

EAST MELBOURNE AND JOLIMONT NEWS

WINTER 2017

Grims & Simpson St

Dollina Square

Gipps St

Georgest

84 Grey St

Hotham St

Powlett St

Von Guverard Place

135 George St

77 Gipps St

A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW EMG PRESIDENT

IAN MITCHELL



As my first report as President, I am humbled and honoured to head up this terrific volunteer organisation. We have several new faces on Committee. You will read more of these on our new look webpage www.emg.org.au. There you will find interesting facts about East Melbourne and our group.

Membership of East Melbourne Group is essential to fund our work, and to help us represent the community. If you live in, or

own property in, East Melbourne and are not currently a Member, may I encourage you to join or renew by going to the website mentioned above.

I acknowledge with appreciation Murray Hohnen's three years as past President. Murray's effective leadership and amusing repartee brought pleasure to the committee and community. He continues as Vice President.

Jacinta Ryan has stepped down from Committee and will be missed for her Vice President and Membership activities.

I acknowledge with thanks the efforts of Siusan MacKenzie, and helpers, over many years in producing the first rate East Melbourne Jolimont magazine, and many enjoyable Social events. Siusan has left the Committee and John Stone has joined taking over as Editor and Convenor Social and Communications. We shall shortly be announcing planned social events.

We congratulate Professor Peter Colman (AC) and Dr Catherine Green (AO) from East Melbourne on their awards in the Queen's Birthday honours list. I am also delighted that Shelley Faubel, a member of our committee, has been awarded the OAM for service to the East Melbourne community.

I recently joined an Art Deco walking tour of East Melbourne, and was reminded of the contribution so many members have made over the years to the suburb. We have limited or stopped inappropriate development and destruction of our heritage fabric.

Yet applications to spoil our suburb occur often, and we need to be vigilant to counter these. Whilst we generally are aware of most applications, neighbours can help by highlighting these via email to admin@emg.org.au.

We are seeking a Heritage and Planning convenor and members. If you know of anyone keen to support the work we do in this area, please ask them to contact Ian Mitchell or admin@emg.org.au.

Our Amenities Subcommittee with convenor Greg Bisinella, has been active in ensuring Car Share parking spaces are reasonably spread around East Melbourne, and that noise from trucks servicing the old Dallas Brooks site is reasonable.

As I walk the suburb with the Autumn leaves in dazzling colour, I acknowledge how lucky we are to have beautiful parks and gardens in our midst. The City of Melbourne is to be congratulated for the water harvesting investments giving lush green surrounds through summer and throughout the year.

I look forward to an exciting year ahead.

EMG TREASURER'S UPDATE - BUSINESS REVIEW

TOM HOGG

Many organisations these days periodically review their business plan to ensure their objectives are still relevant to a changing business environment. This usually includes examining the ways the organisation uses its resources of money and people to achieve corporate goals. Indeed, even the Collingwood Football club has recently announced "that it is undergoing a Review" – presumably because it does seem that *that* club is not achieving what we assume are its corporate goals of winning more games than it loses!

In that vein the East Melbourne Group (EMG) committee has commissioned an internal review of its finances to ensure it can function effectively over the next decade and beyond.

The first stage of that review has now been completed - comprising a retrospective analysis of the financial performance of the seven year period from 2010 to 2016 (inclusive).

The results have been instructive with the principal findings being:

1. EMG is largely self-funded with little reliance on government hand-outs.
2. The main sources of finance for the EMG are members' subscriptions and fundraising events.
3. Member subscriptions have remained static at around \$21,000 per annum whereas fundraising income has been quite variable, ranging

from \$5,000 to \$20,000.

4. The principal outlays of EMG funds are used for two main purposes, namely:

(a) Defending the East Melbourne environment on Town Planning and Heritage matters in various tribunals, which often requires commissioning legal or town planning and heritage expert consultants. The costs of such actions vary greatly from year to year, with the highest year cost amounting to \$22,000.

(b) The second main area of outlay is in publishing the East Melbourne magazine which is distributed to all premises in the suburb; EMG believes its colourful magazine is a practical way for helping to create a sense of Community and belongingness for our residents.

The magazine is largely self-funded by advertisements and sponsorships by local businesses whose support we greatly appreciate. Historically, the EMG has provided the remaining unfunded balance of around \$4,000 pa from its own sources.

The next step in the Review is to carry out some financial modelling to assess options for alternative funding methods as well as examining our ways of conducting our business activities

We expect that second stage work to be completed by October this year in time for establishing the budget for 2018.

COVER IMAGE BY
LOCAL ARTIST, ALISSA DUKE WITH SKETCHES FROM HER CURRENT EXHIBITION (see page 15)

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magazine@emg.org.au
Printed by
Snap Collingwood



Produced by
The East Melbourne Group Inc
ABN 16 624 318 008
Provider A0041878P
P (03) 9415 7570
admin@emg.org.au

HERITAGE & PLANNING UPDATE

JOHN STONE

‘ASCOT LODGE’, HODDLE STREET

Since lodging an application for a Planning Permit in late-November 2016, suspending it on 21 December and then reanimating it days later on Christmas Eve – hours before an internal fire on Christmas morning (resulting in the compulsory eviction of its residents by Boxing Day) - this besieged development is now back on hold while the developer attempts to sort out matters with VicTrack who have objected to the plans, together with the East Melbourne Group, the East Melbourne Historical Society and countless other neighbours and community members concerned about inappropriate property development.

