

LETTER FROM MELBOURNE

ISSUE 157, AUGUST 10 TO SEPTEMBER 11, 2010
DOCKLANDS EDITION

*SAVING YOU TIME. A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER DISTILLING PUBLIC
POLICY AND GOVERNMENT DECISIONS WHICH EFFECT BUSINESS
OPPORTUNITIES IN VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA AND BEYOND.*

INSIDE

NO BY-ELECTION FOR BRUMBY OR IVANHOE

GILLARD FACTOR IMPROVES BRUMBY'S
ELECTION PROSPECTS

BUSHFIRES RESPONSE AND COSTINGS

(ELECTION) ADVERTISING OVER THE TOP

HOW IT RAINS... DESAL SITE TOO MUDDY
FOR WORK

VICTORIA: THE WIND ENERGY STATE

MOVE THE PORTS?

NO MILDURA CASINO...

ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION DEBATE
CONTINUES

Editorial Our Wonderful Climate

The federal election, as various independents and us all tuned into the 72:72 (eventually) balanced major parties and what might and could and did happen eventually or at least next, created a vacuum around politics in Victoria. Making *The Age* a bit slow to read. Its pretty quick time to flick through it on most days.

Then the floods filled up the media for a few days, they mainly affected country folk. The floods led to a focus on expensive new water facilities, and might we never have needed them. Just wait a few years, folks, until a few more hundred thousand people are pumped into Melbourne..... (continued inside)

**Morgan Poll Most Accurate & first to suggest
'Hung Parliament' - Pages 11 - 14**



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Letter From Melbourne is a monthly public affairs bulletin, a simple précis, distilling and interpreting public policy and government decisions, which affect business opportunities in Victoria and Australia.

Written for the regular traveller, or people with meeting-filled days, you only have to miss reading the *The Age* or *The Herald Sun* twice a week to need Letter From Melbourne. It's more about business opportunities (or lack of them) than politics. It's not Crikey.com. We keep the words to a minimum.

Letter From Melbourne is independent. It's not party political or any other political. It does not have the imprimatur of government at any level.

For context. It includes events and people and society, and the weather if that is important.

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EDITORIAL (CONTINUED)

Also for the farming folk, we have a plague of locusts about to burst (breed) over much of Victoria's cropland. Also in the news: a few footballer antics, and a few nasty (criminal) folk around town who seem to get better coverage per person than almost any politician.

So, little real Victorian government news, apart from approving some more wind farms and increasing planning roles for developers and removing similar powers for municipalities and others.

At Tania de Jong's Creative Innovation conference, hopefully the first of many, a wide range of people from businesses and organisations, both large and small, made some new friends as they enjoyed and or mused their way through master classes, deep thinking sessions, seminars and coffee at the new(ish) Melbourne Recital Centre beside the National Gallery.

Back on Collins Street, Morgan Research, having predicted a hung parliament in Canberra in our pre-election Letter From Canberra Issue 27, are no doubt planning questions to ask folk at the state election on 27 November. Perhaps with the same conclusion.



ABOUT THE EDITOR ALISTAIR URQUHART

Alistair Urquhart graduated from the Australian National University in Canberra, in Law, History and Politics, was admitted as a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria, and remains a (non-practicing) member of the Law Institute of Victoria. Before that, he graduated from high school in Bethesda, Maryland, and had many opportunities to become aware of the workings of Washington DC.

For 30 years, he listened every Sunday evening to the late Alistair Cooke and his *Letter From America*. His 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.

His public affairs firm works with many engineering and information technology firms, other professional association and industry groups, on a wide range of issues, in Victoria, Canberra and overseas. Urquhart visits Canberra regularly. He may hold the record for miles rowed on Canberra's Lake Burley Griffin.

Alistair recently attended Tania de Jong's Creative Innovation 2010 conference here in Melbourne and spent time with leading creative thinker Edward De Bono, sharing an interest in red socks.

INDEX

STATE GOVERNMENT & POLITICS	3	JUSTICE	16
THE BUSHFIRES	4	MELBOURNE	18
ARTS	7	PLANNING & BUILDING	18
EDUCATION	8	LOCAL GOVERNMENT	19
ENVIRONMENT	13	SPORT	20
CONSERVATION	13	TOURISM	20
ENERGY	13	TRANSPORT	20
WATER	14	RAIL	20
GAMING	15	ROAD	22
HEALTH	15	AIR	22
INVESTMENT	16	PORTS	22
BUSINESS	16	INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS	23
AGRICULTURE	16	COMMUNITY	23

STATE GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Dropping a bomb

Ivanhoe MP and government whip **Craig Langdon**, 53, resigned three months before the Victorian election. In a three-page letter to Premier **John Brumby**, Langdon accused the premier of selling out Labor MPs with a series of policy backflips, relying too much on advice from faceless know-it-alls, and locking himself away in his office rather than consulting with caucus. Langdon says he is the victim of faceless factional warlords, including federal Labor power broker **Bill Shorten**. He says many Labor people are blaming Brumby for allowing factional chiefs to organise his preselection defeat. His resignation was effective immediately with the intention of forcing a by-election before the November 27 state election. Langdon holds Ivanhoe with a 10.5 per cent margin. At the last by-election, in the Labor heartland seat of Altona in February, Labor sustained a swing of about 12 per cent, *The Age* reported.

The *Herald Sun* reported that Langdon has been dogged by personal problems in recent years. He was beaten by Education Minister **Bronwyn Pyke's** former chief of staff, **Anthony Carbines**, in the preselection for the (his) seat. Langdon's daughter said the MP felt he couldn't trust anyone because there was foul play behind the scenes. Langdon predicted Labor would lose his seat of Ivanhoe. He said the Government was ignoring key issues in the area including school regeneration, and Carbines was not up to the challenge posed by the electorate.

Brumby said it would be nonsense to force Ivanhoe voters to a by-election just before the November 27 election. Lower house speaker Jenny Lindell has considered advice on whether the Constitution and the Electoral Act required her to call a by-election: it seems not. Brumby declined to respond to Langdon's departing advice that the Premier should rely more on talented Labor MPs in marginal seats, consult more with Caucus and backbench MPs for their opinions, *The Age* reported. It sounds like some of the Canberra issues.

The Gillard factor

The *Herald Sun* reported that a late-August poll found that support for the Brumby-led Labor government had risen. The Gillard factor has been good for Labor in Victoria at both federal and state level. The Newspoll

for Victoria in July-August has Labor at 55-45 in two-party preferred terms, which if repeated in November would easily return Labor for a fourth term in office.

Electorially sensitive area

The Age reported that Premier **Brumby** is under fire for spending millions of dollars of taxpayers funds on a pre-election advertising blitz spruiking the Government's performance in electorially sensitive areas including rural affairs, law and order and public transport. With Labor fearful of losing a swag of regional seats at the November poll, the Government launched a \$1.4m television campaign promoting its blueprint to the bush.

Nearby

The *Herald Sun* reported that spending taxpayers money on political propaganda will be banned under a Coalition state government. An opposition private members bill calls for the establishment of an independent committee to decide what qualifies as legitimate political advertising. The most recent AC Nielsen report shows the Victorian government out-spending major corporations such as Toyota, Qantas and Ford with up to \$100m spent on advertising.

The Age reported that taxpayer funded spending on government advertising reached a record \$124m last financial year, forcing the Brumby government to defend its advertising blitz in the lead up to the November election. Figures released by the Government show Labor spent an extra \$10m on campaigns last financial year, up from \$114m in 2008-2009. The increase came not from recruitment or functional government advertising, but from campaigns, which now make up \$100m of the media spending.

What a Guy

Opposition's planning spokesman, **Matthew Guy**, has broken from the political climate of fear on population growth and thrown his full support behind a Big Victoria. At a Property Council population summit in Melbourne, Guy said the Opposition was very supportive of population growth. He said Melbourne was growing by 95,000 people every year and the challenge was to plan better for growth, *The Age* reported.

Looking a bit green

In the federal election, just over 320,000 Victorians gave the Greens their first preference vote. The Greens hold three Upper House seats in State

Parliament – in the Western, Northern and Southern metropolitan districts. Data shows that with a similar swing in November's election, the Greens could win four inner-city ALP-held lower house seats and win a seat in all eight upper house districts, the *Herald Sun* reported. *The Age* reported that Victoria's Greens MPs, who have no official leader, will not change their party room structure in the lead up to November's election, despite coming battles with Labor in the inner-city seats of Melbourne, Brunswick, Richmond and Northcote.

Our force

Police Minister **Bob Cameron** has criticised the secret deal that former Premier **Steve Bracks** struck with the police union before the last Victorian election, admitting it was a mistake that affected the reputation of both parties involved. The Bracks government effectively promised more police, more resources and better working conditions in exchange for union support during the campaign. The controversial agreement that sidelined then Chief Commissioner **Christine Nixon** was described by critics as an appalling distortion of the democratic process. Cameron guaranteed that no such deals would take place ahead of this year's state election on November 27. Meanwhile, Cameron has supported Victoria Police's right to enter into secret agreements with external agencies for the exchange of information – provided privacy laws are not overridden!!!

Its leader

The Age reported that Police Minister **Bob Cameron** has apologised and branded himself a 'right git' after causing a car accident that injured another driver and left both cars with major damage. The minister was driving his taxpayer funded electoral car, a late-model Commodore, to Malmsbury to meet his driver, who was then to take Cameron to Melbourne.

Class act

The *Herald Sun* reported that Opposition Leader **Ted Baillieu** faced questions over his financial arrangements amid revelations he has links to a company based in an overseas tax haven. He is also under pressure to explain the existence of a company called Ednorm, which appears to be a contraction of his middle names, **Edward Norman**, and is run by his brother and business partner **Ian Baillieu**. The *Financial Review* reported that Baillieu has previously batted away Government demands for a restructure of

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his private shareholdings to avoid conflicts of interest should he win the November election.

The Government has launched a concerted personal attack on Baillieu both inside and outside Parliament over his shareholdings, that his investments should be in a blind trust, which they now are. Nearby, Baillieu won the Parliamentary press gallery footy tipping competition, *The Age* reported.

A warm welcome

An Aboriginal welcoming ceremony will become permanent at all openings of the Victorian Parliament, Premier **John Brumby** said, if Labor is re-elected this year, *The Age* reported.

Vale

More than 700 people – former and serving Premiers and cabinet ministers, members of the legal community, political rivals and allies, family and friends – filled the National Gallery of Victoria's Great Hall for the state memorial service for **Jim Kennan**, *The Age* reported.

Our bravery

Australian Bravery Decorations have been awarded to 17 individuals around the state. Victorians received four Bravery Medals, 11 Commendations for Brave Conduct and four were awarded a Group Bravery Citation. Their actions have seen people rescued from burning buildings, the public protected from armed criminals and disasters averted by the quick thinking, the *Herald Sun* reported.

Blunted

The Age reported that the Australian Medical Association (Victoria) says that mandatory reporting on stabbing should not be forced on doctors as part of an effort to crush Melbourne's knife culture. Opposition Leader **Ted Baillieu** attacked the government for taking too long to crackdown on knife crime and not going far enough to ensure community safety.

An ugly time

In the *Herald Sun*, **Andrew Bolt** argued that *The Age's* reporting of rape allegations cost **Theo Theophanous** his career. The Australian Press Council criticised *The Age*, which, in October 2008, published on its front page an exclusive interview with the woman who claimed she been raped by Theophanous, a one-time friend, in his State Parliament office. The article was written by **Carolyn Webb**, who, Bolt asserts, *The Age* knew had been given inconsistent versions of the woman's story that differed in key respects, even to the extent of the date and place of the alleged rape.

New boundaries

There was a full-page advertisement in *The Age* highlighting the proposed redistribution of federal electoral boundaries in Victoria (the proposed boundaries did not apply for the 21 August federal election, which resulted in a hung parliament and, eventually, a minority Labor government). A redistribution is required because seven years have elapsed since Victoria had its last federal electoral division redistribution.

Up there

The New South Wales government has decided to oppose a private members bill seeking to ban the wearing of the burqa and other face veils in public, the *Financial Review* reported. 'Such a ban has no place in multicultural New South Wales,' Premier **Kristina Kenneally** said.

THE BUSHFIRES

Lapsley judgment

Craig Lapsley will oversee Victoria's three fire agencies and take charge during the most serious bushfire emergencies, *The Australian* reported. Lapsley is a former deputy to the much-criticised Country Fire Authority chief **Russell Rees**, and a firefighter for almost 30 years.

Incoming Dicker

Former Hawthorn Football Club president **Ian Dicker** will direct Victoria's bushfire recovery, succeeding former police commissioner **Christine Nixon** in the post. 'I'm a businessman and am looking principally to help the small to medium business community of the area, different altogether from Christine who supported emotionally,' Dicker said. He said he would donate his salary – between \$168,000 and \$267,500 – to a yet to be decided bushfire charity, *The Age* reported. Meanwhile, Nixon has resigned as a board member at Foster's and will pocket more than \$80,000 from her brief five-month stint as a director with the beverages group.

Sorry

Former CFA chief fire officer **Russell Rees** apologised for serious leadership failures on Black Saturday. He said he fully accepted the criticisms of him in the bushfires report as fair and reasonable. His apology follows those by Premier **John Brumby**, former police chief commissioner **Christine Nixon** and Department of Sustainability and Environment fire chief **Ewan Waller**, *The Age* reported.

