Mr Butler and his team are in charge of cleaning the facade of one of the world’s tallest residential buildings – Eureka Tower.

Briteway Window Services has been cleaning windows for 30 years and has been entrusted with the job of cleaning the tower since it was built.

According to Mr Butler, it is experience that counts to ensure the job is done properly.

“Our guys have site-specific knowledge. You need to know the ins and outs of the building to clean it to the best possible standard,” Mr Butler explained.

The obvious need to be fearless also comes into the equation.

“There’s no doubt you have to have the right personality. You have to be comfortable in that situation on a daily basis,” he said.

The distinctive design and height have made Eureka an icon of the Melbourne skyline, but it certainly makes the job of cleaning the entirety of its exterior an all-year-round job.

“We’re cleaning every day we possibly can. It is pretty much a continuous all-year-round job,” Mr Butler said.

Being onsite for most of the year is the only scheduling prediction Briteway can make.

Weather is the key variable affecting the schedule.

“Wind is the big one. It is a much different climate up there than it is on ground floor or even level 65,” Mr Butler said.

“A calm day isn’t necessarily a Eureka calm day,” he said.
Vacancy rates increase

Office space vacancy rates have slightly increased in Southbank.

According to the Property Council of Australia (PCA), in the six months to January 2012 the area’s office vacancy went from 5.7 per cent to 6.4 per cent. The PCA said there was no new space on the horizon for Southbank and the increased vacancies were a result of net absorption rate of -3356 square metres.

It seems Southbank is the anomaly in Melbourne as the news was positive for St Kilda Rd, which had a decrease in office vacancies in the six-month period. Its 13.4 per cent vacancy rate came down to 10.8 per cent.

The PCA said the St Kilda Rd changes were due to net absorption and withdrawals, and that there was very little space in the pipeline for the St Kilda Rd market.

Overall the Melbourne CBD also decreased its vacancy rates, down from 5.8 per cent to 5.3 per cent. That is the lowest level since July 2009.

The program ran throughout January and included artistic courses to encourage young Melburnians to learn new skills and improve existing ones. It was obvious to all on the night that both the talent and confidence of those who took part in the course had grown immensely over the duration of Signal 37.

Signal Studios operates programs throughout the year, for more information head to its website www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/signal/Pages/Signal.aspx.

Talent shines at Signal 37

Youth program Signal 37 concluded with a spectacular event in late January, showcasing the talents of many of its young participants.

The final exhibition on January 21, in front of an enthusiastic crowd, kicked off with a flash mob dance routine and included more dance, music, film, photography and art.
Green makeover for Sandridge Bridge

A key gateway to Southbank has been earmarked by the City of Melbourne as possibly becoming “Melbourne’s most internationally iconic landmark in the city.”

The Sandridge Bridge connects Northbank and Southbank and leads into Queensbridge Square. It is currently used as a pedestrian and bicycle path – but a significant section of it is unused and the council wants to capitalise on it.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle has unveiled the $6 million concept, which will utilise the unused section of the bridge, and create a park oasis for all to enjoy.

He also pointed out that it was the unused section that the council wanted to upgrade.

“What we’d be doing here is take an unused part of the existing bridge and turn it into a place for people to relax, read a book in the shade of tree and you could even go and have a coffee or a snack in what will be a remarkable sustainable green building with a view like no other,” Cr Doyle said.

The council is hoping to fund the project through the Australian Government’s Liveable City’s Program Fund, and applied for funding support during December.

The proposal takes environmentally friendly projects to the extreme, featuring trees lining the bridge, sustainable water storage and a zero-carbon building with an eco café inside and vegetation on the roof.

“The project would create a unique public place like no other in Melbourne and bolster an important connection between our city’s north and south banks over the Yarra,” Cr Doyle said.

The Lord Mayor boasted that these sort of initiatives are what makes Melbourne the city that it is, saying: “This is what makes Melbourne one of the best cities in the world, we are always looking to enhance these unused spaces in our city to bring them back to life, that is why Melbourne is so liveable.”

He also said the project was keeping in line with other plans the council has set for the future.

“This project compliments all of our sustainability programs and will again build on the number of capital works projects undertaken by the city that champion green and sustainable design in Melbourne,” Cr Doyle said.

“This project would embrace our Urban Forest and Open Space Strategies and our Southbank Structure plan whilst complement and respect the design and heritage significance of the bridge.”

Residents are fired up over plans to build Melbourne’s second highest building at the site of the Queensbridge Hotel.

The Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) is considering the building proposal from Schiavello Pty Ltd, which includes a 71-storey tower measuring 275 metres.

