

EAST MELBOURNE 3002 JOLIMONT

community magazine



PICNIC ON THE GREEN

Laneway Gathering 26 March

Valetta in a sorry state



east melbourne group

AUTUMN
2017

PRODUCED BY

The East Melbourne Group Inc
ABN 16 624 318 008
Provider A0041878P
P: 9415 7570
admin@emg.org.au



www.emg.org.au

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



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COVER IMAGE

At Picnic on the Green with the community mural background

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EMG President's Remarks

BY MURRAY HOHNEN

President East Melbourne Group

*Christmas and New Year are now faint memories
with Easter firmly in sight. Time flies!*

February has seen a return of the builders whose mantle of dust descends on the whole suburb. In Albert Street, the demolition of the Dallas Brooks Hall is well under way and on the Pullman site (the old Hilton) the excavators are at work fashioning the foundations for the apartment buildings which will sit adjacent to two of our local landmarks, the MCG Hotel and Mosslenoch. Those with long memories will remember the prolonged planning disputation that preceded the final planning permits for the latter properties and the prominent roles played by Gary and Genevieve Morgan and the EMG in removing the worst excesses from the proposals.

Through the generosity of local home owners local groups have recently been able to showcase some of the gracious homes that make our suburb the important heritage precinct that it is. During a visit to Elizabeth House which sits alongside Pyman's Pharmacy, Jill Fenwick, President of East Melbourne Historical Society, contrasted the robust health of this building with the wretched neglect of Valletta only streets away. Heritage in the hands of those who care is

very special. Heritage in the hands of those who are indifferent is a tragedy.

EMG's Annual General Meeting is to be held at the East Melbourne library on 20 March 2017 at 6.30pm.

On the social side, we can reflect on the successful Picnic on the Green in the Bishops court grounds and look forward to the Laneway Gathering. Our suburb can also proud of the tremendous work of the new Neighbour Network highlighted below.

Since our last EMG magazine, we have been gratified by the introduction into Federal Parliament, by the Greens, of a bill to lessen the impact of aircraft noise over our cities. Aircraft noise is a growing issue for inner city residents though it is intriguing how the impacts differ. In some streets it is the noise of heavy aircraft on approach to Tullamarine; in others low flying and hovering helicopters annoy and elsewhere light planes on seemingly endless circuits over the MCG.

Our challenge now is to encourage the major parties to co-sponsor the bill. Those of you that do suffer the noise of aircraft, EMG would urge you to make your views known to our local MPs.

NEIGHBOUR NETWORK

BY SUSAN HENDERSON

The East Melbourne Neighbour Network is a group of East Melbourne residents whose focus is to encourage a friendly network for mutual support.

Our small but growing group has now been going for over six months. The aim of our regular morning coffee meetings is primarily to get to know one another with the aim of creating a strong mutual support group within our community. By sharing information and offering practical help to each other we will create a strong community that will support us as we age,

allowing us to remain in our homes and enjoy life in East Melbourne for as long as possible. To enhance our goal a few information sessions will be held in the library each year. These will keep us informed about help that is available through the wider community. We also have other activities such as an exercise class, small lunch groups, coffee groups, movie groups, all with the aim of interacting and enhancing our community life.

Please contact me if this interests you.

E: sjhenderson@ozemail.com.au

M: 0402 356 533

East Melbourne Group

Working together to keep 3002 the way you like it

Why become a member?

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

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



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

Name

Email

Phone

Address

east melbourne group



East Melbourne's next community event

==== Our own laneway festival =====

The Robert Russell Hustle

==== behind the Tippler & CO =====

A free local & laid back laneway gathering

Sunday 26 March ★★ 2-6pm

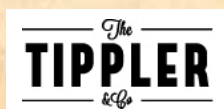
Enter via Robert Russell Lane (behind George Street Café)

**FOOD
TRUCKS**

POP UP BAR WITH
CRAFT BEERS AND
COOL COCKTAILS

**LIVE
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PICNIC ON THE GREEN

East Melbourne residents welcomed another unique opportunity to sit back and enjoy a picnic box and some smooth and sophisticated soul and jazz music at an event hosted by the East Melbourne Group on 25 February

Bishopscourt and its glorious gardens, home to the Archbishop of Melbourne the Rev Philip Freier and his wife Joy, were once again the setting for our community event. We are certainly blessed by Philip and Joy's generous hospitality.

Eight local businesses also came to the party with financial contributions which provided the marketing and all of the entertainment. Others donated raffle prizes and a team of volunteers worked behind the scenes to pull it all together. As a community we are very grateful for all of the contributions which made the event possible and serve to make East Melbourne the community we love being part of.

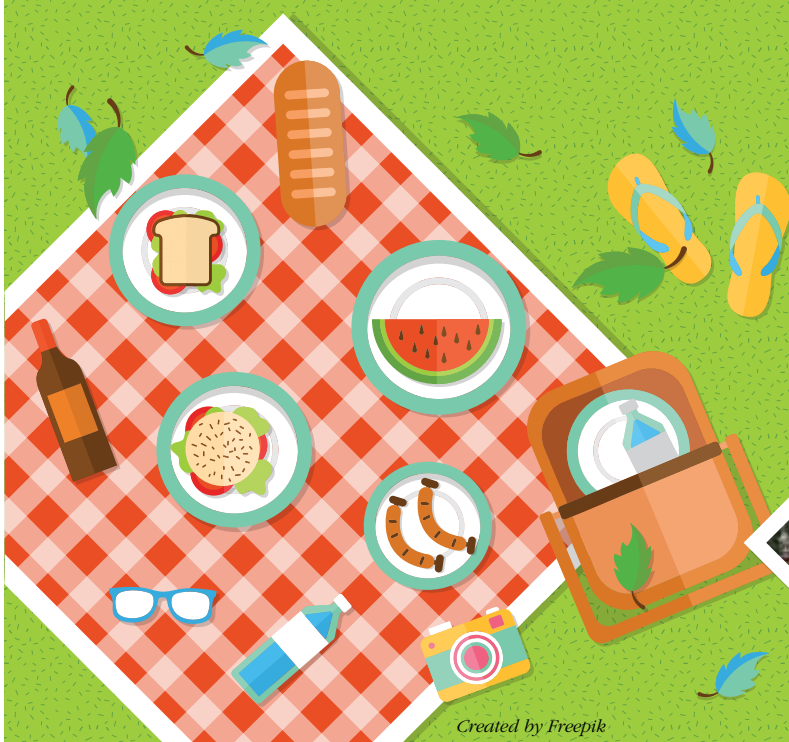
Kids were entertained by circus performer Flash Twinkle Toes and had their faces painted by Little Sparks in between being creative at

the art space run by Art & Soul and saying cheese for a family selfie in the photo frame.

The pop up Tippler bar did a steady trade even though numerous people claimed to be on Feb Fast. The mountain of homemade cakes all disappeared to a chorus of yums. Sizzling sausages cooked by the blokes from the Men's Shed filled the tummies of those who didn't pre-order a picnic box and slushies were slurped.

Local artisans set up stalls selling cards, hats, resin art works, badges and tea towels. All in all it was just a lovely day and everyone went home with a smile, especially the kids, who got an unexpected bag of sweets at the end of the night.

Thanks to everyone who lent a hand to clean up and fill the bins provided by Citiwide.



