

**VENUE NOTES****MELBOURNE TOWN HALL**

Swanston Street (Cnr. Collins Street)

Melbourne 3000

Phone: 658 9800

Melway: Map 1A J9, Map 2F F4

**MAIN TOWN HALL**

Seating Capacity: 2492

Wheelchair Capacity: Flexible

**Public Transport****Train**

The Town Hall is two blocks from Flinders Street Station. All gutters have dropped kerbs. Unfortunately the dropped kerbs on Flinders Street, outside the station, are not directly opposite each other. This means that people using wheelchairs or frames need to cut across the pedestrian flow.

**Tram**

Any tram down Swanston Street or Collins Street would be suitable (if accessible).

**Parking**

All parking is metered.

**Accessible Parking**

1. No parking in the Town Hall although it is possible to drop off. See "Entrances 2" below.

The Melbourne Town Hall viewed from Collins Street.

(c) City of Melbourne

**Thank you for your support during 1989.**

EASE has been through a year of change. Over the past eleven months EASE has gained access to shows as diverse as The Monster Trucks and the Leningrad Kirov Ballet. Several hundred people had the opportunity to see the amazing Circus Oz performers during the Spoleto Festival, surely the highlight of the year.

EASE has introduced an organisation service fee and a newsletter subscription. The support we have received from organisations and individuals has been enormous. And now with the added assistance of the Ministry for the Arts we are looking forward to an exciting future.

During 1990 we have plans to dramatically increase the number of tickets available and distributed through the scheme. We hope to maintain our level of service and make the experience of going out as enjoyable as possible. Be prepared for the calls about tickets on short notice. During the year we will continue to publish information on venue access in our newsletter.

All of us in the EASE office wish you a Happy Christmas and the best of fortune for the New Year.

2. One parking spot on the south side of Little Collins Street near the corner with Swanston Street.
3. Melbourne City Council can arrange, for a fee, reserved parking in the area for buses. Ring: 663 5871
2. For those using wheelchairs or unable to negotiate the front steps it is possible to use the inner lift, through the car park beneath the Town Hall. Take the lane off Swanston Street and through the middle of the building, past the boom gate and around the corner with a large mirror assisting drivers. Continue until you come to a revolving platform on the ground (for turning cars) and turn right. There is a

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# Melbourne Town Hall *continued*



## City of Melbourne

sharp incline into the next room. The lifts are through the door to the left. Take the lift to the first floor. This avenue can also be used if you need to be dropped off, although you cannot park under the Hall.

The Town Hall would prefer to have prior notification if you intend using this entrance. Ring Rick Bunting, Hall Manager on 658 9780, the gate attendant will be warned and staff will provide assistance.

3. For large groups using wheelchairs the entrance detailed above may be too confined—vehicle movement under the hall is restricted and the lifts are small. There is a portable ramp for the three steps up to the rear door on the Collins Street side. This ramp is not suitable for walking frames or sticks. Ring Rick Bunting on 658 9780 to arrange for use of this ramp.

### Seating

1. On the floor: All seating on the Town Hall floor is movable, but still numbered. When notified of a wheelchair booking Hall staff remove a block of at least four seats and replace with individual seats. This is quite flexible and gives people a choice of seating.
2. Balcony seating: tiered with rails down some aisles. Rails on steps from lifts to balcony. Balcony seating is at present inaccessible, however, there are plans to introduce ramps and suitable seating areas.

### Toilets

Toilets are to either side of the Main Swanston Street Foyer. The "Gents" towards Collins Street, the "Ladies" towards Little Collins Street. These toilets are not accessible.

### Accessible Toilets

Collins Street Foyer, Western end. Outer doors slide and are not heavy. There is a large toilet cubicle but the door is awkward to close.

### Phone

Only one public phone in the building (due to continual vandalism). Take the lift to the ground floor and turn left, away from the car park. This phone is at present too high for wheelchair users.

## LOWER TOWN HALL

Seating Capacity: 350

Wheelchair Capacity: Flexible, however see notes on entrances

### Public Transport and Parking

As for Main Hall.

### Entrances

1. Off Swanston Street, under the Portico. Steps under the Portico, into the Foyer and from the area known as the Crush Space into the Hall!
2. Wheelchair users or people unable to negotiate steps can use the Goods Lift from the central lane. Ask the gate keeper for assistance. On the day we visited the Hall this lift did not work. It is not an attractive entrance, however there are plans for extensive renovations of the Lower Hall and a new lift is to be installed.