With a gross floor area of 107,127 square metres, the proposal was sent directly to the DPCD and not the City of Melbourne as it deals with any plan bigger than 25,000 square metres.

The residents of Freshwater Place say the building would completely block the western side of their building, and it’s not the views they are concerned about losing, rather, sunlight.

The Freshwater residents claim the building will be just eight metres from their building.

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The proposal takes environmentally friendly projects to the extreme, featuring trees lining the bridge, sustainable water storage and a distance that is both impractical and against area guidelines.

They have been incensed enough to create a website in an attempt to have a voice in the planning of the surrounding areas of their building.

Queensbridgeoverload.com.au explains the residents’ position, but Freshwater Place Owners Corporation chair Peter Renner says: “The site is for people in the community who want to understand the facts, not for opinions.”

He said they were simply giving a view about the appropriate development of Southbank which, according to Mr Renner, should include a mixture of high-rise, medium-level and low-rise buildings.

Mr Renner explained that he and fellow residents were not against development of the area and had nothing against this particular building.

“It’s a great design. The building itself is impressive, it’s just completely inappropriate for here. The plan looks great. It’s just in the wrong place,” he said.

Mr Renner also raised the residents’ concerns about traffic in the area. He said new residents to these buildings might have to enter their homes via Flinders St and the CBD, an impractical idea.

Mr Renner said the residents were unsure about the planning of Southbank’s future.

“I believe the developers are cherry picking their opportunities on the basis that there is no overall plan,” he said.

It’s obvious the current residents are also concerned about the infrastructure in place to accommodate the increased number of residents that naturally comes with projects such as this.

“Where’s the bank? Where’s the school? Where’s the post office?” Mr Renner asks. Schiavello declined to comment.

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Celebrating the year of the dragon

Southbank flexed its event hosting muscle during January as the Chinese community welcomed in the new year of the Dragon.

The festival ran from January 27–29 and created an electric atmosphere along the casino promenade.

The promenade featured a bustling street market, multiple stages with entertainment running over the entire weekend and even an hour and a half worth of karaoke (although this reporter could only handle about three minutes before moving on).

The night sky lit up all three nights with spectacular fireworks on display, launched from the middle of the Yarra River. The noise created from the echoing buildings was something to behold.

The year of the dragon is highly significant among the Chinese community, as it is the only mythical zodiac creature.

2012 is the year of the water dragon, which is said to have a calming effect on the Dragon’s fearless temperament.

Southbank jobs boost

Southbank Tram Depot is set for a multi-million dollar upgrade, to ensure the tram network is prepared for 50 new low-floor trams that have been ordered by the State Government.

In a boost for the local economy, the upgrade will create 50 construction jobs, and another 15 Yarra Trams staff will need to be employed full-time for maintenance and engineering of the new trams.

The $24.4 million upgrade is set to target the expansion and improvement of the workshop area, installation of an underfloor wheel lathe used to carry out wheel maintenance and the installation of an additional maintenance pit.

It’s not just the maintenance of the trams that will be looked after with a 60,000 litre underground water tank also being installed, to capture stormwater. The water will then be used in a new tram wash facility.

The new trams are to be built in Dandenong, and the Premier Ted Baillieu says they will be better than existing trams.

“The new trams will each be able to carry more than 200 passengers and will improve accessibility for passengers,” Mr Baillieu said.

“The new trams will have a low floor to provide easier access at tram stops, slip-resistant floors and air-conditioning to improve passenger comfort and safety,” the Minister for Transport Terry Mulder says.

“We are committed to upgrading both the network and trams to improve accessibility,” Mr Mulder said.

“The Coalition Government is focused on getting the basics of our public transport network right, which is why we’re investing $800 million in tram network improvements.”

The upgrade of the site is to be completed by Leighton Contractors and with work already underway Mr Mulder said the depot works should be completed by the time the first of the new low-floor trams are added to the network late next year.
Council warned off wards

The Victorian Electoral Committee (VEC) has rejected the push for the return of a wards system for the City of Melbourne, after it released a preliminary report to the council for their future electoral structure.

Despite talk of a return to the system that would see Southbank gain specific councillors looking after our area, the VEC has suggested its preference is to maintain the current zoning, with additional councillors for the entire area.

The plan sees the undivided municipality represented by nine councillors plus the Lord Mayor and a Deputy Lord Mayor, two more than the current seven councillors and the two leaders.

The recommendation goes against the public submissions received by the VEC, with 17 submissions preferring a return to a wards system, against 4 who preferred the current boundaries.