Located at 1071 – 1081 Hoddle Street, the current Planning Permit application seeks the entire demolition of the existing Moderne style/ Inter-war period building interior, construction of a mixed use 10-storey (26 apartment and 90-seat café) development and waiver of car parking and loading requirements.

The East Melbourne Group objected to the granting of the Planning Permit on the grounds that the plans contravened heritage and planning policies, in particular:

- That its proposed height is excessive and will result in overshadowing and overlooking
- That zero parking allocation is proposed – it is unreasonable to assume that those who live, work, visit and eat in this mixed use development will always avail themselves of public transport
- The lack of a loading bay and waste management plan will result in a traffic hazard and an unworkable wheelie bin scenario
- The proposed height, bulk, and design materials is disrespectful of the existing character of the site and will adversely affect the broader heritage overlay area



- The building complements the Art Deco character of surrounding buildings – the proposed gutting of the interior results in façadism
- The developer’s disclosed construction cost of \$8m does not inspire confidence in the quality of the development either internally or externally
- Recognising the adaptive re-use of heritage buildings, the current amenable building fits into the East Melbourne context and has become part of the local vernacular. It calls out for a more imaginative and sympathetic adaptive re-use than the one currently proposed

The East Melbourne Group will continue to monitor and report to the community on the progress of this Planning Permit application.

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Visit our new website: eastmelbournedentist.com.au
9417 5874



**East Melbourne
Dental Group**



EASTMELBOURNEGROUP

HERITAGE & PLANNING UPDATE

10 GARDEN AVENUE

Set among a unique example of Art Deco styled buildings, the East Melbourne Group's efforts to save the character and amenity of this precinct from inappropriate development were recently dealt a blow by VCAT following approval of amendments increasing the height of a proposed building on the site

In early-May 2017, the East Melbourne Group appeared in the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) as an objector to an application by the developer of 10 Garden Avenue to amend an existing Planning Permit.

The Planning & Heritage Sub-Committee had been following the course of this development since the original application was lodged in 2010 – eventually upheld by VCAT in 2011. The decision to actively contest this amendment application followed extensive consultation with neighbours affected by the proposed development and the broader East Melbourne community.

In this latest turn of events, the developer applied to the City of Melbourne seeking to amend an existing permit for a four-storey building containing eight dwellings and eight car spaces. The amendment sought to convert the previously approved roof deck to an additional storey thereby increasing the height of the building by almost 3 metres, and reducing the number of car spaces to six. The amended plans also changed the design, materials and colours of the façade to the building.

The Council failed to make a decision on the amended application in the prescribed time, and so the developer then applied to VCAT to make the decision. In response to the VCAT application the Council then decided to oppose the application on four grounds – (i) that height and setbacks were incompatible with the surrounding heritage and residential area, (ii) the insufficient boundary setbacks would compromise the amenity of adjoining properties, (iii) the external colour palette was not respectful of the heritage precinct, and (iv) the windows on the north boundary would compromise adjoining properties.

The Council's heritage advisor did not oppose the amended proposal although was concerned about the palette of colours and materials. The Council did not oppose the proposed parking arrangement on the grounds that it would not be part of any residential parking scheme.

The East Melbourne Group agreed with Council's decision to oppose

the amended permit and raised similar objections with regard to the proposal's built form and character concerns, in particular, (i) the excessive height, (ii) inadequate setbacks, (iii) visual bulk, (iv) lack of landscaping, (v) overshadowing, (vi) overlooking, (vii) internal amenity, (viii) noise, (ix) car parking and traffic impacts.

In making his decision, Member Bennett of VCAT accepted the amended plans, including the additional fifth-storey and increased building height. He dismissed the concerns of visual impact to Garden Avenue (in spite of it having the highest streetscape grading of '1' and all its buildings graded 'A'). He also dismissed neighbour's concerns of overlooking and overshadowing and concluded that "the modern contemporary appearance of the building... supports the [proposed] colour scheme".

Although this is not the outcome we had hoped for, the preparation and appearance of East Melbourne Group at the VCAT hearing demonstrates the commitment of the Group and its volunteers towards conserving the heritage, character and amenity of East Melbourne for the entire community.



129 POWLETT STREET



Following a Planning Permit application (lodged early-October 2016) to entirely demolish the internal structure of this 1869 double-storey terrace, and construct a third-storey, the East Melbourne Group lodged an objection with the City of Melbourne in order to save the site and the historic integrity of the terraces. 129 Powlett Street forms part of 'Lawson Terrace' which consists of four double-storey terraces.

The City of Melbourne supported the East Melbourne Group's grounds for objection, and rejected the developer's application for over-development, citing the following reasons:

"The proposal would result in excessive demolition of a graded heritage building and does not appropriately respond to the objectives of... the Melbourne Planning Scheme or the Heritage Overlay."

In the latest update the developer has applied to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) to review the Council's decision, and a hearing has been set for 26 August 2017. The East Melbourne Group will coordinate resources to appear at VCAT.

