

The voice of Southbank, South Wharf & Montague

SOUTHBANK Local NEWS

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Push for an historic proposal

Federal Senator Derryn Hinch and the Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) have called on the Federal and State Governments to support a proposal that would breathe life back into the historic Repatriation Clinic on St Kilda Rd. Read more on page 3.



Left to right: Southbank Residents' Association president Tony Penna, Australian National Veterans Arts Museum (ANVAM) chairman and director Mark Johnston, Federal Senator Derryn Hinch, veteran Gordon Traill and Australian Art Deco and Modernism Society president Robin Grow outside the Repatriation Clinic building this month.

Fishermans Bend vision revealed

By Sean Car

Sustainable integrated transport and tougher planning controls are at the heart of the State Government's latest framework for Southbank's future neighbour Fishermans Bend.

While the State Government is yet to establish governance or funding models for the urban renewal project, the new framework provides a level of certainty for both developers and community.

Minister for Planning Richard Wynne and Member for Albert Park Martin Foley announced the much-anticipated release of the draft Fishermans Bend Framework on October 21.

Developed by the Fishermans Bend Taskforce and the Fishermans Bend Ministerial Advisory Committee (MAC),

the framework maps out the bold vision for Australia's largest urban renewal project.

Comprising five distinct precincts of Montague, Sandridge, Lorimer, Wirraway and an Employment Precinct, the renewed framework is underpinned by a desire for a connected and sustainable community.

Guiding this vision is the implementation of new density controls for all new developments, which have been introduced to manage the area's population and employment targets (80,000 people and 80,000 jobs by 2050).

Buildings in each of the four residential precincts will now be subject to defined floor area ratio (FAR) controls which will ultimately determine a new floor area uplift (FAU) scheme for developers wishing to build higher.

Fishermans Bend taskforce member and urban planning expert Leanne Hodyl said the density controls worked in parallel with height controls to guide how much yield a developer could build on its site.

Mandatory height controls of four levels will apply within interface zones along

Williamstown Rd, while discretionary height limits ranging between four and 24 storeys will apply elsewhere.

Located on either side of the West Gate Freeway, Sandridge and Lorimer will see the most high-rise development with unlimited height controls placed in sites located closer to the freeway.

Fishermans Bend MAC member Helen Halliday told *Southbank Local News* that the FAR and FAU schemes had been aligned to

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Fishermans Bend vision revealed

Continued from page 1.

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deliver key strategic priorities for community including affordable housing and open space.

“The density in any case is about half of what CBD plot ratios are and it’s specifically targeted where there needs to be an uplift, which targets certain key social outcomes such as affordable housing,” she said.

“There’s a progression into high density towards the freeway, which has also been modeled to ensure that no new or existing open space will be overshadowed.”

Despite lowering density controls in Montague, Montague Community Alliance convener Trisha Avery said the vision’s height controls still ignored the needs of current residents and businesses in the precinct.

“Those residents with small foot prints and small business owners living in Montague still feel completely excluded from these plans,” she said. “Nowhere does the framework plan acknowledge the current residents or their needs and amenity.”

“When will we get official acknowledgement that the Montague Precinct has a residential community already? To renege on a height limit i.e. from four to eight storeys is serious to us and we are both disappointed and somewhat bewildered as to how we have been ignored.”

“I look towards further discussions with those who can influence, but as the saying goes ... we are not holding our breath.”

Beyond development, the framework also clearly identifies sites for proposed community facilities including open space, new schools as well as sports, arts and recreation hubs.

Montague looks set to receive another new park behind South Wharf, as well as an

arts and cultural hub on Buckhurst St and Thistlethwaite St under the plans.

Mapping a clear plan for public transport has also been crucial to delivering the framework, which includes plans for new tram and rail networks connecting Fishermans Bend to Docklands and the CBD.

Despite Planning Minister Richard Wynne ruling out the previous government’s proposed tram bridge through Yarra’s Edge at the last election, the framework includes plans for a new tram bridge.

While the design of the bridge is still subject to consultation, the government’s plan now sees a longer bridge connecting Collins St to Hartley St, avoiding Point Park in Yarra’s Edge.

MAC chair Meredith Sussex said that the increased length of the new bridge would lead to a higher trajectory, meaning the impact on the marina would be limited.

Metro 2 underground rail is also identified as a catalyst project in the framework, which would see a train network run through Sandridge and the Employment Precinct and continue on to Werribee.

With the government’s proposal to expand Webb Dock, the framework also sees the return of the controversial proposal for a freight bridge connecting Fishermans Bend with the Port of Melbourne.

The framework also includes extensive plans for road networks and new cycling infrastructure, including a proposed cycling and footbridge aligned with the Bolte Bridge.

The draft framework has been released for public consultation until December 15. To view the framework or for more information on how to participate visit fishermansbend.vic.gov.au

Were they conflicted?

The spectre of councillor conflict reappeared at the Future Melbourne Committee in October.

The motion before councillors on October 17 was a planning matter concerning poker machines (see our story on page 7).

At the last council election, Team Doyle councillors accepted \$50,500 from the Australian Hotels Association as well as \$10,000 from Crown director Harold Mitchell.

Team Doyle councillors Robert Doyle, Arron Wood, Nicholas Reece, Susan Riley, Tessa Sullivan and Kevin Louey chose to remain the committee room for the agenda item.

In answer to a question about potential conflict from *Southbank Local News*, Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said: “We sought advice on that, for that very reason (accepting campaign donations), and the advice to us from governance was, unless there was a direct submission, from one of those direct donors, then there was no conflict.”

The Local Government Act says councillors should excuse themselves if their donor has a direct interest in a matter subject to the decision.

There are exceptions if the “interest is so remote or insignificant that a reasonable person would not consider the interest capable of influencing the decision”.

Loss of quorum has plagued Team Doyle councillors over the past nine years.

Most recently, the team excused itself from participating in a debate over heritage protection in Southbank because of the link between Mr Mitchell’s role as a director of Crown and the fact that Crown owns property in the area.






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Local push for an historic proposal

Continued from page 1.

The Australian National Veterans Arts Museum (ANVAM) group has developed a proposal to repurpose the historic building into a cultural institution for veterans and the local community.

The former clinic at Victoria Barracks has sat idle for 20 years and the group's proposal, which includes plans for a gallery, artist studios and a cafe, aims to honour the building's legacy by supporting veterans through art.

While the proposal has widespread support, the Federal and State Governments are currently locked in ongoing negotiations over transferring ownership of the site.

Currently owned by the Department of Defence, it has been the subject of protracted negotiations for more than two years with the Federal Government attempting to offload it to the state in 2015. To date, the State Government is yet to provide an indication as to whether it plans to take ownership of the site.

With the building set to turn 80 on November 15, ANVAM chairman and director Mark Johnston said now was the time for both levels of government to resolve the issue.

"With the 80th anniversary of the opening of the former Repatriation Clinic there is no better time for governments of all persuasions to put on the table what they are able to contribute to ensure the right outcome for memory of veterans past and wellbeing of veterans present," he said.

"This site is too important to veterans, Melbourne and Australia to sit empty while a practical investment in veterans and the arts is waiting for the go ahead."

"More importantly, many veterans and families are suffering unnecessarily and innovative solutions to the crisis of mental health are required now. The mere act of handing control of the former Repatriation Clinic to ANVAM will send a wave of hope



Tony Penna, Mark Johnston, Derryn Hinch, Gordon Trill and Robin Grow at the clinic on November 3.

through much of the veteran community."

Having received more than 13,000 signatures in an online petition in support of its proposal, ANVAM was joined by Senator Hinch and SRA president and veteran Tony Penna on November 3 to pressure both levels of government.

Senator Hinch told *Southbank Local News* he had put pressure on Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and his government to take ownership for the building.

"After federal Labor had expressed interest in it suddenly at the start of this year, it was put on the market and the government announced plans to sell it by the end of 2017," he said. "I helped to make sure it was taken off the market."

"It's the perfect spot and it's a building with so much history as a rehab hospital. It's near the Arts Precinct and it's all about art and you can walk to the Shrine. It's just like it was made for it."

"I made this one of my major projects for my first term was I want to get on with it."

In a recent letter addressed to Federal Senator James Paterson, National Minister for Veterans Affairs Dan Tehan said the building was surplus to Defence and Commonwealth requirements.

"In February 2017, the Victorian Government expressed a renewed interest in acquiring the property through an off-market sale process, after declining Defence's initial approach in 2015," he wrote.

"The Victorian Government has advised Defence that it expects to be in a position to make a formal offer for the site in early 2018."

However, Member for Albert Park and Minister for the Creative Industries Martin Foley told *Southbank Local News* his government had not made any commitment to the building as it awaited further details about its condition.

"In very preliminary discussions the state is awaiting details from the commonwealth/defence forces about the clean up (asbestos and other material on site) before we would even consider its use in a planning sense let alone creative sense," he said.

"Even more fundamentally we believe that if it is to be a genuinely national facility reflecting the work and service of our armed forces it needs to have a national focus."

"The state can't bring that. Only the commonwealth and the deuces forces can do that - especially if it is to have as I understand a overlay of support and recovery from trauma for our service personnel."

"As that is clearly a responsibility of the commonwealth we stand ready to work with the commonwealth to facilitate their clean up of the site, resolution of its purpose and the delivery of the exciting ideas around a veterans museum."

Constructed in 1937, the clinic was important for the rehabilitation of veterans and provided a wide range of services to support injured soldiers with recovery and reintegration into civilian life.

Heritage Victoria completed a heritage review of the building this year, providing a recommendation to the Heritage Council pending the property's transfer to State jurisdiction.

To add your name to the petition and show your support for ANVAM's proposal visit anvam.org.au



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“An unmitigated disaster”

Member for Albert Park Martin Foley has provided an honest assessment of his government’s decision this year to grant Crown an approval for its controversial Queensbridge Tower proposal.

Speaking at the Southbank Residents’ Association annual general meeting (AGM) at the Boyd Community Hub on October 11, Minister Foley described the decision as “bad planning” in his address to residents.

Premier Daniel Andrews granted Crown an approval for its controversial mega tower as a project of state significance in March, as it was exempted from the normal planning process.

The government gifted Crown an approval in exchange for a claimed \$100 million “public benefits package”, which included a range of public realm improvements and a sky deck on the building’s top floor.

Minister Foley described the decision as an “unmitigated disaster” and intimated his disappointment at the outcome of the State Cabinet’s decision-making process.

“In that collective decision making sometimes you win and sometimes you don’t,” he said.

“In terms of the process that I went through for all the commitments that I’ve made both to the party and the community that I represent, and there’s historically always tensions with those two, ultimately it’s not me that judges that it’s the 45,000 people who determine my fate every four years.”



Member for Albert Park Martin Foley addresses residents at the SRA’s AGM on October 11.

Freshwater Place owners’ corporation (OC) chair Peter Renner, who has led the chorus of locals calling on State Parliament to refer the matter to a State Planning Tribunal, also addressed Mr Foley at the AGM.

Mr Renner asked the local member whether it was too late for his government to improve a number of controversial elements of the project, to which he responded:

“I think the opportunity to essentially deliver a project in a bad frame that is less bad is not an unrealistic one given, to call a spade a shovel, things like the air bridge and the relationship to the community benefit arguments are particularly irreconcilable issues,” he said.

“Fundamentally it was a bad planning process that led to a bad planning outcome.”

Sunday Streets

The Boyd Community Hub will host a Sunday Streets event in Kavanagh Street for local residents on November 12.

Inspired by the global Sunday Streets initiative, which originally started in Colombia, the City of Melbourne will partner with local community groups to close a section of Kavanagh St for a day of fun and activities.

The Southbank Residents’ Association, Southbank Rotary, Melbourne City Southbank Lions Club and the Melbourne Men’s Shed are among some local stakeholders to be invited to help stage a number of activities including games, crafts, food and more.

The initiative is aimed at encouraging locals to come out and meet their neighbours and will take place outside the Epic apartment complex on Kavanagh St.

For more information visit participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/sundaystreets

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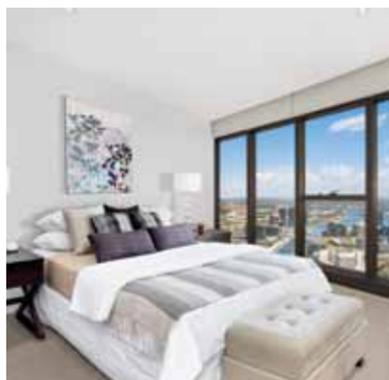
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Joe Bagnara is presented with a lifetime membership by Southbank Residents' Association president Tony Penna.

Joe Bagnara honoured

Former Southbank Residents' Group (SRG) president Joe Bagnara was honoured with a lifetime membership at the AGM.

A longtime resident and passionate member of the Southbank community, Mr Bagnara has been involved with the organisation since its establishment in 1998 and served as the group's president for several years up until 2012.

