

If you want to help keep your neighbourhood pleasant, friendly and livable, join a residents group! Eastenders | Residents 3000 | Hardware Street



Dear resident,

Many readers told us they appreciated the last issue, with its emphasis on the homeless and the troubled of our City – they felt the issues are important for all of us.

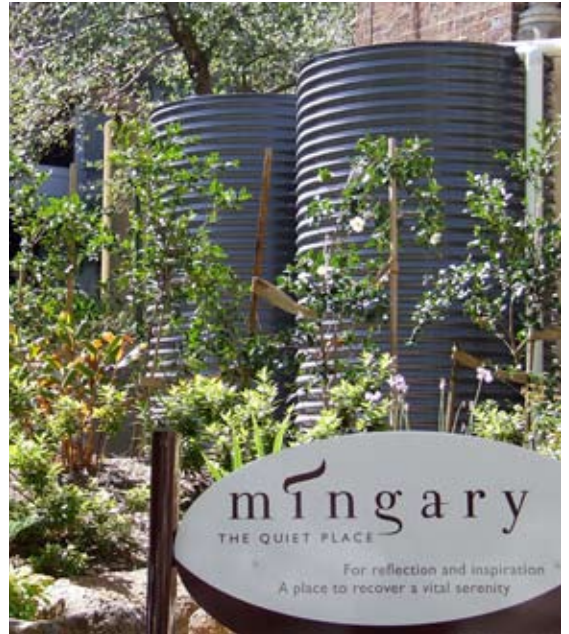
In this number we concentrate on the November election for our City Council. All the residents associations and their members are very unhappy about the electoral system – it would not be tolerated in Federal or State elections. **So, get ready for a hot campaign – starting NOW!** (see back page for Stop Press)

but first...

The good news.

We think St Michael's Church, the corner of Russell/Collins, has done a marvellous job on their "front garden".

They have taken a step away from the grass sward and moved to an imaginative, well-designed, dry-weather "front yard" of rocks, shrubs and ground cover; and with tanks to collect water from their roof! (Perhaps, the St Paul's Cathedral, who have laid grass, could have considered such a solution)



It is a great example for our City.

And opposite, the Scots Church, has done a good job too. The cast iron fence has been painted, the bordering hedge/shrubs trimmed and cared for. And did you see those shrubs covered in white blooms. Unfortunately we missed photographing them but they looked great.

These two churches are located at a key crossroads in our City. They should be congratulated by us all – locals, businesses and shoppers/visitors.

and.....

Our Council employees/contractors have also done a great job on our established street trees, all round the CBD. The fine pebble surrounds have allowed water to flow through to the roots, as the wonderful green foliage demonstrates. And of course these surrounds provide a safe, flat surface for pedestrians. Good work!

Not so good of course is the on-going vandalism of new, young trees in streets such as Flinders Lane and Little Lons. Why, oh why? Even the clever metal guards around them have not stopped this stupidity – a demonstration of strength? NO, any idiot could pull up a young sapling. And some cyclists have not helped by using the guards as cycle racks, causing minor damage to tender new branches and shoots.

Please report to Council (9658 9658) any damage you see. And of course ring 000 if you see the sillies on the job!



St Michael's Church, Collins Street has done more than a bit of gardening. Their inspired new landscaping has added a breath of fresh air to the city, and a place we can all enjoy.

Three city residents groups have come together to produce this newsletter – we encourage you to be active in your community and contribute to OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

What's on?

The Chinese Museum

The Chinese Museum is located in the centre of Melbourne's Chinatown precinct. It is the focal point for Melbourne's Chinatown – **the oldest area of continuous Chinese settlement in the Western World**, dating back to the early 1850s. It houses the largest collection of Chinese Australian artifacts, images, documents in Australia, with displays over five floors in a turn of the century building behind her Majesty's Theatre. The Museum is open to the public 7 days a week, admission to the Museum is \$7.50 for adults and \$5.50 for children or concession.