TAKING CARE OF OUR SENIOR PETS

DR STEPHANIE HARROP BVSC (HONS), ALL CREATURES ON HODDLE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Just as our human population is reaching an older age, so too are our pets. Also like their older family members, there are many changes that come with age that can affect our pets' health and their quality of life. Controlling these problems will not only extend their life expectancy, but make them more comfortable and happier in their later years.

What problems affect senior animals?

As animals age they are at an increased risk of many diseases – the more common in older animals include ailments affecting the heart, liver, kidney and thyroid. Further, our older animal friends are also susceptible to diabetes, osteoarthritis, hypertension (high blood pressure), eye conditions, brain aging/dementia, dental disease, and various cancers.

What signs should I watch out for in my senior animal?

Common symptoms of some of the above diseases include:

- Increased thirst – animals which drink more, especially without a change in diet could have many causes
- Increased urination - either increased volumes of urine or increased frequency. In extreme cases these animals cannot go all night without needing to go to the toilet
- Lumps and bumps - while some lumps are nothing to worry about, some can become nasty, and all lumps should be checked
- Unexpected weight loss
- Bad breath - this may be an indication of periodontal disease
- Vomiting - either new vomiting or increased frequency
- Changes in stool consistency or colour
- Stiffness, limping or "slowing down". In cats we may see that they sleep more, or do not jump as well or as high as previously
- Coughing
- Reduced activity - unable or unwilling to do previously normal activities: "tires" or "sleeps a lot"
- Weight gain – obesity will particularly exacerbate osteoarthritis
- Changes in skin and coat
- Poor vision – bumping into things
- Loss of hearing
- Loss of muscle mass

What will the vet do if my pet has these signs?

The first step is a thorough check-up. Some of these symptoms are non-specific and could apply to many diseases. Others may lead to a diagnosis at the time of the check-up. It is generally recommended that Senior animals should have a general health check every 6 months. This enables your vet to detect ageing changes early in the disease process.

FRED OF GIPPS ST GETS CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH



Twelve year old Fred of Gipps Street was recently given a clean bill of health by his vet following a 'Seniors Check-Up' at All Creatures on Hoddle.

"It was great to hear that old-Fred is in excellent health", says his owner, Sue (pictured), "he's such a loving and attentive companion to myself and my husband, Rodney".

Born in Sweden, Fred; a pedigree English Springer Spaniel; arrived in Australia as an 18-month old puppy and has lived in Gipps Street since.

Originally bred as a hunting dog, the modern domesticated Springer is considered a people's dog, who thrives on human companionship and has a reputation for being playful and patient with children.

As a senior dog, Fred enjoys nothing more than his daily walks through the Fitzroy Gardens, lounging at home and keeping Sue and Rodney company.



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EASTMELBOURNEGROUP



Laurent has been producing premium quality artisan style breads, cakes, pastries, savouries, and other food products since the first store opened more than 20 years ago in Melbourne's fashionable Toorak Road.

That first store set the tone for the company's future. It represented tradition, innovation and popular appeal.

Since then, Laurent has grown into a major bakery proudly serving customers with the same high-spirited energy and dedication to quality.

 Established 1993
www.laurent.com.au

LAURENT East Melbourne

All of us at Laurent are very excited to announce that our East Melbourne store is **opened again** from Wednesday, 31 May.

We look forward to welcoming you at our new beautifully refurbished premises located on 148 Wellington Pde, East Melbourne between 7am - 6pm daily.



LAURENT'S FRESH NEW LOOK FOR EAST MELBOURNE

JOHN STONE

A local winter favourite for a perfect cup of coffee and authentic French pastry, Laurent Boillon chats to the East Melbourne & Jolimont News about the exciting new design of his Wellington Street café

Since opening Laurent East Melbourne in 2002, renowned baker and patissier, Laurent Boillon (*pictured right*), was proud to unveil his newly refurbished café on Wednesday, 31 May.

The new look café features a light, fresh colour palette with comfortable nooks in which to escape the winter chill and enjoy a good book or the company of friends and neighbours, preferably with a richly aromatic coffee, fresh croissant or decadent cream-filled éclair.

"My inspiration for the design was to deliver an artisanal French flavour to my modern East Melbourne customers", Boillon says. "My bread and pastries are unmistakably French, and my customers in East Melbourne and Jolimont are social, outgoing and very proud of their community. I want my café to create a space in which to bring these two worlds together".

The new design has certainly done that, with the original central display cabinet being moved to one-side to allow for more seating – especially the comfortable wingback armchairs and bistro-style table settings that local patrons have come to love. The same, extensive range of croissants, éclairs, baguettes, millefeuille, tarts, quiches, savarins, brioches, cakes and pastries are all still on offer, together with Laurent's smooth signature-blend coffee and quality range of tea.

The focus of Laurent East Melbourne, is speedy service with a difference. "Quality is never compromised", says Boillon, "the irony of the French *raffine* (refined) baking style is that it is slow and delicate to prepare, but my customers should never need to wait long for their French treats." And who can argue with that policy when one considers the joy of soaking up every last drop of a hot bowl of Laurent's *soupe du jour* this winter with a slice of his crusty, specialty stone-baked sourdough bread!