Conclusions into practice

Land buybacks in high-risk bushfire areas should be compulsory instead of voluntary as recommended by the Bushfires Royal Commission, the Planning Institute of Australia says. The institute has also written to Brumby, urging him to implement two of the commission's most controversial recommendations: a voluntary, taxpayer funded retreat and resettlement program, and the replacement or upgrading of overhead power lines. The institute, predicting a community backlash against the scheme, recommended above value compensation for buybacks. It said the financial benefits of a compulsory scheme would outweigh the burden of promoting voluntary buybacks and providing community services to fragmented and declining populations. Municipal Association of Victoria chief executive **Rob Spence** said it did not support compulsory buybacks and was cautious about voluntary acquisitions, *The Age* reported. People living in bushfire prone areas of Victoria fear a government buyback of homes in high-risk fire zones, as proposed in the Bushfires Royal Commission report, claiming it will drain the lifeblood from country communities.

Politicising

The Age reported that **Ted Baillieu** moved to make Black Saturday a political turning point, accusing **John Brumby** of failing to protect Victorians before and since the fires that killed 173 people. The Opposition Leader accused the Premier of feeding people a diet of lies, spin, exaggerations and fear since the Bushfires Royal Commission's final report, in a bid to conceal a culture of incompetence, failure and inaction. The *Financial Review* reported that the opposition has come under attack for refusing to cost its response to the recommendations of the Bushfires Royal Commission. Baillieu has committed in principle to fully implement the recommendations.

The Opposition has since demanded that Premier **Brumby** produce detailed costings of the Government's \$867m bushfires package. Victorian Nationals leader **Peter Ryan** has asked for a briefing on the program's details and modelling.

The stimulus of catastrophe

Rebuilding in towns devastated by last year's Black Saturday fires is being frustrated by acute labour shortages created by record demand for new homes in Melbourne and **Julia Gillard's** school stimulus program, *The Australian* reported. The Housing Industry Association says there is so much work for builders in Victoria that going to fire affected regional areas to build one or two homes is not enough to entice tradesmen.

A new tax

A new \$600m property tax, costing the average householder more than \$100 a year, will help fund the government's blueprint to prevent another bushfire tragedy on the scale of Black Saturday. The new tax will replace the existing fire services levy paid on household insurance premiums, meaning that all households will pay their share, rather than just insured properties. The Government has rejected the Bushfires Royal Commission's call for a taxpayer funded voluntary buyback of properties in high-risk zones. It has also stopped short of fully adopting another key recommendation, a multi-billion-dollar scheme to make all rural powerlines safe, that is, putting them underground.

Premier **Brumby** said more than 600 extra professional firefighters would be employed to triple fuel reduction burning over the next six years. Cabinet has so far accepted 60 of the commission 67 recommendations, including changes to the stay or go policy, a crackdown on arsonists and the appointment of a new fire commissioner, *The Age* reported. An editorial in the same paper said that the royal commission's recommendation with the greatest potential to save lives – resettlement – has been rejected.

Cooler at night

A helicopter will fly at night over some of Victoria's most bushfire prone country next year, strategically dropping incendiary devices to start fires in overgrown bush as part of the increased regime of fuel reduction burns introduced in response to the Bushfires Royal Commission.



DOCKLANDS THE SECOND DECADE

Second Decade of Docklands project – get involved

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VIEWPOINT



David Young

General Manager, Project Planning and Innovation

VicUrban

David joined VicUrban in May 2008 returning to Australia to take up the role at VicUrban after two and a half years in the UK, where jointly led the merger of three statutory authorities for the UK Government.

In his role at VicUrban David is responsible for the delivery of the Docklands Project, including the strategic planning for the Second Decade of Docklands. David is also responsible for a number of VicUrban's centres of expertise in urban design, environment, affordable living, community and cultural initiatives.

David's previous roles have included Chief Executive of the Sustainable Energy Authority, First Assistant Secretary with the Australian Government and General Manager with Parks

Victoria.

David holds an Honours Degree in Science and a Master of Business Administration from the Melbourne Business School at the University of Melbourne.

Melbourne Docklands: at the heart of the new city

Great cities around the world have distinctive old and new quarters. By 2050, we will no doubt look at Melbourne in a similar way. The "Hoddle Grid" laid out in 1837 defines the old city of Melbourne, whilst Southbank and Melbourne Docklands are defining the new Melbourne.

The redevelopment of Melbourne Docklands is nearing the half way mark. After over a decade of development and \$6bn of private investment, 22,000 people now work there on a daily basis and over 6000 people call Melbourne Docklands home. When completed in 2025 the redevelopment will have doubled the size of Melbourne's CBD, have over 40,000 workers and 17,000 residents.

The redevelopment has not been without its critics. Opinions are often polarised. For some the redevelopment is creating an edgy, new and dynamic part of the city, whilst others feel it is still a soul-less corporate wasteland.

There is no doubt that the original development strategy for Melbourne Docklands, which involved securing private sector partners for different precincts across the area, has brought its problems. It is only after a decade of development that some areas are now starting to feel "finished". There remain large gaps in development, which makes the area feel disconnected and has hindered the creation of distinctive character.

There is certainly much to be done over the second decade of development to ensure that Melbourne Docklands makes the anticipated contribution to the social, cultural and economic life of the city. Not least of which is attracting the \$9bn of additional private sector investment needed to complete the development. However as we plan for the future, some perspectives of Melbourne Docklands are worth more critical examination.

There is a view that Melbourne Docklands lacks the character of "old" Melbourne. The old city has undergone many changes in use over the decades, and the streets and laneways of the Hoddle Grid are now enjoying a well publicised renaissance. Although the character of Melbourne Docklands is still developing, it does not make sense to compare it to the old city, or to seek to emulate its character.

It is important that we do not confuse the definite need for Docklands to be a fully integrated part

of Melbourne, with notions of making Docklands more like the old city. There is a need to build on the unique strengths of Melbourne Docklands and its points of difference with the old city. Such a strategy will enrich Melbourne, adding different experiences for workers, visitors and residents.

Chief amongst these points of difference is Victoria Harbour. Having access to a harbour has not traditionally been part of the Melbourne experience and is not yet part of its psyche. The redevelopment of Harbour Esplanade, the first stage of which is now underway and will be completed in early 2011, aims to change all that. Providing access to the water through a new harbour side park is expected to transform the waterfront. An integrated strategy for the overall development and use of the harbour basin will be needed to link current and future activities around the harbour.

Another view of Melbourne Docklands is that it should be considered as a new suburb for Melbourne. Whilst its population in 2025 will be significant, Melbourne Docklands is correctly viewed as an extension of the CBD, which along with its business and visitor attractions also provides significant opportunities for inner city living. However the expansion of inner city living presents new challenges in the provision of services. As an example, despite the growing number of childcare facilities in Melbourne Docklands, the lack of ready access to an urban primary school is a major deterrent for families, and in turn affects the type of housing provided in Docklands.

The Government's recent announcement to look seriously at the provision of a primary school in Melbourne Docklands is timely. A primary school has the capacity to change the nature of the resident population by making it more attractive to families. It also presents an opportunity to demonstrate a new model for urban schools, which may in the future be replicated across inner areas of Melbourne.

A common myth is that the redevelopment of Melbourne Docklands has been funded by the taxpayer. In fact the overwhelming majority of the development has been paid for by private sector developers. To date approximately \$300 million has been invested in public infrastructure, including roads, bridges, wharves and promenades, parks and public transport. The current ratio of private to public sector funding is 38:1. At completion the ratio is expected to be 88:1.

None the less, a key challenge over the second decade of development will be to ensure that the physical infrastructure delivered across Melbourne Docklands to date, is complemented by appropriate community and civic infrastructure to provide the level of facilities and services that would be expected in a thriving and vibrant part

of an international city on a waterfront.

The final critique of Melbourne Docklands that bears some scrutiny is that it is overly dominated by large corporates. This needs to be considered in light of the fact that ten years ago, the area was an industrial wasteland and at that time many of Australia's largest corporations were moving their headquarters out of Melbourne to Sydney.

A number of major businesses, notably the National Australia Bank, AXA, Medibank and Channel 7 saw the potential of Melbourne Docklands and took both the risk and the opportunity of basing themselves there, kick starting investment. Many have followed. The availability of reasonably priced land in the heart of Melbourne, well serviced by Southern Cross Station and six tram services has certainly attracted large business. It can even be argued that Melbourne Docklands has played a critical role in maintaining Melbourne as a major banking and financial services hub.

In the second decade of development, there is a need to combine the large scale buildings now occupied by so many of Melbourne's major companies, with smaller office space and facilities to support both the businesses that support these companies and provide services for both residents and workers.

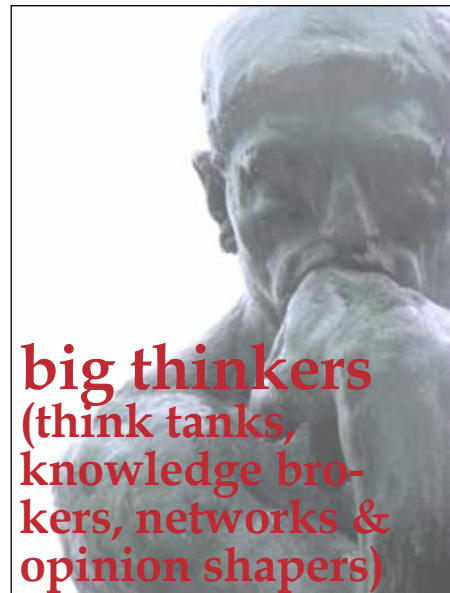
The Second Decade of Docklands is a joint initiative launched on 8 July by the Lord Mayor and the Minister for Planning to work with business, the community and developers to identify priorities for development over the next decade. It is an important opportunity to take stock, learn from what has happened over the first ten years of development and plan for the future. I encourage all Victorians to participate in this process over the next 9 months.

Meet and greet

James O'Brien, a former ministerial chief of staff, has been commissioned to run some of the 21 community meetings held across the state following the release of the Bushfires Royal Commission report. The Opposition said the announcement showed the meetings were public relations exercises rather than genuine consultation. Liberal frontbencher **David Davis** accused the government of hiring expensive PR consultancies run by Labor mates to manage the government's response to the commission's final report.

What it leaves out

Jack Rush, QC, the lawyer who led the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission, believes its final report could have been more significant and that it leaves out very important evidence. As counsel assisting, Rush played a crucial role in the commission but was not involved in writing the four volume report. In an interview with ABC news, he made it clear that he was not criticising commissioners **Bernard Teague**, **Susan Pascoe** and **Ron McLeod**, but said he would



Affairs of State's latest publication Big Thinkers (thing tanks, knowledge brokers, networks & opinion shapers) launched by historian Geoffrey Blainey.

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have liked a more thorough record and analysis of the evidence, *The Age* reported.

ARTS

Bowtell missed out

Premier **John Brumby** announced a one-off grant of \$3m for the Victorian College of the Arts. In addition, the federal Labor Government pledged to provide a further \$5.1m yearly to the VCA if it is re-elected on August 21. Federal Labor's boost is contingent upon Melbourne University continuing to cross subsidise the VCA by \$6m a year, as per the existing arrangement, which is in place until 2011, *The Age* reported. Post the election result, watch this space closely!

Counting the cost of success

The National Gallery of Australia's recent exhibition *Masterpieces from Paris*, in Canberra, was the most successful event of its kind staged in Australia – but it was also the most costly. The five-month display of 112 premium paintings from Paris's Musee d'Orsay cost \$13.1m to organise, host and promote, while 473,201 ticket sales generated only \$7.7m, according to figures obtained under Freedom of Information laws, *The Australian* reported. Gallery director **Ron Radford** said the NGA was forbidden from deploying any of the \$30m it received each year from the federal government towards exhibitions such as *Masterpieces*. The \$5.4m shortfall was made up with funds from sponsorship, profits from the gallery shop and a \$500,000 grant from the ACT government, which funded a boost to media spending.

Names in philanthropy

The *Herald Sun* reported that part of the new exhibition space at the National Gallery of Australia in Canberra will be named in honour of a couple who gave \$7m to the project. The gift, from Melbourne-based philanthropists **Pauline** and **John Gandel**, is the largest donation in the gallery's history.

Another triumph

The National Gallery of Victoria's *European Masters: Stadel Museum, 19th-20th Century* exhibition, which opened on June 19, topped the 100,000 visitor mark in mid-August, *The Age* reported.

A couple of pies

John Brack's *Three of the Players*, painted in 1953 shortly after Collingwood won that year's premiership, was bought by an unknown bidder at Deutscher and Hackett's Sydney auction in early September for \$900,000, including buyer's premium. The painting shows **Phonse Kyne**, the coach of the premiership winning team, on the right, with **Jack Regan** in the middle and probably captain **Lou Richards** on the left, the *Herald Sun* reported. *The Australian* reported that the painting is set to return to Melbourne.

It was bought by Sydney dealer **Michael Nagy** on behalf of an anonymous Melbourne collector at the sale at Paddington Town Hall. Nagy refused to reveal the buyer's name and said he didn't know what AFL team the buyer supported. However, Nagy is known to have previously bought works on behalf of the Pratt family.