Current SRA president Tony Penna presented Mr Bagnara with an honorary plaque as members paid their respects to his contribution to the Southbank community over many years

Mr Bagnara said he felt honoured to be

acknowledged for his efforts, and said his proudest legacy was achieving planning protection against high-rise developments in Southbank Village.

Tony Penna remains president following the AGM, while Tracey Allen and Samantha Rae step down as secretary and treasurer respectively. The association will announce its new committee at its next general meeting.

southbankresidents.org.au

Lord Mayor supports Southbank Primary

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle and councillors have thrown their support behind the Southbank Residents' Association's (SRA) campaign to name the new primary school on Ferrars St Southbank Primary School.

In a letter addressed to Deputy Premier and Minister for Education James Merlino on October 27, the Lord Mayor called on Mr Merlino to consider naming the school Southbank Primary School.

"The school falls within the Southbank boundary and it is anticipated that perhaps up to 80 per cent of enrolments would come from Southbank," he wrote.

"We would respectfully request that you consider naming the school Southbank Primary School."

"We understand that Ferrars St is not within the boundaries of the City of Melbourne but the Southbank Residents' Association has asked for the council's lobbying to help with the naming of the school as Southbank Primary School."

This latest push from the Lord Mayor comes after the State Government announced to *Southbank Local News* last month that it had already decided to name the school South Melbourne Primary.

As reported in the October edition of

Southbank Local News, the Department of Education and Training (DET) had submitted a formal request to the City of Port Phillip to change the suburban boundaries to include the school in the South Melbourne locality. This request was only to be withdrawn following enquiries by *Southbank Local News*.

The school's current interim name, South Melbourne Ferrars St Primary School, is inconsistent with the DET's policy on naming schools. An official name should only be formalised following consultation and workshops with the community.

Many others in the community, including Fishermans Bend Ministerial Advisory Committee chair Meredith Sussex, say the school should be named after Montague.

However, despite the Lord Mayor and councillors' recent letter, a spokesperson for Minister Merlino told *Southbank Local News* that the DET's position on the school's name hadn't changed and that it wouldn't be consulting the community.



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Councils act on oBikes

By Sunny Liu

The Cities of Melbourne, Yarra and Port Phillip have signed an agreement with bike share company oBike to regulate the clutter of dockless bikes scattered around Melbourne.

Since its launch in July, oBike has created problems with its dockless feature. OBikes have been found dumped in the Yarra River, thrown up on trees and at other inappropriate locations and blocking footpaths and roads.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said in August he had come to the end of his tether with oBikes.

“When you pay your 70 bucks, they couldn’t care less. And they’ll just leave them anywhere and you can leave them anywhere,” he said.

In September the City of Melbourne impounded some oBikes for creating “urban clutter”.

The three city councils signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with oBike on October 17, specifying guidelines for the Singaporean operator to better manage its yellow bikes to improve public safety and amenity. Under the MOU, oBike has agreed to ensure things such as:

- oBikes do not obstruct footpath access;
- oBikes are parked upright;
- oBikes are not parked on steps, ramps or

other areas for the vision impaired;

- oBikes are parked away from roadside kerbs and are not parked on traffic islands or against trees, buildings, light poles or street furniture;
- Damaged oBikes must be removed from service and the public realm within 24 hours; and
- Dangerously-placed oBikes are relocated within two hours and inappropriately placed oBikes are relocated within 48 hours.

Council officers are able to confiscate oBikes if the operator does not comply with the agreed responsibilities.

OBike will need to pay \$50 for each bike that has been impounded for more than 14 days. Bikes not claimed within 14 days will be recycled. The three councils will also seek similar MOUs with new dockless bike share companies that have indicated they would launch in Melbourne in the coming months. The public is encouraged to report issues directly to oBike.

City of Melbourne transport portfolio chair Nicholas Frances Gilley said: “The signing



An oBike captured in the Yarra River last month next to Queensbridge Square.

Photo: Chelsea Cucinotta.

of the MOU is a step in the right direction for sustainable transport options like oBike and a safer, clutter-free environment for bike users and pedestrians. It means oBike and

the three municipal councils are on the same page when it comes to expectations, roles and responsibilities.”

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Positive Living in Southbank

Did you know that the head office of Living Positive Victoria, a not-for-profit organisation focused on helping improve the lives of Victorians living with HIV/AIDS, is based in here in Southbank?

The organisation has worked out of its current headquarters on Coventry St for the past six years and next year, it will celebrate 30 years of helping Victorians affected by the virus.

Originally established as a project of the Victorian AIDS Council, Living Positive Victoria has been committed to advancing health, wellbeing and the human rights of all people living with HIV in Victoria since 1988.

Acting CEO Suzy Malhotra told *Southbank Local News* that, while the Victorian Aids Council had always been concerned with preventing the spread of the virus, Living Positive Victoria had always helping people who have been diagnosed.

“Not everyone has access to information about the best medications out there and not everyone has access to learning skills to challenge the stigma and discrimination that people with HIV were facing,” she said.

“What’s key to know about the organisation is that we’re very much invested in building the capacity and resilience of people living with HIV so they become drivers of their own lives.”

According to Suzy, around 6500 Victorians currently live with HIV, which is part of an estimated 25,000 people across Australia living with the epidemic, first discovered in the 1980s.

However, while original HIV medications were considered ineffective and often harmful to patients, Suzy said that prognosis for patients these days was far more positive due to breakthroughs in a new class of treatments.

The organisation provides a range of workshops, peer support and activities that increase the mental, emotional and social wellbeing of those living with, or affected by HIV.

While largely supported by the Department of Health, the organisation’s work is also made possible by a mixture of philanthropic support.

Last month it received a share in close to \$155,000 through pharmaceutical company ViiV Healthcare’s grants program, for a



Acting CEO of Living Positive Victoria Suzy Malhotra (right) with outgoing president Richard Keane.

project involving HIV peer-liaison in general practice clinics to support retention in care for people newly diagnosed.

Suzy said the value of this type of support for all of its peer-led initiatives could not be understated.

“The lived and the shared experience of peers, as in workers who are living with HIV themselves, in this kind of workplace cannot be underestimated enough,” she said.

“There’s an empathy, there’s a commonality of a journey that’s shared or lived together and when you’ve got somebody who’s diagnosed absolutely scared asking what it all means it’s absolutely invaluable to have that support.”

Living Positive Victoria is one of the three major organisations in Victoria focused on the wellbeing of HIV patients, along with Positive Women Victoria and Straight Arrows

(heterosexuals with HIV), which last year completed a successful merge with Living Positive Victoria.

And interestingly enough, all three are based on Coventry St here in Southbank!

“All of us are located in this building,” Suzy said. “Our services are very diverse. It’s families, it’s children, it’s men, it’s women, it’s people of different multicultural backgrounds and it’s nice that we’ve got a one-stop shop here really.”

“The HIV sector is one of the few health sectors that has genuinely harmonious relationships between clinicians, pharmaceuticals, community organisations as well as individuals and the department of health that supports us,” she said.

To find out how you can get involved with the organisation or donate to its efforts visit livingpositivevictoria.org.au

Community given say on Kinder name

Port Phillip Council has invited the public to help name the new kindergarten on Ferrars St, Southbank.

Opening in 2018, the kindergarten will be located on the fifth floor of the new South Melbourne Ferrars St Primary School (interim name) in Southbank.

The public has four options to vote on for the new name, each of which is an indigenous term from the Boon Wurrung language that has been chosen after consultation with the Boon Wurrung Foundation.

The options are “bubup baany” (water babies), “barring djinang” (little footsteps), “bubup barrbunin” (happy children), and “gumbak wyeebo” (little fishes).

Acting Mayor Katherine Copsey said the four options for Council’s Ferrars Street Long Day Care Kindergarten (interim name) followed consultation with the Boon Wurrung Foundation.

“One of the key actions in Council’s Reconciliation Action Plan (2017-19) is to involve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the naming of Fishermans Bend roads, parks and buildings in the Boon Wurrung language,” Cr Copsey said.

The naming process by Port Phillip Council is in stark contrast to the state government’s actions in choosing a name for the primary school.

As reported exclusively in *Southbank Local News* last month, the government is attempting to name the school South Melbourne Primary School despite it being located in Southbank.

Community feedback for the kindergarten name closed on November 1. The name will be announced in the new year.

Parents can register their interest in the kindergarten by contacting council’s Children’s Services Waiting List on **9209 6360**.

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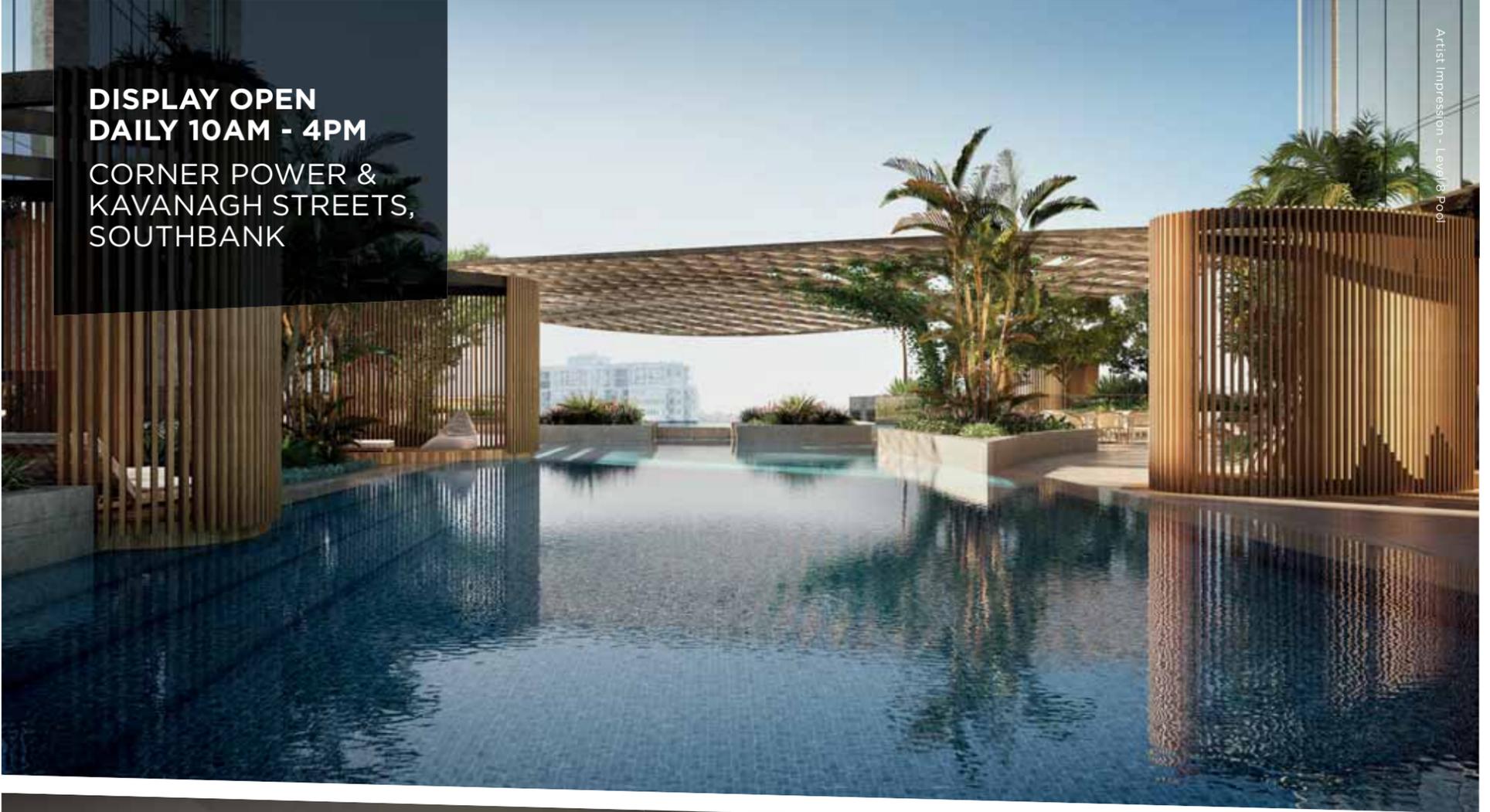
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Holmesglen welcomes Amnesty International

Holmesglen welcomed noted barrister Julian Burnside for the latest Amnesty International Human Rights Conference on October 19.

The event, held at the Institute's city campus in Southbank, and organised by community services students, saw Holmesglen continue its commitment to observing and developing key human rights discussions.

Mr Burnside was joined by fellow guests Abdi Aden, YGender president Kochava Lilit and Victorian Aboriginal Legal Services senior case manager Alistair McKeich.

"A positive about the conference was meeting up with well-known guest speakers like barrister Julian Burnside and refugee speaker Abdi Aden, who are both well-known in the community. The day was an amazing initial experience in the community services sector and has inspired us to do more," said student Windy Yabaki.

The day comprised three sessions, which included the key note speeches, a Q&A discussion and various workshops. The latter workshops explored issues relating to refugees and child labour.