In fact, it was Laurent's early passion for sourdough bread making that first set the young aspiring Provencal *boulangier* on his path to Australia. "I remember telling my father that I wanted to be a baker. He told me I would be crazy, to start work at 10.30pm every day. So I compromised and became a pastry chef, which meant starting at 4am instead," the 53-year Laurent recalls.

However, the freezing early morning starts in a small village in Provence were rewarded with an opportunity to move to a larger and more successful patisserie before going to Paris to work with the famous *Maison Lenôtre*.

After some years travelling the world, Laurent came to Australia in 1991, married and settled in Melbourne where he has raised his two children. He opened his first boulangerie and patisserie at the Como Centre in South Yarra in 1993. Today, that is one of 16 in Melbourne,



of which his East Melbourne café is one of his consistently successful.

"My East Melbourne and Jolimont patrons are some of my most discerning, they know what quality pastries should taste like, for me this is a challenge I strive to meet every day, that is why my team will never compromise quality", the patissier says.

Today, Laurent Boillon offers his customers in East Melbourne and Jolimont, quality, fresh French treats to enjoy in-house, or delectable gateaux and tortes beautifully boxed to take-away to their next celebration with family and friends. Mini-pastries, small savouries and canapés are also available for catering.

The new look Laurent East Melbourne is located at 148 Wellington Parade and can be enjoyed daily from 7am to 6pm. For catering enquiries, call (03) 9417 7310.



PARKS & GARDENS UPDATE

MURRAY HOHNEN, VICE-PRESIDENT AND PARKS & GARDENS CONVENOR



As the elm leaves fall, the maples turn orange and crimson and the winter blasts keep us indoors there are a number of issues of interest in local parks and gardens.

The current display in the Conservatory (pictured above) is attracting many visitors. Look out for the unusual poinsettias, the small brown orchids (pictured top right) and the group of *Tacca chantrieri*, the black bat flower, near the southern entrance. The flowers really are black.

SITE OF FORMER PAVILION CAFÉ TO BE USED BY ARTISTS AND POP-UP EVENTS

Following the closure of the Pavilion Café, the City of Melbourne is planning to open the space up to resident artists and pop-up events according to a Council spokesperson.

Located in the centre of the Fitzroy Gardens next to the Tudor Village and Fairies Tree, the Pavilion Café became a popular meeting place among locals and visitors to the parklands, and busy function venue over the past nine years. The lease for the site ended on 8 March 2017.

Acknowledging that the building requires “extensive refurbishment to continue sustainably as a function space”, the spokesperson indicated that Council is “currently reviewing the extent of these renovations with the relevant authorities before seeking feedback from the community”.

The present brick building was opened in 1964, following the demolition of the original building that was damaged by fire in 1960.



A number of trees in the Fitzroy Gardens have died. We hope that they will be removed before they start to drop limbs. Meanwhile the vines are growing up around the eco-frame adorning Kere Kere Green café near Cooks' Cottage - it is becoming another local meeting point with good coffee.

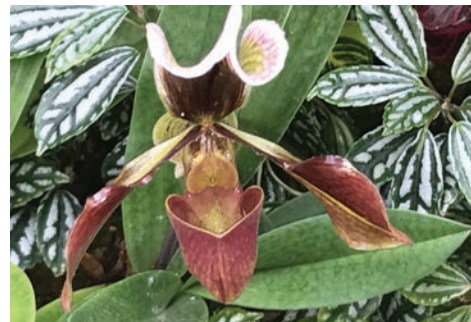
The Treasury Gardens are also worth a visit at the moment. The beds have been tidied up and untamed water gushes up near John Kennedy's memorial (pictured bottom right). The large flock of spring ducklings have grown and flown north for winter.

We are still waiting for the issue of the dog off-leash area in Yarra Park to be finalised. Residents along Vale Street have been consulted and apparently have no objection to the off-leash area being located adjacent to their street. The issue is still to be dealt with by Council and we do not understand the cause for the delay.

For some years now we have been voicing our concern over security issues at the MCG and other stadiums in the Sports precinct. In the current climate it seems misconceived to permit overhead flight paths in the area - particularly during events attended by large numbers of fans. It is certainly misguided to continue to use Yarra Park as a car park where unsearched vehicles are permitted to park

close to the MCG apron and crowds. The risks are obvious and should be addressed by the authorities.

A good deal of work has been done in the garden strip along the railway on the Jolimont side. The tree removal has let much more light into the area and the new planting will make the area more attractive.



BUSY BEES LAND PENTHOUSE VIEWS

JOHN STONE

The Park Hyatt Melbourne has taken its global food philosophy of 'Food. Thoughtfully Sourced. Carefully Served.' every day, to new heights, with the addition of thousands of busy recruits, working tirelessly from, arguably, the best real estate in East Melbourne.

When a hive of orphaned bees needed relocating from the suburbs, the hotel's culinary team saw an opportunity to rehouse these industrious workers to a rooftop location, ideal for its uninterrupted flight path... and spectacular views of the city skyline!

