In This Issue:

- CFA Chaos Continues
- Government to Fight Price Hike
- Major Events Get New Look
- Homeless Children on the Rise
- Retail Regulation Review
- Union Walkout
- Crime Stats Cause for Concern
- A Wonderful City, Regardless of Our Critics
- Victoria’s Green Investment
- Port Now Debt-Free
Letter From Melbourne is a monthly public affairs newsletter distilling public policy and government decisions which affect business opportunities in Victoria, Australia and beyond. 2,000,000 words available to search digitally.

3 Editorial
3 Feature Item
3 State Government & Politics
3 Federal
4 Agriculture
4 Arts
4 Education
5 Energy
5 Environment & Conservation
5 Events
6 Health
7 Business & Investment
8 Industrial Relations
8 Justice & Police
9 Local Government
9 Melbourne
10 Planning
13 Sport
13 Transport—Ports
13 Transport—Rail
14 Transport—Road
14 Welfare
14 Society
15 Vale

ABOUT THE EDITOR—ALISTAIR URQUHART, BA LLB

Alistair Urquhart graduated from the Australian National University in Canberra, in Law, History and Politics. He may even hold the record for miles rowed on Lake Burley Griffin.

He was admitted as a barrister and solicitor to the Supreme Court of Victoria, and remains a (non-practicing) member of the Law Institute of Victoria. Previously, he graduated from high school in Bethesda, Maryland, and had many opportunities to become aware of the workings of Washington D.C.

For 30 years, he listened every Sunday evening to the late Alistair Cooke and his Letter from America. Alistair’s early career was mostly in the coal industry, where he became involved with energy, environmental and water issues, and later in the SME finance sector.

He found time to be involved in a range of community activities where he came to understand some of the practical aspects of dealing with government and meeting people across the political spectrum. He now chairs a large disability employment service, including its British operations.

ABOUT THE PUBLISHER—AFFAIRS OF STATE

Established in 1993, is an independent Australian public affairs firm with contemporary international connections. Affairs of State provides a matrix of professional tools to multinational businesses, professional and industry associations, government agencies, pressure groups, NGOs and community causes in Australia and abroad.

The firm works with many engineering and information technology firms and other professional association and industry groups on a wide range of issues in Victoria, Canberra and overseas.

The firm provides the following to clients:
- Two monthly publications
- Events at our offices and elsewhere
- Charts and specialist directories
- Facilitation with business and legal skills
- Training courses
- Mentoring of senior executives

The Editor having a Spring Street chat with one of Melbourne’s best Coffee Leaders, who continues to bring good stuff to the top end of town, even though he has moved from Egon’s which we all miss.

The firm provides the following to clients:
- Two monthly publications
- Events at our offices and elsewhere
- Charts and specialist directories
- Facilitation with business and legal skills
- Training courses
- Mentoring of senior executives

The firm provides the following to clients:
- Two monthly publications
- Events at our offices and elsewhere
- Charts and specialist directories
- Facilitation with business and legal skills
- Training courses
- Mentoring of senior executives

The firm provides the following to clients:
- Two monthly publications
- Events at our offices and elsewhere
- Charts and specialist directories
- Facilitation with business and legal skills
- Training courses
- Mentoring of senior executives

The firm provides the following to clients:
- Two monthly publications
- Events at our offices and elsewhere
- Charts and specialist directories
- Facilitation with business and legal skills
- Training courses
- Mentoring of senior executives
EDITORIAL
It has been a quiet month in the practical (as in there is always lots of yak behind the stack in the less practical) public policy areas. Standing out, just about, is the infrastructure moves that the Victorian government is firmly working upon. Mainly road and rail crossings. With a determination to override the local communities who are not happy with the rail lines that will not go under roads in their communities and will reach between the trees and apartments and go over them, on the Pakenham– Cranbourne run and elsewhere.

Interestingly, about the first thing that the new Infrastructure Victoria agency did with its initial short list was to recommend that the East West Link be a high priority. Infrastructure-wise, let us not forget Uber which is now a serious Player on our Victorian Traffic Circuit, with appropriate safety and tax and other ticks having been ruched forward. The Port of Melbourne sale continues to proceed.

The aftermath of the federal election has kept some of the newspapers busy, but so often one can read whole papers for almost several days, which, fairly and reasonably focus on social issues, disadvantage, homelessness, bad health, the sex foci. And yes some of the practical issues for the middle stream newspaper readers such as cancer issues and other ways of avoiding bad or unfortunate health, and looking after Dogs. The Age in particular can be very philosophical, with not enough balance in real life things for most of us.

The Volunteer Firemen /Country Fire Authority has now picked up a federal government commitment to bring in appropriate laws to limit regulation of volunteer fire fighters. Your editor is not sure that this is a good thing. Canberra should not control everything.

However, there seems to be no end in sight to the issue. Bushfires over Summer will cause chaos at several levels. The person/s behind the Premier will not eventually win. Also close on the ground we have crime in certain suburbs, both inner and outer, and also at particular events. Not much of it has a religious spine. The Police do not have it under control at all. The Editor would not be encouraging a nephew or niece to enter the Victorian Police Force at the moment/in this era. Apart from on the ground performance, the longer term mental stress is bad for police officers, as we are hearing it is Very bad in our armed forces.

The Small Business Festival has run well around Victoria in the past month. A Great Event. Your Editor noted some positive news about the Mission to Seamen, a heritage building from the 1920’s, where his mother read books to seamen at that time. A most interesting place for you to visit.

STATE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
CFA Chaos Continues
The Country Fire Authority board was forced to issue a statement clarifying the role of its new chief executive, Francis Diver, after Premier Daniel Andrews told Parliament the position was filled on an ‘interim’ basis... CFA chair Greg Smith, who had himself been appointed on the same day as the chief executive, released a statement welcoming Mr Diver, which made no reference to the role being an interim appointment.

Opposition leader Matthew Guy said the government is in chaos. “This is just another panicked, chaotic, knee jerk reaction from Daniel Andrews. It’s now clear that his plan all along was to bully two senior women out of their jobs with ready-made replacements.

Daniel Andrews has been appointed to clean up the country fire authority mess. But if new Emergency Services Minister James Merlino is worried about the political powde rkeg he’s just been handed, don’t expect him to show it publicly, as reported in The Age.

Ladies and Gentleman
So Sally Branson, the new state director of the National Party of Victoria, breaks the mould.

Three women in the Victorian Parliament represent the Nationals - Stephanie Ryan, Emma Kealy and Melina Bath, who are all in their first term in Parliament. Another Victorian woman, Bridget McKenzie, represents the Nationals in federal politics in the Senate. Ladies and gentleman pre-selected Luke O’Sullivan’s his new member of the Victorian Legislative Council for Northern Victoria.

The casual vacancy for the spot was created after Damian Drum resigned to contest the federal seat of Murray at this year’s federal poll as per The Age.

Volunteers Still Seeing Red
Emergency Services Minister James Merlino has hit out at volunteer firefighters in deciding to challenge the state government’s contentious CFA deal in the courts. The comments come after the CFA’s new nine-member board endorsed a deal to give the UFU a 19 per cent pay rise and improved work conditions - marking what the minister described as an ‘end’ to one of the most bitter and protracted disputes to hit Spring Street and years.

VFV chief executive Andrew Ford, accused CFA board members who supported the deal of ignoring their statutory obligations under the CFA Act, and accuse them of succumbing to ‘political lies, manoeuvring and pressure’, as reported in The Sunday Age.

Casino Breaking Promise
Crown Casino struck a controversial deal with the Victorian government just before the last election: in return for highly lucrative 17-year extension to its gaming license, it promised to retain 500 of the state’s retrenched workers. But The Age can reveal that, almost 2 years after the multi-billion-dollar license extension was granted, just six redundant workers have completed training under the scheme.

MP’s Jet set Lifestyle
MPs are going to New York, Europe, Israel, China, Africa and around Australia, all funded by the public purse. Planning Minister Richard Wynne headed to North America to investigate housing and planning. He stopped by the Brooklyn Naval Yard in New York, Toronto’s waterfront and Chicago to gain ideas for the transformation of Fishermans Bend.

Dixon To Retire
Liberal Party veteran Martin Dixon will retire from state politics after the 2018 election after 22 years in the job. The former schoolteacher and principal said he was committed to serving the people in his seat, which takes in parts of the Mornington Peninsula, right up to the election. It has been a difficult year for the Nepean MP, who lost his wife, Chris, to cancer in April, as reported in the Herald Sun.

FEDERAL
Plebiscite confusion
Prime Minister Turnbull has attempted to clear up growing confusion about a national plebiscite on same-sex marriage by saying he wants a vote held by the end of the year and expects it to be compulsory. But Mr Turnbull appeared to open up a new front of uncertainty by saying for the first time that he wants the plebiscite process to be modelled on a referendum vote. He also indicated he will not put any pressure on his colleagues to vote according to the public’s verdict, saying the decision is a ‘matter for them’.

Referendums are compulsory and require a majority of voters in a majority of states to succeed - a high bar that Turnbull used to explain why he has put vote on the Republic on the too-hard-basket for now. And so there is time - there should be time to legislate for the plebiscite mechanism and have the plebiscite held before the end of the year, as reported in The Age.

Institution Payback
The Grattan Institute faces calls to return $30 million of taxpayers’ money after being accused of the ‘big government, big-taxing’ agenda. In Melbourne think-tank, which was vocal during the federal election campaign, was set up with two $15 million endowments from the federal and Victorian Labor Government in 2008. Liberal Party Victorian President Michael Kroger said the think-tank was not independent and the endowment should be handed back.

