator Carmel Bourke on 9415 7570 or email admin@emg.org.au.



Above: Renovations on "The Hut"

Council Committees restructured

Following the election of the new Melbourne City Council, the list of Council Committees has been restructured.

Previous Committees under the titles of Environment Committee, Marketing and Events Committee and Community Services Committee have been replaced with brand new names.

The Planning Committee together with Finance and Governance will be retained.

The six new Committees being proposed are:

Eco-City Committee; Connected City Committee; People and Creative City Committee; Docklands Coordination Committee; Inner Melbourne Action Plan Implementation Committee; Prosperous and Knowledge City Committee. According to Council Minutes of the January meeting, the establishment of the proposed new structure will address all significant Council-related matters and spread the current work load equitably between Councillors.

Council Minutes can be viewed on the City of Melbourne website; www.melbourne.vic.gov.au and by going into Council and Committee Meetings.





The Pavilion Fitzroy Gardens will captivate you with its panoramic views of the beautiful Fitzroy Gardens and impress you with its sophisticated cuisine and friendly atmosphere.

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functions @the pavilion fitz roy gardens.com.au



Pictured above: Image of 'Legend of Fire' mosaic on the exterior of the MFB building in Albert Street.

Eastern Hill on full emergency alert

The Metropolitan Fire Station in East Melbourne, known as Eastern Hill, is the headquarters of the Integrated Emergency Coordination Centre (IECC) where officials from multiple agencies gather to assess emergency situations and deploy more than 3000 workers in emergency services.

On that fateful day, Black Saturday, members of the State Emergency Services (SES), the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) and Country Fire Authority officers (CFA), tracked and assessed a series of raging infernos across the State, some less than two hours drive from Melbourne.

Following warnings from the Victorian Weather Bureau at Docklands that Saturday 7 February would be a day of unprecedented fire weather, Eastern Hill swung into full alert.

In the week that followed, as Victorians struggled to comprehend the extent of the loss, it was reported that over 2000 people attended a special Mass just across the road from Eastern Hill Fire Station at St Patrick's Cathedral East Melbourne.

The tragedy claimed more than 200 lives, an astounding loss of property, live-stock and wild animals and beautiful Australian bush land. It has been reported that over 8000 people may have been displaced.

In 1939, the disaster of Friday 13 January, known as 'Black Friday', also followed a drought and a long hot summer. Fires broke out several days earlier before suddenly taking hold when northerly hot winds intensified. This tragedy claimed 71 lives and over 1000 homes were lost.

Even prior to 1939, Victoria has had a long history of bush fires dating back to 1851 when 12 lives were lost amidst fires in the Wimmera and Western District. Loss of life and property has been recorded in the years of 1898, 1905, 1906, 1926, 1932, 1943, 1944 and of course throughout the latter half of the century.

The MFB website states "the first known volunteer fire brigade operated in Melbourne in 1845. In 1890, the first fire brigade act was introduced – leading to the establishment of the Melbourne Fire Brigade (MFB) in 1891".

In 1893, on the corner of Gisborne Street and Victoria Parade, the Eastern Hill fire station with watchtower was opened and today it is the MFB's headquarters.

BUSH FIRE EMERGENCY APPEAL Send donations to the

RED CROSS Tel: 1800 811 700 (Freecall)

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What's on

Run for the Kids

Short course 5.7k long course 14.1k Starting from Alexandra Avenue Sunday 5 April 2009 www.runforthekids.com.au

'Salt-bush- children's cheering carpet'

Art Play 29 & 30 May Burrarung Marr Batman Ave www.artplay.com.au

'Murder By Chocolate'

La Mama Theatre 205 Faraday Street Carlton Wed 1 April to Sun 9 April

Royal Historical Society of Victoria

Community Treasures Exhibition to mark 100th Anniversary 20 March to 30 June Melbourne Town Hall's City Gallery

St John's Passion JS BACH

Melbourne Recital Centre Cnr Southbank Bvd and Stuart St 19 March and 21 March Bookings: 9699 3333

'The Magic Flute' – Mozart Opera Australia From 4 April to 8 May Arts Centre 100 St Kilda Road Bookings: 9685 3700

'Five things about Charles Darwin'

Melbourne Museum Nicholson Street Carlton Daily until 31 May

Family History Research with Maps

State Library of Vitoria 27 April, 22 June and 31 August 10.30-11.30am Meet in the foyer

