

27. KCI Cafe – Flinders Lane somewhere

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According to acronymfinder.com there are 79 different meanings for the three letters in order that make up KCI Cafe's name. They range from *Kansas City International* (airport) to *Kaolinite Crystallinity Index* (something to do with clay) to *Kutnowskiego Centrum Informacyjnego* (which appears to be a Polish news...centrum). There is no mention of a brightly lit cafe on Flinders Lane in Melbourne, which leads me to believe that they've just pulled a bunch of letters out of a hat. Either that or they're a front for the *Knife Centre of the Internet* (it sounds cooler than it is). In any case, the cafe is pretty uninspired.

Waiting Area: There's a nice long bar stretching the length of the street side window; however it is removed from the take-away counter so no use to those of us waiting. Instead we're crammed in between poorly placed tables, a soft drink fridge and an ice-cream freezer.

Reading Material: Three copies of the Herald Sun were dotted on abandoned tables, with another pile of the same rag available with purchasable condiments.

Waiting time: 4:15.

Served In: Smooth cup advertising Melbourne Business School; sloping swimming pool lid and child's spout.

Coffee Quality: 7/10. Weak, with a background taste of charred marmalade. Perhaps someone's toast knife was used to stir a bit of hope into the brew. Fail.

Overall: 6.5/10. Not that quick service excuses poor coffee, but slow service certainly doesn't turn the wrong into a right either. The whole place feels as though it needs a jolt. Perhaps they should borrow some of the electricity being burnt on the tawdry neon sign in the window and the zealous lights in the ceiling, and give the staff a zap.

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