

BOSS BABY
Meet the controversial fertility specialist who is ruffling feathers in the IVF industry



● GOOD WEEKEND

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AMERICAN DREAM
72-page glossy magazine highlighting the best of North and South America



● TRAVELLER

FASHIONABLY LATE
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SATURDAY AGE

\$4.40 March 7, 2020

I N D E P E N D E N T . A L W A Y S .

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Coode Island fire leaves toxic legacy for tunnel

EXCLUSIVE
Timna Jacks
Transport reporter

Soil contamination at the West Gate Tunnel's most-polluted site is hundreds of times worse than a threshold set by Victoria's environmental watchdog.

Secret borehole tests reveal PFAS contamination in soil near Coode Island - where a toxic inferno was triggered by a chemical explosion in 1991 - is so severe that dumping the waste in landfills would be impossible without expensive treatment.

Toll road giant Transurban has kept data on the \$6.7 billion project's PFAS contamination under wraps for more than a year, even as the West Gate Tunnel's toxic waste crisis threatens to sink the project.

PFAS is a group of potentially carcinogenic chemicals now considered so hazardous that its prolonged use ultimately shut down the CFA Fiskville training college.

Three soil samples collected along Mackenzie Road in Footscray, near Coode Road - a PFAS hotspot where the road's ramps linking to the Port of Melbourne are to go - show contamination between 112 and 2000 times the acceptable amount in drinking water. There are fears contamin-

INSIDE
Firms to be charged for blocking public roads

NEWS PAGE 4

ants could leach into the water table.

Leaked test results from consultancy firm Agon Environmental reveal the amount of PFAS leaching into the soil is 21 times the acceptable limit for any landfills.

Overall, PFAS levels in the samples are between 110 and 2000 times the trigger point set by the Environment Protection Authority. The trigger point refers to a level of PFAS of potential concern to the EPA. It requires the watchdog to test the chemicals and decide where the waste could be safely dumped.

The sample tests were presented to Transurban and the builders in late 2018, and are believed to be the worst instances of PFAS on the project. Most of the road's soil is believed to have low or no traces of PFAS.

But joint building venture CPB Contractors and John Holland and Transurban have reached an impasse over potential sites to dump the project's PFAS soil, amid

Continued Page 4



Photo: Simon Schluter

MEG A DRAWCARD FOR RECORD CROWD

Australian captain and batting star Meg Lanning expects a Boxing Day Test atmosphere when she leads her team onto the MCG for tomorrow night's T20 World Cup final against India. Organisers are hoping for a world record attendance for a women's sporting event, and already 75,000 tickets have been sold.

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● GREG BAUM ICC'S WASTED 68 HOURS SPORT PAGE 53

Isolating tourists a headache for states

Melissa Cunningham
Sherryn Groch

Tourists who arrive in Australia appearing ill will be sent directly to hospitals for testing, but serious questions remain over the states' ability to track and quarantine international travellers who do not develop symptoms of the potentially deadly coronavirus until later.

More than 300,000 punters, including thousands of international tourists, will flock to the Australian Grand Prix next week in Melbourne, despite widespread fears over the

INSIDE

Outbreak could put 100,000 jobs at risk

NEWS PAGE 10

global coronavirus outbreak that has killed more than 3000 and infected about 100,000 people worldwide. Australia has had 60 confirmed cases.

Earlier this week, Attorney-General Christian Porter revealed the government was activating sweeping powers under the Biosecurity Act that could be used to forcibly detain people in fever clinics. The federal government has declared that self-isolation and quarantines measures to curb the spread of the virus were the responsibility of each individual state and territory.

Governments in Victoria, NSW, Northern Territory, Western Australia and Queensland governments have confirmed foreigners who

Continued Page 10

Victims of repeated crimes mostly girls

EXCLUSIVE
Blanca Hall

Victoria Legal Aid has called for a dedicated legal service for sexual assault victims, after data revealed girls aged 10-14 were most likely to be the victims of repeated crimes.

Overwhelmingly, those crimes are

sexual and assault-related offences. Children's Commissioner Liana Buchanan said the statistics were deeply worrying, showing "that gendered violence - including sexual violence - remains a major problem and it starts young."

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MILLION-DOLLAR MEDIAN
Melbourne property bounces back big time



● NEWS PAGE 16

Alinta affair puts spotlight on FIRB

EXCLUSIVE
Adele Ferguson

Allegations that Chinese-owned Alinta Energy may be breaching Australian privacy laws have put the spotlight on the role of the Foreign Investment Review Board, which approved the sale of the company.