The hotel's bees now forage the acres of surrounding gardens creating raw honey that is deep and rich in colour, light and smoky in flavour and made in East Melbourne. The local honey is an essential ingredient in the hotel's various culinary offerings, but remains particularly popular at the daily breakfast buffet where it is extracted directly from the honey comb.

The uniquely 'Made in East Melbourne' honey is available to taste at the Park Hyatt's breakfast buffet served daily in the *Radii Restaurant & Bar* opened 6.30am – 10.30am Monday to Friday, and 7.00am – 11.00am Saturday & Sunday.



EAST MELBOURNE'S HISTORIC ARTISTS' SOCIETY BUILDING CELEBRATES 125 YEARS

RON SMITH, VICTORIAN ARTISTS' SOCIETY COUNCILLOR

The Victorian Artists' Society recently celebrated the 125th anniversary of the opening of its historic building on 27 May 1892 by His Excellency Governor John Hope, and the completion of its \$850,000 stage one renovation of the historic heritage listed building.

The building, opposite St Patrick's Cathedral in Albert Street, and just a few minutes' walk from Parliament House, is one of the most important heritage buildings in the City of Melbourne providing the spiritual home and foundation of Australia's art history.

Under the guidance of the Victorian Artists' Society President, Eileen Mackley, the major restoration over the last six months has resulted in the upper galleries being totally restored and attention is now turning to the ground floor and the original art studio.

Ms Mackley said, "The Victorian Artists Society was formed to provide artists in the colony with a place to learn to paint and exhibit their works, with some of Australia's most iconic and influential artists including Tom Roberts, Arthur Streeton, Walter Withers



and Frederick McCubbin among the founding members.

"Many of the paintings hanging in national galleries by these artists, are now valued at millions of dollars, were purchased from the walls of the Victorian Artists' Society - the cradle of Australia's art history."

The Victorian Artists' Society continues to run art classes in the original art studio, which is full of atmosphere. The art classes cater for all levels of skills from beginners to established artists in life drawing, oil painting, water



colour, pastel, drawing and sculpture.

Importantly the Victorian Artists' Society has a skilled group of practising artists and highly experienced teachers whose classes are extremely popular and advanced bookings are advised.

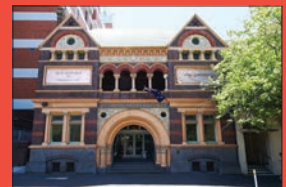
People interested in art classes and the Victorian Artists' Society should visit and explore the facilities, check out the galleries and follow the footsteps of thousands of artists and the community who have been involved with the Victorian Artists' Society over a long period of time.



Where the community meets
for coffee and a bite to eat

65 **George Street Cafe**

9419 5805



**THE VICTORIAN ARTISTS
SOCIETY**

**EXHIBITIONS
ART FOR SALE
ART CLASSES**

VAS WINTER EXHIBITION

17 June - 4 July 2017

ART SCHOOL EXHIBITION

28 July - 8 August 2017

VAS PORTRAIT EXHIBITION

12 - 22 August 2017

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

430 Albert Street, East Melbourne
W: victorianartistsociety.com.au



EASTMELBOURNEGROUP

AMENITIES UPDATE

GREG BISINELLA, AMENITIES CONVENOR

A warm hello to all my fellow residents of - and visitors to - Melbourne's most liveable suburb.

The amenities sub-committee of the East Melbourne Group is made up of a small group of volunteer residents who are tasked with the responsibility of maintaining and improving the amenity of the suburb of East Melbourne and Jolimont. Specifically, we are working on a number of very important issues currently affecting the local community:

Aircraft Noise – Have you noticed increased aircraft noise overhead? Large low flying commercial aircraft are increasingly “funnelled” over our residences, helicopters are frequently passing or hovering near or over our homes, impacting our ability to peacefully enjoy our neighbourhood. We are working with the various government bodies to ensure this noise pollution is eradicated. Currently, the *Air Services Amendment Bill 2016* is before the Commonwealth Parliament. You can show your support for the Bill by visiting: greens.org.au/aircraftnoise

Development Noise – Have you been woken or impacted by the noise from building works? Trucks idling outside your door? Cranes and

excavators interrupting your day? After several complaints from residents we are currently working with developers and the City of Melbourne to ensure excessive noise from building works is eradicated. You can assist us by emailing photos, dates and times to admin@emg.org.au or directly to the City of Melbourne using the SNAP SEND SOLVE phone app.

Graffiti – A blight on our city and suburb. We continue to work to monitor and act quickly when this occurs. You can help report this vandalism in less than a minute again via the SNAP SEND SOLVE phone app.

The SNAP SEND SOLVE phone app is free. You can report a problem to Council direct from your smart phone (iPhone or Android) or via the web by visiting www.snapsendsolve.com. You can report anything from noise, graffiti, fallen trees, pot holes in the road. It allows you to send a photo and uses GPS positioning. If we all become active in reporting issues affecting our neighbourhood then TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Want to contact us?

Please email, admin@emg.org.au.



TOUR animal kingdom

THE ANNUAL
House of Ideas
EXHIBITION

TUESDAY 13 JUNE –
TUESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2017

Exquisite animal-inspired objects from our Collection juxtaposed alongside fantastical creations by some of Melbourne's best contemporary makers including Kate Rohde, Troy Emery, Julia deVillie, Vipoo Srivilasa, Alison Cole, Lesley Uren, and Yvonne Walton, in one magnificent show.