Re-enactment

The replica of Captain **James Cook's** *Endeavour*, the *HM Bark Endeavour*, will circumnavigate Australia on a 13-month voyage starting in April 2011, federal Arts Minister (as he was until recently) **Peter Garrett** announced. The finely crafted wooden vessel will stop at 18 ports and will be open as a public museum in 15 locations. Experienced and inexperienced sailors will augment the professional crew between ports, learning first hand how seafarers sailed and navigated tall ships in the 18th century. With fees of between \$1,250 and \$4,000, depending on the leg, the 36 paying crew members will work aboard the ship and sleep in hammocks, *The Age* reported.

Lights out

The Age reported that arts lovers and heritage advocates are decrying plans to strip Hamer Hall of much of its renowned **John Truscott**-designed interior as part of the Government's \$128.5m redevelopment of the Arts Centre. One of the most spectacular features of Hamer Hall's opulent 1980s foyer has already been removed and will not return – the multi-storey hanging light sculpture *Arcturus* that once lit up the hall's St Kilda Road entrance. The National Trust has raised concerns about the extent of loss of the Truscott finishes and interiors in the foyers, understood to involve the removal of about half the designer's work.

Phillips head no more

Simon Phillips, the artistic director of the Melbourne Theatre Company, announced his resignation – to take effect late next year – after 11 years running the company whose subscriber numbers have doubled to 21,000 under his watch. He is leaving to concentrate on his freelance career, which includes next year's Broadway debut of *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, *The Age* reported.

Notions

At the beginning of August, acclaimed photographer **Bill Henson**, who two years ago found himself at the centre of a storm about child pornography, made his first public appearance in Melbourne since the controversy, delivering the Melbourne Art Foundation 2010 Lecture at Federation Square before taking questions from the audience, *The Age* reported. In his speech, Henson, whose photograph of a nude child in 2008 was described as 'revolting' by then prime minister **Kevin Rudd**, said it was 'sheer nonsense' for critics to argue that a child did not have the capacity to consent to modelling nude. 'People do get confused with notions of consent and harm,' Henson told a sympathetic audience of 700 at Federation Square.

The summer musical

The *Herald Sun* reported that **Todd McKenney** is bringing Melbourne's tradition of the summer musical back with an extended season of *The Boy from Oz*. The Production Company's five-day season of the show, based on **Peter Allen's** life, opened on August 18. It sold out, prompting producers to bring it back in January.

No longer green behind the Gill

The **Victorian Opera** is looking for a new music director following the decision by the founding artistic chief, **Richard Gill**, to step down at the end of 2012. VO was formed in 2006, with Gill as inaugural music director, the *Financial Review* reported.

Up there. And so.

Barrister **Clive Evatt** and his wife have closed Sydney's Hogarth Galleries after 37 years, the *Financial Review* reported.

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October 1 is Youngcare's National Thong Day. Show your support by hosting your own thong-a-thon and help Youngcare get young people out of aged care. So free your feet in the name of all things fun this Thong Day! Visit ...

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A good job

Regional Arts Victoria seeks a business manager, www.mycareer.com.au.

EDUCATION

Over stimulated

A Victorian parliamentary inquiry has revealed schools, builders and architects are unhappy with how the state has handled the school stimulus program, leading the state opposition to argue that schools should be allowed to manage their own stimulus projects because the government has bungled the rollout, *The Age* reported.

The defiant premier

The Australian reported that Premier **John Brumby** has defied both **Brad Orgill** – who released a report on the implementation of the Building Education Revolution program – and Prime Minister **Julia Gillard** by refusing to publish individual school costs under the BER program, saying doing so would not make sense and was a bad business decision. Brumby said that his government would not immediately release costs for template buildings – more than half of all projects under the BER program – because schools may use them again and it would undermine the competitive tender process.

Tanned

Former federal finance minister **Lindsay Tanner** has accepted a part-time job at Victoria University. He has been appointed vice-chancellor's fellow, from October. Tanner will produce papers, deliver public lectures and seminars, give guest lectures to groups of students and provide advice to the vice-chancellor and university senior executives. Tanner held the seat of Melbourne from 1993 until his retirement this year, *The Age* reported. Also, he has joined investment banking firm Lazard Wylie.

In the McClear

Professor **Patrick McGorry** has been cleared by a University of Melbourne panel looking into allegations of professional misconduct. The inquiry found there was no substance to claims that the Australian of the Year excluded names of colleagues from published

research. It also found he had not committed plagiarism, *The Age* reported.

Fasten seat belt sign

A lengthy probe into RMIT University by Ombudsman **George Brouwer** has found RMIT lecturer **Nihal Hana** had helped some of his foreign aerospace students to cheat during the course. Brouwer said managers at the Civil Aviation Safety Authority provided evidence that any lack of competency on the part of students graduating from RMIT's aerospace course was a risk to the travelling public using aeroplanes. Graduating students are eligible to take up supervisory positions in aviation and the aerospace industry in areas including aircraft maintenance. Brouwer said his investigation identified wider problems at RMIT than just the cheating facilitated by Hana, *The Herald Sun* reported. *The Age* reported that one of three RMIT students who were accused of cheating on exams with the help of a staff member says he bought a complaint about the university to the Ombudsman last year, but was ignored.

A separate investigation by Brouwer instead found that **Aladdin Sisalim** and two others cheated on at least one exam in their Advanced Diploma course at RMIT's School of Engineering. Sisalim, who attracted

international attention as the last refugee held on Manus Island as part of the Howard government's Pacific Solution, was identified only as 'student b' in the ombudsman's report. He denies cheating. A later report in *The Age* said that Hana accused the Victorian ombudsman's office of deliberately misleading the public and ignoring evidence.



Creative Innovation 2010 In-house poet Chris Wallace-Crabbe



Tania de Jong, colleagues and some serious discussion

Two into one doesn't go

Another school merger is in turmoil, with three councillors at a new 'super school' in Reservoir resigning amid claims they were deceived and regret agreeing to the amalgamation. The councillors quit the new William Ruthven Secondary College council in protest at the decision to merge campuses on the new site next year – in breach of an agreement that this would not occur until a new school had been built. Council president **Harry Majewski** blamed the dissent on a government failure to honour a commitment to provide \$15-\$20m for the new school in the last budget.

School mergers, which are dubbed regeneration projects by the government and promised millions of dollars in new facilities, have become mired in controversy this year, *The Age* reported.

More buses needed

Disabled children are spending hours a day on Victorian school buses, where they are banned from eating and drinking and cannot take toilet breaks. Parents say their children have suffered dehydration, toileting problems and emotional distress on the free bus service that runs children to and from specialist schools. The Education Department says it has introduced 89 bus services to special schools since 2007. But disability advocates say travel times remain excessive, *The Age* reported.

Dodge college

Private training colleges are being forced to close or suffer huge losses because of questionable auditing practices by Victoria's education regulator, industry figures claim. They accuse the regulator, the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority, of breaching national standards and thereby invalidating audits in a zealous bid to crack down on so-called dodgy colleges, *The Age* reported.

ENVIRONMENT

CONSERVATION

A chance to lead

Former federal climate change adviser **Ross Garnaut** said the Brumby government had a chance to lead the nation with its ambitious greenhouse emissions reduction targets, in the absence of leadership from national political parties. The leading economist was speaking after accusing Labor Prime Minister **Julia Gillard** and former prime minister **Kevin Rudd** of failing to lead on climate change in a speech at Melbourne University. The government dropped its emissions trading scheme after the Coalition withdrew its support, in spite of Garnaut's advice on the best way to fight climate change.

He is a strong critic of non-price mechanisms such as renewable energy targets which raise the cost of abatement and reduce living standards. The Victorian government has already introduced climate change legislation that includes proposals to use regulations to get power stations to cut their emissions. The

government has backed a cut in the state's emissions of 20 per cent by 2020 and the establishment of a carbon exchange that could be used to support the registration and trading of carbon offsets, the *Financial Review* reported.

Nearby

Ted Baillieu has committed a Coalition government to cutting Victoria's carbon emissions should it win the November state election. The Opposition has backed the Government's target of reducing emissions by 20 per cent of 2000 levels over the next decade, in stark contrast to the 5 per cent target of his federal Liberal counterpart, **Tony Abbott**, *The Age* reported.

Brown Mountain stays green

Thousands of jobs could be in danger after a court temporarily banned logging in an area of old-growth forest in East Gippsland, the *Herald Sun* reported. The Supreme Court ruled in favour of environmental groups, temporarily banning VicForests from logging old-growth forests on Brown Mountain. Senior forestry sources warned the towns of Orbost, Cann River and Bendoc could turn into ghost towns if all of Victorian forestry were forced to adopt the new rulings.

Grasslands

Labor elder **John Cain** used a direct line to then Premier **Steve Bracks** to lobby for MCG car spaces around the famous ground, the *Herald Sun* reported. The former Victorian premier, who is an MCG trustee, held private discussions with Bracks and his planning ministers in 2004 and 2005 as he led a battle to retain sections of Yarra Park for cars. At that stage, Melbourne City Council wanted to reduce car parking to protect the environment. The council's goal was finally scuttled last year when the Brumby government gave control of Yarra Park to the Melbourne Cricket Club. Correspondence tabled in State Parliament shows Cain and Bracks spoke at length about Yarra Park, and about how to save parking with a minimum amount of political fallout. Dozens of other documents were kept from being made public.

Down there

A deal is close on a road map to end the generations-old Tasmanian forest conflict, but not at the price of building the Gunns pulp mill. Agreement is near on a short timeline for loggers to quit the main battlegrounds fringing the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. These tall old-growth eucalypt forests have sparked intense confrontations between activists and loggers since the 1980s, despite repeated government attempts at achieving peace. According to one insider, a set of principles involves mainly transferring to industry plantation timbers, but allows limited access to native forests for years to come, *The Age* reported. Watch this space.

ENERGY

A politician of his word

Premier **John Brumby** is facing calls to block a proposed new coal power station in the Latrobe Valley to back up his claim that he will lead the nation on climate change policy. An application to build

a long-delayed plant at Morwell using 'clean coal' gasification technologies says its greenhouse gas emissions would be up to 36 per cent lower than the cleanest existing Victorian brown coal power plant. Its current design, however, is likely to breach emissions standards for new coal power plants announced in the state government's climate change white paper.

The HRL plant would go ahead only if the Environment Protection Authority was satisfied it met the emissions limit for new plants – 0.8 tonnes of carbon dioxide emitted per megawatt hour generated, *The Age* reported. Consequently, Dual Gas – subsidiary of Melbourne company HRL – has been forced into a redesign of the plant.

Poor rating

The Age reported that debt held against the Loy Yang B power station in the Latrobe Valley has been downgraded to BBB- with a negative outlook because of carbon policy uncertainty. Standard & Poor cut its rating on the station's trading and financial arm – which must refinance \$1.1b by 2012 – predicting lenders would demand higher interest margins. By issuing the lowest rating still considered investment-grade, S&P has drawn attention to the refinancing challenges facing the state's brown coal-fired power stations.

It's smart after all

The Brumby government's \$2b smart electricity metre roll-out has been given a ringing endorsement by an independent economic analysis, which found it to be cost-effective no matter which mix of costs and benefits are used. The **Oakley Greenwood** report found that the benefit of rolling out smart power meters would be between \$1.87b and \$3.51b over 20 years. Combined with additional demand management services, the benefits of the role out would be between \$2.58b and \$5b over the same period. The report found that the cost over 20 years of installing 2.5 million smart metres in Victorian homes could be up to \$2b (with additional services) compared with continuing to operate manual metres for \$1.5b, *The Age* reported.

Lots of wind

The largest wind farm in the southern hemisphere will be built in southwestern Victoria, with backers claiming it will generate enough power to run more than 220,000 homes, *The Age* reported. Energy company AGL announced that the 140-turbine windfarm would be built on three properties near Macarthur under a \$1b deal with New Zealand power generator Meridian. The project had been on hold since December, when AGL managing director **Michael Fraser** warned that the renewable energy industry was on the brink of collapse due to lack of investor certainty. Fraser said the Macarthur farm was the largest and most ambitious renewable energy project in Australia since the Snowy Hydro Scheme.

Nearby

The Brumby government has approved a 72-turbine windfarm 25 kilometres north-east of Ararat, *The Age* reported. The Crowlands windfarm, proposed by renewable energy company Pacific Hydro, is estimated



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to be capable of generating enough energy to power about 80,000 homes, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions by about 500,000 tonnes a year.

The wind farm state

The *Financial Review* reported that Victoria will speed up the process of recruiting renewable energy projects as part of plans to reduce its reliance on coal. The changes in planning procedures accompanied the announcement that the state had approved the \$484m Berrybank wind farm proposed by Union Fenosa. The project is one of five in Victoria – worth \$1.6b – planned by the Spanish company, which will provide a total of more than 900 megawatts of electricity. *The Age* reported that the 5000-hectare wind farm at Berrybank, near Lismore, is expected to create 250 jobs and generate 247.5 megawatts of energy, enough to power about 171,000 homes. It will have 99 turbines, with an average tower height of 80 metres. When the blade is at its highest point it will be 131 metres tall.

