

## **CITYtalking – Collected Stories**

Melbourne City Council Laneway Commissions 2006

Astra Howard, Action Research/Performance, Wednesday October 4 to Sunday 5 November

### **WEEK 1 - Wednesday 4 October to Sunday 8 October 2006**

**Ulster Lane. Wednesday 4 October 2006. Nada** - I have lived in Melbourne all my life. My parents migrated here 38 years ago. My mum comes from Lebanon that is the Arab side of me. If you go down Sydney road it is full of Arabs. I have six sisters and one brother. We are all living in Melbourne. I think it is the safest place to stay. I would not live anywhere else and I have travelled all over the world. I work at 2 Collins in the city. I work for the best orthodontist in Melbourne. The first language of my dog is French, his second language is English. The dog understands languages. I usually catch the tram into the city. This morning I drove in and it took me an hour. No matter how many people bitch about Melbourne trains at least they come. It is also very clean. I go to Europe every year and it does not compare. The pubs are crap. I have worked in hospitality. The best place that is good for your money and has great food is Piraeus Blue. I have just been introduced to Thai food it is fantastic and cheap. When I went to Queensland for a year I thought that the prices were very inflated. We have tourists here in Melbourne but we do not take advantage of them. The Commonwealth games brought out the best in people. The Big Issue vendors are always nice. Everyone is really friendly to one another even gay people are accepted here now. There was a time when there were only certain places where they could go, but now being gay is like being anything else. I was down on Lygon Street the other day and I saw a male belly dancer he was absolutely fantastic. I mean I have seen female belly dancers before but this man was sensational. That is what I mean about this city, there are so many people doing different interesting things all the time and everyone is really supportive of each other. I would not live anywhere else.

**Cohen Place - Wednesday 4 October 2006. Anna** - I am from South Australia. I am visiting Melbourne for a few days.

**Cohen Place - Wednesday 4 October 2006. Aaron** - I just got here two days ago from Perth with my parents. We are going to Tasmania in 2 days time to meet family. This is my first time in Melbourne. I have been on some trams today. I really like this city.

**Ulster Lane. Thursday 5 October 2006. Stew** - I just moved to Camberwell from Kilmore. We are just waiting here now because I am trying to avoid work. I work down in the train station. I have been there for about one month. I like to make movies with friends. We just finished a zombie movie. I would like to go to Uni next year to study film.

**The Causeway. Thursday 5 October 2006. Peter** - I am a college student. We are in the city today doing city research. I am from Melbourne but also live in Gippsland, the country. I have been to other cities in Australia like Sydney and Townsville but Melbourne is the best.

**Cohen Place. Thursday 5 October 2006. Roger** - I have a 15 and a half-month old son. My wife is a product manager for a company she inspects hotels and tour operators. She is overseas at the moment. This is week one luckily I have a great support network. I was born in Melbourne, I love it there are always so many great things to do. It is busy enough. I have travelled overseas to many places but it is too crazy. I cannot imagine living in the Middle East you know with all the wars going on. My wife has worked in Chicago and she said it was quite like Melbourne, you know with ethnic diversity. It is a bigger place though. My wife and I talked about the possibility of moving but we decided, why would you live anywhere else?

**Cohen Place. Thursday 5 October 2006. Jackie** - I work at Vincents Dom, a barbershop. I have been working there for 11 years. We were merged from the Southern Cross Hotel, that is where I used to work, starting back in 1977. We do a lot of famous people. I have been

hairdressing for 27 years. I still have the same customers who came to my shop all those years ago. I must be the only female barber left in Melbourne. People often ask me whether I get bored, but I have never thought of that, you have to be a character who likes talking and listening. I was born in Melbourne. I have two children and the same husband. My son, Peter is twenty, my daughter is sixteen. My daughter is in year ten. I have done so much travelling, but I still think Melbourne has everything. I have been in Europe and Egypt and my children have studied in Japan. My kids want to travel, we have always taken them with us when we travelled the world. I have also had a lot of exchange students stay with me in Melbourne and they all think it is a great city, especially staying with me. The city has changed in every way since 1977, the buildings, the food, the population. People are still quite friendly and supportive. My background is Greek, but my children didn't go to a strictly Greek School. They have kept up the language though which is great when we visit our family overseas. I get a lot of tourists who also come into my salon. The hairdresser knows everything. If you are a good listener, then all the customers stories will come back to you when they walk in the door again for their next appointment. They are always so surprised that you have such a good memory. You have to love your job. I used to do ladies, waxing, make-up etc., but now I am coming to the age where I have stuck to men. They are easier, they do not have so many hairstyle requests, like asking if you can cut their hair like someone famous.

**Centre Place. Thursday 5 October 2006. Jamie** - I am walking around the city today doing an assignment for school. I go to a high school near Frankston. I am doing a drama and performing arts assignment. So we are taking photographs of street performers and buskers. Do you know where any are today?

**Centre Place, Thursday 5 October 2006. Stass** - I am from the States. I am here in Melbourne to give a demo conference to dentists. Melbourne is a beautiful place and a lot of fun.

**Centre Place. Thursday 5 October 2006. Suzie** - I work in the city taking tours around the alleyways. Our tour is called the chocolate tour.

**Centre Place. Thursday 5 October. Luke** - I am from country Victoria. Before that I was in North Queensland, North West, Western Australia. I have lived on and off here for about four years. I have been doing stone restoration for six years. I cleaned the outside of the GPO. The whole place was gutted-out by a fire about eight years ago. Stone masonry is my trade. I am in Melbourne at the moment doing restoration on St Pauls Cathedral. The podium and spires should be finished soon. The internal cleaning should be finished in November, then next year I will be working on Chapel House roof.

**Centre Place. Thursday 6 October. Mathew** - I am a busker in the city of Melbourne. I have been doing this for about 6 years. I play the harmonica. There is a war against buskers and homeless people. There is no way they are going to stop me. I had my place all beautiful before. Ten to twenty girls at a time. My girls would go out and work for me. It was all good then. But I went to gaol for a few years. I have to stay low profile now, cause I am not allowed in the CBD. But I have to busk to make money.

**Bourke Street Mall. Friday 6 October 2006. Bardia** - I just finished up at the gym and I always love to walk through the city alleyways back to uni. I am in my third year of a public relations degree at uni. I am hoping to do more study and get into the entertainment industry. I think Melbourne is the best place for the arts. It is a very multi-cultural city. I have been to Sydney and the people there all seem to be like robots. Melbourne is an international city, it has won the most liveable city award many times in a row. We have such a diverse landscape and are leaders in initiating almost everything. People can get in touch with everybody. We have good weather today but we are renowned for our unpredictable climate. Melbourne is well known as a friendly place to live and work.

**Bourke Street Mall. Friday 6 October 2006. Diana** - I slipped into the city to see an exhibition at the TGA and just grabbed some lunch. I am in second year doing an undergraduate degree in Visual Arts at the VCA. The exhibition I just saw was really great, my head of department had a piece in it so I thought I better go to have a look. I am doing photography but I really do a lot of installation work. I lived in the country for a few years when I was a kid, but now I live permanently in Melbourne.

**Bourke Street Mall. Friday 6 October 2006. Lachlan** - I was going to OpSm to get some contact lens solution, I ended up getting a much bigger bottle than I wanted. I try to get out as much as I can at lunchtime. But I guess this is not so good for my bank account. I am a data analyst, I work up the top end of Lonsdale Street. I have worked there for 5 years, way to long! I am trying to move somewhere else, but I think perhaps my standards are too high. I am not a huge fan of Sydney, I find it quite difficult to get around. Melbourne is much more easy, it is a lot better planned. In Sydney it can take three quarters of an hour to get anywhere.

**Centre Place. Friday 6 October 2006. Belinda** - I am from Melbourne. I teach hairdressing to international students. The students are from India, China, Bangladesh. They hope to work in Australia after they finish the course. I am from Melbourne, I think this city is my true home. I am heading on a cruise of the world in a few weeks. I have no idea where I am going, but I know it starts from London.

**Centre Place. Friday 6 October 2006. Hanna** - I have just come back from uni at VCA, I am studying photography there. I was trying to get into the Picasso exhibition but the line was too long. Luckily I saw a friend selling tickets so I got one for tomorrow.

**Centre Place. Friday 6 October 2006. James** - I moved to Melbourne two months ago from Sydney. I love Melbourne. This busker here is working really hard to make your day more pleasant. Show him that you appreciate his music!

**Cohen Place. Friday 6 October 2006. Olivia** - I have been in Melbourne for 4 years, after about 15 years of absence. I have lived in Mullumbimby then went to Sydney for 4 years, then to Perth for 2 years. I would also like to travel to the central desert. I will hopefully go to Tokyo and Croatia. I have a friend who has gone to the Croatian Coast recently and he says it is very fresh. I am a theatre director. We got awesome reviews for our show that has been running for the past three weeks. I have pretty much done two shows in Melbourne now and some smaller productions in other cities around Australia. I have my own theatre company called Ignite. I hope to take my shows to international festivals. I totally believe that if you are exposed to art, you are more humane and empathetic to people. I would love to take four actors to the centre of Australia, to remote Aboriginal communities and do some drama workshops. This could be a good way for the community to express the difficulties they face and tell their individual stories. I had this idea for a CD for young Aboriginal people because I think this would be less artificial than straight performance work. Rather than creating a drama they would actually be empowered to put their authentic stories out there. I think artists put a magnifying glass up to the world and see things that other people would not normally be aware of. When you start crossing reality you can't stop thinking about what lies beneath everything.

**Centre Place. Friday 6 October 2006. Leonie** - My experience is that nobody wants to know, none of the ruling class wants to know. People are dying in the gutter and it is hidden. I would like to say that I am in a lot of grief because of how the Australian government treats its victims. In this country where I was born, no one acknowledges what has happened to me and my family. I am lucky to be here, to have survived and now be able to speak about it. No one wants to listen to what the government did. You are just supposed to get it all together. Howard is a criminal, the Victorian government is criminal to the Australian people. I have no voice, no lawyer to support me. Criminals have more support than I have, they have access to legal aid. The government wants to cover up what they have done, they want to discredit you, make you look like a bag lady. I do not know anyone else who is in the gutter and is able to

speak. They are either dead, in prostitution, in gaol or in a psychiatric ward. I have not had a secure place to this day. Half of the people who have been abused in the wards of the state have not even survived. I was six when my baby sister was taken away from my mother. I have never recovered from the advertising of my sister as a mongrel dog. My poor sister was a ward of the state her whole childhood. She was abused at home and then released on the street like a dog. She was picked up by the police in St Kilda and then ended up suspiciously dying. It was all covered up like she had never lived. Fifty years later I have not stopped crying. Why does this have to be hidden? The abuse goes on and on and on. How do I get on my feet again? I need a voice. The media have kept me quiet, they are very corrupt. What people do not realise now, is that I have a lot of credibility. I am not a person known for making things up. It is disgusting! What makes me never give up, is that my uncle died in the Second World War, trying to save his family. I take strength that my poor uncle did not die in vain. I am so distressed, I do not know how I have the strength to walk half the time. I can not believe that at fifty-four years of age you are still told that you are a piece of shit. Nothing is acknowledged. I have been in Melbourne, in my own country feeling like a second rate rat. My mother accidentally married my father, they were two lost souls in Melbourne. My poor mother after all the children were taken she took an overdose, my father had a nervous break down. He got locked up in Pent ridge gaol for years. The social services in Melbourne, all they want you to do is ask for a food voucher then piss off. They are so demoralising you know. They do not want you to be a human being, they want you to be helpless and powerless, that makes them feel good. There is no equality. We are going to a state election soon, I wanted to run in it actually, but I would need to busk three hundred dollars. I did run in one election. I know I did not have the support then, but I know more now. Someone rang me from Channel 9 and said is it true that you are running in the election, she could not believe that someone who was homeless was running in an election. I was demonised in my twenties, I ended up being trafficked in prostitution. I was lucky to have got out of it. I was helped by my late brother. It is not something that you wake up thinking that is what I want to do. Powerless victims think they are a piece of shit, they have no where to live and they are too traumatised to speak about it. And now they tell the poor victims that they have a choice. I have never heard so much bullshit in my life. People have to stop being hyper crits and judgemental and asking why is someone in the gutter, that hurts me shocking. I am powerless and voiceless and intimidated to say anything. They take your personality. When you give someone up for adoption, there are hidden victims. You have to construct a cotton wool story, create a new personality. They tell you to go away with a packet of pills to cover it all up, but what do you do with nowhere to go? Only in the last ten to fifteen years have I been able to speak out about it. What hope do we have if the media, government and universities have a vested interest in covering up the truth. I have been homeless over a hundred times in 56 years. I have got to go on, and at the moment, what is keeping me is my singing, it gives me a release. I pick songs that accentuate what I am feeling. I would have loved to have learned an instrument. I have come down here with my amplifier lately to start busking.