Fujian Quanzhou Marionette Troupe

A chance to enjoy the world Famous Puppet Show. One of China's great cultural treasures from Fujian Province, the Quanzhou Marionette Troupe will be visiting Australia for a limited performance season at the Chinese Museum, showcasing Chinese marionette history dating back 2,000 years. 10 puppeteers will travel to Melbourne for a limited series of performances at the Chinese Museum.



Date: 28 June – 3 July 2008. **Six days only!**
Session times: 11:00am, 1:00pm and 8.00pm
Cost: \$12 per child / \$20 per adult
Optional Buffet Chinese lunch at 12.30pm or dinner at 7.00pm.
Meal: \$12 per person

Tai Chi for Arthritis / Diabetes Saturday workshop

Tai Chi for Health was developed in 1997 by Dr. Paul Lam, based on the Sun Style and has been designed specifically for people with arthritis. It is easy to learn and is safe to practice and effective. The programme includes warm up, coordination, Qi Gong exercise, special movement with only 12 movements or positions. Suitable for both adults and children, it is specially designed for people with arthritis or diabetes.

Instructor: Mr. Wilfred Kwok, registered Physiotherapist
Master Trainer: Tai Chi for Health, Dr. Paul Lam Australia, CDSMP, Stanford University, USA
Date: Every Saturday morning 10:00am to 11:00am
Fee: \$10/lesson, a total of 8 lessons
Venue: 1/F, Theatre, The Chinese Museum

Selected Chinese Prints of the 20th Century arrives in Melbourne

Selected Chinese Prints of the 20th Century is a significant presentation of recent Chinese history. This captivating exhibition, drawn together by the Ministry of Culture in the People's Republic of China, showcases 80 Chinese prints carefully selected from the thousands produced over the 20th century.

Admission: General Museum entry fee applies.
Enquiries: (03) 9662 2888 or email at info@chinesemuseum.com.au



What's in a name?

THE CITY GALLERY
How Moomba came to be called Moomba and what the word really means has kept the wheels of urban mythology turning for decades. This entertaining exhibition explores the meaning of Moomba through audio-visual displays, photographs, badges and other memorabilia.

Date: 6 March to 14 June
Open: Monday 10am - 2pm; Tuesday

to Thursday 11am - 6pm; Friday 11pm - 6.30pm; Saturday 10am - 4pm

Where: The City Gallery is on the ground level at the Melbourne Town Hall in Swanston Street.



The Melbourne International Comedy Festival

As one of the three largest comedy festivals in the world, the festival takes over Melbourne once again with an enormous program of stand-up comedy, cabaret, theatre, street performance, film, television, radio and visual arts. The Festival aims to:

- showcase and celebrate the best of Australia's comic artists
- nurture and develop new comic performers and comedy works, and
- present the finest overseas comedians to Australian audiences

For information: www.comedyfestival.com.au



The Melbourne Story

MELBOURNE GALLERY
Now Showing, Daily 10:00am - 5:00pm
Explore Melbourne's unique and changing tale. Be immersed in evocative stories and discover the icons and personalities that have shaped Melbourne.

Ride in a restored Luna Park Big Dipper carriage, explore life in 1890s Little Lon, relive memories from the Coles Book Arcade and rekindle the rock and roll days through ACDC's Angus Young's costume.

The Melbourne Story will feature more than 1200 collection objects from Museum Victoria's collection, making it the most complete and object-rich exhibition about Melbourne ever staged.

Working together for Melbourne Forum

Town Hall, Yarra Room at 6-7.30 pm,
Wednesday 2 July

The Council says these annual forums are a chance for you to share ideas and issues about local areas with City of Melbourne councillors and senior officers. You can raise questions, exchange information, views and ideas on issues of importance.

