

# Melbourne Open House 2011 program to be launched 22 June at Former Land Titles office



an initiative of the Committee for Melbourne's Future Focus Group

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The 2011 Melbourne Open House program will be launched on 22 June at the Former Land Titles office in Queen St Melbourne.

After three successful years the free event will return on July 30 and 31 and the former Land Titles Office is one of many new buildings open over the weekend.

Melbourne Open House showcases Melbourne's unique architectural heritage and fosters an appreciation and understanding of the value of contemporary, historic and sustainable architecture and urban design. The program is brought to life by over 500 volunteers.

Spokesperson Robert Larocca said that the former Land Titles Office was in many ways a forgotten part of the cities extensive and exemplary 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings.

"The Land Titles Office was commenced in 1875 and finished in 1889 and is now used by Victoria University for a range of business programs.

"Melbourne Open House will give people the opportunity to see inside parts of this building that are normally closed to the public. A particular highlight will be the fire proof strong room. In this digital age it's a reminder of the importance to the cities development of securely storing physical documents.

"This year's program includes 75 buildings ranging from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> century and will be accompanied by a range of events, the speakers nights, Melbourne Bike share tours and the new soundwalking and Night light tours," Mr Larocca concluded.

The program can be pre ordered online and will be available from the 10th July from [www.melbourneopenhouse.org](http://www.melbourneopenhouse.org) and the metlink office at Melbourne Town Hall or the Information Centre at Fed Square.

Melbourne Open House is an initiative of the Committee for Melbourne and part of the 2011 *State of Design* Festival, which takes place between July 20 – 31.

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