



Hutchinson
Legal

Property
Market

Electronic
Grants

Let's Melbourne
Again!

SUMMER 2020

Insight

The property market in the midst of COVID-19

From the beginning of lockdown in Victoria, it was apparent that the property market was about to enter into an extended winter hibernation. Rules governing house inspections, on-site auctions and even pre-settlement inspections became extremely strict, with many vendors turning to videos and 3D tours to gain the competitive edge over the quiet, stagnated market. Domain even described the Melbourne property market in this particular lockdown period as being “frozen”.

Yet with the warm breeze of spring, Victoria's lockdown restrictions began to ease. We have now seen the return of in-person inspections, pre-settlement inspections, and even on-site auctions; a sight many thought may never be seen again before the end of 2020. Agents, vendors and purchasers alike have all adapted to the new COVID-normal way of buying and selling property.

Furthermore, with many Melbournians seeking to make their long-awaited tree change to the country, regional Victoria is experiencing a property boom. Regional towns like Mildura and Horsham in particular have enjoyed strong property sales, despite the COVID-19 pandemic this year.

With more Victorians realising that working from home is of paramount importance, there has also been a greater demand for properties with home offices, or spare bedrooms able to be converted into a practical office space.

Confidence in the market has certainly increased in recent months, and with our new, perhaps slower-paced way of life, we may indeed see a continual growth in regional property markets. One thing is for certain, with all the time that we have spent at home, and with summer looming ever closer, it is the perfect opportunity to finish those home improvement projects and enjoy long-awaited gatherings with family and friends.

“Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.”

WILLIAM ARTHUR WARD

FAST FACTS

3 mill. tonne

The amount of canola produced on average in Australia every year

35ml/7 tsp

The ideal amount of sunscreen to apply. That is one teaspoon for every limb, one for your front, one for your back, and one for your head!

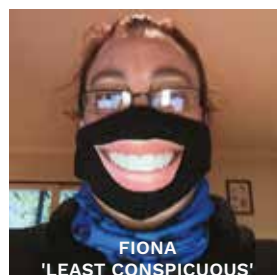
50.7°C

The hottest Victorian temperature ever recorded, was reached in Mildura in 1906

Facemask Competition

Hutchinson Legal and its sister company, Your Lawyer, enthusiastically took part in an in-house facemask competition.

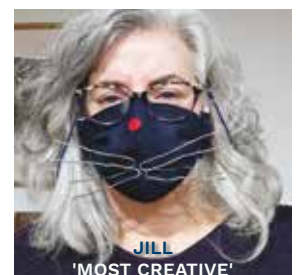
While the entries were many and varied, there could only be one winner per category and the winners were:



FIONA
'LEAST CONSPICUOUS'



JOSH
'MOST FASHIONABLE'



JILL
'MOST CREATIVE'

Brave new world of electronic Grants

From paper trails to paper-lite in the Probate process

Probate is the authority given by the Supreme Court of Victoria to an Executor, to administer a deceased estate. If you have been named as the Executor of an estate in a Will and wish to begin distributing the assets of the estate, you will normally need to apply for Probate.

Probate applications historically involved the physical attendance at the Probate Office in the Supreme Court of Victoria, whereby the original signed documents required for an application were handed to the Probate Clerk and a physical Grant of Representation was provided to the Executors, after the application had been processed.

On 1 July 2020, the Supreme Court of Victoria moved towards paper-lite with the introduction of 'RedCrest Probate', an electronic system for applications to be filed. This change meant that all documents are filed online, and instead of providing a physical Grant of Representation, the Supreme Court of Victoria now issues electronic records of the Grant.

Nonetheless, the administration of the estate has not changed. Executors are still tasked with an important duty to ensure that the estate is administered according to the Will.

Handling the deceased estate of a family member or friend can be a difficult task. The Hutchinson Legal team know precisely all of the documentation required to lodge an application for a Grant of Probate and can also assist you in the entire process of administering the estate.



Here comes the sun!

How wonderful to be experiencing warmer days as we head towards summer! Victoria is beginning to see restrictions ease, cafes and restaurants are starting to allow patrons to eat-in, and playgrounds are dense with happy children freely playing again. Although our team at Hutchinson Legal has continued to work during this season at home, we are excited to begin the transition back to working at our offices and we look forward to opening our doors again soon!

Client FUNction update

Due to current restrictions, we won't be having our Client FUNction this November. We are looking forward to gathering for a fun event sometime in early 2021.

LET'S MELBOURNE AGAIN

We have loved the initiative of a large group of brands, organisations and institutions, who have come up with this fabulous creative idea. You can check out the film they have put together on their website and download the toolkit to show your support in helping our great City come alive again after the long COVID-19 lockdowns.

<https://letsmelbourneagain.com/>

Follow us on social media



Merry Christmas

"[She] will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").
Matthew 1:23



This year has been immensely challenging, especially as family members were separated for long periods of time. We are also aware that for many, Christmas will be spent away from loved ones who may have health challenges or be unable to travel due to restrictions. We look forward to restrictions continuing to ease and many families being reunited! From all of us here at Hutchinson Legal, we hope you have a peaceful Christmas and New Years', whether it be with a Zoom call open beside your Christmas turkey, or meeting with loved ones in a local park. May you experience the arrival of hope as we bring 2020 to a close and enter a fresh new year.



PER GRANT HUTCHINSON, CON NOTTAS, JASON LAU, SHANI COMBEN & MADELAINE PELSNER

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