April School Holiday Programs

State Library of Victoria 6-17 April Website: www.slv.vic.gov.aau Phone: 8664 7000

Garden Markets

100 crafts and fresh produce stalls 11 April, 9 May Observatory Gate – Botanic Gardens Birdswood Ave South Yarra

Thai Culture and Food Festival

Federation Square – River Terrace Sunday 22 March 10am – 9pm

Turkish Pazar Festival

Food and handcraft stalls Ottoman Military Band Queen Victoria Market 68 Victoria Street 29 March 9.30am – 4.00pm

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Hilton Hotel reviews building plans

The Thakral Group is expected to reassess its redevelopment plans for the Hilton Hotel site and adjoining land after losing a lengthy legal battle.

The East Melbourne Group, victorious in what turned out to be a fight of 'David and Goliath' proportions, is heartened that the City Melbourne has now been reinstated as the Responsible Authority for the site.

The 'Group' says it now hopes there will be an opportunity to discuss its concerns with the new Hilton Hotel development team.

The East Melbourne Group maintains the view that components of the failed proposal would have heavily impacted upon the heritage character and residential amenity.

"These issues must be resolved to a level that is fair and reasonable for all interested parties before we give our support to any proposal", the East Melbourne Group said.

What began as a straight forward challenge against excessive expansion behind the MCG Hotel in 2001, (which was later determined before VCAT in the East Melbourne Group's favour), the saga took an unusual turn in December 2004 when the Thakral Group asked the State Government. to intervene and approve a development package.

The Site Specific Amendment (C101) approved by the Planning Minister, Ms Delahunty, introduced controls over the Hilton Hotel and adjoining land, including 'Mosspennock' in Clarendon Street.

The site package included the construction of a 15 storey building comprising 89 dwellings in Wellington Parade, a 6 storey residential building in Clarendon Street and redevelopment of 'Mosspennock' into 6 apartments, also in Clarendon Street. Further, it substituted the Minister of Planning for the City of Melbourne as the authority responsible for the site.

The Planning Minister exempted herself from all public notice requirements for a variety of reasons, one of which was that the proposal would provide much needed accommodation in time for the 2006 Commonwealth Games.

The East Melbourne Group took the view that the amendment was invalid and issued proceedings against the State Government in the Supreme Court. The Hilton Hotel joined the State Government as a party in the proceedings.

The case was dismissed by the former Justice Morris. The judgement was appealed by the East Melbourne Group to the Victorian Court of Appeal in July 2007.

On 31 October 2008, the Court of Appeal upheld the appeal, and declared the Minister's approval of Melbourne Planning Scheme Amendment C101 invalid.



View of Mosspennock and other heritage buildings in George St.



View of Mosspennock and the Hilton Hotel from the Fitzroy Gardens

The Court of Appeal held that the decision was so unreasonable as to constitute an error of law.

The East Melbourne Group says that it accepts the fact that the land adjoining the Hilton Hotel site will be developed.

However, the 'Group' has always held the view that the proposal should be determined through proper planning processes and with serious consideration to the character and amenity of the heritage area. More importantly, the Minister for Planning must allow the community to have a voice.



Once again the local East Melbourne community partied into the night on New Year's Eve in George Street.

The open invitation to all members of the community attracted friends, neighbours and families to a stunning night under the stars.

The 16 piece swing band "Radio Rhythm Orchestra" had all ages up on their feet dancing the night away under the fairy -lit canopy of heritage elms. The weather was perfect, (unlike the 30 plus degree heat the year before) and the white clothed tables adorned with decorations, looked spectacular.

John Lidgerwood, chief organizer and chair of the News Year's Eve sub-committee thanked the City of Melbourne for sponsoring this unique community gathering.

The East Melbourne Group applied to Council for special funding to ensure costs of infrastructure and entertainment were adequately met. East Melbourne Group administrator, Carmel Bourke, assisted with the reservation of table bookings and other administrative tasks.

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NEW YEAR'S EVE 2008

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News in Brief

Punt Road Oval Redevelopment

On the current Capital Works Program list, Council has announced that the Punt Road Oval Redevelopment will commence contruction in May 2009. The Richmond Football Club has received 20 million dollars to upgrade club facilities. Included in the proposal is an "Indigenous Centre" for aboriginal youth.

