The City of Literature Edition

In This Issue:

- CFA. Who is behind all this? 
- The Budget 
- Goodbye Kozminski’s 
- Victoria Police… withdraw! 
- Gas is serious. 
- Committee for Melbourne activating 
- Maybe Safer schools. 
- Stronger bridges for Melbourne…and maybe tunnels. 
- West Link Tunnel 
- New Bus Future 
- Perhaps a fast rail to Airport 

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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.
The lack of substantial energy infrastructure A fascinating chat, and your Editor was soundly beaten in an argument with two experienced constructors/engineers, in relation to the number of Stop/Slow signs around the CBD and suburbs of Melbourne at the moment. As Ed had front-covered in the latest edition, he wondered whether it was the weather or end of year budgets which were driving the activity. Wrong! It's the excessive risk, safety ‘thinking’ of various levels of bureaucracy, union chats with the constructors (making money for all so concerned), and a training ground for the building and construction industry.

Still on the roads! A couple of recent experiences again show clearly that the police are not there, as were so, the police of the last generation. The Police union and other bureaucracies seem solidly in control. Little left to the Policeman on the beat. Not any inspiring leadership which might spend time and resources in achieving what the whole community wants the officers to do. Too much behind the scenes nothingness. Herein a photo of a union protest outside the Trades Hall. Note the line of police protecting the Unions, or passers by, or just filling the Day. Evidently, Collins Street was all but blocked off as rioters closed off the entrance to a city Club recently where Margaret Court was guest speaker. And in other entrances was another dozen people in uniform, not doing much. What is the Law of the Land? Where do we stand?

The lack of substantial energy infrastructure in the next ten years will slow down the pace of Victoria's growth. Not necessarily a bad plan, if three more million are to come to Melbourne over the next three decades, without the infrastructure and education and other planning being open for all of us to comment and contribute. At this early stage, who might win the next State Election? As most readers know, the Editor prefers to use non-personal names for the Party leaders, to avoid some of the emotionalism and subjectivism that the media and street shouters/protesters use. Let us use the Party Name and the role such as Premier or Education Minister, and Victoria or federal or national or Commonwealth. (I have still not done a journalism course. Another one for the Bucket List?) A recent poll, ReachTEL shows that Labor trails the Coalition 46 to 54 on a two-party preferred basis (that is, after all less successful candidates/parties have had their preferences distributed), in the Herald Sun. The ALP state-wide primary vote has fallen to 31 per cent. 'Would mean a loss of up to 18 seats.


Inside
- CFA. Who is behind all this?
- The Budget
- Goodbye Kozminski's
- Victoria Police... withdraw!
- Gas is serious.
- Committee for Melbourne activating
- CFA, Parks Victoria and the department were supported by the Fair Work Commission.
- Maybe Safer schools.
- Stronger bridges for Melbourne... and maybe tunnels.
- West Link Tunnel
- New Bus Future
- Perhaps a fast rail to Airport

FEATURE
QC Slams CFA Deal
The Black Saturday Royal Commission was the most thorough and comprehensive investigation of fire fighting in Victoria in the last 50 years. The evidence before it, and its findings, established that the Country Fire Authority was the nation’s pre-eminent fire fighting organisation. Yet this state government continues to demonstrate a determination to undermine the CFA to the destruction of the very essence of that makes it so strong: the ethos, integrity and independence of volunteer fire fighters across Victoria.

The Fire Fighters’ Presumption Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment Bill before the parliament of Victoria is an extraordinary document. Introduced without any form of consultation with volunteer fire fighters, the Bill, without explanation, discriminates against volunteer fire fighters concerning their rights and entitlements to claim compensation for specified cancers, said to be a primary reason for the legislation’s introduction.

This Bill abolishes the CFA’s 35 integrated brigades, those stations in outer Melbourne and larger regional centres operated by CFA volunteers and CFA operational career fire fighters. Premier Andrews referred the findings of royal commission to justify a comment that ‘our fire fighters are let down by an out dated structure’. This is nonsense.

This government fails to understand the culture of the CFA, what motivates volunteers to sacrifice so much for their community. The Bill most certainly will not produce a positive operational outcome, and weakens rather than strengthens the CFA and support for CFA volunteers, writes Jack Rush QC for the Herald Sun.

And some more...

Volunteer Career Rift
A senior member of Matthew Guy’s front bench has infuriated some fire fighters after telling Parliament that paid fire fighters did not respond for the first 5½ hours on Black Saturday, the nation’s worst bushfire tragedy. Fire fighters see the false accusation as part of an ongoing campaign by the volunteer association and the state Opposition to demonise career fire fighters.

Morale among fire fighters has plummeted due to the ongoing dispute and deep divisions have emerged between career and volunteers in some places. Emergency Management Commissioner Craig Lapsley said career fire fighters from MFB, CFA, Parks Victoria and the department were deployed in multiple roles to multiple bushfires across the state during Black Saturday, The Age.

Changes to CFA
After months of speculation, Victoria’s Labor government is expected to announce within weeks that it will make changes between volunteer fire fighters and salaried CFA staff. The changes are reported to follow legal advice that the state’s current enterprise agreement will not be supported by the Fair Work Commission.

The overhaul was to include a separate volunteer-only body that would operate in regional areas and help career fire fighters during major incidents in other regions. The overhaul would torpedo the current CFA model and affect thousands of volunteer positions in urban

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fringe areas, which critics fear could reduce the state’s capacity during bushfire emergencies.

Victorian opposition spokesman for emergency services Brad Battin said at the time that workplace agreements should comply with state laws. ‘The CFA Act states that the volunteer organisation of the CFA is a volunteer organisation first, supported by career fire fighters and you can’t take away the authority or power of those volunteers’ he said, The Australian.

Fire fighting Shake-Up
The long-running and toxic CFA industrial dispute could be drawing to a close with a plan to radically reshape fire fighting boundaries. There has been growing speculation Labor will overhaul the state’s boundaries of the city fringe fire fighting zones and creating two new fire fighting services: one wholly volunteer and one paid-only service.

Any changes to the boundaries are likely to be resisted by the Opposition and volunteer brigades. The CFA’s mainly volunteer fire fighters patrol the vast majority of Victoria, while the professional fire fighters of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade cover almost all of Melbourne.

There are more than 30 ‘integrated’ stations staffed by paid fire fighters in built-up areas of suburban Melbourne and regional centres including Bendigo, Ballarat and Geelong – but the vast majority of brigades are volunteer stations. Creating two separate services would allow the workplace deal for paid CFA fire fighters to be approved, because laws rushed through by the Turnbull government to ‘protect’ volunteers could be bypassed.

The deal was vehemently opposed by former CFA board, minister Jane Garrett and volunteer association. They argued it handed too much power to the United Firefighters Union. But the union argues it will enhance fire fighter and community safety, The Age.

Deal Hamstrings CFA
Premier Andrews’ fire services restructure plan weakens the CFA and is based on ‘political and ideological outcome’, the top lawyer who assisted the Black Saturday Royal Commission says. In explosive comments likely to reignite criticism of laws before state parliament, Jack Rush QC, has also taken aim at the Premier’s ‘misinformation campaign’ related to royal commission findings.

‘The ability of the CFA to mobilise the tens of thousands of volunteers to meet the threat of catastrophic bushfires as was done on Black Saturday is severely threatened by this legislation’ he says, The Herald Sun.

CFA Reform Needs Crossbench Support
Controversial fire reforms will fail to pass Parliament unless the legislation is changed to protect the role of volunteer fire fighters and satisfy crossbench MPs. Labor needs the five upper house votes of the Greens, plus two of the five crossbenchers to pass the legislation to create a paid urban fire fighting force: Fire Rescue Victoria, and turn the CFA into a volunteer-only organisation.

Senior government and opposition MPs have been lobbying the crossbenchers in an urgent effort to secure their votes. Liberal MP Bill Tilley said integrated stations were riven with division, claiming ‘apartheid is bloody well alive’. ‘Those imaginary lines in some of those integrated stations now will be clearly marked yellow — and God help any volunteer who crosses some of those lines, heaven help those poor buggers,’ he told Parliament, The Age.

BUDGET Surplus
The Victorian government unveiled $8.3 billion worth of budget surpluses over the next four years, providing a hefty buffer to unleash new spending as next year’s election looms. November 2018. The State Budget has confirmed Victoria remains flush with cash, with rivers of cash from property, business activity and rising employment flowing into Treasury’s coffers.

Treasurer Tim Pallas said the purpose of maintaining surpluses was to provide the headroom to ‘ inoculate’ the state economy against economic shocks and to keep a lid on debt. I don’t fixate about the number so much, other than it does give confidence to the markets (that) we are in the business of keeping our economic settings prudent and that the output expenditure is being managed well.

But the windfall gain will also provide Labor — and the State Opposition — with room to make big spending announcements in the lead up to the November 2018 election, The Age.

Winners
Family Violence/Social Affairs: $1.9 billion over four years to help implement the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Family Violence. $131 million for child protection services: 450 extra protection officers. $78.4 million to expand substance abuse treatment programs.

Education: $50.7 million for underperforming state schools. $685 million build nine new schools and upgrade existing schools. Kindergarten students who need speech therapy, literacy and numeracy support.

Health: Drug and alcohol services - 14 per cent funding increase, including an additional $78 million to treat substance abuse. Mental health - $406 million investment that includes 579 additional impatient services. Melbourne’s west and north – $50 million towards a new Footscray hospital. And funding of $162 million for the Northern Hospital redevelopment.

Transport: Road users in Melbourne’s north – $673 million to fund the widening of Melbourne’s ring road by 2021, half of which will come from the federal government. Road users in Melbourne’s south-east — the Mordialloc bypass, a new freeway, will connect the Mornington Freeway with the Dingley Bypass. $300 million. Regional rail users – 39 new V/Line rail carriages – enough for 13 new train sets – to ease the tree changer squeeze. $31 million, Justice: $2 billion for 2729 extra police officers. Prisons, detention centres, secure mental health facilities — several are receiving funding to be built or expanded, including new youth justice and serious offender facilities.