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THANK YOU TO THE
BUSINESSES WHO SUPPORTED
EMG TO HOST THE EVENT

CAINE



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Epworth
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& Co

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RAFFLE WINNERS

-  Bunnings Collingwood voucher
– *James*
-  Zigbi Hair voucher
– *Sophia*
-  Vlado's restaurant voucher
– *Jennifer*
-  National Sports Museum tickets
– *Monique and Kumi*
-  The Tie Collective men's accessories
– *John*
-  Marea Bright Millinery Hat
– *Evelyn*
-  The lucky last sponge cake
– *Yosbi*

Valetta in a sorry state

BY BARBARA PATERSON

You may have seen Jenny Brown's article regarding Valetta which appeared in the Age recently. The article was written in response to the continuing deterioration of one of East Melbourne's most significant heritage buildings. Valetta was built in 1856 by the well-known architect Osgood Pritchard and is listed on the Heritage Register as being of architectural, social and historical importance to Victoria.

Valetta's social significance largely stems from its association with Redmond Barry, the judge who sentenced Ned Kelly to hang, and Lowe Kong Meng who was a merchant and Chinese community leader currently featured in the Chinese Fortunes Exhibition at the Museum of Australian Democracy at Eureka.

Years ago the current owner obtained a permit from Heritage Victoria to renovate the building and although the permit has been renewed on a number of occasions the building has continued to deteriorate until reaching its current state of wrack and ruin.

Situated on the prominent corner site of Albert and Clarendon Streets, Valetta is a constant reminder of the difficulties of preserving heritage in a political climate where old buildings are considered more valuable for their land and development potential than for their historic and cultural value.

Empty of occupants for well over a decade it is a haven for squatters who manage to get in behind boarded-up windows and doors and the chained front gate.

Victoria is gradually coming to terms with maintenance and enforcement issues around historic properties exemplified by Valetta.

In 2013 the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) commissioned a valuable report to explore the issues entitled 'Demolition by Neglect – Report and Policy on Places in the Heritage Overlay' by Renee Muratore. The report defined demolition by neglect at its most basic level as 'the destruction of a building through abandonment or lack of maintenance'. The report contained many practical recommendations and I just mention a few in this limited space.

- Enact and strengthen local amenity laws to govern maintenance of derelict buildings and maintenance criteria.
- Update heritage overlay to ensure identification of properties at risk.
- Increase community activism – 'snap, send and solve'.
- Differential rates for vacant/derelict properties.
- Reverse mortgages (interest free) as a loan option for owners of heritage properties.
- Encourage developments that adaptively reuse rather than demolish heritage places.

Heritage legislation is in train to strengthen the hand of Heritage Victoria but will it go far enough in our development zeitgeist?

Finally, some examples from America, a country which takes its history seriously, of legislation aimed at the preservation of old and endangered buildings.

North Carolina has legislation whereby a municipality may enact an ordinance to prevent the demolition by neglect of any designated landmark or any building or structure within an established historic district. Any such ordinance is required to provide appropriate safeguards to protect property owners from undue economic hardship.

San Antonio uses the concept of 'eminent domain' which permits the city to condemn the historic property and take it by the power of eminent domain for rehabilitation or reuse by the city, with appropriate preservation restrictions, in order to promote the historic preservation of the structure and protect it from demolition.

At the time of writing, the barricade at the front door of Valetta had become dislodged leaving the building vulnerable once again to weather and trespassers. An alert neighbour identified the problem. EMG urges the local community to a heightened awareness of its heritage properties.



My thoughts on heritage

BY ELLEN SANDELL
STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

East Melbourne is lucky to have retained much of its amazing heritage and stunning open spaces. But as we all know, we're losing our heritage at an alarming rate.

Late last year, the Royal Historical Society of Victoria published *Remember Melbourne 1850-1960*. The book details the loss of more than 320 grand buildings across our city.

Many of these buildings were spectacular examples of period architecture which have been replaced, for the most part, with rather bland blocks of steel, concrete, and glass dating from the 1960s and 1970s.

East Melburnians have much to be concerned about when it comes to heritage protection. Far too often cherished icons are reduced to rubble in the face of developer greed. Developers will eagerly raze historic buildings or pierce quaint streetscapes just to make a quick buck.

Recently, we saw one of the most brazen developers illegally demolish the Corkman Irish Pub in Carlton. Following huge community outrage (which I was happy to be a part of!) at this despicable act, the

Heritage Bill 2016 was introduced into Parliament. It's a step in the right direction as it increases the penalties for developers who ignore heritage values and provides a more transparent application and review process for Heritage Victoria.

However, this is not enough. There is much more that needs to be done.

I would like to see local government empowered with much stronger heritage protections instead of having to rely on malleable planning overlays.

We must also reassess the role of the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal. Its arbitrations too often reflect developer interests rather than community will. Unfortunately the changes promised by the Andrews Government to give the community more influence over VCAT have not made any difference, as we pointed out before the election.

Heritage Victoria lost its capacity to process heritage registration applications or to intervene when breaches of the *Heritage Act 1995* occurred. The current government has provided \$30 million in funding to try and fix the many problems but

this funding has been largely used for administration, not to rehabilitate the budget and to expand the capacity of Heritage Victoria.

The Greens are working at all levels of government to protect East Melbourne's heritage. Greens Councillor Rohan Leppert recently gained the Heritage portfolio, and the City of Melbourne has embarked on more heritage reviews than have been undertaken in a generation.

Stronger local controls cannot come soon enough. Protecting East Melbourne's heritage is an integral part not just of building a city, but building a welcoming community.

Please get in touch with me on 9328 4637 or at [office@ellensandell.com](mailto:ellensandell.com) if you would like to discuss how we can work together to protect the heritage of East Melbourne.

Note: I will be on maternity leave until mid-year, after the birth of my first child. My office will remain open and my staff and Greens colleagues can help local residents with any concerns or issues you have, so please don't hesitate to get in touch.



THE

G R E Y

S M I T H

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HELLO, YOU LOOK NICE TODAY.

We're The Grey Smith. You might have seen us on Wellington Parade, just next to the post office. We've been open for a while now serving coffees, breakfasts and lunches but something was missing. Wine. Well actually, wine, cheeses, cocktails and beer.

We're really excited to say that that's all changed, we're now open until 9pm Tuesday to Thursday and until 11pm Friday and Saturday nights serving charcuterie, cheeses, lite bites along with our famous burgers. All paired with a fantastic selection of wines, cocktails and locally sourced beers.

So if you're looking for a relaxed glass of wine and a lite bite after a long day, or a few cheeky ones before the game pop in and see us, we think you'll like it.

1/126 WELLINGTON PARADE, EAST MELBOURNE

Dog owners BBQ



Every year the dog owners of East Melbourne gather for a Christmas celebration. Well behaved dogs were invited to the last event and they got Fred's full attention when he hinted that there might be leftovers on offer!



THE VICTORIAN ARTISTS SOCIETY

We are in your neighbourhood and welcome visitors to our galleries

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VAS APPLIED INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY EXHIBITION

25 March - 13 April 2017

VAS AUTUMN EXHIBITION

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VAS MARITIME EXHIBITION

24 - 30 May 2017

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17 June - 4 July 2017

GALLERIES OPEN 10am - 4pm Weekdays 1pm - 4pm Weekends

430 Albert Street, East Melbourne 3002

Ph: 03 9662 1484 www.victorianartistsociety.com.au

Painters at Bishopscourt



Members of the Victorian Artists Society recently enjoyed painting in the grounds at Bishopscourt



Our secret garden

REBECCA DODD

Living in the inner city is great. We are surrounded by beautiful parks and gardens, all tended lovingly by others but my hands were always itching, wanting to dig and be able to grow my own veggies.