**Ulster Lane. Friday 6 October 2006. Marl** - we are in Melbourne today for the birthday of my wife. We are heading down to Port Melbourne beach tomorrow. I have come to Melbourne most weekends for many years. It has certainly changed over that time. It has become a lot cleaner and more vibrant.

**Ulster Lane. Friday 6 October 2006. William** - We are in Melbourne for a birthday celebration. We are just about to go to the Lonsdale pub. We stayed at the Windsor Hotel last night, it is a great hotel. I have lived in Ballarat all my life. I should be retiring shortly. I have been a credit manager for Australia and New Zealand. I have only been in two jobs my entire life.

**Driver Lane. Saturday 7 October 2006. A passer-by** - I am in the city shopping today. I think Melbourne is fantastic. What I love most about Melbourne is the diversity of people and their range of tastes. For example, I love walking into a Chinese restaurant and seeing Westerners trying different cuisines. We all share the same love of our food, friends and family.

**Degraves Place. Saturday 7 Oct 2006. Andy, Michelle and Julia** - We are going to Toxic a jewellery shop in the city.

**Degraves Place. Saturday 7 October 2006. A group of passers-by** - I am really depressed because I have to go to Belgium today. It is the last tour in my life and it is now finished. I have so many nice friends here in Melbourne, I do not want to leave. I have to take the plane in twenty-four hours. I have already booked a cheap ticket and it costs too much to change it. I have been here for three weeks, I am so depressed to leave Australia. We came here to learn skills in music, but now it is all finished and we feel like shit. We are in the Academy working for the company Red Bull, but it is a bad company because they did not give us anything. We are going to Indonesia.

**Howley Place. Sunday 8 October 2006. Sanjay** - I am waiting for a friend to pick me up. I am from Brisbane and I am down here in Melbourne just for a week.

**Howley Place. Sunday 8 Oct 2006. Joseph** - I am originally from London. I moved to Glasgow to study and then moved to Berlin. I have been in Melbourne for the past two years. A woman drew me here. Some of the cultural stuff in this city gets me down. Unless you have a dodgy 80s haircut and drive a ute you are not really considered to be Australian. I gave up being a professional musician and worked selling pharmaceuticals. I sold my house in England, it was all very chicky-mickey, suave and sophisticated. I have started working for a chemical company here in Melbourne. I have tried to persuade the owners that we can not compete with the Asian market. Everyone here in Melbourne is middle-class. They say you do not have to worry if you want to buy a house. Everyone can afford one here. I have found that Australians are not very open in terms of expressing their feelings. It takes a long while in any conversation before you can get someone to actually admit to how they are. Glasgow was a great place to live, I was there for six years. They speak another language though, it takes a while to get used to. It is also an incredibly violent city. There is usually no rational reason why someone mugs you. In Glasgow, violence is just another normal method of communication. I lived for a few years in a castle and I had a knife pulled on me regularly. Also the drug culture is very heavy. People are dying of heroin overdoses. The people are fantastic in Glasgow but the food is terrible. I see a similarity between Melbourne, Glasgow and Berlin. People are very dry in Germany, they do not have a sense of humour. It is really cheap to live in Berlin because no German people want to live there after the Second World War. The mortgages are heavily subsidised. If you rent a flat, it has to go back to the original design before you sell it. People have a funny idea of what constitutes proper behaviour in Berlin, for example on New Years Eve it is acceptable to throw fireworks at one another, even though some kids have lost their eyes.

**Centre Place. Sunday 8 October 2006. Karl** - I have been seeing this guy recently, I am from Perth. It has been really fucked up, because it did not really work. I got trashed on Friday and woke up in a plane heading to Melbourne. I work in a café in Northbridge, I went to a friends place and started trashing shit. It was not like I had a fight with anybody as such, it was more of an internal struggle. The only remedy was an impromptu trip to Melbourne. I woke up in the plane going, where am I? I have lived here in Melbourne for five weeks. It was weird because it was a bit too long for a holiday but too short in terms of living here. Perth is really lacking in support for artists and any other sort of creative endeavour. I work doing some youth advocacy, but it is really fucked up in the city of Perth. They see graffiti as a big problem and have introduced a new legislation to move on people who are hanging out in the street. I think the police and other officials are really abusing this law. People who dye their hair black or have piercing you know, the ethnocentric nasty cops push their own agendas if you will. I think this has a very negative impact on the diversity of the city. I have studied art in Perth, but it was more about getting high all the time. It really opened up my eyes and was a great social thing. I went to a private boys school so I credit my (own special) sanity to studying art at TAFE. Unfortunately the positive economics from our resource rich state go straight to Melbourne and Sydney. Perth and Queensland share the same legal system, I work in the law courts in Perth and people transfer between the two. I just organised a new job in Perth, it is my third job. I need to do lots

of things at once to keep myself busy. Perth people have this binary view that you know why would you go to the eastern states if you could go overseas. I have just got back from Amsterdam four months ago, and Melbourne really reminds me of Europe. I did a whole lot of Coke over there. I was visiting a friend who was about to have a baby. It is like you have to choose out of Melbourne or London. But I do not think it is an either or situation. This position really negates your opportunity to experience things, it is inherently limiting. I have been interested in people and their social goings-on for a while and also how they justify their actions. It interests me how we treat our own bodies and others. I have focussed some of my interests on circumcision. To understand opinion you need to talk to people, it is interesting how people act and respond in a more or less positive way to such emotive topics. Perth has ripped down all of its old buildings in the city, no one gives a fuck. There is this condition that some people have where they can only see things once. They are called extreme maximises. For example, if you have a choice of ten jams in front of you, you get all flustered. There is too much choice. I saw this show where a lady had to buy a new bed. She went into this shop and there were hundreds of beds, there were just too many choices. I think this condition effects a huge chunk of my life.

**Bourke SM - Sunday 8 October 2006. A Passerby** - I think Melbourne is an interesting place. It has a lot of interesting things that are good. I grew up in Singapore but now I live in Melbourne, it is very different living here.

**Bourke Street Mall. Sunday 8 October 2006. Jean** - I am from the Western suburbs of Melbourne. I am here in the city because I have a couple of things to do. I want to email some video footage to a friend overseas. I have travelled around the world a couple of times with my family. I would love to go back to Barcelona and Paris. The Eiffel tower was fantastic. I have just seen my aunty and cousin, we had lunch together. I have been selling the Big Issue in Melbourne for the past two months. I love seeing the time moving by watching the shadows change on the pavement. I also love seeing the different way people dress and how the city moves. There are some incredibly generous people out there with an extra buck to hand over. There is no stereotypical person who buys the Big Issue, they come from all walks of life. I had a business man give me a thirty buck tip. He works for the company Nokia and was rolling in money. He really meant well by it, there are so many good people. I find that in Melbourne different areas have different demographics. I was working two days ago in the Rialto area and near the Galleria, it is a very corporate area, you know shirt and tie. Lonsdale is a good pitch you know near McDonalds and Hungry Jacks. It is a funny story how I began selling the Big Issue. I was on my way into the city on the tram and I just happened to look out the window and saw a vendor. I was really tight for money and it clicked, I thought I will sell the Big Issue. I have been homeless in the past, living in a refuge as I was not able to live at home. I have also been long-term unemployed once. Because I am on a pension I can sell the Big Issue. Some days it is rainy and often very cold, but I can change my pitch and buy lots of hot chocolates. I might start bringing a thermos. At the moment I love living in Melbourne. The only thing I do not like is the horse poo.

**Bourke Street Mall. Sunday 8 October 2006. Aaron** - I was wandering the streets doing some shopping. I come into Melbourne on weekends. I live in a country town called Sale. Unfortunately I do not like it. I am in the Airforce. I have lived in Brisbane, Perth, Tamworth and Canberra. Typically I would be in each place for three years. I grew up in Kiama. I will be in Sale for another three years. I am a pilot. It is a good job. It is quite varied, no day is ever really the same. You can be doing aerobatics or transiting from one place to another enjoying the view. (At the risk of suggesting the defeat the purpose of this booth. Aaron-0407 \*\*\* \*\*\*)

**WEEK 2 - Wednesday 11 October to Sunday 15 October 2006**

**Centre Place. Wednesday 11 October 2006. Daniel** - I am five years old. I just had a baby-chino coffee. I am now going to the supermarket to a toyshop with my mum.

**Centre Place. Wednesday October 11 2006. A Passerby** - I am currently doing an art assignment for school. The school with the purple uniform is Wesley. Some of my subject are Physical Education, Commerce, Design and English. I like Art the most. I am applying here and there for courses when I finish. I would also like to travel for a bit when I finish.

**Centre Place. Thursday 12 October 2006. Jari** - I am here in the city to meet my lovely girlfriend. I am from Nimbin, I lived there for nine years. I have worked at RMIT as a photographer for five years. I like to paint and spend long nights on the beach, you know the average kind of thing. I spent six months last year in Japan with my friends. I was working for some bullshit company doing photography, but I got paid. The family of my father are in Sydney. I was supposed to go back up there to see my grandmother who has Alzheimers, but the thought of spending a week with my father was a bit too much. Melbourne is just like any city in any other country, you know nice and peaceful. I think Sydney is more like reality. I do not know what drugs we are on in Melbourne, people seem to be in their own world. Everyone is in a bubble here in Melbourne, I mean I enjoy the bubble. People in Melbourne are scared to tell you to get fucked, they are wankers. I mean it is spring time now so everyone is happy, but wait until winter. I mean at least you do not feel like a small Lego piece like you do in New York. I was taken around New York by a lovely white American family, so I thought it was great. My sister is travelling around the states and South America with some friends over the next six months. The Spanish architecture and Christian culture is fabulous in South America. If you ever go to South Asia, you must go to Laos. A place called Pie is the best place in the world, it is so peaceful. It is a must on the to-do-list before you die.

**Centre Place. Thursday 12 October 2006. Jenn** - I am on holidays travelling around Australia with Steve. We have been travelling for nine months throughout Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales. We have mostly avoided the big cities, stopping at caravan parks along the way. Perth is home, although I grew up in country Victoria. I left when I was 16 years old. It has certainly changed in that time. I have come back to Melbourne a couple of times over the past years, it has certainly got a lot bigger and busier. I am from the Golbourn Valley Region, my husband is born and bred in Perth. Travelling around Australia we have certainly seen how the drought has affected farmers. We have friends in the dairy industry and they are having to pack up and leave due to the endless critical conditions. The economy is booming in Perth at the moment, there is lots of building going on. We have only lived there for less than twelve months, so we are yet to fully experience the city.