### Seating

Floor is flat with movable seating.

### Toilets

Along the corridor off the Foyer. Steps.

### Accessible Toilets

At present the closest accessible toilet is off the Collins Street Foyer via the Main Hall. A major trek, up the goods lift, round through the car park, up the lift and through the Main Hall.

### Phone

At the end of the Corridor leading away from the Foyer. This is not accessible for wheelchair users. Don't forget that the Foyer cannot be accessed by wheelchair users from the Lower Hall.

### Helpful Hints

1. If you have any questions about access ring Rick Bunting on 658 9780, and he or his staff will be able to assist.
2. Signs are not clear, you may have to request staff assistance.

The Melbourne City Council have plans to make their venues more accessible. When this takes place many of the points made above will no longer apply.

## Amendments—National Gallery of Victoria

The Gallery would like us to include some amendments to our review of access to their building and facilities in our last newsletter.

**Admission Fees:** Adults \$1.30 ea; Children 65 cents ea; family groups (i.e. 1 adult and up to 6 children, or 2 adults and up to 5 children) \$2.60; Season tickets: yearly \$10.60; half yearly \$5.30. Pensioners and the unemployed can gain free entry on presentation of appropriate identification.

### Accessible Parking:

Parking on the Gallery Forecourt can also be booked with the Information Desk after 10.00am. Ring 618 0222.

### Ticket Office:

Staff will assist people who cannot reach the counter by accepting entrance fees at the information desk.

### Telephones:

There are three telephones in the building. Only local calls can be made on the accessible phone (Red Phone) in the Main Foyer.

### Wheelchair Hire:

Three wheelchairs (not four) are available for use within the Gallery at no cost. It is advisable to book these with the Information Desk Staff before arriving. This is especially important for the big exhibitions. Ring 618 0222 and ask for the Information Desk, after 10.00am.

## EASE 699 8497

### ENTERTAINMENT ACCESS SERVICE

EASE aims to assist people with special needs to attend Melbourne's mainstream entertainment by providing information, social support and incentives.

EASE also aims to encourage promoters and venue management to ensure physical access is feasible at all events within the Melbourne metropolitan region.

**INFORMATION HOTLINE: 699 8497**

Advice about venue accessibility, what's on and booking procedures.

### BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Information, articles, letters and announcements of tickets available through EASE. EASE newsletter annual subscription: \$15.00

### TICKET SCHEME

Low cost tickets to a variety of entertainment events.

### EASE STAFF

Chris Milton, Project Officer  
Barbara Milne, Administrative Assistant

### VOLUNTEERS

Hilary Ash  
Betty Rankin  
Sue O'Dwyer  
Noel Spurr

### EASE FUNDING

EASE is now earning, through its service fees, newsletter subscriptions and ticket commissions, funds to supplement support from The Federal Department of Disability Services, Victorian Department of Sport and Recreation, The Ministry for the Arts and a generous grant from the Coles/Myer Community Trust.

**For information on the EASE service fee and other charges please ring Chris on 699 7636.**

# SUMMER MUSIC Tickets 699 8497

*All the following concerts and events are part of the Melbourne Summer Music Programme hosted by the Victorian Arts Centre. EASE has only limited access to these concerts so book early!*

## **BEST LOVED CLASSICS**

Venue: Melbourne Concert Hall

Date: 8.15pm Friday 12th Jan. 1990

Cost: \$11.00

State Orchestra of Victoria conducted by Mike Batt play: Holst, Mars and Jupiter from The Planets; Dukas, Sorcerer's Apprentice; and much much more!

## **GLENN MILLER NIGHT**

Venue: Melbourne Concert Hall

Date: 8.15pm Sat. 13th Jan. 1990

Cost: \$10.00

Kevin Hocking and his Glenn Miller Orchestra, together with the Kevin Hocking Singers, presents a swinging night of Glenn Miller big band classics.

## **GREAT ORCHESTRAL CLASSICS I**

Venue: Melbourne Concert Hall

Date: 8.15pm Tuesday 16th Jan. 1990

Cost: \$10.50

State Orchestra of Victoria conducted by Jean-Bernard Pommier in an all Beethoven programme featuring piano soloist Eugene Istomin.

