

# MELBOURNE

## DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL

INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL

06-14.07.2018

WWW.MDFF.ORG.AU | INFO@MDFF.ORG.AU



HOWLER ART SPACE  
7-11 DAWSON STREET  
BRUNSWICK, MELBOURNE 3065

1 YARRA ST  
SOUTH YARRA  
VIC 3141, AUSTRALIA

CINEMA NOVA  
380 LYGON STREET  
CARLTON VIC 3053

BACKLOT CINEMAS  
65 HAIG ST, SOUTHBANK  
VIC 3006, AUSTRALIA

LONG PLAY  
318 ST GEORGES RD,  
FITZROY NORTH VIC 3068

23 MEYERS PL,  
MELBOURNE  
VIC 3000, AUSTRALIA

TICKETS ON SALE



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# MELBOURNE



## DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL

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OPENING NIGHT: FILM BUFF

**FRIDAY 6TH JULY 2018**

**Doors Open 6.30pm, Starts at 7pm**

**Cinema Nova - 380 Lygon St, Carlton VIC 3053, Australia**

**Title: I am Famous**

Directed by: Ismael Lotz

Description: The short doc picks up 19 years after the Back to the Future Trilogy and finds what Tom Wilson the Actor/Comedian who played Biff Tannen is up to today and how the role has impacted his life for both good and bad.

**Title: Anjelica Houston on James Joyce: A Shout in the Street**

Directed by: Kieron Walsh

Description: Anjelica Huston played the lead female role in the movie adaptation by her father, John Huston, of James Joyce's famous short story, 'The Dead'. Huston relates James Joyce's personal

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and creative history, other distinguished writers - help to explain why Joyce's influence has been so extensive and so profound around the world.

**Title: Filmworker**

Directed by: Tony Zierra  
Description: Leon Vitali gave up his career to become Stanley Kubrick's personal assistant. For more than two decades Vitali played a crucial role behind-the-scenes helping Kubrick make and maintain his body of work. In Filmworker, Vitali's experiences with Kubrick are brought together with previously unseen photos, videos, letters, notebooks, and memos from his private collection. Interviews with actors, family, crew members, and key film industry professionals who worked with Kubrick and Vitali are also utilized throughout this mesmerizing, unmissable documentary.

MELBOURNE STORIES #1 + MASTERCLASS

**SATURDAY 7TH JULY 2018**

**Doors Open 11.30am, Start 12pm**

**1 Yarra St, South Yarra VIC 3141, Australia**

**Title: War Mothers**

Directed by Stefan Bugryn

Description: War Mothers is the story of three women: Galina, Svetlana, and Yulia. They live in the town of Zaporizhia, which is along the eastern front of the ongoing war in Ukraine.

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**Title: Big in Japan**

Directed by Louis Dai, David Elliot-Jones and Lachlan Mcleod

Description: After hearing about the huge demand for foreign talent in Japan, 'ordinary Melbourne guy' Dave sets out on an outrageous mission to understand fame.

The screening of War Mothers and Big in Japan will be followed by a Q&A and Masterclass by Fanforce and Pozible on crowd funding and distribution for documentary filmmakers.

GEOPOLITICS

**SATURDAY 7TH JULY 2018**

**Doors Open 2:45pm, Starts: 3.13pm**

**1 Yarra St., South Yarra VIC 3141, Australia**

**Title: Dream Empire**

Directed by: David Borenstein

Description: Yana's company uses actors to turn remote Chinese ghost towns into temporary "international booming cities," tricking visitors into buying overpriced property. But when the real estate market starts to collapse, she faces financial ruin. A boom to bust tale set in China's building boom.

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**Title: Disaster Capitalism**

Directed by: Thor Neureiter

Description: A story that reveals the underbelly of the global aid and investment industry. It's a complex web of interests that span the earth from powerful nations and multinational corporations to tribal and village leaders. This documentary offers unique insights into a multi-billion dollar world by investigating how aid dollars are spent.