**Centre Place. Thursday 12 October 2006. John** - I have just come down from work to get some lunch. I work at the Commonwealth Bank in the city.

**Centre Place. Thursday 12 October 2006. Jamie** - I work just around the corner on the cathedral doing restoration work. I have been working there for the past four years. I bought my house from my parents. I have found that Melbourne has become a lot more busy and gentrified over the past years. Various businesses like suppliers that we would like to deal with have moved out of town to be replaced by cafes. I spend my spare time with my son, taking him bike riding down by the river. I took my wife to see Neil Young for her birthday a year or so ago. I think Melbourne has always been known as a Rock & Roll town.

**Centre Place. Thursday 12 October 2006. Joe** - I would just like to say that art is worthwhile. I have just come from a State of Design Festival, an open studio event at Hassell on Little Collins Street. I was also able to see into the mysterious secret garden owned by the Mens Club. I have lived in lots of cities in the world like Paris, Zurich and London, but I still think Melbourne is the best city. Melbourne has a lot of elements of every other city, the great band scene, food and nice people. Melbourne also has a great flow of tourists.

**Centre Place. Thursday 12 October 2006. Ben** - I am looking at some art galleries in town with some friends from Sydney. I have been living in Melbourne for the past three years. I came here to do an honours year at the VCA. I did my undergraduate at UNSW, in the school of film and

theatre. I travel back and forth to Sydney a few times a year to see friends and family. I have recently taken some proposals to local theatre companies to see if there is any interest. I am actually auditioning some actors this week.

**Centre Place. Thursday 12 October 2006. Dante** - I have come to find a sandwich for lunch, but someone has taken the one I had my heart set on. It had olives, aubergine, capsicum, sun dried tomato and generic salad stuff.

**Centre Place. Thurs 12 Oct 2006. Helen** - I have just moved out of Melbourne to change scene. A new job, new home, new life up near Byron way. I would just like to say that people should think about what they need and not what they want. I find global warming very depressing, how fucked up the planet is, it is very sad. I do not know if people worry about the future, I think they are too concerned about living in the moment and consuming.

**Centre Place. Thursday 12 October 2006. Greg** - I have lived in Melbourne for 8 years. I love Melbourne, but I also love travelling around. I am originally from New Zealand, but I love the Melbourne architecture and its beautiful people.

**Centre Place. Thursday 12 October 2006. A passerby** - In Melbourne there is always something unexpected that happens. I have lived here for the past six years. It challenges your senses sometimes, I lived previously in Camberwell. Every day is moving, you walk down the laneways and discover something new. Open-hearted and open-minded, that is what I think Melbourne people are like.

**Degraves Place. Thursday 12 October 2006. Carston** - I work in a café called Andiamo on Degraves Street. My story is that on October 5 this year we had some bag snatchers come along this street. I ended up chasing them down Flinders Station and I caught them. Nowadays we do not have human kindness like that. The lady whose bag was stolen said to me, I really appreciate what you did, you have restored my faith in human kind.

**Degraves Place. Thursday 11 October 2006. Vivian** - I work here, around the corner in one of the offices. We bring our coffee cups around here every morning to have waffles and coffee. I have been in my job for four years, but have just got told that I was made redundant. So I am just enjoying the city while I can. I used to work in Brunswick, but there is not quite the laneway culture as the city. I moved every year of my life throughout county Victoria when I was younger. I have also lived in London and Sydney. I found Sydney to be too flashy without any depth and very dog eat dog. I have not yet started to find another job, but I hope to create a new tribe of coffee wanderers throughout the city laneways when I do.

**Centre Place. Friday 13 October 2006. Bub** - I am from New York, but I am currently in Melbourne doing some acting. I am here for a week then heading back to the States to work on some productions and do my day job. I saw an excellent show called Mantalk as part of the fringe festival. It had two Australian guys play some music and tell stories about their lives. I have hardly got out the last few days as I have been in rehearsals.

**Centre Place. Friday 13 October 2006. A Passerby** - This alleyway used to be a lot nicer than it is now. People just come in and tag it all the time, where as in the past people were commissioned to do works. I am off to ACDC lane now.

**Centre Place. Friday 13 October 2006. Elisha** - I am doing a beauty therapy course every Friday here in the city, it is part of my year 11 high school studies. I love make-up and shopping. I will finish this course in three weeks, then I am going into year 12 next year. After that I will be working as a beautician on a cruise ship that travels the world, departing from London. We practice on one another.

**Centre Place. Friday 13 October 2006. A Passerby** - I am down here to get some coffee. I am doing an arts teaching degree at uni. I will teach primary kids next year. I went to Europe for a while and then Indonesia, but I have not really been around Australia. I am going to a break gig tonight, where there will be DJs from Sydney and Melbourne up against each other, should be fun.

**Centre Place. Friday 13 October 2006. A Passerby** - This alleyway used to be a lot nicer than it is now. People just come in and tag it all the time, where as in the past people were commissioned to do works. I am off to ACDC lane now.

**Centre Place. Friday 13 October 2006. Samu** - I came down to Melbourne yesterday for a conference on public art and political art organised by Gasworks. I am from Sydney but I come down here probably twice a year. I am involved in a few projects that I guess deal with public social issues. A bunch of us have a self-organised group called boatpeople.org. I also do a lot of music and stuff, I have been organising festivals. Melbourne certainly has a lot of initiatives in the arts, people are very engaged with it. There was a great project undertaken here between tram drivers from Melbourne and those from Kareshi.

**Centre Place. Friday 13 October 2006. Annise** - I am from Europe, Bordeaux in France but I was born in New Caledonia. I have been in Australia for six months. I am doing an English language course in Melbourne. I find Melbourne similar to a lot of European cities. I hope to come back here to do further English Language studies. I have travelled to Brisbane and Sydney but I like Melbourne the best. I am currently staying at the Greenhouse backpackers in the city. It is not always easy. Sometimes you develop good relationships with people and other times not so much. Most people are from the UK, Ireland or America. I think Melbourne people are very open-minded and a little crazy which is different to European people. It is interesting learning another language because you can understand better the way people think.

**Degraves Place. Friday 13 October 2006. Oly** - I am from Kew, but I am in the city today doing a school assignment. We have to pick an element of the city, so I have chosen to look at money and the city. I want to be a doctor when I grow up, my friends want to be actors and CEOs. I am doing all the normal subjects at school at the moment like English and Japanese.

**Degraves Place. Friday 13 October 2006. Cara** - I finished school last year. I usually come into the city to go clubbing and get pissed.

**Degraves Place. Friday 13 October 2006. Carston** - The first person who goes to Café Andiamo and tells the coffee maker, I love you with all my heart David, get a free coffee.

**Bourke Street Mall. Saturday 14 October 2006. A Passerby** - I have been living in Melbourne for ten months. I am from Japan, and I love this city. I came here on my own, so many things are different.

**Bourke Street Mall. Saturday 14 October 2006. Bob** - I am from Frankston, but I come in the city every weekend on the train. Me and my friends go to the Hardcore store. I was born in Queensland but we moved to Melbourne then Frankston about four years ago. I am in year seven at school, but I do not get up too much.

**Bourke Street Mall. Saturday 14 October 2006. The Flower Man** - I have been selling flowers here since February of this year. Sometimes I even sell inter-state, but people generally do not like to pay the airfare of a florist.

**Bourke Street Mall. Saturday 14 October 2006. Joe** - I am doing an Architecture tour of the city as part of the State of Design Conference.

**Bourke Street Mall. Saturday 14 October 2006. Lee** - I am working at the GPO out-fitting the inside. This city has a great nightlife, there are heaps of good night clubs in town, like the Metro and Twister.

**Bourke Street Mall. Saturday 14 October 2006. Lindsey** - I am from South Australia. I am here in Melbourne for a school excursion. We have been here for a week, not much happens in Adelaide.

**Centre Place. Saturday 14 October 2006. Mat** - I am a transplant from the US, from Washington DC. I worked for the Australian Government when I was nineteen in Washington and I resolved never to come to Australia. I thought Australians were the bottom of the barrel. I worked in Defence Administration and I thought all the Australians were incompetent. I ended up going to New Zealand and everyone was talking about Melbourne. I have now been living here in Melbourne for the past three years, I also lived in Perth for a year. I play some serious piano, Danny Boy, and am trying to see as much of Australia as possible.

**Centre Place. Saturday 14 October 2006. Sophia** - I am in the city picking up a few things. I work in administration for a public company, it is an interesting business to be in. The work itself is not the most stimulating, it is not something I want to do forever. I am thinking of going into social work, perhaps focussing on youth work.

**Centre Place. Saturday 14 October 2006. Liam** - I just came down here to get some coffee. The coffee has condensed milk in it. I work in Fitzroy making furniture.

**Centre Place. Saturday 14 October 2006. Renato** - I was just busking down here at Centre Place. The members of our band met at Tafe. We were about 19 years old then, all misfits. Six years later we are still here, playing a mix of traditional folk music from Europe and the Middle East. We also play our own compositions that have jazz and Jewish influences. We have played in a range of festivals, weddings, birthday parties, street gigs and fashion parades, all kinds of crap for money, and no money. We have played in Tasmania, in Canberra, Sydney and Brisbane. We tried doing a tour off our own backs but that was fairly difficult. We have also been involved with the Village Tents, which is set up in public spaces throughout regional parts of Australia. We are a bit stickler about our style, playing the same way regardless of the audience. Like if a corporate company books us for a function, and we bring out our most raucous gypsy music, then we become even more raucous. We all learnt our instruments for the band, the accordion player for example was a guitarist, we have just got less and less crap as time goes on. It is about anarchy for us, not really about virtuosity. That is why we all like playing on the street, because people are ready to respond and it is also quite fleeting. The public can stay for as long as they like and so can we. In this way it feels a lot freer. Our band members have a range of different side occupations, such as working for the public service, being involved with puppetry in the theatre, working as a chef, studying at University and being unemployed. I currently play in 17 different bands. I realised a little while ago that I collaborate with 26 different people. It has taught me to be patient, but I have also discovered that I have been a smut for all kinds of creative projects. You have to be flexible for sure. I also work with a theatre company that makes public sculpture. We made a great wall of books in order to collect stories, it is similar to this project.

**Degraves Place. Saturday 14 October 2006. Joe** - I am looking for a friend.

**Centre Place. Sunday 15 October 2006. A Passerby** - The tram smells like pool!

**Centre Place. Sunday 15 October 2006. A Passerby** - I am a tourist from Singapore. I am staying in Melbourne with my friends for two weeks. I have studied a journalism, communication and media degree previously at Melbourne University.

**Centre Place. Sunday 15 October 2006. A Passerby** - I often come down to this lane to take photos of the graffiti. I create albums and then make them available on the web. I am from Melbourne, but have also lived in North Queensland, the Riverina area and Sydney. I am an air-conditioning contractor, but I am trying to phase that out and do photography full time.

**Centre Place. Sunday 15 October 2006. A Passerby** - I am going to breakfast down in the laneways. I think you should put mirrors and cushions inside this space to make it more inviting and comfortable. I have been in Melbourne now for two years, it has really been a new beginning for me. I am an architect by trade. I did six years of University and have now worked in the industry for six years. I worked in Dubai recently. I love running around the city at night like a mad man taking photographs. When I am in Sydney I walk into all the grand hotels and take photos in the foyer. I have met five interesting females from Sydney, Melbourne women are not really the same. Do you know what kind of profession could combine writing, photography, architecture, luxury and travel?

**Centre Place. Sunday 14 October 2006. Casey** - I have just come from the Krispy Kream shop at 607 Collins Street. Now I am trying to find the Hare-Krishna shop, do you know where it is?