## **JOHNNY O'KEEFE MEMORIAL CONCERT**

Venue: Melbourne Concert Hall

Date: 8.15pm Wed. 17th Jan. 1990

Cost: \$10.00

A concert in honour of Australia's rock 'n' roll legend.

## **PARDON ME BOYS**

Venue: Melbourne Concert Hall

Date: 8.15pm Friday 19th Jan. 1990

Cost: \$10.00

Music with a nostalgic flavour by a group combining impeccable musicianship, close harmonies and witty dance routines.

## **DREAMTIME**

Venue: Melbourne Concert Hall

Date: 8.15pm Tuesday 30th Jan. 1990

Cost: \$10.00

Keith Michell presents his extraordinary piece of music-theatre composed by Tim Sexton with Michell's own lyrics.

## **GREAT ORCHESTRAL CLASSICS II**

Venue: Melbourne Concert Hall

Date: 8.15pm Wednesday 31st Jan. 1990

Cost: \$11.00

State Orchestra of Victoria conducted by Jean-Bernard Pommier playing works by Ravel and Tchaikovsky.

## **GERSHWIN-THE MUSICAL**

Venue: Melbourne Concert Hall

Date: 8.15pm Saturday 3rd February 1990.

Cost: \$10.00

World premiere of the concert version of an exciting new musical loosely based on the lives of George and Ira Gershwin using their music and lyrics.

*EASE ALSO HAS TICKETS TO: LES MISERABLES, MELBOURNE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERTS, MELBOURNE THEATRE COMPANY PRODUCTIONS, THE MELBOURNE MUSICIANS CONCERTS, THE COMEDY CLUB.*

## **HOW TO BOOK WITH EASE**

To book tickets with EASE, ring 699 8497, discuss with Barbara or Chris what you would like to see and where you would like to sit. Make out a cheque to Arts Access for the appropriate amount and post it to Arts Access, 109-111 Sturt Street, South Melbourne 3205. We will either hold the tickets for you, post them or arrange for them to be at the box office-whichever you prefer. It does help us if you can provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

The above shows are only a selection of tickets available through EASE. We continually have a variety of tickets coming through the office. To make the best use of our services you need to ring us regularly. The more often you talk to us the more we know of your interests and the more often we will think of you when tickets come our way.

Our thanks to: The Ministry for the Arts, The Department of Sport and Recreation and The Commonwealth Department of Community Services and Health.

## FEIPP!

### **Fantastic Entertainment in Public Places**

This season's FEIPP programme is due to start very soon. Over the summer FEIPP co-ordinates a range of free shows and priced (usually low priced) performances in the parks and public buildings around the city. They often create great opportunities for people to take part, for example:

#### **THE PEOPLE'S MESSIAH—FREE**

(a special singalong in the spirit of Christmas) Sunday 10th December, Melbourne Town Hall at 2pm

ENQUIRIES: 663 8395

#### **OR**

#### **FEIPP! BUSH DANCE—FREE**

Sunday 17th December

Fitzroy Gardens 2.00-5.00pm

Bush dancing featuring the Bushwackers & Friends, Sheep Shearing demonstrations and other Fun Family activities.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE FEIPP PROGRAMME**

1. Buy the Sunday Sun on 3rd December, or
2. Buy The Age on Thursday 21st December and look through the Victorian Tourism Supplement, or
3. Ring the FEIPP office on 663 8307 or 663 8395 and ask for a copy of their programme.

## The Australian Gallery of Sport

Billed as "this country's first national multi-sport museum," The Australian Gallery of Sport hosts fascinating exhibitions exploring our rich sporting history. There is also a regularly changing audio-visual program and an Olympic Games display.

Tours of the MCG Pavilion, Long Room and MCC Pictorial Collection can be arranged and the Gallery's Education Officer will cater for junior clubs or school groups. For more information call the Gallery on 654 8922 or write to PO Box 175, East Melbourne, 3002.

The Gallery is located right outside the MCG Members' Pavilion, not far from the meeting of Jolimont Street and Jolimont Terrace.

OPENING TIMES: 10am to 4pm Tuesday to Sunday

COST: Adults \$3; Children \$1.

## Happy Christmas and New Year

Our thanks to Graham Berry and Dick Wynveen of Typographical Services for their generous support.

### **ARTS ACCESS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

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