Wind analysis

In a clearly articulated piece in *The Age's* Business Day section, **Ian Verrender** writes that without a price on carbon, wind power can not compete with coal and gas and it is debatable if ever will. It costs about twice as much to produce a megawatt of power from a windfarm as from the dirtiest coal-fired generator. The only way a windfarm can stay in business is through green subsidies. Under the Mandatory Renewable Energy Targets, all companies must generate at least 20 per cent of their energy from renewable sources by 2020. To encourage the commercial sector to achieve that target, the federal government issues certificates to companies that generate power from renewable sources such as wind and solar energy.

Those certificates are worth money, and an operation that generates all their power from renewable sources can sell the certificates to a company that is not meeting its target. A large portion of renewable companies' revenue last year came from the sale of renewable energy certificates, and the companies

believe they are in a good position to capitalise on the enhanced targets laid down by the government in the lead up to 2020.

Right now, the entire strategy of reducing greenhouse emissions is targeting the wrong end of the industry. Rather than trying to shut down or clean up the dirtiest in the industry by placing a price on carbon emissions, the present policy vacuum encourages dirty operators to remain just as they are while taxpayer subsidies are handed out to clean energy operators that may or may not be economic.

What price the environment?

Coal-fired power generators appear unlikely to gain control of more Victorian water under a new plan for water management in the state's east, *The Age* reported. Gippsland is home to a rare portion of unallocated water – amounting to about 20 billion litres each year – and power generators in the Latrobe Valley had sought permission to take more of it for the production of electricity. But a draft government strategy has rebuffed that bid. The draft says the water, which is held in the Blue Rock Reservoir, should be preserved in a drought refuge, where it would be accessed only in times of shortage. Power generators, farmers, the environment and communities will be able to access the water at a price.

WATER

The floods

Before the first weekend of September *The Age* reported that people living across northern Victoria were told to prepare equipment and food supplies in case floodwaters left them isolated, as significant rainfall was forecasted to boost rivers already swollen by a wet winter. Emergency Services warned that a series of rivers across north eastern Victoria – the Ovens, King, Broken and Goulburn – were facing a real threat of major flooding, with rainfall as high as 100 millimetres expected (and received) on the first Saturday of spring. On a Saturday morning, rescue

boats were on standby in inner Victoria for rescue operations in areas around Benalla and Wangaratta. *The Herald Sun* reported that the rains caused the worst floods in Victoria in 15 years.

It feels good, even before the floods

Victoria's exceptional year of rain has helped water storages to a 14 per cent higher level in late August than they were in mid-2009, when they were at record low levels. But it comes at an awkward time for the Government, with its \$750m water pipeline to northern Victoria completed and the \$3.5b desalination plant expected to be ready by next year, *The Age* reported. *The Herald Sun* reported that the combination of the high rainfall and desalination plant has seen the Brumby government ease restrictions from stage 3 to stage 2 for Melbourne households from September 1.

The new rules will allow households to water gardens any time with a bucket, watering can or hose fitted with a trigger nozzle. And at other times for two hours a day on the odd/even day rule. Cars can be washed at home with a bucket or a high-pressure water saving hose. The Target 155 campaign may be staying to remind Melburnians not to waste water. In the past 18 months the campaign is credited with saving 38 billion litres. Opposition Leader **Ted Baillieu** said that these changes were because it has been raining and Melbourne families have been saving water, and have nothing to do with **John Brumby**. Melbourne catchments are 41.5 per cent full at the beginning of spring.

Isn't it ironic

The Age reported that Victoria's \$5.7b desalination plant is as much as three months behind schedule and will struggle to meet a December 2011 deadline as heavy rain and unforeseen environmental problems dog the project. A senior government official said that with its time over again the Government would probably not opt for such a large and costly desal plant. Victoria's is the largest plant of its type in the world. The government will be liable for an annual security payment for the project, regardless of whether the government buys water from the plant. It is thought that the payment will be at least \$300m annually.

Union and other industry sources say heavy rainfall, knee deep mud and strong winds have set the project back many weeks with a major concrete pour repeatedly delayed. The site has been described as a slush pit. Premier John Brumby defended the plant after the reports it was behind schedule and may not be needed.

The lake that caught fire

The Age reported that a new 800-metre pipeline pumping groundwater into the now half-full Lake Wendouree in Ballarat was opened by Premier **John Brumby**, who said the state had been fortunate with good winter rainfall this year. The new pipeline to the 3,300-million-litre Lake Wendouree is expected to fill the lake by the end of next year, regardless of rain and stormwater run-off. The lake has not been full since 2002.



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Finding No. 4572
Available on Website: www.roymorgan.com
On August 22, 2010

Morgan Poll Most Accurate & first to suggest 'Hung Parliament'

by Gary Morgan, Michele Levine and Julian McCrann

The new Government of Australia is now known after Australia's first 'Hung Parliament' since the 1940s.

As of now the 7 NEWS Morgan Poll is clearly the most accurate of the 4 major polls. The 7NEWS Morgan Poll had a Primary vote average error on the parties – ALP, L-NP, Greens and Independent/ Others of only 0.7%. Our Two Party preferred vote had an average error of only 0.8%.

The Newspoll Primary vote average error was 1.05%; Two Party preferred vote had an average error of 0%. The Nielsen Primary vote average error was 1.1%; Two-Party preferred vote had an average error of 1.8%; The Galaxy Primary vote average error was 1.3%; Two-Party preferred vote had an average error of 1.8%.

Below is the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) % vote count as of now compared with the final 7NEWS Morgan Poll released on www.roymorgan.com at 1.26am Saturday morning and released at 7am on Saturday Morning Ch 7 Sunrise (Aug 21, 2010), and again reported just after 10am by Michele Levine on ABC 24 TV.

FEDERAL VOTING INTENTION – Primary Vote Predictions

	Federal election August 21, 2010 <u>Actual Result*</u>	Aug 20 Telephone 7News <u>Morgan Poll</u>		Aug 17-18 Telephone Newspoll <u>The Australian</u>		Aug 17-19 Telephone Nielsen <u>The Age & SMH</u>		Aug 17-18 Telephone Galaxy <u>Herald-Sun & Daily Telegraph</u>	
		%	error	%	error	%	error	%	error
<i>Sample Size</i>	(12,402,390)	(1,872)		(2,507)		(2,040)		(1,200)	
ALP	38.0	39	+1.0	36.2	-1.8	39	+1.0	38	0
L-NP	43.6	42.5	-1.1	43.4	-0.2	41.5	-2.1	41	-2.6
Greens	11.8	11.5	-0.3	13.9	+2.1	13	+1.2	14	+2.2
Ind/Other	6.6	7	+0.4	6.5	-0.1	6.5	-0.1	7	+0.4
Av. error on all parties			0.7		1.05		1.1		1.3

FEDERAL VOTING INTENTION – Two Party Preferred Predictions

ALP	50.2	51	+0.8	50.2	-0	52	+1.8	52	+1.8
LN-P	49.8	49	-0.8	49.8	+0	48	-1.8	48	-1.8
ALP Lead	0.4	2		0.4		4		4	
Ave error			0.8		0		1.8		1.8

Australian Electoral Commission (<http://vtr.aec.gov.au/HouseStateFirstPrefsByParty-15508-NAT.htm>); results @ 10am, September 17, 2010.

The 7NEWS Morgan Poll was the first poll to call a 'hung' Parliament, [first announced by Michele Levine on Insiders](#) (ABC 2 TV) on Sunday August 15, 2010. (Morgan - 'Hung Parliament', Newspoll – 'Hung Parliament,' Galaxy and Nielsen - both ALP win) – [Morgan Poll was also the most accurate on Primary vote for the 2007 Federal Election!](#)

[Note the Greens vote was reduced after the Morgan Poll](#) re-interviewed Greens and 'Undecided' electors – the result was what we have previously found. 15% of Greens voters change when at the polling booths!

6 September, 2010 | www.RoyMorganOnlineStore.com

Welcome to the latest issue of our Market Research Updates.

This week we reveal what Australian electors think in terms of “who would make the Better Prime Minister - Ms. Gillard or Mr. Abbott?”. We take a look at some other interesting topics including trends in the usage of Alternative Health Services, Profile of iPhone and Blackberry users, and Game Console Ownership in New Zealand. We also provide the very latest findings in Customer Satisfaction and Intention.

We hope that you find this issue an interesting read and we welcome any feedback you may have on our Market Research Updates.

LATEST FINDINGS

Roy Morgan Consumer Confidence down slightly on weekend after Election - 123.3



Consumer Confidence has fallen slightly to 123.3 (down 1.3pts) since the Federal election, according to the weekly Roy Morgan Consumer Confidence Rating conducted on the weekend after the Federal election (August 28/29, 2010). Weekly Consumer Confidence is now 1.4pts higher than a year ago, August 29/30, 2009 (121.9).

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The Realities of a Hung Parliament

Since the Federal election we have seen much discussion and negotiation between the leaders of both major parties and the Independents – to see who could form a Coalition or combined Government. Today we look at this from the point of view of the electorate(s). It is easy to forget that each of the Independent participants is there at the negotiating table – not as an individual but as the voice of their constituency – the people who elected them.

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iPhone and Blackberry Users Likely To Be ‘Big Spenders’ But iPhone Users More Receptive to Advertising

According to the latest data from the Roy Morgan Mobile Phone Monitor, when it comes to discretionary expenditure iPhone and BlackBerry users are ‘big spenders’. ‘Big Spenders’ comprise the top third of the population in terms of discretionary spending, ie money spent after purchase of basic necessities (67.4% of iPhone users and 74.6% of Blackberry users are big spenders).

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Alternative Health Services on the Increase



Over the past decade, the proportion of Australians who have paid for alternative health services has increased from 7.2% to 9.5% and the trend is rising. This represents an increase of 583,000 people, from an estimated 1,110,000 in the year to March 2001 to 1,693,000 in the year to March 2010.

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Customer Satisfaction showing improvement amongst NZ banks

The June 2010 Roy Morgan New Zealand Banking Customer Satisfaction Survey reveals positive shifts in the overall satisfaction levels for most banks. TSB retains its position as having the highest satisfaction levels, despite recent declines. In June 2010, satisfaction reported by customers of the five major banks increased year-on-year by 0.9% points to 77.6%.



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Who would make the Better PM? Gillard: Honest, articulate, good education policies... Abbott: Better economic policies, better for business, strong leader...

A special telephone Morgan Poll, conducted on August 25 and 26, asked electors “who would make the Better Prime Minister — Ms. Gillard or Mr. Abbott?” Caretaker Prime Minister Julia Gillard (44%) was favoured over Opposition Leader Tony Abbott (36%) by 8% - however, this is the narrowest margin in favour of Ms. Gillard since she became Prime Minister on June 24, 2010.

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Short Term New Car Buying Intention falls for second consecutive month

According to the Roy Morgan Automotive Leading Indicators for July 2010, an estimated 557,000 Australians intend to buy a new car in the next 12 months (excluding Fleet, Government and Rental Buyers). This is down on the June 2010 figure of 600,000 and well below the long term average of 607,000*. The number of Australians intending to buy a new car in the next four years is 2,189,000.



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Virgin Mobile Continues Clear Leadership in Customer Satisfaction



The latest Roy Morgan Mobile Phone Monitor has shown that in the 6 months to June 2010 Virgin continued to set the pace with 78.8% of their customers either ‘very’ or ‘fairly’ satisfied with their overall service, followed by Vodafone (73.9%) and 3 (73.5%). Optus (72.2%) have also maintained a strong position, whilst Telstra who on 61.7% remain the only service provider performing under the industry average (68.7%) and well under its major competitors.

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PlayStation 3 ownership higher than Xbox 360 and Wii in New Zealand

The latest Roy Morgan Games Console data shows that 18.7% of New Zealanders aged 14+ (649,000 people) live in a household with a next generation games console. PlayStation 3 leads with 7.9% of New Zealanders having one in their household. Xbox 360 has 7.6% while Wii has 6.5% of New Zealanders.