Business: Payroll tax cuts for 38,000 businesses, with a lower tax-free threshold from July 1. Regional businesses will get a 25 per cent cut, meaning they face some of the lowest payroll tax rates in the nation.

Jobs: $90 million for businesses that want to invest in Victoria. This also includes business subsidies for gas prices. $24.8 million for Visit Victoria, funding to support tourism campaigns and tourism businesses, The Age.

Budget Changes
Nearly $2 billion will be spent to tackle family violence in Victoria, with the state’s public sector being told to find savings, including possible job cuts, to pay for the investment. The ‘unprecedented’ investment in countering family violence is the centrepiece of Treasurer Tim Pallas’ third budget and prepares the state for an election year spending.
The budget includes $2 billion for more than 2005 and 2014. There were more than 60 collisions between a train and pedestrian were hit by a train at one of the 50 crossings between 2005 and 2014. There were more than 60 collisions and 680 near misses at those 50 sites, THE ACE.

Cost of Level Crossing Removal
The Andrews government’s signature level crossing removal project will cost more than $2 billion and generate just 78c of economic benefit for every dollar spent, according to its business case. But the true benefit-cost ratio of the project might actually be less than the figure put forward in the state budget. Education Minister James Merlino announced in November that swimming would become a mandatory part of the physical education curriculum, amid figures showing that fatal drownings had risen in Victoria, THE ACE.

Come Together
If there’s one thing that united voters, it’s their contempt for politicians who become obsessed with petty arguments and point scoring. When I took over the Infrastructure and Transport portfolio, I put a pragmatic proposal to the Victorian Government and we did a deal that has resulted in a partnership funding a for $3 billion worth of projects including Murray Basin rail, the Echuca-Moama Bridge and highway safety upgrades across the state.

That work is all under way and will make a difference to the lives of thousands of regional Victorians in the years ahead. Now in the wake of the budget, it’s time the two levels of government got together for another deal. The Federal Budget included $1 billion in infrastructure funding for new projects in Victoria with $250 million allocated for the first stage of regional rail upgrades, writes Federal Minister for Transport and Infrastructure Darren Chester for THE WEEKLY TIMES.

Snowy Share
Victoria will be offered billions of dollars to spend on roads and rail if it agrees to sell its share of the Snowy Mountain scheme. Under the plan, all cash exchanged would have to be reinvested in priority infrastructure projects. Federal Treasurer Morrison said any deal would not compromise water rights or affect irrigation communities who draw their water from within the system.

The federal government would also give a commitment that the project would not be privatised or sold off in future. NSW remains the biggest shareholder of the pioneering Snowy hydro project with 53 per cent, while Victoria owns 29 per cent. The Turnbull government restated its commitment to “Snowy 2.0” — which includes a new hydro-electricity power station to generate an extra 2000 megawatts of renewable energy into the national grid, the HERALD SUN.

A Melbourne airport rail link could be on track at last after the federal government promised it would get a slice of a new $10 billion fund if it stacks up financially. The long-awaited train line is one of six rail projects across Australia listed in Treasurer Morrison’s second Budget as having ‘potential’ to share in the massive fund.

The carrot dangled in front of the Andrews Government will put pressure on it to quickly develop a business case in order to cash in on the federal money. The Budget also includes $500 million for regional rail, and almost half a billion dollars for yet-to-be-determined infrastructure projects from the state asset recycling money gained by leasing the Port of Melbourne.

The regional rail spend includes $100 million for a Gellong rail line duplication, $100 million for a northwest rail line upgrade, $195 million for eastern line duplication projects, and $95 for the Avon River bridge in Gippsland. The $1 billion in new spending on regional rail and other projects is $123 million more than first offered via the asset recycling fund. It is still well short of the $1.45 billion to which the Andrews government says Victoria is entitled. The Budget forecasts $75 billion will be spent on airport, road and rail infrastructure over the next decade nationwide, the HERALD SUN.
The Islamic Council of Victoria said it got funding
which civil servants are
without his own ranks.
And thirdly, there's the sheer numbers. The
government technically holds 46 out of 88 seats in
the lower house, including the speaker, while the
Coalition holds 38. But on the other hand, Guy has
done a solid job of getting his team ready for battle:
the Coalition's party room is more unified than it
has been in years; out dated campaigning struc-
tures are being overhauled; and policies are being
steadily developed behind the scenes through a
working group led by former minister Mary
Wooldridge, writes Farrah Tomazin for THE A
A Good Challenge
State taxpayers will fund a 'mosque open day' to help
'weed out Islamaphobia' in Australia. The
May event will involve several mosques across
Victoria opening their doors to non-Muslim
neighbourhoods, local schools, businesses, church
groups and politicians. Visitors will be offered
guided tours and refreshments and discussions
about Islamic beliefs and the 'positive role
Muslims and mosques play in Australian society'.
The Islamic Council of Victoria said it got funding
from the Victorian Multicultural Commission
for the project 'in an attempt to break down
misconceptions and help weed out Islamaphobia
on a national scale', the HERALD SUN.
Which civil servants are
behind this (it's a secret!)
Big business is calling on the state government
to unlock a $500 million fund accrued from
landfill levies which is sitting idle in Treasury
coffers. The Australian Council of Recycling
has urged the Victorian government to invest
hundreds of millions of dollars from the Victorian
Sustainability Fund to help major companies
overhaul how waste is dealt with in Victoria.
David McNamara, spokesman for Minister
for Energy, Environment and Climate

Assembly speaker Telmo Languiller and former
deputy speaker Don Nardella were caught rorting
the system in order to live miles away from their
western suburbs Labor electorate, THE ACE.

Yes Sir No Sir
Queenscliff Mayor and Victoria Police senior ser-
geant Tony Francis has resigned as head of Liberal
Victoria's Bellarine branch amid claims he was
being pressured to endorse state Opposition Leader
Matthew Guy's law and order campaign, ECHO.

Conroy Ban
The pledge to bar Labor factional powerbroker
turned gaming lobbyist Stephen Conroy from
meetings with the Victorian gaming minister,
has prompted calls for more MPs to follow suit.
Consumer Affairs Minister Marlene Kairouz
slammed Conroy for his role as a gaming lobbyist
and pledged to not meet one-on-one in order
to protect her integrity. (which means.)
The move has been commenced by several
Victorian political parties and has prompted
calls for more ministers to pledge the
same. Concerns about Mr Conroy have been
increasing internally in Victoria, as he remains
on the national executive of the Labor Party
despite being appointed as the executive
director of Responsible Wagering Australia.
Conroy loyalists say the public move was part of
an orchestrated political hit, aimed at shifting power
within Labor's right wing. Mr Conroy has repeated-
dly denied any wrong doing, the HERALD SUN.

Nearby
Two good folk, both head of Victorian government
Departments, have been recently been hired by
EY and KPMG respectively. To allow these two
two people to advise and appropriately consult their
respective firms to the world of business. To allow
all parties to jump and move through the shatty
wired fence that runs though my own imagination,
and perhaps of others, from the side of parliament
Hmmm, which jobs?
Greens to Contest Lower House Seats
Victorian Greens leader Greg Barber may be
heading for a lower house seat, taking one
of Labor’s inner-city MPs in a bid to gain the
balance of power. Announcing that he will not
be recontestting his upper house seat, Mr Barber
and fellow Greens MP Colleen Hartland, have the
choice of Richmond, Brunswick and Northcote
in next year's November poll, THE ACE.

End to Culture of Entitlement
MPs will be forced to repay wrongly claimed
entitlements under a sweeping overhaul of State
Parliament expense system, designed to end
a 'culture of entitlement'. And in a headache for
Opposition Leader Matthew Guy, Parliament's
auditors could not conclude if there was enough
information to support Wodonga-based Liberal MP Bill Tilley's
residence claims. The audit, by accounting firm
PricewaterhouseCoopers, has called for
tough new laws giving the lower house speaker and upper house president powers to ‘enforce’ the rules and ‘compel’ members to refund overpayments. **The Age**

**Federally**

**Safe Schools 2.0**

It was a school anti-bullying program that became a lightning rod for culture warriors and conservative MPs: Safe Schools was either protecting gay kids from bullies or trying to sell Marxism in the playground, depending on who was talking. Now, as the program prepares to close, a coalition of singers, actors and other high-profile Australians are urging Prime Minister **Turnbull** to reopen the tinder box by funding a new version of Safe Schools—without the ideology.

But in a concession that the program went too far in antagonising conservatives, the group has shunned gender theory, equality or even ‘acceptance’ in favour of a more benign demand: tolerance. Federal funding for Safe Schools ends in June and the Turnbull government will not renew it, arguing it is now a matter for the states. Victoria has opted to continue Safe Schools under government administration, **The Age**.

**King Island Petition to Succeed**

Residents of King Island are pushing to secede from Tasmania and become part of Victoria. Some residents are circulating a petition calling on Prime Minister **Turnbull** to put Victoria in charge. They claim they have been neglected by the Tasmania government, after a reduction in shipping freight services to the island, **The Age**.

**Vocational Fund Reform**

The state government is set to fight the Commonwealth over the conditions of a new fund for vocational training. States claim they were blindsided by the announcement and still have little detail about the $1.5 billion Skilling Australians Fund. Skills and Training Minister **Gayle Tierney** said Victoria would be $40 million worse off than under the current deal, which expires on June 30.

The new four-year fund will prioritise apprenticeships and traineeships in high demand industries and will only dish out money once states have ‘achieved agreed deliverables’. It will be financed by businesses that employ foreign workers under a new Temporary Skill Shortage visas, the **Herald Sun**.

**Federal Funding Fight**

**Treasurer Morrison** said if the $3 billion the Commonwealth was prepared to stump up for the dumped East West Link was counted, the state’s infrastructure share rose to 21 per cent. After months of dispute, Victoria has all but abandoned any hope of getting the $1.45 billion it believes is owed under the Commonwealth’s asset recycling program, having gained a windfall $9.7 billion under the Port of Melbourne lease deal.