"It was a great learning experience to expand on [our] knowledge on human rights, while working and communicating with people in the sector," said fellow student Angelique



Mr Burnside with Diploma of Community Services students last month.

Anagnostopoulos.

The latest conference added to a recent calendar of events organised by the community services class. An indigenous justice conference was held at the city campus earlier this year, while Mr Burnside was also in attendance at a previously-run human rights conference at Moorabbin.



A Fishermans first

Gravity Tower is the first high-rise residential tower to be completed in the Fishermans Bend Urban Renewal Area.

Located at the corner of Montague and Gladstone streets, residents have already moved into the building, which was also the first to start construction and top out.

Developed by 360 Property Group and designed by Plus Architecture, the 30-storey building is a symbol of the Matthew Guy era of early high-rise approvals for Fishermans Bend.

"While there is ongoing planning uncertainty around Fishermans Bend,

it's very exciting to be at the forefront of a precinct which will be integral to the future development of Melbourne's inner city," said Plus Architecture director Ian Briggs.

Gravity Tower is located at the top of the Montague Precinct directly overlooking the Montague St bridge and was designed with future developments of the area in mind.

It contains 144 one and two-bedroom apartments with ground level retail and features rooftop dining.

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The Golden Fleece has stood the test of time

By Sara Madderson

The Golden Fleece Hotel is one of the few original buildings remaining in Montague and has seen many changes during its 145-year history.

Founded by John Edward Deeble in 1872, the original structure was a four-roomed timber building with a brick bar. By 1880, the hotel had expanded to 11 rooms and an adjoining brick shop was also incorporated.

In 1889 the hotel licence was taken over by Mrs E Strieff and the name was changed to Strieff's Hotel. However, when the licence was transferred again in 1891 the original name was restored.

At the turn of the century Montague was a teeming metropolis with more than a 1000 homes. It had its own kindergarten, school, church, shops, police station and many, many hotels and the Golden Fleece was popular due to its central location.

With the establishment in 1906 of the Licence Reduction Board which had powers to reduce the number of hotels, many in Montague faced closure. In order to survive, most had to show evidence of proposals to upgrade the premises, the number boarders and meals that were being made each week and the Golden Fleece was one of the lucky ones to remain trading.

As noted in *South Melbourne, A History by Susan Priestley (1995)* despite pleas about providing meals and accommodation, beer sales remained of overwhelming importance. One member of the community, Henry Hall who grew up in Gladstone St during the 1920s recalls that one of his childhood chores was to take a hot meal to his father working at the coal wharves.

"My dad never ever went to the pub. My mum'd always see that he had a beer on the job, and I'd get it at home for him too. A quart bottle three-parts full was 9d ... but if you run in at five to six, just before closing time, they'd fill it right up for you."

"We used to sit down in the gutter on a hot night opposite the Golden Fleece Hotel in Montague St ... and as soon as the ding-a-ling (of the alarm) went, all the kids would dive in together with the basket and the bottles.

"Well, the barman, he used to hate you to come in while that thing was ringing. He just used to pull the handle till the froth was right



The Golden Fleece Hotel in 1981.

to the top ... (and) bang the cork in it."

"Then me and my mate would go down by Montague school and sit there on the quiet, and drink it down to the nine penniworth

(sic). We knew where that was."

Back then many pubs were more than just a place for drink or two and a meal. It was a place for some to call home, for the

BREAKFAST ON BUCKHURST ST.

BOBS

The Golden Fleece is now running breakfast Monday to Friday under the name of Breakfast on Buckhurst Street as well as lunch specials every day and happy hour 7 days a week.

120 Montague St, South Melbourne • goldenfleecehotel.net.au • 9696 9662

FISHERMANS BEND

Have your say on the plans for Fishermans Bend

Fishermans Bend is Australia's largest urban renewal project covering approximately 480 hectares in the heart of Melbourne. Plans for the development of this city shaping precinct to 2050 have been released and you are invited to provide feedback.

The following events and activities are being held as part of consultation. Visit www.fishermansbend.vic.gov.au/events for confirmation of dates, times and locations.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION AND DROP-IN SESSIONS

Friday 3 November
– 8:00am onwards

South Melbourne market.

Wednesday 8 November
– 10:30am-2:30pm

University of Melbourne Farmers Market.

Sunday 19 November

Drop-in session 11:00am-1:30pm.

Presentation/Q&A 1:30-3:00pm.

Sandridge Room, North Port Oval,
525 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne.

Thursday 23 November

Drop-in session 4:30-6:30pm.

Presentation/Q&A 6:30-8:00pm.

South Melbourne Town Hall Community Hub,
208-220 Bank Street, South Melbourne.

WORKSHOP SESSIONS

Workshops are being held to enable a facilitated group discussion. Each workshop will end in a submission. **Registration is essential at www.fishermansbend.vic.gov.au**

Wednesday 22 November

Drop-in session 4:00-6:00pm. Workshop 6:00-9:00pm. Sandridge Room, North Port Oval, 525 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne.

Wednesday 29 November

Drop-in session 4:00-6:00pm. Workshop 6:00-9:00pm. Life Saving Victoria State Centre, 200 The Boulevard, Port Melbourne.

Development industry sessions and business briefings:

Development industry sessions and business briefings will be held throughout November. For session dates and times visit www.fishermansbend.vic.gov.au/events

Public briefings with the Panel

An independent Planning Review Panel has been established to receive submissions on the Planning Scheme Amendment. The Taskforce will conduct public briefings with the Panel on the draft Framework, planning controls and background reports on Friday 10 and 24 November. For briefing times visit the website.

Making a submission

If you would like to make a submission, please visit the website. All submissions must be received by **5pm, Friday 15 December 2017**.

There will be an opportunity to present your submission to the Planning Review Panel at public hearings to be held in February 2018. Further details will be provided.

Find out how you can get involved by visiting:
www.fishermansbend.vic.gov.au



(Above left) The Golden Fleece front bar during simpler times, (above left) how locals know it today, (bottom right) historical records listing the pub's original licensees dating back to the 1800s and (bottom left) Golden Fleece advertising from the Record (Emerald Hill, Vic. : 1881 - 1954), Saturday, November 5, 1938.

community to get together to discuss issues regarding the local area and on occasion a cheeky game of two up.

As there weren't many spaces available for large groups to meet, the Golden Fleece was used on regularly by prospective local council candidates to address residents come election time and for various social club meetings.

One such club, the Golden Fleece Social



Party, was formed in 1938 by licensee George White along with other members of the community. As noted in local paper, The Record on the October 15, 1938, the social club's purpose was to promote happiness amongst the families of members, organise social events such as sporting matches and dances where proceeds from tickets sales would fund local initiatives to provide assistance those less fortunate.

The club also had an aspiration to educate the children of Montague in swimming and life-saving. But with homes being in various states of disrepair and many having to be demolished residents moved on to other areas and by the 1950s and 60s the area had largely become industrial.

With this in mind I dare say the Golden Fleece may have faced lean times but, with the few residents that remained, companies such as Dunlop Rubber Mill and the Union Can Company based in Montague who employed so many, and those who worked on the waterfront, the Golden Fleece was

able to keep trading and sustain its business by providing workers with counter meals and drinks.

Fast forward to 2017 and its still trading, still pouring drinks and providing great meals and the occasional Pinball comp.

Some industry still remains and the community, albeit small at the moment, is using the space to hold regular meetings

such as those held by The Montague Community Alliance.

The Golden Fleece has stood the test of time and many have passed through its doors. It is hoped that it will continue to be a centre point in Montague for many years to come and a place that respects and pays homage to the old while welcoming the new with open arms.

Golden Fleece		Buckhurst St	PORT MELBOURNE
<p>Alex McRackin Bollins St. James of W... Robert McRackin 26... 509 Collins St Melbourne 17/10/09 Helena... 1/11/13...</p>	<p>Edward Bonwell Cecil... Elizabeth... Michael... John... John... John... John... John...</p>		

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A Montague shaping proposal

Property developer GURNER has submitted a \$1.5 billion mixed-use scheme for a prominent Montague precinct site.

The property is situated at 2-18 Montague Street, bound by Montague, Munro and Johnston Streets and is currently leased to Mazda and Otis.

The property scheme for this site will include three buildings with residential and serviced apartments, a 4.5 star hotel with its own rooftop bar and restaurant, childcare facilities and large commercial and retail components.

The developer's director Tim Gurner told *Southbank Local News* it was focused on offering a high end product at an affordable price and contributing to the area's regeneration.

"This site offers a strategic location on the front row to the Fishermans Bend precinct so we are responding with a proposed scheme that will deliver world-class amenity to electrify the area and create a self-sustaining neighbourhood where everything is at its doorstep," he said.

"This project has been staged carefully to ensure we can start as soon as possible and begin the transformation of this very important precinct for Melbourne."

While the State Government released its new framework and planning controls for Fishermans Bend last month, the development will be assessed under the current framework introduced by the former Liberal government.



A render of Gurner's proposal for the Montague St site.

Cox Architecture has been appointed by GURNER to design the precinct into iconic buildings that will redefine the area and become a catalyst for change.

Cox director Phillip Rowe said he believed that development of the site into three well designed and planned buildings would provide excellent opportunities for the rapidly growing area.

"The architecture of the podium and towers respond to the surrounding context, with

a stepped, sculpted form that maximises day-lighting and views towards Melbourne's CBD, Docklands, Southbank and Port Philip Bay," he said.

"The three unique towers provide sculpted, dynamic and diverse addition to the South Melbourne skyline."

"To this end, the project prioritises public open space at its core, adding extensively to this ingredient which is essential to the wider appeal and amenity of Fishermen's Bend."

Open door policy on pets

By Shantelle-Ann Marquis

The recent tenancy reforms mean that people will be allowed to rent homes and apartments with their pets.

Landlords will no longer be able to unreasonably refuse tenants request to keep pets. Tenants, however, may be required to undertake cleaning, fumigation and fixing any damage caused by their pets.

Prior to this reform, many people were refused rental properties and were forced abandon their pets to keep their leases.

Dulcie Lee is a 25-year-old international student from China and the proud owner of three Persian cats. When Dulcie moved into her Southbank apartment, she brought along her cats but it wasn't long until she learned that she wasn't allowed to keep any pets.

Dulcie's landlord was infuriated when he discovered the cat's fur and demanded that she clean the apartment thoroughly. The landlord also explained that there was a sentence in the contract that outlined there were no pets allowed. But for Dulcie, it was not very clear and she did not understand.

"Cleaning my apartment and paying the cleaner was not a problem for me. I was happy to pay for a cleaner. But they threatened me for breaching my contract and forced me to move out immediately or get rid of my cats," Dulcie said.

Dulcie did not move from her apartment until the end of her lease which lasted a further two months. This was because she struggled to find another apartment in the city that would allow her to keep pets.

During this period, she had no choice but to ask her friends to care for her cats until she found a permanent solution.

"I decided to send two of my cats back to China with my parents. It was really expensive because of all the tests, quarantine and flights. It was also a burden for my parents but at least now I can see my cats on video chat and know they are taken care of."

Dulcie found it very difficult to part with her eldest cat and refused to send her back to China.

She said she was very happy that the laws against keeping pets in apartments were changing.

"This is so good. Not allowing people to keep pets in an apartment is unfair. Pets are like family. How can you just give them up like that?"

New approval for sale

Just four months after receiving approval from Planning Minister Richard Wynne, a 51-story development on Moray St has been put up for sale.

The 178-metre tower, dubbed "Sol Invictus", was to be developed by Capital Eight Pty Ltd, but has already been given to the agency Colliers and ICR Property Group to try and find a new owner for the site and project.

Located at the corner of 42 Moray St and 11-13 Hancock St, the tower was approved by Mr Wynne after receiving a recommendation by Melbourne City Council at the Future Melbourne Committee meeting on March 21 earlier this year, as reported by *Southbank*

Local News in August.

The proposed tower consists of 287 apartments and around 3000 sqm of employment and commercial space spread over five levels.

The tower is planned to produce a significant portion of its energy needs, as solar panels are proposed to line the sides of the building while wind turbines and a battery storage system are also included.



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A novel community idea

Southbank residents Bridget and Shane Fernando have recently set up business Frankie Walter Peta – a share library and cafe at Freshwater Place with the intention of building community.

When they first moved to Southbank five years ago, they said that, while they had instantly fallen in love with the area, they noticed that apartment living could be isolating and they wanted to create a hub for the community.

When the opportunity at Freshwater Place came up in August this year, Bridget said she and Shane had decided to take a leap of faith to follow their lifelong dream of combining business and community development.

“We’ve been so chuffed by the enthusiasm building around the share library,” she said.

“We wanted to create a space that customers could feel at home in, and the idea of the library was embraced instantly by local residents and workers alike who said they had been waiting for something like this for ages!”

Share libraries (also known as “street libraries”) are Australia’s version of the US “Little Free Libraries” – a grassroots initiative established out of a love for literature and a wish to share the joy of reading with everybody.

The concept is that visitors are free to borrow or take a book in exchange for another book.