[For more information visit www.RoyMorganOnlineStore.com](http://www.RoyMorganOnlineStore.com)

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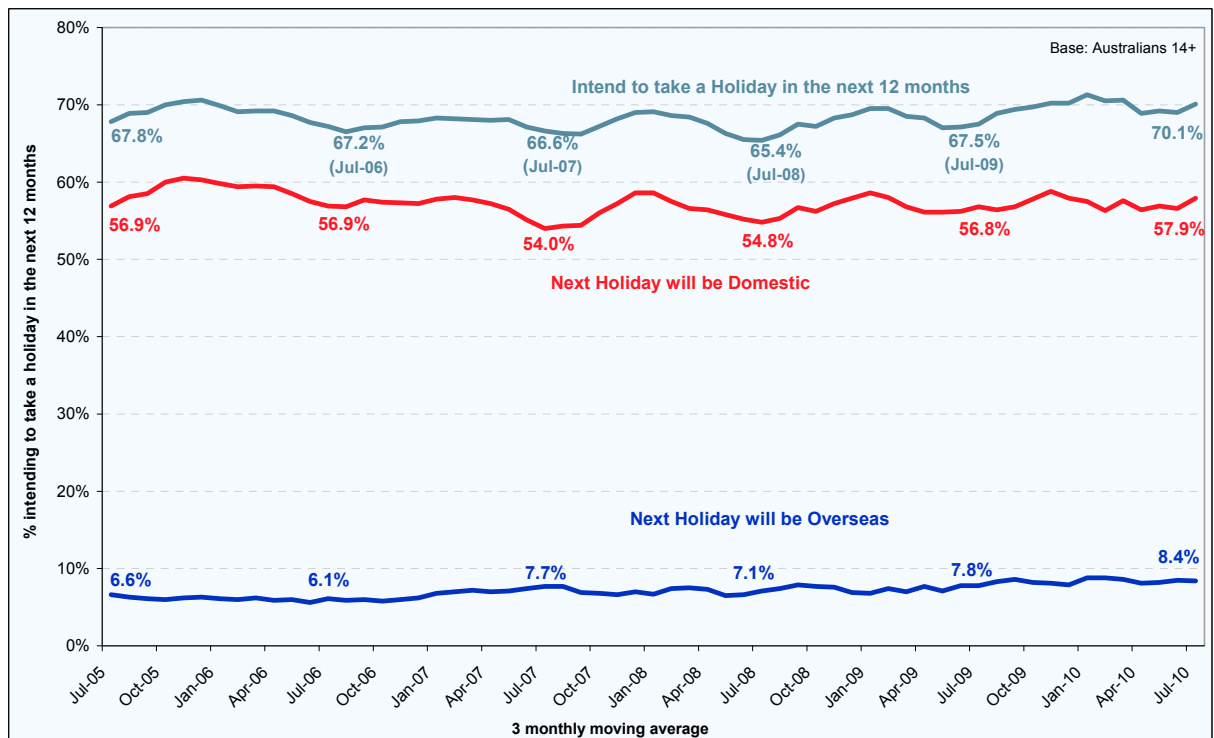
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On September 15, 2010
[Roy Morgan Online Store](#)
[Roy Morgan Holiday Leading Indicators Report](#)

Holiday Intention Continues to Increase in July 2010 Quarter

In the latest Roy Morgan Research Holiday Tracking Survey for the July 2010 quarter 70.1% (12.7 million) of Australians 14 years or older, intend to take at least one holiday in the next 12 months. This is up on both the June 2010 quarter result of 69.0% (12.5 million) and the July 2009 quarter result of 67.5% (12.0 million).

Both domestic and overseas holiday intentions are up. Intention to stay in Australia on the next holiday in the next 12 months is 57.9% in the July 2010 quarter, up from 56.8% in the July 2009 quarter. Intention to go overseas on the next holiday in the next 12 months is 8.4% in the July 2010 quarter, up from 7.8% in the July 2009 quarter¹.

Intention to take a holiday in the next 12 months



Source: Roy Morgan Single Source (May 2005 – July 2010; average sample per quarter n=5,308). A small percentage can't say whether their next trip will be overseas or domestic.

Jane Ianniello, International Director of Tourism, Travel & Leisure, Roy Morgan Research, says:

"With consumer confidence recovering since the Global Financial Crisis an increasing percentage of Australians are intending to take a holiday in the next 12 months. Although the percentage of Australians intending to go overseas on their next holiday has increased steadily over the past five years, it is only in the past few years that the percentage intending to holiday in Australia has gradually increased after a slight decline from mid 2006 to mid 2008."

¹ Some holiday intenders cannot nominate where they will be going on their next holiday. As a result, the percentages shown as intending to go overseas or domestic on their next holiday do not add to the total intenders.

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Slow as a wet weekend

A junior football league postponed 11 grand finals on the wet weekend at the beginning of September. League officials shut down the games in a move that angered club officials and parents, the *Herald Sun* reported.

Good job

Melbourne Water seeks a managing director, www.melbournewater.com.au.

GAMING

No market up yet

The government has shortlisted Tabcorp, Tatts Group and British-based Ladbrokes to hold Victoria's monopoly wagering licence, but the risk of competition from new entrants is confusing investors. The licence, which will apply for 12 years from 2012, is thought to be worth several hundred million dollars. But this valuation depends on a legal challenge to the exclusivity of the licence. It remains unclear how the Government plans to guarantee retail exclusivity and secure the value of the licence if the court finds hotels can offer patrons computer terminals for internet betting. The monopoly licence is now held by Tabcorp, which complained to authorities last year about a computer terminal in a South Melbourne hotel allowing patrons to bet over the internet with Darwin bookmaker Sportsbet, *The Age* reported.

Very important punters

High rollers have helped **James Packer's** Crown post a \$292m profit for the year, despite softer consumer sentiment in mainstream gaming areas and new rival casinos. The company believes it has lost VIP clients, some permanently, to two casinos that opened in Singapore during the year, and it is still making losses on its investments in Macau and the betting exchange Betfair. But Crown's remaining VIPs turned over \$40b, and the VIP revenue was at a record high \$585m, up from \$501m last year. Non-gaming revenue from hotels and restaurants was also higher than last year at \$483m and that includes revenue from Crown's new Metropal Hotel in Melbourne. Revenue from gaming on the main casino floors was below Crown's expectations and rose only slightly to \$1.27b, *The Age* reported.

Shifting ground

The Age reported that the Government has given its strongest indication yet that it is preparing the ground for a second casino. Crown Casino's exclusivity deal with the Government has lapsed and plans for a \$400m casino and convention centre complex in Mildura have been submitted to the Government. The new casino is likely to include 200 poker machines and 40 to 50 tables. Gaming Minister **Tony Robinson** told ABC radio Mildura that a second casino might actually be a good thing for the state, if it met certain conditions.

A later report in the *Herald Sun* found that there will be no new casino in Victoria. Whilst the government has been sent plans for the casino and convention centre in Mildura, Premier **John Brumby** has repeatedly said there will be no new casino without cross-party support. Opposition leader **Ted Baillieu** killed off plans for the casino in Mildura, saying the Coalition's policy was for just one casino in Victoria, and that is Crown.

Scratching their heads

The performance of lotteries and scratchie operator Intralot has been scrutinised by the Victorian Commission for Gambling Regulation with a confidential performance report given to Gaming Minister **Tony Robinson**, *The Age* reported. Intralot's sales have been well below government expectations and the government has again failed to meet its financial year sales target outlined in its licence agreement.

More room for dining and gambling

The Age reported that Crown is planning a massive redevelopment of the Southbank promenade that will increase the casino's floorspace, including extra gaming areas. Six restaurants along Southbank will either be redeveloped or replaced and all planter boxes will be replaced by new landscaping along the waterfront. The intention is to refresh the promenade, making the casino complex more accessible and provide more room for dining and gambling.

Overcoming ignorance

Victoria's gambling watchdog has been criticised for helping aspiring poker machine operators overcome their ignorance in meeting standards for safe gambling. A transcript shows a Gambling Regulation Commissioner helping a pokies licence applicant

who was mostly ignorant of responsible gambling practices, the *Herald Sun* reported.

History

The **Sorrento Hotel** has made history by becoming Victoria's first pub to voluntarily hand back its moneymaking pokies to Tabcorp. It announced it no longer wanted its 16 machines, the *Herald Sun* reported.

Take note

The **Department of Justice** published a notice of public consultation regarding a pre-commitment for gaming machines in 2010, www.justice.gov.au.

HEALTH

A bit of money

The Victorian government announced \$265m in health and hospital projects to come out of the national agreement signed earlier this year. The funding includes nearly \$90m in capital projects and medical equipment to support more than 100 extra hospital beds, and \$175m for hospitals across the state to support opening 228 sub-acute beds, the *Financial Review* reported.

Moving on

German-born trauma surgeon **Dr Thomas Kossmann** has gone to East Timor for a short-term posting with the Australian Defence Force at a hospital in Dili. He has also been engaged as a consultant at a leading hospital in Belgium, where he will teach and perform surgery several times a year. Once one of the country's busiest surgeons, he has struggled to find suitable work in Australia despite being cleared of all allegations against him. When charged, he was The Alfred hospital's director of trauma. Police, the Australian Tax Office, the Transport Accident Commission, WorkSafe, the Medical Practitioners Board of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons have all found he has no case to answer, the *Herald Sun* reported.

Literacy

International nursing students who have completed their degree at universities including Deakin and the University of Ballarat face uncertainty because they do not meet the language requirements set by the

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency. From July 1 this year, students are not eligible to be employed unless they pass an English literacy test at level 7, *The Age* reported.

Overall numbers up

The Age reported that paramedics are concerned about a shift away from two-person intensive care units as Ambulance Victoria prepares to put more solo officers on the road. The number of single responder intensive care units in the state is rising from three to 17, while two-person intensive care units are dropping from 16 to 12.

Needle work

The Age reported that ongoing funding will be provided to Victoria's only 24-hour needle exchange service in St Kilda, and to expand its operations to provide more health services for injecting drug users. The service provided 1 million needles to 54,000 clients last financial year. Its around-the-clock operation began as a pilot program in late 2007.

Care

Carers Victoria seeks a chief executive officer, www.joffisher.com.au.

INVESTMENT

BUSINESS

The conflict commission

The *Herald Sun* reported Australian Competition and Consumer Commission chief **Graeme Samuel**, a major investor in DFO parent Austexx, will play no further role in the evaluation process of the National Australia Bank's \$13.3b bid for AXA-Asia Pacific. NAB is a banker to Austexx. Nearby, the ACCC has stopped the NAB bid for AXA.

Difficult times

Former Victorian Liberal minister and high-profile businessman **Roger Pescott** is facing possible bankruptcy. His financial troubles are linked to the collapse almost two years ago of the Enviroinvest tree plantation investment group and to financial guarantees he made as the director of another failed company, Motorway Tyres, *The Age* reported.

Fill 'er up

Fuel prices dropped to a six-month low towards the end of August with petrol selling for as little as 95.9 cents a litre. The RACV's website listed a Woolworths Caltex in Keysborough as the best for unleaded, at 99.9 cents a litre, or less with a 4c supermarket discount, the *Herald Sun* reported.

Invest

Invest Victoria's September newsletter, an online publication from the Department Innovation, Industry and Regional Development held a number of interesting items including news that UK-based global technology and business services company Vertex is establishing an Asia-Pacific headquarters in Melbourne, creating 400 new jobs; Melbourne's new supercomputer will help fight glaucoma; and Victoria will receive dairy innovation investment worth \$320 million.

A good job

The **Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development** seeks a Director, International Coordination Office, www.careers.vic.gov.au.

AGRICULTURE

Bumper

The Age reported that Victorian wheat farmers are on track to produce their biggest crop in nearly 30 years, thanks to good rain in ideal times before and during the growing season.

It's in revelations people

The Age reported that new predictions suggest locusts will hatch in Victoria's wheat belt before Grand Final day, September 25 – early enough to be a substantial threat to crops. Earlier hatchings would be a bigger threat to the grain crop, because the earlier dates increase the likelihood that some crops would still be developing and be green enough to be appetising.

Good job

Dairy Food Safety Victoria seeks a chief executive officer, www.dairysafe.vic.gov.au.

JUSTICE

Hmmm

Up to 30 police have been implicated and more than 20 charged with disciplinary offences that could result in

dismissal after a major investigation into pornographic and racist emails circulated through the Victoria Police computer system. At least 10 police charged over the emails have been ordered to attend internal discipline hearings. Two police have already resigned rather than face the hearings. Another took his own life after he was suspended. The serious discipline charges include disgraceful conduct and failure to comply with lawful instruction from the Chief Commissioner.

The Ethical Standards Department investigation, codenamed Barrot, has tracked hundreds of emails that have been circulated through the police network for more than 12 months. In March, Healesville sergeant **Tony Vangorp** committed suicide after he was suspended and told he was likely to be dismissed. Allegedly inappropriate emails were found on his computer. A follow-up report in *The Age* said the casualty list from the probe into pornographic and racist emails could grow after four officers were sacked, two demoted and others disciplined. The investigation is continuing and police up to the rank of superintendent face the sack.

Have a madeleine

Ombudsman **George Brouwer** has warned that the Government's promised anticorruption commission may not be up to the task. He said Premier **John Brumby's** anti-corruption system is too complex and could result in corruption busters running into legislative barriers, *The Age* reported. *The Australian* reported Brouwer has criticised the Government commissioned Proust review into anticorruption authorities, saying some comments were based on misconceptions, misunderstandings and factually incorrect allegations. Brouwer has accused **Elizabeth Proust** and her team of reporting untested and unchallenged allegations about his office and failing to give him an adequate right of reply.