Under the program, states that privatise public assets and plough the money back into productive infrastructure were supposed to get bonus payments equivalent to 15 per cent of the sale price. The Commonwealth has previously booked $877 million in asset recycling money for Victoria, an amount that has now been wound back to $500 million in the budget, **The Age**.

**Defence Land Housing Plan**

A plan to fast-track housing on badly contaminated Defence Force land in Maribyrnong, announced by **Treasurer Morrison** in the Federal Budget, would cram in twice as many homes as had been originally envisaged for the site. The Treasurer’s plan has stoked fears within the **Victorian** government that the Defence Department would simply sell the land to the highest bidder without proper strategies for transport, education or other services, **The Age**.

**Agriculture**

**Tales of Bureaucracy**

In a landmark court ruling, a Victorian farmer has been fined $20,000 for knowingly harming Aboriginal cultural heritage. The case has drawn criticism from farm leaders over the high cost of obtaining cultural heritage management plans to protect Aboriginal artefacts. Victorian Farmers Federation president **David Jochinke** said the conviction demonstrated the regulation around compliance with the law was prohibitive for farmers, **The Weekly Times**.

**Expansion of Agribusiness**

Setting up an ‘enterprise zone’ at Avalon Airport and a farm at the Melbourne Showgrounds to educate city students have been mooted as part of a broad strategy to boost agribusiness in Victoria. They are just two of dozens of recommendations proffered by the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry’s inaugural Agribusiness Taskforce to take advantage of an anticipated 70 per cent rise in global food demand by 2050, **The Weekly Times**.

**New VFA**

Minister for Agriculture **Jaala Pulford** recently joined commercial and recreational fishers in Queenscliff to kick-off the establishment of the new Victorian Fisheries Authority. The new VFA will drive jobs growth and export in Victoria’s commercial fishing and aquaculture sectors. ‘Our Target One Million initiative has stocked fish across the state and significantly improved facilities for recreational fishers’ Pulford said, Echo.

**ASH Would Consider a Gov’t Offer**

Australian Sustainable Hardwoods says it is prepared to consider selling its Heyfield timber mill to the Victorian Government. ‘If the Government came forward with a genuine offer, in the context of saving the jobs of the workers, the board may consider the sale’ ASH spokesman James Lantry said, **The Weekly Times**.

**State Emblem or Jobs?**

The Andrews government has been told it must choose between saving Victoria’s endangered emblem the Lead beater’s possum or hundreds of timber industry jobs. The government’s forest taskforce has been told the only way to save the Lead beater’s possum, is to stop logging in the Central Highlands. The highlands are home to the vast majority of the state’s 1500-3000 Lead beater’s Possum, **The Age**.

**9 May to 18 June 2017**
OUR VICTORIAN/AUSTRALIAN ENERGY

Introduction by Melbourne engineer Geoff Rogers. Maps from the NEM website.

Brought together by Haya Daglas who is an engineering post-graduate at Melbourne University’s Engineering School.

Most observers and stakeholder in Australia would agree that the Governments of Australia are half expected to assist consumers and industrial users to acquire reliable power at a globally competitive price, while maintaining commitments to Green-House-Gas reduction along the trajectory to zero CO2 emissions by 2050.

This is a big challenge, testing the laws of physics and the skills of policy makers and thought leaders.

One of the main issues is under-appreciation of the detailed operation of the gas and power networks, and the extent of the footprint of the Coal Mining sector in employment and for-profit business activity, domestic power generation and export.

There is a large amount of gas remaining to be discovered, but onshore exploration (the quickest and cheapest way to add capacity), has been curtailed for political reasons, and future production licences are likely to require a revenue sharing with landholders.

The offshore reserves in Bass Strait have not been extended as until recently there was not the possibility to ship the gas to NSW and QLD markets to justify the large investment.

Recent extension of gas transmission networks has made it possible to ship gas from Tasmania to or from Gladstone but the practicalities are that the pipes are long and, by world standards, thin so the shipping costs are high. The analogy of blowing through a straw is used to illustrate how much energy is needed to move large gas volumes around the network.

Thus while electricity moves at the speed of light, with relatively minor losses, from Cairns to Port Lincoln it is costly to move large amounts of gas through existing or feasibly extended transmission pipelines.

Whereas demand is intermittent, given the priority access to NEM of existing unscheduled (wind and solar generation). Governments have recognized that Storage needs to be added to the networks, and tenders are current to provide some forward purchases of renewables sourced electricity by using Battery Storage, Pumped Hydro and the new technology of Solar thermal.

Gas storage (LNG, Underground or ‘line pack’): boosting the pressure in the transmission network beyond what is required to meet throughout, is also likely to be needed to meet intra-day storage needs.

Australians recognise that as a large LNG and Coal exporter, Australia is able to participate in the supply of power to countries far from our borders, with large populations. It is galling to see that we suffer shortage of power because gas is not available domestically for the occasional use in peaking open cycle gas-turbine and mid-merit combine cycle gas turbine plants, and high domestic gas prices than the reported selling price of LNG cargoes in our export markets.

To appreciate this “discrepancy” one must consider the realities of bulk-purchase, the additional cost of transmission and distribution.

Drastic Actions like Federal Government intervention to force Gas to be directed to Domestic Market introduces a sovereign risk aspect to Australia’s market, which ironically is likely to further reduce appetite for exploration and new development.

It is this increasingly likely that in the short term, gas will need to be imported as LNG and Liquefied in permanent shore-based or medium term temporary mobile Floating Storage and Regasification Units deployed in Victoria or South Australia.

LOY YANG STRIKE

The state government’s recent decision to legislate a ban on onshore unconventional gas extraction and a moratorium until 2020 on onshore conventional gas extraction is so baffling. Maybe it’s because it is not aware of the facts. So here they are. First, in less than four years Victoria will face a shortage of gas. Second, Victorians are paying more for their gas. In 2010,
the has price was nearly a third of what it is today and those increases has hurt consumers.

Third, Victoria has an abundant supply of gas. If the Victoria Government doesn’t work fast to fix its gas problems, the cost pressure on households and businesses will continue to grow, writes Federal Minister for Environment and Energy Josh Frydenberg for the Herald Sun.

Desal Leakage
Labor’s dusty desal plant may be yet to deliver more than a dribble of water to Melbourne, but it has been accused of swamping a Gippsland farm in salt water. Farmer Gary Hall claims much of his property has become unusable after the construction of a pipeline from the desalination plant caused his property to be inundated with salt water. Mr Hall is suing the State and desal joint venture partners Thiess and Suez Water and Treatment Solutions, the Herald Sun.

Funding for Ant Fight
Almost $20 million over the next four years in boosted funding to eradicate the red imported fire ant. The copper-coloured ants might be tiny but the stakes are enormous, says the Invasive Species Council, an environmental lobby group. The Victorian government’s funding will go to a national eradication program.

More than $330 million has been spent on the problem in the past two decades, and yet the ants continue to spread—which is why governments around the country are now being asked to increase their spend on eradication programs. ‘The red imported fire ant has been found in Queensland—which has put Victoria on alert’ Agriculture Minister Jaala Pulford said, The Age.

Calls for Fairer Deal on Energy
The head of Victoria’s energy watchdog has warned that households are being lured into deals with the promise of large discounts unaware that companies can ratchet up prices at any time. Ron Ben-Davis, the chairman of the Essential Services Commission, says discounts of up to 40 per cent offered by electricity and gas retailers are rarely locked in, and called for a dramatic rethink to make power bills fairer for consumers, The Age.

Hazelwood Closure Consequences
The demise of Australia’s Hazelwood power plant has triggered the greatest use of expensive gas-fired generators in Victoria in a decade, causing a significant jump in wholesale electricity prices. The closure of Hazelwood power station at the end of March has also been a boon for the owners of the Latrobe Valley’s three remaining brown coal-fired generators which have increased output by about a third.

The short-term ramifications have been spelt out by market analysts UBS. They include: a dip in brown coal-fired electricity—and carbon dioxide emissions—but a relatively small one due to other coal plants picking up most of the slack, a 60 per cent drop in the amount of electricity Victoria exports to NSW; wholesale power prices in Victoria rising more than 25 per cent from less than $80 to more than $100 per megawatt hour, largely due to a doubling in the amount of natural gas burnt to generate electricity. The wholesale price makes up about a quarter of household electricity bills, The Age.

Desal to Miss Target
The trouble-plagued desalination plant is ‘unlikely’ to meet the government water order of 50 gigalitres by its June 30 deadline, Water Minister Lisa Neville has conceded. Ms Neville told a Budget estimates inquiry that the company has delivered only 32.25GL from the Wonthaggi desalination plant since July.

‘There are previous under the contract to deal with this and we will be using any option under that contract to protect the interests of Victorians if they do not deliver the 50GL as required under that contract’ she said. Under the multi-billion dollar desal contract, a failure to produce an order would mean the company loses $27 million paid for the water also a percentage of service payments that cost Victorians about $1.8 million a day, the Herald Sun.

Koalas Overpopulating Cape Otway
Three years on from a secret cull that claimed almost 700 koalas near Victoria’s Great Ocean Road, the area remains overrun causing many to starve. Wildlife officials are still grappling to manage an over-abundance of koalas in manna gum woodlands at Cape Otway, about 230km southwest of Melbourne. The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning recently carried out a two-week koala management program to conduct health checks, provide fertility control and move koalas to more suitable areas, The Australian.

Changes to Energy Retail Code
The Essential Services Commission is proposing changes to the Energy Retail Code to set minimum standards of assistance for Victorian customers facing difficulty paying their electricity and gas bills. The Commission can be contacted via email at paymentdifficulties@esc.vic.gov.au, call 1300 664 969 or (03) 9032 1300.

Offshore Wind Farm
The waters off Gippsland would be home to Australia’s first offshore wind farm under a radical proposal for as many as 250 turbines generating enough renewable energy to power 1.2 million homes. The ‘Star of the South’ project, would supply about 18 per cent of Victoria’s power usage and be connected to existing power infrastructure in the Latrobe Valley via undersea and underground cables, according to the local company behind the project, Offshore Energy.