Only one submission said the current number of councillors was satisfactory, with 16 wanting more and four not commenting either way.

One of the submissions against wards was from the Lord Mayor, Cr Robert Doyle, who, according to the report said: “A move to wards would not reflect the business structure of the municipality, nor the fact that almost 77 per cent of the rate base comes from the business community.”

The VEC agrees, with its report stating of its preferred unsubdivided option: “It takes into account the importance of the Melbourne City Council’s capital city functions, which are best suited to an unsubdivided structure, and is also able to absorb Melbourne’s uneven growth patterns.”

“Unlike other Victorian councils, Melbourne City Council has a statewide, a national and even an international dimension.”

Southbank Residents Group has stated its desire for a return to a subdivided council, saying it would be best for the interests of the local residents.

In its submission to the review former president Joe Bagnara said: “Under the current system residents and small businesses lack the proper representation when it comes to addressing local issues leaving resident associations to fill this gap by acting as de facto ward councillors.”

“There is some concern about the risk that the reversion to a ward system poses to the key role of the council in developing and implementing strategy to further Melbourne.”

“However, it is important that councillors keep a balance between their strategic role in the advancement of the capital city and serving its community,” the submission said.

The submission also stated the SRG’s support for an increased number of councillors.

The VEC will receive submissions on the preliminary report until February 23. Those who make submissions will have the opportunity to speak at a public hearing, set to be held at Melbourne Town Hall at 5pm on February 29.

March Survey
Who’s our best street performer?

Southbank promenade is a paradise for buskers and street performers. Highly talented individuals such as the young man pictured here entertain us and help make Southbank an interesting and exciting venue for visitors both day and night.

It is why we want to find Southbank’s favourite busker. Who is the performer you think is the most talented, entertaining or simply fun?

Answer the survey question on our website – www.southbanklocalsnews.com.au and tell us who is your pick of the street performers and why.

Have your say online at www.southbanklocalsnews.com.au

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**Inspection:** By appointment

Lina D’Ambrosio
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**2/1207/6 Whiteman St**

**Sale Price:** $450,000

**Inspection:** By appointment

Richard Mindraoui
0437 250 964

**3602/288 Spencer Street**

**Sale Price:** $430,000

**Inspection:** By appointment

Lina D’Ambrosio
0430 929 851

**For someone just starting out, views. This apartment is great.**

- Spectacular bay and Docklands views
- Southport wing
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**Good size bedroom with two way ensuite and a second bedroom which could be used as a large study or optional second bedroom. Secure under cover car park and the use of a fully equipped gym and spa pool.

**Southbank Promenade**

**26/107 Victoria Harbour**

**Sale Price:** $450,000

**Inspection:** By appointment

Richard Mindraoui
0437 250 964

**GREAT LOCATION TO LIVE OR INVEST Southbank**

**24/55 Victoria Harbour**

**Sale Price:** $499,000

**Inspection:** By appointment

Richard Mindraoui
0437 250 964

**Magnificent Victorian sub Penthouse apartment approximately spacious situated at Grand Central Apartments, surely Melbourne’s best example of Residential Victorian. Beautifully maintained throughout comprising of three massive bedrooms, superb formal living and dining, well appointed kitchen, two bathrooms, incredibly high ceilings, large west facing balcony overlooking Docklands and two undercover car parks.

**Imagine yourself living in this luxury two storey sub penthouse on the 26th floor at Dock 5 premier and award winning development. Boasting 3 spacious bedrooms (all with ensuite’s) plus study, a 2 bathrooms plus additional powder room and an expansive open plan kitchen / dining / living area, surrounded by floor to ceiling windows. This prestige apartment features white marble bench tops, bullion parquet stone floors, and bifold bar room, storage room and wine cellar.

**Promenade**

**26/35 Victoria Harbour**

**Sale Price:** $1.8 mil

**Inspection:** By appointment

Glen Donnelly
0409 988 235

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**Southbank Promenade and restaurants Richard Mindraoui**
0437 250 964

**Stratospheric! This apartment features sprawling floor plan includes fitted kitchen with stainless steel appliances, and ample cupboard space.**

- Large west facing balcony
- Air conditioned
- Individually heated
- Secure car park and storage
- South Melbourne, ensuring the nearby CBD, Southbank promenade and restaurants are within walking distance to Melbourne CBD.