When we got the call to say our name had come up on the list for a plot in the East Melbourne Community Garden, located at the rear of Sinclair's Cottage in the Fitzroy Gardens, we were really excited.

Apartment living is great, but we don't have the space to grow any produce. Tucked away in this almost secret location, we now have our very own patch of soil.

We prepared our 3x1m area with a new frame and net to keep the critters out, and prepared to plant. It was such a pleasure watching our spring onions, silverbeet, beetroot, radish, lettuce and zucchinis develop.

There is no greater satisfaction than watching your crops grow and to be able to create a home grown salad, or meal from your very own patch.

Having other members on hand for advice, a chat, and swapping crops is all part of the fun. Regular working bees and email contact provides a good sense of support and community.

There are currently 24 plots, all looking very abundant over the summer months.

If you are interested in placing your name on the waiting list, you can contact eastmelbcommgarden@gmail.com however the limited number of plots and very low turnover means you may be waiting quite a while to be advised you are next in line for a plot.

The next best option is to get involved with the new community herb garden at the library. Find out more at www.emg.org.au or on the library noticeboard.



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MONDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2017 –
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Hidden history: 109 Albert Street

BY FIONA CAMPBELL

Like many I was taken by a whimsical building featured in East Melbourne Historical Society's 2012 exhibition 'Lost property: pictures of local buildings lost to the wrecker's ball' and bemused that it had been demolished to make way for a carpark.

John Speechly Gotch of Gordon and Gotch fame purchased the timber house in 1863 and spent the next 15 years transforming it into a Moorish-influenced mansion. 'Gordon and Gotch' meant little to me beyond rhyming slang for 'watch' and perhaps something to do with paper. Canvassing others, this seems a common impression but the back story is one of resilience, goodwill and international success.

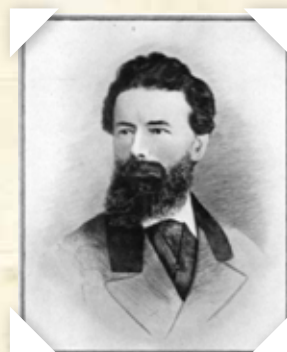
Gotch was born in England in 1829, the son of a farmer. He briefly attended school before a five-year apprenticeship to a chemist. In 1849 he sailed to America, working as a dentist without pay for six months and then for three years in New York as an assistant manufacturing artificial teeth.

Hearing of the gold rush he took passage to Victoria in 1853. The ship's crew caught wind of rumours the captain was secretly planning a wreck to claim insurance so they kept him in irons in the ship's hold until Brazil. In a strange twist the ship was later wrecked off the coast of Mauritius. Gotch made it to shore with nothing but his nightshirt. Undeterred he set up a flourishing dental practice on the island for a few weeks, saving enough money to complete his journey to Melbourne. He tried his luck on the diggings but soon returned starving, exhausted and with a badly injured foot.

Hobbling around the Western Market in search of somewhere to sleep he encountered Alexander Gordon, an older, kindly Scotsman selling newspapers. He too was near-penniless but took on Gotch and together they worked to drum up business, sleeping at the stall each night. Melbourne started to boom with the influx of gold money and so did the fledgling newsagent partnership. In 1859 the ageing Gordon sold out and returned to Scotland, leaving Gotch as sole proprietor.

The business grew and offices were established in Sydney, London, Brisbane, Perth and New Zealand. It endured fraud, fire, flood and the 1890s depression but Gotch remained nobly in charge until his death in 1901. His sons continued the firm which still exists today and is Australia's largest and oldest independent media distributor. It has been part of the PMP group since 1999.

The Gotches were generous people who supported many local charities. Mrs Gotch remained at 109 Albert St until her death in 1914. A 1905 *Punch* article magnificently describes 'Mrs J. S. Gotch's "At Home", a delightful musical afternoon at her pretty residence' held for the Collingwood Crèche, with 'tea, ices and other dainties served on the lawn'. Guests were received 'in the wide entrance hall [where] Iceland poppies in shades of yellow and grasses were arranged... In the music room [with] its handsome parquet flooring was a pretty grouping of nasturtiums and palms... The



◀ 'John Speechly Gotch' taken from *Years to remember: the story of Gordon and Gotch, Gordon and Gotch, 1953*

▼ Watercolour, 1879, by artist William Tibbits, Frances and Richard Berry collection, State Library of Victoria



long, deeply-recessed windows, overlooking a trim, well-kept lawn, were set with feathery palms and orchid plants in full bloom.'

109 Albert St stayed in the family until 1920 when a new owner converted it to six self-contained flats and the name 'Burnell' was first used. Freemasons bought the property in 1951 but the flats remained tenanted until 1969, after which the site was turned into a carpark and access to the adjoining Freemasons Hospital. The elbow lane between Grey and Albert Streets known as Corporate Lane 1575 was renamed Gotch Lane in 1997.

Sources: Trove (National Library of Australia), State Library of Victoria, East Melbourne Historical Society, City of Melbourne, Sands & McDougall

HELP WITH HISTORY

Fiona Campbell, Local History Librarian

Are you keen on history and fact finding?

Walking around East Melbourne is like a treasure hunt with so much beautifully intact heritage to spark the imagination. Searching out the answer to one curious thought such as 'I wonder when that house was built' can lead to many more fascinating discoveries, stories and connections.

The people at the East Melbourne library can help you with your research into local properties, people, family members and more. Contact us to arrange free assistance and access to:

- Genealogy websites such as Ancestry and findmypast
- Sands & McDougall directories
- City of Melbourne rate books
- Heritage and conservation studies and databases
- Real estate notices
- News articles
- Images and photographs
- Local history books and other publications.



East Melbourne Library and Community Centre • 122 George St, East Melbourne
P: 9658 9600 • E: CommunityHeritage@melbourne.vic.gov.au
W: www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/libraries

LIFE IN AN OLD BREWERY

BY LEIGH MORRISON

The Tribeca complex is a landmark building that frames the East Melbourne border along Victoria Parade. Built in 1882, it is remembered as the site where Victoria Bitter (VB) was brewed until 1983.

Converted into a residential complex in the mid-2000s, the re-development focused on creating the same feel as the Tribeca neighbourhood in New York City.

Today it houses nearly 1100 residents in 430 apartments across eight distinct areas of the precinct. Each area is named after the building's rich history of brewing. The vision of the architects, including Philippe Starck, was to connect contemporary architecture with the Victoria Bitter Brewery heritage.

In speaking with residents and the business owners it was evident that the sense of community is strong at Tribeca. Alex from Kiwi Fish & Chips comments that it is a pleasure to serve people from the complex. He notes that there is a diversity that keeps it busy and interesting. Customers include long-term residents, whether singles, couples, young families or retirees. Business people, tourists and groups of friends coming to enjoy Melbourne's highlights are there for short term stays. Many of the staff from local businesses and hospitals in surrounding streets support the businesses of Tribeca every day. Staff from the Jean Hailes Women's Clinic like the fact their patients can grab a coffee, lunch or groceries as part of their visit.

Business owners tell great stories of the characters that pass through – romances between residents, famous guests, seeing children play hide and seek with the giant pot plants, or whispers of 'odd noises' heard in the Powlett building. Software company Automaton has its offices built around the original VB vat. Often elderly people knock on the door requesting a look through the museum and sharing stories of yesteryear when a parent used to work for the brewery. Owner Darin recalls 'The Financial Officer's son came here and he said they were the first family in the company to own a car, feeling privileged on the drive to school as they passed the horses and carts on the road'.