**Liverpool Street. Sunday 15 October 2006. Orriel** - I have just been to the theatre, to the philosophical society, a typical typecast bunch of senile people, philosophising about the meaning of life. I have been going to the Philosophical Society for the past eight years. It is full of bored middle-aged people, wearing purple sashes and looking scary as sin. I have tried to take my girlfriend there, but she gets eclectically bored. It makes me feel mortal and sometimes morally superior, which leads to another problem, I have to kind of humble myself. They usually talk about topics such as: life, God, tarot Cards, Buddhism and Pythagoras Scale. It is a triumph of modernism that the square root of twelve allows you to harmonise an entire orchestra to the one key. Bach got into a lot of trouble creating music of garbles. The chromatic scale is like evolution, a revolution. We do not have to deal with the ideal of polarity anymore, where there is evil and good. It is now all subjective. I am a very sceptical person. I went to mass this morning, Sunday is my spiritual day. I work as a restorer of stone. It is a beautiful craft, a lost skill. I find it very grounding working with stone and restoration, especially church restoration. I also hang around on ropes on high buildings doing some rigging, you know entertainment construction. I am hoping to go back to University next year. I am tossing up between professions. I would like to teach a new generation, so I am thinking of either becoming a teacher or a priest. I am going to explore the Rudolf Steiner education system. Battery chicken farmers can do such damage to children. I am full of vacuous morally bankrupt ideas, a void of decadence and wasted youth and disillusion. I also have more positive ideas about being a genuinely, frankly useful human being. I think there is a realisation that everyone needs to make, that is, that there is no acknowledgement of our past or culture. There is no sense of national character here in Australia. I am from New Zealand and I find that people are a far more homogenous group of middle class protestant Anglo Celtic saps. That is, they do not have much of a problem with their convict blood. There is a National solidarity. Australians have sold their National identity for a mortgage rate. This is a poignant subject for me as my girlfriend and myself are just about to buy a house. I usually vote Green, but they are kind of watermelons. To become a priest you need to go to theology school for three years. I went to a private boys school so I have issues with discipline. I think the most terrible thing is that we are all disenfranchised with a sense of home.

**WEEK 3 - Wednesday 18 October to Sunday 22 October 2006**

**Bourke Street Mall. Wednesday 18 October 2006. A Passerby** - I was wondering could you tell me where the nearest Maccas is in the city? Can you see me? Oops sorry wrong number.

**Bourke Street Mall. Wednesday 18 October 2006. A Passerby** - I just came into the city to go to work. I work in a photography studio. I am probably going to quit though, because I just had a job interview for Safeway. I live at Kensington, which is about ten minutes out of the city. I am 15, so I still go to school. I went to England for about one year to visit my family, it snowed on the last day. I probably come into the city once a week to go out and get drunk or go shopping.

**Bourke Street Mall. Wednesday 18 October 2006. A Passerby** - I have a hot girlfriend, but she doesn't like me as much now as she did at the beginning. She stopped liking me when she changed her hair colour. My girlfriend's hair is now an orange colour it used to be chocolate brown. Do you like chocolate? I come into the city with my mum twice a week. We go to these classes. My mum is not very rich and she does bad things.

**Bourke Street Mall. Wednesday 18 October 2006. Mickey & Jesse** - I just hit my head before on some stairs. We are in the city trying to do some school stuff. I like going fishing, and eating fish, anything salty or with anchovies.

**Bourke Street Mall. Wednesday 18 October 2006. Josh** - I have just come down to the city to buy some music. I am originally from Ballarat but moved here a year ago to do music at uni. I play the sax.

**Centre Place. Wednesday 18 October 2006. Maria** - I am going around the city picking up syringes. We usually find about 20 to 30 on weekdays but that figure can easily go up to 80. We also hand out syringes. We are about harm minimisation, as Hep C and the HIV epidemic are on the rise. I have been doing this job since March. I am currently in four jobs within the community development field. I was born in New Zealand, then left and moved to Sydney where I stayed for about four years. I have now lived in Melbourne for about 8 to 9 years. I have worked with marginalised communities for a while now. I hold writing groups for people who have drug and alcohol issues. Some people write about their family or personal life, others want to make up things. I am currently involved with support services for older people in St Kilda and recreation and creative activities within a neighbourhood house in Port Melbourne. We have a showcase evening every year where people can read something they have written. My interest is in poetry writing, but the publishing industry in Melbourne sucks.

**Centre Place. Thursday 19 October 2006. Marty** - I am down here on my lunch break. I work in a web design firm, we are in the top ten of Melbourne. I think I will stay where I am for at least the next three years. We take a variety of work from clients ranging in price from \$2000 to \$50,000. One of our major clients is the Cat Empire. It is difficult to be different and edgy. I was a HR consultant before getting into web design. I think design has a generic style, but there are noticeable differences between Sydney and Melbourne. Designers from the US cannot do websites to save themselves. I think Melbourne is an extraordinary city, the way it is set up with all the laneways, it feels very European. The actual town plan was purchased, it was based on the city of Edinburgh. Melbourne has a very indoor culture. The rivalry between Sydney and Melbourne goes back to the difference in train tracks between the two states. I would love to travel some more around Europe and South East Asia.

**Centre Place. Thursday 19 October 2006. A Passerby** - If the hall of culture stands as an evolution of culture, science is some medical means that will entertain us, with the different emotions and reactions. And journalists and events and important celebrations stand in relation to culture. Different shading of swans and thereby any creativity of the inventors of words that is sort of contriving. But since the whole force of human creativity takes symbolic elements, when we extend them, masking cultural creativity, we have a common place. Cultural myths and interpretation is reality. As for so many, the pervasiveness it implies is important rather than the individuals who penetrate the being used by them.

**Centre Place. Thursday 19 October 2006. A Passerby** - We are local yokels from Fitzroy. We are all here together because one of the girls is leaving to go back to Kenya, so we are partying in

the street. We are here to celebrate friendship, with our eight friends who are here from all different places around the world. One guy is from Botswana and another is half Indian. Our paths have crossed through our studies, living in the same area or being associated with the creative arts. I am doing a social work degree. We collaborate singing and doing workshops together.

**Centre Place. Thursday 19 October 2006. A Passerby** - Mr Wood is this teacher at our school and it is really annoying because he caught me for wagging. He was giving me heaps of attitude and it is muck-up day. I mean we only had water, it is not like we had flour or shaving cream. I got into a confrontation with him and he said he would not give me a reference. What do you think about that?

**Centre Place. Thursday 19 October 2006. Ingrid** - I am from New Zealand. I work in the café just opposite, that is my day job. I am a professional drummer in a band called K Road Queens. We play at Pony and the Old Bar. I have been playing drums for seventeen years and have been in countless bands. One member of my band works in a radio station and the other is in the landscape industry. The other day while I was at the café collecting plates this person recognised me from playing drums in my band. I lived on the Gold Coast for a year and also played in Brisbane. It was very sterile up there, it is soulless without any heart. I think Melbourne audiences appreciate music more, it is part of the culture. A lot of Musicians in New Zealand move to Auckland and then they move to Melbourne. There are only so many venues where they can play. In Sydney everyone is driven by career, they have tunnel vision with what they want. Wellington is like Adelaide, Sydney is more like Auckland, a rat race and Christchurch is like Melbourne.

**Centre Place. Thursday 19 October 2006. A Passerby** - I love everyone. I love life. We have been in Melbourne for seven months.

**Centre Place. Thursday 19 October 2006. A Passerby** - I work in the shop opposite you. I have worked there for about the past six years.

**Centre Place. Thursday 19 October 2006. A Passerby** - I was born in New Zealand. I am in year 9 at school doing a subject about the city.

**Bourke Street Mall. Friday 20 October 2006. Morgan** - I have been living in Daylesford for the past 6 years. It is a small town about an hour away from Melbourne, with about three thousand residents. The city of Daylesford is a tourist town, renowned for mineral water as well as for spa baths and massages. I am in the city with my three-year old son, we are trying to find a post office box. I did graphic design at RMIT then multi-media at Victoria University. I currently work in web design with my partner Kim. We do a lot of corporate work, but it has changed from doing brochures to web pages. I miss Melbourne, I mean I love being up in Daylesford, but we do feel disconnected from our old friends in Melbourne, we cannot really socialise that easily. Melbourne has changed a lot in the past ten years. If you came into the city on the weekend in the past, it would have been pretty dead. There was the movies, but that was about it.

**Centre Place. Friday 20 October 2006. A Passerby** - When I was a boy, I used to come down to Flinders Lane and there was a second hand store called Berries. There was Mrs Berry who was in her seventies. They would sell things from deceased estates. Sometimes they would fetch \$1000 and other times just \$1. They had such items as stuffed cats, silver registers and Aboriginal bark paintings. The city of Melbourne has changed a lot over the years. It is now open on Sunday and after dark and there are a lot more shops. The laneways have changed also from having cafes to becoming the base of skyscrapers.

**Centre Place. Friday 20 October 2006. A Passerby** - I am going to beauty school at the moment, I have been doing this course since January. I hope to get a part time job when I leave specialising in hair-dressing. When I finished year twelve I did not really know what I wanted to

do. I am a bit scared to go too far away from this city and I am a bit of a lazy person. I work as a cashier on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights at clubs.

**Centre Place. Friday 20 October 2006. A Passerby** - I have just had lunch at the Journal Café. It is my favourite café in Melbourne, I have been going there for years. Johno the manager is very personable. I think Melbourne is a fantastic city, I often wander through the streets and laneways. It does disturb me however that we have so many homeless people. There are a lot of homeless people who need caring for and I think as a community we could do more. There is simply not enough safe refuges and I feel as though this could be improved.

**Centre Place. Friday 20 October 2006. Fiona** - I am down here at Centre Place to get some lunch and it has just dawned on me that Melbourne is a very friendly city. I have been travelling recently in South America and since being back here in Melbourne it has really struck me just how friendly people are in this city. I did a six-month tour travelling from Mexico to Brazil, following the Inca trail. You know lots of sex and drugs, it is very different from here. There are also no public liability laws over there and very obvious poverty. I think I have now pretty much covered the globe, except for Antarctica, but I am totally broke.

**Centre Place. Friday 20 October 2006. Joyce** - I am back in Australia now after having been in Malaysia for the past few months. I arrived in Melbourne about six weeks ago. I did a media degree through RMIT a few years ago and have been working in Malaysia doing events management ever since. I chose to study in Australia because it was closer to home. I am currently helping out my brother who owns a shop on Bridge Road. I do like travelling. I wish I could travel more. I would love to go to Egypt and Rome. I spent about six weeks travelling around America. I would also love to run a café in Melbourne. I have been to Sydney, but it is not my kind of place.

**Centre Place. Friday 20 October 2006. Sophie** - I am on my break from work at the basement underneath the Myer Centre. I have been working there for almost a year. I worked at Boost Juice prior to that. I am doing contemporary arts at Deakin University, majoring in drama. We have been involved in quite a few productions so far. I would love to become an actor, but it is difficult to make a living from it. It would be great to get into film and TV or be involved with a theatre company. Advertising is where the money is. I have one more year to complete my course, then I would love to travel.

**Degraves Place. Friday 20 October 2006. A Passerby** - We are in the city doing a school assignment, but we are currently just pigging out on waffles. We go to school around Bayside.

**Degraves Place. Friday 20 October 2006. A Passerby** - I am having a cigarette break at the moment. I work for the Student Flights Company across the road. I have been working there for the past few months. I travelled overseas for about two years before that. I spent time in Europe, London and South East Asia. When I came back to Australia I needed to make some cash big time, so I decided to go into the travel business. It can be quite frustrating hearing all the student travel plans and stories, but staff do get somewhat cheaper flights, so that is a good thing.