**VUE GRANDE Melbourne CBD, Southbank**

**2406/180 City Road**

**Sale Price:** $410,000

**Inspection:** By appointment

Richard Mindraoui
0437 250 964

**Near city pad within walking distance to Crown casino and Southbank promenade. Functional floor plan includes fitted kitchen with stainless steel appliances, and ample cupboard space.**

- Good size bedroom with two way ensuite and a second room which could be used as a large study or optional second bedroom. Secure under cover car park and the use of a fully equipped gym and spa pool.

**VUE GRANDE Southbank**

**2407/109 Clarendon Street**

**Sale Price:** $450,000

**Inspection:** By appointment

Richard Mindraoui
0437 250 964

**EXCELLENT AND AFFORDABLE Southbank**

**2407/109 Clarendon Street**

**Sale Price:** $405,000

**Inspection:** By appointment

Richard Mindraoui
0437 250 964

**Absolutely stunning!**

- Magnificent fully refurbished, three bedroom apartment located on the 49th floor with great views, offers the discerning buyer the comforts of three large bedrooms, light filled open plan living leading to a good size balcony with great views. Features include secure under cover car park, secure entry, heating and cooling, resort style facilities including indoor heated pool, spa, sauna, gym, tennis court, and BBQ area. The building is located in the heart of Southbank close to world class cafes and restaurants.

**Melbourne**

**260/535 St Kilda Road**

**Luxury & Brand New!**

**Sale Price:** $420,000

**Inspection:** By appointment

Richard Mindraoui
0437 250 964

** Absolutely stunning! This luxurious & spacious near new two bedroom apartment located on the top floor in the newly completed Atlantis building comes fully furnished and presents the latest in inner city living. The unit features a modern kitchen with stainless steel appliances and ample cupboard space that opens to a dining/living area which leads to a balcony with spectacular bay and Docklands views.**

- This apartment is perfect for anyone who wants to take full advantage of the city’s lively culture while living in a spacious and quiet apartment.

**Southbank**

**2408/88 Southbank Blvd**

**Sale Price:** $618,000

**Inspection:** By appointment

Richard Mindraoui
0437 250 964

**Fantastically located on the 24th floor of this apartment features breathtaking views overlooking the Yarra River, CBD and Port Phillip Bay. Featuring a master bedroom with ensuite and walk-in-robe, this apartment is perfect for someone just starting out in Melbourne.**

- VUE GRANDE is situated within walking distance to Melbourne CBD, Southbank Promenade and restaurants.

**Southbank**

**408/109 Clarendon Street**

**Sale Price:** $550,000

**Inspection:** By appointment

Richard Mindraoui
0437 250 964

**Fantastic fully refurbished, three bedroom apartment located on the 49th floor with great views, offers the discerning buyer the comforts of three large bedrooms, light filled open plan living leading to a good size balcony with great views. Features include secure under cover car park, secure entry, heating and cooling, resort style facilities including indoor heated pool, spa, sauna, gym, tennis court, and BBQ area. The building is located in the heart of Southbank close to world class cafes and restaurants.**

**Richard Mindraoui**
0437 250 964

**Magnificent Victorian sub Penthouse apartment approximately spacious situated at Grand Central Apartments, surely Melbourne’s best example of Residential Victorian. Beautifully maintained throughout comprising of three massive bedrooms, superb formal living and dining, well appointed kitchen, two bathrooms, incredibly high ceilings, large west facing balcony overlooking Docklands and two undercover car parks.**

- Secure under cover car park and the use of a fully equipped gym and spa pool.

**Melbourne**

**570/3 Spencer Street**

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P: 8614 8999**
Eureka! Lara lands dream job

Lara Thew Lancashire has worked for Eureka concierge for four years, but now she is leaving for motherhood.

If Lara’s husband is reading this, calm down, not that kind of motherhood!

They may seem poles apart, but to Lara the combination of Eureka head concierge and a career in musical theatre have been running in tandem.

That is until Lara landed a role in the upcoming theatre production of *Motherhood* which is set to travel around Australia. Lara said it was an offer too good to refuse.

Having loved her time at Eureka since the beginning of 2008, Lara knew it would be hard to say goodbye, but was very thankful for the support she has received from her now former employer.

“When an amazing opportunity comes up like this, to know Eureka would be fully supportive and understanding was a great relief,” Ms Thew Lancashire said.

It was this support that has made her time at Eureka such a joy. Lara has always loved acting and performing, and it was important that her “day job” employer was understanding of this.

“Eureka knew all along that performing was my first love and passion. If the right job and the right role came along, I’d have to say goodbye,” Ms Thew Lancashire explained.

“I know lots of other actor friends working three different jobs on minimum wages and really struggling. I was so lucky to have a job with such great flexibility and I also loved my work at Eureka.”