Grattan Institute CEO John Daley said it always had argued from both an increase in taxes and cuts in expenditure. Mr Daley said the institute was given an endowment rather than continuing funding, so government could not influence research. Prime Minister Turnbull’s wife, Lucy, is a director on the board. Unlike some of Australia’s other influential think-tanks including the ‘progressive’ Australia Institute and the ‘free market’ Institute of Public Affairs, the Grattan Institute States it is not aligned with any political persuasion, writes Anthony Galloway in the Herald Sun.

Prime trust bosses cleared
In a blow for the corporate watchdog, the full Federal Court has overturned a ruling that
directors of collapsed retirement village group Prime Trust, including two Liberal Party heavyweights, former federal health minister Michael Woodbridge and Peter Clarke, breached their duties. Federal Court Justice John Middleton ruled the five former directors of Australian Property Custodian Holdings, the responsible entity for Prime Trust, had not contravened the Corporations Act leading up to Prime’s 2007 float.

The Australian Securities and Investments Commission had alleged the directors failed to put the interests of Prime unitholders first. Justice Middleton noted: ‘The trial judge should not have concluded that any of the directors contravened the (Corporations) Act as alleged by ASIC.’ In a statement, Mr Clarke said he was ‘always confident he had acted appropriately’ in his directorship duties at Prime Trust. The full court awarded Mr Clarke’s costs against ASIC after he appealed the original judgment.

Labor Membership Scheme
A new Labor branch-stacking scandal has erupted with a flood of up to 1400 perspective ALP members in Julia Gillard’s former seat of Lalor and applications frozen in other suburban electorates. One source said this is recruitment on a skill that we have not seen in 20 years, with 400 applications submitted in just one weekend in the federal seat of Holt in Melbourne southeast, as reported in The Australian.

Agriculture
Farmer’s feud
The federal government has made $555 million in discount loans available to affected farmers and the Victorian government announced a $1.4 million support package. There have also been social media lead campaigns encouraging people to consume more brand-label dairy. The Age suggests about 2600 farms supply Murray Goulburn and about 1100 supply dairy. The dairy industry is slowly getting its act together.

Cries Over Spilt Milk
The Age reports Australia’s largest milk processor, Murray Goulburn Co-operative, has taken another hit, with Woolworths dumping it as its supplier of many of its private-label dairy products. Murray Goulburn said the loss of the bulk of the contract would cost it more than $100 million a year. Bega Cheese won the contract. Murray Goulburn brands include Devondale and Liddells. It has a 10-year deal to supply Coles’ private-label milk.

Murray Goulburn has had a horror time since MG Unit Trust listed on the sharemarket about a year ago: downgrading its profit guidance, dismaying farmers by slashing the price it pays for milk solids, losing key executives including its chief executive, and attracting a class action over alleged misleading statements. The financial viability of dairy farmers became a political issue during the election, with Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce announcing a $555 million loan scheme for farmers who supply major dairy processors Murray Goulburn and Fonterra. It will release its full-year results on August 24.

Farmers at a Loss
Farmers fear they will have to dump truckloads of fresh produce and lose millions of dollars as striking workers block the gates to major Coles warehouses and turn back deliveries. More than 640 workers at the Polar Fresh warehouse, which stores all the chilled food for Coles supermarkets statewide, have gone on strike indefinitely as part of a battle for better pay and conditions for the increasingly casuals workforce.

But concerns have risen among Coles and its suppliers after union members established additional blockades at a number of Coles’ back-up sites across Victoria, putting food deliveries at risk of rotting and becoming spoiled. The Age reports an editorial last month on Australian’s mixed attitudes to the kangaroo.


Arts
Musical Stars Getting Kids Active
The magical stars of Matilda I staggering set to motivate students to get active on the journey to school. Matilda’s Dusty Bursill and grouchymum Mrs Wormwood (Marika Aubrey) are helping VicHealth launch this year’s Walk to School campaign. The Pair took the first steps of the challenge outside Melbourne’s Princess Theatre. The annual event encourages Victorian primary school students to walk or ride to and from school for one month from October 3, as per the Herald Sun.

Education
Setting the Principle
Just days into his new job as principal of North Geelong Secondary College, Nick Adamou was calling the cops on his students. In the five years since he took the job, the public school has earned the reputation as a ‘grammar school’ among locals, with the VCE completion rate leaping from 50 to 93 per cent. Over the same period, student numbers have nearly doubled, and the school which was once avoided like the plague is now over-subscribed.

Mr Adamou believes that in revolutionising his school, he is offering a brighter future for his students. Mr Adamou also launched an accelerated program and a vocational course for non-English speaking students, and word quickly spread about changes at Geelong North. Families from Golden Plains, West Geelong, Manifold Heights, Essendon, Reservoir and Dandenong started enrolling their students.

The school still has a ‘long way to go’ in terms of achieving competitive grades, the principal said. But to have catapulted from a 50 per cent participation rate in VCE to achieving VCE marks that nudge the top ten per cent in the state, is no small feat, as per The Age.

Single-Sex Outperforms Co-Ed
Single-sex schools are outclassing their co-ed counterparts in Victorian Certificate of Education results — but are blowing a larger hole in parents’ finances in the process. The number of students achieving study scores at 40 or above was higher at sex-segregated schools last year, data from Victoria’s curriculum authority shows.

The Good Education Group analysis revealed that 8 per cent of VCE students at co-ed schools achieved 40+ study scores last year, in boys’ schools it was 14 per cent, and in girls’ schools 17 per cent. But experts caution that the factors influencing educational outcomes are complex. Single-sex schooling costs more on average than a co-ed education, figures to be published in the Good Schools Guide Victoria 2017 shows, as reported in the Herald Sun.

Portable Use Up
Victorian pupils are increasingly studying in temporary classrooms. Some schools are crowded up to 40 portable buildings and surging enrolments will worsen the growing pains. Many principals fear they will have to sacrifice play areas to squeeze in more portable. Education Department figures show 6345 relocated of building are in use in primary and high schools, up from about 5000 four years ago, as reported in the Herald Sun.

Grammar School Targets
A Melbourne School has been granted an exemption from Victoria’s Equal Opportunity Act, allowing it to target female enrolments to improve its gender balance. Ivanhoe Grammar School began as a boys’ school in 1915 with female students introduced 13 years ago. However, the school has struggled to attract female students, and in June 62% of its students were boys.

On Wednesday and the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal granted an application by the school under two sections of the 2010 Equal Opportunity Act, giving it exemption from prohibitions on gender-based discrimination in relation to education and services, as reported in The Age.

Funding Cut to Private Colleges
Victoria is trying to recover $41 million from 18 private colleges whose public funding has been cut off in the past year, following the state government’s ‘blitz’ on dodgy education providers. State Training and Skills Minister Steve Herbert sent an additional $9 million in payments to education providers was being withheld while investigations and colleges continued, as per The Australian Financial Review.

Vic Schools Results Plateau
Pupils have made no major gains in literacy and numeracy since 2012, despite a government push to make Victoria the ‘Education State’. The latest National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy results, showed no substantial improvement in any area in the past year – a picture that was mirrored nationwide. The Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority figures show year 3 writing was noticeably better than it was five years ago. ACARA chief Executive Robert Randall was concerned that results were flatlining, as reported in the Herald Sun.

Private Schools Funding Boost
Non-government schools in growing suburbs of cities have won $28 million to spend on upgrading buildings, as a part of the latest round of state education funding. Big winners among the independent and Catholics sector include new primary schools for Ballarat and Torquay North, and Casey grammar, which will get $1.3 million for a gym extension. Education Minister
James Merlino said it was crucial to improve all Victorian schools, including non-government facilities, as reported in the Herald Sun.

ENERGY

Telco on the Front Foot

The nation’s biggest telco is moving into home automation, launching an app that will allow Australians to turn on the heating or unlock the front door while they’re out and about. The telco expects to release two smart home packages, one focused on security and the other on automation and energy, with both to be available on 24-month contracts, as per The Age.

Electric Cars the Way of The Future

The Australian Financial Review reports of the predictions made by energy future forecaster Tony Seba, the one that we’ll all be driving around in electric cars in 10-15 years’ time raises the collective eyebrow of most. To recap, the Stanford University lecturer and self-proclaimed ‘chief disruptor’ was in Australia last week, expounding his view that by 2025 every new vehicle sold will be electric, with the remaining fleet of internal combustion engine cars rapidly on their way to quant anachronism.

Private car ownership will be a thing of the past, with the rise of car sharing and self-driving cars having turned personal transportation into a world of mobility-on-demand transactions. The forecast seems wildly optimistic for Australia, which is running so far behind the global curve in electric vehicle-take-up.

Coal Giant’s Ugly Conditions

A dispute over pay and working conditions at AGL Energy’s Loy Yang coal-fired power-station in the Latrobe Valley has escalated, with the Fair Work Commission again called in.

AGL has requested the termination of an enterprise agreement that has been rolled over for seven months amid tense negotiations with the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union. The 2012 pay and conditions deal was due to be released at the end of last year, but remains in place as required by law until either a new deal is struck or the Fair Work Commission agrees to axe it. Such is the lack of progress in talks with the unions that AGL claims it has ‘no choice’ but to request an end to the street trading permits issued to horse-drawn carriage operators by the City of Melbourne.

The latest call to ban horse-drawn carriages comes after a horse driven by an unlicensed operator smashed its head through the window of a Swanston St tram this month, sustaining minor injuries including a cut face. The horse stepped on to tram tracks and hit a northbound tram, shattering the driver’s window.

