

3002

**East Melbourne
Jolimont +**

**Autumn Edn.
May 2021**

**Community
Magazine**



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Cover Image, Dieter Muller:
Autumnal East Melbourne

Welcome

I am delighted to welcome you to this Autumn 2021 magazine, and what a beautiful Autumn it has been. We had our Annual General Meeting in March and recapped the many things our team have done in the past 12 months often via Zoom meetings. Copy of the Annual Report can be found on our website.

We were fortunate to have long time East Melbourne resident Rupert Myer AO as our guest speaker at the AGM. He spoke of our cultural inheritance, and we share his presentation essay with you in this edition. He explored the many things that have occurred over the decades in our suburb which defined its rich culture. From the “Scar Trees” which remind us of our older cultural inheritance from the Wurundjeri people to the present day.

We are in a bounded suburb, yet our proximity to the city, sport and arts precincts is terrific. “It is like living in a village next to a city.”

The gardens so close to the city and the arts precinct are oases to be savoured.



Photo : Ralph Alphonso

Ian Mitchell EMG President

During COVID-19, they have been a welcome release for our daily hour of exercise and relaxation. There is a walk starting from Federation Square which takes visitors on a tour of East Melbourne landmarks and beautiful heritage homes. Folk on these walks speak of the rarity of our enclave, and the need to preserve it.

Our suburb is constantly at risk of exploitation and inappropriate development. With high value real estate, applicants constantly apply for developments which exceed planning regulations. They use highly paid advocates and “experts” to push these excesses at VCAT. As a not-for-profit resident group, our finances make these hearings uneven. That said, we have had significant success in ensuring our heritage suburb is preserved.

We had four departing committee members, and welcome three new members. We have vacancies and would be pleased to have you join us on a committee.

We look forward to an exciting year ahead. ■

Join us

East Melbourne Group

Working together to keep
3002 the way you like it.

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www.emg.org.au

1. Support us in preserving all you love about East Melbourne
2. Add your voice to influence decision makers
3. Connect with community

EDITOR Lisette Malatesta
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The East Melbourne Group first produced a local news magazine in 1980 with past editions held by the State Library and more recent publications on our website.

Looking forward

Murray Hohnen EMG Life Member

At the March AGM, I stepped down from the East Melbourne Group (EMG) committee. I felt that despite my affection for the EMG, I had been there long enough and that new eyes and talents were needed to carry the group forward. A significant recruitment task given contemporary attitudes to social organisation beyond social media.

I've now been invited to look back on my association with the Group and try to draw stories and pearls of wisdom from the tangle of memories that inhabit my head.

Over 60 years ago, EMG was formed to forestall the removal of an avenue of majestic elms at the Hoddle end of George Street. The trees were saved and the good burghers of East Melbourne learned that bad things didn't have to happen if they used their united strength to educate and influence the decision makers.

The Group's continued success has rested on the willingness of volunteers to represent their broader community in conversations with decision makers on matters that affect the suburb. It has been my association with a legion of talented EMG volunteers that has brought me the most joy.

Within a notional city wall we have an architectural and heritage treasure house. We have world class parks and gardens and a fine representation of human scale Georgian, Victorian, Federation and interwar homes: many of them terraced. The dramatic notable collection of art deco buildings around Garden Avenue.

The suburb has a tally of around 4000 residents and what an interesting group they are. Some are interested in geographical amenity - closeness to the city. Some in the kaleidoscope of sport and entertainment that fills local venues most nights of the week. Others the feeling of community that settles upon most who live here. The feeling that your neighbours have your back. A good example is the EMERG group created during Covid to bring people together and support the less able and isolated.

Vigilance has to be a watchword because for each homeowner who wants to enhance their property, there is an absentee developer who wants to work the system to dilute the suburb's essence with over-scale and inappropriate development and take their profit at the suburb's expense.

Looking back I can see a variety of planning interventions with results that were good for the suburb. Inevitably compromises but much better outcomes than the original proposals. The Tribeca, Mercy Hospital and MCG Hotel/Mosspenoch redevelopments spring to mind as do the Becton and Blind School projects. Sadly there were many that went the other way.

So looking forward, what are my hopes for the EMG ?

I sincerely hope that efforts on planning and heritage continue and receive the level of community financial support needed to match the resources of developers. That at the same time, Council and State Government can be persuaded to change the planning scheme in ways that will reinforce the suburb's heritage values and emphasise the human scale of its stock of heritage buildings

I hope that good communications continue to bring EMG members and the broader community together. That the EMG's social programs continue to provide the social glue that holds us together. An ability to party is an important part of the essence of a community. We see so many examples. Home owners generously inviting Group members to visit their heritage homes. Community businesses supporting community events. The many events that have been held at Bishops court.

I encourage EMG staying clear on who they are representing and supporting, including the young families that live in the suburb. Identifying their needs and wants. In the past recruiting young people has been problematic. The committee and formal meeting paradigm has deterred candidates. Perhaps the COVID experience has shown us that many of the formalities can be easily truncated. I would be delighted if the post covid world encourages a champion or two to emerge to fill this important space. New resources for children and informal low cost family events would be good outcomes. ■



Meet the Committee

by Natalea Stone

(Left to right)

Andrew Walpole is new addition to our team dedicated to preserving local amenity and heritage. He shares his time between his farm at Whorouly South and practicing anaesthetics at the Eye and Ear Hospital. Andrew is current Chairman of the History of Anaesthesia Special Interest Group.

Luke Martin is a small business owner and a Chartered Accountant. Appointed at last AGM to steer the Park and Gardens portfolio. Luke and his young family appreciate living in our historic suburb and particularly value time spent in our wonderful parklands.

Lisette Malatesta was recruited as EMG Secretary in 2020 and runs the community focused local General Store. As a former architect, she also applies her professional architectural skills and business knowledge to support the committee.

Ian Mitchell has been on the committee since 2006, holding several positions including current President, Vice President and Amenities convenor. He has lived here for nearly 30 years and affirms we need every effort to preserve East Melbourne's uniqueness. As a computer engineer, he is also very active with flight simulation.

Greg Watson first joined the committee in 2017 and was appointed as treasurer the following year. He is a professional Accountant and also the treasurer of the Yarra Valley Hockey Club & the Owners Corp. for 2 & 6 Wellington Crescent.

Greg Bisinella works tirelessly as our Heritage and Planning Convenor and has recently been appointed as Vice President of the Group, whilst owning and operating a small business. The former teacher from Geelong, discovered the innate beauty and serenity of East Melbourne to relocate to Jolimont in 2005.

Andrew Plyman has been East Melbourne's Pharmacist on Wellington Parade since 1987, following his father before him. He has been a member of this community for 50 years and is keen to encourage like minded people who care, to be involved in the important activities of the EMG.

Meet your EMG team , including new Committee Members welcomed at the 2021 Annual General Meeting

Krystyn Hendrickson enters her second year on the committee as newly appointed Membership convenor. The retired secondary teacher and public servant has travelled extensively overseas, and is convinced that East Melbourne is a "treasure" that needs to be protected from over-development and environmental damage.

Shelly Faubel OAM has been a passionate East Melburnian since 1977 and dedicated committee member for many years across all portfolios. We benefit from her countless contributions to maintain and enhance this special suburb, including her focus to protect our health and amenity from the intrusion of aeroplanes and helicopters overhead.

Ruth Roshan joined the committee this year and is a professional musician, specialising in classical mandolin. Ruth loves the diversity, friendliness and compassion that comes with being involved with East Melbourne.

(Absent from photograph)

Moira Rayner joined the East Melbourne Group Committee because she loves her neighbours, their dogs and cats, laneways and the community spirit of this little bit of heaven, so close to the city. The EMG exemplifies, for her, the spaciousness, civility and care for our homes and gardens that makes it such a great place to live. She wants to keep it that way.

Judy Hogg OAM chose East Melbourne as you can walk to everything. She has found the longer she lives here, the longer a walk takes, as she knows so many locals there are many stops for chats. Logically, Judy is our social subcommittee convenor. Although she practiced as a lawyer she has been involved in many voluntary organisations and has served on various boards and committees.

