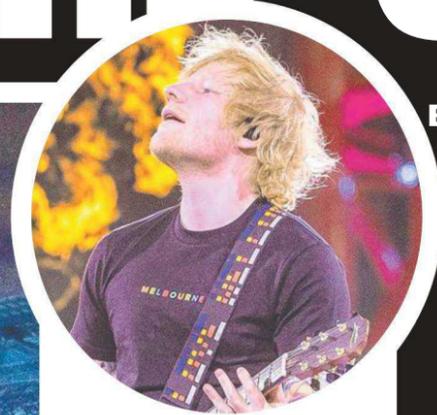
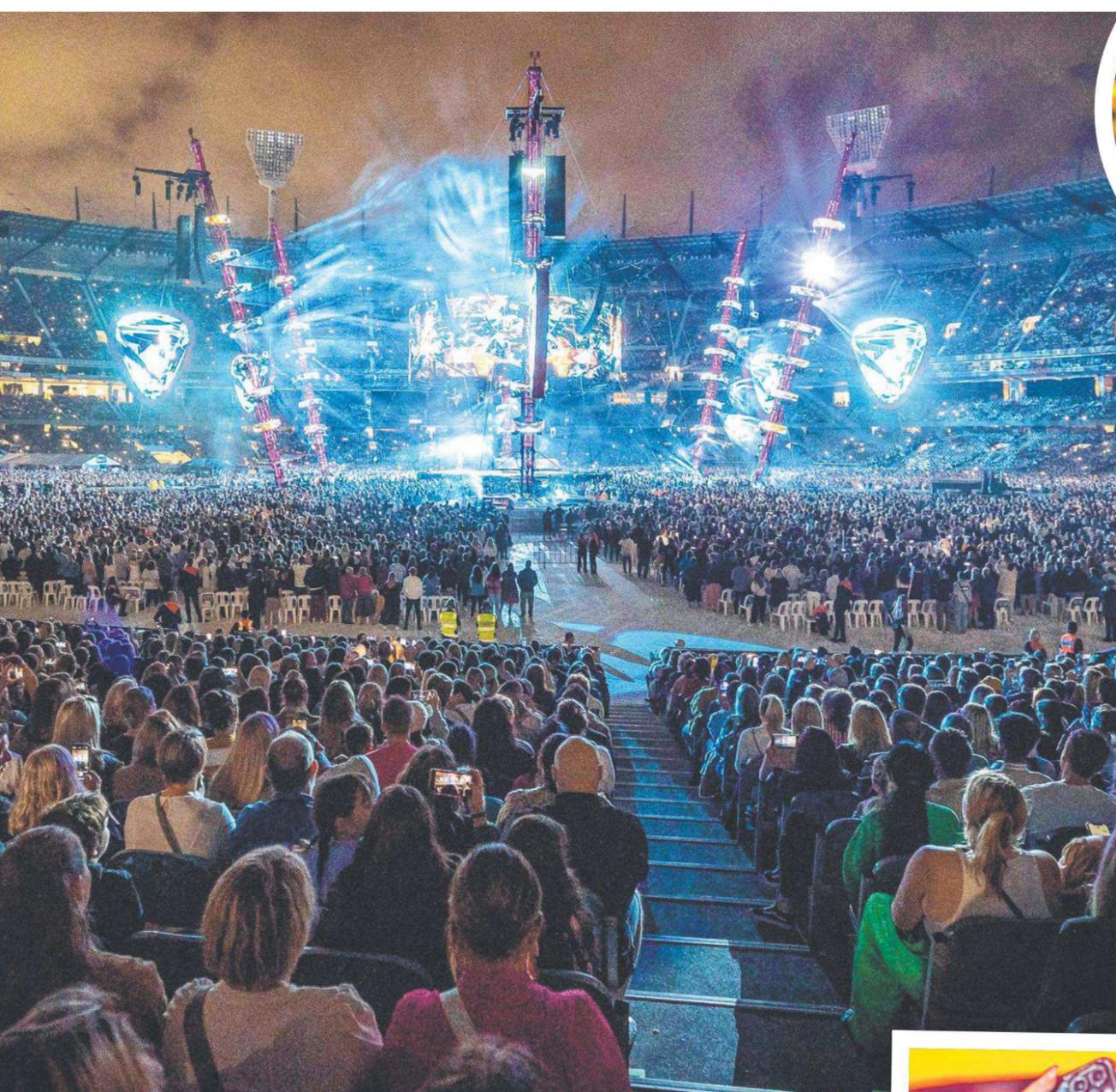


NIGHT AT THE 'G



Ticket tech fails fans

GRACE BALDWIN

LAST night's Ed Sheeran concert was struck by a ticketing disaster.

Thousands of people were left stranded outside the MCG after Ticketek systems failed and did not recognise online tickets.