EVENTS

Major Events Get a New Look

Victoria’s senior major events executives overseeing the state’s biggest sporting, cultural and tourism draw cards such as the Grand Prix, White Night Melbourne and Winter Masterpieces, have departed. The departures follow a state government restructure that bought Tourism Victoria, the Victorian Major Events Company and the Melbourne Convention Bureau under the new umbrella of Visit Victoria.

VMEC chief executive Brendan McClements confirmed he was leaving the organisation. In May the state government announced Peter Bingeman, managing director of food and beverage conglomerate Mondelez International, had been appointed Visit Victoria’s chief executive officer, as reported in The Age.

Restaurants on Show

The prestigious World’s 50 Best Restaurants announced the 2017 awards will be held in Melbourne. The awards celebrate the best in global gastronomy and Attica in Ripponlea is currently the only Australian restaurant on the list. The annual awards are based on the votes of 1000 food writers, critics, chefs and restaurateurs from around the world, who base their choices on their best restaurant experiences of the past 18 months.

Tourism Australia managing director John O’Sullivan said the World’s 50 Best Restaurants has announced the 2017 awards will be held in Melbourne. The awards celebrate the best in global gastronomy and Attica in Ripponlea is currently the only Australian restaurant on the list. The annual awards are based on the votes of 1000 food writers, critics, chefs and restaurateurs from around the world, who base their choices on their best restaurant experiences of the past 18 months.

Restaurant Australia executive of ficer, as reported in The Age.

Melbourne Celebrates Centurion

The Mission to Seafarers building will celebrate its centenary next year, and a major exhibition on the organisation behind it has been launched. Mission to Seafarers building at 717 Flinders Street built in 1916. Dating to 1857, Mission to Seafarers is one of the city’s oldest charities as a ‘home away from home’ for seafarers, with an estimated 60,000 visiting the port annually.

About six years ago, thousands of items were found under the stage of the heritage-listed building, which is located near Flinders Wharf and the Victoria Police centre. Those objects have been currated for the new exhibition days, as per the Herald Sun.

NGV Featuring Star Line-up

The National Gallery of Victoria last month announced it had secured a world exclusive partnership to host the blockbuster show in 2018. Masterworks from MoMA will feature about 150 works from artists including Salvador Dali, Vincent van Gogh, Pablo Picasso, Jackson Pollock, Marcel Duchamp, Henri Matisse and Roy Lichtenstein. The NGV said it would be the gallery’s biggest ever Winter Masterpieces exhibition since the series began in 2004.

Small Business Festival

The Honourable Philip Dalidakis, MP, Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade kicked off the 11th year of the Victorian Small Business Festival on August 1. The Small Business Festival running from 1 to 31 August is an event not to be missed by business both small and large. Great ideas and great events with innovative speakers can be found all over Victoria with a substantial presence in regional areas.

The small business sector remains the backbone of Victoria’s rapidly evolving economy and the Andrew’s Labor Government is committed to helping small business thrive. More than 541,000 Victorian small businesses provide nearly half of the state’s private sector jobs and contribute a third of the state’s output in goods and services – making up 97 per cent of the state’s businesses.

Small Business Festival

The Mission to Seafarers building will celebrate its centenary next year, and a major exhibition on the organisation behind it has been launched. Mission to Seafarers building at 717 Flinders Street built in 1916. Dating to 1857, Mission to Seafarers is one of the city’s oldest charities as a ‘home away from home’ for seafarers, with an estimated 60,000 visiting the port annually.

About six years ago, thousands of items were found under the stage of the heritage-listed building, which is located near Flinders Wharf and the Victoria Police centre. Those objects have been currated for the new exhibition days, as per the Herald Sun.

NGV Featuring Star Line-up

The National Gallery of Victoria last month announced it had secured a world exclusive partnership to host the blockbuster show in 2018. Masterworks from MoMA will feature about 150 works from artists including Salvador Dali, Vincent van Gogh, Pablo Picasso, Jackson Pollock, Marcel Duchamp, Henri Matisse and Roy Lichtenstein. The NGV said it would be the gallery’s biggest ever Winter Masterpieces exhibition since the series began in 2004.

Small Business Festival

The Honourable Philip Dalidakis, MP, Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade kicked off the 11th year of the Victorian Small Business Festival on August 1. The Small Business Festival running from 1 to 31 August is an event not to be missed by business both small and large. Great ideas and great events with innovative speakers can be found all over Victoria with a substantial presence in regional areas.

The small business sector remains the backbone of Victoria’s rapidly evolving economy and the Andrew’s Labor Government is committed to helping small business thrive. More than 541,000 Victorian small businesses provide nearly half of the state’s private sector jobs and contribute a third of the state’s output in goods and services – making up 97 per cent of the state’s businesses.

Melbourne Celebrates Centurion

The Mission to Seafarers building will celebrate its centenary next year, and a major exhibition on the organisation behind it has been launched. Mission to Seafarers building at 717 Flinders Street built in 1916. Dating to 1857, Mission to Seafarers is one of the city’s oldest charities as a ‘home away from home’ for seafarers, with an estimated 60,000 visiting the port annually.

About six years ago, thousands of items were found under the stage of the heritage-listed building, which is located near Flinders Wharf and the Victoria Police centre. Those objects have been currated for the new exhibition days, as per the Herald Sun.

NGV Featuring Star Line-up

The National Gallery of Victoria last month announced it had secured a world exclusive partnership to host the blockbuster show in 2018. Masterworks from MoMA will feature about 150 works from artists including Salvador Dali, Vincent van Gogh, Pablo Picasso, Jackson Pollock, Marcel Duchamp, Henri Matisse and Roy Lichtenstein. The NGV said it would be the gallery’s biggest ever Winter Masterpieces exhibition since the series began in 2004.

Small Business Festival

The Honourable Philip Dalidakis, MP, Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade kicked off the 11th year of the Victorian Small Business Festival on August 1. The Small Business Festival running from 1 to 31 August is an event not to be missed by business both small and large. Great ideas and great events with innovative speakers can be found all over Victoria with a substantial presence in regional areas.

The small business sector remains the backbone of Victoria’s rapidly evolving economy and the Andrew’s Labor Government is committed to helping small business thrive. More than 541,000 Victorian small businesses provide nearly half of the state’s private sector jobs and contribute a third of the state’s output in goods and services – making up 97 per cent of the state’s businesses.

Melbourne Celebrates Centurion

The Mission to Seafarers building will celebrate its centenary next year, and a major exhibition on the organisation behind it has been launched. Mission to Seafarers building at 717 Flinders Street built in 1916. Dating to 1857, Mission to Seafarers is one of the city’s oldest charities as a ‘home away from home’ for seafarers, with an estimated 60,000 visiting the port annually.

About six years ago, thousands of items were found under the stage of the heritage-listed building, which is located near Flinders Wharf and the Victoria Police centre. Those objects have been currated for the new exhibition days, as per the Herald Sun.

NGV Featuring Star Line-up

The National Gallery of Victoria last month announced it had secured a world exclusive partnership to host the blockbuster show in 2018. Masterworks from MoMA will feature about 150 works from artists including Salvador Dali, Vincent van Gogh, Pablo Picasso, Jackson Pollock, Marcel Duchamp, Henri Matisse and Roy Lichtenstein. The NGV said it would be the gallery’s biggest ever Winter Masterpieces exhibition since the series began in 2004.

Small Business Festival

The Honourable Philip Dalidakis, MP, Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade kicked off the 11th year of the Victorian Small Business Festival on August 1. The Small Business Festival running from 1 to 31 August is an event not to be missed by business both small and large. Great ideas and great events with innovative speakers can be found all over Victoria with a substantial presence in regional areas.

The small business sector remains the backbone of Victoria’s rapidly evolving economy and the Andrew’s Labor Government is committed to helping small business thrive. More than 541,000 Victorian small businesses provide nearly half of the state’s private sector jobs and contribute a third of the state’s output in goods and services – making up 97 per cent of the state’s businesses.

Melbourne Celebrates Centurion

The Mission to Seafarers building will celebrate its centenary next year, and a major exhibition on the organisation behind it has been launched. Mission to Seafarers building at 717 Flinders Street built in 1916. Dating to 1857, Mission to Seafarers is one of the city’s oldest charities as a ‘home away from home’ for seafarers, with an estimated 60,000 visiting the port annually.

About six years ago, thousands of items were found under the stage of the heritage-listed building, which is located near Flinders Wharf and the Victoria Police centre. Those objects have been currated for the new exhibition days, as per the Herald Sun.
Early Origins of the Mission to Seafarers, which opens tomorrow. Mission CEO Andrea Fleming said the collection includes historic photos, letters, official documents, art works and artefacts such as a Peruvian Dino coin link bracelet and a brass and tiger-eye alms dish.

‘Back when the building was built, predominantly it welcomed tall ships of 60 to 80 seafarers; mainly English, Americans and Canadians,’ she said. ‘Today the Mission welcomes seafarers primarily from the Philippines, China, Russia, Ukraine, India, Burma, PNG and Indonesia.’

HEALTH

Homeless Children on the Rise
Hundreds of Victorian children are living in cars, caravan parks, dangerous rooming houses, and on the streets, as the young are worst hit by the state’s ballooning housing crisis. While the number of homeless people of all ages is on the rise, no group is more affected than children.

There was a 82 per cent increase in babies and young people aged up to 14 being registered as homeless in the two years to June last year, compared to a 33 per cent rise across the adult population. ‘The number of children in completely unacceptable accommodation is growing before our eyes,’ Council to Homeless Persons chief executive Jenny Smith said.

More than 7200 Victorian children were counted homeless in the year to mid-2015.