**Degraves Place. Friday 20 October 2006. John** - I own the Journal café just off Flinders Lane. I have been working there for the past three years and have been working around Degraves Street for nearly eleven years. I have got to know a lot of people. My business partner owns a share in the European soccer club and he opened up the café at Degraves Street and then got me to manage it. I am originally from Melbourne, but I grew up in Tullamarine. When I left school, I was doing my HSC and I wanted to get into physical education, but unfortunately I did not study hard enough so I failed. Initially I looked into hospitality and then slid into café work. I have been in the industry since 1981. I started off in a local pub then worked in fine dining. You always get your regulars, but there is also a diverse range of people from suits to students to little old ladies. We tend to get more business in winter than summer. When I worked at the Southern Cross Hotel, I did get a couple of Brownlows, there was some mingling with all the great

footballers. We have had a few little situations, once I worked in a restaurant and a customer complained that we had to buy her a new cardigan because it smelt like the food we had served. People skills are very important in this industry. Being able to perceive a certain situation before it happens is an art. Our passion shows out with what we do and people therefore come and give us a try. There is a fair bit of competition between café owners, but it is really each to their own. We are not the kind of people around here who go out spruiking. Each café has its own style and therefore its own regular customers. I have just bought a new brand of coffee for our café, which comes from Italy. The particular Italian company wants to expand its business into the Melbourne market, so they are using my café as a vehicle for that. My background is Greek. It is said that Melbourne has the second largest Greek population outside of Athens. A lot of research was done into the brand with regard to its smoothness and body. The Greek restaurant called Stalactites does not have strictly traditional food, but it is open 24 hours.

**Driver Lane. Friday 20 October 2006. A Passerby** - I work in the Juice bar in the GPO. Have you been there before? It has been there for the last five years, so there are no excuses. I have worked in the hospitality industry for the past seventeen years. My family is from the UK, in fact both my mum and dad are here in Australia as we speak.

**Howey Place. Friday 20 October 2006. Kate** - I am having a cup of tea on my break from the café where I work just opposite. I used to work as a Graphic Designer in Melbourne before I moved to London. I met my husband in London, he was from Sydney. I told him that if we were moving back to Australia we would have to be in Melbourne not Sydney. We are starting a drawing competition out of the café where we are asking people to draw a self-portrait. We will then exhibit the drawings the following week, around November 14.

**Bourke Street Mall. Saturday 21 October 2006. Alex** - I have lived in Melbourne for the past three years. I am originally from Sydney. I have spent the last year travelling around North America, London and Thailand. I used to work for Volvo, cheating and stealing. I should be looking for a job now. Do you say horse riding or horse-back riding?

**Bourke Street Mall. Saturday 21 October 2006. James** - I think Melbourne people are more surprising than those from Sydney. They are more image conscious with funky fashion. My profession is legal research. In Sydney you have that image consciousness of Melbourne but it is more pretentious. Or you get the extremes so the very rich and then the bums. People do not talk to each other much anymore. I thank you for giving us that opportunity. Can I tell you a joke? What do you do if a bird shits on your car? You do not take her out again.

**Bourke Street Mall. Saturday 21 October 2006. Willy** - Have you been saved? It is my pastor from the Church of Hope, asking you through the speaker phone on my mobile phone, have you have been saved.

**Bourke Street Mall. Saturday 21 October 2006. A Passerby** - Today we walked around the city trying to find a red snake skin belt. It is to go with this outfit. I am from the country, somewhere in between Bendigo and Melbourne.

**Bourke Street Mall. Saturday 21 October 2006. A Passerby** - We just went to the Angelica Fete on Spencer Street. I think you are cute, you have a nice voice. Are you cute? We are running away now because you seem embarrassed.

**Bourke Street Mall. Saturday 21 October 2006. A Passerby** - We are eating red lollies. I will kill you in twenty minutes. I have a story, well I was not a very good student and school. That is why I got expelled.

**Bourke Street Mall. Saturday 21 October 2006. Drew** - I am from Brisbane. I am down in Melbourne for a bit of a holiday and to have a look at the Arts Festival. I study performance at QUT in Queensland. Within our theatre course we learnt a lot about the theoretical and practical

side throughout Australia and the great world. It has been a great course in that you could really tailor it to what you like. The traditionally run theatre companies have a monopoly on the city of Brisbane. The South bank area is slowly and steadily getting better. We like the idea of doing performance through social action. I saw a show as part of the Melbourne Arts Festival last night called Voyage. There was a lot of intellectual ambiguity. A few of my friends are planning to move down to Melbourne. But locals in Brisbane keep saying that we are selling our souls to the devil if we move away. When you are fresh out of university I think it is ok to live in other cities, I mean we will likely come back to live in Brisbane eventually. I think there is still a fair bit of cultural cringe in Australian Performance. As a nation we are unsure where we stand.

**Bourke Street Mall. Saturday 21 October 2006. Ebbon** - I am walking around the city taking photographs of buildings and walls. I am interested in consumer culture and socio-political concerns. I am currently doing photography within a Fine Art degree at RMIT University. I used to do metal sculpture, but I lost the sight in one of my eyes and thought it would be interesting to be a one eyed photographer. I like photographing parts of advertising, then taking them out of context to expose their true meanings. I have been accused of Terrorism for taking photos of buildings in this city. I was told that I needed a permit if I was to take photos in the railway station. I was searched and this one man threatened to beat me up. Another man phoned the police because he saw me take photos of the same building twice in the one day. I was trying to document it in different lights for aesthetic purposes, I found it rather interesting to get such a response.

**Bourke Street Mall. Saturday 21 October 2006. Juni** - We just went to the City Town Hall, which is pretending to be an Embassy for the made up country of Mostlandia. I go to school in Huntingdale.

**Centre Place. Saturday 21 October 2006. A Passerby** - I struggle not to kill myself in the work that I am currently doing. It is a very normal job but I have not really thought about what else I could do. I could give you the cliché and say that I would like to be a Porn Star. Today we are walking around the city feeling hungry and trying to get some food from anyone who is offering. Do you have anything to eat?

**Centre Place. Saturday 21 October 2006. A Zara** - I am three years old. We are in the city looking at the pictures on the walls. I like playing Nintendo and having sleepovers. I play with my dog. I just made a lizard out of clay and last time we were doing rainforest animals and there was a dinosaur disguised as a big tree. My favourite animal is a penguin because they are small. Can I go now?

**Centre Place. Saturday 21 October 2006. Mickey** - I am from Sydney, but I am down in Melbourne this weekend for a Hens celebration of our friend Melanie who used to spend a lot of time down here. We are from England, but have lived in Sydney now for seven years. The shopping is great in Melbourne, it reminds me a bit of Newtown in Sydney. In fact I am almost considering moving down here myself.

**Centre Place. Saturday 21 October 2006. Molly** - I came into the city to play with my sisters band. They are playing the National Anthem for the made up country of Mostlandia, which is in the Town Hall today. We had to help by whistle blowing and doing extra clapping. I then ran into an old friend and we are now going to Melbourne Central to find a boy with a beard who I have a crush on. I work at Savers, which is a big shopping centre on Bridge Road in Greensborough. I just bought some second hand eighties bathers which may sound a bit gross, to go swimming with the bearded boy.

**Centre Place. Saturday 21 October 2006. A Passerby** - I am a Melbourne local and am having a lazy Saturday looking at things around the city. I saw a show, which is part of the Arts Festival at the Meat Market where each grain of rice symbolises a person. We just strolled

around the GPO and looked at expensive bar spaces and exhibitions. I am from Abbotsford and work in the crazy life of banking and finance but I also enjoy the arts.

**Liverpool Street. Saturday 21 October 2006. A Passerby** - I have just had ham and cheese for breakfast. I came to Australia about seven years ago from Malaysia. I did a commerce degree and have been working for three years since. We go to the comedy and foreign film festival every year.

**Liverpool Street. Saturday 21 October 2006. Bryne** - I work in the manufacturing industry doing night shifts. You do feel out of sync with people and it can be taxing on relationships. I was just down at the photo booth getting some films processed. This film covers about the last month of my life. My mother always hated the fact that my overseas travel shots never contained self-portraits. I have been overseas about five or six times in the last decade. I am a bit embarrassed to confess that I started this by travelling around Bali. I also went to Tibet and India twice but that was all to do with a bloke. I have a love-hate relationship with India, it is a crazy place. One day you might see someone being run over by a train and then the next day you see something completely fascinating, it is such a contrast. I remember one day when I was in a mad rush from a pharmaceutical place and this lovely old Sikh man took me under the wing and showed me around the Golden Temple, these are the kind of beautiful moments. I had the same type of experience in South America. I was going on a short trip up the mountains and there had been a landslide. Someone tried to push a massive boulder down the steep gully so that we could get through. The biggest gap between travel has been about two to three years. The first time I went overseas I took a year off uni, straight after high school, it generated a new lust for life. You do need some time back in one place to recuperate, but then you start getting itchy again. I am hoping to find a professional position overseas doing engineering, but it would need to be in an English language country. Melbourne is home because it is a wonderful place.

**Liverpool Street. Sunday 22 October 2006. A Passerby** - One of us is in urban development and the other is in urban design. We thought this might have been commissioned by the State Government

**Liverpool Street. Sunday 22 October 2006. A Passerby** - What is this all about? It is less confronting if I ask from the other side of the booth. Are you an actor? I have a few things to do, goodbye.

#### **WEEK 4 - Wednesday 25 October to Sunday 29 October 2006**

**Centre Place. Wednesday 25 October 2006. A Passerby** - I have been going to beauty therapy school for the past two years. I am originally from Essex in London, but I moved to Melbourne to start the course. I might plough back to London to work once I have finished the course. All of my family and friends are still over there. I always wanted to do make-up, we do theory in the morning and then practical in the afternoon. Melbourne is a lot of fun, the nightclubs are fairly trashy, you know full of pill-poppers, well at least I am honest.

**Centre Place. Wednesday 21 October 2006. Ming** - I am studying history at the moment at Monash University. I am hunting around the city to try and find a flat, but it is not very easy. I have done two years of the course so far and have one year to go, unless I do a masters as well. I feel like I am trapped in a box, well in this city really, but it is not the fault of Melbourne. I just cannot make up my mind. I want to marry a rich old man and then hope he dies and then I can get his inheritance and live in New York. That will probably only happen though if I go on a diet. I like New York because it is a big city. I have lived for a while in Perth, but I am originally from Singapore. I did not really have a choice as to where I was going to study. It was hard at first here in Melbourne, but it is a lot better now.

**Centre Place. Wednesday 25 October 2006. A Passerby** - I am walking around the city with my friends trying to find a gift for a friend who I do not really know. I work as a waitress here in Melbourne. I am visiting Australia from Canada, I'll be in Melbourne until the end of November. I just went to Sydney on the weekend, it is quite different to Melbourne. I am doing an engineering degree at school in Waterloo, which is about two hours from Toronto in Canada. I find as a tourist you talk to strangers more often, you have to leave your normal comfort zone.

**Centre Place. Wednesday 25 October 2006. A Passerby** - I am from New Zealand. I have been here in Melbourne for the past three years. I work on Collins street, and am occasionally down here for lunch.

**Bourke Street Mall. Thursday 26 October 2006. A Passerby** - I am just getting over the flu after several weeks and a course of antibiotics. When people say back in the day, do they mean before penicillin? Aside from being a Big Issue vendor, I do a few hobbies. I am trying to start a Science Fiction Fan Group. Star Trek fans do not get a lot of respect these days. I have travelled a fair bit around Australia, but I always seem to gravitate back to Melbourne.