Although Lara is understandably excited about the new role, she leaves Eureka with a heavy heart. In her four years at the concierge she has enjoyed working in an environment where she has personal interaction with so many people, be it residents, visitors or colleagues.

“I knew it was going to be hard to leave. I can’t believe how quickly four years has gone by, and all the people I worked with have become good friends, even some of the residents I consider friends,” she said.

“I will miss the personal interaction. There are some lovely families and young couples I will definitely miss.”

Despite this affinity with her day job, Lara was always hoping the bright lights of show businesses would come calling. She said Eureka have always been supportive of her career, as she completed shows co currently with work.

Now that she has landed the breakout role Lara can’t wait to get her teeth into touring.

“It’s a really funny show. I love doing comedy and this show is a laugh a minute!”

*Motherhood* kicks off its nation wide tour in Wollongong and comes to Melbourne in August.

‘Saints’ donate blood

A group of 60 “saints” from the Church of God visited the Red Cross Blood Centre in Southbank on Australia Day to donate blood.

The church group is based in Pascoe Vale, but made a day of it in Southbank, culminating in the donation of blood.

Hilda Dursun from the church group said the blood drive was all about helping people.

“This event is to save lives of those who are dying due to the shortage of blood supplies,” Ms Dursun said.

The Church wants to encourage all people to donate blood and save lives.

Ms Dursun said the “saints” were donating as part of the celebration of the 94th anniversary of the birth of Ahnsahnghong, who they believe is the second coming of christ.

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Grand preview in Queensbridge Square

Dust off those earplugs. The Melbourne Grand Prix is just around the corner and Queensbridge Square was the site of a preview for the big race, with a display being set up last month.

In an attempt to get people excited about the race organisers provided passers-by with interactive activities and general information about the event, held at Albert Park annually. The display was centred around a giant helmet and once it had your attention also featured a mini-race track with an electronic mini-formula one car, two formula one cars on display and an information tent.

For all the rev-heads who are hanging out for the big race, the sound of screeching motorcars will run from March 15 – 18.

The Colonial Tramcar Restaurant offers open dated gift certificates which make an ideal present for any occasion.

Gift Certificates are valid for 12 months from the date of purchase and are presented in a special souvenir gift pack.

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It may be well established as a meeting place for Melburnians and visitors, but according the architect Marcus O’Reilly Queensbridge Square still has plenty of development left.

Mr O’Reilly should know, he’s the designer behind both the vent on the Queensbridge Rd side of the square and the centrepiece red stage and stairs. He believes the trees surrounding both of his items are the final piece of the puzzle for the public space.

“A city square isn’t just a whole lot of open space, it has to be defined,” Mr O’Reilly said, adding: “We generated the wall to close the square and to block off the car park behind it.”

“The road had to be neutralised, so the vent was built and the trees help to hide the road.”

As the trees on either side grow so to will the distinct boundary of the square.

The vent, a huge fan surrounded by the O’Reilly designed wooden creation pays homage to the areas railway history.

“The structure is an abstract reminder of the railway line that passed through, the vent uses wood that resembles the sleepers from a track,” Mr O’Reilly pointed out.

Five years after his two structures were put in place, Mr O’Reilly is thrilled by the response to them, especially the red stairs being used as a meeting place for all of Melbourne.

“The council were looking for what would be a nice mix. Somewhere for people to have a small scale get together, or a gathering point – any city needs those sorts of spaces.”

“It is amazing. A lot of people come in to Melbourne and their friends here say, let’s meet at the red stairs. It’s easily identifiable by the colour and shape.”

Mr O’Reilly is also proud of the quality materials used during the creation of his structures. He knows they have to still be in top condition when the trees are fully grown and the square is at its peak.

“The timber we used will last for a very long time, with just a few coats of paint to keep it maintained.”

Perhaps the biggest compliment for Mr O’Reilly is the respect Melburnians seem to have for his creations, saying: “Neither have hardly had any graffiti, which I see as a real thumbs up to the work.”

Comment on this story online: www.southbanklocalnews.com.au
Yarra’s Edge is located just across the Yarra from the ANZ building. Take a walk across award-winning Webb Bridge to this truly undiscovered gem. This pristine neighbourhood, developed by Mirvac, boasts stunning apartments as well as luxury homes. Delightful dining opportunities and a beauty salon also make it well worth a visit on a beautiful day. Take advantage of the sunny north-facing bank of the Yarra – it is there for you.

Apartments now selling:
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You’re mad not to eat at Mad Duck!