Latrobe City Council has called for the policy’s immediate release and confirmed that it considers the Latrobe Valley’s coal-based coal reserves ‘vital to the economy of Gippsland’. Offshore Energy revealed the headline-grabbing proposal at a new discussion about new energy technology held at Federation University, in Gippsland.

It also claimed that the project would generate about 12,000 direct and indirect jobs during construction, and 300 ongoing jobs. Up to 250 turbines would be built within a 574 square kilometre area in waters off the Gippsland coast, The Age.

Melbourne Rare Book Week
More than 25 per cent from less than $80 to more than $100 per megawatt hour, largely due to a doubling in the amount of natural gas burnt to generate electricity. The wholesale price makes up about a quarter of household electricity bills, The Age.

ARTS/EVENTS
Melbourne Rare Book Week
Friday 30 June to Sunday 9 July

Free admission to all events
Since releasing this year’s program on 22 May, the response to the line-up of events has been remarkable, with several being booked out very quickly.

Workshops
Another feature this year is the introduction of three workshops, particularly designed with children in mind. The Learning Services division of the State Library Victoria is presenting a Children’s activity session: Calligraphy and the art of illuminated manuscripts—one is never too young to be inspired by medieval manuscripts and to learn how to create your own!

This free activity for children aged 5–12 years will be held in the Courtyard, State Library Victoria, where they can learn how to create their own manuscript page, experimenting with modern day calligraphy materials to invoke techniques of the past. No bookings are necessary for this event.

SLV also presents a School holiday book-making workshop, for children aged 8–12 years, which includes a tour of the Library’s wonderful exhibition. Mirror of the world: books and ideas, which will lead into the children using their imagination to create their own masterpiece to take home. Bookings are essential for this event.

Scientific books and specimens: a Museum drawing studio. Museums Victoria will create a unique opportunity for children from 12 years up, as well as adults, to stand in the shoes of a scientific illustrator, drawing birds and mammals from the Museum’s Heritage Collections which are displayed alongside books from the Museum’s Library. Bookings are essential for this event.

Exhibitions
Melbourne Rare Book Week includes seven exhibitions, with subjects including the journey motif, both real and imaginary (Tall tales and true: journeys real and imagined, presented by Monash University Library and Plotting the island, dreams, discovery and disaster presented by University of Melbourne Library), the life and work of Percy Grainger—whose ideas made him an outsider in his age (The Accidental Futurist, presented by the Grainger Museum), the world of freelance cartoonist, illustrator and writer, Judy Horacek (Random Life: the cartoons of Judy Horacek, presented by The Melbourne Athenaeum Library), and ... brought to Melbourne by the University of Melbourne Library exclusively for this year’s Rare Book Week ... a unique viewing opportunity (with associated lecture program) of the Clumber Bible (c.1395), a sumptuously illuminated Bible formerly belonging to the 7th Duke of Newcastle, noted for its extraordinary size. Generously loaned by the Kerry Stokes Collection.

These are only a handful of the events featured in this year’s Melbourne Rare Book Week program.
South Melbourne Market’s 150th Birthday

The Big BBQ Street Party Celebrating South Melbourne Market’s 150th Birthday was held on the 6th of May. Cecil Street was closed for the event. Port Phillip Mayor Bernadene Voss said there was a strong sense of history surrounding the markets and it was important to celebrate in style, The Senior News.

Adieu

The closure of Kozminsky Jewellery Store at 421 Bourke Street has prompted its owner, the Shaw family, to put the three-storey Victorian building on the market. The Albrecht family closed Kozminsky in March after 165 years, including 41 years on the corner of Bourke and McKillop streets. The building was built in 1859 for stock and station agents Kaye, Butchart and Co, THE ACE.

Bella Union to Close

Trade Hall venue Bella Union will close after 12 years of programming events at multiple venues within the historic Carlton building. Bella Union founder and director Catherine Woodfield said Trades Hall rejected her application last December for a five-year extension of the company’s lease. Victorian Trades Hall Council secretary Luke Halikari said the hall would close for the $10 million renovation, funded by Living Heritage. Yum $10m.

The works will include repairs to roofing, plumbing, electrics, restoration on murals and floors inside and the installation of two lifts, including one with wheelchair accessibility, THE ACE.

HEALTH

Mind the Funding Gap

The Andrews government is facing a potential $150 million black hole to build the Victorian Heart Hospital, after being accused of bungling funding for the project. Despite needing to raise up to $200 million from the federal government and private backers.

Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt’s office said the Turnbull government was not planning to support the Victorian Heart Hospital, having only been approached four weeks ago – nine months after the Victorian government publicly announced its funding aim. The Andrews government has so far provided its $150 million share, while Monash University has pledged from $50-70 million as well as land at Clayton, leaving a funding shortfall of about $350 million, the HERALD SUN.

Fat v Fit Suburbs

Five most active suburbs: Armadale/Toorak; East Melbourne/South Yarra; Elwood, Port Melbourne; Ivanhoe East/Eaglemont.

Five least active suburbs: Meadow Heights; Roxburgh Park; Lalor/ Thomastown; Campbellfield/Coolaroo; St Albans.

Five suburbs with the highest number of overweight children: Campbellfield/Coolaroo; Clayton, Doveton, Springvale; Laverton.

Five suburbs with lowest numbers of overweight children: Glen Iris, Ivanhoe East/Eaglemont; Elwood; Armadale/Toorak; Kew/Kew East, THE ACE.
because they made these submissions thinking their privacy would be protected. The AGE.

No Violent Text for VCE
Could Shakespeare’s Macbeth and its bloody murders be banned from the VCE? Books, films and plays studied in the VCE will now be screened for ‘sustained realistic depictions of violence or physical, psychological or sexual abuse’, ‘sustained, gratuitous use of coarse language’ and ‘subject matter that appears to promote or normalise the abuse of alcohol, the use of illegal drugs, or other illegal behaviour’.

English, literature, drama and theatre studies texts containing these elements are ‘likely to be unsuitable’, regardless of their literary merit, according to the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority. Education Minister James Merlino said the new guidelines struck a balance between ‘providing the challenging and stimulating material our students need while at the same time assuring it is appropriate’. The AGE.

Reinforcing Gender Norms
Fairytale books could be at risk in public school from moves to degrade the much-loved stories for gender bias. Preschool books and toys could also be audited to determine whether they promote gender stereotypes, under a Victorian government plan to address family violence.

A teaching aid in the Respectful Relationship program wants pupils to analyse men and women in classics like Cinderella, Snow White and Rapunzel and compare them to modern stories challenging gender norms. It argues that the traditional fairytales often serve to reinforce gender norms and to cause ‘a sense of entitlement in boys and lower self-esteem in girls’, the HERALD SUN.

Abuse Apology
Principals of Catholic schools have jointly apologised for sexual abuses inflicted on students at their institutions. In a move likened to the Commonwealth government apologising to the stolen generation, Edmund Rice Education Australia led a ‘National Ritual of Apology’, the HERALD SUN.

Principals Primed with Loaded Questions
Victorian Catholic principals are being coached on how to campaign against the Turnbull government’s Gonski 2.0 school funding plan and put pressure on local MPs. As part of the grassroots campaign, the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria has given principals a document of ‘talking points’ to help them discuss the impact of the changes with politicians.

It says the Catholic school system is ‘under attack’, and provides principals with background information and a list of questions to ask their local MPs. These include: ‘Do you think fee increases for middle-income families, equalling thousands of dollars, are fair?’, The AGE.

VEC Investigates PSO Group
An anti-Safe Schools group, led by the president of a suburban school council, is being investigated by the Electoral Commission over misleading pamphlets targeting Deputy Premier James Merlino. The Parents Speaking Out group, whose secretary is a Liberal party member, distributed flyers in Mr Merlino’s Monbulk electorate in May claiming he ‘supports children as young as five being forcefed, without their parent’s knowledge or consent’ to ‘question their sexuality’ and ‘question their gender’, The AGE.

High-Fee Schools Receive Funding Bump
Federal money for some of Melbourne’s most prestigious private schools—which charge fees up to $34,000 a year—will soar over the next decade under the Turnbull government’s ‘Gonski 2.o’ changes, while others will have their funding slashed. The Catholic school sector argues the funding increase for high-fee schools show the federal government’s school funding formula is faulty and disadvantages their schools, which tend to charge relatively low fees.

While much attention has focused on the 350 private schools that will have their funding slowed over the next decade, some high-fee independent schools will receive significant funding increases because they are underfunded according to the Gonski formula, The AGE.

Industrial Relations
White Collars Break Strike Lines
White-collar staff from around Australia have been flown in to operate an insulation plant in Dandenong in a bid to break a three-month strike by workers. Fletcher Insulation has deployed salaried staff from interstate to its Dandenong plant and ordered them to take up tools. The staff—most from the sales and administrative divisions—are operating machinery and driving forklifts.

Australian Workers’ Union state secretary Ben Davis said the move was an insult to the plant’s 90 workers, who have been on strike for almost 80 days over pay and conditions. Fletcher Insulation general manager Justin Hollis said Fletcher Insulation had offered the union a number of concessions in what was a ‘very fair offer for workers’. He said the union was blocking reasonable measures to improve productivity, the HERALD SUN.

Unions Confront Andrews
Unions representing school cleaners, timber workers and disability services have confronted Premier Andrews at Labor’s state conference, in fresh signs of internal unrest ahead of next year’s Victorian election. In an embarrassing look for the government, school cleaners used the event to unfurl a large banner featuring a mock-up of a new number plate slogan ‘Victoria: The Wage Theft State’, and accused the Premier of not doing enough to tackle shonky backyard operators who are under-paying staff.

The CFMEU also passed a resolution calling on the government to give certainty to the Gippsland town of Heyfield by guaranteeing timber workers’ jobs and immediately finalising its promised purchase of the local mill, The AGE.