Public Transport not so Healthy
An international consortium of scientists and volunteers led by researchers in America are in the process of developing a snapshot of the bacteria found aboard a city’s public transport network. Monash University science student Andrew Gray, who led the Melbourne team, likened the project to each city taking a ‘selfie of its microbiome’, or bacterial ecosystem. To create Melbourne’s selfie, scientists and volunteers sampled seven train stations including South Yarra, Flinders Street, Southern Cross, Melbourne Central and North Melbourne last month. To make Sydney’s selfie, scientists and volunteers took samples from train stations including Circular Quay, Central, Wynyard and Town Hall last month, as per The Age.

Controversy Over State-Owned Traditional Land
A state government agency that registered a vast privately owned swath of land as an aboriginal sacred site has been accused of acting irresponsibly and lacking transparency. The Office of Aboriginal Victoria has deemed the 420ha area at Anakie, North of Geelong, culturally significant based on indigenous creation stories. ‘The matter was finally settled on the basis that OAV must now reconsider the listing within a minimum of six months on the basis that they must take into account all of the evidence available’ said former Geelong Mayor Ken Jarvis, as per the Herald Sun.

An appeal from the police and ambulance unions for reform of mental health treatment for their members is being considered by the State Government suggest the Herald Sun.

Nurse Pay Rise
Victoria’s nurses will receive pay rises of up to 20 per cent under an unprecedented eight-year deal reports the Herald Sun.

The State Government’s deal with the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation will provide for annual pay rises of up to 4% for the next three years, and average about 3.4% a year for the life of the agreement. Some nurses win the top echelon would receive raises of around 20% from 2019.

An entry-level nurse paid $54,000 today will earn about $67,000 by the end of the deal.

Health Victoria
Monthly newsletter publication features highlights in the health sector contributing to the local economy. The Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre is now fully operational within the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre building. A Victorian – first specialist clinic to treat patients allergic to the deadly sting of jack jumper ants has been established thanks to $210,000 boost from the state government.

Coming Up Short
Dozens of the promised 202 beds and chemo-therapy treatment chairs and the new Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre remain closed after the hospital was opened without the money to use them. Despite the $1 billion Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre being built to accommodate an increase in bed numbers for the
Peter Mac, the hospital has been provided a similar operating budget that allowed it to use just 112 beds at its old East Melbourne home last year.

The Herald Sun can also reveal the Royal Melbourne Hospital’s new ‘42-bed’ intensive care unit, opened as part of the VCCC project, is operating with a quarter of beds closed.

International Show
Victoria’s inaugural International Health Week showcased the state’s healthcare, health education, aged care and medical research sectors to key international business leaders.

Euthanasia Report
Dr Rodney Syme, medical specialist who over a long period of time has given many terminally ill people the means and knowledge to end their life suggests the Victorian Parliament’s upper house committee of inquiry into End of Life Choices has produced a remarkably comprehensive and erudite report. The public and institutional response to the inquiry has been greater than for any previous inquiry. There were 925 individual submissions and 112 from organisations. As the committee makes clear, end-of-life care should be patient-directed, with the suffering person making decisions based on their values and their own assessment of their suffering — not the assessment of a palliative care doctor who is adamantly opposed to what is an effective humane and dignified end to suffering. Although their own home is where more than 70 per cent of Victorians wish to die only 15 per cent do so. The Age

Emergency Rooms Swamped
Emergency departments in poorer, growing areas of Melbourne are being deluged with hundreds more patients than they were at the same time last year. Hospitals admitted more patients in the June quarter than ever before, as reported in The Age.

BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT

Strath Creek Reinvigoration
Strath Creek hasn’t been the same since the pub closed and the convenience store burned down. For the first time in 105 years there’s been no beer on tap. A crowdfunding page has been launched to reopen the pub. More than $440,000 is needed to upgrade the toilets, kitchen and cool room. To support the initiative search for the Strath Creek Brewery on Facebook, as reported in The Herald Sun

BHP Super-Portfolio
The elevation of BHP’s chief legal counsel Geoff Healy to head a super-portfolio covering non-financial risks within the company as its chief external affairs officer could be seen as a reaction to the tragic tailings dam failure at Samarco in Brazil, as reported in The Australian

ANZ Asia Investment
For almost a decade under its swashbuckling chief executive, Mike Smith, ANZ Banking Group was the most enthusiastic proponent of Australian business engagement with Asia. Smith spent billions building a financial network from Jakarta to Chongqing designed to put the bank at the forefront of Asia’s historic growth spurt. But ANZ’s Asian operations never delivered the profit growth he promised, and the bank’s new chief executive, Shayne Elliott, is pulling back from Asia, reining in its investment bank and toning down the combative internal culture that flourished under Smith reports the Australian Financial Review. Officially, ANZ denies it is backtracking. But even chairman David Cons oily acknowledges the bank will be more selective about where it does business under its new CEO

Retail Regulation Review
The Herald Sun reports regulation surrounding the retail sector is poised to be overhauled under a State Government review. The Small Business Regulation Review will call on people working in the sector to lead the agenda, suggesting what regulation may need to be looked at. Retail is the first of several industries in which small businesses operate to undergo a review, to pinpoint superfluous regulation that is deemed cumbersome, inefficient or time consuming.

Small Business, Innovation and Trade Minister Philip Dalidakis will announce the review at Federation Square when he launches the month-long Victorian Small Business Festival. The issues paper, to be available to small business retailers from August 1, will encourage them to get involved in the conversation. There are several roundtable events to be staged in Melbourne and regional Victoria.

Times Are A-Changin’
New ABC managing director Michelle Guthrie has used her first major speech to urge legacy media companies, such as the government broadcaster, Fairfax Media and News Corp, to embrace the likes of Facebook and Netflix. Ms Guthrie, a former Google and News Corp executive, said that partnerships are crucial in a fragmented media environment. ‘The idea that the customer has to come and find you and must play solely within your boundaries is now obsolete. Consumers want a seamless, networked universe,’ Ms Guthrie told the Creative Country Forum, run by News Corp’s The Australian.

Port of Melbourne Going Under the Hammer
The Australian reports China Merchants remains one of the front-runners to buy the $1.6 billion-plus Port of Melbourne. Meanwhile, China’s State Grid and Hong Kong’s Cheung Kong Infrastructure are in the final parties in the running to buy a 4 per cent stake in the NSW government’s electricity distribution business Ausgrid, which is likely to sell for close to $10bn, and China Huadian is widely speculated to be the buyer of the bulk of TPG Capital’s $3bn-plus business Alinta Energy. One theory is that FIRB would be unlikely to offer all of those in the pipeline the green light. Previously, it was thought that China’s Zhejiang Port, advised by CTICLCSA, was a contender. But it is now understood that party did not lodge an indicative bid. The port has a $4.5bn book value but is expected to sell for at least $6bn. It is up for sale by the Victorian government through Morgan Stanley and Flagstaff. Second-round bids are due in September after indicative bids were due last month. One source said that China Merchants would be unlikely to compete in the contest without an Australian partner, which may be brought in at a later stage of the contest.

Rail Project Bad Business
CBD residents will be forced to move out, city landmarks will be overhauled, Moomba, concerts, and even school exams could be disrupted by construction of the Melbourne Rail project. Planning documents predict the cost of business construction will top $178 million. But it is believed that sum could soar as owners of ritzy apartments and hotels and other businesses seek compensation and temporary accommodation or simply sell up.

An environment affects statement reveals more than 87 businesses employing more than 1100 people must be bought and bulldozed to make way for Metro’s twin tunnels and five underground stations, as reported in the Herald Sun

Life in the Fast Lane
Transurban Chief Scott Charlton has collected a hefty $6.3 million in pay and perks after
steering the tollway operator back into the black. And Mr Charlton has moved to reassure investors the company is not at risk of having its contract to run CityLink terminated early, according to the Herald Sun.

**INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

**Enterprise Agreement Fears**

Volunteers in the United Firefighters Union have briefed the new CFA enterprise agreement back by Premier Andrews. Volunteers at a meeting were expected to raise concerns about veto powers the union would get over key operational decision-making, under the proposed new CFA enterprise agreement. The previous CFA board was sacked in June for rejecting the draft agreement, which critics say will undermine volunteers and hamstring the decision making of fire chiefs, according to the Herald Sun.

**Union Walkout**

Two of Victoria's biggest tax-payer-funded projects were left deserted after the construction union ordered a membership to walk off over $155 million hospital redevelopment. CFMEU officials allegedly stormed onto the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital sites, refusing to provide right-of-entry permits. They told workers to walk off the job, claiming safety concerns. The union along with officials from Electrical Trades Union, also walked out at the $650 million Ravenhall Prison development in Melbourne's west.

The CFMEU kind of a concern with the way contractor Hansen Yuncken was handling the removal of asbestos at the hospital. But WorkSafe Victoria spokesman Peter Flaherty said it had not received any complaint that would warrant work to stop. It came on the same day the federal court found the CFMEU and its officials Joe Myles and Drew MacDonald flouted safety laws on Regional Rail Link Project 2014 by blocking trucks, as reported in the Herald Sun.

**Protestors Arrested, Tree Chopped**

Protesters who chained themselves to a 94-year-old lemon-scented gum tree in an attempt to stop VicRoads from sawing it down have been arrested and charged with trespassing. Now VicRoads said it was freed to continue with the works on the $1.3 billion CityLink Tulla Widening road project, as reported in the Herald Sun.

**JUSTICE & POLICE**

**Crime Stats a Cause for Concern**

What concerns me most—and it is a problem causing real harm and angst in our community—is that the behaviour of those who are offending is escalating at an alarming rate. All too often, we are hearing disturbing and confronting details about the latest home invasion or carjacking. These are the crimes of choice for some young offenders who have little concern for the terrifying a dramatic impact they have on their victims.