**Title: Britannia**

Directed by: Timothy George Kelly

Description: Why did Great Britain vote to leave the EU? Ex-pat Melbourne filmmaker Timothy George Kelly's doc explores the wider issues behind the shock move from both competing perspectives.

BACK TO THE 80'S

**SATURDAY 7TH JULY 2018**

**Doors Open 6.30pm, Starts: 7pm**

**Venue: 1 Yarra St, South Yarra VIC 3141, Australia**

**Title: Grace Jones: Bloodlight and Bami**

Directed by: Sophie Fiennes

Description: Larger than life, wild, scary and androgynous - Grace Jones plays all these parts. Yet here we also discover her as a lover, daughter, mother, sister and even grandmother, as she submits herself to our gaze and allows us to understand what constitutes her mask.

**Title: George Michael Freedom - The Directors Cut**

Directed by: David Austin

Description George Michael Freedom - The Directors Cut is a deeply autobiographical story of George Michael's life concentrating on the period around the making of his album "Listen Without Prejudice" and detailing his love, his loss, his court case with his record company and his struggle with fame. It is a poignant and intimate portrait of a music icon, narrated and co-directed by George Michael himself just before his death.

SHORT DOCUMENTARY SESSION 1

**SUNDAY 8TH JULY 2018**

**Doors open at 11.30am and Starts at 12pm**

**Venue: 7-11 Dawson St, Brunswick VIC 3056, Australia**

**Documentary Session 1:**

**Biography/Docu-Drama / Profile**

**Title: Not Just Another Mountain**

Directed By: Chris Davis

Description: Auckland's One Tree Hill is a much-loved local icon, known to many internationally through the U2 song. The silhouetted image of a single tree on the volcanic summit is burned into the mind of many New Zealanders - so when that tree was cut down by a Maori activist, it provoked a strong, divided emotional response from many.

**Title: Covered Glaciers**

Directed by: Stephan Ziwes

Description: Glaciers, massive giants at first sight, fragile monuments at second glance.

**Title: You Are Here**

Directed By: Nicholas Jones

Description: You Are Here is a portrait of Tony Rogers, a rock star who is a member of one of the most successful British bands of the last 20 years, The Charlatans.

**Title: Magne**

Directed By: Silvia Schmidt

Description: He was locked inside his body. His world – and the world of his family – was turned upside down when he learned how to write and to finally start expressing his thoughts and feelings. This film is about Magne – what's it like to be Magne? What are his dreams, aspirations and fears?

**Inspiring Stories****Title: Drummers Girl**

Directed By: Sophie Hexter

Description: Moving between past reflections and future dreams, Renee's story reveals a fervent and determined artist set to a bold musical score.

**Title: One Breath**

Directed By: Sebastian Solberg

Description: An immersive insight into the life of freedivers Eusebio and Christina Saenz De Santamaria as they attempt to set a new world record.



**Title: Discovering Heaven**

Directed By: Stephen Gray

Description: A documentary about Captain Dale Black, a pilot who died in a famous airplane crash which was covered by the LA Times. After coming back to life, Dale shares his near death experience as the sole survivor of a non-survivable plane wreck.

**Environmental:**

**Title: Timbo**

Directed By: Peiman Zekavat

Description: Construction of dams by energy companies in the Brazilian Amazon would destroy the heart of the world's largest rainforest, and severely affect the community of the indigenous people in the area.

**Title: Amazonia Damned**

Directed By: Ada Bodjolle

Description: Amazonia Dammed tells the story of the Munduruku people's urgent struggle to protect the heart of the Amazon against one of the largest mega-dam projects on earth.

**Pop Culture Art. Avante Garde**

**Title: Ex Nihilo**

Directed By: Timo Wright

Description: Ex Nihilo is an experimental short documentary about life, death and our attempts to control them. It tells the stories of an advanced humanoid robot, a cryonics facility, where the brains of deceased people are held and of a seed vault, where crop seed from around the world are held frozen.



**Title: Our Ghosts**

Directed By: Hannah Ruddle

Description: Our Ghosts explores the physical garden and the one built from memories and experiences which exists only inside their minds. What happens when they have to leave it behind?