American Todd Bol, who built a small



Bridget Fernando with daughter Lux (right) and barista Taylor at Southbank’s new share library and cafe.

wooden library shelf in his front garden to honour the passing of his mother who loved books, founded the movement in 2009. The concept has now spread to over 70 countries and there are over 50,000 share libraries registered worldwide.

“Southbank is not just where we live, it’s where we call home and we are so excited to share that feeling with other people too,”

Shane said.

The share library and cafe has been open for several weeks now and Bridget and Shane have plans to continue to build a sense of community by opening up for book launches, spoken word events and meet-up groups.

frankiewalterpeta.com.au



One Roof CEO Sheree Rubinstein (far right) promotes Women in STEMM with fellow co-workers.

STEMM women

One Roof is inviting locals to an event this month, which celebrates and supports women working in science, technology, entrepreneurship, mathematics and medicine (STEMM).

Hosted by Wonderment Walk Victoria and supported by Central Equity, Southbank’s female-centric co-working space will hold the event on November 16.

A diverse panel of women in STEMM will present on their experience and promote a 12 month leadership program, which includes a trip to Antarctica. Tickets:

www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-influencers-women-in-stemm-tickets-38833591317

Festive Season Buffet Lunch

Celebrate the festivities on a Friday from 24th November 2017 with a festive lunch buffet at HQ’s on William Restaurant, for \$39 per person. Bring in the whole office and enjoy traditional Christmas fare, featuring HQ’s Summer Lunch menu with a selection of Christmas themed specials. We guarantee the holiday cheer!

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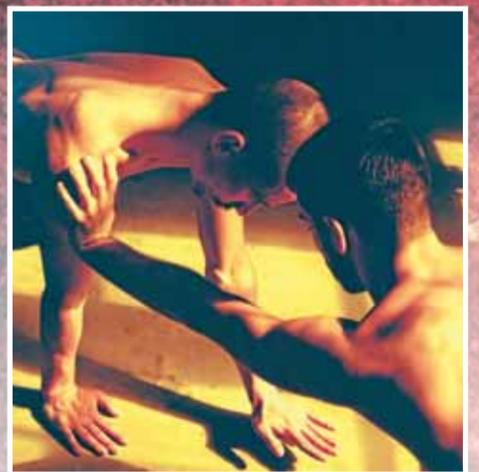
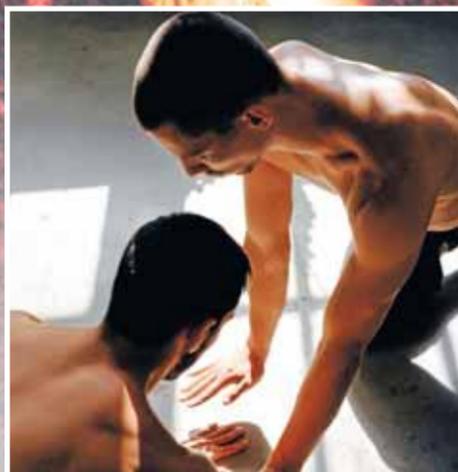
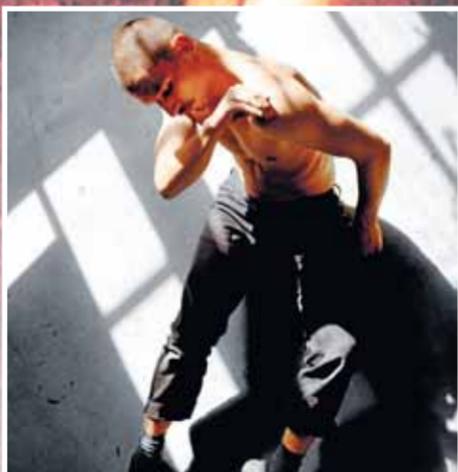
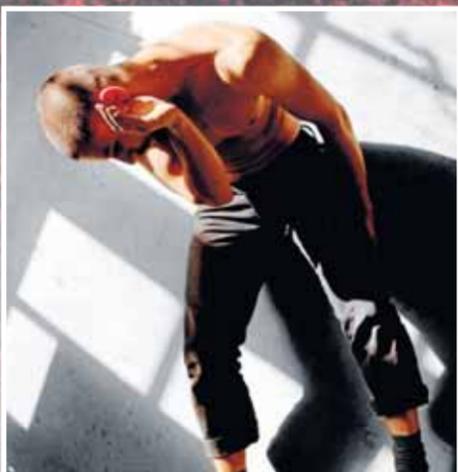
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REDSHIFT



A glimpse into the unknown

By James Manton

James Batchelor, one of Australia's rising stars of the contemporary dance scene, has undergone more challenges than most dancers would even consider in drawing inspiration for his new performance, REDSHIFT.

Last year Batchelor spent two months aboard a research ship bound for Heard and McDonald islands, two of the most isolated locations on the planet.

Located between Madagascar and Antarctica, the journey to the uninhabited "massive volcanoes floating in the middle of the ocean", as he calls them, provided the opportunity for him to explore "how we as humans look at the unknown, both in science and in art".

"It just comes from that simple curiosity that we have as humans," James said. "But also the potential overlap of science and arts was quite interesting"

Spending the majority of the journey aboard the ship, Batchelor had to adjust his dancing and space to suit the challenging

conditions, which developed into a sense of "hyper self-awareness".

"Two months of being contained separated from the rest of the world can be very difficult," he said.

"Working alone as a dancer and not really having anyone else to bounce off, in terms of dance, at times could be very isolating. I could be very bored sometimes and really inspired other times, so it was quite a contrast emotionally."

"I was understanding my body and the relation to weight and gravity because of the exaggerated motion I experienced."

Alongside Batchelor on the ship were around 60 scientists, students, artists, the ship's crew and Annalise Rees, the visual designer for REDSHIFT.

Through their shared experiences, Batchelor and Rees developed a rapport that has helped them to collaborate and create the visual and artistic designs for the performance, held at Chunky Move on Sturt St.

"It was a happy mistake for me and Annalise to be invited. There's not really a formal process at the moment to be a part of these expeditions," James said.

Through a good bit of luck, they were invited by the chief scientist of the expedition after he saw one of Batchelor's shows and came to discover they had mutual interests, both in research and the arts.

In the show, Batchelor will be joined by three other dancers to explore the concept of the unknown, through a combined dance and visual spectacle.

It will involve a "delicate and simple" set designed by Rees, lighting that "[shifts] the colours of the space" by Matthew Adey and a live electronic sound set mixed by Morgan Hickinbotham that is sampled from "hundreds" of pieces of sound Batchelor captured during his expedition.

Batchelor is the recipient of Chunky Move's Next Move commission that gives independent dance makers the opportunity to fund, produce, and create their shows

which may otherwise be difficult to compile.

"I think it's been extremely crucial, in terms of the dance landscape in Melbourne, because it's really one of the only commissions to make work from scratch where everything is full funded and produced for you and you, as the choreographer, can really focus on creating," he said. "I've seen artists grow a lot from this commission."

Batchelor plans to move to Heidelberg in Germany next year to take up an assistant director position at a dance company there. However, his recent experiences have been profound in helping him develop as a choreographer and a human.

"The expedition was definitely the beginning of a new kind of phase in my career," he said. "I feel like I really found my path in a way that's unique to me."

REDSHIFT will be held at Chunky Move Studios at 111 Sturt St from November 23 until December 2. For more information visit



Sugar Mountain takes over the Arts Precinct!

Southbank's very own music and arts festival Sugar Mountain will move into the Arts Precinct when returns to the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) on January 20.

Sugar Mountain 2018 will see a new festival layout to previous years due to the construction of the new Melbourne Conservatorium of Music (MCM) building on Sturt St.

For the first time, Sugar Mountain will expand out from its usual stage layouts within VCA to Grant St, Australian Centre for Contemporary Arts (ACCA) and the Malthouse Theatre as it takes to heart of Southbank's Arts Precinct.

Normally setup on the future site of MCM, the festival's renowned Boiler Room setting will be held in the forecourt between ACCA, Chunky Move and the Malthouse. Renowned for its visual arts emphasis, the festival will also take over ACCA and the Malthouse's renowned Merlyn Theatre, while VCA's Margaret Lawrence Gallery will house the Sensory Café.

Festivalgoers will now enter the event via Sturt St, while the main stage will now face south along Dodds St backing onto Southbank Boulevard.

"Melbourne's Arts Precinct needs to be showcased and we're really excited about the change," Sugar Mountain co-director Brett



Louis said. "To change the footprint is huge for us."

"To have the Merlyn Theatre and ACCA, which is architecturally so profound, is so exciting and we hope that the spread across



Grant St and a few other pops up will help make it a really communal space."

And while the changing layout comes as exciting news to festival faithfuls, let's not forget the amazing line-up of music and art

that was also announced last month!

The festival will once again provide a unique and diverse offering, presenting Australian musicians such as Cut Copy, Beaches and Love Deluxe alongside international artists such as Joey Bada\$\$ and Honey Dijon (USA) and German DJ Gerd Janson.

There will also be a multitude of artists and mediums, featuring a selection of unique collaborative projects and performances such as an audio-dance performance by American artist Khalif Diouf and Bangarra Dance Theater's Waangenga Blanco

Brett Louis said the line-up had been carefully curated to fit in with the festival's new "block party" style layout.

"From where we started to what we've become, we're still also keen to provide a level of discovery," he said.

"We wanted to strike the right curatorial mix and create a bit more a block party vibe. All the artists have been chosen to mix in with the surrounds so people can dance and have fun or relax and enjoy."

For tickets and more information visit sugarmountainfestival.com

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JAMES THORN

Visual experimentation

Final year Photography Studies College (PSC) commercial major James Thorn said his creative approach to photography was one driven by experimentation.

24-year-old Thorn's catalogue of work is striking, engaging and diverse in its visual appeal, from the creative through to the abstract.

He said that, while many visual photographers approached their work with a

concept in mind, his was more inspired by a sense of discovery.

"Exploration in the studios is one of my favourites things," he said. "I like to just go in with a rough idea and a whole bunch of stuff and really just throw stuff at the wall and see what sticks."

"Often it will just involve spending three hours shooting everything and then coming home and loading all of the images on my computer and seeing what's strikes me and what doesn't."

Having previously pursued a career in IT, James said that, when he came to PSC, photography was mainly just a hobby and that he had no expectations on what to expect.

After sampling different styles of photography, he said the studio was where he felt most at home as it provided maximum freedom for him to explore.

As a testament to his love for experimentation, he said he had captured some 6000 photos in the studio this year alone and had used a range of props and materials in the process.

One example (featured) was the culmination of a trip to Spotlight where he purchased some foam shapes and poster paint in an attempt to replicate an idea he had formulated from a TV show.

"Around the beginning of this semester I was pretty obsessed with the new series of Twin Peaks that came out and I was thinking about some of things in it that I found interesting," he said.

"I started thinking about the whole thing of oozing and dripping liquids and all that, which can be quite creepy and unsettling but it also looks appealing in some ways as well."

"With that particular one I found some glitter paint that I didn't think I'd use because it looked a bit too sparkly but by combining the red and the gold together the visual impact was quite interesting."

James said the course at PSC had granted him licence to explore different areas of photography that he might normally not have been exposed to. When he graduates, he said he hoped to become a self-employed commercial freelance photographer.

And while he had managed to narrow down his thousands of studio images to a 42-page folio, he said the intent behind his final series was to create a collective visual rather than a story.



"It comes down to the visual side of things and that's how I've compiled my final folio this year," he said.

"Mine doesn't tell a story or a narrative.

Mine is more 40 odd images together that work together visually rather than telling a story of any kind."

jamesthornphotography.com

PSC's end of year events and exhibitions

Everyone is welcome, so come along and experience some of the great photography produced by PSC.



Photography Studies College (Melbourne)

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November

Wednesday 1

Gather Together - PSC teachers' exhibition
Shop 5, 3 Southgate Avenue, Southbank.
6pm - 8pm

Friday 17

Fresh 17 - Adv. Dip. Art Major exhibition
Yarra Sculpture Gallery
117 Vere Street, Abbotsford. 6pm - 9pm

Saturday 18

Second year Bachelor exhibition
Hillvale Gallery, Brunswick. 6pm - 8pm

Thursday 30

This Must Be The Place
Final year Bachelor exhibition.
No Vacancy Gallery, Melbourne.
6pm - 8pm (open until 2 December)

Open now until 7 December

DelPict - exhibition of photographs by PSC students and graduates.
Media House Gallery, Melbourne.
9am - 5pm

December

Saturday 2

PSC Workshops Experience Day:
Develop a Style Workshop &
Studio Workshop
PSC Southbank Campus. 11am - 3pm

Wednesday 13

PSC Graduate Exhibition
PSC Southbank Campus. 6pm - 8pm

Image by Bradley Geddes



Band of Brothers

Two pairs of critically acclaimed brothers come together for a special return performance from Band of Brothers at the Melbourne Recital Centre this month.