**Bourke Street Mall. Thursday 26 October 2006. Lauren** - We have just gone to visit Old Melbourne Gaol as part of a legal studies excursion. We are from Shepparton, a small farming community in country Victoria. I want to join the circus when I leave school. I would like to feed all the animals and then let them go free. We are thinking of going to Starbucks, the coffee is not really that great but I guess the brand draws people in.

**Centre Place. Thursday 26 October 2006. Lucy** - I am really sad, I do not know why, but I am really sad.

**Teacher yells to students milling around the booth....**

*You all have beautiful manners, remember them at all times, nobody goes to any toilet, nobody goes on their own to a toilet. It is good to talk with people as long as it is not dangerous.*

**Centre Place. Thursday 26 October 2006. Abraham** - I am a refugee from Ethiopia. I arrived in Australia two months ago. I am going to live here in Melbourne permanently now. Both my parents live here also. I am studying English. I live in Brunswick West. I think Australians are nice people. Back in Ethiopia I worked on machines, photocopiers and fax machines. Australians and Ethiopians are quite different.

**Centre Place. Thursday 26 October 2006. Ben** - I work at a call centre in the city. I work from 11.30am to 8pm. My work gave me a year off last year to travel. I went to South America, Turkey, Egypt and the Middle East. I also did the UK travel thing, working in a call centre over there. I got sucked in by the LED screen, I was reading about someone who sells the Big Issue. The power of peoples communication has been shaken down a little bit over time. I guess we have gone from being a tribe to a massive city and this alters the way we talk to one another.

**Centre Place. Thursday 26 October 2006. Luke** - I have talked to you before but I thought I would come and talk again while I wait for my lunch. Oh, so Orriel mentioned me, he is a rather strange guy, a very good talker. I often see him at different festivals. He is a very intelligent guy. I can see how he would be suited to being a priest. He gathers people around him quite well and I imagine could take bits and pieces from a range of religions.

**Centre Place. Thursday 26 November 2006. A Passerby** - I work at Novotel on Collins Street. I have been working there for twelve years. Melbourne is my home. What are you wearing? Is it a dress or pants?

**Centre Place. Thursday 26 October 2006. A Passerby** - I am on an excursion from school. We just went to the Winston Hotel and Fifteen. A friend of my dad owns both of those places.

**Bourke Street Mall. Friday 27 October 2006. Michelle** - We are in Australia because our son has been studying at Macquarie University in Sydney. Studying is the operative word, he has been doing more drinking of beer and going to the beach. He is taking a couple of finance classes and a DJ course. Guess which one he likes the best? He is going to Fiji on the way back home. We are from Los Angeles, California. We travelled to New Zealand before coming here and also to Cairns and Sydney. Our son got a hair cut before we arrived.

**Bourke Street Mall. Friday 27 October 2006. Conrad** - I am originally from Gladstone. I am down in Melbourne for a reunion with my Deakin University Education class. I am just cruising around the city today. I have been doing HR work up north. My role is more of a mentor really for indigenous youth initiatives and within the mining sector. I have also spent some time in the Thursday Islands. They speak sort of broken English. I like helping people out. Doing an Education Degree really opens doors to a variety of roles and occupations. It will be good to hear what everyone else is up to at the reunion in Geelong. Everyone has a story.

**Bourke Street Mall. Friday 27 October 2006. A Passerby** - I am with my parents in Melbourne. I just finished an exam for a business degree. I might go back to Indonesia which is my home, but it is quite hard to find work there. I am looking for work in Melbourne.

**Bourke Street Mall. Friday 27 October 2006. A Passerby** - I just had a really funny story about a guy, well a friend of mine. He went into a bar with a baby giraffe. He kept feeding him whisky for hours until the giraffe passed out. The man left the giraffe on the bar and the bar tender said, you left him lion on the bar and the man replied I did not leave a lion, I left a giraffe. I just did my English exam for year twelve. I am applying to get into drama next year at the VCA. The audition process starts in November. I had planned on faking my death and starting all over in Germany. The easiest way to fake death involves fire exploding. I have been working in the Victoria Markets for one month. I plan on getting a second job and doing a whole lot of drinking in the next few months. I reckon if I am going to get another job the fact that I have worked at the Vic Markets will look good on my resume. I do not know of any cool bars that play pub music, old style. You know, The Doors, what caters to my taste. The other week I was in this bar called the Purple Turtle, I cut my hand on the road when I came out. I also cut my foot at the beach once. Do you want to go for a drink?

**Bourke Street Mall. Friday 27 October 2006. Tim** - I stand on the street corner selling The Big Issue magazine. Christmas is the best time of the year. I have been selling this magazine for four years in Melbourne. I was born in Sydney and lived there for eighteen years. I then moved to Dubbo with my family. I still have family in Sydney and Dubbo, but it is just me here in Melbourne. I do not really mind the wind in this city, but the rain really pisses me off. It can be good to look freezing because people feel sorry for you and want to help. If you look like your starving then they throw money at you. You get fined by the cops if you are caught begging. I see them around a lot. The buskers all have a permit which you can get for free. They were going to introduce auditions for street performers, with Red Simons judging. I do not watch much TV anymore. The last time I saw a good Aussie drama was when Blue Heelers was on. I guess All Saints is ok. I do not watch DVDs either. There are no good Aussie shows anymore. If I am not selling the Big Issue I am usually asleep or laying in bed doing nothing. I used to hang around the city on the weekends when I was not working but you need to have a break from it.

**Centre Place. Friday 27 October 2006. George** - I made a short film this year and I am writing a new script at the moment. I just finished school and am hoping to go to RMIT or VCA. The two minute short film was about youth and party culture. It was basically about a guy who is depressed and you see him at home. He is making food and then when he goes out and is around people he puts on this face. As I found with myself, you get to this stage where all the bullshit creeps back over you, the mask you put on in public. The 30 minutes was filmed in my house and then sped up to 30 seconds with him sitting in the one spot. I am doing year twelve drama at the moment, but I have come to realise that theatre is a bit of a wank. My media

teacher said something that really hit home to me about this. We were sitting in class watching a film and my teacher asked us why they used a particular shot. Some people said because it evoked a certain emotion or because he was from New York and Jewish. And then some kid who does not really do anything, just said, because it looks good. I was like shit, that was the correct answer. In film there does not have to be some underlying meaning it can simply be an aesthetic image. It is a bit like that movie Baraka, where there is no dialogue. There are just endless evolving images of environmental conditions and cityscapes filmed from a variety of points of view.

**Centre Place. Friday 27 October 2006. Kassey** - I am in the city to try and find a dress for the wedding of my Uncle tomorrow. I am trying to get some money off my employer who has not yet paid me for last week. I worked in telemarketing for one week before they got rid of me. I thought I was doing quite well. My Uncle has moved to Brisbane but they are having the wedding down here in St Kilda. Melbourne is my home, but I have also lived in Queensland, on the Gold Coast. I am going to Hawaii in December and I do not think I will be coming back for a while. I might go to Florida for six months. I was selling carpet cleaning products through the telemarketing for \$18 an hour. I also worked for a construction company and will work next week at Coles, restocking the shelves. My brother moved to Tasmania to do a Chefs apprenticeship. I like visiting Sydney, but I would not live there. Everyone is too close to each other and the flow of the city is different to Melbourne.

**Centre Place. Friday 27 October 2006. Pia** - I just had an awesome meeting with a teacher about a short film that I am making. The film is about a boy who is in prison and he cannot come out. Within the film, even though the boy has actually come out of gaol, he is trapped within a prison of the mind. I am doing a digital film course at SAE, which is in South Melbourne. I am originally from Frankfurt, then I moved to Thailand, then the East Coast of Australia and now I have ended up in Melbourne. The wind blew me here. I have been to Sydney, Brisbane and Byron but I love Melbourne. When I think about it, I now realise that many people walking through the streets are in their own box.

**Degraves Street. Friday 27 October 2006. A Passerby** - We are spending a week in the city as part of a subject at school. We are in year nine. I probably come into the city once a month. The Metro and the GPO are good night clubs in town. I also like going shopping on Chapel Street. Northcote and Fitzroy are pretty cool as well.

**Degraves Place. Friday 27 October 2006. Conor** - I am originally from Darwin but have also spent a few years in New Zealand before moving to Melbourne. I am currently working for the Wilderness Society. I recently did a two-year training course in holistic education at Ringwood. It is not just about teaching from the head but also from the heart. I do not necessarily want to be a teacher, my dream is story-telling. I started writing these kids books and then busking on the street with an accordion to tell the story. They are as much for adults as they are for kids. I did a biodynamic farming course in New Zealand as well as getting involved with environmental activism. But I found it difficult to tell people what they were doing was wrong when there was no answer to provide. I have just enrolled in a puppetry course for next year at VCA. Puppets are great in that you can really hide behind their character as they tell your story.

**Degraves Place. Friday 27 October 2006. David** - I am a singer-song writer from Melbourne. One of the tracks I have written is called Crazy Town and it is about the laneways in this city. I have been playing music for forty years and writing my own songs for five years. I put a CD out a couple of years ago and the image on the front cover was of Centre Place. The reason why I wrote about Melbourne as a crazy town, was that earlier in the year when the Commonwealth Games were on, the council decided to clean up all the graffiti in the laneways. I mean that is what attracts people to the laneways, the images and the atmosphere. Apparently Barcelona and Melbourne are the leading cities for graffiti and stencil art in the World. It is a tourist attraction. I left Melbourne a number of years ago because the pub scene really changed. There was only folk music and no FM radio, nothing to stimulate my personal growth. The music had to be

American or overseas artists. I did the pubs in Sydney between 1970 and 1975 then I gave it all away. I joined a vocal group, you know The Scared Weird Little Guys? I did four part harmony work for a while and thought I better get back into this singing capper. The music scene in Melbourne is healthy at the moment, if a pub closes down, the music moves into a café, the scene does not just go away. Smith Street has cafes, bars and live music, but it was not like that two years ago. I do a lot of community work for people with psychiatric disabilities as well as direct care. I just came from a singing workshop I did with a group of people with autism. We are getting a few guys together at the Rainbow pub on November 5 to sing songs that are part of a compilation about Melbourne. That is why Melbourne has such a great music scene, because they foster people getting up and performing. Pubs provide entertainment and experience.

**Degraves Place. Friday 27 October 2006. Donna** - We are from Port Augusta in Adelaide. There is Shannon, Jenny, actually there is sixteen of us who have come to Melbourne. We have come here to see Dwight Yoakam who is playing at the Palace theatre tonight. He is a country music singer. I have been to Melbourne about twice in my life. We are heading back home tomorrow.

**Degraves Place. Friday 27 October 2006. Emily & Romy** - We are in year 11 at a public high school. We probably should be there now. We are the girls who asked you yesterday whether anyone has had sex in your booth. We are doing a psychology course at high school. I am going to take a year off once I have finished school next year and hopefully work and travel. I am also hoping to go to South America and Mexico. I would love to get my licence and travel around Australia. I went to Central Australia when I was in grade five so I do not remember that much of it. I have also been to Tasmania, Byron Bay and Hong Kong. My mums side of the family is from Queensland, so we have driven up the highway many times to visit. My aunty has bi-polar, so she cannot travel to see us. I have been doing a politics subject this year, we were looking at Fidel Castro and Cuba. I mean a lot of what they have done is terrible but some of it is good in terms of the infrastructure of the country. Perhaps the reason why a lot of people from Melbourne travel internationally is because we are so multi-cultural. We are keen to see everyone else.

**Bourke Street Mall. Saturday 28 October 2006. A Passerby** - I have come into the city with my partner who wanted to buy a pair of sunglasses. We found them but they will not be ready for another week. I work in a software company in the city, but I am a bit over my job at the moment. Last night I saw this fantastic ideal job, but I do not have the qualifications for it. The job is a molecular biology animator. I have been working for the company I am in for the past four years. I worked for two years in IT before that and prior to that I was in scientific research. My first degree and honours was in genetics.