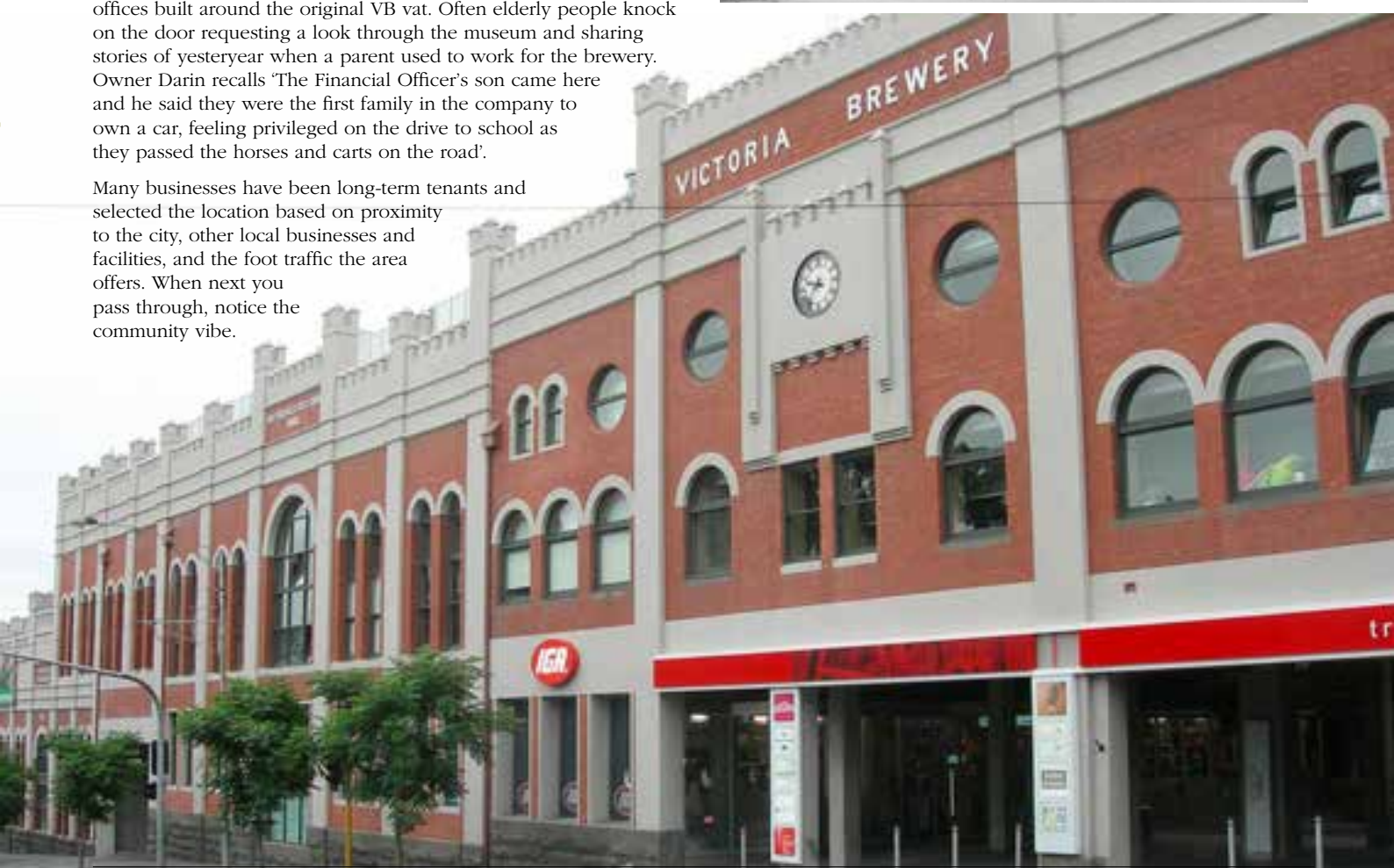
Many businesses have been long-term tenants and selected the location based on proximity to the city, other local businesses and facilities, and the foot traffic the area offers. When next you pass through, notice the community vibe.

Ervan the local dentist points out that his open blinds are all part of dispelling the myth of dentists being a shop of horrors. Numerous children tap on the window to say hello as he works.

The IGA staff are consistently friendly and helpful. I remember witnessing a European couple come to say goodbye to the team at the IGA with their three year old daughter as she was going to miss seeing them all after a two week holiday.

The highlights of living at Tribeca echo the village feel, the sense of security where people look after each other, the convenience of most daily necessities being on your doorstep, an on-call handyman, and the familiarity of businesses where owners say hello. Residents from the Wharton building explained how 'we have a mystery gifter who leaves all kinds of surprises for us, from chocolates at Easter time, fruit, books, and decorates the lobby at Christmas'. Other residents love the fact the complex has a gym, pool and access to loads of parks, running and bike tracks, to make exercising easy, especially in winter.

Businesses in the complex and contributors to the article include Kellee Flowers, Kiwi Fish & Chips, Tribeca Apartments, Top Lane Real Estate, Tribeca Dental, Automaton (marketing software), Cohen Wine Cellars, Jean Hailes Medical Centre, Gourmet Pizza Bar, Grocery Bar Café, Hair Décor (hairdresser & beauty), and IGA supermarket.



PEOPLE & PETS *the you meet on streets*



TARA WATSON

Tara didn't actually pick this area. Her stepfather did, suggesting she check out a rental property. Tara was aiming for St Kilda but after she saw the beautiful Art Deco building, and walked around, she was sold on the spot! Tara has developed a program that helps children become active, healthy and resilient through active travel. It all starts with how kids travel to school and working with parents' fears around this. She is very passionate about her work and needless to say, she rides or walks with her daughter to school and almost everywhere else. There used to be an old cockatoo that lived in the house in Powlett Street. They always stopped to chat to him. One day, they got no response and realised they were having a conversation with a garden gnome cockatoo! The family had apparently moved on, or the real bird had.



ALFRED

Most people assume eight year old Alfred has that name because of the character Alf. No. He is just Alfred for no particular reason. You might recognise him because he gets along on just three legs. When he was three a gate blew open in a storm and he made his escape only to come face to face with a car. He used this life event to become a gymnast and quickly learned how to do a handstand when he peed. Now his disability gets him lots of welcome attention. You would think he would have become car savvy after that experience but he has since proved that his brains aren't his strongest feature. The vet who amputated his leg featured him in an application for a small business grant and ended up receiving 100K so he really is a lucky, and much loved, dog.



ROSIE CHAMBERS

Rosie is from London and was enticed here by her boyfriend, now husband, four years ago. He moved into East Melbourne just prior to her arrival. It was part of the sales pitch! He'd been in London for a few years and didn't love it. Rosie now knows why and never wants to move from here. She also thinks this is paradise by comparison to London and loves being so close to everything but not in the thick of it. The weather, quality of life, the food and people who actually make eye contact all add to the appeal. Rosie took up tennis when she arrived here and now plays three times a week at Powlett Reserve. She finds the birds so colourful, unlike the brown ones back home. If happy colourful lorikeets fly overhead it makes her feel like she's bound to have a good day.



LESLEY WEYMOUTH WILSON

Eleven years ago Lesley and her partner relocated to Melbourne for work. They were delighted to find a thriving and friendly community so close to the city and work. Having pets, Boss and Jasper, added to the ease of connecting to other residents. She now feels very lucky to have neighbours who genuinely care about one another. In her area most have keys to one another's homes in case of emergencies. This sometimes involves frantic phone calls and tactics to rescue escapee pets and get them home safe and sound. Lesley appreciates the sense of community here and the community events which make it so like her small village in the UK. She is a great believer in supporting the local cafes and restaurants and loves the convenience of the general store and the special goodies that Lisette now offers.