Bill Gilles' family arrived in East Melbourne in the late '70's and they have been here since. At about the time lights were installed at the MCG, he joined the committee. His legal expertise has been directed to supporting our heritage and planning campaigns and he is a well rounded quiz master at fundraising trivia events.

PROTECT PRESERVE

Heritage and Planning

“Local heritage can promote community empowerment, social and racial justice, and sustainability. People-centred conservation is a way to place the community at the heart of heritage.”

Dr. James Lesh, Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Urban and Cultural Heritage, University of Melbourne

GREG BISINELLA

2020 has been one of tumult and, in many ways, heritage and planning in East Melbourne could be described in a similar manner. We have continued to see development applications that seek to exceed community expectations of what is acceptable. In many cases excessive height, massing, bulk and overshadowing of parks are proposed as appropriate and respectful design outcomes. Subjective planning regulations allow developers to “go for broke” and then use substantial finances to fight their case at VCAT. In order to get greater certainty in the heritage and planning area we put a series of questions to Melbourne City Council candidates prior to the last election. These questions pertained to implementing mandatory height limits for East Melbourne developments and a Heritage Review of East Melbourne. All councillors provided written support of these initiatives and we are now working to ensure they fulfil their commitments. Mandatory height limits will give us a much better framework for development in East Melbourne. The existing planning controls and overlays are inconsistent, ad hoc and discretionary. It is clear from recent experiences that VCAT is prepared to approve development applications that do little to enhance the unique heritage of our suburb.

To be clear it is not the EMG position to oppose development applications overall. Indeed, we have not objected to many applications over the years including the large development on the corner of Albert and Landsdowne Streets. Where we voice our objections strongly is with large scale development applications that seek to diminish the heritage, character, amenity and liveability of EM.

In addition to these applications, we have worked with many local residents to assist them with their concerns regarding development applications that would adversely impact them.

In 2020 EMG Heritage and Planning has taken an increasingly active role in engaging with the media in an attempt to change the narrative about heritage, planning and development applications. The publicity via various media outlets has been positive and largely supportive of our aims. The Age, Herald Sun, Inner City News and ABC radio have all provided us with a forum to voice our position on various heritage and planning matters. We aim to continue to use these forums to raise awareness and apply pressure to developers and political representatives to achieve our aims.

We anticipate that 2021 will require a similar degree of vigilance in relation to planning applications. We will continue to engage with residents, city council planning, political representatives and the media to ensure our beautiful suburb retains its unique character.



OBJECTION TIMELINE

2017 November Site Sold for \$12 million to Pask Group

2018 August Pre-Planning Permit Application meeting Developer with MCC planning

2018 September Planning Permit Application (TP-2018-801) lodged by Developer (Applicant) (Whitehaven Prop. Dev. P/L) with Melbourne City Council (MCC) for **partial demolition of the existing heritage building & construction of a 40m high 9 storey commercial office tower.**

2018 November Objecting Action Group formed Victoria Albert Town Residences (VATR)

2018 December briefing sessions convened by VATR for residents/community members.

EMG joins with VATR/local residents, East Melbourne Historical Society, National Trust of Australia (Victoria) and businesses to lodge 108 objections with MCC.

MCC voices concerns. Applicant asks to suspend review of the application as revising plans.

2019 February - June VATR works with MCC. Applicant's request for delay, causes the statutory time frame for a decision to lapse.

2019 December Applicant lodges a 'fail to determine' application with VCAT (Planning and Environment Division).

2020 January 23 VATR members form incorporated association, ACVP Residents Incorporated, to promote the interests and protect the amenity of the owners & residents who live in the vicinity of Victoria, Albert, Clarendon & Powlett Street.

2020 January 24 VCAT Statement of Grounds submitted by over 60 objectors.

2020 January 31 VCAT Practice Day Hearing (2-hour session) attended by the Developer (lead by their barrister), EMG, VATR Residents, National Trust and individual objectors.

2020 February 5 VCAT Orders published requesting Compulsory Conference (one-day duration) to determine if mediation will resolve the differences. If unsuccessful, a five-day hearing will commence on 11 May 2020.

2020 February 14 Revised plans (without prejudice) submitted by the Applicant.

2020 February 28 MCC required to file with VCAT and advise all parties of their decision on the revised plans.

2020 March ACVP Incorporated appointed a barrister and Town Planning specialist (expert witness) for the VCAT Hearing. VCAT Compulsory Conference. **The revised plans failed to address objectors' concerns.**

2020 March - April ACVP committee meetings and background preparation work continued to enable submissions to VCAT

2020 April 22 Deadline for revised VCAT Statement of Grounds in view of the Developer circulating revised plans in March 2020.

2020 April 24 VCAT Order received advising the Hearing due to commence on 11 May 2020 is adjourned to a date to be fixed (due to COVID-19). Each party required to advise VCAT if the matter is resolved or proceeding to a hearing by 18 May 2020.

2020 May 18 Submissions to VCAT re administrative mention for a revised Hearing date. **VCAT member advises that there is insufficient time to hear the matter in November 2020 and sets down a 10 day hearing date for 10 days May 2021.**

2021 May 10 Day VCAT hearing begins.

204- 206 Albert St

Built in 1860 by Ro
SOURCE East T

GREG BISINELLA

At the time this magazine goes print EMG Heritage & Planning Convenor Greg Bisnella is gathering our stones and slingshot to go up against a Goliath in the VCAT battle for 204-206 Albert St.

Since 2018 the East Melbourne Group Heritage and Planning SubCommittee has supported local residents in opposing the partial demolition of 204-206 Albert St East Melbourne, for the erection of a multi storey commercial office development. The developer's designers, Gray Puksand, boast "...With no existing premium grade commercial space on offer in East Melbourne, the design capitalises on this gap in the market through the creation of sought-after high-quality office space". We view this comment in our favour, as we look to prevent the unfortunate precedent within our residential suburb. They go on to reference "East Melbourne has a rich architectural history" which we are seeking to protect, as their "... glazed lantern rises above creating an iconic identity for the project", it fails to address the iconic urban character of its location.

The lobbying resident group, ACVP* (Albert Clarendon Victoria & Powlett) Residents Incorporated, recently hosted a social event at Roccella to raise funds for the Barrister and Expert Witness required to present their case to VCAT in May. While residents' and friends' personal contributions have gone a long way over the last 3 years to meet the group's financial commitments, they still seek financial support to address the shortfall in funding.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

to discuss the inappropriate proposed development, ACVP's activities or to make a financial contribution, contact ACVP President Brad Marsh
bradmarsh44@gmail.com

NIMBY

/ˈnɪmbi/

noun INFORMAL
an acronym for the phrase
"not in my back yard".

GREG BISINELLA

“East Melbourne is full of heritage loving apartment dwellers” mused past EMG president Murray Hohnen. It is a comment that continues to resonate as the EMG Heritage and Planning committee works to protect the integrity of our suburb against the developers and naysayers who see many as hypocritical NIMBY’s. Consider these East Melbourne statistics for a moment :

4964 residents
(M52% F48% median age 38)

2619 dwellings
(2171 occupied)

155	7 %	separate houses
389	18 %	semi- detached terrace/townhouses
1618	75 %	flats or apartments

With 3/4 of our suburb as apartments, how heritage is our suburb ?

East Melbourne has a long tradition of apartment living, from converted mansions, to rooming houses to Art deco flats. Those which were built in a time before elevators and remained at a human scale. Certainly the contribution to streetscapes and the heritage fabric is greater than the 25% of remaining residences . Any loss of this traditional residential fabric for large scale apartment developments is a fatal blow to our history and all which it represents. For too long we have seen the continued erosion of our heritage buildings and remind you that "those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." The streets of East Melbourne are a living history lesson, a physical link to our past.

The EMG is your voice in ensuring that we can preserve all that makes our suburb great. We need to be vigilant, we need to continue to lobby our political representatives and engage with them to let them know what we want.