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The Johnston Collection is an independent not-for-profit, for cultural value museum

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ANIMAL KINGDOM AT THE JOHNSTON COLLECTION

A BEAUTIFUL AND PROVOCATIVE EXHIBITION

DOROTHY MORGAN

Animals have always fascinated artists. We look at them, they look back, and in their even gaze we sense something that is both familiar and utterly strange.

From the time of the creators of Australian Aboriginal rock art and the painters of the Lascaux caves in southern France, people have been creating representations of animals in their homes and other places important to them. The discoveries of Charles Darwin in the Victorian era, and the unsettling air around the revelations of the natural world and the struggle for survival, have continued to challenge and comfort us living in an “animal kingdom”.

So it is not surprising that there are many animals, some common and some rather curious creatures, represented in *The Johnston Collection*, from Staffordshire earthenware lions to a fine Chinese porcelain heron, from painted butterflies to a carved timber gryphon and so much else in between.

ANIMAL KINGDOM brings together the talents of invited Melbourne artists, who are working in a variety of approaches and techniques, to bring their interpretations of animals in their artworks.

One of the enduring themes is the human-animal bond in art. This obviously focuses more on companion animals (dogs, cats, horses and birds) which are all represented in the Collection. But our understanding also ranges through why we like to look at animals, the symbolism of animals in art, why do people like to include their animals

in portraits, and why artists like to portray or include animals in their work?

The closer consideration of animals themselves that ANIMAL KINGDOM affords, also enables us to think about the way in which parts of animals have been used in the fine and decorative arts, for example their skin as leather covering for objects such as chairs or boxes, or the decorative possibilities of say mother-of-pearl or ivory. Then there is the way in which characteristics of certain animals have been played upon to describe aspects of the decorative arts. We use animals as motifs, decorative features or even descriptive terminologies. Furniture frequently references animals; “ball-and-claw feet”, “camel back” sofa, “swan neck” pediment, a “serpentine” front. Or animals become the materials of our domestic interiors: when you are lying on a feather bed, you put your bills in a “pigeon hole” in your desk, or store objects in a “mule” chest.

So visiting *Fairhall* is a little like living in Dr Doolittle’s house as 17th, 18th and 19th century animals engage in conversation with their contemporary counterparts, to better understand the decorative natures of the world.

ANIMAL KINGDOM continues to explore William Johnston’s collection in new ways, ensuring every exhibition is a new and unique experience for the visitor. ANIMAL KINGDOM will feature from Tuesday 13 June to Tuesday 19 September 2017. For enquiries and bookings, call (03) 9416 2515 or visit www.johnstoncollection.org.



‘The Yellow Room’, installation of works by Julia deVille

Vipoo Srivilasa, *Deity of Creativity and Friendship*, 2016



Yvonne Walton, *Samurai Beetle* [Necklace] Melbourne, 2007

‘The Yellow Room’, installation of works by Julia deVille



‘The Green Drawing Room’, installation of works by Kate Rohde
(All images by Adam Luttick, Luts photography, Melbourne)
Vipoo Srivilasa, *Hare: Deity of Abundance*, 2016



LOWE KONG MENG OF VALETTA

SYLVIA BLACK, EAST MELBOURNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Valetta, the house on the corner of Clarendon and Albert Streets, has been at the forefront of our minds in the past few years because of its increasingly sorry state, and also because of the sorry state of our heritage protection regulations that have allowed it to happen. However, over its long life Valetta has had a proud history and has been home and castle to many interesting owners and occupants. Lowe Kong Meng was one such. He owned and occupied Valetta between 1868 and 1876.

He was born in 1831 in Penang, and was thus able to boast British citizenship. He grew up fluent in English, French, Malay and Cantonese. Already a wealthy man he arrived in Melbourne in 1853 aboard his own ship. A year later he had six ships which traded between Australia, India and China, exporting gold bullion in exchange for a wide range of goods chiefly rice, tea and opium which he sold from his premises in Little Bourke Street. His firm soon had branches not only in Melbourne, but also in Mauritius, Hong Kong and London. Within a decade he was opening up a trade route to Darwin and operating a business harvesting and exporting bêche-de-mer, a delicacy to the Chinese. By the mid-1880s his interests had expanded to goldmines, banking, insurance and sugar.

He was not only a leader in the commercial world, but also actively involved in the Chinese community. In 1861 he built Num Pon Soon, 200-202 Little Bourke Street, as a club for the San-Yup Society, providing accommodation and support for Chinese immigrants. He helped with immigration difficulties, he arbitrated in community disputes and arranged employment. His work in this regard was recognized by the Emperor T'ung Ch'ih who granted him the title of Mandarin of the Blue Button in 1863. Because of his wealth and social standing he was largely buffered from the racism directed at the Chinese as a whole, yet he tried to argue for greater equality, writing a treatise in 1879 in which he pleaded their cause. It made no difference. In spite of being appointed as a commissioner of the International Exhibitions of 1880 and 1888, it still happened that when many hundreds of chairs were to be provided for the openings a regulation stipulated 'that no Chinese labour shall be employed in their construction'. His philanthropy extended beyond the Chinese community with him giving substantial funds to a wide variety of churches and charities.