BOGUSH FRACKOWAIK

Every work day for 24 years Bogush has walked the block from his office to the George Street Café for his cappuccino always bringing with him a smile and a joke. He is a doctor of traditional Chinese medicine who specialises in backs, sports injuries and headaches. His father was an herbalist in Poland so healing and helping people is in his blood. Away from work he runs and he sings. Sometimes simultaneously. The singing is just for fun but he is trained in classical technique so knows how to hold a note. He runs every day around Albert Park Lake. Sometimes he chases the girls and sometimes the girls and the dogs chase him! He likes to compete in Ultra Marathons, the biggest of which was a 100km event in the Blue Mountains. He wasn't at all sure about coming to Australia but now he just loves it, and East Melbourne!



GENEVIEVE MORGAN

Genevieve moved to East Melbourne nearly 40 years ago when she married Gary. There is a saying, 'Once you live in East Melbourne you never want to leave' and she strongly agrees. Genevieve has been heavily involved in the community over the years through the Friends of the Elms, the East Melbourne Group and Sunday lunch gatherings and in the course of those connections and organising fund raising parties and other activities has met many local people. She loves to scoot on her foot powered scooter and is often seen whizzing along the streets on her way to appointments or exercising her dog. She says it is fun and keeps her fit. Genevieve also plays golf and tennis in between spending time with her grandchildren, including Austin pictured with her.

THE ALTERNATIVE ALARM CLOCK

Have you ever been woken from a peaceful slumber in the early morning to a loud cackling, coughing, or guttural cry, often repeated over several tones?

BY KATHY
ZONNEVYLLE



Goodness me, in writing this, I challenge you all to describe to the call of a wattlebird. My bird books use descriptors such as 'cookay-cock', 'yekkop',

'chock' and 'yakayak'. You could 'Google' the calls to hear what I mean but it would be much more fun simply to go outside!

East Melbourne is home to two species of wattlebird - the Little, and the Red Wattlebird. The Little Wattlebird is a soft brown colour with a lovely cascade of white droplet-

like streaks over the breast and underbelly. In flight you are treated to a large patch of rufous feathers over the wing. The eyes are a lovely blue and the beak is often brushed with yellow pollen placed strategically by blooms from our local gardens. My closest encounter was when one cheeky bird flew down to share my pot of jam at a café in the Royal Botanic Gardens.

Dawn and dusk are ideal times to see Red Wattlebirds when they perform spectacular feats of aerial acrobatics whilst aggressively defending their territory or catching an insect on the wing. They are slightly larger than the Little Wattlebird, have red eyes, a yellow underbelly, and a

pendulous flap of red skin known as the wattle, dangling from each cheek. Red Wattlebirds also enjoy nectar, ingesting it via capillary action from approximately 120 bristles on the tongue. Every year between late winter and summer, several pairs of Red Wattlebirds breed in Darling Square, competing noisily with Rainbow Lorikeets for ideal nesting sites. I love hearing the soft, scratchy calls of the young birds asking both parents for food.

Wattlebirds do prefer large sized native blooms but are easily attracted to your garden with most flowering bushes. For more information, the *Birds in Backyards* website is a great place to start.

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East Melbourne
Dental Group

Community Noticeboard

NEVER FAIL PASSIONFRUIT SPONGE

Did you enjoy the sponges at the Picnic on the Green? Then why not have a go yourself?
Have eggs room temperature

Ingredients

- 4 eggs separated
(Whites go into a big very clean dry bowl. They won't whip if there is even a tiny spot of yolk!)
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup caster sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup cornflour
- 1 teaspoon cream of tartar
- 1 large tablespoon custard powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon bi-carb soda

Method

- Butter and lightly flour two 20cm (aluminium is best) sponge tins lined with greaseproof on the base.
- Preheat oven to 175 degrees Celsius
- Sift dry ingredients together three times
- Beat whites with a pinch of salt to soft peaks, and gradually beat in sugar
- Continue beating to stiff peaks (like meringue)
- Quickly add yolks and vanilla
- GENTLY fold in sifted ingredients with a big metal spoon turning the bowl as you go
- Spoon evenly into prepared tins
- Bake in middle of oven 20 – 25 minutes until the cakes shrink a little from the sides of the tins. DO NOT be tempted to open the oven before 20 minutes
- Gently turn out to cool on a rack
- Sandwich with whipped cream (add a little vanilla and sugar) and ice with icing sugar mixed with passionfruit pulp.
- Needs to be made on the day it is to be eaten.



ANY BOOK BOOK CLUB

Share your love of reading and get inspiration about what to read next. The Any Book Book Club does not have a set book. Instead, each person shares what they are currently reading.

First Tuesday of the month. 11am - 12 noon
at the East Melbourne library

FOOTY FAN CLUB

Here's a free kick for the school holidays: a morning of footy talk and fun at the Wheeler Centre with some rising stars of the new Women's League. Sporty kids of all ages are welcome for this free hour of footy fandom.

At the Wheeler Centre, 176 Little Lonsdale Street,
Tuesday 4 April 11am - noon



COMMUNITY HERB GARDEN

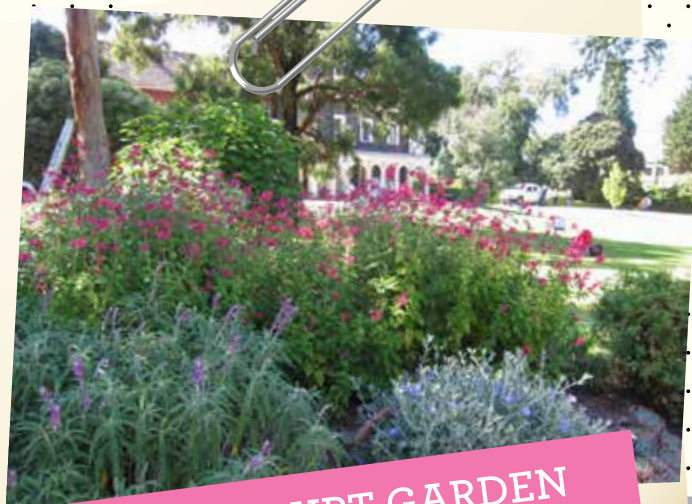
We are well on the way towards the establishment of a community herb garden behind the library.

A garden area has been cleared by Council and a landscaper has provided a planting guide. All that is required now is some people willing to exert a bit of energy to get involved in setting out the garden.

A working bee is planned for Saturday 25 March starting at 10am. Everyone is very welcome to join in the fun of creating our community herb garden. Please call Siusan on **0438 405 406** or go to www.emg.org.au for more information for more information.



Greg from the TriBeCa pizza shop cooking up a storm with family and friends in Powlett Reserve



BISHOPSCOURT GARDEN

The Bishopscourt Garden will be open on 1 and 2 April 2017 as part of the Open Garden Scheme. Come and check out this local gem so lovingly nurtured by volunteers.
Contact opengardensvictoria.org.au for further information

BETHHOVEN BISHOPSCOURT BROADWOOD

A recital featuring Beethoven's Sonata no 1 for Cello and Piano, and his song cycle 'An die ferne Geliebte'.