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East Melbourne Historical Society

Lisette Malatesta with Tim Holland, President EMHS

For many years Tim Holland, President East Melbourne Historical Society (EMHS), was a daily fixture on the Chesterfield couch of the General Store, with his golden retriever at his feet. It was over this time that I came to meet him and learn more about the EMHS. Sadly his new puppy isn't quite ready for cafe dates, yet we continue the conversation and I share insights with you here.



Andrew Webb's class photo at Yarra Park Primary School c.1912

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“The EMHS has aimed to document the history of the changing nature of the suburb and encourage members to become involved in this while also promoting heritage protection in the area.”

The East Melbourne Historical Society was founded in 1999 by two neighbouring historians, Dr. Anne Colman and Dr. Liz Rushen. Its seed funding was provided by The East Melbourne Group (EMG), but over the last 2 decades, it has independently gone on to be one of the leading history societies in the country with over two hundred members.

Members are drawn to the EMHS by their shared passion and reverence for the study of local history. They actively encourage this pursuit and collect and record East Melbourne (and Jolimont's) history. This is achieved with the diligent preservation and dissemination of historical documents and memorabilia, including photographs and artefacts, many of which can be viewed on their website.

This historic information is promoted among members with regular lectures, readings, discussions, excursions and exhibitions of objects of historical significance. It also distributes a newsletter three times a year which lets members know of upcoming events, as well as providing short articles of a historical nature. The passion and expertise of the EMHS encourages them to exchange information and cooperate with other historical societies through membership of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and other bodies in related fields of conservation, genealogy and museum management.

The other key role of the EMHS is to promote the preservation of East Melbourne and Jolimont architectural heritage .

The suburb of East Melbourne has seen big shifts in demographics and in the built environment since European settlement in the 1830s. Grand homes within walking distance of the city became over time somewhat run down and raffish, and the rooming house came into its own, with mansions being configured into apartments, flats and boarding houses. This pattern covered a wide range of classes of accommodation. At the top end was the more genteel type as per the adaption of Cliveden from a large mansion for the Clarke family into a large number of very comfortable apartments, ranging down to rooming houses with large numbers of residents often sharing bedrooms.

The EMHS has aimed to document these changes and to promote heritage preservation in the area. East Melbourne displays all significant period styles of Melbourne architecture and EMHS works closely with the EMG to fight their demolition or inappropriate redevelopment.

EMHS has also undertaken a number of research projects, including documenting the careers of soldiers and nurses from the area who joined the AIF in the First World War. Another was a collection of short biographies of 'Notable Women of East Melbourne'. Their current project is the documentation of the history of the Yarra Park State School that occupied the south-west corner of Punt Road and Wellington Parade, and which is now apartments. They welcome any submissions to assist them with this project.

Membership of the East Melbourne Historical Society is open to all who are interested in the history of East Melbourne and Jolimont, and non-members are also welcome to attend the lectures for a nominal attendance fee.

www.emhs.org.au

We see the downsides of poor planning decisions in our city everyday: from dodgy developments that soar above our streets and overshadow our precious open space, to shoebox apartments built with flammable cladding. Not to mention the incredible loss of heritage buildings that Melbourne has recently experienced.

With COVID-19 lockdowns keeping us within our local neighbourhoods, and many of us working from home, the impact of poor planning on our daily life has become even more apparent.

As we stuck close to home, we all appreciated the great things about our local areas. We also saw an exodus of workers and students from the inner city and businesses forced to close, leading to quieter streets but also decimating a lot of the life and culture of our city.

A crisis, while painful, often breeds opportunity. It makes us reflect on what's important to us, and what wasn't working before. While we wouldn't have ever hoped for a pandemic, I had hoped that COVID-19 would make our Governments reflect on what is and isn't working in our inner city, and do things differently as we recover and rebuild.

But unfortunately, many of the issues our inner city residents are facing have been ignored, or exacerbated during COVID-19. I believe we can do things better. If we want our inner city to recover and be a bustling, lively, yet liveable place again, we need to respect the fact that people actually live here, and encourage them to do so. We need to also think about what makes a city truly liveable.



COVID-19 makes it even clearer: the key to good planning is putting people first

ELLEN SANDELL State MP for Melbourne

For example, construction has boomed recently in the inner city, but developers have been getting away with breaking the laws around construction times and decibel limits. Instead of respecting the people who live and work from home in the inner city, they've often made life (and getting a good night's sleep!) quite unbearable, and the Government has done nothing to increase the fines or compliance. Often developers simply factor in the cost of fines for breaking the law into their bottom line. Instead, I am pushing for larger fines to increase compliance..

As international tourists disappeared from our streets, people surrounded by short-stay apartments had a short reprieve, but the challenges of living in a building full of short-stay apartments will no doubt return. There is no legislation in Victoria which protects residents or regulates these apartments in a reasonable way. The Greens are pushing for specific legislation to make sure people can still legitimately rent out their apartments if they're away for a short time, but to prevent people and corporations from buying residential apartments to use full-time for short stays and turning homes into unregulated hotels, all the while pushing up rents. ■

ELLEN SANDELL

STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

Hi, I'm Ellen. I'm passionate about a fair and liveable Melbourne. Tell me what's important to you.

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Lotte & Glenn

DOUBLE ACT

Glenn and Lotte are two residents of East Melbourne that I don't believe need introducing, having lived here for over 30 years and I'm sure are known and loved by many. I myself, manager of the East Melbourne General Store, sat down with them recently for a cup of tea and some rich conversation.

Their warm East Melbourne residence is home to some beautiful pieces of art, particularly portraits. These painted faces tell fascinating stories of their friends from many moons ago, including a portrait by Arthur Boyd of the founder of La Mama Theatre Betty Burstall and one of Lotte's Czechoslovakian mother that hangs proudly over the fireplace. The kitchen too, is filled lovingly with treasured artwork, especially from their grandchild that lives across the globe in Florida, USA.

Lotte was born in Prague, a Czechoslovakian Jew, she and her family escaped the Holocaust when she was only 9 years of age. She and Glenn met in their early thirties when working in the arts faculty in Adelaide. Lotte was working as a historian, teaching 17th Century English History focussing on the English Civil War, and comments "Teaching about the time when they cut the king's head off, was a very exciting time I thought." "History that is no longer being taught in universities now" Glenn adds.

Glenn studied Philosophy as a young man, although he said he "didn't care for ethics" and thought it was just common sense, as

"... all moral principles have to be contextual." He then went on to the understanding of basic principles of Material Science, which he then pursued within the Social Sciences. He said he enjoyed mostly speaking of the history behind it all, concentrating closely on fascinating leaders of independent thought such as Marx and Darwin. History has always been a deep shared passion for Lotte and Glenn.

It is delightful hearing about their early life as academics. "I love reading books and talking about them, and they paid me to do so!" remarked Glenn. Every seventh year was a sabbatical year and they were able to travel the world in pursuit of knowledge and research. Lotte would sit in the British Library in front of 17th century parliamentary handbooks, books she told me required special handling gloves for, as they would fall apart in your hands as you turned each page.

When I asked them where their favourite place in the world has been, they both agreed it to be the north of Italy, specifically the region of Tuscany. Lotte said she had never seen such a beautiful landscape. Glenn told me, with such youthful excitement,



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GENERAL STORE

East Melbourne Neighbour Network

SUSAN HENDERSON

Our ability to live, work, and cooperate in groups is the key to our survival. As companionship is an asset for human development, isolation can be equally destructive. As Hugh Mackay said ; 'The health of our nation begins in your street.'

It was with this in mind that a group of East Melbourne neighbours decided to join forces in 2017 and to start a 'Neighbour Network'.

Our primary goal for this informal group is to get to know one another better so that we can enjoy life in East Melbourne and become a closer and more caring community. We often see each other on the street, and it is great to get to meet and chat together in a friendly informal setting. We all have something to offer each other as neighbours and we all benefit from mutual help and support. This has certainly been highlighted over the last year when, due to COVID-19, so many of us have been restricted to our local community.