Union Right-Of-Entry Removed
Victoria’s powerful construction union has suffered a major blow in a landmark court ruling that will see most of its senior officials barred from entering building sites without an invitation from management. Under the Full Federal Court decision on Friday union officials have been stripped of their federal right-of-entry permits and will not be allowed to enter projects sites to assist with workplace safety complaints.

Unions fear the ruling will have profound implications across the Victorian construction sector. Unions claim safety problems are commonplace while businesses argue right-of-entry rules are abused through the use of spurious safety allegations. Sixteen members of the CFMEU’s state leadership team do not hold federal entry permits, including the branch’s two highest-ranking officials, secretary John Setka and assistant secretary Shaun Reardon. To hold a permit applicants must pass a ‘fit and proper person’ test, The AGE.

Culture Shock
Weeks after announcing it would try to boost female firefighter numbers from 100 to 400 over four years, the government has been warned it may struggle to achieve that goal unless it also creates a firefighting culture that respects women and gives them more flexible hours to stay in the job, The AGE.

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The government has set up a Cabinet subcommittee to recommend a way to split services into a volunteer agency and a paid firefighter workforce. Labor sources said Mr Crean, a minister under four Labor governments and a former Federal Labor leader, has expressed his dismay to the subcommittee at how the government has caved to union demands in the CFA enterprise agreement. But others inside the party dismissed the claim as scuttlebutt and said Mr Crean was aligned with the government position.

Loy Yang Strike Stopped

Industrial action at one of Victoria's largest power plants won't go ahead after the state government stepped in to stop the strike. Workers at AGL's Loy Yang power plant in the Latrobe Valley planned to stop work from May 15 over an ongoing pay dispute, so the company decided it would lock them out.

Jobs Growth, Yet Unemployment

An unprecedented proportion of Victoria's working-age population has been pushed into the labour force by cost of living pressures and the lure of paid work. Over the 12 months to April, employment in Victoria grew by 115,600 with the state accounting for about 60 per cent of the 192,000 jobs created nationally.

Yet the unemployment rate – a measure of the nation. The reason for this apparent anomaly – strong jobs growth but a relatively high unemployment rate – has remained stubbornly high, at 6.1 per cent. That compares with 5 per cent in NSW and 5.8 per cent for the nation. The reason for this apparent anomaly – strong jobs growth but a relatively high unemployment rate – has been a surge in the number of people previously 'not in the labour force' who have started hunting for work.

JUSTICE

Deterrence Won't Stop Crime

Tougher punishments are unlikely to deter ice-fueled crime sprees. The idea according to Opposition Leader Matthew Guy is to 'send a very loud message that we will come down heavily on those who think they can continue to defy the law and subject their fellow citizens to the indignity of ice-fueled crime'. As Ombudsman Deborah Glass pointed out, between 2011 and 2014, Victoria's prison population swollen by one-quarter. One in two prisoners is now returning to prison within two years. The reconviction rate is now as high as 44 per cent, up dramatically from the decade to 2009, when the rate had dropped to 33.7 per cent. Yet, to simply attribute our rising crime rates to a 'soft touch' lacks sophistication and smacks of base political opportunism. Clearly, there are other, more powerful forces at work.

Substance abuse – particularly of the drug ice – would be high on the list. Add in economic dislocation, unemployment, a lack of available housing, poor access to services, poor education levels, rapid population growth, and boredom and you have a volatile mix, writes Josh Gordon for The Age.

Review Into Bail System

Supreme Court Justice Paul Coghlan has warned that Victoria's remand cells are filled with people who should not be there: 'a significant number of accused persons are on bail one remanded in custody for minor, non-violent offending.' He wrote in his review of the bail system, which was commissioned as a result of the Bourke Street massacre.

Victoria already has record numbers of prisoners on remand – there were 2625 people on remand on 23 March 2017, up from fewer than 1000 in 2010/2011, the review found. About a third of the adult male prison population in Victoria is on remand, 44 per cent of the women behind bars and roughly half the juvenile detention population.

Biggest Ice Bust

Australia's biggest ever seizure of ice has been made in Melbourne. The record 903kg haul of crystal methamphetamine, valued at almost $900 million. The February 6 bust followed a joint operation by Victorian and federal police. Most of the drugs were found in boxes of floorboards in a warehouse in Nunawading, 26km east of the city.

The boards arrived in a shipping container brought in through Melbourne's docks. The work of overseas-based Australian Federal Police agents was crucial to gathering the intelligence that led to the drug bust, the Herald Sun.

Apex Toppled

The so-called Apex gang is effectively dead, and was never a predominantly foreign or ethnic group of offenders, according to Victoria Police Deputy Commissioner Shane Patton said the gang, which came to prominence at last year's Moomba Festival riot, was now a 'non-entity'.

'We believe we have, if you like, taken out—for lack of a better word—or charged, the majority of the leaders of that gang, and have imprisoned them', he said.

Family Violence Hubs

The 17 new safety and support hubs will be built in areas with the highest rate of family violence at a cost of $448 million. While five will be launched later this year – in Barwon, Bayside Peninsula, Inner Gippsland, Malley and north-east Melbourne – the other twelve are not expected until at least mid-2019, or perhaps not even until 2021.

Behind the Curtain

Victoria Police is under pressure from the federal government to reverse its decision to quit a joint operation that was investigating union thuggery and intimidation. The Herald Sun revealed that Victoria Police had informed the Australian Federal Police of its intentions to end its role in the operation, which was spawned out of the royal commission into trade union corruption. Victoria Police Minister Lisa Neville said at the time the move 'completely a matter for Victorian Police', Herald Sun.

Deradicalisation Ignored

Several recommendations for Brighton killer Yacqub Khayre to participate in de-radicalisation programs were rejected or ignored by law enforcement agencies and government-funded community groups, despite repeated warnings he was a potential jihadist. Police killed the 29-year-old in Brighton after he killed a man, took a woman hostage, and wounded three Special Operations Group officers on Bay Street, The Age.

Police Academy

Victorian frontline police are undergoing US-style weapons training as part of a shift in tactics designed to immediately combat suicide terrorists and would-be mass murders to minimise casualties. The policy shift means junior police who are first at the scene need to be trained to confront and possibly kill armed terrorists and mass shooters.

They are also being taught to 'lock in' suspects in a contained area to minimise casualties. As part of 'Active Armed Offender' training, police are using a $1.8 million virtual reality
computer program to simulate more than 100 potentially violent scenarios. \textsc{The Age}

**Bollard to Protect Cities and Towns... Bullshit**

Portable cement bollards should be installed at the ends of malls and corsos in every major city and town, \textit{according to} security experts who warn Australia is still too vulnerable to a vehicle terror attack. \textit{However, local governments}, which would be best placed to implement such a measure, have been largely excluded from counter-terrorism planning, it is claimed.

Vehicle attacks have become the favoured method for Islamic State terrorists, with the latest issue of the terror group’s magazine even advising on the best vehicle. \textsc{The Age}

**Justice System in Crisis**

Police prosecutors in Victoria are ‘swamped’ and the magistrates’ court system is at breaking point, an independent review says. The Victoria Legal Aid review says criminal law services in the lowest court are in crisis, \textsc{The Herald Sun}

**Enforcement Order Spike**

Almost 2 million enforcement orders have been issued to Victorians who have failed to pay their fines in the past financial year. The latest annual report by the Department of Justice’s Infringement Management and Enforcement Services shows enforcement orders rose more than 6 per cent on the previous year to about 1.86 million, \textsc{The Age}

**Rifles on the Beat**

Police chiefs should consider arming Melbourne’s officers on the beat with assault rifles, lord mayor \textit{Robert Doyle} has suggested. As part of what police call ‘active armed offender’ training, NSW police is considering giving its general duties members access to long-arms. Police Chief Commissioner \textit{Graham Ashton} confirmed Victoria Police has looked at the option, \textsc{The Age}. \textit{No Way}

**Tough Stance on Bail Reform**

Almost 50% of people living in Yarra are renting, and this trend is expected to continue. About 70% of residential land in Yarra is covered by the Neighbourhood Residential Zone – restricting the height of new developments to nine metres and a maximum of two storeys. The General Residential Zone applies to about 30% of residential land and also limits building heights. Larger developments can occur in ‘strategic redevelopment areas’ – often located near shopping strips and other busy areas linked to public transport. These are generally in Commercial and Mixed Use Zones. There are also unique sites, like the former paper mill in Alphington, \textsc{Yarra News}

**Letter to Victims**

A restorative justice program put the teenagers from the Moomba riots face to face with their victims. A letter from a young offender to Moomba riot victims reads: ‘I hope the victim understands my actions caused an innocent to be shocked. Thank you for the opportunity to gain deeper knowledge. Just hope I still have my dream of going to an American college. Next time I should just walk away. I learnt that controlling my anger is very important in situations like this.’ \textsc{The Age}

**Police Reaction Under Fire**

Police have been questioned over the decision to leave hundreds of Malaysia Airlines passengers trapped on the tarmac for 90 minutes after a bomb scare forced a flight to return to Melbourne. Flight MH128 was forced to turn back after a man allegedly brandished a device he claimed to be a bomb threatened to blow up the flight soon after take-off.

While the accused man, a 25-year-old Sri Lankan student, was overpowered by passengers and crew, and the flight landed at 11:47pm on Wednesday, police did not storm the plane until 1:21am. Chief Commissioner \textit{Graham Ashton} defended the actions of police, saying there were concerns there may have been accomplices and bombs on the plane, \textsc{The Age}

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**Growing City of Yarra**


Almost 50% of people living in Yarra are renting, and this trend is expected to continue. About 70% of residential land in Yarra is covered by the Neighbourhood Residential Zone – restricting the height of new developments to nine metres and a maximum of two storeys. The General Residential Zone applies to about 30% of residential land and also limits building heights. Larger developments can occur in ‘strategic redevelopment areas’ – often located near shopping strips and other busy areas linked to public transport. These are generally in Commercial and Mixed Use Zones. There are also unique sites, like the former paper mill in Alphington, \textsc{Yarra News}

**Yarra Protection Plan**

Yarra Council has welcomed the Victorian Government’s announcement of the new Yarra River Action Plan. The plan responds to Council’s calls for greater protection of the Yarra and will inform new planning controls to prevent redevelopments from unduly encroaching upon or overshadowing the river.