Mad Duck Cafe has undergone major exciting changes recently. With over 20 years combined experience in the hospitality industry, the new owners Adam and Jay transformed Mad Duck Cafe into a modern relaxed cafe offering contemporary Australian food with a big focus on customer service. Mad Duck Cafe's menu offers luscious food made from fresh ingredients and includes vegetarian and gluten-free items. The cafe is open for breakfast and lunch seven days. You have to try some of the cafe’s popular dishes like feta and avocado toast, homemade gourmet meat pies or big breakfast.

Mad Duck Cafe takes pride in its coffee and only uses organic and fair-trade coffee beans. For the serious coffee drinkers, this cafe is worth a visit.

The cafe offers a range of organic products including bread, herbal teas, and fruit and vegetables juices. Mad Duck Cafe also provides catering around the local area. The catering menu brings to your event the fresh and sumptuous food the cafe offers.

The outdoor dining area is enhanced by the magnificent backdrop of the Yarra’s Edge Marina. With a seating capacity of 40 inside and 30 outside, the cafe can be hired privately for dinner functions, corporate events or private parties.

For this month, Mad Duck is offering Saturday breakfast for two for just $35 - including the popular big breakfast and orange juice for two. For more information, visit www.madduckcafe.com. Bookings essential and you need to mention this promo.

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**Our magnificent weekend**

**What better way for the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival (MFWF) to celebrate its 20th year than with a magical weekend of events all along the city’s most famous river.**

The Riverside Opening Weekend will run on March 3-4 and is sure to confirm that our patch of Melbourne is a culinary leader of not only in this state, but of the country and of the world.

In total there are more than 30 events in just one action-packed weekend, running along the river from Federation Square all the way down to NewQuay in Docklands.

All events running over the opening weekend are listed in the following pages.

With so much on, all tastes are catered for, and with all the weekends’ events listed within these pages – there is no excuse not to get down and enjoy the festivities.

The hardest decision for all those food and wine lovers is where to start?

Perhaps the best place is the Festival Hub, which will be conveniently located at Queensbridge Square.

The Hub will act as a home base for the festival, with art displays, lunchtime live cooking demonstrations and the MFWF Greenhouse by Joost.

The Greenhouse is new to the festival and is the brainchild of Joost Bakker. The Greenhouse’s vision is to create a restaurant that is entirely waste-free and recyclable, with the aim of proving the possibility of a world without waste.

From there it is an easy stroll to any of the events and happenings on the south side of the river. Federation Square Favourites is a free event, as is the entertainment at Southgate and its tasting plates are sure to lure you.

There is another free event out the front of Crown and from there you’ll be able to see the fun happening at WTC Wharf. But how will you get to it? The easiest way will be by the MFWF free river shuttle service.

Once there you can enjoy any number of activities within one of Melbourne’s newest locations. Then jump back onto the shuttle to get to another, South Wharf.

South Wharf promenade is running four events over the weekend, to ensure you will be entertained and, more importantly, full.

Thankfully the river shuttle doesn’t stop there, with further stops in Docklands at Yarra’s Edge and NewQuay.

Both of these precincts of Docklands are offering food and activities from their range of restaurants, which again is sure to please all palettes.

It could fill you just reading about it, but the best part of our weekend is once it’s all over all the rest of the festival begins!

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**The benefits of the weekend**

**The Melbourne Food and Wine Festival’s riverside opening weekend spectacular presents a marvellous opportunity for all business in the Southbank area and should see a significant boost to our local economy.**

The Yarra River Business Association (YRBA) is encouraging all businesses in the area to be prepared – even if food and wine isn’t your field.

YRBA spokesperson Tim Bracher is excited about the prospect of the weekend and the prospects it will bring.

“We will be awash with people who have money and a love of the ‘good life’,” Mr Bracher said.

He suggested that: “The short term gain is the influx of 350,000 people, who are pre-qualified as patrons who love food, wine and mingling with others.”

Mr Bracher was quick to point out that the advantages were longer and greater than simply the feature weekend.

“Longer term, it’s a huge opportunity to reinforce the precinct’s reputation for dining.”

“Since the establishment of Southgate 20 years ago, the competition among Melbourne’s dining areas has become fierce, so the presence of the Food and Wine Festival here for the next five years is an acknowledgement that this precinct still has an enviable reputation for food, ambience and great views.”

Despite the obvious bonuses for the hospitality industry, it is important that other sectors use the momentum from the huge influx of possible patrons.

Mr Bracher said the YRBA was absolutely encouraging all businesses to take advantage of this unique opportunity, saying: “Even if you are not in the hospitality business, you will still be a major contributor to the atmosphere of the weekend and part of the festival vibe.”