They simply have to stop. It’s important we keep this offending in perspective—the numbers are relatively small and, statistically, the chances of you falling victim to this crime a very low. But I know this is cold comfort for those who have been impacted because the effects often extremely dramatic, writes Graham Ashton in the Herald Sun.

**Knight Challenges Legislation**

Mass murderer Julian Knight is preparing a High Court bid to overturn the law that keeps him behind bars. The Hoddle Street killer has engaged top lawyers to fight the legislation introduced by the previous Liberal government that specifically aimed to cage him until you cannot reoffend. His move has angered the state’s top advocate for victims of crime.

It is now two years since Knight—who killed seven people in the 1987 massacre—became eligible for parole. But he cannot be considered for release by the Adult Parole Board because of the special legislation. In 2014, then Premier Denis Napthine announced this would be detained until he was either on his deathbed or too frail to harm others, as reported in the Herald Sun.

**Youth Crime Concerns**

Children aged just 15 of Victoria’s most prolific youth criminals. And girls are responsible for one in five youth crimes, startling new figures compiled for the Herald Sun have revealed. Chief commissioner Graham Ashton, said it was time for bold change to deal with youths being “locked out” of society and trapped on a crime treadmill so bad that some police were operating a ‘sausage machine... arresting the same, again and again’, as reported in the Herald Sun.

**Death in Custody**

A probe into the death in custody of gangland figure Hizir Ferman will look at claims he was smoking ice in his prison bed when he launched a vicious assault on two guards. A coroner’s inquiry will also investigate if Ferman was gassed to death by police tear gas as they tried to flush him out of his room, as reported in the Herald Sun.

**Middle Eastern Connection**

Police have made the first arrests leaking violent armed robberies by the Apex gang to organised Middle Eastern crime outfits. The teens, dressed in balacalvas and hoodies, arrived at the premises; in Sydney Road and Russell Street, in a stolen car and stormed in wielding hammers and sledgehammers. Police have alleged in a Children’s Court the bandits were paid a ‘substantial amount of money’.

Chief Commissioner Graham Ashton last month hosted a summit to work out new strategies to tackle a spike in violent offences by teens, including carjackings and increasingly brutal home invasions and robberies, according to the Herald Sun.

**George Pell in the Firing Line**

One of Australia’s most respected Catholics has lashed out at Victoria Police’s handling of the George Pell sex abuse allegations, reigniting a long-running feud about the way the force has treated the church. Father Frank Brennan has warned that ‘police obfuscation’ and ‘media titillation’ has the potential to undermine the child sex abuse royal commission and to inflict further damage on victims, as reported in The Australian.

**Carjacking Reform**

New carjacking laws that could carry a maximum prison sentence of 25 years might make crime data more precise but will do nothing to deter actual criminals, critics say. The state government intends to introduce the new changes of carjacking and aggravated carjacking, which would carry maximum penalties of 15 and 25 years, by the end of the year, it has been confirmed reports The Age.

**Accused Officers Reinstated**

Victoria Police officers accused of sexually harassing colleagues, having relationships with bikie gang members, taking illicit drugs and crashing their car while drink driving have been reinstated after it was found that biased and unjust disciplinary hearings led to their dismissals. Former police called for an urgent independent review of 144 internal police disciplinary hearings, in the wake of the Police Registration and Services Board making five findings in six months that indicated serious concerns about the judgments of Terry Purton, Victoria Police’s dedicated hearing officer.

Board president Andrea Lester found Mr Purton repeatedly dismissed or demoted officers because he failed to understand principles of procedural fairness and natural justice, scathing criticisms that call into question every hearing he has conducted since his appointment in February 2014, the group of experienced former police said, as reported in The Age.

**Decade High Crime Rate**

Victoria Police are pressing on with unprecedented modernisation despite an alarming increase in the crime rate and spot fires of community discontent caused by the push to reduce station opening hours. Crime Statistics Agency figures released to Fairfax Media show the crime rate per 100,000 people—the most accurate way to measure offending—has leapt to a decade high, and that family violence is not the only reason for the historic leap.

The Police Association says the crime statistics underline that the force’s plans to press ahead with an unprecedented transformation of policing has come at a cost to boots-on-the-ground policing. And they have questioned whether the community is behind the force’s push to seemingly abandon traditional policing by reducing opening hours at stations.

‘Technology will deliver some efficiencies, but all the cameras, tablets and radios in the world will not replace a police response and patrols necessary to prevent and respond to crime’ A more immediate change will be the introduction of a IT system that allows faster and more detailed access to police intelligence than ever, as reported in The Age.

**Police Pervert Justice**

Two Melbourne policemen have been charged with attempting to pervert the course of justice following a review by the Office of Public Prosecutions that has overruled a decision made by one of Victoria Police’s most senior officers, as reported in The Age.

**Youth Crime on the Rise**

The extent of violence in Victoria’s youth justice system may be worse than previously thought, with state government figures revealing a sharp spike in the number of serious incidents recorded in the past 12 months. In the wake of this week’s news about the mistreatment of children in the Northern Territory, an examination of Victoria’s juvenile detention system has found a number of separate concerns, including the questionable use of lockdowns, the high proportion of children on remand, and the considerable growth in the number of ‘Category 1’ reports involving allegations of assault and other critical incidents, as reported in The Age.

**Youth Crime on the Rise**

Ways to tackle Victoria’s youth crime woes will be put to the government within weeks, following a landmark Youth Summit. Examining police involvement in schools, raising the age threshold for state care and identifying which support services aren’t working are among ideas raised by attendees. Top cop Graham Ashton, who called the unprecedented meeting of 200 community leaders, vowed it was just the start of addressing a surge in more serious and violent
youth offending. The summit, supported by the Herald Sun, followed a record number of arrests of young people in Victoria over the past year.

Residents Rally Against Crime Wave
Crime rates have become so bad in Caroline Springs, local say, that they have taken to calling the suburb ‘Criminal Springs’. More than 300 residents rallied at town centre’s recreation reserve, according to the Australian’s Thursday Age.

Labor Links to Polling Thuggery
Police suspect a close friend of Bill Shorten vandalised polling places in the battleground seat of Melbourne Ports along with other Labor Right fractional powerbrokers on the morning of the federal election. Andrew Landeryou, David Asmar, George Droutsas and Dean Sheriff were arrested for allegedly vandalising Greens and Liberal polling material at polling stations from Elwood to Port Melbourne, and allegedly driving in volunteers who tried to stop them.

All four men were heavily involved in the election campaign of Michael Danby, Labor MP from Melbourne Ports, who has been re-elected, with a reduced margin. Mr Landeryou, a controversial former blogger, is a personal and political confidant of Mr Shorten, while another close ally of the Labor leader, Mr Asmar, has been linked to a huge branch-stacking scandal, according to the Australian.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
City Road Revamp
A tree-lined median strip, more separated bike lanes and three extra traffic lights will be a part of a major council makeover the proposed for busy City Rd in Southbank. Six slip lanes will also be removed and peak-hour commuters will endure slower travel times. More trees and fewer on-street carparks are also included in the City of Melbourne City Rd masterplan to be considered by councillors, as reported in the Herald Sun.

Election Results Delay
Voters in October’s council elections in Victoria may have to wait up to six days for a result. Changes to voting procedures at the Victorian Electoral Commission mean votes will be sorted and counted for most councils from the Monday after the October 22 poll. Elections for 72 of 78 councils will be conducted by postal ballots. The cut-off date for posting those votes will be 6pm on October 21.

that all votes won’t be sorted and tallied until later the following week, according to the Herald Sun.

Council Corruption Crackdown
Local council bosses will be under pressure to report suspected corruption under legislation to take effect this year. Council chiefs and heads of Victorian government agencies will be required to notify the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission of their concerns, including misconduct claims.

The Department of environment, land, water and planning has written the council chiefs and other senior executives to seek responses to draft directions for mandatory reporting. ‘IBAC has asked the department to engage with key agencies in its portfolio seek feedback on whether you believe the guidance is robust, clear and useful in assisting agencies in meeting this new obligation,’ the department’s letter read.

Mandatory corruption reporting will start from December 1, under the recently passed Integrity and Accountability Legislation Amendment Bill. It is understood that many council chiefs are turning to seminars for advice. John Ridley from Clifton Group, which runs corruption prevention training, said local government had long been an IBAC target, as reported in the Herald Sun.

Sensitive Spot for Drivers
Footy fans, shoppers and diners will be the target of new parking sensors that a local council admits will net it a significant revenue increase. The City of Yarra, which has made almost $50 million in parking fees and fines in just two years, will roll out 4000 of the sensors later this year. The council covers popular parking spots for MCG fans, shopping spots on Bridge Rd, Richmond, and eateries on Victoria Street, Abbotsford, as reported in the Herald Sun.

ME/LLBOREEN
Dilapidated Office Goes for Big Bucks
A dilapidated Collins Street office on the street’s busy Paris end has been snapped up by a Chinese investor for more than $18 million, reflecting a tight 1.43 per cent yield. The transaction at 10-12 Collins Street continues a stellar run for Melbourne’s premium office Boulevard, which has seen $306 million in assets (under $31 million in value) change hands over the past year with yields plummeting. It follows the sale of the similar era building at 14-16 Collins Street to Sotheby’s auction house, as reported in the Age.

Artefacts Recovered
Priceless World War I artefacts have been salvaged from a blazer at an old courthouse in Melbourne’s west. The huge fire engulfed the Moonee Ponds heritage listed courthouse, on Kelawai Ave and Mount Alexander Rd last month, as reported in the Herald Sun.