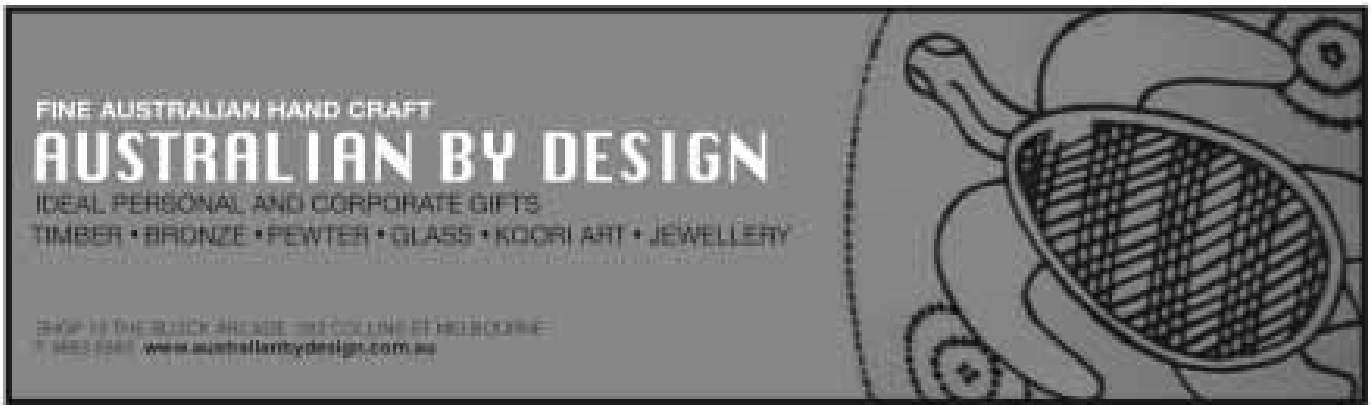
Proust said she disagreed with Brouwer's claims her findings were unbalanced, based on factually incorrect allegations and that she did not give him the proper right of reply. She also rejected the Ombudsman's claim that she failed to properly verify the accuracy of procedural fairness allegations about his office. These included people being denied access to local representation while being interviewed by his staff. Proust told a Law Institute of Victoria lunch that a review of the state's anticorruption bodies found there was a consistent, credible body of evidence of lack of due process in the Ombudsman's investigations.

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Nearby

Senior members of Victoria Police wanted a stand-alone anticorruption commission rather than the Office of Police Integrity and believe the new Proust model adopted by the government was a bit haphazard, *The Australian* reported. Former Victoria Police media manager **Stephen Linell** says the structure of the anticorruption authorities recommended by public servant **Elizabeth Proust** and accepted by the government may not be the right system and was just adding to the current bodies.

Oops

Victoria Police has apologised for its failure to protect nearly 700 children who were exposed to convicted sex offenders. There was widespread condemnation of the Brumby government and the police that such a serious breach of the state's child protection laws could have occurred, and then gone unnoticed for five years. It is now clear Victoria Police has mismanaged the Sex Offenders Register since it was established 2005, *The Australian* reported.

At last

Chief Commissioner **Simon Overland** is in the clear after an Office of Police Integrity report found he was careless when he left ammunition in his luggage this year, but should face no further action. The OPI report, tabled in Parliament, has effectively cleared the Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police, the *Herald Sun* reported.

The boys in blue and orange

The *Herald Sun* reported that another senior Australian Federal Police officer has been appointed to Victoria Police command. **Carl Kent** is the force's new director of forensics services. His appointment has prompted union accusations of 'jobs for the boys'. The Police Association said the preference of Chief Commissioner **Simon Overland**, a former AFP officer, for other AFP officers was a slap in the face for Victoria Police. Kent is currently manager of high-tech crime operations for the AFP in Canberra.

Strong-armed

Tougher laws to tackle organised crime and bikie gangs could soon be introduced in Victoria, the *Herald Sun* reported. Premier **John Brumby** said his government and police command were discussing options to stop fortification of buildings such as bikie clubhouses. The Opposition called for their proposal to outlaw bikie gangs to be adopted, too. But Brumby

said Victoria already had the strongest organised crime laws of any state.

Moving on

Bernard Teague, the former chairman of Victoria's Bushfires Royal Commission will join two other judges, New South Wales Justices **John Nield** and **Jane Matthews**, as temporary appointments to the ACT Supreme Court for nine months, the *Herald Sun* reported.

Judge Judy

Victoria's courts should be more open to the electronic media and allow proceedings to be recorded and televised, recently retired Supreme Court judge **Philip Cummins** says. In a speech to the Melbourne Press Club, Cummins said many suppression, or non-publication, orders made by the courts were wrong in law and there should be far fewer of them. He said the recordings of proceeding should be made available and that 'snobbery' from parts of the legal profession had prevented the introduction of cameras, *The Age* reported.

Cooling cases

As National Missing Persons Week was launched in early August, *The Age* reported that Victoria's cold case missing persons unit was set to close. The Belier taskforce has solved about 150 missing person cases over the past three-and-a-half years but has not taken on any new work since June. Investigators say they have exhausted every lead in the hundreds of cases that they set out to solve.

Questionable...

Victoria Police struck a deal with the Australian Football League to share any records it has gathered on AFL identities, including handing over photos and videos. Civil liberties advocates and the state opposition have criticised the agreement as an unprecedented, insulting invasion of privacy. Hawthorn President **Jeff Kennett** called the agreement disturbing. Liberty Victoria president **Michael Pearce, SC**, said the AFL and the police were being paranoid by peering into citizen's private lives, *The Age* reported. The agreement no longer exists.

A follow-up report in the same paper found that Victoria Police's use of secret agreements is more widespread than previously thought, with documents revealing the force has entered into at least 36 deals with external agencies, often involving the exchange

of sensitive information. The list of 'memorandums of understanding' contains many deals that appear necessary for police duties, such as information sharing to comply with the working with children legislation, fire safety, workplace testing, a deal with Consumer Affairs for prostitution control, and an agreement with the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority about prohibited substances.

But they said...

The AFL and Victoria Police have denied striking a deal to share private law enforcement data about players, coaches and board members, the *Herald Sun* reported. But a **Victoria Police** statement said there was an agreement that formalised the long-standing agreement between the two organisations to cooperate during any criminal investigation involving an AFL player or official. *The Age* reported that Privacy Victoria is examining the deal police struck with the AFL to share information about hundreds of league identities. The allegations have led to an internal inquiry being conducted by Victoria Police.

The Law of the Land

Radio broadcaster **Derryn Hinch** has won a bid to have contempt of court charges for allegedly naming two sex offenders removed to the High Court. Hinch is facing 5 contempt charges for allegedly naming two sex offenders at a public protest rally in 2008, in contravention of Victorian County Court orders, *The Australian* reported.

Hmmm

Several Victorian police are likely to face criminal charges over the treatment and subsequent death of a man after he was released from Dandenong police station earlier this year, *The Age* reported.

Lygon in Lygon

Two men were shot dead by a third at Player's on Lygon in Lygon Street, Carlton, *The Age* reported.

A suggestion

A giant advertisement on the side of a bus for a striptease school has been banned, five years after it was put to use. It has been found by the Advertising Standards Bureau to be sexually suggestive. The ASB also said the Kittens School of Striptease ad could expose children to sexual themes.

Hulls needs some treatment

Attorney-General **Rob Hulls** seeks expressions of interest from chiropractors, psychiatrists, osteopaths, physiotherapists, podiatrists and psychologists who wish to sit as Sessional Members in the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal in the Occupational and Business Regulations List for *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Victoria) Act 2009*, www.courts.vic.gov.au.

Looking to improve

The **Department of Justice** seeks community views on how to improve the way candidates for judicial office are identified, assessed and appointed, www.justice.vic.gov.au/newcourtsact.

MELBOURNE

Our Show

The Royal Melbourne Show, 18 to 28 September, www.royalshow.com.au/

Melbourne Festival 2010

From 8 to 23 October. A 75 page booklet fell out of *The Age*, perhaps on Saturday, telling what's on. Carrillo Gantner AO, the festival's president, mentions in the introduction that it celebrates 25 years of bringing the finest contemporary art to our city. Start planning.

For shame

The historic Separation Tree in the Royal Botanic Gardens has been vandalised. The 24-metre, 400-year-old river red gum was the site of celebrations on November 15, 1850, when Victoria broke away from New South Wales. It was effectively ring barked when someone broke into the gardens overnight and attacked it, possibly with an axe. It left a gash about a metre wide around the tree's 3.8-metre circumference. Police are investigating the attack, including the possibility it was a political statement linked to the federal election. Arborists will take up to two days to assess the damage and determine whether the tree is likely to survive, *The Age* reported.

Retrofit

Melbourne Town Hall is midway through a major retrofit. The transformation will cost \$830,000 and is part of the City of Melbourne's '1200 buildings' scheme, which is aimed at retrofitting more than two thirds of the city's commercial buildings. Changing Melbourne Town Hall's 250 light fittings, 66 taps and 43 toilets (even the urinals are heritage listed) has presented a number of challenges, *The Age* reported.

Quality and quantity

The *Herald Sun* reported that with 55-pages and 1,500 different wine varieties, **Rockpool's** wine list was chosen by 25 judges from more than 300 entries as Australia's best in the Fine Wine Partners and *Gourmet Traveller* awards. **Daylesford's Lake House** was named the best country restaurant wine list and the Royal Mail Hotel in Dunkeld won the magazine's readers choice award. At the magazine's annual restaurant wards, Fitzroy's Cutler & Co was named restaurant of the year and **Dunkeld's Royal Mail**

Hotel was named Australia's best regional restaurant for the third year running.

Used to club

The *Herald Sun* reported that alcohol will be served in shatter proof glasses at high risk CBD nightclubs to try to curb drunken violence. A parliamentary inquiry recommended the move on learning glass was the weapon most used in city centre assaults.

A Melbourne day

A new song, simply called Melbourne Day, was commissioned by Melbourne City Council to help celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Enterprise landing on the banks of the Yarra in 1835. Primary school children danced and sang the new song at the city's official 175th birthday celebrations on August 30. It was written by **Mark Puddy** from the education provider Australian Arts Alive. Puddy, who has worked with the Australian Girls Choir for 16 years, said he wanted the song to reflect Melbourne's history, *The Age* reported.

Commendable

Every year, the Lord Mayor grants commendations for the owners of long-standing small businesses. The program was initiated by a group of small business proprietors who thought it was important to celebrate longevity throughout the City of Melbourne. Since the program began in August 2005, more than 270 small-business proprietors and seven generational family businesses have received commendations. This year's event was a great night out for small business proprietors and their spouses at the Town Hall awards. There were drinks and mixing and chatter with the shopkeepers and smaller professional firms of the CBD and nearby inner suburbs.

Good food

The Age's Good Food Guide Awards saw restaurants Jaques Raymond and Vue de Monde awarded three hats, and long-time friend of **Letter from Melbourne**, Café di Stasio among 16 restaurants to receive two hats. Forty-five restaurants received one hat. It's an interesting list; inspiration to get out and see Melbourne.

What's on?

What's on at the State Library September-November, a 30-page colour brochure, provides information about exhibitions, guided tours, talks and learning programs among other things on at the State Library in spring.

In war and peace

Legacy Week, 29 August to 4 September, seeks to look after the families of those killed in war.

Its power, you know

The third **Knowledge Cities World Summit** will be held in Melbourne from 16 to 19 November. It is organised in partnership between the City of Melbourne, Office of Knowledge Capital and the World Capital Institute, www.melbourneknowledge.com.

A good job

The **City of Melbourne** seeks a Manager - Community, Safety and Well-being, www.employment.melbourne.vic.gov.au.



Liz Walker became Lort Smith's CEO in June 2010. Her career began as a vet in private small animal practice, in research (the field of parasitology of sheep) and teaching, before she entered the corporate world and held positions in sales and marketing as well as completing a Masters of Management at MGSM. She was appointed General Manager of Gribbles Veterinary Pathology in 2004. Liz has held positions on various animal health-related committees and is a trustee of the Australian Companion Animal Health Foundation. She lives with her husband, four children and two delightful twelve-year-old cats.

PLANNING & BUILDING

Notes

Notes taking in a meeting between Planning Minister **Justin Madden** and the developer behind the \$260m Hotel Windsor redevelopment are being withheld by the Government – months after the minister appeared to indicate they would be released, *The Age* reported.

A big park

The Victorian government has short listed three companies to submit tenders for the \$125m design and construction contract for the Eastern Plaza project which forms part of the \$363m Melbourne Park redevelopment. The Plaza project comprises the construction of eight tennis courts, car parking and pedestrian infrastructure. The construction companies are Grocon, Bovis Lend Lease and Watpac, the *Financial Review* reported.

Clear way, shrouded sky

The way has been cleared for a 226 metre, \$400m Southbank tower by noted architects Fender Katsalidis after the City of Melbourne lost a legal battle with the state government. The 72-storey building will be built

on the corner of City Road and Southbank Boulevard. The council and argued that the tower dramatically broke what it regarded as the 100-metre height limit in the current planning scheme – and in the council's proposed Southbank structure plan – for that part of Southbank.

The chairman of the council's Future Melbourne (Planning) Committee, Councillor **Peter Clarke**, said the proposed development failed to meet the objectives and requirements of the Melbourne planning scheme. The appeal to VCAT was lodged because the council believed the development to be excessive in both height and bulk. It includes 532 apartments, six levels of office space, a fresh food market, café/restaurant, car and bicycle parking as well as several ground floor retail shops. It is a little shorter than its neighbour Eureka Tower, which has 92 floors and is 300 metres high.

Two of the development partners are **Beni Aroni**, director of Stralliance Developments, and **Nonda Katsalidis** of Fender Katsalidis Architects, both of whom worked on the award-winning Eureka Tower. The third partner is **Adrian Valmorbida Group**, *The Age* reported.

A new reality show

A complex of 550 dwellings on Channel Nine's former home in Richmond may increase the tensions between developers and communities over large urban renewal sites across Melbourne. The development plans, outlined by property giant Vivas Lend Lease to neighbouring residents, reveal a \$400m project, housing 1,100 people in townhouses and eight storey apartments in an area the size of a city block, *The Age* reported.