Slava and Leonard Grigoryan and Joseph and James Tawadros are some of Australia's most accomplished musicians, collectively winning seven ARIA Awards and being nominated for a further 35, and are putting on a new performance called *Telepathy* in which the four explore diverse styles and cultures for a unique show.

The performance combines the guitar skills of the Grigoryan brothers with the rhythmic percussion of the Tawadros brothers, who will play the oud and the req (an Egyptian tambourine).

"It's always great performing with the Grigoryan brothers," said Joseph Tawadros.

"They bring a great energy to stage, which complements what James and I do and we trust in the way they read the moment on the fly."

"It's that type of trust that feeds Band of Brothers' creativity and that's why each performance is different and special. We've known the Grigoryans now for about 15 years, so when we perform together, it's not just about celebrating music but also celebrating friendship."

Telepathy will be held on November 9 at the Elisabeth Murdoch Hall at 7.30pm.

For more information and to book tickets visit melbournerecital.com.au



The Testament of Mary

In her highly anticipated return to the Malthouse Theatre, Pamela Rabe gives a voice to one of the world's greatest and most silenced icons in 'The Testament of Mary' running until November 26.

In a soaring production that unpicks the stories at the foundation of Western religion, Mary invites the audience to join in her defiance, to examine how myths are made, and to question who has the power to tell them.

"It's Mary speaking about her personal truth. She's rewriting the history that we know. She's asking us to look again," director Anne-Louise Sarks said.

Years after the crucifixion, young men

are hounding the mother of Jesus. The disciples want her to endorse the story they are constructing about her son - stories of a man who performed miracles and rose from the dead.

They say her son is the son of God. She says it is all a lie.

Don't miss the Malthouse Theatre's final production for 2017, playing a strictly limited season until November 26.

malthousetheatre.com.au

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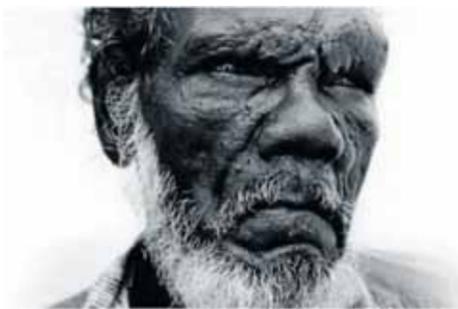


PROPHECY

Nov 13 - Salon

PLEXUS continues its celebration of Melbourne artists with a program which includes three world premieres by three esteemed and very diverse composers - Brenton Broadstock, Christine McCombe and Christian O'Brien.

www.melbournerecital.com.au



PAST LEGACY, PRESENT TENSE

Until January - NGV Australia

Contemporary Indigenous artists make intercultural works in organic and new media that memorialise and interrogate history, honour customary practices and forms of material culture, and reference systems of shared signs and symbols in innovative ways.

www.ngv.vic.gov.au



VIVID WHITE

Nov 18 - Dec 23 - The Sumner

In his previous play commissioned by MTC, *The Beast*, Eddie Perfect's wild satirical mind created a living nightmare out of middle-class aspirations. *Vivid White* goes even further, adding satirical songs to the mix for a truly merciless night of outrageous comedy directed by Dean Bryant (*I'll Eat You Last*).

www.mtc.com.au



JOHANNA ALLEN - EUROMASH

Dec 8 and 9 - Salon

Draw back on your cigarette and hold on. We're taking you around the world, a tout le monde. Drawing on her own European heritage, operatic training and jazz experience, Johanna Allen takes us to the Salons of Paris and the Tango Halls of Spain.

www.melbournerecital.com.au

THE MERRY WIDOW

Nov 15 - 25 - State Theatre

Sway, smile and swoon your way through Opera Australia's delicious new production of *The Merry Widow*. It's an opulent party, all glitz and glamour and Parisian charm. It's an old-fashioned romance, flirty and funny and fabulous. It's a Viennese waltz and you know all the steps.

www.opera.org.au

THE FATHER

Runs until Dec 16 - Fairfax Studio

A touching, funny and deeply unsettling mystery, Florian Zeller's *The Father* was a hit in France before Christopher Hampton (*Atonement*) translated it into English and repeated the success and critical acclaim in London and New York. An Australian Premiere.

melbourne.vic.gov.au/mmw

PRODUCTION CENTRE TOURS

Nov 21 & Dec 7 - Primrose Potter Centre

Our custom-built Production Centre in Altona, Melbourne is a 10,000 square-metre wonderland filled with over 50 years' worth of costumes and props. Don't miss your chance to come on this exclusive tour lead by Colin Peasley OAM and take a trip down memory lane with us.

www.australianballet.com.au

KADER ATTIA

Runs until Nov 19 - ACCA

The practice combines ideas of culture, appropriation, as well as the complex relationship between Occidental and Western cultures in an era of decolonisation. Attia integrates mediums of collage, photography, sculpture and video into his works, which enquire cultural memory and the repercussions of global events.

acca.melbourne



ACCA MEGA QUIZ

Nov 30 - ACCA

Your favourite arts and culture trivia event is back! Book your table of 10 and start planning your team name and table decorations. This year's *ACCA Mega Quiz* will promise excellent prizes, games, dancing and a whole lot of fun. All profits from the evening will help support ACCA's programs.

acca.melbourne



TRANSCENDENTAL COUCH

Nov 9 to 28 - Laurent Gallery, Montague

Cunningham-Reid's paintings express an ongoing exploration of a visual language that portrays her interest in spatial relationships, colour and humanity. Looking at a space with a place of unknowing and finding authentic marks, translated into an artwork using herself as an epistemological tool.

www.laurentgallery.com



MIRANDA SINGS

Nov 15 - Hamer Hall

Colleen Ballinger, AKA Miranda Sings, has become an international phenomenon whose YouTube channels has amassed over 12 million devoted subscribers and over two billion views. The character Miranda was created in 2008 to parody the young, self-absorbed singers with more far more confidence (and vibrato) than talent which Colleen saw uploading videos to YouTube.

www.artscentremelbourne.com.au



SYMPHONICA: ARMAND VAN HELDEN/MSO

Jan 27 - Sidney Myer Music Bowl

House music legend Armand Van Helden joins the MSO on stage for one night only, heralding the inaugural Symphonica concert. The New York electronic music icon makes his first appearance on Australian shores in seven years.

www.mso.com.au

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Blockchain finds new home

Digital asset giant Blockchain's continuous rise on global markets has been further illustrated locally, as it relocated its Melbourne Blockchain Centre to a larger headquarters on City Rd last month.

Originally establishing its centre on the second floor of 89-91 City Rd in 2015, the digitised and decentralised cryptocurrency specialist took over the former offices of Probuild, having outgrown its previous space.

As a statement of its intentions to engage further with the local community in Southbank and broader community of Melbourne, the team at Blockchain has already started giving the office a much-needed refurbishment.

And it has many more exciting plans for its new centre on the way, including a street art mural on its outside wall, as well as a coffee cart with tables and chairs for its front courtyard for the community to enjoy.

Blockchain will celebrate its new headquarters with an official opening in December. Read the December/January edition of *Southbank Local News* for more information.



Members of Southbank's Blockchain Centre outside their new City Rd headquarters on November 1.

Buyers are here to stay

Southbank's premiere development project Melbourne Square is attracting a strong response from owner-occupiers wanting to settle.

Developed by OSK property and designed by Cox Architecture, Melbourne Square's transformational and community centred offering on a MCG-sized Kavanagh St block continues to generate strong interest from investors.

Since its sales launch just last month, CBRE managing director of residential projects Andrew Leoncelli said the local owner-occupier take up rate had been extremely successful so far due to the project's incredible amenity offering.

Stage one of the project, which is set to commence construction this year, incorporates two residential towers, as well as a 3700 sqm public park, childcare centre and dining and retail, including a supermarket.

The attraction of owner-occupiers has

been further reflected by a number of clients having already purchased multiple apartments and combining. Responsible for the interiors, Carr Design director of architecture Chris McCue said it had been focused on providing an adaptive approach to tailor to all of its clients' personal needs.

"In the last fortnight really we've been doing a number of design auctions for combining apartments at the upper levels where they've either bought two or three or in some cases five apartments and combined them, which is really about providing a larger apartment for them as their primary residence," he said.

"The market is always shifting and evolving you can never entirely predict how it's going to need to respond so we'll tend to do a bespoke offering in terms of combining layouts and integrating a penthouse kitchen



With a public park and tailored interior design services, Melbourne Square is attracting many buyers looking to settle.

or bespoke joineries."

The project is set to transform Kavanagh St into a vibrant community precinct and the early response from owner-occupiers reflects

the strong interest in the project's generous offering of amenities.

melbournesquare.com.au

YOUR CITY YOUR NEWS

Connect with us for all the latest news, events, updates and more in the City of Melbourne.



Melbourne City Council (from left):
Cr Susan Riley, Cr Kevin Louey, Cr Tessa Sullivan, Cr Nicolas Frances Gilley MBE (at rear), Lord Mayor Robert Doyle AC, Cr Nicholas Reece (at rear), Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood, Cr Rohan Leppert (at rear), Cr Cathy Oke, Cr Philip Le Liu, Cr Jackie Watts



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CITY OF MELBOURNE

Council wants a cap on local pokies

The City of Melbourne has resolved to lobby the State Government to apply a cap on the number of poker machines in Southbank, Docklands and the CBD.

These three areas were deliberately excluded from a statewide limit of 10 machines per 1000 residents in 2001.

But councillors now believe booming populations in the urban renewal areas warrant a status similar to other residential areas.

Speaking at the October 17 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, planning chair Nicholas Reece said: "At the time it made sense because there were very few people living in those areas."

"It is a quirk of the gaming regulatory arrangements in this state that those areas are the only geographic areas in Victoria which are not subject to a regional cap of 10 machines per 1000," he said.

"Such a measure would be an insurance policy against future growth of machine numbers."

Councillors were discussing a motion to recommend a planning scheme amendment to the state government, but there was frustration expressed about their limited powers over poker machine numbers and placement.

Amendment C307 deals with minor matters such as visibility of machines from



the street and internal layout of venues, leaving the council to concentrate on harm minimisation.

Cr Reece said: "These are very common sense proposals that involve improvements to venue design."

"All of this will help us achieve what is the ultimate goal here which is minimising harm that occurs to our community."

A report commissioned by the council found that in 2015-16, \$68,834,612.11 was spent on poker machines at the CBD's 10 pokies venues.

Venues within the CBD are more than twice as profitable as venues in the rest of the municipality (excluding Crown Casino) with Hoddle Grid venues averaging \$7.6 million pokies expenditure and venues outside the

city averaging \$3.6 million.

The report shows that poker machines in Mercure Grand Hotel On Swanston are the most successful in the CBD, with an average take of \$163,983.69 per machine in 2015-16. Venues with other high earning machines are Golden Nugget who's 60 machines averaged an annual take of \$148,517.64 and Welcome Stranger where the average earn from each of 100 machines was \$148,117.51.

In terms of highest expenditure, Welcome Stranger tops the table with \$14.81 million, followed by Mercure Grand Hotel (\$14.75 million), Clocks at Flinders St (\$9.76 million) and Golden Nugget (\$8.91 million).

Councillors lamented their inability to battle further against poker machines.

Cr Rohan Leppert said: "Of course I'd like to go a whole lot further. Of course I'd like to have the power to disallow new electronic gaming machines in the City of Melbourne. We do not have that power."

Cr Jackie Watts advised of an anti-gambling rally on the steps of State Parliament between 10 and 11am on October 31.

She said: "We need to stand up. I think it's a great pity that we can't extend our condemnation of this 'quote/unquote'

entertainment to include the Crown Casino."

Cr Nic Francis Gilley accused the state government and clubs of being addicted to gambling revenue.

"The addiction here is the State Government being addicted to the revenues, the addiction of organisations like the RSL which always worries me because it is their members they are robbing, and the addiction of pubs who milk their customers."

"What's really pernicious about that is that we then have a state government who names it 'responsible gambling'. There is no such thing."

But councillors stopped short of separately criticising the state government's plan to renew pokie licences.

Former councillor and anti-gambling advocate Stephen Mayne advised at the meeting: "The bigger picture here is that we are in the fight of our lives against legislation that's going to lock in \$70 billion worth of losses."

"Ultimately, it is politicians who have allowed this highly permissive regulatory arrangement. And they're proposing that it be thrown forward another 20 years until 2042."

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The parking dilemma?

As I make my way throughout the community I hear mixed messages about parking, particularly the impact on street parking from the reduced provision of internal parking within new developments.

Amendment C133 was introduced in March 2010 which allowed the relaxing of the minimum parking requirements. Developers are nowadays rewarded for reducing parking and, as each new development is approved, there is less internal parking within these buildings.

Developers are encouraged to have an overall sum of less than one parking lot per dwelling. Sometimes it has been as low as 1:4. Gone are the days of a minimum of one parking lot per dwelling and in many cases two.