Hear these beautiful works in their intended domestic setting accompanied by Bishopscourt's 19th century Broadwood piano in a concert to raise funds for the Bishopscourt garden.

Robert Ekselman (cello), Laurence Moore (baritone) Veronica Westcott-Kirsch (piano)

Wednesday 10th May 7 pm \$50 includes refreshments.

Call Laurie for more information **9481 7335** or **0484 792 134**



Children at the Powlett Reserve Kindergarten exploring science



BACH BEETHOVEN LISZT

J.S. Bach: Italian Concerto
L.v. Beethoven: "Waldstein" Sonata
F. Liszt: Vallée d'Obermann

Thursday 16th March, 6.30-7.30pm
Holy Trinity, East Melbourne

Chris Cartner – piano

TICKETS \$20/ 25

www.resonance.net.au

RESONANCE

PIANO LOVERS GROUP

On the first Monday of the month at 10am, until the 4 December, play and listen to others on piano, with tea or coffee available. Monastery Hall, St Francis Church, 326 Lonsdale Street 03 9391 4091
jennyandrob@primus.com.au



Rev's Rant

BY FR. GRANT EDGCUMBE

I guess we have all heard the saying, 'Charity begins at home' but I wonder when charity is actually charity.



Everyone is familiar with the large steel charity bins that are dotted around shopping centres and various car parks. At Holy Trinity we have two such bins on the Hotham street side of the building where I am constantly amazed by the generosity of so many people who donate so much clothing and other appropriate items. Many thanks for your generosity.

However, there are a few people who use these bins at the church as a tip and just dump all manner of things that are of no use to anyone. This ends up costing the church money to clean up and to remove unwanted articles. Broken television sets, other electrical equipment that is clearly dangerous, furniture with no legs, arms or tops and an entire assortment of other junk are not needed.

Charity does begin at home and the church and wider community of East Melbourne make that home, so might I make a plea through these pages to please think about this before dumping stuff that might better be sent to the tip. I realise the convenience of putting things here but any good intentions are sometimes negated by the effort and cost of the clean-up from useless or unwanted goods.

So, please continue bringing your pre loved clothes after spring cleaning but please find somewhere else for the larger items.

A good idea is using the Council's hard rubbish collection. To book a hard waste collection call **9658 9658** or book on-line at **eservices.melbourne.vic.gov.au**



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Three timely considerations to support retirement under the new super rules

BY NERIDA COLE

Last November, the complex proposals heralding Australia's biggest change to super in 10 years received the approval of the Senate. And while the reforms mean that it will soon become much harder to build your wealth entirely in super, the finalisation of the legislation clearly reveals how the government intends those new rules to be implemented.



Of particular importance is knowing that there is now limited time available to review your current strategies and maximise your wealth in super before the new rules come in to effect. To start taking advantage of this six-month window of opportunity, we suggest you investigate the following three considerations as a priority.

1. Review your eligibility to make non-concessional contributions to super before 30 June 2017

You might want to consider bringing forward non-concessional contributions into this current financial year. And it's important not to wait – if your total super balances reach \$1.6 million after 30 June 2017 then you'll not be able to make any additional non-concessional contributions. And with the prospect of those limits being further reduced at the next federal election, relying on being able to get the money in later has its own risks.

2. Weigh up the advantages of holding your money inside super

Tax savings can be significant when compared to holding the same amount of money in a higher tax rate environment – particularly when compounded over 10 to 20 years. If you're considering the sale of an asset, for example property, or transferring shares to boost your super; strategies such as 'contribution reserving' can help you manage the capital gains implications.

3. Consider excess funds if you're a retiree affected by the \$1.6 million pension transfer limit

You'll need to make several decisions regarding any funds above the \$1.6 million pension transfer limit – from re-distributing them to an eligible spouse to rolling excess amounts back to the accumulation phase. If you hold an SMSF, the latter is expected to be the most tax effective and administratively efficient option. It's worth noting that although amounts above \$1.6 million cannot be held in a tax-free retirement pension account, they don't have to leave the super system all together and the tax rate within the super accumulation phase is still very attractive.

The reforms are complex so consider seeking advice to understand the full picture.

Ask yourself, 'How do I want my retirement assets to look not just at 1 July 2017 but in two, five and 10 years' time'. While that's not always easy to predict, understanding the new rules and the potential impact they may have on your long-term planning may give you a better chance of reaching your retirement goals.

Talk to one of Dixon Advisory's experts located in East Melbourne. To make an appointment call 1300 304 838.

This insight may contain general financial advice and was prepared without taking into account your objectives, financial situation or needs. Before acting on any advice, you should consider whether the advice is appropriate to you. Seeking professional personal advice is always highly recommended.

Now is the time for a supported SMSF **Call now for your free consult**

If you've been considering a supported self managed super fund, now is an important time to talk with an expert.

You have one last chance to maximise your wealth in super under the current rules. And you may be eligible to contribute up to \$540,000 – but only until 30 June 2017.

We can help you navigate the new super rules, take care of the paperwork and work out whether the flexibility of an SMSF is best for you.

Call this week to speak to one of our directors and book your free consult*

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* The information provided will be factual information or general advice and suitable for individuals or families with combined retirement assets of more than \$300,000. Fees and charges may apply to any services or advice provided following any initial free consultation. Dixon Advisory & Superannuation Services Ltd ABN 54103071665 | AFSL 231143



Laurie Moore

BY ROB MCCOLL

The relationship between church and community is important to Laurie Moore. Indeed, for the last twenty-nine years, it has informed his role as churchwarden at Holy Trinity Anglican Church East Melbourne.

With a keen interest in music it is not surprising the Master's degree Laurie undertook was focused on the human aspect of the church, or the lack of it in relation to the absence of music in the Presbyterian Church. 'Presbyterians never had any music in their services at all, no instruments, it was all sung a cappella', Laurie said. He looked at the introduction of music into those services. According to Laurie music in church is important as it is a powerful medium which can excite people, incite people, and calm them down. In fact it was through church as a child that Laurie was inspired by music. He had singing lessons at around age 18 and went on to perform with the Victorian State Opera chorus for 20 years and Opera Australia for eight years his favourite performance being a Puccini Spectacular at the tennis centre.

He still gives recitals and not so long ago was invited to perform in Japan.

Looking back, Laurie has fond memories of East Melbourne's Cairns Memorial Church (corner of Hotham and Powlett Streets) where he worked before Holy Trinity. In those days, he says, Cairns Memorial Church was a small community of fifteen to twenty, but a vibrant community nonetheless with its own dramatic

“Music in church is important as it is a powerful medium which can excite people, incite people, and calm them down.”

society. At that stage, according to Laurie East Melbourne was mostly boarding houses and a lot of the people living here were theatrical, low-income people. In 1988 a fire at Cairns Memorial claimed the hall that was the home of the dramatic society, as well as a choir and scout group. What started the fire is

one of life's mysteries. 'The building had just been re-wired so there was nothing wrong electrically', Laurie said. 'Maybe someone left a kettle on'.

Following the fire Laurie moved on to Holy Trinity, where he continues his endeavours to engage the community. Activities organised through the church by locals to encourage people out of their flats and houses include a once a month book café as well as parish dinners and parties. 'Someone will say, "It's someone's birthday next week", and someone else will say "I'll get the birthday cake!" or "I'll get the sparkling wine!"', Laurie said. 'I think we're the only church in Melbourne that has sparkling wine over Lent.'