You are asked to register to ensure a seat.
email to: wtfm@melbourne.vic.gov.au;
or phone to: 9658 9658

Questions/issues can be submitted in advance (by the Friday before the forum.)

Please come if you can! Council says you will meet Councillors and staff. The more residents that attend, the more seriously they will take your concerns.

KEY PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency 000
(police, ambulance, fire)

Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000
(information about criminal activity)

Your State Member 9328 4637
(The Hon Bronwyn Pike MP)

Your Federal Member 9347 5000
(Lindsay Tanner MP)

City Council HOTLINE 9658 9658
(for any questions, complaints, guidance)

POLICE 9650 7077
(Flinders Lane)

Dear Residents,

Our People – Our Community - Our City

As of the 10th March 2008 there has been a reduction in overall crime in Melbourne of 11.2 percent. However theft from cars and theft of bicycles are still problems for us all. Do not leave valuables in your car and lock your bicycle even if you leave it for a minute (in private car parks as well).

Good news!

As of February this year Victoria Police are cycling half of all the police graduates through Melbourne East and West Police stations. This means in real terms that at any one time Melbourne Police Stations will have between 20 and 40 extra police to service the community. We are concentrating the extra resources on high visibility at peak times.

Victoria Police are working with the City of Melbourne on a number of projects to improve the safety and wellbeing of our residents, traders and visitors – some of which are: -

- City of Melbourne Late Night Policy
- Extending the geographical area of the ban on drinking in public places
- Police and community services shopfront on Southbank

The liquor industry and resultant amenity issues in Melbourne are still hot topics in the media and in the minds of many residents and businesses. Victoria Police, CAV Liquor Licensing and the City of Melbourne are cognisant of the problems and are unified in resolving them. Melbourne Police for some time have adopted a policy of low tolerance of antisocial behaviour and a no tolerance of breaches of the liquor laws. We are starting to see the dividends of this policy – but there is still some way to go.

As I stated last edition - the ongoing commitment from Victoria Police is to provide the best service we can to the community you can help by being our eyes and ears in the City of Melbourne and report suspicious or anti social behaviour immediately.

Chris Duthie

District Inspector, Division 1, Region 1 (Central)

READING TOGETHER?

The Council of Adult Education (CAE) is offering to help in the establishment of Book Groups. They provide practical suggestions on the organization of a group, the selection of books, discussion notes and more.

Book Groups are very popular, giving rise to movies and TV series about the interaction of people. They are an excellent way of meeting other readers in your local community.

The CAE has produced a useful brochure "CAE Book Groups 2008", available from the CAE in Flinders Lane or on the net at www.bookgroups@cae.edu.au (e-mail bookgroups@cae.edu.au) or telephone 9657 8106; fax 9657 8155.

If you do set up a Book Group (or already have one) we would be very interested to hear of your experiences (anonymity guaranteed if required).



To our Lord Mayor and our Premier No more vibrators, please!

Dear John and John,

Did you say “Melbourne is a vibrant 24/7 City”. Oh no, not again! Your use of the term “vibrant” is RUBBISH – and rubbish should be put in the bin and recycled into a SUSTAINABLE, USEFUL AND ATTRACTIVE product.

Have either of you been on a tour of our streets, say around 3 am? The Victoria Police will be glad to organise such a trip, to enable you to see your “vibrators” in action. What a great sight! And you may even see an ambulance/MICA vehicle – it will warm the cockles of your hearts, such a thrill! Paris, Beijing, London, New York, Kuala Lumpur cannot compete with such officially sponsored mayhem.

Of course the international students, the business people, the late night workers, the o/s and Australian visitors, residents and those attending genuine late-night entertainment are not happy – but who wants them? They simply do not vibrate – all they do is scratch their heads and ask, “What is going on? Why can’t we go out at night?”

In the morning, we go forth to clean up the broken windows, bottles and glasses; the urine, vomit and excreta; the abandoned cans and bottles and butts and more.