“If you are not directly involved, make a special effort to present your business with style and panache.”

After talking to local businesses from the YRBA, Mr Bracher said the mood was a little cautious, but certainly optimistic about the festival’s impact.

“It’s the first time, so there is an air of ‘what’s it going to be like’, but the quality of festival management over the past 20 years tells us that it is going to be a great branding exercise for the precinct,” Mr Bracher said.

“This is a world-class event, Melbourne is so lucky to have it and we are very proud to host its 20th birthday celebrations.”

The YRBA is itself hosting an event over the opening weekend, and Mr Bracher said its progressive lunch, hosted between three restaurants, which will be accessed via the river, was looking good.

“We expect to fill the vessel on both days as our event is a great opportunity to combine Melbourne’s Waterfront scenery with great food, at a very affordable price.”
**OUTBACK JACKS**
The Outback comes to Docklands at Outback Jacks, which boasts the largest selection of steaks in the world. Choose your own diamond cut steak and watch the chef grill it in the open kitchen.

*When* 3 - 4 March, 11.30am til late  
*Where:* 12-16 Newquay Promenade, NewQuay, Docklands  
*Cost:* From $24.95

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**WATERSIDE ORIENTAL BISTRO**
Try Cantonese snacks and tasting plates from a table in front of the restaurant as owners Julie and Frank Chan serve up that famous Hong Kong hospitality with a smile.

*When* 3 - 4 March, Morning until late  
*Where:* Shop 5, 10 NewQuay Promenade, Docklands  
*Cost:* From $5

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**DOCK 31**
The emphasis is on freshness at Dock 31, with a new menu, chef and management. Dine al fresco in the cooling breeze, or in the modern decor inside. Dinner-for-2 special 15 half a lobster, a 220-gram Scotch fillet, mash potato and summer salad, for $70.

*When* 3 - 4 March  
*Where:* 70 NewQuay Promenade; Ph 9670 5550; www.dock31.com.au

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**MISCHA’S PIZZA, PASTA & SALAD**
Mischas is all about friends, funky food and fun. Taste test some of Mischas’ pizza favourites, with pizza slices for only $5.

*When* 3 - 4 March  
*Where:* 62 Newquay Promenade, Ph 9606 0008; www.mischas.com.au

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**MECCA BAH**
Mecca Bah is a middle eastern and Moroccan magic carpet ride for the senses. Discover chef 5 secret “special of the day” to celebrate the Melbourne Food & Wine Festival.

*When* 3 - 4 March  
*Where:* 55A NewQuay Promenade, Ph 9642 1300; www.meccabah.com.au

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**GRILL 66 STEAKHOUSE**
Rekindle your romantic flame with flame grilled steaks while gazing on the waterfront through floor-to-ceiling windows. Watch on the big screen as chef prepares a Melbourne Food & Wine Festival “special of the day”.

*When* 3 - 4 March  
*Where:* 66 New Quay Promenade, Ph 9640 0808; www.grill66.com.au

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**NEWQUAY INTERNATIONAL BUFFET**
Take a culinary journey around the world with the huge variety of dishes, laid out buffet style & cooking station. Save space for dessert – there are 30 to sample! Lunch costs $36, dinner $52.

*When* 3 - 4 March  
*Where:* 6-6 NewQuay Promenade, Ph 9670 3889; www.newquaybuffet.com.au

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**BHOJ**
The name translates into “Indian Feast”. So feast your eyes – and taste buds – on the succulent tandoori meats and curries of chef Rajesh Menia, starting with his vegetarian bhaigre baingan at $15.20.

*When* 3 - 4 March  
*Where:* 54 NewQuay Promenade, Ph 9600 0884; www.bhoj.com.au

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**LIVEBAIT**
Relax on the balcony overlooking the water, and sip a chilled white wine as chef makes your Melbourne Food & Wine Festival “special of the day” with a Mediterranean and South American influence.

*When* 3 - 4 March  
*Where:* 55B NewQuay Promenade, Ph 9642 1500; www.livebait.com.au

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**BERTH**
Bert your weary feet awhile, enjoy a vind with a generous antipasto plate for two ($24) while taking in the spectacular view from ground level or the upper deck. Open from 9am.

*When* 3 - 4 March  
*Where:* 45 NewQuay Promenade, Ph 9670 0199; www.berth.com.au

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*When* 3 - 4 March  
*Where:* 45 NewQuay Promenade, Ph 9670 0199; www.berth.com.au

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**MAN MO**
Set behind glass on the restaurant’s rear wall are two pure gold leaf figures of the Chinese Gods Man Cheung (Literature) and Kwan Yu (War) ... Man Mo is a temple to Malaysian influenced Chinese cuisine.