We started by holding a monthly get together for coffee and a chat at a resident's home. As the numbers grew, we began to invite a speaker to each meeting to inform and stimulate ideas and conversations. Some of our speakers include:

- Prof. Richard Freadman: Emeritus Prof of English, LaTrobe Uni.
- Lyndon and Clarissa: Owners Cookaborough on-line food service
- Dr Liz Rushen: Chair of History Council, VIC
- Libby Oldfield: Physiotherapist
- Vicki Pridmore: CEO Breastscreen VIC
- Robin Seale: Botanical Artist
- Prof Sunil Bhar: Clinical Psychologist
- Dr Susan Barker:
MD and avid traveller
- Renata Singer: Author

As our mail list grew to around 100 people, we added some exercise classes at Powlett Community Room, a monthly movie group at Kino, a Geppetto's lunch group and a singing/music group. All of this was obviously halted due to COVID-19.

continued .../



AUDREY MAJOR

"We could pop over to Florence, go to the Uffizi Gallery, and see the Botticellis!"

Both Glenn and Lotte still have so much to offer in the intellectual and academic world. Glenn said he wishes he was still teaching now, as there are so many fascinating new discoveries made, "I wish it had happened during my time, this resurrection of Darwinian thinking." Lotte has spent many years as a member of a society of professional and academic women called 'The Catalysts', for which she once presented a lecture about her family's own rich history. Lotte has very recently turned this work into a memoir, she dedicated to her three children and five grandchildren.

After our tea Lotte walked me to the door commenting that Glenn really enjoyed our conversation. Glenn's body may be weakening but the passion for history, art and ideas that he shares with his life long partner, Lotte, is as vital as ever.



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continued from overleaf

In early February 2021, after a year of restrictions, we started our exercise classes again. What a pleasure it has been to be able to interact with each other and with our instructors. So much more stimulating than the 'Zoom' classes, grateful though we were for those at the time.

We are currently running two pilates classes, two general exercise classes, one meditation class and one Tai Chi class.

We aim to resume our monthly meetings soon and hope to add many other activities. Over the past year of COVID-19 we have realised that we should also offer classes and activities for the wider community. The biggest hindrance to this is the current lack of an appropriate community space to house us.

The East Melbourne Neighbour Network (EMNN) is not a member only group, it is an opportunity for anyone to participate in community-based activities. We invite anyone interested in being involved by contacting coordinators

Susan Henderson
sjhenderson52@icloud.com or
Ann-Maree Eckersley
ann-maree@ecooutdoor.com.au
to receive email updates.

EMNN hosts a private Facebook group called 'East Melbourne Connect' where information is posted and you can share news relevant to the community. We also post regular updates on our notice boards at the East Melbourne General Store, the East Melbourne Library, and the Powlett Community Room. ■

Dr SUE BARKER

What does COVID have to do with hearing ?

Nothing, when things are going well. But for those with a bit of hearing loss there have been good and bad aspects to COVID.

There are lots of misunderstandings about hearing loss. When we age, the hearing loss is not as if the volume was turned down on a radio.

We can better understand visual loss. People with cataracts lose clarity in their vision, and the colours lose their bright intensity. We can see, but vision is less useful because of the reduced sharpness of the images.

When our hearing loses its crispness, we do not live in a quiet world, but in a world with mumbled speech, out of focus, which is harder to understand. Background noise persists, and is more difficult to separate from the sounds of conversations. Aging in the ears first affects the most delicate components which allow us to hear high frequency sounds, and with regards to speech, that means consonants, not vowels. So, speech becomes a soup of A, E, I, O and U, without the texture from T, K, P and R.

Conversation however, is much more than words. Babies learn to talk and to understand us by watching our hands, our faces, and by listening to the changing rhythms and pitch of our flow of words.



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East Melbourne VIC 3002

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Est. 1897



Pymans
Pharmacy

Hearing you in COVID

We keep those skills, and if we switch off the TV volume but continue watching a drama, we can fairly accurately predict emotional and relationship communication. However, we won't understand the news stories unless there are pictures to guide us.

Most of us automatically lip read, and during conversations we like to be able to watch the speaker's mouth. 'We understand better'.

So how does this relate to COVID?

When we wear facemasks, we are unable to lipread. 'Everyone mumbles.' Yes, the sound can be muffled by the mask, but as significantly, we can't see faces to lip read. We can help our friends by speaking slowly, and ramping up our use of gestures. If our words are not clear, speaking louder is not as useful as swapping for new words, to help clarify the topic. "How is your family?" can be represented as, 'Have you heard from your children? What are your grandchildren doing now?'

COVID has on the other hand been a help, because we have only had small numbers of people together, reducing background noise to conversations. We have not been meeting in public places with 'hard surfaces', another factor reducing background interference.

We have enjoyed meeting each other, and we have been walking more in our streets during the balmy Autumn weather. Our neighbourly conversations are so important, with all the changes of COVID. Our words are more powerful when they are heard, and by speaking a little more slowly, and by rephrasing and repeating our ideas, our friends can be helped to know our words.

If you are stuck, try whispering your conversation. Paradoxically, it is easier to hear whispering than normal speech! ■

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Divine Suburb

East Melbourne's resident faiths

HARRISON COLWELL

While it isn't important for some, religious beliefs still play an important role in many people's lives, especially in East Melbourne. Notably, East Melbourne hosts eight different religions in a considerably small area, and is home to the archdiocese of both the Catholic church at St Patrick's Cathedral and Anglican at Bishops court. Each of these religions have their own set of values and beliefs that they abide by. During the lengthy lockdown of 2020, these organisations had to cope with being locked down yet still provide guidance and services for their respective congregations. Speaking with Father Werner Utri of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Peter Abrehart of the Melbourne Unitarian Peace Memorial Church, Rabbi Dovid Gutnick of the East Melbourne Hebrew congregation and Reverend Grant Edgcumbe of the Holy Trinity Anglican church, they discuss the importance of faith in an educated, modern and secular community and the struggles of the pandemic.

Contrary to popular media reports, faith still plays a very important role in the everyday lives of people. For some, faith can give them guidance in their lives. Father Werner Utri believes some people live by a set of values in their lives, and for his congregation those are the "values of Jesus Christ". Rabbi Dovid Gutnick says that the "role of faith in people's lives is best described by Mathew Arnold - it allows people to see life steadily and see it whole".

East Melbourne can pride itself as a suburb, having ten places of worship, representing eight different faiths. The representation of these differing religions is important to the fabric of a community allowing for each of the respective faiths to share their knowledge with each other and to learn from one another. The Rabbi Dovid Gutnick believes that this different representation is a "central ingredient in the makeup of East Melbourne – alongside AFL and cricket of course" and describes East Melbourne as an oasis of tolerance, friendship and unity. Reverend Grant Edgcumbe says that whilst it is marvellous to have all these Abrahamic religions represented, he believes it would "be even more wonderful if we had a Buddhist, Sikh or Hindu temple too" in East Melbourne. He compared East Melbourne's religious diversity to Fitzroy Gardens, a garden with just one flower is bland compared to a garden with several different flowers.

Like everything in Melbourne last year, the COVID-19 pandemic took a massive toll on each of these institutions. Father Werner Utri said that "it was a massive challenge, we had to re-imagine what we do and how we do it" when it came to services. The services could no longer be held in person due to the restrictions, so the religious institutes turned to the "magic of zoom" as Peter Abrehart described it. Beginning with a rocky start and a steep learning curve ahead, especially for Reverend Grant Edgcumbe whose "iPad fell off the ladder and smashed" during his church's first live stream of mass! However, they all managed to figure out the ins and outs of technology to reach their congregations remotely.

Some of the respective institutes even saw an increase of interest in their faiths. During the lockdown, many people began to search for a “new way” of living. It gave people something to believe in what was a very bleak time. Peter Abrehart saw “an increase in a number of people coming on to Zoom, I began to noticed quite a few new faces” in his congregation's meetings during the pandemic. Whilst membership numbers remained similar to pre-lockdown numbers, a handful of people did enquire about joining the church. Rabbi Dovid Gutnik also saw an increase in interest at the synagogue. Over the past year “many found the familiarity and spiritual sustenance of religion a great comfort during the uncertain times.” However, he still prefers face-to-face services, describing the return of people as “somewhat like the returnees to Zion from the Babylonian exile in the days of Ezra and Nechemia”!