At the time Kong Meng moved into Valetta it was in peak condition. The whole of the premises had recently had a thorough overhaul and painted.

One particularly attractive feature was the first floor drawing room which opened on to a long conservatory, floored with Chinese tiles. He kept a pet kangaroo which unfortunately went missing at one point. A mental picture of this animal bounding about in the conservatory is



very appealing. A less appealing picture is of the two men who came to clean out his cesspits and were overcome by noxious fumes and died. Perhaps this was the reason why Lowe Kong Meng moved to Malvern soon after, where he died in 1888, leaving his widow, the former Mary Anne Prussia, and twelve children.



Wood engraving showing Chinese immigrants in front of Num Pon Soon, 1866



Valetta featured in the background, 1880



Kong Meng's Building, corner of Little Bourke Street and Celestial Avenue, 1934

EAST MELBOURNE'S LOCAL CINEMA TURNS 30



My Beautiful Laundrette (1985)



Kino Cinema (1987)



Do the Right Thing (1989)

Do you remember paying \$6 for a ticket to the movies and \$1 for popcorn? Well, if you do, chances are you were one of the many who visited the newly opened Kino arthouse cinema back in 1987!

To celebrate the thirty-year anniversary of this iconic cinema, Kino is screening several of the most successful films of its 30-year history – including Stephen Frears' beloved Thatcher-era, queer comedy-drama, *My Beautiful Laundrette* (1985); Spike Lee's Public Enemy-soundtracked, scintillating Brooklyn masterpiece about race relations and injustice, *Do the Right Thing* (1989); and Alfonso Arau's magical realist gem *Like Water for Chocolate* (1992). Across the birthday weekend, tickets will be sold at 1987 prices (\$6), together with classic handmade choc-tops (\$3) and popcorn (\$1), plus free vintage movie posters from the archives.

The brainchild of Frank Cox (NewVision Films) and Fred O'Brien (Dendy Cinema, Sydney), the Kino tapped into the cultural zeitgeist when it opened on June 25, 1987 with *My Beautiful Laundrette* and Denys Arcand's *Decline of the American Empire*. Across the eighties, Melbourne was experiencing a proliferation of international fashion

boutiques, restaurants, theatres, galleries, and a rise of immigrant-led businesses bringing global culture to a receptive community. Having moved to Australia from Istanbul as a teenager, Cox recognised that all great international cities had a city-based arthouse cinema and that Melbourne, as the burgeoning cultural capital of Australia, was poised to embrace one of its own.

Frequented by a growing artistic community, the Kino created a conducive space where film lovers would come together to be inspired by great cinema, and launch careers, playing an important part in establishing Melbourne as Australia's film capital. Numerous Kino managers and front of house staff have gone on to play significant roles in the Australian film industry, such as James Hewison (ACMI, former MIFF director). A feature film, *Love and Other Catastrophes*, was even co-written by staff members, and went on to launch the careers of Radha Mitchell and Frances O'Connor.

The Kino is still Melbourne's premiere metropolitan cinema. Join the cinema across the weekend of June 23-25 2017 as Melbourne celebrates thirty wonderful years.

Kino, a Palace Cinemas partner, presents

Kino

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AS TEMPERATURES COOL, PROPERTY HEATS UP

TOM BAYLY, PROPERTY CONSULTANT, CAINE REAL ESTATE



Walking through East Melbourne in Autumn would have to be one the most enchanting experiences our glorious city has to offer. It is as if William Denslow and L. Frank Baum took inspiration from the golden leaves atop the dewy grass of Fitzroy Gardens when cultivating their vision of a yellow brick road in 'The Wonderful Wizard of Oz'.

Much like the Wizard, the fortunate few who own in Melbourne's Emerald City are reluctant to give up their cherished castles, which has resulted in only five houses transacting so far this year - one of the lowest turnovers in history.

Low interest rates and record numbers of punters attending open for inspections and wanting to purchase in the suburb are driving the prices of those willing to test the market to records, exceeding even the accolades achieved in 2016.

When speaking with people about East Melbourne property, it is often the charm, architecture and history of the Italianate terraces and art deco apartments that have people yearning to buy. However, the current construction of four new developments in the suburb has provided a new type of acquisition, which has been well received by those looking to take advantage of the location, prestige and parks this enticing enclave has to offer.

It has been a record year for football attendance also, with the recent Saturday night's Richmond vs Essendon game achieving the highest Saturday night crowd in the history of AFL. That coupled with over 170,000 people packing out the MCG over two nights in Round 5, is putting serious value on the humble East Melbourne car space. This has inspired a large chunk of the sub-million dollar apartments to be acquired by fanatical, out-of-town footy supporters, who know the value of comfort, a car space and to cheer their team to victory each weekend.

As a long time resident of East Melbourne, the recent increase in trucks, tradies and the toil of finding a car space on game day, is worth the perseverance, because as you walk through the gardens and past the legendary old houses, you say to yourself "there's no place like home".