It is expected that mandatory setbacks and building heights will be adjusted in some areas to improve protection of landscapes and biodiversity along the river. Setbacks will typically be between 30 and 50 metres from the river edge, \url{www.planning.vic.gov.au/policy-and-strategy/waterways-planning/yarra-river-protection} for more information, \textit{Yarra News}

**Wrong Job**

More than 50 municipal officers in Victoria are earning as much or more than the Premier – and that includes some who aren’t even in their council’s top job. Almost 1,000 officers are earning at least $150,000 a year, while more than 100 officers are on at least $250,000 a year. The highest-paid are Melbourne council CEO \textit{Ben Rimmer}, who receives from $460,000-469,999 and Greater Geelong council CEO \textit{Kevin Spiller}, who earns from $400,000-409,000, \textsc{The Herald Sun}

**CEO of Darebin**

Chief Executive Officer of the City of Darebin. Lead the vision for a sustainable, liveable and exciting future. Champion engagement and opportunity. Be a part of a vibrant multicultural community.

**So What**

Yarra Council is proposing to introduce a new separate Waste Service Charge to meet the rising cost of waste services and improve Council’s long-term financial sustainability. The proposal, which would involve a new flat service fee for all properties based on bin size, would see Yarra join 73 other Victorian councils already applying a separate Waste Service Charge in addition to general rates.

Council is considering this option because the cost to deliver waste services is expected to increase 6.5% per year, leading to a $20m shortfall over the next decade. Additionally, the council has several budgetary challenges of a growing population, ageing infrastructure, rate capping, reduced grants, cost shifting and the need to repay debt and build cash reserves in the short to medium term.

Finally, the proposal would enable council to reallocate the $8.5 million previously collected for waste services from within general rates, to improving council’s finances so it is better placed to respond to emerging community priorities and external constraints. The Editor, a Richmond resident, obviously disagrees with these ‘rate increases’

**Coastal Rate Rise**

Queenscliff council wants to raise rates by more than double the State Government-imposed cap. The plan for 4.5 per cent rate rise in 2017-18 will be debated by councillors at a meeting as a means of helping bankroll planned upgrades to the three council-managed caravan parks, Echo.

**Roads, Rates, Rubbish**

Defusions of grandeur don’t come more pronounced than local government buffoons delving into global affairs and historic injustices. Councillors are increasingly involving themselves in matters well above their station, from national and international issues to genocides committed in faraway lands.

The City of Monash is the latest local government authority to becloud itself with its debate about official acknowledgement of the Armenian genocide. Councillors \textit{Josh Fergeus} and \textit{Theo...
Zographos have discussed the idea, with the former maintaining that the matter ‘remains a live issue’ for the council and that ‘detailed’ community consultations will need to take place.

But there are fears that it will offend some constituents from the Turkish community. Monash mayor Rebecca Paterson quite rightly pointed out that the issue had ‘absolutely nothing to do with our responsibilities as a local council’, however, Paterson followed that up with ‘but most unfortunately, it seeks to pit one part of our multicultural community against other parts’.

**No Push with the 3 Rs**

Activists in councils have long misused their positions to push a range of divisive policies that pit one part of the community against another, whether it’s indigenous issues, same-sex marriage, climate change, hijab experiments or border protection policies. The only matters that councils should be concerned with are collecting rubbish, fixing potholes, running local library and doing their best to keep rates low, writes Rita Panahi for the **HERALD SUN**.

**Dog Corner**

Dogs would be banned from some coastal areas and face restrictions in other zones under a plan for the northern Bellarine Peninsula. The proposed dog orders are attracting strong public interest, with the council receiving almost 140 responses.

The council’s planning and development director, Hidden City

MELBOURNE

Parliament House. And the City Square has been revealed that there were 226 dog attacks in the state, with almost 46,000 registered cats and dogs. It has previously been most unfortunately, it seeks to pit one part of our multicultural community against other parts’.

The council said was ‘the significant growth in residential properties along and in the vicinity of Spencer Street’. Melbourne City Council is going to use what is terrible news for drivers and cyclists at that end of the city to increase pedestrian safety by trialling crossing times, **THE AGE**.

**Bridge Removal**

A pedestrian bridge built some 20 years ago for the original Crown Casino may be demolished, despite nearby residents saying it should stay. The City Council removal will cost about $700,000, and the plan is still being assessed. The bridge was constructed to link a car park to the temporary casino which was based in the World Trade Centre while the Southbank development was being built, **THE HERALD SUN**. At the time of publication, the bridge is in the process of being removed.

**Docklands Growth**

About 40 per cent of almost 60,000 jobs in Docklands belong to finance workers. Lord Mayor **Robert Doyle** attributes Dockland’s jobs success to changing work preferences for big offices. He said the precinct was home to lower-rise buildings, with larger floors – making them ideal for hot desking. ‘The way that people are working is changing’ he said. ‘The ANZ building is almost like a little country town in terms of the number of people down there’. Many businesses have been able to cash in on the influx of 9-to-5 workers. Baristas, cooks and waiters have been the big winners. There are now 3654 food and beverage workers working out of Docklands, 83 per cent more than there were five years ago. However retail stores continue to struggle, **THE AGE**.

**Melbourne 4.0**

The Committee for Melbourne, a lobby group formed when Melbourne was on its way to recession in the 1980s, has floated its ideas for how the city can continue to thrive — and avoid becoming an economic and cultural backwater. ‘Melbourne is looking quite good on the surface — but there are these big disruptive forces that we haven’t yet fully understood’, said Committee for Melbourne chief executive **Martine Letts**.

The committee released Melbourne 4.0, its strategy document putting forward nine measures for the city that might help it thrive. A taskforce established by the committee identified the nine ‘strategic needs that will have to be addressed if we are serious about underpinning a liveable and flourishing Melbourne’. Their strategy also outlines four largely negative possible scenarios for how Melbourne might develop if a ‘business-as-usual’ approach is followed over the next decade, **THE AGE**.

**Twin Tower Project**

A 1000-seat ballroom with spectacular views of heritage gardens will be the jewel of a $480 million twin towers complex in the CBD. Developer SP Setia has been given planning approval for the luxury hotel-and-apartment project delivering 2000 jobs on the corner of Exhibition and La Trobe streets. Architect **Karl Fender**, from Fender Katsalidis, said the ballroom would overlook the nearby Carlton Gardens, the **HERALD SUN**.

**Shelter for the Homeless**

A homeless shelter will open in Melbourne’s CBD as part of a $2 million package of initiatives by the City of Melbourne. The Night Time Safe Space will operate from the Salvation Army’s Hamodava Café in Bourke St. Rough sleepers will be able to stay at the café from 7pm-7am, seven days a week, the **HERALD SUN**.

Heritage Building Revamp

A section of one of Southbank’s most historic and high-profile buildings could make way for a 39-storey black glass hotel. The Robur Tea House building at 28-34 Clarendon Street, on the south-west corner of Normandy Road, was built about 1887, and for many years was the tallest building outside the CBD. Described by Heritage Victoria as ‘one of the finest and most prominent examples of a 19th century Melbourne warehouse’, the intricate red-brick, six-level structure is now dwarfed by skyscrapers, **THE AGE**

**Fight Over Public Space**

A row over access to public space on the roof of the St Kilda Sea Baths has put Housing Minister **Martin Foley** at odds with another arm of the Andrews government. The company behind the St Kilda Sea Baths wants to take much of the
**Keating Weighs In on Market Refurb**

Former Prime Minister Paul Keating has attacked Melbourne City Council's plan to fund redevelopment of the Queen Victoria Market by building a massive skyscraper next to it. As hundreds of protesters gathered at the market to object to the council’s $250 million refurbishment, Mr Keating went on local radio to question whether the plan would destroy its heritage.

The former Labor leaders backed Planning Minister Richard Wynne, who has indicated he supports only 100 metres—or around 35 storeys—for a tower next to the market. The council has sold a prime piece of land that it bought in 2014 for $76 million to developer PDG for $133 million. In return, PDG will build a car park and community facilities for the council.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said he was ‘quite surprised’ at Mr Keating’s interview. He believes it was likely the former PM had not visited the market for many years. ‘He would need Google Maps and an Uber to get there’, he said. Mr Keating said the plan to have the market sheds heritage listed was ridiculous.

Under the council’s redevelopment plans, the sheds will be temporarily removed and underground services built beneath them. The sheds will be repaired and then reinstalled. ‘Taking all those market sheds down and putting them back up, that means they got to strip the lead paint off’, Mr Keating said. ‘Melbourne is trying to list this as a heritage site but there will be no heritage left; it will just be stripped-up new buildings’, The Age.

**Artist Gives Council a Spray**

A tense stand-off is developing between Melbourne City Council and artist Vincent Fantauzzo after a mural by the artist in a city laneway was removed by cleaners. The artist said he was ‘gutted’ by the council’s decision to remove the mural, which it deemed a ‘safety risk’, and has accused it of damaging the laneway in the clean-up.

They’ve completely trashed the alley. All the walls and bitumen are ripped up just because of some paint. They’ve sprayed into all the air units of the adjacent buildings where their kitchens are’, Fantauzzo painted the large mural in Strachan Lane recently in an attempt to attract people to the laneway and support street art.

He said he was ‘baffled’ by the council’s reaction and accused it of ignoring previous requests from Strachan Lane tenants to clean up garbage in the area, The Age.

**Peters has gone**

Stuart Moseley has been appointed the CEO of the Victorian Planning Authority, replacing Peter. Moseley is currently the Deputy Director General for the Queensland Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning. His previous employment includes stints as the CEO of the Adelaide City Council and General Manager of Information and Strategy at the South Australian Department of Planning, Transport and infrastructure.