At the end of the day, East Melbourne is a community and the respective leaders of the institutes mentioned all have a message for the people of the suburb.

Peter Abrehart of the Melbourne Unitarian Peace Memorial Church says “the message, from not just me, but most of our people is let’s work together, particularly on social justice issues and let’s work together towards a common goal as a community.”

Reverend Grant Edgcumbe of the Holy Trinity Anglican church says “For the people of East Melbourne, my message would be ‘Well done, you amazing people!’ The countless acts of generosity and support that were extended by people who themselves were often frightened and uncertain, has been amazing.”

Rabbi Dovid Gutnick of the East Melbourne Hebrew Congregation says “Cherish the gift of having the privilege to live in one the most beautiful and vibrant suburbs in the world. And feel welcome to pop into the Synagogue anytime you see the door open.”

Father Werner Utri of St. Patrick’s Cathedral says “I think at this time, the thing that has surprised me is the extraordinary goodness of ordinary people in the way we looked after one another. In terms of people of faith, we must always have hope.” ■

For more information on the historic context and architecture of the 10 places of worship visit the East Melbourne Group website
<https://emg.org.au/team/churches/>



News from the Library

LINDA LONGLEY

Team Leader

East Melbourne Library & Community Heritage

CITY OF MELBOURNE

Libraries do lots of things these days; they are neutral social hubs for people to gather and meet, there is free access to the internet, computers and printing services, and helpful staff to solve your technology woes or recommend what book to read next. The East Melbourne Library is your key to almost everything. One of the most special things is a beautiful collection of books, magazines, film and music, all available for free! We have extensive eCollections of current newspapers, latest copy magazines, eBooks, eAudiobooks and streaming services for music and film. We have meeting rooms for study and hire, outdoor spaces to relax, read, chat and even garden! We have exhibition spaces and display cabinets to showcase your creativity. Use your free key to unlock all the library has to offer!



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS RETURN

Half an hour sessions of stories, songs, rhymes and music. We can't wait to see you again for some songs, stories and lots of fun!

Stompers

18 months to 3 years.
Wednesdays 10.30am

Songbirds

Newborns to 18 months.
Thursdays 10:30 am

"The library card is a passport to wonders and miracles, glimpses into other lives, religions, experiences, the hopes and dreams and striving of ALL human beings, and it is the passport that opens our eyes and hearts to the world beyond our front doors, that is one of our best hopes against tyranny, xenophobia, hopelessness, despair, anarchy and ignorance." Libba Bray

REV. GRANT EDGCUMBE

Holy Trinity, 193 Hotham St. East Melbourne

Holy Trinity is opening our 'Street Library' where anyone can come and take a book and perhaps head to the gardens or sit quietly in the church to read it. The idea is people can come and help themselves to any book for free or perhaps bring along books

they have finished with and place them in the shelves. There will be a 'Community Book' in the small library where people can write their recommendations and reviews of things they have read. The Street Library will be located in the southern end of the church foyer and will be open most days between 9.00 am and 4.00 pm and we look forward to seeing people exchanging books and enjoying this extra book availability in our community.

Please look out for the signs announcing the opening.

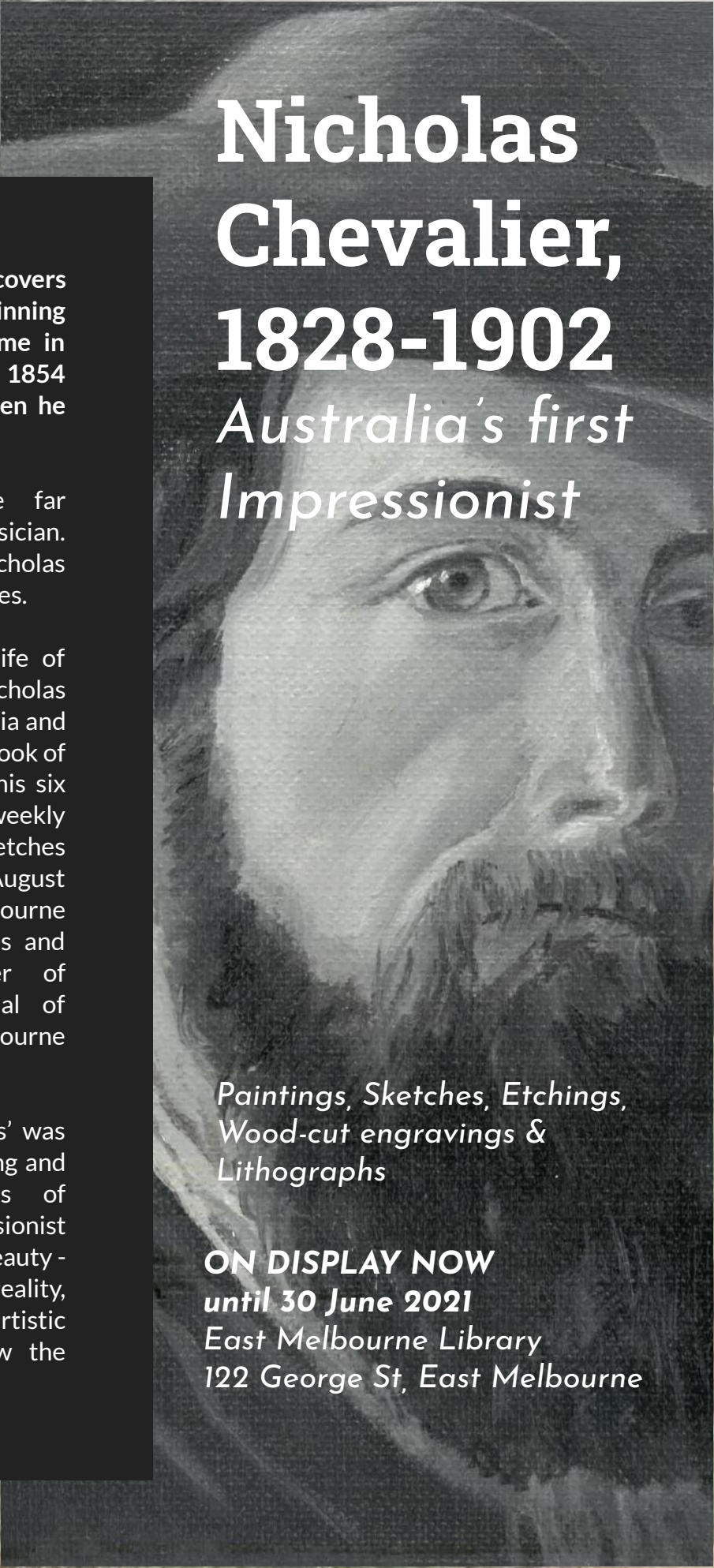
EXHIBITION OPENING

*Panel discussion with
Gary Morgan*

3 June 2021

6pm - 8pm

*Light refreshments.
Bookings essential
via the library website.*



Nicholas Chevalier, 1828-1902

Australia's first Impressionist

The Roy Morgan collection covers Nicholas Chevalier's artistic life beginning in Europe in 1848 including his time in Australia and New Zealand between 1854 and 1869 and finishing in 1871 when he arrived back in London.

Nicholas Chevalier's skills were far reaching; an artist, engraver and musician. The exhibition showcases Nicholas Chevalier's artistic and creative abilities.

Exploring the many facets of the life of Australia's first Impressionist - Nicholas Chevalier - from his early life in Bavaria and Austria portrayed in his 1848 sketchbook of people and landscapes followed by his six years in Melbourne producing weekly creative political and social satire sketches seen in Melbourne Punch (from August 1855); and painting important Melbourne scenes, Victorian country landscapes and portraits for The News Letter of Australasia, The Illustrated Journal of Australasia, and other Melbourne periodicals.