DOCUMENTARY SESSION 2

**SUNDAY 8TH JULY 2018**

**Doors open at 2.45pm and Starts at 3 pm**

**Venue: 7-11 Dawson St, Brunswick VIC 3056, Australia**

**Documentary Session 2:**

**Animation Documentary:**

**Title: Wolfe**

Directed By: Claire Randall

Description: An intimate confessional from Nick, who learned through puberty that the imaginary friend in his head was real.

**Title: Seines Breath**

Directed By: Bethanie Montano

Description: The face of an unknown young woman influences history after her death.

**Title: Phenomenality**

Directed By: Lucas Jatoba

Description: is the story of a Ric Friar, a man who drowned... and came back from the dead. A big wave pioneer who “died more times than Jesus”, a man who constantly risked his life to find life, to find the edge or reason and overcome it.

**Title: Noch Am Leben (I’m Still Alive)**

Directed By: Anita Lester

Description: Through the ghetto to cradling her dying sister, Eva Nagler left her mind on the beaches of the Baltic Sea during one of the largest death marches of the war.

**Social Issues:**

**Title: All That We Carry**

Directed By: Erin Kokdil

Description: A Guatemalan woman tries to make a new home in Oakland. But can a new beginning erase a painful past?

**Title: Rescate**

Directed By: Mark Bone

Description: Rescate is a gritty documentary about the heroics of the Rescate Ambar volunteer Paramedics and their leader Reynaldo Ortiz as they rush to provide medical attention to the countless number of motor vehicle accidents in the Dominican.

**Title: Crissanto Street**

Directed By: Paloma Martinez

Description: In the shadow of Silicon Valley, a hidden community thrives despite difficult circumstances. For one resident, eight-year-old Geovany Cesario, impending change is bittersweet.



**Title: I Santa Ana**

Directed By: Chona M

Description: At the only public institution for the intellectually disabled in the Philippines, patients are housed in 12 different cottages according to age and level of disability. Most of them are abandoned or rescued on the streets.

**Title: Men in the Mirror**

Directed By: Siri Nerbø

Description: Men in the mirror is a portrait series with four Nigerian taxi drivers in Galway, Ireland. As director, Siri, spends time with them they share both happy and challenging moments in their cars with us.

**Title: Limits of Freedom**

Directed By: Joe Gist

Description: We are guided through this haunting social issue of youth poverty by ex-street child Sushil Babu Chhetri and passionate social worker Pravin Mahat, as we investigate into the reasons why children are surviving rough on the streets of the Nepalese capital.

**Title: Throwline**

Directed By: Mia Mullarkey

Description: A group of taxi drivers in Kilkenny, Ireland, join together to form a suicide prevention group. Uniquely positioned to patrol the night, the drivers keep vigil over the city's streets and bridges and offer help to those who feel forlorn.

## **Melbourne Stories:**

Title: Transcend

Directed By: Otto Ivor Enos

Description: Shot in Melbourne, Australia, Transcend is an evocative documentary focusing on Callan, a transgender rock and roll musician.

## **Title: Street Barbers**

Directed By: Vidad Narayan

Description: The Streets Barber, goes around Melbourne performing a simple act of charity, by giving those in need a 'fresh start' by cutting their hair for free.

Runtime: 5 mins

## **Title: Olympic Nick**

Directed By: Rachel Morssink, Ian Tran

Description: What happens when a \$3.7 billion dollar regional rail project gets derailed by a 76-year-old Melbourne man and his humble doughnut van?

EDM DOCS

**SUNDAY 8TH JULY 2018**

**Doors Open at 6.30pm Starts at 7pm**

**Venue: 7-11 Dawson St, Brunswick VIC 3056, Australia**

## **Title Decks and the City**

Directed by: Glen J Scrymgour

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Description: Decks and the City” is a documentary that explores the passion for electronic music within the night life scene and the obstacles that DJ’s, producers, venue owners and patrons face from lawmakers and a conservative society.

