

## **Public Commentary**

### **Past-Present-Future Vehicle**

*Melbourne - Chatswood - Surry Hills - Waverley*

Astra Howard (Action Researcher/Performer - AR/P)

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### **MELBOURNE**

Wednesday 11 January - Sunday 15 January 2017 - Melbourne City Council

**Passerby** (male) - *"Great idea, you could add images."*

**Passerby** (male) - Guitar players talks about Halley's Comet.

**Passerby** (female) - *"What is it?"*

**Passerby** (male) - *"Can I get a ride on that?"*

**Passersby** (male & female) - *"What it is about, what it is for?"*

**Passersby** (male) - As two men walk past they try to finish sentence being displayed. The sentence starts with the word 'Return' and they say, *"... of the Jedi."* However, the end of the actual sentence is 'of Halley's Comet'.

**Passerby** (male) - *"If you added a logo you could get sponsorship."*

**Passerby** (male) - *"What are you selling?"*

**Passerby** (male) - *"Who is behind it?"*

**Oush** (male) - He stops to talk looking at the numbers on the PPFV as it is being wheeled along the street. He says that he likes numbers and explains his favourite numbers. He talks about symbols in architecture in Melbourne and how these reference ancient symbols from Africa. He talks about the Periodic table, the importance of science and maths as building blocks and about energy. He says that he dreamed last night that he was going to meet a girl and have this conversation. Asking for a significant year, he says, *"the year elements were found, as this was when technology advanced very fast."*

**Passersby** (male & female) - Discuss when the Dutch first arrived in Australia. The man says, *"are you going to add this date?"*

**Passerby** (female) - *"I was born in 1969 and have lived in Melbourne for 22 years. Put up 1969 that is my birthday. Can you take a photo of me with it?"*

**Passersby** (male & female) - Amazing Race challenge group of people ask if they can stand on the PPFV to take a photo for documentation of their journey. One person says, *"that is a bit weird."*

**Passersby** (male & female) - As the letters are being added a man predicts the end of the sentence saying, "William Shakespeare". They say, *"it's a good idea"*.

**Chris** (male) - Homeless man tells the story of him being in a bad car accident in 2009 and then not being able to work after that. This story is added to the PPFV.

**Passersby** (male & female) - A family of tourists asks what the story displayed is about and Chris, who is sitting nearby is pointed out as the author.

**Passerby** (male) - Magician says out allowed to his audience as the PPFV is wheeled past his act, *"Imagine if she was back from the future"*. The AR/P responds, *"I am from the future."* The crowd laughs.

**Passerby** (female) - *"I really like Peter Brock, the year he died was terrible."*

**Passerby** (male) - Staff member from Myer comes out and says, *"What is it all about?"* Then says, *"Can you add 2006?"* He continues, *"This was when Italy won the World Cup for the fourth time."*

**Passerby** (male) - Busker walks past with a trolley and says, *"Are you going to set up here?"* He continues *"Because there are spots and I am in this one."*

**Passerby** (male) - *"What is it?"* Then continues, *"that's great". An important date to me is..."*

**Passerby** (male) - A man repeats something many times, but it is unclear what he is saying, finally he says a little more clearly *"do you use this for magic?"* The AR/P says, *"no, but I wish I could."*

**Passerby** (female) - *"There are a lot of crazy people here talking to themselves."*

**Passerby** (male) - Man grabs pen and arm of AR/P and says, *"I am going to write on you."* The AR/P says, *"No"*. Instead he writes over his own arms with the pen then pushes the AR/P in an aggressive manner.

**Passerby** (male) - *"Can you put up 1967? That's my birthday. Can you take a photo of me with it?"*

**Passerby** (male) - *"Can I give you a hand? Are you sure? Are you sure?"*

**Passerby** (male) - Man helps the AR/P move PPFV around difficult corner. The AR/P says thanks. He replies, *"I have a lot of time, my wife is in the shopping."*

**Katrina** (female) - *"Can I take a photo? My birthday is 1975."*

**Passerby** (male) - Melbourne Tour Guide says *"I heard you on the radio"* and then explains 'White Australia Policy' to young women on his tour.

**Passerby** (female) - *"I am a photographer, but without my kids today. Can I take some photos and put them on Instagram? What is the White Australia Policy. I am from New Zealand."*

**Passerby** (female) - Tour guide asks, *"Is it art? Hey, this is a Melbourne artist, real live art in Melbourne"*.

**Passerbys** (female) - *"What is this about? We like it."*

**Eddie** (male) - *"Can you put my name on it and say something about my eye's being open."*

**Passerby** (male) - Father takes photo of daughter in front of PPFV then asks, *"What is this about? Great!"*

**Passerby** (male) - Man speaks for a long time about the insider and outsider position of the Vietnam War. He explains that it started much earlier than people think and that people still don't have freedom. He says, *"Thanks for taking the time to speak with me."*

**Passerby** (man) - *"What's this all about?"*

**Passerby** (female) - Lady explains that she met her future husband back in 1995 and that he was a sailor. They met twenty years later and just got engaged. She shows her ring. She had put a photo of him in a diary back then. He asked her why she didn't tell him. She said, *"This is why 1995 is a special year for me."*

**Passersby** (male & female) *"Why 1885? Oh, you change it all the time."*

**Guy** (male) - *"If you are back in Melbourne let me know for a discussion."*

**Passerby** (male) - *"You have a difficult job."*

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## **CHATSWOOD**

Sunday 10 September 2017 - Willoughby City Council

**Ranga** (male) - *"This is a great idea for children to see and be inspired to think of new innovations in science and medicine. I am really interested in time and innovation. I liked the movie 'Back to the Future' and novel 'The Time Machine' by H.G.Wells. I am a doctor. How did you come up with the idea? What interests you about time? I remember the solar eclipse in South India in 1957, but the launch of Sputnik that year was more significant for me."*