Roundabout update

The reconstruction of two roundabouts in Powlett Street will commence in early May 2009. Works will begin at the intersection of George and Powlett Streets. It will take about 6 weeks to complete the two locations.

Council will endeavour to minimise disruptions to vehicle traffic with the implementation of a specific traffic management plan for this project. However, due to the nature of the works it is likely that some delays will be experienced.

Trees to be removed in Cathedral Place

Four Plane Trees in the centre median of Cathedral Place have been marked for immediate removal. Other trees will be monitored closely and maintained as long as possible. Removed trees will be replaced with Deodar Cedar (Cedrus deodara) this winter.

Move to bring forward revaluations of rateable properties

For the purpose of the next land tax rating period, Councillor Clarke moved at the last Council meeting that the CEO ensures that updated valuations are available to the Valuer-General for certification by January 2010.

It was also suggested that Council encourage all other local governments in Victoria to comply with the January 2010 timeline in an effort to offer potential savings for the 2010 land tax period.

Library to lose Maple tree

The large Maple in the library forecourt is declining rapidly, most likely due to root disturbance during the redevelopment. Council has decided it cannot be retained safely. The Maple will be removed and replaced with another tree, a Red Maple (Acer rubrum) in winter.

Council decides to 'retrofit' before drought-proofing parks

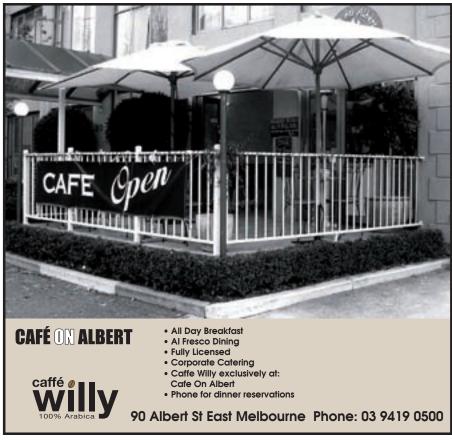
As reported by the Herald Sun on 6 March 2009, Council has knocked back droughtproofing parks and gardens in favour of retrofitting council buildings.

A decision by Council to put forward the 'green building model' initiative in an application to the Federal Government's Community Infrastructure Fund, was made at the last meeting with Councillor Clarke the only councilor to vote against the motion.

Whilst the drought-proofing project consisting of sewer mining and water harvesting was recognized as an important project, the Lord Mayor said the 'retrofit' plan was considered the better option for meeting the criteria of the Federal Government Infrastructure Fund.

TV Take Back Scheme

A scheme to collect and dispose of millions of TVs when analogue transmission signals close at the end of 2013, has been supported by the Melbourne City Council. According to unconfirmed minutes of the Council meeting on 28 February, the Director of Sustainability and Regulatory Services, Geoff Lawler, undertook to provide Councillors with a briefing note in relation to the current practices in Council's Waste Transfer Stations.



NEW "NEWS" SPONSOR

Mercy Health is the new sponsor of the East Melbourne News.

This community publication, produced and distributed by the East Melbourne Group (local residents' association), has become a regular source of information and news for the past eight years.

It is only through major sponsorship from local businesses that the East Melbourne News is able to circulate 4000 copies to every letterbox in East Melbourne, Jolimont and surrounding localities.

Mercy Health has a long history of providing medical and nursing care in East Melbourne and the EMG Committee welcomes the support of Mercy Health with this project.

New director at The Johnston Collection



Director/Curator of The Johnston Collection took up the position in the second half of November 2008. With the Christmas festivities providing a number of social activities he is already a familiar presence around East Melbourne. Louis comes to us from New Zealand, with a heritage stretching back to 1841 and the early days of European settlement when there were periodiic visits by the French Whaling fleet. Prior to his new appointment he was Curator of Applied Arts at Auckland War Memorial Museum Tamaki Paenga Hira where he recently completed three new permanent collection-based design and

decorative arts galleries.

His career, ranging over twenty years, includes time at the Govett Brewster Art Gallery, a regional gallery in New Plymouth, which is a visual arts museum with a contemporary art collection and associated exhibition programme. Following this he was appointed Curator at the Te Tuhi Centre for the Arts, formerly the Fisher Gallery, Pakuranga, an interdisciplinary contemporary noncollection based gallery.