**Title: Italo Disco Legacy**

Directed by: Jonathan Sutack

Description: A journey into the past and the future of Italo Disco music through the stories of the original 80’s heroes and cult DJs and the voice of the new generation of artists, radio broadcasters and fans ready to carry on the Italo Disco Legacy.

**Title: French Waves**

Directed by: Aurelie Leduc

Description: Thirty years of French electro narrated by those who made it: From Jean-Michel Jarre to Laurent Garnier, but also the new ones like Jacques or Rone.

VIDEOGAME / POP CULTURE DOCS

**MONDAY 9TH JULY 2018**

**Doors Open at 6.30pm, Starts at 7pm**

**Venue: 23 Meyers Pl, Melbourne VIC 3000, Australia**

**Title: Touching Sound The Technika Documentary**

Directed by: Nicholas Dobkin

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Description: The story of a videogame ahead of its time. They wanted to build a game that let you touch the music as it played on the screen. That game was DJMAX TECHNIKA. From designer and player and from California to Tokyo, this is the story of a groundbreaking game and the people who came together to play it.

**Title: Living the Game**

Directed by: Takao Goutsu

Description: A documentary about a variety of professional Esports personalities following them throughout the course of about a year. The focus is on Ultra Street Fighter IV.

**Title: Squee! Identifying As A Fangirl**

Directed by: Hansi Oppenheimer

Description: The Squee Project is a web series that explores topics of womanhood, feminism, representation, creativity and production, body image, race, sexuality and more in pop culture.

SPORTS DOCS/AUSSIE SHORTS

**TUESDAY 10TH JULY 2018**

**Doors Open at 6.30pm, Starts at 7pm**

**Venue: 23 Meyers Pl, Melbourne VIC 3000, Australia**

**Title: New Island Home**

Directed by: Amy Pysden & Daniel Clarke

Description: Dudley United Football Club was on the brink of extinction; its A-Grade side sitting on the

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bottom of the ladder and player numbers at an all-time low. In desperation, the small Kangaroo Island club enlisted the help of legendary AFL recruiter John Turnbull and together they hatched a unique plan that would change the island forever.

**Title: Road to Sparta**

Directed by: Barney Spender

Four runners, Four stories; One Greek drama

The Road to Sparta follows the fortunes of four runners, including “UltraMarathon Man” Dean Karnazes, as they attempt to follow in the footsteps of Pheidippides and complete the gruelling 246 kilometre Spartathlon in just 36 hours.

**Aussie Shorts**

**Title: Safe Spaces**

Directed by: Lyndal Redman

This documentary follows the journey of Paul and Sue. Paul was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) at the age of 37. He and Sue were forced to give up their lives in Melbourne and return to Adelaide to be closer to family.

**Title: Act of Translation**

Directed by: Irene Metter

International students from diverse backgrounds and life circumstances tentatively start to attend free workshops (mostly due to a great supply of alternating pizza and dumplings), put on by City of Melbourne in an attempt to address social isolation.

**Title: Trump Antidote**

Directed by: Aidan Prewitt

Is there anything we can do to confront the rising tide of Donald Trump?

**Title: But Honey You Look Fine**

Directed by: Jennifer Leonforte

But Honey, You Look Fine follows the first steps to recovery my best friend Gabby must take in her self-authored take on life with an eating disorder.

**Title: Pocket Picking**

Directed by: Henry Simmons

Through the personal stories and experiences of three young men, Pocket Picking explores some of the ways young men in New South Wales Australia perceive gambling and the ways it is embedded in their lives.

ANIMAL/ENVIRONMENTAL DOCS

**WEDNESDAY 11TH JULY 2018**

**Doors Open at 6.30pm, Starts at 7pm**

**Venue: 23 Meyers Pl, Melbourne VIC 3000, Australia**

**Title: Kangaroo**

Directed by: Kate McIntyre Clere & Michael McIntyre

Description: This groundbreaking film reveals the truth surrounding Australia's love-hate relationship Kangaroo unpacks a national paradigm where the relationship with kangaroos is examined.