**Passerby** (male & female) - *"We have been watching what you have been doing from the restaurant and had to come up and ask what it was all about. Oh, ok that's great. So how long do you keep one date on? Oh, so you change it all the time. I predict it will be 2018 next year and that Malcolm Turnbull will be chucked out of office! Good luck!"*

**Passersby** (male & female) - People try to guess what happened on that date displayed as they start seeing the letters being added to the PPFV. One family guesses for 1944, yelling out aloud *"the Siege of Leningrad."*

**Passersby** (male & female) - *"Why do you have 1944? That was the year my mother and family fled Latvia. You will add that on? Can I take a photo? Do you do this often? Do you get paid? Oh, it's part of the festival."* Father asks son if he wants to add a year and event and suggests Tolkien. The son suggests Dungeons and Dragons. The father looks up when it was founded and says *"1974"*. The mother chooses the international event of Turkey occupying Cyprus on that same year, as she says, *"this has significance for me."*

**Passerby** (female) - *"What are you doing? Ah ok. I remember in 1974 there was Cyclone Tracey. Why are cyclones always named after women?"*

**Candice, Caitlan, Camellia** (female) - Three young sisters approach and explain how old they are. Candice says she turned ten in 2017, Caitlin and Camellia say they are twins and that they turn eight this year. They then say to display, *"Pymble Ladies College turned one-hundred in 2016."*

**Passerby** (male) - *"An important year for me was when I was born!"*

**Passerby** (male) - *"I can't think of a significant date now, but I will come back after I have had some lunch."*

**Passerby** (male) - *"I worry about the world in the future, what it will be like for these children. With North Korea and all the hurricanes and floods."*

**Passerby** (female) - *"I love history. All of history. I am a student at Willoughby High School. I would like to do something in history in the future. Could you put up 1918?"*

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## **SURRY HILLS**

Saturday 7 October 2017 - Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre

**Passerby** (male) - *"It's like a little memorial."*

**Passerby** (female) - *"Did you also do the one down the road on Crown Street?"*

**Passerby** (female) - *"Keep going it is great."*

**Passerby** (male) - *"I was born in 1960. Should it be Casius Clay or Mohammad Ali? It is contentious when the Beatles started."*

**Passerby** (female) - *"So you are the person who did the story piece down there."*

**Passerby** (female) - *"That's a good idea."*

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## **WAVERLEY**

Friday 1 December 2017 - Waverley Council

**Gremlin** (male) - *"I am originally from New Zealand. I am involved with the KX Bikers State. We are a welfare and social club. I own two bikes including a Honda 600. You should focus on the now, because you can't change the past. This is great you are out here talking to the real people. There are a few dates that stick in my mind. The year 1963 was when JFK was assassinated. In 1980 John Lenin was assassinated. In 1978 the first Holden Commodore was made. The year 1978 was the first time I went to the Tea Gardens Hotel. There were other hotels around here then, like Billy the Pig and The Grand Hotel. I am here in the Junction to meet my friend for a cup of tea. We usually meet once a week. We always go to a cafe on Spring Street."*

**Earl** (male) - *"I've lived in the area all my life. I went to Waverley Public School. There used to be an underground men's toilet here in the Junction. There was Gras Bros. In the 1970s there was the first Chinese restaurant here. I remember pinball machines at Bronte Beach and Billy Moyers kite gliders. George Freeman was a bookmaker. Arthurs Pizza used to be at Charing Cross. I just talked to the staff at Arthurs Pizza and they say it started around 1977-1978. There was a place before that called Henry's Hamburger."*

**Passerby** (male) - *"I go to Arthur's pizza two or three times a week. Is this advertising?"*

**Passerby** (male) - *"What is this? I am not very notable."*

**Passerby** (female) - *"We have been looking at what you are doing for a while and I just had to come up and ask what it is all about. A significant year for me was 2000 when the Olympics happened in Sydney. I lived in Canada for a few years and might move back. I like the cold weather."*

**Zafeira** (female) - *"You could put 2020. That's when my first book will be published. It will be a children's story about humanity and kindness."*

**Passerby** (male) - *"Where is the Apple store?"*

**Passerby** (female) - *"Is this a charity thing?"*

**Passerby** (female) - *"Are you busking? Can I give you a coin?"*

**Passerby** (male) - *"Are you an artist? I won't arrest you for being creative. Change Buckler in Ben Buckler and add a local street name Dover instead."*

**Mick** (male) - *"Our hairdresser is in the Bronka Arcade. People know about us from all over the world. What is it that you are doing?"*

**Passerby** (female) - *"I hope you have sunscreen."*

**Passerby** (female) - *"The year 1954, that was the year I started working."*

**Craig** (male) - *"You have approval to do this here? Why is this not on our facebook page? How come I haven't heard about it? Where is the publicity? This is a great idea."*

**Passerby** (male) - *"What happened in 1974?"*

**Passerby** (male) - *"What is this? Oh that sounds like a good way to spend the day."*

**Greg** (male) - *"I came here from South Africa via Paris. Do you have a question mark? Can you say: which group is Australia going to be in for the soccer? It will be announced tomorrow".*

**Eva** (female) - *"Bellevue Hill is becoming overdeveloped. One of the main problems these days is isolation. Everyone is looking down on their phones, not talking to each other. We are losing communication and humanity."*