Does it make you proud to be a Victorian? NO, John and John, it makes us ashamed of our Local and State Governments

So PLEASE, get together with the rest of the community NOW to plan ways of making Melbourne a truly modern city that is lively, welcoming, friendly – and, yes, “24/7”!! We await your call.

Yours in hope,
Residents 3000 Inc, EastEnders Inc and the Hardware Precinct Residents and Tenants Association.



Dear Licensee,
Just imagine that this is the front door to your mothers home... and that this happens on any given Saturday evening...and you will have some idea what CBD residents have to deal with every Sunday morning.

As VicHealth said recently, many local governments find it difficult to understand the impact of one additional licence and what that means. Researchers from the national Drug Research Institute at Curtin University have created a model that predicts the effects, such as deaths, road accidents and alcohol-related assaults, of liquor licences anywhere in Australia.

Tap in John/John.

DEMOCRACY for MELBOURNE!

The 10 residents associations across our CITY have called on the State Government to restore an equitable, representative, transparent and efficient system of local government. The current system is undemocratic and dysfunctional.

What do we want?

Attendance voting as used in State and Federal elections, **NOT** Postal Voting (which should only be available to those unable to attend a polling place)

A Ward system of electing councillors so that citizens know “their” Councillor just as they know “their” State and Federal members. At the moment citizens are not directly represented!

Reform of the “Deeming” provisions whereby some ratepayers are allocated votes without being on the normal roll; and some ratepayers have 2 votes.

Unfortunately an effort by some Councillors to endorse “attendance voting” last year was voted down in Council by the ruling “team”



Left Leaning?

Long-time Melbourne pedestrians – residents, shoppers, workers – claim they are being driven mad by middle of the roaders, lefties and righties!

No, not politics, not motor vehicles, but WALKERS. – you and me. They tell us that it has always (until recently) been an unwritten rule that pedestrians keep to the left of the footpath in our City. This, they say, stops people from bumping into one another and enables everyone to move along more comfortably.

Yes, this may be so if we are all walking at the same pace – very civilised. But we don’t, do we? Some lurch along window-shopping, others see a cyclist hurtling towards them, families with 8-wheel “baby buggies” (and attached toddlers) try to cope, visitors stop suddenly mid-footpath to study maps or ask directions.

So.... what can we do to make our City streets more pedestrian friendly?



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 W: www.thequeenofthefruits.gomangosteen.net

More DEMOCRACY for MELBOURNE!

Once again, we remind you that there will be a Council election in November this year. Start thinking NOW about what you want and who you want to represent you. **The current electoral system in our City is a poor one – money is a key factor.**

We are working hard with like-minded people and groups to ensure change in our local government. Please help – we will be going into action soon. There are many ways you can help (leaflet dropping, posters, letters to the media, knocking on doors, talking to friends etc). As the voting is by post, you can also help the many people in the community who don't understand the system and how to vote effectively.

Our current Lord Mayor, Cr John So, is believed to have started planning to run again for the top job, says the Herald Sun. "Cr So has started discussions with the four members of his team who enjoy a majority in the council chamber." He has started lobbying residents, community groups and city business leaders.

The report says that So said he was proud of his part in making central Melbourne "vibrant"! "I love doing what I am doing," Cr So said. Oh no, not again John!

The Herald Sun says "anyone seeking to oust him would need strong financial backing".



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The city houses many historical chandeliers, from the opulence of the gold rush period to modern times, which can be glimpsed through the windows of dwellings in dark alleys, in ballrooms and theatre auditoriums. But Look down the alley, past the rubbish bins and upwards. During the day, this chandelier glistens and reflects the laneway's changing light qualities – at night it lights up, illuminating its dank surrounds.