Well before the term 'Impressionists' was used Nicholas Chevalier was sketching and painting his artistic impressions of landscapes and people. His impressionist style portrayed landscapes of great beauty - far more beautiful than they were in reality, while Nicholas Chevalier's artistic impression of people was to show the extremes of character and emotion.

*Paintings, Sketches, Etchings,
Wood-cut engravings &
Lithographs*

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until 30 June 2021

East Melbourne Library

122 George St, East Melbourne

We all have our own stories about coming to East Melbourne and about the things that have happened since we have been here. Maybe it strikes too much of a melancholic note to reminisce about the family-run milk bar in Wellington Parade, the MCG without the lights, Punt Road before it was widened, the tram stop and pedestrian crossing at the very end of Vale Street, the various one-way systems that have either been abolished or reversed as well as the construction of plenty of developments that have changed the urban landscape, some pleasingly, some less so. Happily, there is much that is still highly familiar to those who live here and who love this place. There is so much that holds us and that attracts new residents and visitors. We all find something that cannot easily be found elsewhere in the city or, indeed, elsewhere in the world. We most certainly all share and are custodians of a cultural inheritance and a multitude of cultural gifts that have been passed down to us.

No culture has ever been completely frozen in time. Culture has always evolved and developed. There are strong tides of history that tell us that is so. That impels us to know and understand what our cultural inheritance is so we can be deliberate in how we nurture and develop it. Exactly how we do this will depend upon a multitude of factors including, but by no means limited to, population growth, the changing ideas and locations of work and of leisure, new technologies, patterns of migration, life-expectancy and public health, living standards and levels of prosperity and poverty, access to markets, global disruptions, uprisings and conflicts, climate change, political leadership, and peaceful protest.

Our cultural inheritance is dynamic, multilayered and ever changing as our understanding of places and communities grow.

In that maelstrom, let us consider just one local building as an anchor. The house on the corner of Vale Street and Wellington Parade South was designed by the architectural firm, Twentymen and Askew, who also designed the Block Arcade. It was built in 1886 for William and Margaret McLean by builder, W.W.Saddington. It was William and Margaret's family home along with their nine children and was named 'Torloisk' after a McLean family house on the Isle of Mull. Described at the time as a "commodious balconied family house, thoroughly and expensively built and tastefully decorated", it comprised eight bedrooms and three bathrooms.

William and Margaret were born in Scotland and emigrated to Australia mid-nineteenth century. William's business, McLean Brothers and Rigg, ironmongers and general merchants, had grown rapidly with Melbourne's population growth and prosperity. In 1887 he was elected president of the YMCA and was a leading member of the Collins Street Baptist Church and the Victorian Baptist Fund. He was also chairman of the board of the Federal Bank.

Margaret, who had undertaken teacher training at the newly formed Melbourne Training Institution for Teachers in the 1860s, played an important role in Australian female suffrage and women's rights. She was one of the founders of the Victorian branch of the Women's Christian Temperance Union and instrumental in many other women's organisations. She was the first to sign the wonderfully named 'Monster Women's Suffrage Petition' of 1891. An excellent lecture by historian Dr Liz Rushen about Margaret, focused on her

lifelong "concern for the welfare of women and children, visiting gaols, courts and hotels, and spending whole nights in slum areas, endeavouring to assist and protect young women".

After financial difficulties that were experienced during the 1890s Depression, the house was sold to Miss Elizabeth Glover in 1902 and converted into a training home for nurses. She was an English trained nurse and leader in the movement calling for nursing reform and was one of the initiators of the Victorian Trained Nurses Association. After a short time, she converted the building into a hospital of which she was both proprietor and matron. In 1917, St Ives Hospital as it had become was taken over by the Anglican religious order, the Community of the Holy Name, under whose ownership further alterations were made and to which a five story Leighton Irwin art deco extension was added in 1935 on the north side.

As St Ives Hospital, the building was one of a number of highly regarded medical facilities in East Melbourne and became known as quite a fashionable place to go for the best medical attention. By the 1960s, the newer hospitals were significantly larger, incorporated more modern equipment as well as advanced training facilities and the new generations of doctors were attracted to them and away from small private hospitals that lacked scale and were not able to adapt to become more efficient. The building converted to a nursing home in the 1970s and operated through to the 1980s before being converted to a family home in 1990.

What is our community's cultural inheritance from just this one house in one suburb? It doesn't require a lot of imagination to think of the energetic expression of Scottish heritage, the

>

Our Community's Shared Cultural Inheritance

RUPERT MYER

As guest speaker of this year's EMG Annual General Meeting, Rupert shared his insights into East Melbourne's rich history and his hopes for the future.

education needs of nine children at the time of Federation, the business vicissitudes of being an ironmonger and general merchant, and being a banker during the 1890s Depression, the rallying of support for the temperance and suffrage movements, the achievement of the vote for women, the campaigning against alcohol abuse and domestic violence, the support for feminism and gender relations, social reform, prison reform, teaching, the commissioning of high Victorian architecture, art deco architecture, and the decorative arts, the promotion of worship, the development of nursing and medical innovation, and the application of the applied sciences.

Of course, our entire suburb is an inheritance and, that it exists as it does, is testimony to the entanglement of numerous cultural values and influences. The logic of considering the cultural contribution of one small suburb in the context of our vast city lacks some rigour, but we are one of the oldest and what we have here on our doorstep is in demand from across Melbourne and elsewhere. A cultural inheritance is both backward looking and forward looking. It relates to everything that surrounds us, everything that we think about, the physical characteristics of our neighbourhood, the intellectual life that has existed here and it carries the responsibility of giving forward to the next generations and to honouring the earlier ones.

Chronologically, our shared cultural inheritance begins with the ceremonies and rituals that took place here for millennia, right here in this place on the land sloping towards the Yarra River. Australian society broadly is still coming to know and appreciate this part of our inheritance. Fortuitously, there is such generosity in how indigenous communities teach us and share with us their cultural practices and yearn for us all to know more about these practices, show respect towards them and take pleasure from them. In Yarra Park, we honour this inheritance by the preservation of the scarred trees, or canoe trees as they are also known.

In the nineteenth century, our early town planners were captive to the idea that parks

and gardens provided the population with quieter spaces away from noisy factories. They were fashioned with urban design ideas to improve our physical wellbeing, raise our spirits and instil community pride. These were seen as virtues intended to create a society that was cohesive and inclusive and their simple, compelling ideas are easily understood: the Jolimont railway line was lowered to make the trains quieter and to offer an uninterrupted view across a major city artery into parkland; the streets were widened to allow for less congestion and more communal planting; the intersecting paths allowed for encounters between people who otherwise may have had no occasion to meet. There was a grand plan and everyone had a role to play in building tomorrow's inheritance.



Sculpture : The Great Petition by Artists Susan Hewitt and Penelope Lee, 2008
Burston Reserve, East Melbourne

In East Melbourne, we ought to consider all of those who have been here in the past and reside here now and who have in some way contributed to our community's store of cultural memories. We might consider the everyday residents and those who came here to work, our historians, writers, artists, musicians, high court judges, AFL football coaches and players, archbishops, surgeons, singers, musicians, academics, architects, business leaders, politicians, senior public servants, journalists, pastoralists and racehorse owners. We might also think of the leaders and staff of our

community's cultural institutions who have influenced what has been collected, what policies have been developed, how they have been applied and how the many versions of our national stories have been preserved.

Recognising that we have the good fortune of this shared cultural inheritance, what should we feel compelled to do with it. Most financial advisers will assert that, when it comes to a financial inheritance, there should be a plan to grow its 'real value' over time. What is relevant when a community receives a cultural inheritance? How is its 'real value' grown over time?