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**Title: Samantha's Amazing Acrocats**

Directed by: Jacob Feiring

Description: A midlife crisis sparks forty-two year-old Samantha Martin to quit her day job and follow her dream of creating the world's first traveling cat circus, The Amazing Acrocats. In a broken down RV brimming with kitty litter, sparkling sets, and a full cast of high maintenance circus cat, Martin visits cities small and large to build circus buzz, in hopes of achieving stardom.

**Title: Rodents of Unusual Size**

Directed by: Chris Metzler

Description: Meet fisherman turned bounty hunter Thomas Gonzales and a pack of colorful diehards as they defend their land, and way of life against the unforgiving forces of nature. It is man vs. rodent. May the best mammal win.

TRUE CRIME/HEALTH AND WELLNESS

**THURSDAY 12TH JULY 2018**

**Doors Open at 6.30pm, Starts at 7pm**

**Venue: 23 Meyers Pl, Melbourne VIC 3000, Australia**

**Title: Abducted in Plain Sight**

Directed by: Skye Borgman

Description: This story is told through re-creations and interviews with the FBI, Berchtold's brother and

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Jan's parents who make troubling, stunning and gut-wrenching revelations for the first time publicly. Abducted in Plain Sight reveals epic failures and untold personal dramas that point to the biggest tragedy of all – that the crimes could have been prevented.

**Title: 32 Pills**

Directed by: Hope Litoff

Description: She's beautiful, artistic, loved and can't stand to be alive. 32 PILLS traces the fascinating life and mental illness of a sister, New York artist and photographer Ruth Litoff, and my struggle to come to terms with her tragic suicide.

**Title: Out of My Head**

Directed by: Jacki Ochs

Description: When a filmmaker investigates the devastating migraines which have her daughter in their grip, she discovers migraine is not just the terrible headache she always thought it to be, but a mysterious, deeply stigmatized neurological disease afflicting nearly a billion people worldwide.

AUSTRALIAN ART DOCS

**FRIDAY 13TH JULY 2018**

**Doors Open at 6.30pm, Starts 7pm**

**Venue: 318 St Georges Rd, Fitzroy North VIC 3068, Australia**

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**Title: Life is Art**

Directed by: Oksana Sokol

Description: “Life is Art” is a homage to the creative principles of one of Russia’s most extraordinary contemporary artists, Anatol Brusilovsky - a collagist, an inventor and a lover of life.

**Title: Black Anzac – Directors Cut**

Directed by: Tim Anastasi

Description: A Documentary about Australian Artist Hego’s journey to tell an untold story of Australian history through a mural in the Indigenous heart of Sydney, of a WW1 Aboriginal soldier of colossal proportions and its positive impacts on the wider community.

**Title: Kings of Baxter**

Directed by: Jack Yabley and Claire Evans

Description: Kings of Baxter is an engaging, touching and at times funny, documentary following juvenile justice detainees as they create a production of Shakespeare’s Macbeth.

SOCIAL JUSTICE DOCS

**SATURDAY 14TH JULY 2018**

**Doors Open at 11.30am, Starts 12pm**

**Venue: Backlot Cinemas 65 Haig St,  
Southbank VIC 3006, Australia**

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**Title: Risking Light**

Directed by: Dawn Mikkelson

Description: From the streets of Minneapolis, the aboriginal lands of Australia, and the killing fields of Cambodia, three people with the courage to step out of a tragic dark past, risking everything to reach the light of their own compassion.

**Title: Crude Injustice**

Directed by: Jane Hammond

Description: A Crude Injustice focuses on the aftermath of Australia's biggest offshore oil disaster on the people of West Timor.

MELBOURNE STORIES #2

**SATURDAY 14TH JULY 2018**

Doors open at 2.45pm, Starts AT 3.15pm

Venue: Backlot Cinemas 65 Haig St, Southbank VIC 3006, Australia

**Title: Fish Out of Water**

Directed by: Israel Cannan

Description: The extraordinary story of two ordinary men from Mornington who set out to cross the North Atlantic Ocean - in a wooden row boat.