Laneways Arts

This is Terry Zakis of Kliger Partners lawyers, standing in Finlay Alley where Kliger Partners recently commissioned street art. The art has converted an otherwise dull, dark alley into a colourful, outdoors gallery showcasing some incredible local talent. The next stage is to extend the work to the ceiling which covers part of the lane. Like other such projects the work was done by "street artists", with the support of Kliger Partners, the City of Melbourne and "sponsors" who provided paint (quite an expensive item). As so often happens, the work was accompanied by a street party, and in this case an art sale.



This is an excellent example of constructive use of the City's Graffiti Management Plan*. A number of other similar projects have been completed around the city – and more are on the way.

The only downside is that some of the "younger set" have heard about the permit system, and assume that any permit for an approved street art project applies to everyone with a spray paint can or marker. So they proceed to "Tag" such areas, damaging the approved street art.

Please, if you see any "taggers" at work, tell them gently that they are still breaking the law as well as damaging real street art.

**Under the Graffiti Management Plan, an owner or occupier can apply to Council for a permit to display street art on their property.*

The applicant must inform the local community of the application by a sign (provided by Council) displayed on the site for 14 days inviting comments to Council.

A Council panel of staff and other experts, as required, considers the proposal taking account of comments received from the local community. If a permit is issued it will be valid for up to three years and will contain a number of conditions which must be met.

There is no cost for a permit, and a permit application may be made for artwork which already exists.



Living Streets

An extract from the website www.livingstreets.org.uk :

Making central London as enjoyable to walk in as Paris or Barcelona would encourage both Londoners and visitors to spend more time in the heart of our city. The Mayor, in our recent budget agreement, has agreed to investigate how this can be achieved, and I will be working to ensure that any proposals are as ambitious as possible.

Making it more enjoyable for people to go by foot will help cut congestion and relieve pressure on some of London's busiest bus and tube routes. Londoners will be safer and healthier if they are able to walk on pedestrian friendly routes that include wide pavements, clear signs, very little traffic, and less pavement clutter.

Transport for London will be taking this concept forward on behalf of the Mayor next financial year - through the development of a feasibility study.

London Living Streets welcomes this exciting news. "There are plenty of central London streets where pedestrian movement outweighs vehicle movement. Cranbourn Street, for example, is one such street. It provides a critical link between Leicester Square and Covent Garden" says David Martin, Westminster representative for London Living Streets and a long time champion of this concept.

Now, that's what we call "vibrant"!

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JOIN A RESIDENTS GROUP NOW!!!

Talk to a Committee member – see below for contact details



EAST ENDERS INC

PO BOX 225 CARLTON SOUTH 3053 VICTORIA
eastendersinc@mac.com
ABN 11910607307

EastEnders is the residents association for the neighbourhood bounded by Spring, Victoria, Swanston and Lonsdale Streets

The Committee is:

Michael Kennedy — *President*
Karin Dixon — *Vice President*
Ronald Butters — *Secretary*
Prudence Willsford — *Treasurer*
Vacant — *Member*

For information and membership write to us or email: eastendersinc@mac.com

Our formal purposes are:

1. To be concerned with the advancement of the wellbeing, amenity and environment of residents;
2. to consult with and advise the City of Melbourne and other authorities, businesses and persons in relation to 1. above;
3. to promote and encourage good relations between all residents, businesses and occupiers within the area; and
4. to undertake such activities as considered appropriate by the Committee of Management, or the association in a properly convened Annual or Special General Meeting to achieve the above purposes.

RESIDENTS 3000 for life in the CITY

Residents 3000 is a community association to promote the wellbeing, amenity and environment of CBD residents. We consult with the City Council, other levels of government and with local businesses.