In November 2007 Louis was awarded the inaugural Asia:New Zealand Foundation – Museums Actearoa grant when he completed an internship at the National Palace Museum Taiwan, one of the world's great collections. Louis has stated that current curatorial practice is about facilitation. His approach is to encourage visitors, collectors and enthusiasts to look at objects in both new and traditional ways and to keep collections relevant to these different groups. With his experience and wide ranging interests The Johnston Collection will enter into a new and exciting era under his direction, building on the innovative and solid foundations established by the previous director, Nina Stanton, who has retired in order to write and undertake research.



THE JOHNSTON COLLECTION

A house museum of fine and decorative arts.

The Johnston Collection is the legacy of William Johnston, an antique dealer and collector. He left his estate to the people of Victoria for their education and enjoyment. The collection ranges from the 17th to the 19th century and has great strengths in Georgian, Regency and Louis XV furniture, Empire and decorative arts.

For details about museum tours contact the Johnston Collection.

Telephone (03) 9416 2515 Facsimile: (03) 9416 2507 Website: www.johnstoncollection.org

Free bus service comes through East Melbourne and Jolimont

Some members of the community may not be aware that there is a tourist bus service that comes into East Melbourne and Jolimont.

The service is free and you can jump on and hop off at key tourist attractions and destinations in and around the city.

The shuttle runs daily every 30 minutes from 9.30am to 4.30pm, excluding Good Friday and Christmas Day.

If you wish to introduce visitors to the sights of the city, go to the Jolimont bus stop located at the corner of Jolimont Terrace and Jolimont Street, just outside the Melbourne Cricket Club entrance at the MCG.

The round trip, commencing at Stop 1 outside the Arts Centre in St Kilda Road, stops at 13 locations and takes approximately 1.5 hours to complete.

- Stop 1 Arts Centre, St Kilda Rd
- Stop 2 Federation Square, Flinders St
- Stop 3 MCG Yarra Park, Jolimont St
- Stop 4 Theatre District, Exhibition St
- Stop 5 Carlton Gardens, Rathdowne St
- Stop 6 Lygon St Precinct, Lygon St
- Stop 7 Melbourne University, Grattan St
- Stop 8 Queen Vic. Market, Peel St
- Stop 9 Docklands Waterfront, Docklands Drive
- Stop 10 Docklands Stadium, Harbourside Esp
- Stop 11 Immigration Museum, William St
- Stop 12 Southbank Queensbridge St
- Stop 13 Shrine Of Remembrance Royal Botanic Gardens, Birdwood Ave

'150 Clarendon' UPDATE

Managing Director of Salta Properties, Sam Tarascio has announced a long-term leasing agreement for '150 Clarendon' with well-known restaurateur Mario Di Nardo.

Mario Di Nardo plans to open Hamper, a gourmet food outlet comprising an Italian bakery, wine store, deli, and walk-in cheese room, on the corner of Grey and Clarendon Streets.

In addition to this new concept, Cristallino will also open as an antipasto wine bar and cafe featuring a selection of Australian and international wines. A delicious range of antipasto will be created on the premises. Mario owned and operated Scusa Mi at South Gate for 12 years before opening Cocamo, Boccabar and Mama Woks at Waterfront City, Docklands. Currently, Di Nardo is running The Italian Kitchen in Chapel Street, South Yarra.

Right: '150 Clarendon' under construction









Crime Watch

Neighbourhood Watch Report for the area of East Melbourne – Provided by Sergeant Warren Jackman of the Victoria Police for the period of January - February 2009 Due to privacy considerations NOT all offences for this area are listed.