Long pipeline

There is a building boom in Melbourne's apartment market and it is being driven by changing lifestyles, housing shortages and overseas investors, experts say. Several ultra-tall apartment buildings – Grocon recently announced a 90-storey skyscraper on a former Carlton Brewery site – are now selling or in the pipeline, *The Age* reported.

Get out

The *Herald Sun* reported that Frankston City Council issued an emergency order for residents to vacate a renovated block of flats after surveyors warned that the Pine Hill Drive building posed a genuine risk of electrocution and was a potential fire hazard. The building went into receivership in May, and has since been under Westpac Banking Corporation control. Receivers KordaMentha ordered a building inspection amid residents concerns, and their lawyers issued a notice to vacate at 6 pm on the same day. Frankston City Council chief executive **George Modrich** said that it was a travesty that the renovated property had been certified for occupancy by private surveyors last year.

Dimmey's tower

A proposal to build an 11-storey tower behind Richmond Dimmey's clock tower is closer to being realised after Heritage Victoria approved amended development plans for the spot. But Yarra mayor **Jane Garrett** indicated the council might yet stand in the way of the project because of the tower's proposed height. The 1907 store was listed on the Victorian Heritage Register in 2009 and described by Heritage Council chairman **Daryl Jackson** as a Melbourne landmark, with its history reflecting the changing fortunes of the inner-city suburbs, *The Age* reported.

A thin isthmus of dunes

Nearly 2,500 owners of prime ocean real estate on Ninety Mile Beach are battling to lift a building freeze or get compensation for land that has lost up to 95 per cent of its value after a 40-year dispute with the Government. Property owners on a thin isthmus of dunes between Lake Reeve and Bass Strait on the Gippsland coast – many of whom bought their land in the 1960s and 1970s – protested on the steps of State Parliament, *The Age* reported.

Confusing climate

Fears Victoria's coastline will be covered by rising sea levels have led to an unprecedented ruling that blocked plans for eight townhouses in Lakes Entrance and could undermine coastal development worth millions. The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal decision is the first time a small-scale development has been blocked. It means all new developments of

subdivisions on land less than 80 cm above sea level is threatened. Areas designated as potential hotspots for flooding are Warnambool, Port Fairy, Portland, Lakes Entrance, the Gippsland Lakes, Patterson Lakes and Werribee. A federal government report last year warned that up to 44,600 homes along Victoria's coast could be destroyed or damaged by rising sea levels over the next century, the *Herald Sun* reported.

Green wedgy

The Municipal Association of Victoria's September newsletter reported that the government has announced \$2.5m in funding over four years for the planning, protection and management of green wedges across Melbourne. The funding will assist councils to finalise green wedge management plans and includes \$1.3m to strengthen green wedge policy and delivery, and to help councils develop, update and implement the green wedge management plans.

A lot of calls

Consumer Affairs Victoria received more than 10,000 calls about real estate matters last financial year, the *Herald Sun* reported.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Foot soldiers in Frankston

Private foot patrols started on the streets of Frankston at the beginning of September to try to plug a policing gap in the area. Frankston City Council will spend more than \$330,000 of ratepayers money on private guards to patrol the suburb's trouble spots, including the beach and train station. The ten guards will not be armed with weapons, but with CCTV cameras, and will call police if situations get out of control. Mayor **Christine Richard** said the council decided to implement the six-month trial so there would be a uniformed presence on the streets. She said residents would like to see more police on the streets of Frankston and at Frankston Police Station. She said the patrols were about making sure residents and visitors to the suburb felt safe, *The Age* reported.

Good jobs

The **City of Mooney Valley** seeks a chief executive officer, resume@sacsconsult.com.au.



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The **Corangamite Shire** seeks a Director, Sustainable Development, www.corangamite.vic.gov.au.

SPORT

Bike Futures

Etihad Stadium, Thursday 14 to 15 October.

This forum, presented by Bicycle Network and hosted by Bicycle Victoria, is for national and local leaders, planners, designers and builders to unlock the solutions and plan the future of cycling in Australia, 1800 616 600 or www.bikefutures.com.au

Hot tip

The *Herald Sun* reported that former Premier **Steve Bracks** is being tipped as a new appointment to the Australian Football League Commission. He is said to be considered a perfect substitute for Geelong's now long serving commissioner **Colin Carter**, who is preparing to take over the presidency of the club next year. Incumbent president **Frank Costa** has announced his intention to stand down.

It improved

The AFL Players' Association warned it would demand the League look at moving matches if the playing surface at Etihad stadium did not improve. The surface has become too slippery, putting players at risk of injury.

Delhi belly

The Age reported that corruption allegations and evidence of shoddy building work have rocked Delhi's Commonwealth Games two months before the opening ceremony. A key member of the organising committee has quit amid allegations of nepotism. **Anil Khanna**, the treasurer of the games' organising committee is the first senior organiser to resign following a series of allegations against Games officials including corruption, forgery and shoddy building work.

Khanna's resignation followed local media reports that his son, **Aditya Khanna**, was favoured in a contract for laying 14 synthetic surfaces on courts at the tennis stadium that will be used during the games. Questions remain as to whether building work will be completed in time for the Games.

The *Herald Sun* reported that India's Prime Minister took charge of Delhi's chaotic Commonwealth Games preparations in an effort to prevent further embarrassment to the country. **Dawn Fraser** is urging Australian athletes to consider boycotting the 2010 Commonwealth Games. She has concerns regarding security, sanitation and health. But the Olympic legend's greatest fear is that games organisers are not equipped to prevent a repeat of the 1972 Munich Olympics massacre, where 11 Israeli athletes, coaches and officials were taken hostage and then killed by Palestinian terrorists.

An exercise in shame

The alleged match fixer arrested for colluding with Pakistani cricketers was caught on video boasting that January's Sydney test was rigged – a suspicion

that led the international cricket corruption watchdog to launch an investigation, *The Age* reported. The investigation will now include revelations that four Pakistani players were embroiled in a betting scandal – uncovered by a *News of the World* sting – during the fourth test against England at Lord's. It was later reported that Australian cricketers **Shane Watson** and **Brad Haddin** had been approached by a suspected Mumbai gangster with links to illegal bookmakers during the tour of England last year.

As the scandal unfolded, *The Australian* reported that the Pakistan cricket team's entire 2009-10 tour of Australia is under scrutiny. The International Cricket Council's anticorruption and security unit had warned the Pakistan Cricket Board about player behaviour long before the events in England. *The Age* reported that a Pakistani court summoned seven national cricket players, the country's sports minister and its cricket chief to face treason charges over the fixing allegations in England.

How to ease the passing of time

The *Herald Sun* reported **James Demetriou**, brother of AFL boss **Andrew**, announced a plan to get 10,000 disadvantaged migrant children back to sports fields. Demetriou, chairman of Sports without Borders, says sport is now the sixth most common pastime for youth, after being number one 10 years ago. Working with schools, local councils, sporting teams and families, his group aims to encourage children to take up physical activity.

Thousands of little pieces

Tiger Woods and his wife, **Ellen Nordegren**, have divorced, nine months after his personal and professional life imploded amid disclosures of extramarital affairs, *The Age* reported.

Good sport sought

Melbourne Storm Rugby League Club is looking for a Chief Sales & Marketing Officer, hr@melbournestorm.com.au.

Tennis Victoria seeks an executive director, australiasearch@boyden.com.

TOURISM

Up there

The Australian reported that Sydney squandered its success in hosting the 2000 Olympic Games and gained a reputation for being a prime example of how to miss out on the opportunities presented by hosting such a global event. The indictment comes from tourism lobby group chief **Chris Brown**, who hit out at the New South Wales and federal governments for failing to capitalise on the Sydney Olympics. Brown, the managing director of the Tourism and Transport Forum, said the past 10 years had been a lost decade for tourism in Sydney and Australia generally.

Nearby

The Australian reported that a young boy was attacked by a sea lion at Sydney's Taronga Zoo in front of hundreds of horrified visitors. The 11-year-old was mauled after he was invited by keepers to meet

and pat the animal during the popular seal show at the zoo.

A pay cut

Greg Hywood has given up his \$310,000-a-year role as chief executive at Tourism Victoria to join the board at Fairfax, earning \$120,000. Hywood worked at Fairfax in senior editorial and executive roles before he left in 2003, *The Age* reported.

Skills-based tourism

Expressions of interest for an Independent Chair & Skills-Based Directors are sought by the **Murray Regional Tourism Board Ltd**, kristin.penny@tourism.vic.gov.au.

TRANSPORT

RAIL

The ppp word

Premier **John Brumby** revealed that the government would like to use a public-private partnership to build the first stage of the Melbourne Metro – a rail tunnel stretching from the inner west under the central business district to St Kilda Road on the southern fringe of the CBD. The move would depend on private interest in financing public infrastructure. It also indicates there are doubts Victoria could pay for the project from the Building Australia Fund, which the federal government established in 2008 to build critical

infrastructure for transport, communications, water and energy. The project is supported by Infrastructure Australia but several sources suggest it is unlikely to get federal backing in the near future because of the government deficit, the *Financial Review* reported. The banking and infrastructure industries have strongly backed the decision to consider private financing of the proposed \$5b rail tunnel.

Full steam ahead

The Age reported that a new rail line to Melbourne's western suburbs will be built regardless of the findings of any study on its impact on residents and the environment, Premier **John Brumby** says. Accused of treating affected residents with contemptuous disregard after revelations the government was trying to limit their avenues to protest, Brumby refused to take a backward step. The *Financial Review* reported that Brumby presented an argument that appears to support the skipping of an environmental effects statement for the proposed regional rail link. He drew attention to the rail link's similarities to the \$1.4b M1 freeway project, which did not require an EES because most of that work followed an existing transport corridor.

Facts and figures

The Age reported that Metro earned \$53m more from taxpayers over a three-month period this year than Comex did over the same period last year. The jump in payments came despite a fall in the train system's performance. The figure was announced in a report



The Time for High Speed Rail

On 9 September, Affairs of State hosted the latest High Speed Rail luncheon at the Hotel Windsor in Melbourne. Also co-hosted by Alan Burns of Strategic Connections Group, the event was the most recent in the series of events focused on awakening bipartisan support for HSR in Australia. Primarily, guest speaker David George from the Cooperative Research Centre for Rail Innovation spoke of how a full feasibility study to seriously investigate HSR in Australia is taking place.

David George has an MA in Metallurgy and Science of Materials from Oxford University. He has extensive experience in the rail industry, having worked for more than 30 years with British, New Zealand and Australian rail companies. In 2007, David became CEO of the CRC.

Halcrow sponsored the lunch, allowing 24 guests to listen to David George speak of the opportunities

and potential investment possibilities that could arise if HSR becomes a reality. But the concerns over the high investment costs were also covered in depth, particularly in the question and answer session.

Attendees comprised of subscribers of Letter from Melbourne, clients of the host companies, sponsor representatives, leaders of the rail industry, politicians, public servants and other interested parties. For more information on attending such events, please contact Camilla Orr-Thomson at camilla@affairs.com.au

quietly released on the eve of the federal election. It shows that the Metcard ticketing system is performing better than ever. Melbourne trains, however, recorded the lowest satisfaction ratings from users since the train system was privatised in 1999, with just 56 per cent of people surveyed saying they were happy with services. It found one in six V/Line trains ran late.

Police or politics

The Age speculated that if the Coalition is to win government in November it will have to remove Metro trains chief executive **Andrew Lezala** from his position. Lezala has reversed his support for an opposition plan to put Victoria Police protective services officers on every suburban railway station in Melbourne, and at major regional stations, from 6 pm until the last train each night. In March, Lezala said he supported the policy, but has now reversed his position to match that of the Brumby government.

Mud holes

Passenger train services between Melbourne and Sydney were suspended over concerns that defects in the tracks caused by a \$1b upgrade have left them unsafe. CountryLink, the operator of the Melbourne-to-Sydney XPT train services, suspended the services as result of speed restrictions imposed by the Australian Rail Track Corporation which is performing the track upgrades. The Melbourne to Albury stretch has had extensive speed restrictions imposed as a result of the sleeper replacement program, which caused mud holes to undermine long stretches of track, *The Age* reported.

One wonders about its effectiveness

The operator of myki, the Transport Ticketing Authority, has given Victoria police access to private information about the movement of its customers. Movement of smartcard users can be tracked with the myki ticket system. Under its privacy policy, police can simply request it in writing without going through the courts, *The Age* reported.

More myki for free

The Age reported that seniors card holders in Victoria will be offered free weekend travel on public transport using myki passes from the start of next year. The Brumby government announced about 400,000 people aged over 60 who already get free Sunday travel on Metcards will soon be sent complementary myki cards, allowing them to travel free on Saturdays as well. The cards will arrive in the mail in the lead up to the November state election.

Brainstorming

Metro is about to submit plans to the government for a shuttle bus between Camberwell and Caulfield. It is also considering keeping its own fleet of buses, which it can deploy quickly when train services are suspended. Metro estimates three train loads of commuters would use a shuttle service between Camberwell, which lies on the Belgrave, Lilydale and Alamein lines, and Caulfield, which lies on the Cranbourne-Pakenham and Frankston lines.

Its studies show 2,700 people a day change trains at Richmond, many of whom travel between Caulfield and Camberwell. That 16 kilometre rail journey takes about 25 minutes when trains are running well. Depending on traffic the 7-kilometre bus trip along Taronga Road, connecting with the Glen Waverley line at Taronga Station, could save time, the *Herald Sun* reported.