**Melbourne Park Upgrade**

A new eastern entrance to Melbourne Park featuring bars, restaurants and public spaces is the latest revamp of our world-leading tennis and entertainment precinct. An upgrade of Rod Laver Arena itself will see new seating, restaurants and administration centres. The work forms part of the $338 million stage two redevelopment of Melbourne Park, which the Andrews government claims will deliver 1300 jobs during construction, the Herald Sun.

**Geelong Suburban Growth**

More first home buyers are buying new homes in the booming suburbs of Geelong with the aid of the first home buyer grant, than they are buying apartments in Melbourne’s CBD. The popularity of the Geelong suburbs, in postcode 3217, are confirmed by State Revenue Office figures showing where new home buyers who apply for the $10,000 first home owner grant are buying, The Age.

**Build-to-Rent Boom**

Melbourne renters are poised for a game-changer that could shake up the property market: major developers are looking to become large-scale landlords. Tenants may soon sign longer leases in renter-only buildings with the country’s biggest developers, instead of with traditional mum and dad investors. The build-to-rent sector is on the precipice of a significant push. Popular in the US and more recently the UK, it involves developers holding and renting out properties they build, rather than selling them, The Age.

**VBG in the Firing Line**

Victims of a disastrous townhouse development in Diamond Creek in Melbourne’s outer suburbs claim they suffered financial losses and physical and psychiatric injuries as a result of the inaction of the Victorian Building Authority. It is believed the case could spark a rush of legal action from other Victorians who feel abandoned by the VBA, which has been slammed for being asleep at the wheel while defects plague the industry, The Age. AND NOW we have seen the recent building fire in London.

**Historic Mine Development**

A development is planned for a historic 163-hectare property in Lilydale that was owned by Dame Nellie Melba’s family for more than 100 years. It would include houses, townhouses and possibly apartments. The Heritage Council of Victoria recently determined that a parcel of the property including these features should be included in the Victoria Heritage Register.

A limestone quarry and processing plant was established at the site in 1878 by the property’s owner, David Mitchell, who was a prominent figure in 19th and early 20th-century Victoria, and father of the opera singer. Mitchell was the building contractor who built such landmarks as the Royal Exhibition Building and the Scots Church in Collins Street. Quarrying ceased at the site in 2015. The property includes large tracts of undistributed land and large areas of overburden from mining, as well as a quarry pit that covers about 25 hectares around its perimeter and is about 120 metres deep. David Payes, Intrapae Property’s managing director, said the property would eventually be home to an estimated 7500 to 9000 people, The Age.

**Developers’ Dodge Deal**

The developers who paid $9.6 million to bulldoze a stunning Federation house in one of Melbourne’s most valuable streets have put the dusty vacant block back on the market —without the mansion—for almost double what they paid for it two years ago, The Age.

**Transport – Ports**

The West Gate and Bolte bridges will need to be strengthened and the western end of the scrapped East West Link built to cope with a fivefold increase in container traffic at the privatised Port of Melbourne, its new operators say. New owner the Lonsdale Consortium says the port could grow to handle between 12 and
it could be used to upgrade infrastructure or provide additional services. At the same time, the service standards are getting worse and maintenance backlogs are getting longer.

So what are the state government’s other options? The first option is for the government to put the two franchises out for an open tender as it did in 2008, when it decided against renewing the contracts of the previous private operators, Veolia and Transdev. In essence, it could enter the draft and see what other talent is out there.

A bolder step would be to bring the contracts back into a more transparent public administration where corner-cutting profiteering is forced to sit on the bench. That would provide the opportunity to set up Victoria’s own talent academy, build team capacity within the operation and increase our ability to draft talented local players, writes the secretary of the rail, tram and bus union Luba Grigorovitch for the HERALD SUN.

Hacker Alert
Public transport authorities have been warned hackers could play havoc with the system and severely disrupt services. Rail data expert for global infrastructure giant Siemens, Gerhard Kress, said a 12-year old boy had used remote control to disrupt tram services causing injuries to passengers in Warsaw, Poland, the HERALD SUN.

Train Surfing Issue
Metro Trains says 138 people died with death last year by riding on the outside of trains. Three young men have died — and many have been injured — in the past five years by illegally hitching rides on the top or back of trains, the HERALD SUN.

Train Fleet Upgrade
Designs for planned fleet of 65 new high-capacity trains that will enter service from mid-2019 reveal a radical change is in store for Melbourne train travellers. The trains will be built to carry between 1200 and 2000 passengers each, depending on their configuration, and they will be designed to maximise standing room, with seats provided to 30 to 40 per cent of passengers in a fully loaded train.

According to studies, a level of six passengers per square metre is comparable to that in the Tokyo metro. By way of comparison, the city’s current fleet of trains are designed to comfortably fit 900 people and seat about two-thirds of them, THE AGE.

**Timetable Update**
Peak-hour commutes on three of Melbourne’s most overcrowded railway lines will receive sorely needed extra services when a new Metro timetable starts in August. The update will usher in new peak-hour services on the Werribee, Sunbury and Craigieburn lines. Those three lines are each among the worst in Melbourne for peak-hour overcrowding, with multiple trains a day breaching Public Transport Victoria’s load standard of 900 passengers a train, THE AGE.
Council data show a big decline in vehicles using Elizabeth St over the last decade but northbound traffic turning from Flinders St will not be affected by the changes, the HERALD SUN.

Phone Addicts
Motorists have been hit with almost $300,000 fines for using a mobile phone while driving in Victoria in the past three years, clocking up more than $40 million in fines, THE AGE.

Doncaster Busway Proposal
French-based Transdev has made a pitch to the Andrews government to build and operate the ‘Doncaster bus rapid transit’ system for 30 years and reinvent public transport in Melbourne’s east. The company, which has a contract to operate a third of Melbourne’s bus network, wants to build and run the premium bus service as a public-private partnership.

The busway would be a first for Melbourne, but would mirror international examples Transdev operates in cities such as Nantes in France and Bogota in Columbia. Transdev and developer John Laing submitted the idea in late May, using the Department of Treasury’s market-led proposal guidelines — the same process Transurban used to gain approval for its West Gate Tunnel project.

It is estimated the Doncaster-CBD busway would cost more than $500 million — $10 to $15 per cent of the estimated $3 billion to $5 billion to build Doncaster rail, a project Infrastructure Victoria assessed last year would return just 10c for every dollar spent. Transdev wants to pave over the Eastern Freeway median — which has been reserved for almost 50 years for a railway line — for express buses instead of trains.

The buses would be double-articulated, with doors on both sides, and fit up to 150 passengers. They would run every three minutes in the peak and every five to six minutes off-peak. From the Eastern Freeway the busway would join Hoddle Street via a dedicated ramp, then potentially follow Victoria Parade and Lonsdale Street to a new underground bus terminus at the northern end of Southern Cross Station.

Express bus lanes would also be built in the centre of Doncaster Road. Other vehicles such as cars and trucks would be strictly banned from the busway. Modelling by engineering consultancy AECOM found the system would provide a reliable 30-minute journey between Doncaster and Southern Cross Station. The concept has already won the support of the Eastern Transport Coalition, a group of seven eastern suburbs councils pushing for better transport in Melbourne’s east.

Monash University’s Professor Graham Currie helped to design Melbourne’s current SmartBus network and said many cities had chosen bus rapid transit systems as an effective and less expensive alternative to rail. ‘It’s a rubber-tyred railway, the new technology dominating public transport thinking on planet earth,’ he said of the concept.

Transdev spokeswoman Kathy Lazanas said the proposal put to Treasury last month would evolve through consultation with the community, should the Andrews government support it. ‘We will work with the Victorian government through its well established market-led proposal process,’ Ms Lazanas said, THE AGE.

West Gate Tunnel
Motorists travelling between Melbourne’s outer west and the CBD can expect to save eight minutes each way off their peak-hour commute by taking Transurban’s $5.5 billion West Gate Tunnel, a government report shows. The new tollway, which is due to open in 2022, will also flood the streets of North Melbourne, West Melbourne and Docklands with thousands of extra cars a day. The Andrews government has consistently claimed the West Gate Tunnel will usher in cuts of up to 20 minutes to trip times between the city and Melbourne’s west, but the Environment Effects Statement published contains just one example of a predicted 20-minute time savings. According to the EES, a drive from the city to the Princes Freeway in the PM peak will be 20 minutes quicker via the tunnel than via Footscray Road and Geelong Road. The prediction are based on the year 2031, nine years after the West Gate Tunnel is due to open, THE AGE.

SOCIETY

Pastoral Letter to the Catholics of Victoria
There is a renewed push in Victoria and in many other parts of Australia for euthanasia and assisted suicide to be legalised. Misplaced compassion leads some to call for the deliberate ending of life by the direct action of a doctor. This is never justified — catechism of the Catholic Church #2277.

In the latest push the term ‘assisted dying’ is being used to describe both euthanasia and assisted suicide. While it is never easy to face the end of life of a loved one, we cannot support this kind of legalisation however it is described. Assistance in out time of dying is something that we should all want for ourselves and for others — however, this should not involve a lethal injection or offering a lethal dose.

Acts of Kindness
Members of the Warrandyte RSL were devastated after their 90-year-old cenotaph was defaced with anarchist symbols. The vandals painted ‘war is murder’ on the memorial two days before Anzac Day, leaving the RSL desperate to remove the graffiti in time for the march, which concluded at the memorial.

Manningham Council sodablasted the graffiti, inadvertently destroying the gold lettering. Letter cutter Stephan Papal called the RSL Association to offer to repair the memorial for free, and spent the day before Anzac Day restoring it with his son, Ben, THE AGE.

Stawell Teenage Gift
American surfer Courtney Conlogue has been pushing trolleys around Bunnings as a part-time job for the past three years but his career prospect may be elsewhere after a stunning Stawell Gift victory. The 18-year-old university student had been the red-hot Stawell Gift favourite and justified his odds-on price by storming home in Australia’s richest footrace.