At a local level, there is much that we can do as well to ensure that the value of our inheritance grows. To progress it, we can begin by imagining the next generation of great ideas. Which of those would relate to our cultural infrastructure and urban landscape? What further great museums and collections should be created for the audiences of tomorrow? How do we expect that the production and consumption of cultural experiences will change? As cars empty out of Yarra Park for security reasons, could we imagine creating the great inner city Australian Botanic Gardens there, a version of the Cranbourne Botanical Gardens, with brilliant landscaping of Australian trees, shrubs, grasses, rocks, and streams alongside open spaces? What would it mean to five times or ten times the usage of the Fitzroy Gardens and how might that impact on the visitor experience and the role for facilities like the pavilion? Might we extend the cultural remit inside the MCG even more so beyond sport to include spectaculars, traditional ceremonies, and performances?

In this version of the future, how might we satisfactorily limit the ability of those who have no regard for our cultural inheritance to do irreparable harm to the cultural assets of our community that rightfully belong to the next generation. Even in recent years, we have had to deal with the possibility and reality of unalterable changes to the urban environment that we enjoy. Some of these developments pay no regard for the careful design and planning that established key elements of our cultural

inheritance. Would it be too much to require those who approve such developments to provide an acquittal to the community that gives a detailed explanation as to how a development contributes to our cultural inheritance? And, if the case cannot be made satisfactorily, it doesn't proceed.

In conclusion and thinking ahead, how do we exercise the cultural power that has been established by all those who have come before and who are here now? Beyond East Melbourne, our success as a nation is primed by our approach to life, our histories, our education, and our proximity to many different cultures in one place. Ours is not a derivative culture – it is at



1902 William, Margaret McLean and family
Source : East Melbourne Historical Society

once ancient with the stories and practices of indigenous Australians, highly contemporary, diverse, fearless, fresh and vital, witty, immersive. Our artists and our entire creative community are talented, resourceful and respected. How in this community do we, as our forebears have done, develop and support our creative voices in the confident, assertive way that we might have done in the past? What is our plan to ensure that we increase over time the 'real value' of our cultural inheritance so that future generations can flourish? ■

Footy season is car season

NAINAZ ARMIN SORABJI

The Post-Covid MCG has welcomed the return of AFL. Returning with it are the issues of large crowds, unruly intoxicated fans, road closures, parking on the grassland of Yarra Park, traffic congestion, illegal parking on our streets, plus added parking inspectors. But we do love it ! Don't we ?



For the religion of football, the MCG is its' holyland, each weekend worshipers jump in their cars for the pilgrimage to East Melbourne.

Former EMG Convenor of EMG Parks and Gardens and EMG Nominee to the Yarra Park Advisory Committee, Murray Hohnen, shares his view on MGC parking: "For all of my time with EMG, a central issue has been the use of Yarra Park as a car-park. In times past, the Government and Council were committed to phasing it out. The issue has been complicated by the decision to transfer control of the park to the MCG Trust and the terrorism-related risks that flow from opportunities for vehicles to carry explosives close to the stadium and the obstruction that parked vehicles would have on an orderly stadium evacuation .

That is not to say that the MCG has not done a good job as park manager. The park has certainly benefited from its work. However one need only look at the happy state of the park during Covid to understand that parking not only damages the park but denies park-users access to a resource that was set aside by our farsighted civic forefathers for recreation. The MCG does however rely on parking revenues to fund park maintenance. In terms of public policy this makes no sense. EMG should continue to agitate for adequate public funding of what should be a world class park."

Image : MCG Car Park Australasian 30Oct1931 p.ii
Newspaper Collection SLV Photographer Unknown
Source : Boyles Football Photos Research and Pathways to Victoria's Football History 1925-65

City of Melbourne parking inspectors urge residents to be smart and aware of all parking restrictions within East Melbourne. Do you have all correct documentation, such as current permanent or transferable parking permits ? They know everyone is excited to be back at an AFL match. They also know this is a perfect time to issue revenue-raising fines. Residents and their visitors need to be familiar with all parking restrictions and the display of permits to avoid being fined. Permits need to be up to date and adequately visible, even while inspecting at night. Most East Melbourne residents may apply for up to two parking permits per residence, with a limit of one transferable permit per property. Residents are not eligible if their property has been reconstructed to increase residential density, is a commercial property or is purpose-built student accommodation.

The AFL matches often trigger road closures. Affected residents can receive up to date information by contacting MCG Security and Precinct Coordinator yarrapark@mcc.org.au or visiting City of Melbourne webpage www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/parking-and-transport/roads/pages/road-closures.aspx

Drive for slow down

SUSAN HENDERSON

The EMG Amenities committee has been working with the City of Melbourne for more than three years to reduce the speed limit to 40 kmph within East Melbourne.

The speeding problem was exacerbated when the upgrade to Hoddle St for continuous right turn lanes was carried out. The delays caused by the work encouraged drivers to use side streets to avoid the banked-up traffic in Hoddle St. This then became a habit and has continued to cause extra through traffic in our streets. Now, we seem to be getting closer to achieving our goal of safer, slower traffic on our streets. It has been a slow process, in contrast to some of the cars that speed through our streets at times.

In January 2021, the Department of Transport (DoT) provided in-principal support for the 40km per hour speed limit change on local roads in the East Melbourne area (with the exception of Wellington Parade South). Albert Street and Clarendon Street have been supported subject to a commitment from the CoM to introduce measures to support a credible 40kph road environment if drivers' operational speeds continue to exceed 40kph after the sign change. Concept designs for these two streets are being developed and will be discussed further with DoT. In order to approve the speed restriction to 40kph the DoT believes that the roads need to be narrower and "feel" as if cars need to slow down. Bicycle lane designs deemed necessary for Grey and Hotham Streets, are in the design stage and have unfortunately been delayed due to COVID-19 bicycle projects. At this stage CoM are proposing to complete design and approvals this financial year and implement the 40kph speed limit in 2021-22.



We have also been concerned about pedestrian and cyclist safety at our roundabout intersections. CoM has recently submitted an application for funding under the Federal Blackspot Program to install raised zebra pedestrian crossings and kerb extensions at the Hotham St / Simpson St roundabout.

This treatment is designed to address crashes involving cyclists, by slowing down vehicles on all approaches to the roundabout, as well as improving safety and amenity for pedestrians.

If the Blackspot funding is approved, this project will be implemented during 2021-22 financial year. If it is not approved, CoM will consider it for funding by Council in the future financial years. Once funding is resolved, Department of Transport approval will be required to install the zebra pedestrian crossings.

We believe that these two measures will make our streets safer and reflect the pedestrian nature of our suburb.



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Meet your neighbours

LISETTE MALATESTA

1 Romy Schoenheimer

Big East Melbourne homes are not just for families, but sharehouses for young people like Romy and her housemates Bettsie & Bridget. Romy moved in 2 years ago and loves the calm of E Melb. They were hit hard by the lockdown, yet are very grateful to have spent it in such a lovely central location.



2 Dieter Muller

We thank Dieter for capturing E Melb's. spectacular autumnal display for this edition's cover page image. Dieter is an accomplished international photographer with work published in Vogue, Pol and De Mode magazines. His East Melbourne lifestyle is keeping him young and vibrant with nearby facilities allowing him to regularly play tennis and swim.



Locals visiting

the East Melbourne General Store



3 Vishan Jayasinghe

We congratulate Vish, who celebrated his wedding on Anzac day eve. He sees one of the great pleasures of living in E Melb. is the friendly openness of its residents and venues, full of people eager to stop and have a chat. It was his love of footy that first drew him to the suburb - so much so he proposed to his wife at the MCG forecourt.

4 Chester Kenedy Banks

3 year old Chester is a child of E Melb. You can regularly see him gliding his bike through the streets of our village. His neighbours have become like aunties, as his mum, Amelia, is supported by those living in their old-world apartment building. Chester attend daycare on Hoddle St and has made his newest friends at the Powlett Reserve playground.

5 Maya

Meet Maya, a 3 ½ year old Kelpie Boarder Collie cross. The name Maya references her owner, Zulema's home in Mexico, but she is the quintessential Aussie cattle dog. Zulema, used to be a professional dog walker/ trainer, working with clients' dogs at the dog park and E Melb's. dog-friendly streets and cafes. So when the time came to relocate and have a fur baby of her own, East Melbourne was a clear choice.