Laurie's knowledge of the history of the church community in Melbourne is extensive due to his studies. In fact, as it turned out, he became less interested in examining the introduction of music into the church, and more interested in examining community life in Melbourne on the day of rest, Sunday. He eventually went on to complete his Masters on the introduction of Sunday entertainment in 1890s Melbourne. At that time, Laurie says, theatres weren't able to open on Sundays. The problem he found was that the poor missed out on another form of rest and relaxation – enrichment through entertainment. 'People who had money were able to entertain themselves on Sunday, because they had tennis courts', Laurie said, of this time. 'However, the people who had nothing, the poor, just had to sit home in their rooms, probably one room with six people in it.' Eventually, despite opposition from the Anglicans, the Presbyterians, the Methodists and all the evangelical churches, entertainment on Sunday was allowed. Laurie says with a laugh that the Catholics took a different view of the whole thing. 'The Catholic churches couldn't care less, as long as people went to Mass.'

Laurie is eager to counter the widely held perception that churches aren't welcoming and mentions the vicar of Holy Trinity, Grant Edgcombe as an example. 'In Grant's sermons, you don't get preached at, they're not fire and brimstone, in fact they are quite the opposite', Laurie said. 'We all have a laugh and people aren't afraid to interject. What you're likely to find on a Sunday at Holy Trinity, is not pointing fingers and judgment, but commentary and discussion on what's happening in the world.'

In a time when people are more isolated and inward looking than ever, Laurie believes that's something worth getting involved in.

For more information see Page 15.

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FRIENDS OF THE ELMS

BY GENEVIEVE MORGAN

The City of Melbourne has the best remaining specimens of English elm in the world. There are magnificent avenues throughout Melbourne and its parks including our suburb.

By 1990 the elm leaf beetle (ELB) had damaged elms throughout Melbourne. The beetle skeletonizes the leaves of elms, threatening the health of the trees. There was panic that we might lose all our elms and a misconception that this was Dutch elm disease (DED) which has destroyed most of the elms in the Northern Hemisphere. We DO NOT HAVE DED in Australia.

The Friends of the Elms (FOTE) was set up by a group of tree lovers who cared about and valued our historic elm trees. The first meeting was held at Alison Leslie's house and initiated by Anne Latreille. Among the members were Sarah Guest, Marion Brookes, Jo Grigg, Ralph Neil and Lou Dawson. The aims of the group were to educate and inform the public about the value of our elms; to protect and maintain their health and give advice to owners and councils on care and treatment.

The original treatment was to wrap the elm tree trunk in a sticky band which trapped the larvae of ELB travelling down the tree trunk. Another was to use insecticide or

a soap spray under the tree before the pupae became beetles. Then a spray for the whole tree canopy became available. Now the most effective way to treat elm trees is an injection of Confidor in the trunk every few years. All the work has achieved great results. This summer in Melbourne we have healthy elm trees with full cover of green leaves. Congratulations must go to our present President Jo Grigg and her committee who have worked tirelessly for many years.

The State Government has plans to remove more than 50 elm trees from University Square and replace them with native trees. These elms do not appear to be in advanced decline and with care and maintenance could last another 150 years or more!

The Metro Tunnel Link is threatening to remove 55 trees, including mature elms, for stabilisation works at the Domain Tunnel. These trees could be saved if the tunnel was made deeper. A shallow tunnel also means it would be difficult for new plantings to thrive in the area.

Friends of the Elms has set up a hotline (0409 870 860) to help people obtain information about the ELB and its treatments. FOTE print and distribute free of charge booklets which provide information about diseases of elm trees. A



twice yearly newsletter Elm Watch is printed and posted to keep members informed. A national register of elm trees has been established in case DED reaches Australia. FOTE represents the public as an advisory committee for parks, avenues etc. where elms trees are likely to be affected. It has also helped the Committee for Amenity Tree Health to conduct symposiums.

If you would like to support and join the Friends of the Elms please call **0409 870 860** or go to website **www.friendsoftheelms.com.au**.



The Sheriff of Hotham Street has hung up his holster

JASPER, RIP 9th June 2016

Our gorgeous Jasper, The Sheriff of Hotham Street, had a fabulous life patrolling Middle Hotham, receiving so much love from all who passed by and also giving a bit of grief to any dog that dared to interrupt his sunbathing on his footpath!

Over the 10 years that we have lived in the street, Jasper became the registered owner of the Hotham Street footpath and the neighbours' gardens, developing many friendships from his fan club.

Upon his passing I left a note letting his adoring fans know that he had departed and that a wake would be held in his honour in a couple of weeks' time. We were absolutely amazed at the outpouring of tributes that we received with cards, letters, presents, flowers and beautiful artwork of Jasper, including a beautiful origami cat left on the fence by the notice.

The day of his wake was an absolute surprise. So many people that we didn't know arrived to celebrate Jasper's life and they shared their fabulous stories of their special relationship and love of our Jasper.

He has been gone eight months now and we still have people knock on the door to say how sorry that he is no longer with us and how they miss him greeting them...

How amazing that a cat had so much effect on people, not only the local community but those who walked into the city from Hawthorn and Richmond. He enriched their lives each day by greeting them morning and night.

I still come outside and look up the footpath expecting to see him.

Thank you all for making his life so fabulous!

Lesley Weymouth-Wilson



Transient Tales

BY CHARLIE HOHNEN



Sue and Michael Hobbs enjoy a cappuccino on the way to the tennis

Would you travel 20 000km for love of sport? East Melbourne hosts many visitors, from out of town, interstate or overseas. Many come because the suburb is such a convenient location from which to attend sporting events or concerts. Handy to the city centre and within walking distance of most venues, it is a suburb that welcomes visitors and makes life easy for them.

Sue and Michael Hobbs from St Albans, (not the Melbourne suburb but 30km north of London) are among the multitudes of tennis fans who choose to stay in East Melbourne during the Australian Open.

St Albans has a population of about 60,000 and is what we would consider 'out in the country'. St Albans was known as Verulamium in Roman times and was the first major town on the old Roman road of Watling Street heading north from London. It has narrow irregular streets and Roman ruins and a Norman abbey. East Melbourne is almost brand new by comparison.

Sue and Michael were on their ninth visit to Australia during the recent Australian Open Tennis Tournament. Their elder daughter and her family live in Wagga Wagga and the couple come, like many escapees from dark northern winters, to enjoy the sunshine and warmth of our summers. They found their first visit memorable because their daughter was living in Broken Hill and the barren empty countryside and isolation surprised them.

The contrast between the cities on the coast and the wide open spaces inland continues to fascinate them. They have visited NSW and SA as well as Victoria and say they always intend to venture further but just don't seem to get organised.

Michael has 'retired' three times but still provides accounting services to two firms of architects, one in London and the other in Budapest. Sue spent sixteen years bringing up her family and then took a variety of jobs including working on a theatre ticket desk selling tickets to London shows and spending seven years as a doctors' receptionist.

Apart from the lure of the tennis, Sue and Michael find East Melbourne to be a convenient and attractive base for their visits. They love the Victorian villas and the wide streets, the parks and proximity to the sporting complex. They enjoy breakfast at the George St Cafe and appreciate the many other cafes and bars in the neighbourhood. Melbourne's trams are another benefit.

Even for people keen on tennis it is a long way to come for a sporting event, but both Sue and Michael have played tennis since childhood and coached children's tennis at their local tennis club. As they come to Australia primarily to see their daughter and grandchildren the tennis is an added bonus. They love the festival atmosphere and point out that it is more relaxed, much easier to obtain tickets and cheaper than Wimbledon. That is if you don't count the airfares.