**Bourke Street Mall. Saturday 28 October 2006. A Passerby** - I am just having a gander around the city. I am in year twelve this year and hoping to get into an Art and Commerce degree next year in Geelong. I like going clubbing at the GPO. When I am not at school or clubbing I like to sleep.

**Bourke Street Mall. Saturday 28 October 2006. A Passerby** - I am going to see a movie called The Departed. Do you like Chinese food?

**Bourke Street Mall. Saturday 28 October 2006. Anika** - I crashed at my friends house last night and we are just about to have our second coffee for the day. When you have all this underlying stress of school projects and you also feel a bit hung-over you need the coffee hit. This public toilet we are next to is actually really nice inside, there are no rapes and murders down there. You have to pay 30 cents in Perth to use the public toilets. I must admit I am from Canberra. I have been here in Melbourne for two years. You cannot really compare cities. Canberra does not really have scenes like they do here. You do not get young people dressing like each other. I work as a waitress in the evening in a private club for professionals. I am doing an arts science degree at uni at the same time. Mainly you meet interesting people doing art,

science people tend to be more irritating. I think there are so many developments in neuroscience, the area will no doubt direct me which way to go in. I think brain chips are very interesting. I saw a documentary about a monkey who was inserted with a brain chip. They connected it in some way to a robotic arm. The monkey would then control this robotic arm to get bananas.

**Bourke Street Mall. Saturday 28 October 2006. Emily** - I am from the Gold Coast but I just left my family and fiancée to come to Melbourne. I am originally from Melbourne but moved to the Gold Coast when I was a grommet. I have heard so many things about this city, there is so much to do and such a great culture. Yesterday I went to watch a Jazz trio and then I fell asleep in the park. I would love to move here. I am going to stay here for as long as it takes for me to find what I am after. The Gold Coast shuts-up after 5pm, where as here it is still all happening on a Wednesday night at 10pm. I like to go to the beach, ride my skateboard and play the piano. I would love to do the rock-star thing. I am not sure if I am cut out for it though. I was classically trained in cello then I went on to guitar and then to piano. The piano feels really natural to me. I am self-taught and have been playing for five years. I often walk straight into a hotel like the Hilton and start playing the piano. I have only got chucked out once. I have saved heaps so I can stay down here for a few weeks and then that is another story after that. I want to go to St Kilda, apparently there is heaps of music over there. I stayed up for two days when I got here because I was really drunk. I am staying in this amazing back-packers on the corner of Russell and Lygon Street. There is a man who looks and talks like Jesus in the back-packer where I am staying. He has long red hair, I think he might be Scottish. Not that I am religious or anything but he acts exactly like Jesus.

**Bourke Street Mall. Saturday 28 October 2006. Meredith** - I am just about to go to a Shakespeare Society meeting for the first time. I love going to the theatre. I am doing an honours year in History and English at Melbourne University. I have only been in Melbourne for eight years. I grew up in Launceston in Tassie with a population of 80,000. It was a wonderful environment to grow up in, a rich experience for the first fifteen years of my life. We went on expeditions into the bush at school and learnt to build a snow cave around Cradle Mountain. I started driving in Tasmania. I do not drive in Melbourne so I suppose I have not gone to the Dandenongs. I work as a swim teacher in a low-key community centre. I started doing this job when I finished first year university way back in 1998. I guess this was an extension from doing swimming training at school. It is very rewarding to see the students, both adults and children improve over time, get more confident in the water. I do not think of Melbourne as home, but I do go to all the festivals. I took five years off my study as I had a severe illness which started mid 2001. The illness took some time to present itself, starting with depression. It worked out that I had become schizophrenic. It was very life changing. It was both shocking and a relief to know what it was, because for so long I was feeling unwell and not knowing what it was. I take medication, which is a band-aid effect, but it makes me feel normal. I have not failed anything. It has almost been nine and a half years since I began universality, I returned last year. It is really magical, I can go back to all my old stuff and I am considering doing honours next year. I am planning on an exchange for six months to America. I went there in the middle of this year for three weeks for a wedding and checked out a uni outside of San Francisco. I am interested in English Literature but in America they have a requirement for another language. I have studied some French and German and I read basic texts such as fairy tales and crime novels. I remember growing up having drama lessons, which exposed me to a whole range of literature. I did start off doing Creative Arts at Melbourne University, but what I missed in this course was the rigorous aspect of literature. Creative writing and literature became an interest when I started being unwell. It was a therapeutic device, cathartic and all of that. I now come to the subject with more information than I did as an eighteen year old. I bought some poetry journals from the States and I really wanted to tell one of the poets how much I enjoyed his poem. I found his email address and wrote to him to say that I thought his poem was sublime. The advantage of not being at uni meant that I could read longer works. I read about a quarter of Ulysses, but I cannot remember reading it to a certain point, there is an element of amnesia. Once I finish my honours year I would like to go to France. I had my sights set on America to do a Masters or a

PhD. I cannot see myself living in America for more than five years. My dream is to study Twentieth Century American poetry, with a sub-speciality on translation. After having been through an illness I know what is important to me.

**Bourke Street Mall. Saturday 28 October 2006. Rachel** - I work in a shoe shop in the GPO. It was raining in sheets last night and while I was having my lunch I was thinking I wonder how my garden is going. I have turned rather domestic lately doing the whole planting and baking thing. I moved into a new house in Fitzroy and planted heaps of vegies and stuff. I was born in Queensland but have been in Melbourne since I was six years old. I am currently doing a marketing degree. I worked in London for nine months and travelled around Western Europe. Barcelona was brilliant. It is a very accessible city for tourists. You can get off the main tourist drag and go into a bar filled with locals. I was working in retails again in London so I was on a fairly poor wage. I think if you went back there with a degree and went into a certain industry, as a professional it would not be such a struggle. I had a brilliant time over there. I was with my boyfriend who was working in Poland for three months, so I met up with him and we travelled around together.

**Centre Place. Saturday 28 October 2006. A Passerby** - I have just bought some crepes from a shop across from here. You can choose sweet or savoury. I am originally from San Francisco. I moved to Melbourne ten years ago with my beautiful wife. San Francisco is similar in a lot of ways to Melbourne, in terms of its cultural diversity. I work in advertising for The Age, I have been there for a year or so now. My wife is in fashion design. We do have plans to go to Perth and the Northern Territory.

**Centre Place. Saturday 28 October 2006. Geneva** - I am in the city with my beautiful friend Zoe. We are lingering about and having coffee. I study at La Trobe University doing Creative Arts and I also work. I think Sydney is fast and kind of commercial, whereas Melbourne is messy, you can get lost here. I love Melbourne too much to move anywhere else. There is something authentic about this city which allows arts and culture to thrive. I have been doing script writing, drama and performance history as part of my creative arts course. I have one year left to complete the degree. I love the theatre. My dream would be to become a play-write. I am trying to write a play at the moment. I have the idea and fragments of scenes. I am with all the right people at uni, so it is just a matter of getting it all together. One of the students in my creative arts class is now a character on Home & Away. The campus I am on is in Bundoora, which is about 45 minutes outside of Melbourne. I went to New Zealand for a week and saw Hobbits there. I slept on the street in Wellington so that I could go to the premiere of The Lord of the Rings. I met all the cast. I even have the Ring with all the writing on it. We were mostly in Wellington, on the North Island. There are a lot of National Parks, in fact Wellington is quite similar to Melbourne. The weather is erratic and there are little laneways which you can get blown through. My interest in The Lord of the Rings came from my Grandpa. He used to read the stories to me when I was little. When he died my whole family became obsessed with them. I could not escape it.

**Liverpool Street. Saturday 28 October 2006. A Passerby** - I am presently residing in Geelong, however I am looking to relocate to Melbourne and start an art studio located around here. The Art studio will be quite unique in that you will not be asked to draw a bowl of fruit, but rather you can come and express yourself how you like. We will supply people with all the goods and ingredients. My partner and I have been wanting to set this up for quite some time and we believe it is what people want. The up-shot is that patrons will be able to take their artworks home with them to decorate their apartments. I just finished up yesterday in my job in property management. We do not have any formal art experience ourselves, but we have both decided that this change in lifestyle is what we want

**Liverpool Street. Saturday 28 October 2006. Sassey** - Where is my mummy?

**WEEK 5 - Wednesday 1 November to Sunday 5 November 2006**

**Centre Place. Thursday 2 November 2006. A Passerby** - I am running a bit late for work, but I wanted to come in and say hi. I work at a recruitment agency for hospitality. I have been there now for about two months. I worked before that at the Caulfield Race Course and before that in a warehouse picking and packing clothes, it was good money.

**Centre Place. Thursday 2 November 2006. A Passerby** - I am from Mexico, but have lived in Melbourne for the past two years. I am going to Japan soon to do a Masters in International Relations. I am not exactly sure what brought me to Australia, it is hard to describe. Maybe the way of life, the gorgeous people and the special characteristics, it is a beautiful country. I have just finished my studies at Melbourne University, so I will be leaving this country soon, but I may return to Australia when I am about thirty or forty years old to spend more time.

**Bourke Street Mall. Thursday 2 November 2006. A Passerby** - You have got hairy nuts.  
"really!"

**Centre Place. Thursday 2 November 2006. Anthony** - I am from Nantes in France, which is a city a few hours away from Paris. I am in Australia for one year doing a project for French Radio. I am hoping to record the dreams of Australian people, to find out what their ideas are for the future and what they are like as people. I will then share these meetings and ambiance of the place with people back in France. I did a communication and media degree in France and I have worked as a journalist for French radio. My dream was to leave France and travel to Australia. Perhaps when I finish this project I will continue to study in France. I am looking for people who have a dream, a very crazy dream so that I can show the liberty of Australians to people back in France. It is not only about a dream but also about a way of life, what we can imagine today for the future. I chose Australia because it is such a large country and so far away from France. It is not easy to meet the good people, with the wild dreams. Well it is difficult to begin with when you first arrive in another country. Perhaps what I have discovered so far is that the people here in Australia can make something, or dream of something quite simple and this simple act can have a very satisfying and significant effect. For example I talked to the man who plays chess on the street and he told me that he plays this game every week. Sharing his time with other people and playing this game together he said, makes meeting people very easy. I hope by the time I have been in Australia for one year I will have discovered the dream of people and if not at least their different points of view about the world. You see this is my dream, to communicate with people. I am starting this project in Melbourne, but I will also move around Australia. I will go to Sydney, Tasmania, up the North East Coast and also hopefully to the bush to talk to wanderers and the scientific community. There are two parts to my project. The first is a diary of my experience which I broadcast back to France every week and update on my website. The second part is called Dreams to Share, which is to do with meeting people. I will create a long story, like a movie, but only a sound movie. I will broadcast this fiction with an audience in a room with no light back in France. I hope then that people will share the dream of Australians.

**Bourke Street Mall. Thursday 2 November 2006. Jason** - I work in the kitchen of a law firm, making coffees. I have been working there for nine months but have been in the hospitality industry for years. I grew up in the hills before moving to Melbourne. I am currently on Albert Road in St Kilda. I lived in Perth between the ages of 16 to 21, working for a lifestyle newspaper. The majority of work was advertising and promotion. I also lived in Greece for a year when I was younger, I was in year 9 and 10 of school. My aunty still lives in Greece, so we go back every year or so. I have also been to Turkey but no other European countries. My grandfather lives in Europe and my mother was born in England. My mother has dual citizenship, I was conceived in Germany. Our family is rather nomadic in a funny way. The weather sucks in Melbourne, but the people and the architecture are beautiful. I read that the Melbourne Heritage Listing Act came into effect in the thirties. It predated by 10 to 40 years other cities in Australia.