For information and membership write to us or see www.residents3000.net.au

PO Box 197
Flinders Lane Post Office
Melbourne 8009
www.residents3000.net.au

Peter Matthews — *President*
Yolande Leonardi — *Vice President*
Anne Emery — *Secretary*
Sean Kenyon — *Treasurer*
Wolfgang Jacobs — *WebMaster*
Joan Molyneux — *Member*

HARDWARE PRECINCT RESIDENTS AND TENANTS ASSOCIATION

If you would like to participate please email on:
hardwareresten@yahoo.com.au
We look forward to hearing from you

Hardware Precinct Residents and Tenants Association

This Association covers the area bounded by Queen, Elizabeth, Bourke and La Trobe Streets. At the heart of our area is the vibrancy of Hardware Street, its surrounding areas, and all the fabulous little lanes crossing Little Bourke, Bourke, Little Lonsdale and La Trobe. We like to think that our area has a unique feel, a village feel, with cafes and retail shops, but also necessary retailers for residents such as shoe repairers, hairdressers, chemists, dry cleaners and all the businesses and services that you need in your daily life.

Your Residents Associations

OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD
Editor: Peter Matthews
supported by a
Community Information
Support Scheme Grant



cityFolk #9

Many people in our City know Wellington Lee.



As you can see, we enjoyed having a coffee with him in Bourke Street. Wellington is a well-known figure thanks to his wide range of interests, activities and community work – and was the last Ward Councillor for the CBD before Spring Street “reformed” our Council and made Councillors almost anonymous.

He started life in Darwin before being evacuated to Queensland. Having won a scholarship to a snooty Toowoomba boarding school, his education as a lone Chinese boy had many unhappy moments. But he took up rugby and was soon well respected! Wellington played a significant part in our country’s wars – from WWII onwards to Vietnam; firstly as a pilot and then as a pharmacist! He ended up as the acting Chief of Medical Supply.

He has many honours, military and civil (eg AM, OBE, OAM RFD + 2 bars). He has been a leader in the Chinese community, Deputy Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Magistrate, member of the Adult Parole Board, Chair of the Overseas Students Trust Fund and much more. Central Queensland University awarded him an honorary doctorate.

For most us Wellington is best known for his service on the Council – and particularly as “our” Ward Councillor. He did a sterling job. Unlike the current once a year forums the Council runs for ratepayers, Wellington had an open monthly meeting at the Town Hall. Anyone could come and anyone could ask a question or raise an issue. He often brought another Councillor in on a special subject and always brought in one or two senior staff to answer questions. It was a popular and useful meeting. City people felt in touch with our local government.

For many years Wellington owned and ran a successful Pharmacy at the corner of Little Bourke Street and Russell Street. So he was always available to talk to and many of us had our passport forms signed by Wellington in his role as a Magistrate.

**And Wellington has always been a member of Residents 3000
...from day one.**

Breadwell

135 Flinders Lane
Melbourne 3000
Phone 9650 8544
Fax 9650 8566
breadwell@mac.com



~ STOP PRESS ~

At the March Council meeting, a motion calling for a review by the State Government of the Council’s structure and electoral processes, was AGAIN defeated by our Lord Mayor. Every other municipality in Victoria is subject to such review every second term. This emphasises how important Local Government is – it is our “everyday” government.

John So was the *only* speaker against the motion, but his “team” (Crs Singer, Ng, Wilson, Jetter) all silently voted with him! The other Councillors (Crs Snedden – who moved the motion – Shanahan, Clarke, Brindley) all spoke in favour of the motion, but were outvoted, 5 to 4. John So’s speech against the motion was confused, and expressed no real argument against the motion.

Why this strange attitude? One can only surmise that the issues that upset the rest of our community – postal voting, no ward representation, and multiple votes for some ratepayers – are endorsed by John So! He has blocked revision of the system at least three times now.

It was notable that one Councillor quoted (from the London Times a reputable British legal source), saying that postal voting is fraught with the potential for fraud! Many of us know this to be the case. Surely, Melbourne deserves a better. (See page 4.)

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That is “The Big Issue” we’re talking about. For \$5 you get a good read and give a hand to Melbourne’s homeless and unemployed. You have seen the sellers all round our City – buy one and have a chat.

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