Nissan Terminates Footy Show Contract
Global car giant Nissan will terminate its sponsorship deal with The Footy Show at the end of the 2016 AFL season in the wake of Sam Newman’s scathing rebuke of Age journalist Caroline Wilson. Nissan has been a major sponsor of both the AFL and NRL versions of The Footy Show since 2009.

Weak Labour Market Cause of Financial Stress
The share of households who believe they will be unable to service their debts has risen significantly, a new survey suggests, as many struggle to get enough hours at work and wage growth stagnates. Despite record low interest rates, research from industry fund-owned bank ME suggests there is a growing minority of borrowers who face financial stress because of the weak labour market. Its survey of 1500 people found that of the two-thirds of households with a mortgage, 10 per cent said they would be ‘unable’ to meet their minimum loan repayments over the next year. The Age.

An ABC of inclusiveness
New ABC managing director Michelle Guthrie used her first major speech to vow that she will put serving ‘each and every Australian’ at the heart of the public broadcaster’s agenda.

Speaking to The Australian’s Creative Country conference on innovation and creativity, she will address persistent criticisms that the ABC has lost the middle ground by marking a shift towards an era of inclusiveness.

Petrol Price Upsurge
Melbourne drivers have been hit with a massive petrol price hike condemned by the RACV as unjustified.

Scores of Melbourne service stations jacked up the cost of unleaded in late July from 99.9c to 129.9c a litre – one of the biggest spikes on record. RACV senior engineer Nick Platt said the hip pocket whack was not justified, with the new peak a massive 28.6c a litre higher than the wholesale cost. ‘That margin is way too big,’ Mr Platt said. He urged drivers to fill up at those service stations.
that still have lower prices, as many were expected to also shift to the new peak by the weekend.

Possible Pedestrian Precinct
Lord Mayor Robert Doyle has branded the intersection of Elizabeth and Flinders Streets, which is a major entry point to the city, a shameful ‘ugly duckling’. ‘It’s one of our crime hotspots,’ Cr Doyle told the Herald Sun. Councillors will consider a report proposing to ban southbound cars on Elizabeth St between Flinders Lane and Flinders St. The north-bound traffic lane on Elizabeth St would remain.

It is also expected that the Elizabeth St tramline would eventually be extended left into Flinders St, under works associated with the Melbourne Metro Rail Project. The plan would also allow for the creation of a landscaped pedestrian precinct in what is a notoriously sleazy area, frequented by beggars and people sleeping rough. But council is being urged to ban all cars from Flinders to Bourke St. RACV public policy manager Brian Negus said this would link to the Bourke St Mall and Swanston St to create a big U-shaped pedestrian-friendly zone in the middle of town. ‘The council’s made a good start but let’s push the boundaries’.

A Wonderful City, Regardless of Our Critics
Professor Michael Buxton in the Herald Sun seems almost to be appealing from Melbourne to lose its reputation as the world’s most liveable city. It is, as though he has inside information. I wonder if he has made a submission to The Economist to archive such an outcome? Prof Buxton is a planning professor at RMIT. He is a man of strong opinions, but not an individual that has a reputation for flexibility. That is fine; he, like any of us is entitled to his own opinion, but I want to put the different slant on Melbourne, regardless of the result of The Economists assessment.

Melbourne has long had a wonderful reputation as a cosmopolitan city. The arts precinct in and around Saint Kilda Rd, in The education precinct around Melbourne University and RMIT, medical research precinct that is the envy of the world, and the sporting precinct around and beyond the MCG. Not to mention the laneways of Melbourne, which have been restored to their former glory.

Melbourne, because of its strong support of it is multicultural community, has an unchallengeable variety of restaurants throughout the city and its surrounds. Governments keep investing in new facilities, for instance the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre at the cost of more than $1 billion we have wonderful health research facilities where innovation and invention have produced many world-first drugs or products such as Cochlear ear implant, writes Jeff Kennett in the Herald Sun.

PLANNING
Spring Street and Lord Mayor Butt Heads Over Market Revamp
Politics has engulfed the proposed $250 million revamp of the Queen Victoria Market, with the planning minister and Lord Mayor trading barbs on the overhaul. Melbourne City Council wants to fund a major transformation of the market by developing at least two high-rise towers on sites adjacent to the 140-year-old city institution.

Planning Minister Richard Wynne visited the market to express his concerns over the proposed redevelopment, which would see a tower of at least 30 storeys - and perhaps much higher - being built next door. That tower would be built on the ‘Murro site’, a group of shops and the old Mercat Cross Hotel, which sit at the corner of Therry and Queen street, as per The Age.

Tunnel Undermining Safety
Melbourne’s Town Hall building, its refurbished City Baths and the iconic Princes Bridge over the Yarra all risk being left in structurally unsound condition by planned rail tunnelling works, the Melbourne City Council warns. The celebrated view of St Paul’s Cathedral, framed between the eastern and western ‘shards’ of Federation Square, would also be ruined by a proposed new railway station entrance and should not be built, the council argues.

The council has detailed a long list of concerns about the impact the planned $100 billion Melbourne Metro rail tunnel will have on the city environment, in its submission to the project’s Environment Effects Statement. These include the unknown and ‘not acceptable’ effect on traffic from planned road closures, permanent damage to public parklands along St Kilda Road and the avoidable acquisition of people’s homes and business premises in Kensington, as reported in The Age.

Slow Movement on Boom Gates
Two near misses more than four years ago triggered an urgent upgrade of a level crossing where a truck and a train collided last month. But boom gates will not be installed at the Phalps Rd crossing in Pirron Yallock, near Colac, until the end of this year, forcing authorities to defend the time it has taken to improve safety reports the Herald Sun.

Corangamite MP Sarah Henderson said she was ‘deeply concerned’ about the government’s ‘failure to fast-track the upgrade’ ‘The Victorian Government must urgently commence construction of this upgrade. We cannot risk another tragic accident’, she said. Rail safety investigators scour the scene as VL/Line chief executive Gary Liddle said it was unclear what went wrong.

Nylex Refurbishment
A $1 billion redevelopment featuring restoration of the famous Nylex clock is in jeopardy due to intervention by heritage authorities. Owner of the Malt District site claims that the clock will probably stay switched off forever if Heritage Victoria wins a bid to have the silos underneath protected from demolition. Owner and developer Caydon wants to pull down the 1960s-era silos and make the restored clock and sign the centrepiece of a 19-storey apartment tower and rooftop bar as part of a mini-suburb, as reported in the Herald Sun.

Building High in Low-Rise Area
It would be the highest apartment tower ever built in a largely low-rise area, where the residents are well-organised and experienced at fighting what they call ‘inappropriate development’. Which is what makes a recent application for a 17-level tower on a strip of land between the genteel suburbs of North Fitzroy and Clifton Hill worth noting.

The former light industrial and commercial area on Queens Parade in Fitzroy North is wedged between Hoddle Street and busy Heidelberg Road, and is next to a major tram and bus interchange, as well as the Hurstbridge and South Morang train lines. Its mixed-use zoning is designed to encourage medium and high-density development, as reported in The Age.

Sky Rail Construction Commences
Residents are bracing for two years of construction chaos on the controversial sky rail project, as major work starts within weeks. The Level Crossing Removal Authority has spent weeks digging trenches and chopping down historic trees to clear space to construct 8km of elevated rail on the Cranbourne-Pakenham line, as reported in the Herald Sun.

Asciano boss’s big call
Outgoing Asciano boss John Mullen has attacked the federal government’s lack of commitment to investing in rail infrastructure and has called on both major parties to fully commit to building the dedicated freight line linking Melbourne and Brisbane, known as inland rail. Mr Mullen’s call came as Transport Minister Darren Chester said the Coalition’s promise of completing the inland rail project by 2023 would not be met, and that all of the almost $900 million allocated so far would not actually build any track.

The funding is only for preparatory work. As Australia faces soaring growth in road freight volumes, Mr Mullen said the emphasis on road investment ‘will not address the long-term freight challenge facing our nation’, as reported in The Australian.

Source: www.ansa.gov.au
No High-Speed Rail Plans
A high-speed rail line from Brisbane to Melbourne is not a sensible priority for Australia and the Turnbull government has no plans to spend billions building one, Major Projects Minister Paul Fletcher said. Australia’s efficient airline system and well-situated airports in city centres has limited the need for a high-speed rail network, said H52 chairman David Higgins. ‘For high-speed rail in Australia you’ve got to think of the urban areas and what they can contribute,’ said Mr Higgins. ‘I’d start there as part of a larger national plan.’ As reported in The Australian Financial Review.

Falling Apartment Boom
Victoria’s ‘turbo-charged’ apartment boom will fall by as much as a third over the coming year as residential building drops 17 per cent, a report predicts. The BIS Shrapnel Building in Australia 2016-2031 report predicts new-home building across the country will fall by 16 per cent in the
"The significant problems we face today cannot be solved by the level of thinking we were at when we created them."

Albert Einstein
Rosy Future for Collingwood Arts Precinct

Melbourne’s freshest arts destination won’t be finished for another two years at least, but Marcus Westbury – the man charged with bringing it to life – can’t wait to show it off. The Age reports the future of the Collingwood Arts Precinct is all but assured after the state government announced $3 million new funding for its completion by 2019, with another $4.5 million from private donors. The former Liberal government has already spent $4 million on the site.

Carriage Safety Risk

The Age reports objections from the Melbourne Metro Rail Authority look like they might have reined in the carriages. The authority confirmed it has told Melbourne City Council the carriages would present a safety risk during construction of the tunnel and station works in Swanston Street.