**Bourke Street Mall. Friday 3 November 2006. Steve** - I am here with some friends from Thailand, who are visiting Australia for the first time. I am showing them around Melbourne.

**Bourke Street Mall. Friday 3 November 2006. A Passerby** - I grew up in a country town but have just moved to Melbourne because it is the best town with the nicest people. I am looking for a job as a bricklayer.

**Centre Place. Friday 3 November 2006. A Passerby** - I am doing a project with my friends about a fairy tale for a cultural studies course at the Australian Ballet School. I have been doing ballet since I was three years old. We are taking photos of one of us, which we will then turn into a Powerpoint presentation. The story is kind of like a modern day version of Snow White, but we are calling it Snow White and the Seven Stoners. We have chosen Centre Place to take the photographs because it represents the drug culture we are trying to represent within the dream scene. The fairy-tale will be quite political in its nature. Our school is at the back of the Arts Centre at South Bank. There are about 23 students in each year, 16 girls and 7 boys. There is no other school in Australia like it that does the right kind of training. We do ballet for half the time at school and then normal subjects for the rest. Once we finish school we can audition for ballet companies in Paris, America, Russia or London. I would like to stay in Australia but there is not much funding anymore for ballet in Melbourne, it all goes to sport.

**Centre Place. Friday 3 November 2006. Carlo** - I just finished my year 12 exam in Math Methods without using a calculator. It was easier than I thought. I am hoping to get into a photography course at RMIT or Melbourne Uni. The interviews are in November and December. I also play the piano and the clarinet. I went on a school excursion to China last year with the school band. We played in Shanghai, Xian and Beijing. There are so many skyscrapers in Shanghai that you cannot see the skyline. I have also been to the Philippines and I am going to America at the end of this year where I will stay with some friends of my mum.

**Centre Place. Friday 3 November 2006. Missi & Reuben** - We just did our Australian history exam as mature age students at the VCE, before that I was at home with my daughter for three years in Northcote. I left school and headed over to Lake Ayre and stuff. We lived in a homecoming camp as a protest against Uranium mining. That is how I started on my travels around Australia, actively protesting for the Indigenous Community. It brought me all over the place. I did a walk to Japan and made connections with the Indigenous people there. It was history that made me leave school and it was that which inspired me to come back. Melbourne is home for me, it is a beautiful town, you get the full spectrum of everything going on. There is a strong political culture and movement in this city. There is room for difference, it is embraced and celebrated. We still have the same kind of attitude as Adelaide and Sydney, where we kind of do not want to recognise our history of division. When I left Melbourne I had a few negative things to say about the city but I was sixteen years old then.

**Centre Place. Friday 3 November 2006. Sara** - I am down in Melbourne for the weekend going trekking in Wilson National Park. This is the third time I have been to Melbourne, I just arrived this morning. I have to have a weekend away from Sydney every now and then. I mean I love Sydney but it is dull compared to Melbourne which thrives on the culture of the laneways. I am going backpacking in South America next year. It kind of scares me, what it will be like travelling alone. I was wondering what practical ways you may have to help? I mean the biggest reason why I want to go alone is that I do not want to be restricted even though I know it will not be easy. Maybe it will be ok, once I get into it.

**Centre Place. Friday 3 November 2006. A Passerby** - I do not like fishing but I like fish. We are walking around doing stuff. I am from Canada and my friends are from NSW. We are living for a year on the Gold Coast.

**Centre Place. Friday 3 November 2006. A Passerby** - I am making a show at school about Bobby. I have a 23 year old, a 45 year old, a stoner, a girlfriend and a psycho with me.

We are doing a short course in music theatre at the VCA. We do not get any qualifications after we have finished and we do not think we will get a career out of it. We are certainly not doing it for the money. We are in our first year at them moment, the second year is invitational. We have just had spinach for breakfast. I am from the outer suburbs of Melbourne.

**Bourke Street Mall. Friday 3 November 2006. A Passerby** - I just met my friend in the city, but I have also just lost my wallet. I thought it might have been left at school. I am in year eleven at a high school in Kew. I had my ID in the wallet as well as money and a yearly tram pass. I do not really know what I want to do when I finish school, I like arty things and stuff. I would like to do a course in Melbourne then go to Europe.

**Centre Place. Friday 3 November 2006. A Passerby** - Enjoy coffee

**Centre Place. Friday 3 November 2006. Sarah** - I was supposed to live in the city, but then again people think they have all the rights to treat me like shit. I have nowhere to live now. It is worse during the Melbourne Cup and the Footy season as there is nowhere to stay. The English winging bums and this bloody idiot of an Australian. I was in the Victoria Hotel and the guy there treated me like a piece of shit because I was the lowest paying guest. They have the power to kick me out. There are two, well three bitches there. This man believed that he had the power and the right to do whatever he wanted to do. This guy stuffed me up and now I have nowhere to go. I do not think my friends will be there for the support or the money. I just thought about it today, that two bitches, these evil witches should be living together. They would then realise what a misery it is to live with each other. I have to leave an Australia Post job and a Nursing home job. I am smart, I do not want to be stressed out. I live in a boarding house in St Kilda, it is so clean. It is also one minute away from the train stop. After that I went to the Elephant Backpacker and I cleaned it up. It was so filthy. I am one of the cleanest people you will ever meet. I do not wash dishes but I just clean up. I am so good. For the first eight days I payed \$50, whereas other people were paying \$210 for two bunk beds. The other girl only has two beds because she is fat and ugly. The trouble started when I played my Robbie Williams music. The fucking idiots shouted at me and I was not even playing it very loud. I am a good person, I touch their life and praise people. I am physically strong because I eat a lot. I will never have a nervous break down or have someone make me crazy. I am a very encouraging person, but it is wearing me down. I have not been in work for a few weeks. I am getting support from the Government. I forgot about my daughter. I was planning a great party and I was hoping to spend money on getting her the best gifts. I was wanting to make a compilation of music for my daughter, with songs that had a reason for me. Like songs about why I see you cry and the reason why you are holding on so tight. I have not seen my daughter for two years. They think I am happy. How can I be happy when my daughter is not with me. How dare they judge me. They are idiots, they think they are better than me. Anyone who thanks me will go to hell. I am one of the nicest person you will ever meet. But then again no matter how much I care, some people are assholes and bitches. A lot of people are intelligent wealthy people and I am out there to educate these idiots that we can take advantage of that, rather than treating me like a piece of shit because I have no power. I left the Philippines in 1989 to come to Australia. It is the place where I was loved and accepted. My daughter also is my home. There are a lot of idiots out there, I am lucky that I am so strong. In the boarding house where I have been living, a lady committed suicide a few weeks ago. My gift is my daughter. There is a lot of killing and injustice and a lot of misery out there, drugs and prostitution. Money is not everything., it does not make you happy. People who say money makes you happy, that is fucking bullshit. God will bless you. There is no point winging about what you have or do not have. If you are hard working, even if you are stupid, you will be a millionaire, you will make money, that is all I want to say.

**Degraves Place. Friday 3 November 2006. Barry** - I was just saying to someone the other day that the art of conversation is dying with email, the internet and text messages. I was talking to a lady in the botanical gardens the other day about how everyone seems to be preoccupied with stuff and therefore they do not have time to talk to one another. I am from New Zealand, the South Island and I am going back there on November 2. I am hoping to come back to Melbourne

next year sometime and also travel to India to see the Taj Mahal, Rajasthan and Goa. I wanted to come to Australia so that I could wing my way into the Commonwealth Games doing cleaning or something. I had never been to Melbourne but I had been to Perth and Brisbane about 20 years ago. The gentrification program in Australia is live and well. There used to be a scattering of ethnics here and there, but now you hear people speaking different languages either side of you wherever you go. When I come back to Melbourne I am hoping to get a better job than my current one as a kitchen hand, that pays more than 11 bucks an hour cash. I am thinking of getting a job as a bus driver and living in a flat in Fitzroy.

**Degraves Place. Friday 3 November 2006. Maddy** - I am in the city doing a project for school. I am from Ballarat, but we have come to Melbourne for three weeks spending time in the city. I am in year nine at school, I have an apartment in the city, so we come to Melbourne a few times a month. I do not think I would ultimately live in the city, I think I would prefer to live in say Geelong. I lived in America for three years from the ages of eight to eleven. When I got back to Australia it certainly felt more like home. I was the only one in my family who picked up an accent. In America they have a higher standards than they do here in Australia. I missed half of year five when I came back to Australia, but everything was really a repeat of year four in America so it did not really matter. I think in America they make you work harder in the earlier years of school and then they give you a break later on. In the holidays I am going to hang out at Torquay or Lorne beach, although it gets crowded in summer. I do not really know what I want to do when I finish school. I am looking into psychology and also I want to be a paediatrician. I am just heading to the Vic Markets now with my friends, they sell meat, vegies and Ugg boots.

**Bourke Street Mall. A Passerby** - I was just saying the other day that we need to have something for people to talk to one another in the city. I am just about to go to the march.

**Bourke Street Mall. Saturday 4 November 2006. Zoe** - I am six years old. I am in prep school.

**Centre Place. Saturday 4 November 2006. A Passerby** - I am going on a march today, you should come with this booth. We could just wheel you along the march. It is amazing what a documentary can do.

**Centre Place. Saturday 4 November 2006. A Passerby** - Melbourne is home. I like stealing stuff. I steal heaps of stuff. The best thing to steal is money.

**Centre Place. Saturday 4 November 2006. A Passerby** - What I really wanted to say was that we just moved to Prahran, which is much closer to our work than where we lived before, so we do not have this big commute. I work at Clayton, at Monash University. Prahran is on the east side, it is a funky area. Now I only have to commute one hour whereas before I was driving three hours and a half each day.

**Centre Place. Saturday 4 November 2006. A Passerby** - I am just about to go on a Global Warming march, which goes from Town Hall to Federation Square. I have been living in Melbourne for the past six years. I think people in Melbourne are different from the mainstream, there are more lefty people. In France people are more classical. I work as a researcher in biology at Melbourne University. I am from Strasbourg in France. I go back there every year to visit friends and family.

**Centre Place. Saturday 4 November 2006. A Passerby** - I am not from Melbourne, home is Perth in WA. I have been moving around Melbourne for two years, I love the buzz of this city. Melbourne is a very liveable city, there are a lot of diverse people around. I am here with a friend of mine, we are off work early today.

**Centre Place. Saturday 4 November 2006. Hanna** - It does not really matter whether you are left or right of politics, people ultimately have a social conscious about the environment. The media is a little bit skewed in its perceptions. People can be manipulated for a while by the media and the powers that propagate issues. At the moment, the basic issues are around humanity and survival. The media and the politicians are simply responding to it. Almost every action and every social exchange is political whether it be buying clothes to purchasing food. There needs to be a level of awareness about the way we live our lives. That does not mean we all have to be tree-hugging hippies. Everything is political. We are the only beings who have agency, but we have eroded notions of care, compassion and humanity. These are slowly coming back to the forefront of our thinking, such as in our individual work practice. Melbourne allows us more of an opportunity than the other states in Australia. There is something really special in Melbourne, and it is not necessarily tangible. I do not think the weather keeps us here. There are pockets of intellectuals and artists in this city as well as people in hospitality and all of this culminates and comes together with an energy of people that are more socially aware. Melbourne is a beautiful city, it is quite young and its standards are only just developing. As a consequence, you get people travelling to see more of the world and then come back to share their sense of humanity. It is the best place in the world.

**Centre Place. Saturday 4 November 2006. A Passerby** - I am going to a global warming march at Town Hall. I am originally from Sydney but my family drew me to Melbourne a while ago.