The angst I hear is that should XYZ development be approved, with its reduced internal parking amenity, then this will lead to residents parking their vehicles on the streets. It is perceived that this will create on-street parking congestion and deprive other residents the benefit of their visiting guests to access street parking.

While this could possibly occur, it assumes that past trends where everyone owned a vehicle as soon as they become of driving age have remained – more about vehicle ownership shortly.

However, with the amendments to the

parking policy, it was ensured street parking wasn't going to become the alternative. All developments post March 2010 do not qualify for a street parking permits.

Of course, any resident is entitled to park their vehicle on the street and pay the applicable fee for the prescribed time limit – hardly practical for a permanent resident. Based on this alone, I feel these concerns are ill-founded.

There were several benefits to be achieved from this policy change. Of particular note, it was seen as one way to assist with local road congestion. For example, the current Australia 108 development is to have 1105 dwellings. One can only imagine the impact 1100+ vehicles would have on the immediate City Rd and Southbank Boulevard intersection should this development be approved under the previous mindset.

As it is, it will have provision for 558 vehicles, which will likely add significantly to the congestion of these roads. Secondly, and of critical importance in this time of an apparent housing affordability crisis, removing a car park will reduce the cost of the dwelling. Based on current market

figures, a car park has a value of about \$60,000 and higher.

Putting the CBD aside for a moment, Southbank is the most serviced suburb for public transport and is easily accessible. Car share vehicles are now prominent throughout Southbank although membership has been a slow take-up at just 8 per cent, whereas Sydney City has embraced this initiative and has achieved 20 per cent membership.

Car share is just one further initiative to encourage reduced vehicle ownership. These two combined, are strong reasons to ask ourselves how necessary our vehicles are.

Talking about vehicle ownership, data from the last census shows that from 2006 to 2016 vehicle ownership in Southbank has dropped by 20 per cent and in Melbourne City a staggering 35 per cent. The other parts of the municipality show figures similar to Southbank.

In short, it seems there is a trend here with the residents of Southbank, and the wider CoM municipality, moving in the right direction and ditching their vehicles for walking, public transport and car sharing.

There are reports that up to 30 per cent of car parks within buildings are not being used – have a look in your own building or ask your building manager what figure they estimate. Just think of the benefits to the environment this trend is having, let alone the individuals' budget.

Someone needs to be a leader to drive change and I think this policy went a long way to getting us to where we are now. I guess only time will tell, but I think our off-street parking will be safe from congestion attributed to residents without car parks in new developments.

For the record - I have not owned a vehicle since 1997 and am a regular walker throughout Southbank and the city, user of public transport and car share.



Tony Penna

Tony Penna is the president of Southbank Residents' Association.

southbankresidents.com.au



Southbank Directory

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southbankdirectory.com.au



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Yarra River Business Association

Lunches are for everyone

The Yarra River Business luncheons are not just for business operators, but also for residents and, in fact, for anyone interested in the issues that affect the Yarra River Precinct.

The next luncheon, on Friday, November 24, is being held in Southgate's Metropolis Events. It's a cathedral-like space, with memorable views to the city skyline. The guest speaker is Visit Victoria's general manager of major events, Damien De Bohun, who will speak about the challenges of attracting hallmark events to Melbourne.

We also hope that he might touch on the possibility of staging a major winter event, with a focus on the waterway.

The \$77 lunch cost gets you a pre-lunch drink, two courses with refreshment, followed by coffee and sweet things. You get to meet and sit with some of the key players in the Yarra River Precinct, as well as those from stakeholder organisations such as the City of Melbourne and Parks Victoria, who have a major bearing on what happens in this part of the world.

It's a very valuable, enjoyable and cost-effective two hours. Contact the association's

executive officer at exoff@yarrariver.melbourne for information and bookings.

Things on the water look like being a bit livelier this summer as a result of the Parks Victoria EOI for on-water food and beverage activation. We are promised three pontoon installations.

If the temporary structure created by Arbory two years ago is any indication, we can expect a new dimension to the Yarra River experience.

It's the first sign of a new attitude by Parks Victoria and its new CEO to the endless possibilities of the waterway, while not compromising its sporting and recreational use.

It was interesting to note in the media last month that Paul Little is showing increasing signs of being interested in operating a transport ferry on the Lower Yarra, which attracted the backing of the Lord Mayor.

It is only a matter of time before a

commuter service happens, but there are still some people in Spring St who need convincing.

Excitement is building in the precinct for the launch of the Australian Music Vault on December 19.

This new, permanent and free attraction in the Theatres Building of Arts Centre Melbourne will attract tens - if not hundreds - of thousands of visitors a year, to enjoy its homage to Australian contemporary music.

Exhibitions held in the space during recent years, such as the ACDC and Kylie, indicate what a powerful draw card it will be. The flow-on economic effect to Southbank businesses will be significant.

If you're a local business and wish to keep in touch with what's happening on the ground in this precinct, then the association's new membership structure may be of interest.

For just \$70 per year, you can sign-up as a

"YR Connect" member and receive weekly e-bulletins, which are chock-full of news and marketing opportunities.

The "YR Engage" membership package at \$200 per year provides your business with a higher level of benefit, including a full illustrated listing on the official website.

The \$350 "YR Participate" membership package provides all the benefits plus a ticket to each of the association's three business lunches each year. Go to www.yarrariver.melbourne/sign-up for more details, or you can speak to the executive officer on 0412 502 931.



John Forman

John Forman is the president of Yarra River Business Association.

www.yarrariver.info



St Johns Southgate

Re-Formation?

On Saturday, October 28, history was made at St Johns, Southgate.

Members of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne and the Lutheran congregations of Melbourne gathered together to commemorate 500 years since the beginning of the Protestant Reformation.

It is often said that the Reformation began on October 31, 1517, when Dr Martin Luther, a priest and biblical scholar posted a paper that would become known as "The 95 Theses".

These theses, rather provocatively, called into question some of the teachings and practices of the Roman Catholic Church and set in motion a chain reaction that would

see Luther and those he inspired leave the Roman church.

The Reformation of the 16th century was seismic in its impact, leaving a severe rift between Catholics and Lutherans. Over the centuries it even led to violent conflicts and wars.

But 500 years later, these two churches, while still remaining apart, are more willing than ever to seek common ground and work to resolve their differences.

At St Johns, Southgate and at Catholic and Lutheran churches around the world, the anniversary of the Reformation was this year, for the first time, commemorated by Lutherans and Catholics together.

Christians of Melbourne - those identifying as Catholic and those as Lutheran - came together at St Johns in a

way that even recently would have been unimaginable.

But a spirit of humility, graciousness and generosity led the congregation to both lament the wrongs of the past whilst committing to walk together on a path towards reunification.

Those gathered, myself included, were deeply moved by the way in which it seemed we might be coming towards the end of an era of tribalism and starting the next 500 years on a new and hopeful note.

Whatever comes next for Lutherans and Catholics it will undoubtedly be driven by this new enthusiasm for unity and will surely emphasise those things that unite, rather than those that divide, so that bridges might be built for those remaining gaps.

As a part of our program of events

commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, St Johns, Southgate is proud to present the premiere of a new composition - *Southern Cantata* written by Andrew Schultz to a libretto by Katherine Firth - to be performed at our 9.00am service on December 3. Free entry. All welcome.



Tom Hoffmann

Tom Hoffmann is the pastor at St Johns Southgate Church.

www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au



Sunday 3 December
 9am **Worship with Cantata**
 Guest Preacher: **Rev Tom Peitsch** includes **Southern Cantata** a new advent cantata commissioned by St Johns to celebrate the Bach Cantata Program's 20th birthday for choir, 2 soloists and period instrument orchestra Andrew Schultz (composer), Katherine Firth (librettist) Kate Macfarlane (soprano), Robert Macfarlane (tenor)
 8:30am *Cantata in Context*: pre-service talk

Every Sunday
 9am Traditional worship with communion
 10:30am Sunday School during school terms
 11am Informal worship with communion except 3 December
 6pm **Sunday Night at St Johns**
 Informal contemporary worship hosted by Lutheran Students and Friends
 The chapel is open daily for private prayer and reflection

History

ASBESTOS!!

Asbestos is a word that conjures up images of dreadful effects on the lungs of many people working with products containing it, such as Fibrolite (known as “fibro”).

Asbestos cement materials were first manufactured in the 1920s and were widely used as building materials from the mid-1940s until the late 1980s. Fibrolite was used extensively for both construction and repairs to houses, factories and commercial premises and particularly for roofing.

Asbestos sheeting was lauded for qualities of fire-resistance and freedom from corrosion – it would not rot, rust, corrode, or burn, and was durable, strong and upkeep was cheap, although not overly attractive, when used for housing.

But it could be deadly. Until the 1980s there were few concerns about its effects on health. Today there are many measures in place to ensure the safety of those who work with asbestos products.

The major manufacturer and promoter of the material was James Hardie & Co, and one of its major sales points was in Southbank, at the southeast corner of City Rd and Clarendon St.

In 1936 Hardie engaged prominent Melbourne architect, Harry Norris, to design a new showroom, which they called Asbestos House. Norris was responsible for many distinguished interwar buildings in Melbourne, including Mitchell



The site of James Hardie & Co on the corner of City Rd and Clarendon St. Photo: courtesy of the State Library of Vic.

House (Elizabeth St), Burnham Beeches (Sherbrooke) and the Maples store in Clarendon St, South Melbourne.

The Southbank building was convenient to the city (two minutes by tram!), full of the latest equipment and designed by Norris in the latest Moderne style.

The stylish two-storey brick building

featured rounded lines and small glazed bricks on the walls. The wide and curving sweeps of the elevations enabled Norris to design a roomy entrance to the showroom, which boasted a parquet floor and large steel-framed windows.

Customers could view a vast array of the products of the company, including Fibrolite

asbestos cement sheeting for walls, ceilings, corrugated sheeting for roofing, high pressure water pipes, and Tilux tiles used in bathrooms and kitchens. The showroom included a mechanically-operated overhead travelling crane to move materials. Naturally the roof was Fibrolite, as were many industrial buildings.

Hardie vacated the building when the company was under increasing pressure to adequately compensate those adversely affected by its products.

Around 2005 the building was re-modelled to become a showroom for ex-office furniture and then for King furniture. But its prominent corner location made it extremely attractive to developers, and it was demolished in 2015 to make way for yet another high-rise apartment block.



Robin Grow

President - Australian Art Deco and Modernism Society
robingrow@ozemail.com.au

Federal Politics

Maintaining commercial ties with China

In dealing with an authoritarian foreign power like China, Australia needs to balance commercial interests with both our national security and democratic ethos.

Obviously, we value Chinese-Australians and investment from China, now our biggest trading partner.

A recent report by the Kissinger Institute says: “In June 2017 the *New York Times* and *The Economist* featured stories on China’s political influence in Australia”. The *New York Times* headline asked: “Are Australia’s politics too easy to corrupt?” while *The Economist* referred to China as the “Meddle Kingdom”.

These articles were reacting to an investigation by Fairfax Media and ABC into the extent of China’s political interference in Australia. These built on internal enquiries into the same issue by ASIO and Australia’s Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet in 2015 and 2016.

The media and official reports concluded that Australia was the target of a foreign interference campaign by China “on a larger scale than that being carried out by any other nation” and that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) was working to infiltrate Australian political and foreign affairs circles, as well to acquire influence over Australia’s Chinese population.

According to a *Herald-Sun* front page, donations amounting to \$6 million over the last five years were made by a Beijing influenced business front, the APPRC.

The head of the APPRC, Huang Xiangmo withdrew \$400,000 from the Opposition when Labor supported navy patrols in the South China Sea. Fears about “prospective” damage to Australian trade or investment by China must not deter us from clear-eyed opposition to Beijing’s political intervention, such as buying control of local Chinese language press.

The Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB) reports that in the financial years 2010-2011 to 2015-2016 there has been \$169 billion of investment in Australia from China. Investment has risen from \$16.91 billion in 2010-2011 to \$47.3 billion in 2015-2016. This is nothing to be alarmed about. Yet there are obvious pitfalls with such huge investments.

In 2014, Australia’s then communications minister, Malcolm Turnbull, proposed that China’s telco, Huawei, bid for the NBN. Australian agencies feared a Huawei-engineered technological “back door” to our secret communications. Turnbull’s proposal was dropped.

Then a myopic Northern Territory Government sold a 100-year lease on the Port of Darwin to Beijing interests for a mere \$500 million.

After that “own goal”, former ASIO chief David Irvine was appointed to FIRB. Then, a Beijing-based investment in AUSGRID,

Australia’s largest electrical network and owned by the government of NSW, was barred by the FIRB. Striking the right balance, a state-based interest of China won a 25 per cent interest in the successful bid of \$9.7 billion for the Port of Melbourne.

The \$169 billion investment in Australia over the past five years by China is “the big picture”. It debunks the alarmism of some that “opportunities are being squandered and shows we can hardly be seen as suppressing China’s ongoing investments.