Small Room Boom

Office development in the inner city is losing out to residential and a busy truck route that links with the Chandler Highway, as reported in The Age.

More Sky Rails

Leafy Alphington is the latest Melbourne suburb that could see a new rail bridge soar across a main road and above homes as part of the state government’s $5.6 billion level crossing removal program. The prospect of living within view of a rail bridge has angered some residents, who fear it will be ugly and intrusive. But the bridge would avoid the need to acquire homes on Grange Road, which is residential and a busy truck route that links with the Chandler Highway, as reported in The Age.

Luxury Stay in the Big House

Hotel guests will be able to stay in cells of former Pentridge Prison B Division that will once the sight of bashings, escapes and murder, under a new development. Anthony Goh, spokesperson for Pentridge site owner Shayher Group, said the new Adina Apartment Hotel will ‘offer a chance to stay in a historic converted prison cell’ as ‘a unique accommodation experience’.

He said some other cells would be retained in their jail-era condition and be re-opened for community viewing. Moreland Counsellor Sue Bolston, a member of the Pentridge Community Action Group, said letting people stay in cells was treating Pentridge ‘like a theme park’. And she said the new tower’s height would ‘totally overshadow the Heritage buildings’, as reported in The Age.

Flooding to be Stopped by Tank

A $3 million water tank is being floated as a solution to flooding in the city. The city of Melbourne is installing that two-million-litre concrete tank beneath Carlton’s Lincoln Square to collect water ‘at the top of that catchment’. It should downgrade the flood risk Elizabeth St from extreme to high, as reported in The Herald Sun.

Heritage Building to Get a Facelift

The T&G building at the Paris end of Collins St will be refurbished and its heritage facade spruced up as part of an major redevelopment expected to lower top-end retailers. The 1928 building, on the corner of Russell St, is listed by the National Trust for being historically significant as one of Melbourne’s first large-volume office buildings. It was voted the city’s ‘most beautiful building’ in a competition run by the Herald newspaper in 1930.

Throwing Money Down the Drain

The rate of change in digital technology can render new innovations obsolete within a couple of years, but one of Victoria’s public water companies isn’t due to finish its IT upgrade until 2026. Victoria has a long and embarrassing history of information technology debacles, and according to the state’s financial watchdog, the cost of IT projects in government agencies and entities has ballooned to more than $3 billion a year.

Now, the state government has introduced a ‘digital dashboard’ to track the progress of public IT projects. It shows that many taxpayer-funded systems are suffering cost and scheduling blowouts. The City West Water Arrow program is now expected to cost almost $120 million despite a planned price tag of about $104 millions. The project began in 2011 but is now due for completion in 2026, as reported in The Age.

Tower Approval Blitz

A building approval blitz has seen at least $2 billion worth of CBD towers accepted by the state government - at significantly lower heights. Four more CBD towers were approved for construction in June. However, some heights were significantly scaled back to comply with tougher inner-city planning controls. The tallest is $150 million, 68-level building at 280 Queen Street, which has 533 units, a gym, a spa, and a cinema, as reported in The Herald Sun.

Fighting Irish

Australia’s oldest Irish club is facing an uncertain future over a fresh push to sell the CBD headquarters. The Celtic Club, on the corner of Queen and Latrobe Streets, has been used by Irish expatriates since 1887, hosting regular cultural, heritage and sporting events. But splits have emerged over the clubs future. Club president, former city councillor Ryan Shanahan, back plans to sell the building to Malaysian developer Beulah International for $25.6 million. A permit for a 48-storey tower runs out in October next year, and new planning rules could limit future plans, potentially reducing the site value. Mr Shanahan said cash from the cell would buy new premises and payoff $2.5 million in debt, as reported in The Herald Sun.

Victoria’s Green Investment

Victoria has become the first state issue Green Bonds, raising $300 million to finance new and existing projects. It took only 24 hours for the scheme, launched on July 18, to be fully subscribed. Seventeen investors including insurance companies and fund management firms signed up. The money will go towards the state government investment in energy efficiency, renewable energy generation, low-carbon public transport and water treatment. Projects expected to be undertaken include the rollout of LED traffic lights, the construction of mini-hydroelectric power stations and low-carbon buildings. They will help fun parts of Melbourne Metro tunnel, new trains, Mernda rail extension and the development of a large-scale renewable energy power station. Treasurer Tim Pallas said the Green Bonds market was rapidly growing and the taxpayer would not be disadvantaged by these arrangements.

Treasury Corporation of Victoria, were the first state or federal government-issued bonds anywhere in the world to receive international Climate Bond Certification, as reported in the Australian Financial Review.

Jury Weighs in on Planning

The East West Link and a train line to Melbourne airport should be built to ease congestion, the State Government’s own citizen juries say. The recommendations of the people’s panels, set up by infrastructure Victoria, also include diversion...
Frank Dixon has revealed to a leading men’s which he says was the result

The AFL’s identity crisis deepened last month when

Terror Threatens MCG

AFL Pushing ‘Left-Wing Dogma’

AFL Needs to Stick to Football

SPORT

The AFL’s cynical use of the game to push left-wing dogma not only affects many fans but it also leaves the game exposed to all sorts of ugliness that has no place in football. The AFL’s enthusiasm for embracing every daft socially ‘progressive’ policy or principle has distracted it from its core business: football. Australians have finely tuned bulldust detectors, the AFL would be well advised to quit the hypocrisy and grandstanding that continues to damage its standing in the community, writes Rita Panahi in the Herald Sun.

Facelift for Famous Home

The landmark Pole House on the Great Ocean Road has been transformed. The famous home on a strong steel stilt was built in the 1970s by daring engineer and architect Frank Dixon, Who died in 2013. One of the most important design factors was the need to stand the gale force winds that whip up from the West, as per the Herald Sun.

SECRET SENSORS SPY ON PASSENGERS’ MOVEMENTS

About 81 trams and 42 stops from Malvern to the city, including St Kilda Rd and Swanston St through to Melbourne University, there is a hi-tech gadget installed that determines how long commuters are on a tram, how far they travel and pinpoints where they board and get off. Tram passengers could be offered a ‘frequent flyer’ scheme with a loyalty program offering free trips, should Yarra Trams want to go beyond data collection. Yarra Trams is trialing the use of beacon technology to gain a better understanding of usage patterns. The Herald Sun can reveal the beacons, which use non-identifiable data and Bluetooth, were quietly rolled out on parts of Melbourne’s tram network in March with the popular tram TRACKER app adjusted to allow the technology to be used.

Uber to be Legalised

Victoria’s Labor government plans to legalise ride-sharing services such as Uber under prompting from the Sex and Liberal parties, while in NSW the Labor and opposition is trying to get Uber drivers a minimum wage and sick leave, superannuation and other benefits. The AFR

Drivers Warned

The Age reports despite the installation of a huge new warning system, yet another truck has ploughed into the Montague Street Bridge.

OFF the Rails

Patience safety will be compromised and highly sensitive hospital equipment and research programs endangered under current plans for the Melbourne Metro Rail project. Destruction, noise, dust and vibration resulting from the $11 billion building project will affect emergency departments, and pregnant women, cancer sufferers and other critically ill patients, hospital leaders warn in a submission to government.

Vibrations from underground drilling for the $km new tunnel route, and from trains travelling beneath Parkville, could even put the Royal Melbourne Hospital’s ageing buildings at risk of collapse. The description by Victoria’s leading medical centres in Parkville precinct is detailed in 33-page submission to a government-appointed committee which is investigating the tunnel’s impact.

The submission from the Royal Melbourne and Royal Women’s hospitals, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute and University High School says the Melbourne Metro Rail Authority has failed to recognise how much some patient safety will be compromised, as reported in the Herald Sun.

STENCILS UNCORK CONGESTION

It only took a few painted stickers on the road surface to uncork one of Melbourne’s worst tram bottlenecks. Smith Street, so long a nightmare crawl for commuters travelling into the city on tram route 86, has begun to flow more freely for tram passengers, though perhaps not motorists. The reason: a series of four bright yellow stickers have appeared on the roadside, directing motorists away from the tram tracks and into the left-hand lane in the morning peak.

ViRoads added the stickers to the northern end of Smith Street, between Queens Parade and Alexandra Parade, in February as a six-month trial. The stickers are in Melbourne first and part of a project to improve tram travel times.
in the peak and thereby encourage more people to ditch the car for a tram. It is hoped that enough people will make the switch to reduce congestion on the roads, as reported in The Age.

**Headache for Footy Fans**

Trains will not stop at Carnegie and Murrumbeena stations throughout September, including the first three weeks of the footy finals, as work begins on the sky rail project. Murrumbeena and Carnegie stations are both being elevated and rebuilt as part of a Labor's level crossing removal project along the Cranbourne-Pakenham line, as reported in The Age.

**Tram’s to Head West**

Could trams be due for a come back in Melbourne’s west? Plans for a big new toll road, of all things, suggest they are, with CityLink owner Transurban warned not to let its final design for the Western Distributor interfere with long-term plans for a new tram route to the western suburbs, according to The Age.

**Night Network Trial Extended**

The trial of 24-hour public transport on weekends will be extended until June next year, to examine its effect on major events including the Austrian Open. While the government has not committed to permanent all-night weekend public transport, it says the policy is ‘hugely popular’, with an average of 35,000 using Night Network on weekends. However, opposition public transport spokesman David Hodgett used figures released by the government under freedom of information depend a less compelling story of the all-night network’s success. Some buses were driving around after midnight with only one passenger on board, according to a snapshot of the bus Night Network’s passenger in the early hours of Saturday, April 16, according to The Age.

