



EPISODE 3: THE FALLOUT

A family's grief remains at the heart of the mystery – but the fallout of the fatal meal stretches far beyond Leongatha and Korumburra.

Available to listen now



EPISODE 4: THE SURVIVORS

Erin Patterson is also facing several attempted murder charges after one of the lunch attendees miraculously recovered, while her estranged husband also fell ill on several occasions.

Coming soon



EPISODE 5: THE FUTURE

Erin Patterson has engaged top criminal silk Philip Dunn KC as she prepares to return to court. He's one of many key players working behind the scenes on the case that gripped the world.

Coming soon

Experts call for better bus use

Solution to congestion

Laura Placella

Melbourne must transform its bus network and give way to "gentle density" if it wants to start addressing the city's connectivity and housing challenges, experts say.

The annual Benchmarking Melbourne report, which assesses Greater Melbourne against 19 "peer cities", found it was at risk of losing its status as one of the best places in the world to live if it did not tackle these pressing issues.

According to the report, which was released last week, Melbourne fell from 13th to 14th for connectivity, when assessed against its peer cities, including London and Singapore.

Less than half of Melburnians live close to public transport that runs frequently, with the city ranking in the bottom half for access to bus stops (11th) and rail stops (14th).

Mark Melvin, chief executive of prominent advocacy group Committee for Melbourne, which commissioned the report, said less than 2 per cent of all public transport journeys across Melbourne were made on a bus.

"It's an under-utilised resource that Melbourne can tap into immediately," he said.

He added that analysis revealed a reformed bus network could take 100 million private vehicle trips annually off Melbourne's road network by 2030.

Tim Moonen, managing director of urban intelligence firm The Business of Cities, which authored the report, said Melbourne needed to look at implementing "bus rapid transit" or busways.

The term describes an advanced system of high-capacity buses, which rely on bus-only lanes, elevated platforms and sheltered stations, leading to faster and most frequent services.

"It will get you from A to B much quicker than a car," he said.

Jonathan Spear, chief executive of independent advisory body Infrastructure Victoria, agreed the "most obvious" way Melbourne could improve its connectivity was through its buses.

"In the growth areas of our

city, where we don't currently have much public transport connectivity, there is a real opportunity to deliver bus services," he said.

"And in the established suburbs, we've got buses that aren't actually very frequent or very direct, so there's a real opportunity to ... reconfigure the buses that we already have."

He said according to Infrastructure Victoria's expert modelling, overhauling the bus network would give Melbourne "much better connectivity all over the city".

The Eastern Busway from Doncaster towards the city will be Melbourne's first when it opens in 2028, but Infrastructure Victoria believes up to 10 busways could be rolled out across the city.

Mr Moonen and Mr Spear both spoke at a Committee for Melbourne summit last week where leaders discussed Melbourne's future off the back of the report, which also flagged housing as a "big concern".

The summit heard that Melbourne needed to move forward with "gentle density" after years of defaulting to suburban sprawl.

"Gentle density is about in the places that are sensible to do so ... creating one or two or three floors above the existing scale that exists currently or subdividing and creating a little bit more on existing blocks," Mr Moonen said.

By making Melbourne a more compact city, the summit heard it would improve the quality of life for residents, who were more likely to live closer to their work and spend less time behind the wheel on congested roads.

"You can, I think, create a version of the city you have now that is much more livable," Mr Moonen said.

The report concluded that the city needed a "clear growth model" and to plan the "appropriate cycles of infrastructure investment to accommodate it".

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Deathcap (Amanita phalloides) observations map. The map shows several locations where death caps were spotted, including Loch VIC 3945, Aus... on Apr 18, 2023, and Outtrim on May 21, 2023. The interface includes a search bar with 'Deathcap' entered, a 'Go' button, and statistics: 7,163 OBSERVATIONS, 1 SPECIES, 1,107 IDENTIFIERS, and 3,740 OBSERVERS. A list of observations is shown on the right, including details like 'Verudela, Pula, Hr...' on Dec 7, 2023, and '12h', '2d', '3d' durations.

According to a fungi map created by a respected mycologist, death caps were spotted in the town of Loch on April 18, 2023 and at Outtrim on May 21, 2023. Picture: iNaturalist

Dr Robertson said death cap mushrooms looked like most other mushrooms.

"It's not like it has the sort of red cap and spots on it that you might imagine from fairytales and in other types of mushrooms that do exist," he said.

"It's also not like mushrooms that you might get in the mid-

dle of a paddock, which might be the size of a small saucer.

"It's smaller than that, it's probably the size a bit bigger than a 50c coin, the top of it, the cap of it.

"They tend to associate with oak trees so they're symbiotic and they live primarily under oak trees."



THE MUSHROOM COOK

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