Attempts to influence local academia are less easily countered. Even before Frances Adamson, secretary of DFAT put this issue on the front page, Prof Allan Fitzgerald in an *AFR* essay “Red pen on academic freedom” argued that: “Universities jeopardise intellectual integrity when they collaborate with Chinese institutions that do not share a commitment to liberal values and open inquiry”.

There are now 14 Confucius institutes in Australian universities, along with the pro-Beijing think-tank - Australia China Relations Institute (ACRI). It’s hardly McCarthyism to point out that ACPARC or organisations like it have connections to the Chinese Communist Party.

Beijing continues to flout international law, sought by ASEAN to stop China’s

militarisation of the South China Sea, where 60 per cent of Australia’s maritime trade transits.

Canberra’s Joint Select Committee on Electoral Matters will likely recommend, and federal Parliament endorse, banning foreign donations to parties. FIRB will prevent future imbroglios like the sale of the Port of Darwin.

Finally, Beijing’s interference in universities, think-tanks, institutes and parties will be subject to media and parliamentary scrutiny.

Nervous Nellies advocating a “hands off” policy for investments from China should be reassured that commercial arrangements will continue to prosper.

Pro-Beijing academic and business interests should never override Australia’s national security, firmly rooted in the ANZUS alliance and our deeply democratic ethos.



Michael Danby

Federal Member for Melbourne Ports
michael.danby.mp@aph.gov.au

Southbanker

A jack off all arts

Since moving to Melbourne from his hometown of Wagga Wagga 10 years ago, local musical theatre guru Andrew Strano hasn't lived anywhere else but here in Southbank.

An award winning lyricist, a director, improviser, dramaturge and musical theatre performer, Andrew first moved to Southbank as a 19-year-old to study at the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) and has never left.

"I've always somehow been in Southbank because I do a bit of work here and have studied at the VCA so it's always made sense," he said.

"Melbourne is the only place I'd live in Australia because of the arts industry and the grass roots level support for it is so great. The arts in Melbourne is a very progressive environment and Southbank's Arts Precinct is so amazing."

Since the age of 15 Andrew has been pursuing his passion for performing arts and has performed, taught and presented theatre, film, TV, musical theatre and cabaret nationally and internationally.

However, he admitted that his "first great love" was musical theatre having both written and performed in a number of acclaimed productions.

His work *Nailed It!* alongside Lochlan Mackenzie-Spencer debuted to five-star reviews all over the world in 2015, including Edinburgh, London and the Adelaide



Cabaret Festival.

And just last month, Andrew teamed up with longtime friend and composer Lucy O'Brien to present *Jack of Two Trades* – an inaugural commission of the Pratt Foundation Music Theatre Artists in Residence Program at Monash University.

His latest work was based on Bell Shakespeare's musical theatre comedy *Servant of Two Masters*, which Andrew first witnessed as a 17-year-old drama student in Wagga Wagga,

"When I was a 17-year-old kid all four people in my high school drama class and I

got in a car with my drama teacher to go see it on and it was just piss funny," he said.

"The thing that surprised me about the work was how politically engaged it was for something written in the 1700s."

"Because it's a comedy you can kind of afford to make a point every now and then whereas in drama when you're making a point it's confronting. You're not going to change people's hearts and minds like that."

Andrew said he loved musical theatre as it created a family of out of people through song and he was constantly enjoying the new challenges that writing presented.

Having now written two of his own productions at the age of just 29, he said he was already looking forward to his next projects.

"The thing they say about creative projects is that you don't finish them you abandon them at some point!" he said. "The dream is to always have two things on the go."

"As we see one go, we've got one in the pipeline. I think a really important thing about writing that my old course co-ordinator at VCA said to me during my masters was 'writers write!' so we're always busy looking for the next thing."

Letters to the Editor

Biased on school name

Your article on "naming fiasco" was very biased. The fiasco occurred years ago when one side of Ferrars St was placed in Southbank and the western side remained as South Melbourne.

The obvious boundary is the light rail line so, for DET to correct a previous mistake, is commendable. Also with your Southbank bias you failed to mention Montague as another possibility. The school has a greater affinity to that name than Southbank.

HS

Ongoing noise

I am writing due to the ongoing noise from the Multiplex construction site on the corner of Power and Kavanagh streets.

On a number of occasions local laws have been clearly disobeyed. The laws prevent work from commencing prior to 7am on weekdays and 8am on Saturday. Please note that Melbourne Council allows earlier start times than other councils. Here are the EPA guidelines <http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/~media/Publications/1467.pdf>

On this occasion, workers started at 6.50am on Saturday October 21.

When I called the site manager Richard from Multiplex he mentioned that he wasn't on site and said he would do something about the noise, which he clearly didn't.

I have logged a complaint with the council and am interested in seeing what it has to say. Happy to keep you posted.

Here's some photos for your reference.

Gareth

Begging to differ

I beg to differ with the sentiments expressed in the article "Even more government" (*Southbank Local News*, October 2017).

The Metropolitan Partnerships is not "government" but an initiative designed to enhance the engagement of community and business with local councils and the state government.

As a member of the Inner Metro Partnerships I hold out hope that the partnership will contribute to a sustainable metropolitan Melbourne for all through joined up government and engaged community. Other members of the Inner Metro Partnerships bring a depth of community and business experience that along with the yearly assembly will provide another avenue of engagement for local councils and the state government to consider in their decision-making.

The Inner Metro Partnership has identified "managing growth" as a key objective with the priorities of inclusiveness, shared economic well-being and environmental sustainability. It's worth a go!

Martin Brennan



Send your letters to news@southbanklocalnews.com.au

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We Live Here

Short-stays behind property price pain

The Victorian Government must address the state's unregulated commercial short-stay industry, if it's serious about fixing Melbourne's housing affordability crisis.

New statistics show the city's average unit price is now \$564,540 – up 2.1 per cent in the last quarter. The median house price rose to \$818,000.

Melbourne is now at risk of experiencing the same housing affordability issues hurting families and crippling the Sydney market.

The situation was already at a crisis point back in July – when housing affordability in Melbourne was at its lowest level since surveys began in 2000.

According to the ABS, Victoria has the highest population growth rate in the country – rising by 2.4 per cent from March 2016 to March 2017.

The figures show the problem is only getting worse as more and more properties are taken off the rental market and listed on to commercial short-stay platforms like Airbnb.

A study from the University of Sydney clearly showed the link between the city's housing affordability crisis and commercial short-stay platforms.

It revealed an estimated 6000 homes had been removed from the rental market and placed on commercial providers.

It showed there were 1268 properties listed on Airbnb – equivalent to 144 per cent of vacant rentals in the entire city!

But despite all of this, what is the Victorian Government doing to fix the crisis?

Last year the Government proposed legislation which heavily favoured Airbnb, making supply problems even worse.

This month, at the launch of the Northcote by-election it targeted rental-bidding apps as a means to fix rental affordability and totally ignored the problems caused by short-term letting.

Rental reforms target the wrong apps

The Victorian Government's rental app reform is targeting the wrong problem and the wrong apps, and will do nothing to place downward pressure on skyrocketing property prices.

It's not the introduction of bidding apps that got us to where we are today.

It is predominantly supply issues, and it is the multi-billion dollar, unregulated platform Airbnb that is driving down the supply of units that would otherwise be on the rental market.

Furthermore, the effectiveness of a ban on bidding apps is lost if someone in your building can put five apartments on Airbnb and no one has the power to do anything about it.

If it wants to make renting fairer and more affordable then the Government must take action now to place downward pressure on prices, and the first place to start is the unregulated short-stay industry.

Unlike bidding apps, the Airbnb app is not some emerging issue – it is real, present and is driving up prices right now.

At the very least, strata members should be given the right to decide if Airbnb and other commercial short-stay operators are allowed to operate within their buildings.

We Live Here is a growing movement providing a voice for residents living in apartment blocks and now represents more than 200 buildings across Melbourne.

In addition to important concerns about affordability, residents have also experienced significant problems with Airbnb in relation to safety and security, wear and tear and

amenity.

The government is considering a range of recommendations after a parliamentary committee found its proposed reforms to the short-stay industry were inadequate and unfair to residents.

Clearly, giving owners' corporations the right of self-determination when it comes to Airbnb and commercial short-term letting is an important measure that levels the playing field for residents, who've had no say for too long.

These are the significant reforms our state needs to fix the affordability and supply problems that are making it so difficult for locals in Northcote and across the greater Melbourne area.

No comfort on tram bridge

Contrary to the report of comments made by residents in 2013 and cited in *Docklands News* last month, the Yarra's Edge community today is not happy with the bridge concept.

Led by Phil Spender they have been long-term, vocal opponents of the scheme and welcomed the announcement in 2015 by the new Minister for Planning Richard Wynne that the tram bridge had been "ruled out".

Apart from loss of amenity, other issues concerning We Live Here members in the area in relation to the tram bridge include:

- The effect on two parks on either side of the Yarra. Docklands has been poorly treated with public open spaces, in the overdevelopment of the area. Compare the lavish parklands on the north, east and south of the CBD.

- Congestion in Collins St, west of Harbour Esplanade: Four Lend Lease towers at 883 – 889 Collins (1200 apartments) have been completed, with at least four more planned or under construction towards the Bolte Bridge. ANZ II is also under construction. Where was the transport analysis? A tram bridge will make things worse as the trams cross and stop the single lane of traffic.

We Live Here calls on Richard Wynne to honour his promise, to listen to community concerns and not bow to the pressures of big business in Fisherman's Bend. There must be an alternative solution.

Campaign donations

As a not-for-profit organisation, donations from individuals and buildings keep our campaigns going. To register as a supporter of We Live Here or to make a donation please visit our website at welfarehere.net.

We Live Here does not accept donations from commercial tourism interests.

You can reach us at campaign@welfarehere.net.au. We Live Here members can make a presentation to your owners' corporation committee upon request.

We welcome your comments and feedback, and invite suggestions for topics you would like us to address in this column.



www.welfarehere.net
emails to campaign@welfarehere.net

Owners' Corporation Law

Not all liability policies are created equal

Do you sit on the committee of your owners' corporation (OC)?

If you do, are you sure that you and your personal assets are adequately protected if the committee and the owners' corporation have legal proceedings filed against them?

The good news is that adequate and reasonably affordable insurance coverage is readily available. The bad news is that most OCs do not have adequate coverage.

The problem very often occurs because the directors and officers (D&O) liability coverage is not the focus of OC insurance packages.

The reason it is often not the focus, is that most brokers are not intimately familiar with the coverage and, to be honest, this is not a big-ticket item for most brokers.

Although it is not the main generator of premium, it is a coverage that requires careful thought. In fact, the OC manager,

who is usually delegated the responsibility to renew or obtain the insurance, should demand that the best available coverage be presented.

The second problem is due to the fact that, most often, the main OC insurers are the direct insurers like the big, nationally-known insurance carriers. (This is not to say that some of these carriers may not have a more comprehensive product available.)

These carriers may provide a great product from a property and general liability standpoint, however, they generally do not provide a comprehensive directors and officers liability product.

Everyone assumes that they have full coverage. The reality is that "full coverage" and "appropriate coverage" are not the same thing.

There is no question that you get what you pay for with insurance.

In summary, if you cannot answer yes to virtually all of the following questions, your D&O coverage is probably not adequate:

- Does the definition of insured extend beyond the actual committee members and office bearers?
- Does the definition of insured protect past, present, and future members?
- Does the definition of insured include employees (such as caretakers or building managers and cleaners if employed by the OC)?
- Does the policy provide a defence to claims and proceedings (as opposed to just reimbursing for such costs)?
- Does the policy cover defamation?
- Does the policy defend claims seeking non-monetary loss?
- Does the policy cover wrongful termination or other employer liability claims?
- Does the policy cover discrimination?
- Does the policy defend you where there is

a claim or lawsuit for failure to maintain or obtain adequate insurance?

The potential claims against OCs and committees are only limited by the creativity of plaintiffs and their lawyers.

In these times when people have no qualms or concerns about suing their neighbours, let alone their own committee or building, the proper protection is worth its weight in gold.

My advice is that each committee should review its policy and ask its broker and OC manager to obtain the maximum possible coverage, relative to the size of the building and the complexity of its issues (and occupants for that matter). It is better to be safe than to be sorry.



Tom Bacon

Tom Bacon is the principal lawyer of Strata Title Lawyers.

tom@stratatitlelawyers.com.au



FACES OF SOUTHBANK

Question:

eBikes – viable means of transport or hazardous obstacle?



ANNALISE BONNICI, 36, NORTH MELBOURNE

I wouldn't say a hazard as such. They're definitely a clutter in the city, but I'm not sure if they're needed when we already have the City of Melbourne bikes.



TIM COOKE, 24, BRUNSWICK

I think they're a hazard and an obstacle. They just make the city look gross because they're left and dumped in stupid places. I mean, it's a good idea, it just hasn't been executed properly.



KAREN MALYSIAK, 55, GLEN IRIS

They do have some viability if people don't abuse them, that's the unfortunate part of it.