**Commuters Angry Over Plans to Ease Congestion**

Tree-changers whose V/Line commute is already an hour long are up in arms at a proposal that could see them dumped at Pakenham and having to board a second train on their daily commute. The Public Transport Minister has been forced to hose down the concerns, saying the government has no plans to make V/Line commuters juggle to car parks at Melbourne suburban railway stations under a radical plan to ease parking congestion. Many station carparks are full from early morning, often because non-commuters taking up spaces. At the Municipal Association of Victoria members’ forum, Metro Trains Boss Andrew Lezala was quizzed about the prospect of only allowing myki commuters into car parks.

**Myki-Only Carparks May Ease Congestion**

Myki cardholders should have exclusive access to car parks at Melbourne suburban railway stations under a radical plan to ease parking congestion. Many station carparks are full from early morning, often because non-commuters taking up spaces. At the Municipal Association of Victoria members’ forum, Metro Trains Boss Andrew Lezala was quizzed about the prospect of only allowing myki commuters into car parks.

**Taxi Drivers Overregulated**

Victorian taxi drivers are being ‘regulated out of existence’ while Uber sits back and ‘rubs its hands with glee’, According to former Taxi Services Commissioner Graham Samuel Mr Samuel savaged the way the state governments have treated the taxi industry on radio station 3AW, arguing present laws are ineffective and put taxi driver is a significant disadvantage compared to people who work Uber. The former commissioner says a previous government report into the taxi industry, headed by competition star Alan Fels. Did not mention ever ones and was ‘out of date’ the day it was issued, as reported in The Age.

**Ford Utes To Pay A Higher Toll**

The Herald Sun can reveal thousands of Ford ute drivers will have to fork out more than their Holden counterparts to travel on toll roads in Victoria. EastLink and CityLink have admitted to undercharging many Ford ute drivers, who will now face increase tolls. But owners of Holden utes remain untouched. VicRoads classifies Holden utes as a ‘car’ but a Ford Falcon ute as a ‘light commercial vehicle’ due to differences in construction design. EastLink communications adviser Kate De Clercq said a recent technology upgrade found that “Victorian toll road operators have identified a small percentage of customers are using the wrong class of tag in the vehicle and may not be paying the required toll”

**WELFARE**

**Homeless Problem Rises**

A staggering increase in the number of people sleeping rough in the CBD has prompted the council to almost triple its annual homelessness budget in an attempt to stem the crisis. The unprecedented funding commitment, which includes cash for a 24-hour safe centre, coincided with the monumental clean-up of Melbourne’s largest and longest-running rough-sleeping camp. Dozens of police and council workers descended on Enterprise Park following concerns over ballooning collections of furniture and camping equipment in the public area alongside the Yarra River. Last month, the council issued homeless people with notices to leave the camps following reports of drug use and storage of knives at the site. The Lord Mayor and homeless services are concerned some people have been turning down temporary or crisis accommodation – saying they will only move for permanent homes, as reported in The Age.

**Gambling Cash Cow**

Gamblers have tipped more than $50 billion into Victoria’s poker machines since their 1992 introduction, prompting calls for urgent reform. The Andrew’s Government, which will pocket more than $11 billion in poker tax revenue this year, is now facing calls to ‘repent’ and crack down on the phones. The Herald Sun can reveal the money lost on Victoria’s 26,330 electronic gaming machines in the 24 years to last June totals $50 billion. AFL Troubles

A formal complaint against the AFL was lodged with the Human Rights Commission by representatives of the deaf community. AFL spokesman Patrick Keane said the AFL was considering its options to be more inclusive, including displaying the anthems lyrics as screen text when it was sung, as reported in the Herald Sun.

Let’s be tough on all homophobes

Andrew Bolt of the Herald Sun asks ‘How about throwing out the ambassadors of Iran and Saudi Arabia too? Now that would send a real message about homophobia’.

**Donor Drop Fears**

Victoria’s Guide Dogs charity fears it will lose millions of dollars in donations due to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Guide Dogs Victoria chief executive Karen Hayes told The Age the organisation was ‘extremely’ worried people will wrongly believe it will be fully funded. The organisation will lose 8 per cent of government funding under the NDIS. And with only half of its client base of more than 2000 people qualifying for NDIS funding, donations remain crucial. Ms Hayes said Guide Dogs Victoria was supportive of the NDIS, which gives greater freedom to use is to choose services, as reported in The Age.

**Police Crackdown On Squatters**

Squatters removing to inner-city Melbourne homes after the east-west link was dumped having ordered by police to leave, as reported in the Herald Sun.

**Harbouring Ideas**

Docklands workers and residents will have a special place to meditate and share ideas when a new creative hub opens. The Knowledge Market at Victoria Harbour will host education providers, start-ups and creative industries. Landlease project director Tim Campbell said it would provide a unique marketplace for the exchange of skills, tools and knowledge across culture, food, art, education and personal and professional development. The space is that 892 Burke St, next to Library at the Dock, and is near firms such as Facebook, NAB, ANZ and Myer, as reported in the Herald Sun.

**Doing it Rough**

The Melbourne City Council and the Salvation Army have confirmed that several toilets in the inner city have at times been taken over by rough sleepers, even though alternative accommodation is available to them, as reported in the Herald Sun.

**Public Housing Probe**

Public housing tenants who have been forced to pay for works they are not liable for are being urged to come forward in a probe of the system. The Victorian Ombudsman has launched an investigation into how the Office of Housing determines and pursues maintenance debts, as reported in the Herald Sun.

**SOCIETY**

**All Hands on Deck**

STS Tenacious is a ‘mixed-ability’ vessel, fitted out so any landlubber can join the crew, including those who are blind or in wheelchairs. Tenacious arrived in Williamstown from Sydney, Having sailed from its home base of Southampton via the Caribbean, Fiji and Noumea. The largest operating wooden-hulled ship in the world, Tenacious was built 16 years ago by the Jubilee Sailing Trust. Tenacious Will be based in Australia for about a year, as reported in the Herald Sun.

**VALE**

**Last Names in Capitals**

ALLEN, John, World War II Veteran who’s war experiences were documented in Michael Veitch’s book, Heroes of the Skies. He passed away aged 94.
18 July to 27 August 2016

**BRADLEY, David,** a founding member of the Department of English at Monash University who inspired generations of students.

**MILLAR, Fred,** one of the first commercial lawyers to make the shift to the board room, and go on to become one of the leading Australian business figures of his age. He passed at the age of 93.

**RENOUF, Susan,** socialite 15.07.1942 – 15.7.2016 - Former Liberal leader Andrew Peacock led tributes to his flamboyant former wife who lost a battle with ovarian cancer at age 74. Daughter Ann Peacock posted a photo of her mother with her and her sisters, Caroline and Jane, as children on Instagram, wishing her a happy birthday.

**STEWART, Donald,** over many decades, Donald Stewart devoted his no-nonsense fine mind, understanding of human nature and personal courage to pursuing a ‘hatred of corruption’.

The man who started out as a young police officer on the streets of post-war Sydney and became a barrister, judge, royal commissioner and inaugural chairman of the National Crime Authority, died on July 15, aged 87.

**STEWART, Donald,** former project and property manager for the National Trust of Australia (Victoria).

**HURLEY, Thomas Victor,** Bar Roll No 1548. He was for many years the editor of the Victorian Administrative Reports and the High Court and Federal Court notes distributed to the constituents of the Law Council of Australia. He also edited the Federal Court judgements in the Law Institute Journal. He passed aged 87.

**STRACHAN, Scott,** former project and property manager for the National Trust of Australia (Victoria).

**SOURCE: Wikimedia Commons**

BRADLEY, David, a founding member of the Department of English at Monash University who inspired generations of students.

MILLAR, Fred, one of the first commercial lawyers to make the shift to the board room, and go on to become one of the leading Australian business figures of his age. He passed at the age of 93.

RENOUF, Susan, socialite 15.07.1942 – 15.7.2016 - Former Liberal leader Andrew Peacock led tributes to his flamboyant former wife who lost a battle with ovarian cancer at age 74. Daughter Ann Peacock posted a photo of her mother with her and her sisters, Caroline and Jane, as children on Instagram, wishing her a happy birthday.

STEWART Donald, over many decades, Donald Stewart devoted his no-nonsense fine mind, understanding of human nature and personal courage to pursuing a ‘hatred of corruption’.

The man who started out as a young police officer on the streets of post-war Sydney and became a barrister, judge, royal commissioner and inaugural chairman of the National Crime Authority, died on July 15, aged 87.

STRACHAN, Scott, former project and property manager for the National Trust of Australia (Victoria).

HURLEY, Thomas Victor, Bar Roll No 1548. He was for many years the editor of the Victorian Administrative Reports and the High Court and Federal Court notes distributed to the constituents of the Law Council of Australia. He also edited the Federal Court judgements in the Law Institute Journal. He passed aged 87.
**Publications — Order Form/Tax Invoice**

Please complete this form and email to info@affairs.com.au

**Subscriber Details**

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other: ______________________________  
Title: _______________________________________________  
Company: __________________________________________  
Address: ____________________________________________  
Phone: _____________________________________________  
Fax: ________________________________________________  
E-mail: _____________________________________________  

**Payment Options**

Pay to Affairs of State, ABN 44 230 891 629  
I enclose a cheque (payable to Affairs of State)  
Please debit my:  
- [ ] Mastercard  
- [ ] Amex  
- [ ] Visa  

Cardholder: ______________________________  
Card Number: ______________________________  
Signature: ______________________________  
Expiry: ______________________________  

*This document becomes a Tax Invoice/Receipt upon Payment*