CARING FOR OLDER PARENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

JOHN STONE

Aged care is a pressing priority for all Australians. It is estimated that globally, by 2025, approximately 800 million people will be over the age of 65, with adult children expected to undertake the bulk of the care for their ageing parents.

In Australia, adult children are being relied upon to care for their older parents as government budgets struggle to meet the needs of our rapidly ageing population. The care provided to older parents in the community by adult children is considerable, reportedly saving the Federal government over \$4.4 billion each year. The likely cost savings are even higher when you take into account the help that adult children provide to parents who are largely fit and healthy, but rely on their children to help with tasks such as running errands and assisting with the shopping.

Therefore, Deakin University has received Australian government funding to lead a study that investigates how families care for, and support, ageing parents - the Families in Later Life Study (FILLS).

According to Associate Professor Gery Karantzas, Director of the Deakin University Science of Adult Relationships Laboratory, despite children's involvement in helping out their ageing parents, very little is known about how help is exchanged in ageing families.

"Questions such as, how do adult children feel about helping out mum and dad? How do older parents feel about having their children care for them? And how do the bonds between parents and children in later life impact on how care is provided? Are all questions we do not yet understand", Associate Professor Karantzas says. "And yet, answers to these questions are important in shaping how to better support families in taking care of older adults in the community. This is why the community care of older adults is one of the top five focus areas for publicly funded research in Australia".

According to the Associate Professor, "this study is about giving a voice



to ageing families no matter how much help needs to be provided to parents – whether it be big or small in time and commitment. The study is interested in hearing the different experiences that families have across the entire community, and is especially interested in hearing from both ageing parents and adult children".

As part of FILLS, participating older parents and adult children are asked to complete a set of surveys over a year as well as take part in an in-home interview to provide a fuller picture of each family's situation. It is hoped that the findings of the study will shape the development of more targeted government programs to help families in later life situations.

Currently, the FILLS project is seeking adult children and older parents to participate in their research study.

For more information concerning the study, contact the FILLS research unit on (03) 9246 8544 or visit www.fills.org.au.

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD & LOCAL EVENTS

WEEKLY

Every Wednesday (during school term)

Playgroup for pre-school children

Time: 9.30am – 11.00am

Venue: 193 Hotham Street

Contact: Margaret Webster, Co-ordinator

(T: 9417 7373 or M: 0412 486 836)

MONTHLY

Third Thursday of the month

“Book Cafe” - An informal gathering of local book lovers with an afternoon tea provided

Time: 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Venue: 193 Hotham Street

UPCOMING EVENTS

13 June to 31 July

Exhibition: ‘Alissa Duke, sketches’

Venue: East Melbourne Library, 122 George St

Time: Library opening hours

Enquiries: 03 9658 9600

21 June, Wednesday

East Melbourne Historical Society Meeting and Speaker Event

Time: 8.00 pm

Venue: Clarendon Terrace, 210 Clarendon St

RSVP: Diane Clifford, 0437 221 249

or email, dianecclifford1@gmail.com

Cost: Members: free Guests: \$5.00

(all welcome) Supper supplied.

25 June, Sunday

“Dog Disco” – Puppuccinos, Fun & Coffee

Time: 10.00am – 12 noon

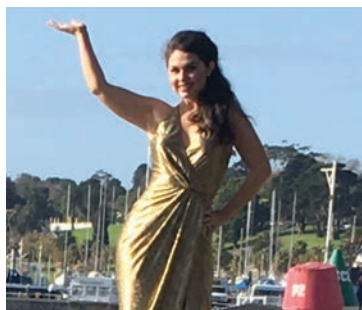
Venue: Kere Kere Green, Fitzroy Gardens

Details: Facebook (KereKereGreen)

To include details of your upcoming event or announcement please email:

magazine@emg.org.au

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Alexandra Lidgerwood wishes to thank the many community members and all audience for their wonderful support and encouragement at her “Berlin Bound” concert on Saturday, 3rd June at Holy Trinity Church.

TRAVEL SKETCHING WITH ALISSA



Alissa Duke is an East Melbourne resident and librarian.

Our cover image this edition is a montage of Alissa's travel sketches of East Melbourne.

You can view these and other drawings by Alissa at an exhibition at the East Melbourne library, from 13 June to 31 July.

Greeting cards printed from some of her artwork are available for purchase at: www.alissaduke.com

What are the Challenges for Ageing Families?

Tell Us Your Views, They Matter to Us...

Get involved and receive a \$100 Coles/Myer voucher!

One of the biggest challenges for ageing families is that older parents need greater support from their older children to maintain their sense of independence. The help provided by adult children need not be big: it might be running the odd errand or checking in to see how mum and dad are.

But for other families, the care provided is more involved – from doing the shopping to providing personal care.

But how do adult children and older parents feel about how care takes place within their family? Well that's where you come in...

We want to hear your stories about how care is exchanged in your family as part of a government funded study that aims to better understand what is involved in caring for parents later in life.

Get involved and receive a \$100 Coles/Myer Voucher! For more information, contact us on (03) 9246 8544, email fills@deakin.edu.au or visit www.fills.org.au



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:

\$50 single
\$100 household
\$30 concession

**TO JOIN ONLINE
GO TO:**

[emg.org.au/
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