CARYSSA LUMBARD, 26, BALACLAVA

I think they're a viable means of transport. I think they lower pollution and with this many (bikes) it's good to have another resource that's going to be an alternative public transport. It's not going to be a tram or a train or a bus, it makes sense to have them.



SHAYNE DANIELS, 47, CANBERRA

I don't think they're a hazard at all, I think they're more than a viable means of transport for people to get around the town.



LIDEKE VAN GOOL, 57, HOLLAND

I think they're a great means of transport. Coming from Holland we do everything on a bike, so it's a good idea.

SOUTHBANK SUDOKU

A variation of Sudoku, with the letters SOUTHBANK replacing the numbers.

The rules are the same as regular Sudoku, each line of the must contain the letters 'SOUTHBANK' as must each 9-square box. This Sudoku is MEDIUM-HARD! Good Luck!

Last month's Sudoku solution

B	O	A	T	H	S	K	N	U
H	S	N	O	K	U	B	T	A
U	K	T	N	B	A	S	H	O
K	A	H	B	T	O	U	S	N
N	U	O	H	S	K	T	A	B
S	T	B	A	U	N	O	K	H
T	B	S	U	N	H	A	O	K
A	N	U	K	O	T	H	B	S
O	H	K	S	A	B	N	U	T

				N				
	K			H		B	S	
U							A	
					K	T	B	S
O	N						K	U
K	B	T	U					
	S							N
	H	N		S			O	
				T				

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Activating vertical villages

The Heart Foundation has long advocated walkable neighbourhoods with connected streets and open spaces to promote physical activity, but what opportunities are there in our high-density vertical villages?

One popular future view of high-density living is that people will give up their cars and become “active transport users” – walking, cycling and running for trams, trains and buses.

And Dr Jennifer Kent, a research fellow at the University of Sydney, agrees that there is certainly a relationship between high density built environments and physical activity. However she also notes that “... higher housing density alone will not make people more or less active.”

So what activity options are available for us of the vertical villages?

Of course there are our increasingly well-appointed (if not always used) building gyms along with such well-established notions as walking groups (though it would be useful if our community associations could compile this information in a central location!).

I have also heard conversations about the use of internal stairs for some friendly inter-building vertical racing – our own Eureka Climb.

Thoughts were that this could be an annual event starting at Docklands, moving the next year to Southbank and then to the CBD.

If the idea of stair racing is unappealing, Royal College of Art graduate Elena Larrib has designed Vycle, a pedal-powered, vertical transportation system that eliminates the need for stairs or lifts by allowing high-rise dwellers to cycle up



their buildings. Her vertical transportation concept resembles the front half of a bike attached to a vertical rail, which is fitted to the side of buildings (or even scaffolding!). It is powered by a continuous cyclical movement and balanced with counterweights, meaning that it is only one's own body weight that needs to be overcome.

Not convinced?

There are some other interesting things happening with bikes – such as Daan Roosegaarde's smog free bike which generates clean air as you pedal. While still at the concept stage, the Dutch designer sees the bike being implemented through bike sharing programs such as Mobike in China (though such an approach might be a

bit contentious in Melbourne at the current time).

Moving on from bikes, there are also options that can be undertaken in the privacy of our own apartments.

Too small you say?

The Holy Grail remains dual function and there are a few cool things I have come across.

Table tennis anyone?

German designer Tobias Fränzel has created the Ping Pong Door – a two-in-one affair that stores a fold-out ping pong table in your doorway. The table tennis door is literally a door that hinges forward from its centre to become a ping pong table.

When not in use, it looks like a regular

door, except it is bright green with a stripe down the middle. But when you swivel it down, it becomes a ping pong table (though not regulation size).

Continuing the theme of dual use, there are also multi-function tables which switch from being, for example, a pool table to a dining table. Or there are ones that double as a pool table and an air hockey rink that may also convert into a dining or boardroom table.

Local manufacturer, All Table Sports, makes a range of these in their factory in Moorabbin, and Enzo of All Table Sports says that if you have something in mind that they don't already have, talk to him about making one specially tailored for your compact space.

This also could be an option for those vertical villages fortunate enough to have common areas for resident socialising.

Now let the games begin!

If you would like links to the research or organisations mentioned, please visit and like SkyPad Living on Facebook.



Janette Corcoran

Apartment living expert

<https://www.facebook.com/SkyPadLiving/>

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Health & Wellbeing

Soups, salads, patience and supplements

Soups and salads

Looking for a great way to alter your eating habits to not only lose weight but improve your nutritional intake?

Studies have shown that by eating a small salad (100 calories) or big bowl of vegetable soup before your main meal cuts overall calories consumed for the entire meal by 12 per cent and 20 per cent respectively!

So that way you are increasing your fruit and/or vegetable intake whilst reducing all of the other calorie, fat and sugar-laden other options that you would normally have instead.

We all know the importance of increasing our fruit and vegetable intake and this is one such way of doing so, whilst helping the waistline in the process!

Patience

I get personal training clients wanting, demanding and expecting results almost immediately. Sure, it happens that way quite frequently for some but for some others it takes time.

My slowest and possibly worst case of recent memory was a Southbank local who



followed all that I asked of him physically and nutritionally. The problem was that his weight just wouldn't shift!

Admittedly he would ideally only like to lose a total of 10kgs, but it took 15 weeks for him to lose 1kg! In that time, he was close to quitting, had a negative mindset yet I reassured him that he was on the right track and setting up sustainable exercise and nutrition habits for life.

Ever since then he has continued to lose weight almost weekly and has now lost 7kgs in the last 12 weeks. More importantly, he has increase his muscle by 2.7 per cent and reduced his body fat by 5 per cent, is fitter and stronger than he has been in years and

has a very positive attitude to health and fitness.

Be patient and set up accountabilities to keep yourself on track and look toward the bigger picture and that is health and fitness forever – and not just now.

Nutritional supplements

If you read any health and fitness magazine, follow any health and fitness “supposed” gurus on Instagram and they will all tell you and ram down your throat the need for sports and nutritional supplements.

It is big business and much money to be made. But do you really need them? The answer to this question most often is no and you are simply wasting your money!

Sure, there are many supplements that we do need and aid our immune system and if prescribed by your GP that knows you and your deficiencies, then go for it. But to be told by your personal trainer, some naturopaths, some chiropractors and some masseurs to name a few, then you need to ask yourself are they selling you them because they get some sort of financial kickback and why do you need them?

The mere fact is that much of what we do need can be sourced from our diets and the money you spend on supplements could be much better spent seeing a fully qualified dietitian or nutritionist (ask for proof of their qualifications and don't see a “health coach” for this) and they will help set you on the right path and educate yourself in the process.

Sadly, the supplement business is built on scaremongering and focusing on one small bit of research and neglecting the bigger picture. Save your money.

For a more information, exercise guidance or if you have any questions feel free to contact me anytime at www.justintimept.com



Justin Moran

Justin Moran is the Owner of Just In Time Personal Training.
www.justintimept.com

Business

Tract Consultants ride into Southbank

Having recently moved its headquarters to Riverside Quay in Southbank, Tract Consultants celebrated its new space last month by participating in Bicycle Network Victoria's Ride-to-Work Day.

The town planning, urban design and landscape architecture specialists recently made the switch to Southbank from their well-known Lennox St address in Richmond.

As part of the relocation, Tract has retrofitted four-basement car parking spaces to enable over 50 personal lockers and more than 40 bike storage spaces in addition to the shared "end of trip facilities" provided within the Mirvac development.

As a long supporter of the Ride-to-Work Day event, more than 50 Tract Consultants staff saw no better way to celebrate their new facilities than by riding to work on October 18!

A long supporter of the event, Tract continues to encourage its growing workforce to seek healthy and sustainable modes of transport to work, with over a quarter of its Melbourne staff choosing to ride each day.

Tract told *Southbank Local News* that it looked forward to continuing to support the yearly event, and introducing itself to the broader Southbank community over the coming months.

tract.com.au



Tract Consultants staff members enjoy their sunny terrace at their new home at Riverside Quay last month as part of Ride to Work Day.

Apartment living made easy

A business offering locals quality apartment furniture and Manchester at incredibly low prices has just opened its doors at DFO South Wharf's Homemaker Centre.

ByRoyale, located near opposite JB Hi-Fi, specialises in everything from dining chairs, small consoles and cabinets to decorations, small stools and tables for apartments.

Another major service that the business specialises in is quality and locally manufactured bedding and Manchester, which is all produced from 100 per cent Australian wool.

"We manufacture our own Manchester for all bedrooms and it's all made from our brand," store owner Andrew Justyna said.

"We also extend on the cushions we have probably more than 100 different styles and we're constantly changing designs."

"We're always trying to promote Australian products as well so we're selling Australian wool quilts and pillows, which are all 100

per cent Australian made, which is very rare these days."

Andrew and wife Ursula recently relocated the business to South Wharf from its previous home in Camberwell and he said they loved their new inner city location.

With the business specialising in all things for the apartment home, Andrew said being located next apartment-based areas such as Southbank and Docklands suited their customer's needs perfectly.

"It's important because I think there is a shortage of apartment furniture and the major retailers don't really care about it because it's not a big market but it's a niche market here," he said.

"It's a family business and we enjoy it very much. The location here at South Wharf is a positive and the foot traffic is constantly improving."

ByRoyale also offers its own travel brand to suit the needs of many inner city professionals seeking luggage or accessories.

It also offers free home delivery within a 10-kilometre radius of its store.

ByRoyale is located at shop 1-111, Homemaker Centre, DFO South Wharf.

For more information visit byroyale.com.au



Deck out your home at ByRoyale at DFO South Wharf!

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MONDAYS @ BOYD
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
Local Southbank JP Atilla Akguner offers two hour sessions every Monday morning from 11am until 1pm at the Principal's Office at Boyd. To book in a time contact: atillaakguner@gmail.com



NOVEMBER 12 @ KAVANAGH ST
SUNDAY STREETS
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Rotary Club of Southbank meets weekly for dinner on most Tuesday evenings throughout the year at Federation Square. Visitors are always welcome.
www.southbank.org.au

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The new Melbourne City Southbank Lions Club hosts its monthly meetings at Boyd from 7pm until 8pm. All welcome.
Email chengji1214@gmail.com for more information

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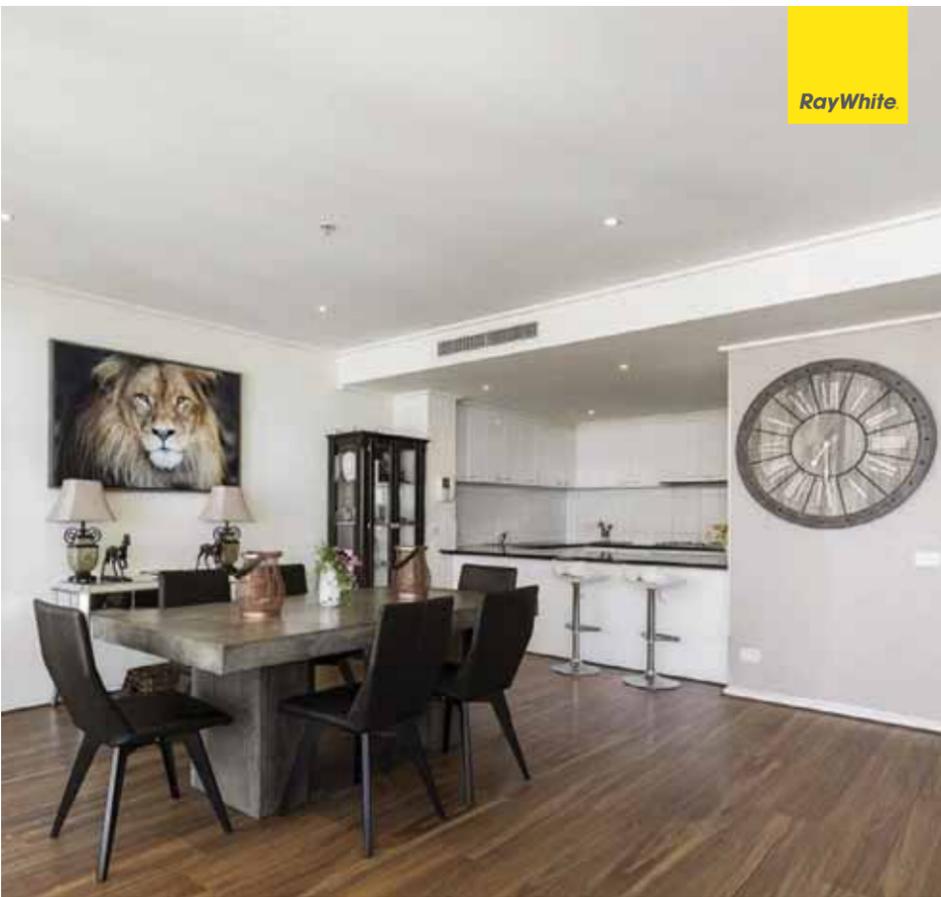
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