Two years ago, when history was made with the first 16-year-old winning the women’s Stawell Gift, Liv Ryan was living in Switzerland. The 16-year-old from Donvale blew away her rivals from the outside mark of 11 metres. Ryan’s victory continues the trend of teenage girls succeeding in Australia’s richest footrace, the HERALD SUN.

American Bell
American surfer Courtney Conlogue has defended her Bells Beach title, nailing out Aussie Stephanie Gilmore in a thriller final. The visiting Californian beat Gilmore in a close 17:00 to 16:33 win, to ring the coveted bell trophy at the Rip Curl Pro for the second consecutive year, the HERALD SUN.

Racism Has No Place in Sports
As the 2017 footy season begins, the game beloved by so many is in the news for all the wrong reasons, yet again. There is no room for racism anywhere in our community. What do we teach our children when we tolerate screeches of racist insults at the game? What are we saying to the nearly 30 per cent of Victorians born overseas? Or those dreaming of one day making this country home?

The Age applauds the open letter by the AFL Players’ Indigenous Advisory Board and we wholeheartedly back its sentiments: ‘How long...
must we put up with this? Racial vilification has been part of our game for too long. There’s no room in our game for any form of vilification, whether it’s based on race, gender, religion or sexual orientation. Anyone who thinks that this is an acceptable way to act is no football fan.

Some say racist taunts ‘just happen’ on the spur of the moment, making the excuse that passionate foot fans ‘just get carried away’. But if each hateful insult comes at a financial cost, chances are a lot more likely that fans would think twice. Defining taunts and abuse as racism is difficult but we would argue that it is impossible.

The AFL has been educating its players. Certain phrases and words—such as ‘ape’—are widely agreed to be offensive and yelling them at the football could be proscribed, The Age.

Good Friday Money

Footy fans are split over Channel Seven’s decision to televise the football match over the Good Friday Appeal. Lee Milton, said on twitter ‘I don’t mind that the AFL have a match today but for Seven to stop showing the Good Friday Appeal for three hours to show the game is blasphemy’. Religious leaders condemned the AFL’s decision to go ahead with the 4.20pm match, saying it ran in direct competition with the traditional Good Friday mass.

Geelong Catholic priest Father Kevin Dillon said he would have preferred an evening match. ‘The match should not be scheduled in direct competition with the reason the day is a public holiday. It should be starting no earlier than 6pm’, The Age.

Court Comments Draw Criticism

Premier Andrews has condemned sport great Margaret Court for making ‘offensive’ comments towards the gay community, but has stopped short of declaring whether the tennis venue named in her honour should be rebadged. And the controversy would not have blown up if Malcolm Turnbull had simply allowed a conscience vote on marriage equality in the Australian Parliament.

The furore surrounding the former tennis star has threatened to derail next year’s Australian Open, with some suggesting the event could be boycotted unless the Margaret Court Arena at Melbourne Park is renamed. In an open letter to the arena, tennis legend Martina Navratilova branded Ms Court a homophobic and called for the venue to be rebadged as the Evonne Goolagong Arena, The Age.

Vale

Local Publican Dies in Fire

A publican killed in a fire that destroyed his country pub has been described as a man who ‘would give you the short off his back’. Thorpdale, South of Traralgar in Gippsland, was in mourning after John Bantock died in the blaze at the Traveller’s Rest Hotel, the Herald Sun.

Tragic Accident

Benalla’s mayor believes the deaths of Isabel and Judy Stephens were ‘simply a tragic accident’, as autopsies were being conducted to determine how the mother and daughter died. After a week-long search for Isabel, aged 89, and her daughter Judy, 53, their bodies were found in bushland near Samaria, The Age.

BARBER, Connie – Teacher devoted later life to painting, then poetry, BERESON, Itel – teacher who shared his passion history. His last book, published in 2010, was the official history of Northcote High, co-authored with others.


COOK, Norm – Long-time employee at the Melbourne Cricket Club.

GIROUX, Michelle – Teacher brought France to Melbourne.

GURR, Michael – Visionary playwright.

HUNTER, Phillip – Painter understood poetry of landscape.

LESTER, Madeline – Interior designer gave the industry outstanding leadership.

MACHA, Mary – Kimberly art promoter, died aged 94.

MOORE, Roger – Actor, former James Bond, died aged 89.

PICOTT-SMITH, Tim – Seasoned Shakespeare stage actor before achieving television stardom as the sadistic police superintendent turned Army colonel Ronald Merrick in The Jewel in the Crown.

SMITH, David Floyd AM Victorian Director of Agriculture, and much else. Various government agencies. Wrote a few books on agriculture and other things. He established the Susan Holmes Travel scholarship after his former companion/wife. A wonderful man, and the Editor will miss picking him up from the tram stop and driving him into Town.

SMITH, Eric – Humble artist won the Archibald Prize three times.

BERNARD, Thomas Denys – AKA Dan Webb, he was one of the first faces of TV news.

WALLIS, Jock Campbell – he was the fourth generation of a family founded by Henry Wallis and Mary Dempsey in the Seymour district around 1848. ALEXANDER, Dr William John Heriot: AUDREY, Sister Audrey CSC, AUGHERTSON, Patrick Joseph, ARTHUR (nee Griffin), Marie Yvonne, BASILE, Josephine ‘Jo’ Veronica, BEER, Edward ‘Eddie’ Albert, BEGGS, Elsa Mary, BETHELL, Kenneth Charles Beswicke, BOURKE, Daniel Meskill, BRINDLE, Barry Graham, BROCKWELL, Jean, BROPHY, Moira Frances, BRUHAN, Maxwell William; BUDGE, Kenneth Sutherland, BURCH, James Jim, BURBETT, Robert William; CANAWAY (nee Pattison), Marie Therese, CANOBIE, Lewis William, CHURCHWARD, Geoffrey Neville Ernest; CLARKE, John, COMMODE, Johanna Maria; COOKE, Jenny, COLMAN, Jadwiga, COULTER (nee Rutherford), Suzanne; CRACKNELL, Derek Henry, CRAWFORD, Lindsay Dinham OAM; CRONE, Euan John Dairymple, DEACON, Owen William; DRIESEN, Gerard A.; DUFFUS (nee Muldowney), Patricia ‘Pat’; DUNGAN, James John, ECKFELD, Reinhold, EDGAR, Loris Jean, ENGLAND, Lorna, FRASER (nee Johnson), Shirley Jean; GILBERT, Clifford Stanley, GILL, Peter Bernard, GILLIGAN, Christopher William, GUERIN, Robert Dudley, GUTHRIE, John Vincent, HOE, Triffiena, JONES, Robin Bethune OAM, JOWETT, Kevin George; KELLET, Ian ‘Skinny’ Ross, KELSO, James Cousins OAM, LAWMAN (nee Taylor), Joyce, LEE, Ernest ‘Eni’ Reginald, LEITCH, Graham ‘Gus’ John, LITTLE (nee Ley) Margaret, LONGDEN, John Duncan, MARLES, Donald McLeod OAM, MARSHALL, Roy Edward, McCARTHY, Susan Marlon, McGrath, Peggy, McCROTTY, Bill, McLellan, Allan, McCLENAN, Lois Marjorie; MORSBY (nee McDonald), Flora Kathleen, MINRO, James AO, Brigadier (Retd), NEVILLE, Jane Warren; NICHOLLS, Johanne Mary, NORMAN, Allan John, O’DWYER, John James; OLDRIEGE, Georgina, OSTROWSKY, Wladimir ‘Wally’ Peters, PETERS, Glenn Howard; PETTIGREW, Gordon John; PERIL, Gerard Roger Cyril; PULLAN, Gerald, READ-SMITH, Wendy Corelie; REDMOND, Margaret Mary ‘Peg’, RICKARDS, Frederick ‘Geoff’ Geoffrey, RITCHIE, Judith Evelyn, ROBERTSON, Gordon Stewart, ROENNFIELD, Benjamin William, ROGERS, John James Kilgriff; SADDULL, Leslie Jack; SEDDON, Joan; SENIOR Edna May, SELOVER, Peter; SMALE (nee Horner), Joan, SMITH, Joyce ‘Bunny’ Evelyn, SLATER (nee Thompson), Annie ‘Nancy’ Edna; STANNUSS (nee Lott), Joan Audrey, STRONG (nee Blair), Dorothy Bryce, WALTON, Bruce Adrian, WEARNE, Bryan Hamilton, WEIR, Gavin John Gordon, YOUNG, William Neave,
Melbourne’s Perspectives on Australian Leadership

By Victor Pertton

The Australian Leadership Project has now interviewed over 350 people to meet our mission of “celebrating, understanding and improving Australian Leadership.” Visit our website australianleadership.com to read and watch interviews and share your stories of Australian leadership. Melbourne quotes:

Football legend and leadership expert, Simon Madden told us, “Our typical leaders are leading from the front however it’s not all about them. It’s about the people they lead, and they do so with a higher purpose, bringing people along with them.”

Vivienne Corcoran put it well! “Australians demand little but expect a great deal of their leaders…”

Victorian Small Business Minister Philip Dalidakis shared stories of the leadership of Tony Abbott, Daniel Andrews and Domestic Violence campaigner Emily Maguire. Philip advised, “One of the things that have Australian leaders standing out from others is our self-deprecating humour. We take the issues seriously, but we don’t necessarily take ourselves too seriously. It’s a great way to be.”

Digital Innovation Leader, Simon Spencer, said “Australian leaders are good at looking widely, listening for signals. We give binoculars to the lookouts to get good reliable signals of what’s ahead. We observe closely what’s happening in Asia, Europe, America, South America and Africa. We consider what the rest of the world is doing, and then often (but not always) choose wisely.”

Kirsten Sayers advises, “I think a key difference is that Australians want a personable leader who can be seen to be one of the ‘gang’ whilst being able to take the lead at the same time. This presents specific challenges for leaders, especially in contexts where a high degree of hierarchy might be more usual.”

Australia Post’s Christine Corbett told us, “Australians are more connected than ever – they want leaders who walk the talk and communicate openly and honestly.”
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