The Social Committee remains true to its name, usually meeting once a month at various East Melbourne locations such as members' homes, a wine bar or the park. As a committee, we try to come up with a variety of activities that will appeal to different members of the East Melbourne community and their guests. There is a wide variety of people in our suburb from young children to the elderly, so what appeals to those who need babysitters may not suit an aged pensioner. We also take into account cost, formality and accessibility to certain venues.

East Melbourne is a friendly place to live and we all enjoy taking walks around the streets and going to our lovely parks. Most of us have an acquaintance who we see frequently when we are out and about but we don't know who they are. Our events aim to bring people together to

Being social

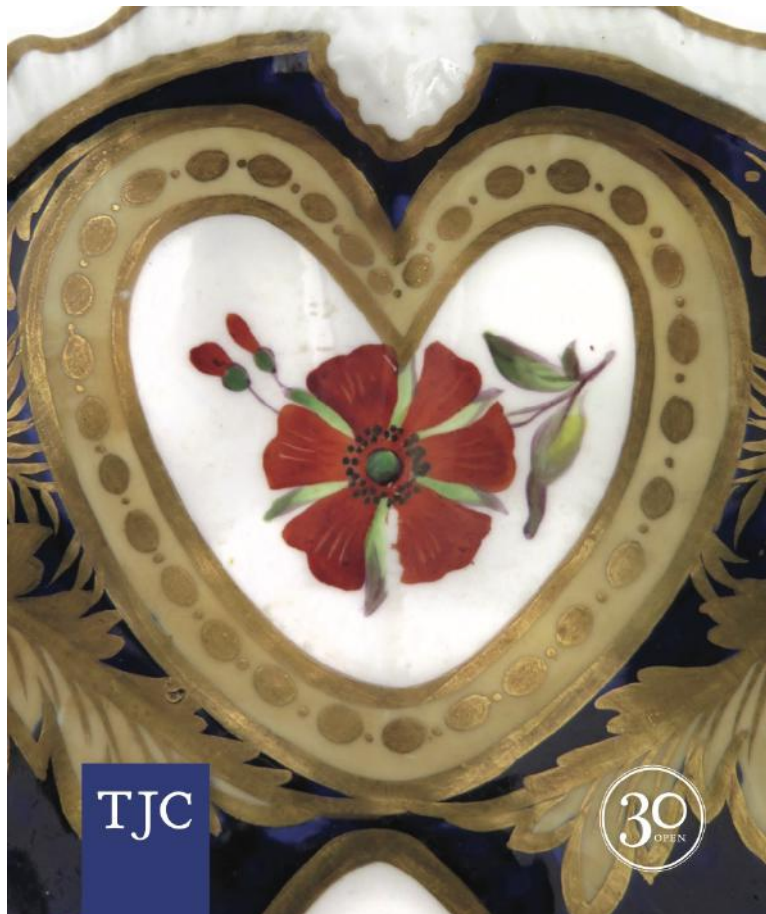
JUDY HOGG

finally meet properly. By wearing name tags at these events, it makes getting to know someone so much easier than saying "I am Mary, what is your name?" You can launch into a conversation and find out what you have in common. Many people have begun lasting friendships at one of the EMG social committee events.

Unfortunately, six of the committee's events were cancelled due to COVID-19. This year, we still have to take into account potential restrictions when planning, especially if another snap lockdown occurs. Our first major event this year was in March, with a cocktail party event for International Women's Day .

Lingering COVID restrictions limited the capacity to only 66 guests. Our guest speaker was Donna De Swart, the CEO of Fitted for Work. This is a charity which assists long term unemployed women to get jobs by providing outfits of donated clothing to wear to an interview and to work. They also offer assistance with writing resumes and with conducting job interviews. Since their inception in 2005, they have been able to place over 20,000 women in jobs. we encourage you to drop off old clothing of any sort, to them at 513 Bridge Road Richmond. Even if not business attire, donations can go to their boutique to generate much needed income for the charity. Much better than going to landfill and helps with downsizing!

For more info :
www.fittedforwork.org



TJC



OBJECTS OF MY AFFECTION

STORIES OF LOVE FROM THE JOHNSTON COLLECTION

9 MARCH - 24 AUGUST 2021

Stories of Love celebrates the 30th anniversary of Fairhall opening to the public on 19 November 1990. Continue with us as we celebrate our remarkable milestone of 30 glorious years of sharing Johnston's gift of love to the people of Victoria.

This exhibition will be a memorable opportunity to see objects gathered over a lifetime with affection by William Johnston and rearranged to create an English Georgian-inspired domestic interior in his beloved East Melbourne house, Fairhall.

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johnstoncollection.org

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KEEP INFORMED -
CONNECT WITH US



Become an EMG Member to be involved

Some other major events planned for this year are a Christmas in July at University House, Cox Plate Eve party and the Christmas Carols at Bishops Court with a special guest appearance for the children. More details will be provided closer to the dates.

We want all of East Melbourne's residents to enjoy the events that we organise. We welcome any ideas that you may have, and any assistance in planning that you can contribute would be appreciated. You would not have to be involved throughout the year but if you could volunteer on even only one occasion, for example collecting tickets, it would help.

Remember any money that we make goes towards the expense involved in maintaining the amenity of East Melbourne. If you would like to join the social committee let us know, all are welcome to join our wonderful group.

For event inquiries or to join the Social Committee, email admin@emg.org.au

JACOB CAINE

CEO Caine Real Estate

Fears of price growth creating "bubble" conditions may be legitimate when considering the macro-Australian, or more specifically, macro-Melbourne residential real estate markets. These price surges are however, far from universal, with some marketplaces recovering from Covid-inspired dips at a significantly slower pace. East Melbourne is one such market. Its proximity to Melbourne's central business district, long part of its appeal, has recently lost some of its allure in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic as city offices closed, restaurants reduced capacities, theatres went dark, nightclubs went quiet and major events have been postponed. A new premium has been placed on wide-open spaces, large blocks, spare rooms, and home offices as homeowners contemplate the risks of being locked down again. Though East Melbourne has an abundance of parklands, large blocks with expansive gardens and grounds are a scarcity. Many buyers who have historically sought out an East Melbourne terrace when downsizing from 1000m² in Hawthorn or Camberwell, have reconsidered or postponed their moves as a precautionary measure.



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Two-speed market slows East Melbourne's recovery



Despite this, East Melbourne properties have continued to produce strong sales results. We have seen more houses sold in the first quarter of 2021, than the entirety of 2020 - although this was to have been expected. The upper-end of the market has been particularly buoyant, delivering some exceptionally competitive sales campaigns with brilliant returns for vendors. Congratulations must go to the owners of the former East Melbourne post office on George St, the owners of 50 George St, and, amongst others, the owners of 44-46 Grey St on the sale of their properties.



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In the apartment market, the Wellington Gardens complex has continued to impress, consistently achieving new record sales results, and has been particularly resistant to the general downturn in the rental market - continuing to attract high-calibre tenants and lease at competitive rental rates with short "days on market".

The rental market in East Melbourne has suffered significantly as a result of the pandemic. Whole segments of the renter-spectrum have been scrapped out of the market i.e; international executives, international students, interstate relocations, etc, and a flood of former Air-BnB short-stay accommodation properties have contributed to a massive oversupply of rental listings on offer to a drastically reduced pool of renters. When combined with the exodus of CBD office workers, and people looking for seachange/treechange, these factors have ostensibly, inverted the rental market from one that favours landlords to one that favours tenants. Average days vacant have risen, in some cases, very significantly, and average rents have decreased, in some cases very significantly.

There are reasons to be optimistic as vaccination programmes ramp up, and the prospect of international borders reopening becomes more certain. East Melbourne remains one of the most desired and enviable postcodes in the country. East Melbourne has demonstrated its resilience, as it always does in challenging times. Sales results above \$10 million and rental results above \$2000 per week are testament to East Melbourne's continued status as the jewel in Melbourne's residential market place.■



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