Professor Allan Fels, a former chairman of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission described the FIRB as a black box, saying the scrutiny was overdue: "It should be reviewed, its practices and procedures brought into line."

FULL STORY INSIGHT

Domain

1671 MARCH 2020

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DRESS CIRCLE

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House of the Week
WHAT LIES WITHIN

Page 9

Best on Show
TRUE CONVERT

Page 10

NEIGHBOURHOODS / ALBERT PARK

By LARISSA DUBECKI



Clearance rate

62%

Median price houses

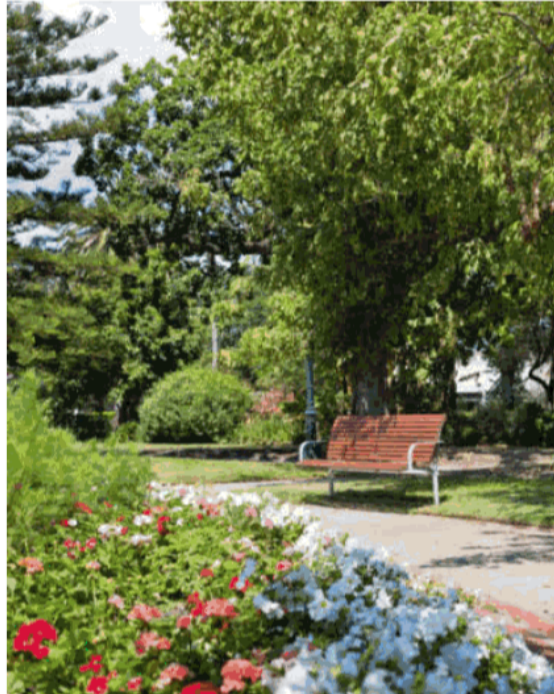
\$1.98m

Top sales

1. 93 St Vincent Place
\$8.37 million
2. 119 Ashworth Street
\$7.25 million
3. 107 Richardson Street
\$6.2 million
4. 173 Mills Street
\$4.87 million
5. 25 St Vincent Place
\$4.2 million



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ELIANA SCHULAL

The garage says it all. It's not a garage to remember, with its nondescript orange bricks and a roller door that's a bit worse for wear. And at just 46 square metres you might choose not to swing the cat. But the Albert Park location accounts for the scorching \$645,500 price tag at its recent auction.

Such is the demand for Albert Park, Melbourne's rarefied slice of bayside aspiration, that the rear garage of 32 Little Graham Street drew the interest of eager prospective buyers

keen to exploit its potential to build their dream townhouse on this modest footprint.

It's the tradesman's entrance to a suburb where the median house price is just shy of \$2 million and where typical housing stock is certainly not a square box with a concrete floor. A walk along Albert Park's broad tree-lined streets reveals a plenty of Victorian and Edwardian homes, featuring plenty of substantial standalone beauties as well as renovated former workers' cottages.

Wedged between traditionally more working-class Port Melbourne and traditionally quieter Middle Park, the suburb bulges out to the east to claim the 2.25 square kilometres of Albert Park Lake and its surrounding parkland that includes the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre and the highfalutin Cantonese restaurant Sun Kitchen.

At the shopping and lifestyle-centric village based around Bridport Street and Victoria Avenue, you can grab a flat white, bag the latest

release books from the Avenue Bookstore and spend big on fashion accessories. Albert Park College, opened by the government in 2011, is in hot demand, while Gasworks Arts Park takes care of stage shows and a farmers' market within one neat four-hectare package.

If you really want to dream big, head to St Vincent Place, it's home to a collection of ornate double-storey 1860s and 1870s terraces. You'll have to shell out millions for the humblest of them. ■

TOP TWO / ALBERT PARK



11 Danks Street

\$2.5 million-\$2.7 million

4 3 2



Open your camera and hover your phone over the app code to see the listing

Brilliantly positioned between Gasworks Park and the bay, this four-level townhouse has two levels of open-plan living, one with north and south-facing terraces, the other has a balcony with bay and city views.

Auction: 10.30am, March 21

Agent: Greg Hocking Holdsworth, Simon Gowling 0422 234 644



186A Danks Street

\$2.7 million-\$2.9 million

4 2



Open your camera and hover your phone over the app code to see the listing

Close to the beach, this classic Edwardian house has been turned into the light-filled epitome of the modern family home. It has a seamless flow from open-plan living spaces to a rear entertainer's deck.

Private auction: 16 March

Agent: Abercromby's, Simon Curtain 0405 385 285