The only ticket gate open and working was in the MCC stand, where swarms of people were forced to queue for paper tickets.

The Ticketek app was also reportedly glitching, stopping people from accessing their tickets and having proof of purchase. Many shared their grievances online, with one woman posting a picture of her online ticket reading "this ticket is no longer active".

Widespread calls were made for Ticketek to fix their app and web page to let people inside.

MCG CROWDS BY THE NUMBERS

BILLY GRAHAM CRUSADE

130,000 (1959)

CARLTON V COLLINGWOOD VFL GRAND FINAL

121,696 (1970)

EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS

120,000 (1973)

ED SHEERAN

107,000* (MARCH 3, 2023)

ED SHEERAN

105,000* (MARCH 2, 2023)

EMINEM

80,708 (2019)

SOUND RELIEF

80,518 (2009)

BILLY JOEL

76,339 (2022)

GUNS N' ROSES

73,756 (2017)

BIGGEST CROWD OUTSIDE MCG

THE SEEKERS'

Sidney Myer Music Bowl

200,000

(1967)

* EXPECTED CROWD AT MCG LAST NIGHT AND TONIGHT

a salute to the late music boss.

"The reason I'm here, and in the middle of the MCG is because of an idea (Gudinski) thought of, eight years ago. I really wish he was here to see this tonight," Sheeran said.

He dedicated Visiting Hours to Gudinski's wife Sue, son Matt and daughter Kate.

He also performed the Hunters And Collectors classic Throw Your Arms Around Me as a tribute to Gudinski's Mushroom Records label.

With 105,000 fan packed into the MCG on Thursday, Sheeran's show broke the Australian record for the most tickets sold to a single concert. He will smash his own record on Friday, when

107,000 people file through the gates.

Mushroom Group chief executive Matt Gudinski said it was "very sad to ... achieve this (concert attendance) record without my dad here."

Gudinski said Sheeran's latest tour was "the biggest production to ever visit Australia".

The massive tour set-up includes a circular video screen over a revolving stage.

The 360-degree platform is topped with a halo, which holds lighting, pyro and fireworks, which began blasting into the sky from the get-go.

Sheeran's world tour, titled Mathematics, is sensory overload multiplied.

Yet, for all the show's bells, whistles and wow factor, Sheeran is essentially a busker: a singer-songwriter-everyman with a guitar, loop pedals and a barrage of hits.

He played every classic including Bad Habits, Perfect, The A Team, Shivers, and many more.

But in many ways, the sweetest music was the realisation of Michael Gudinski's MCG dream for Sheeran, and the British superstar hitting 105,000 punters for six with a spectacular show on Warnie's home ground.

It was a definitive Melbourne moment.

Sheeran plays at the MCG again tonight.



More towers 'not the solution'

MELBOURNE needs good quality medium density development in established suburbs and not towers going up "willy nilly" to cope with population growth, says a state planner.

Infrastructure Victoria chief executive Jonathan Spear said there was a need to increase housing density in such areas with good infrastructure to complement the needs of fringe areas which were still catching up. Mr Spear said a re-

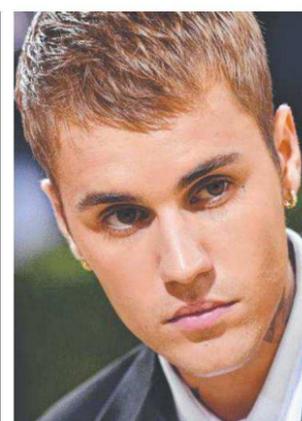
port released by Committee for Melbourne confirmed Melbourne was a "tale of two cities" in terms of residents' access to infrastructure and services.

He said better bus services were needed across the city, and more apartment developments of 3-4 storeys in established areas. "What we're not talking about is towers going up 'willy nilly'," he said.

"It's about medium density development in places that are

well located especially with existing infrastructure."

Lord Mayor Sally Capp told Thursday's Melbourne Summit the city supported better transport links and other efforts to make the city more accessible. "But we believe the most efficient solution is to have more people living within inner Melbourne close to existing public transport, health, education and work opportunities," she said.



Justin Bieber

Bieber gigs cancelled

NEW YORK: Following the announcement of his indefinite touring hiatus, Justin Bieber's tour dates appear ultimately to be scrapped, with fan sites and ticketing outlets reporting cancellations.

All of his concerts, including in the US, Ireland and France, are marked as cancelled on TicketMaster's website.

Neither Bieber, 29, nor his representatives have provided reasons for the cancellations.

The superstar announced he was taking a break from performing last year, saying he'd been diagnosed with a rare complication of shingles that for him caused partial facial paralysis.

"I need to make my health the priority right now," he said at the time. "I'm going to be OK, but I need time to rest. I've been so proud to bring this show and our message of justice to the world."