Date	Details	Location
04.01	Business office burglary	Wellington Pde
05.01	House burglary, front door forced	Grey St
06.01	Theft of motor vehicle	Victoria Pde
08.01	Theft from vehicle, window smashed	Brunton Ave
11.01	Theft from vehicle in car park, boot	Vale St
11.01	Theft from vehicle in car park, smashed window	Vale St
12.01	Shop steal from supermarket	Victoria Pde
16.01	Sports area theft x 2	Brunton Ave
16.01	Theft from vehicle, jemmy boot	Brunton Ave
16.01	Burglary from house, unlocked door	Victoria Pde
19.01	Theft from motor vehicle, smashed window	Gipps St
20.01	Apartment burglary, forced front door	Agnes St
22.01	Theft from vehicle in car park	Brunton Ave
22.01	Theft from vehicle, forced lock	Victoria Pde
22.01	Theft from vehicle, nil visible force	Albert St
23.01	Burglary from hospital, forced door	Victoria Pde
23.01	Theft from hospital	Victoria Pde
24.01	Theft from hospital	Victoria Pde
24.01	Theft from vehicle, nil visible force	Victoria Pde
30.01	Theft from vehicle	Brunton Ave
31.01	Theft from vehicle, smashed window	George St
01.02	Theft from vehicle	Brunton Ave
04.02	Theft from vehicle, smashed window	Hotham St
06.02	Theft from vehicle, nil visible force to boot, in garage	George St
10.02	Theft of vehicle	Brunton Ave
11.02	Burglary from house, forced entry front window	Berry St
19.02	Theft	George St
20.02	Property damage	Grey St
21.02	Apartment burglary, nil visible force	Albert St
21.02	Property damage, house	Simpson St
22.02	Theft from front yard	Albert St
22.02	Burglary, administrative property, key used x 2	Victoria Pde
24.02	Apartment burglary, forced window	Simpson St

ST VINCENT'S SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT SERVICE

St Vincent's Screening and Assessment Service offers free mammograms every two years for women aged 50 to 69 years.

Located on the edge of East Melbourne, women of this age group are encouraged to visit the Healy Wing at St Vincent's at 41 Victoria Parade Fitzroy. BreastScreen Victoria aims to reduce deaths from breast cancer through early detection of the disease. There are eight regional assessment centres, 40 screening centres and a Mobile Screening Service visiting more than 20 communities every two years.

For more information, contact Carol Whitehead on 9288 2554.



Notice

Place your notice on this NOTICE BOARD If you would like to advertise a community event or group activity, items to sell, positions vacant, services available, Contact: Carmel 9415 7570, or Email: admin@emg.org.au	PODIATRISTFor all of your foot care and lower limb problemsRefer to www.ja-podiatry.com Jason Agosta PodiatryLevel & 166 Gipps St East Melbourne 3002 03 94176885	First Saturday of the month "Friends of the Library" Meet for morning coffee 10am-12 midday at the library upstairs L22 George Street East Melbourne
OVER 45'S SOCIAL CLUB Join us at the movies or the theatre, for lunch or dinner For more information or a newsletter, telephone Aileen on 94151906. www.life.org.au Inner Melbourne Life Activities Club – a not for profit group	MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED For the distribution of the East Melbourne News If you would like to be part of the volunteer delivery team, call Carmel at the EMG Office on S415 7570 or email to	PARIS APARTMENT Ouiet 2 bm, well appointed First floor apartment for minimum weekly rentals. Located just 20mins walk from Notre Dame, 10mins from Marais and Paris Opera and 5mins to 3 metro lines RER and TGV. East Melbourne owner 9419 2712 0412 196 019
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Ticket Enquiries: 9578 1947

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION East Melbourne Library 122 George Street City of Melbourne 9658 9929

to Boroondara's Transfer Station

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www.boroondara.vic.gov.au

Board

EAST MELBOURNE Library & Community Centre 122 George Street EAST MELBOURNE

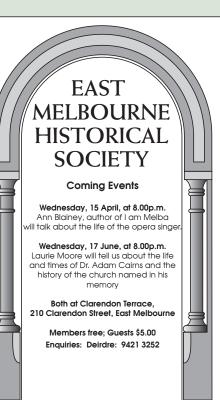
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	Fri 1pm-6pm	
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Care First.

Opening in mid-2009, Mercy Place East Melbourne sets a new standard in residential care – giving older members of the community the support, confidence and independence they need. With a legacy of care in East Melbourne reaching back to 1932, Mercy Place East Melbourne is committed to care first for residents and their families.

A new place to call home, Mercy Place East Melbourne has:

- Live-in facilities with a dedicated lounge, dining and activities area
- The latest technology for the safety of residents and staff at all times
- A chapel, hairdresser, podiatrist and specialised activities staff, all conveniently located on the ground floor.



John Ballard | CEO Mercy Health and East Melbourne resident

"If you see me having a coffee I would love to answer any questions you may have."

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