**Title: Bam Bam**

Directed by: Jemma van Loenen

Description: Two time Australian Flyweight champion, Bianca 'Bam Bam' Elmir aims to be the first Australian to win a World Amateur Boxing Championship. A Lebanese Muslim girl from suburban Australia, she smashes the stereotypes of her family, society and her sport, to prove she is the best in the world.

**Title: Finding the Line**

Directed by: Bjarne Salén

Description: Australian Olympian and X Games Slopestyle champion Anna Segal and her Freeride World Tour, big mountain skiing sister, Nat Segal, use their extreme skiing to understand fear and how it manifests in the two siblings' lives.

CLOSING NIGHT: ROCK DOCS

**SATURDAY 14TH JULY 2018**

**Doors Open at 6.30pm, Starts at 7pm**

**Venue: 65 Haig St, Southbank VIC 3006, Australia**

**Title: The Music Stops Here!**

Directed by: Adam Farkas

Description: When our cities develop, why is culture the first to go?

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Title: Turn It Up, Finding Sydney's Sound

Directed by: Samantha Holder & Nathan Richman

Description: So what does the live music scene in Sydney look like today, where do artists go to perform, or is the Sydney scene dead? We take a look at Sydney's sound then and now.

**Title: Swagger of Thieves**

Directed by: Julian Boshier

Description: Two bandmates struggle to place past addictions and sabotaged dreams behind them in their continuing quest for rock music relevance.

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TUESDAY 10TH JULY 2018 - 7PM - 10PM

SPORTS DOCS/AUSSIE SHORTS: New Island Home/Road to Sparta/  
Safe Spaces/Act of Translation/Antidote/You Look Fine/Picking

Venue: Loop Bar

23 Meyers Pl, Melbourne VIC 3000, Australia

WEDNESDAY 11TH JULY 2018 - 7PM - 10PM

ANIMAL DOCS: Acrocats/Rodents of Unusual Size/Kangaroo

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23 Meyers Pl, Melbourne VIC 3000, Australia

THURSDAY 12TH JULY 2018 - 7PM - 10PM

HEALTH AND WELLNESS/TRUE CRIME:

32 Pills/Forever B/Out of My Mind

Venue: Loop Bar

23 Meyers Pl, Melbourne VIC 3000, Australia

FRIDAY 13TH JULY 2018 - 7PM - 10PM

AUSTRALIAN STORIES: Life is Art/Black Anzac/Kings of Baxter

Venue: Longplay

318 St. Georges Rd., Fitzroy North VIC 3068, Australia

SATURDAY 14TH JULY 2018 - 12PM - 3PM

SOCIAL JUSTICE: Risking Light/A Crusade Injustice/Fish Out of  
Water/Finding the Lne/Bam Bam/Music Stops Here/Swagger of  
Thieves/Turn it Up Finding Sydney Sound

Venue: Backlot

65 Haig St., Southbank VIC 3006, Australia

FRIDAY 6TH JULY 2018 - 7-10PM

OPENING NIGHT: FILM BUFF

I am Famous/Anjelica Houston/FilmWorker

Venue: Cinema Nova

380 Lygon St., Carlton VIC 3053, Australia

SATURDAY 7TH JULY 2018 - 12PM - 3PM

MELBOURNE STORIES #1

Big in Japan / War Mothers Masterclass

GEOPOLITICS: Disaster Capitalism/Dream Empire/Brexitannia

BACK TO THE 80'S: George Michael/Grace Jones

Venue: Music and Effects

1 Yarra St., South Yarra VIC 3141, Australia

SUNDAY 8TH JULY 2018 - 12PM - 3PM

SHORT SESSION 1

SHORT SESSION 2

EDM: Decks in The City/French Waves/Italo Disco

Venue: Howler

7-11 Dawson St., Brunswck VIC 3056, Australia

MONDAY 9TH JULY 2018 - 7PM - 10PM

VIDEO GAME: Living the Game/Touching Sound/Squee

Venue: Loop Bar

23 Meyers Pl, Melbourne VIC 3000, Australia

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