Where the community meets
for coffee and a bite to eat

65 George Street Cafe

9419 5805

PLAY TIME

BY JANINE SHEARER

There was a collective sigh of relief from the parents and grandparents of East Melbourne toddlers in February, when the Holy Trinity Playgroup returned from summer hiatus.

The group meets on Wednesday mornings, is run by a dedicated group of volunteers and is registered with Playgroup Victoria. Playgroup mornings are easy to distinguish in East Melbourne as a procession of prams may be seen making their way to Hotham Street from all corners of the suburb.

Upon entry to playgroup, families are first welcomed by Prue Forster who takes care of the roll and administration. Often the next volunteer encountered will be Elizabeth Cam, offering adults a cup of tea or coffee. Elizabeth is also the master baker who cooks and serves a beautiful cake to the 'grown-ups' for morning tea. Margaret Webster and Julia Fox co-lead the playgroup, keep an eye on the play spaces and encourage children to participate.

By the time children arrive at Hotham Street they find many activities and toys set up including painting, play dough, puzzles, cars

and story books. Weather permitting, children will run around the backyard, burning up energy pushing toy lawn mowers, throwing balls or baking imaginary cakes in the sandpit. In the colder weather when the play is restricted to indoors, the mini trampoline is in demand as the best way to bounce away toddler frustrations.

Free play makes way for toddler morning tea where children sit together and enjoy their lunchbox surprises packed from home. As a church playgroup, members sing Grace (ideally) before the ravenous children begin to eat.

Once the children have refuelled it's time for music, singing and dancing with Julia. The children have become attached to several songs including Scarecrow and King of the Castle, which simply must be sung before home-time.

Playgroup runs to the school calendar with each term incorporating a theme such as shapes, countries or colours. Children are encouraged to bring toys or wear clothes that fit in with the theme and participate in



the associated discussion over morning tea. Holidays and events are marked with activities and special foods such as Anzac biscuits and hot cross buns. Christmas is particularly exciting with the final session of the year finishing with Christmas carols in the church.

East Melbourne parents and grandparents who bring their little ones to Holy Trinity Playgroup are grateful to the playgroup leaders who are a wonderful support for local families. Not to mention Elizabeth's cake, which is the highlight of the week for many of the adults.

The Holy Trinity Playgroup is held in the Parish Community Centre of the Holy Trinity Anglican Church, 193 Hotham Street, East Melbourne on Wednesdays from 9:30 – 11:00am, during school terms. For more information: margaretjwebster@hotmail.com

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What is a Buyer's Advocate?

Buying property can be both time consuming and stressful. We have all watched 'Escape to the Country' - or the Continent, where a group of properties are handpicked from a larger number to be inspected.

That is what a property consultant or buyers advocate does, they take the leg work out of the process. Many properties sell without even reaching the market and these are generally through a buyer's advocate having a good idea of your requirements, value and being ready to move quickly.

At Melbourne Residential Property Services we also look for properties to rent for clients coming to the area. Often when downsizing from another location it is good to get a feel for a suburb before taking that last step. We are there to help.

Feel free to call on **0408 697 108**

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Selling FAST

BY PAUL CAINE

Over recent months the average number of days it takes to sell a residential property has been falling, reflecting the overall improvement in housing market conditions.

The average 'days on market' figure provides valuable insight into the performance of the housing market. The figure measures the average difference between the date at which a property is listed for sale and the day at which it goes under contract. The figure is only calculated across those properties that sold by private treaty, excluding tenders and auction sales.

Melbourne vendors are selling the fastest of any capital city across Australia. Melbourne dwellings took an average of 35 days to sell in December 2015 with the figure falling to an historic low of 29 days at the end of 2016

The 'days on market' figures will be important to follow throughout 2017. After the current growth phase has run for more than four and a half years, we

are still seeing a rapid rate of sale in Sydney and Melbourne. Low levels of stock available for sale and many willing purchasers continue to drive a rapid rate of sale in Sydney and Melbourne while the rate of sale is improving in most other capital cities.

For East Melbourne, where most properties go to auction, the sale cycle is even shorter with an increased frequency of strong pre-auction offers translating into early sales.

With this in mind we are recommending that vendors are better to listen to early offers, but stay the course for the competitive environment of a well-attended Auction. The wait will prove worthwhile.

(Includes part content from Cameron Kusher - CoreLogic)



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East Melbourne Library building improvements

East Melbourne Library will close from the first week of April for up to ten weeks while a range of improvement works take place.

These works will include resurfacing concrete floors, providing new customer-friendly service points and a relaxing reading lounge with new extra comfy chairs. You can expect a brighter look and an even more welcoming place for you to read, connect, create and learn.

While you won't be able to access your usual library services from East Melbourne Library during the closure, you can still return books via a temporary returns slot outside the library and remember these other great options for keeping in touch while the library is closed:

- Join one of the Circle Storytimes at the Botanic Gardens in April.
- Join a Mother's Day Storytime at KereKere Green Café in May.
- **Join the historical walk as part of the National Trust Heritage Festival program *East Melbourne Group: the first of its kind* hosted by Jenny Brown, from 11am to 12.30pm on Friday 19 May 2017. Meet at the front of East Melbourne Library.**
- Access the online resources 24-hours a day through the website.
- Visit City Library or any of the other unique six City of Melbourne libraries

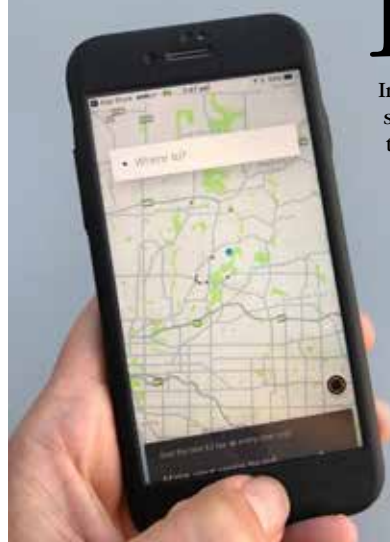
Stay updated about the works and about the Storytimes and historical walk, at melbourne.vic.gov.au/libraries

If you have any questions about the closure, call the City of Melbourne on 9658 9658.



The sharing economy – a good deal for who?

BY FRED HALLIDAY



In recent years sharing economy has become a familiar part of our lives, whether to book a room when travelling or to get a lift somewhere.

In East Melbourne there are now over 140 short stay places advertised on Airbnb, offering travellers a range of prices and options: a quarter of available rentals are under \$100 and about a quarter over \$200, and three quarters offer a whole house, apartment or studio rather than just a room in a house.

Sharing economy has offered the people the opportunity to make some spare cash from their homes or vehicles. However the increasing prevalence of the sharing economy has also sparked the interest of the Australian Tax Office. The Tax Office has issued guidance regarding the tax treatment of selling services in the sharing economy. This guidance

can be found on the ATO website and covers both the Income Tax and Capital Gains Tax treatment of sharing. In addition the Tax Office is also increasingly sourcing data from the sharing economy platform operators to ensure tax compliance: last year based on data sourced from Uber, the Tax Office contacted 20,000 drivers regarding their tax compliance. It would increasingly appear that sharing activity will be captured by the tax system.

In addition to the above, the sharing economy can include hidden costs. Some research into the economics of ride sharing suggests that car drivers do not receive a full economic return on their time and the cost of their vehicle's running costs, including depreciation.

Readers may wish to source their own tax and business advice if they are considering being a service provider in the sharing economy: the good deal may be only for the customer.



Your Homes
Your Suburb - Your Team