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Smile

The \$12m TramCam plan, announced by the Government in 2003, has been quietly dropped after the cost blew out to \$68m. The plan was to put cameras on trams to catch the 124,500 vehicles that illegally pass trams every month, seriously injuring at least one pedestrian and causing dozens of other injuries plus delays. Tram drivers report at least 16 near misses a month. There were problems with the camera's automatic trigger system and night-time vision, as well as potential legal loopholes that would have allowed offending vehicle drivers to avoid penalties, *The Age* reported.

Rail to Rowville

A state Liberal government would move to build a rail line connecting Monash University to Rowville. Opposition transport spokesman **Terry Mulder** said his party would commission a \$2m study to confirm the feasibility of the long promised railway line if it wins government in November. The line would give Monash University's 28,000 students an alternative to driving or taking the often overcrowded bus service.

Tram trouble

The *Herald Sun* reported that modern trams are potentially more dangerous than ageing vehicles, research has found. A study by Alfred Hospital found there were 15 deaths and 107 major trauma cases after tram accidents over eight years. Researchers said injuries became more common between 2001-08. Most injuries happened in the CBD and involved younger people. Falls were the most common cause of injuries, with two thirds caused by sudden braking. The leading cause of major injuries was trams hitting pedestrians. Apart from that, **Letter from Melbourne** observes that the newer trams with their new braking systems often lead to a less than smooth ride.

Staff no deterrent

The Age reported that more than three-quarters of all reported attacks on Melbourne train stations occur at staffed facilities, with a quarter of violent assaults carried out by gangs or groups of thugs. Transport Safety Victoria figures also show that of the 583 assaults reported across the network in 2009, more than a quarter were attacks on rail staff and ticket inspectors.

As the decades roll along

International design firm **Grimshaw Architects** has drawn up plans for a state-of-the-art redevelopment of the 100-year-old Flinders Street Station. The building has been sliding into disrepair over decades, the *Herald Sun* reported.

Up there

Large rail engineering firm Downer EDI removed chief executive **Jeff Knox** amid ongoing troubles with its \$1.9b Waratah rail contract, as the firm rejected speculation that it needs to raise additional capital. Finance director **Grant Fenn** was appointed chief executive. The contract to build 78 eight-car trains for the New South Wales government's RailCorp has dogged Downer EDI for months, as investors dumped the stock after the company unveiled a shock \$190m

provision against the contract in June, the *Financial Review* reported.

ROAD

Not in the clear

A year on from the Government's decision to extend clearway times along some roads leading to and from the CBD, a report released by the Sydney Road Brunswick Association and the Coburg Traders Association has found that no stopping zones are hurting many businesses. After 271 surveys of traders, the report found 87 per cent had cut opening times by between 30 minutes and two hours as a result of a drop in trade, *The Age* reported.

Watch this space...

John Isaac, President and Chairman of the Board of the RACV, wrote in his introduction to the organisation's August newsletter that the RACV has been inundated with calls from members frustrated by inconsistent speed limits at roadworks sites, particularly signs reducing speed when no work is actually taking place. Also of concern are restricted speed limits posted on long lengths of road when work is occurring at only one limited section of the road. Isaac asserted that these practices destroy the credibility of overall speed limits. The government can hardly expect the community to take the road safety messages on speed seriously if the speed limits that are posted are not credible. The situation is out of control, and the State Government needs to show some leadership and direct VicRoads to fix it.

Parallel roads

The *Herald Sun* reported that Springvale Road is becoming a traffic nightmare again, which is making toll road bosses at EastLink happy as it will likely mean an increase in vehicles for their road. EastLink took about 1,400 vehicles from Springvale Road during the morning peak when it first opened two years ago. RACV public policy manager **Brian Negus** said motorists had been called back to Springvale Road by the removal of the Nunawading level crossing.

Make way for the peleton

Bayside Council will ban cars from parking along Beach Road on Saturday and Sunday mornings between 6am and 10am. The council decided to support a plan to make the roads safer for cyclists, but only for a one-year trial. Many residents in Brighton and Beaumaris areas had been opposed to the plan, *The Age* reported.

Avenue of Honour

The National Trust and a residents group hailed the inclusion of the Bacchus Marsh Avenue of Honour on the Victorian Heritage Register. The move throws a spanner into VicRoads plans to install a north-south truck route from the Western Highway to a new roundabout that would bisect the 92-year-old Avenue that honours World War I soldiers. Eight trees of the existing 312 would be felled and replacement elms planted around the roundabout. Traditionalist residents, the Trust and Bacchus Marsh-born author **Peter Carey** said the roadworks, part of the \$200m Western

Highway realignment project, would ruin a cultural and environmental treasure, *The Age* reported.

AIR

Of course not

Melbourne Airport will not follow Sydney's lead in introducing free 15 minute parking on its forecourt. Sydney Airport bowed to years of criticism over fee gouging for car parking and offered travellers 15 minutes free at the international terminal. Melbourne Airport made \$74m profit from parking last financial year. Drivers are allowed to stop and pick up passengers at Melbourne airport, but cannot wait.

Loop the loop

The Age reported that the Federal Government has done a U-turn on Avalon airport, pledging support to turn the airfield into an international terminal.

PORTS

Any port in a container storm

Under a challenging proposition put to the Victorian government in August by infrastructure conglomerate Asciano, parent company of Patrick Stevedores and the freight giant National Rail, plans by the Port of Melbourne Corporation to expand Webb Dock into a new container port would be scrapped. Instead, Swanson Dock would be expanded immediately while an international container terminal was built at Geelong, ready for operations in about a decade. The ultimate goal would be to rid inner Melbourne of container port operations, freeing up the docks for a new waterfront residential and commercial hub on a similar scale to Docklands. The plan is also being sold as a regional development policy that would provide a major economic stimulus to Geelong and Western Port Bay. Ultimately, Melbourne's main working port would be decommissioned by about 2040 and Geelong and Hastings would become home to the state's freight trade under the ambitious business blue print to transform the face of Victoria, *The Age* reported.

More of the same

The Age reported that logistics and property development are closely connected in Salta Properties' plans to combine freight terminals with industrial warehousing at Lyndhurst in Melbourne's southeast and Altona in the west. The company is banking on Lyndhurst becoming a logistical hub, revolutionising the transport freight within Melbourne. Salta has bought 180 hectares of land at Lyndhurst, where it aims to create an inland port, shuttling containers to and from the Port of Melbourne by train – removing much of the truck traffic from around the port and inner and south-eastern suburbs.

It also owns a smaller piece of land at Altona. The project's fate is in the hands of the Victorian government, which has published a green paper on Melbourne's freight future that sets out the need for inland ports in the south-east, west and north of the city to cut traffic congestion. Draft policy suggests a freight terminal in the southeast could handle 60 per cent of the containers going in and out of the Port

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of Melbourne. Submissions on proposals close on September 30. The Government plans to introduce a charge of \$180 a truck next year on vehicles using the stevedoring terminals at the port. This is expected to hasten the development of inland ports.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Not as God intended

The Age reported that thousands of Victorian electricity workers will push for a four-day week as part of a landmark industrial campaign to better balance work and life. The Electrical Trades Union push would have employees add an extra hour to their shifts and in return work a four-day week. Employers say they will oppose the push unless the shorter working week suits the individual company. The ETU claim is part of bargaining over new agreements that will cover about 12,000 workers, with the union also seeking better protection of annual leave and a 6 per cent a year pay rise.

COMMUNITY

Her period of membership

The oldest continual member of the Liberal party, aged 102, **Vonnie Duncan**, said she attended a meeting organised by **Robert Menzies** at the Brighton town Hall, in 1945 as she recalls, where a Victorian branch of the party was established, the *Herald Sun* reported. The average age of the Victorian Liberal member is about 63.

The Gallipoli VCs

A special free exhibition, entitled *This company of brave men; the Gallipoli VCs*, is touring Australia, supported by **Kerry Stokes** and Channel 7. The medals, unveiled by **Tony Robinson**, the Minister Assisting the Premier on Veterans Affairs, are on public display at the Shrine until September 26. Ninety-seven Australians have received the Victoria Cross, the *Herald Sun* reported.

Vale

Stephen Strauss, retired Family Court of Australia judge, aged 88. **Peter George Walls**, MBE, soldier, aged 83. **Sue Napier**, former Tasmanian Liberal deputy premier who spent

almost 18 years in Tasmania's Parliament, aged 62. **Jessica Margaret Anderson**, Australian author of seven novels, twice won the Miles Franklin award, aged 93. **John Cherry**. **James Harley Kennan, SC**, former Labor Party minister and deputy premier in Victoria. **Donald Ratcliffe McLeod**, group captain RAAF (ret'd). **Guy Dowling FRACS**. **Dr Ian Hamilton Holmes**, member of the University of Melbourne's Microbiology Department, winemaker. **Guy Dowling**, aged 56. **Eleanor Catherine Lyle Mitlan**, Arthur Streeton's muse, teacher, aged nearly 100. **Jack Bromley**, World War II veteran. Wing Commandor **Donald Macleod**, World War II veteran. **John Ohman**, VX061912, World War II veteran, aged 88. **Bruce Thomas Lasich**. **Francis Mannix Nolan**, aged 93. **Keith Percival Dale**, a legatee, aged 88. **Michael Meagher**, a former Nine Network sports reporter who died while skiing when he struck a tree at the Perisher Blue ski resort in New South Wales, aged 55. **Alan David Gilbert, AO**, vice-chancellor of Melbourne University, helped set up Melbourne University Private, vice-chancellor of Manchester University, aged 65. **Dean Royston McVeigh**, accountant, aged 60. **Dr Gerald Dickinson**, dentist, aged 69. **Dr Victor West**, past president of the Australian Dental Association Victorian Branch, aged 81. **Friar Bernard Josef Philberth**, priest, physicist, inventor, writer, philanthropist, aged 83. **Grace Ella Fraser**, landscape architect, conservationist, aged 89. **Nicholas Edwin Renton, AM**, actuary, author, the founder of the Australian Shareholders Association, aged 79. **Ian Castles**, former Australian Statistician. **Dr John Derek Foster Norman**, aged 92. **Jason Brown**, Special Air Service Regiment, died serving in Afghanistan, aged 29. **Freddy Lester**, athletics coach and activist, director of the first Melbourne Marathon run 33 years ago, aged 87. **Pat Tudor**, PR consultant, international ambassador for Qantas, Moomba Queen and Miss Victoria 1960, aged 68. **Anne Elizabeth Raymond**, researcher and educator most responsible for the development and implementation of education programs for convicted drink drivers in Australia, member of Bird Observation and Conservation Australia, aged 80. **Emeritus Professor Mollie Elizabeth Holman**, professor of physiology at Monash University, aged 80. **James Gordon Gardener**,

accountant who was chief accountant of the State Electricity Commission, aged almost 94. **John Wear Burton**, part of the Australian delegation at the UN charter conference in San Francisco in 1945, head of the Department of External Affairs, stood as the ALP candidate in the New South Wales electorate of Lowe but defeated by future Prime Minister William McMahon, farmer who started research at the Australian National University, joined University College London where he earned international renown as an original thinker and leading proponent of conflict resolution, aged 95. **Victoria Longley**, actress, aged 49. **Sam Battle Hammond**, psychologist, aged 91. **Hillary Gill**, principal McKinnon Secondary College. **Professor Bill Kent**, academic in Renaissance history. **Irvin Peter Rockman CBE**, businessman and former Mayor of Melbourne. **Anthony Rowand Crowther Hewison, AM**, made a profound contribution to secondary education in Victoria and Australia. **Jean Rose Dagley**. **Kevin Sheehy**, veterinarian. **Tony Ryan**, a 50-year member of the MCC, long-time XXIX club supporter, a senior tennis administrator. **Donald Maxwell Kerr**, aged 84. **Edwin William Wallace**, chairman of the Australian Wine Board in the late 70s, Managing Director of Nathan & Wyeth (now Remy Australia), aged 94. **Peg Warner**, author and journalist who worked on the Melbourne *Herald* before leaving in 1947 for Asia where she lived for many years and wrote books, aged 95. **Dr Frank Page Callaghan**, aged 93. **Reverend Burne Whittaker Brooker**. **Reverend Father Hubert Hunter SSC**. **Fred Laird**. **Sir James William Foots**, mining leader. **John Patrick Doyle**, aged 91. **James Boston**. **Dr Robert Anthony Brothers**, aged 71. **Dr George Halyer Rayner**, aged nearly 77. **Brigadier Dr Ewan L. Deane, OBE**. **Eric Roberts Black, OAM**, aged 95. **Robert Bruce Jamieson**, bursar at The Geelong College. **Archdeacon Gordon Allan Brown**, aged 91. **Sir James Scholtens KCVO**, aged 90. **William (Paul) Ryan, OBE**, aged 78. **Dr Ian Leonard Rowe, OAM MD FRACGP**. **Heather Dunlop**. **Walter Schuetz**. **Professor Sir Bruce Rodda Williams, KBE**.

Patricia Neal, actress who won an Oscar and a Tony, aged 84. **Lis Utzon**, wife of the late Sydney Opera House architect Jørn Utzon, aged 92.

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