*When* 42 Newquay Promenade, Ph 9642 1997; www.manmo.com.au

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*When* 3 - 4 March  
*Where:* 45 NewQuay Promenade, Ph 9670 0199; www.berth.com.au
Local events

MAPPING VICTORIA’S HUNGER
DIID YOU KNOW 400,000 VICTORIANS STRUGGLE TO PUT A MEAL ON THE TABLE EVERY YEAR? COME DOWN TO BATMAN PARK TO VIEW THE GIANT MAP OF VICTORIA WHICH HIGHLIGHTS THE LEVELS OF HUNGER ACROSS THE STATE.

When: 3 - 4 March
Where: Batman Park, Batman Park, Melbourne
Cost: Free Must bring a can of food

FESTIVAL FREE RIVER SHUTTLE SERVICE
HOP ON, HOP OFF THE FREE RIVER SHUTTLE SERVICE TO GET TO EACH OF THE RIVERSIDE OPENING WEEKEND EVENTS – FOR TWO DAYS ONLY!

When: 3 - 4 March, 10:00AM - 4:00PM
Where: On the banks of the Yarra River. Pick up and drop off points from Fed Square to Waterfront City Marina.
Cost: Free upon presentation of your Riverside Passport

SEAFOOD AND SAILORS
MELBOURNE LANDMARK, THE HISTORIC MISSION TO SEAFARERS, HAS BEEN WELCOMING SAILORS TO THE PORT OF MELBOURNE FOR ALMOST A CENTURY.

When: 4 March, 10:00AM - 6:00PM
Where: Mission to Seafarers, 717 Flinders Street, Docklands
Cost: Prices from $10.00

LA TRADICION ESPANOLA
EXPLORE THE TASTE COMPARISONS OF SPANISH AND AUSTRALIAN WINES MADE FROM THE SPANISH TEMPRANILLO GRAPE VARIETY. EACH TASTING IS MATCHED WITH TAPAS FROM OUR FAMOUS MENU TO COMPLEMENT YOUR WINE.

When: 3 - 4 March
Where: Bohemian, 35 Dukes Walk South Wharf, ph 9008 8955

PIES BEERS AND BRAWN
JOIN BEER AND BRAWN, AN INTERACTIVE MASTER CLASS WHERE PARTICIPANTS WILL HAVE THE CHANCE TO CREATE THEIR OWN COMMON MAN SIGNATURE DISH – THE HEARTY MEAT PIE!

When: 3 - 4 March
Where: Common Man, 39 Dukes Walk South Wharf, ph 9696 3774

LITTLE PIGGY GOES TO MARKET
JOIN MEAT MARKET EXPERTS FROM TOOBORAC’S MCIVOR FREE-RANGE BERKSHIRE PORK AS THE LITTLE PIGGY GOES TO MARKET!

When: 3 - 4 March
Where: Meat Market, 53 South Wharf Promenade, Ph 9008 853; meatmarketsouthwharf.com.au

YARRA RIVER PROGRESSIVE LUNCHEON CRUISE
JOIN BEER AND BRAWN, AN INTERACTIVE MASTER CLASS WHERE PARTICIPANTS WILL HAVE THE CHANCE TO CREATE THEIR OWN COMMON MAN SIGNATURE DISH – THE HEARTY MEAT PIE!

When: 3 - 4 March, 10:00PM - 4:00PM
Where: WTC Wharf, World Trade Centre, Docklands
Cost: $98.00 per head

PIRATE DAY
ENJOY A FOUR-COURSE FEAST OF FREE-RANGE BERKSHIRE PORK AS THE LITTLE PIGGY GOES TO MARKET!

When: 3 March, 11:00AM - 12:00PM
Where: World Trade Centre, Docklands
Cost: $15.00 Adult, $12.00 Concession, $8.00 per Child, $42.00 Family Ticket

BLACK VELVET
EXPLORE THE TASTE COMPARISONS OF SPANISH AND AUSTRALIAN WINES MADE FROM THE SPANISH TEMPRANILLO GRAPE VARIETY. EACH TASTING IS MATCHED WITH TAPAS FROM OUR FAMOUS MENU TO COMPLEMENT YOUR WINE.

When: 3 March, 6:00PM - 8:00PM
Where: Left Bank Melbourne, 1 Southbank Blvd, Southbank
Cost: $13.00 champagne, stout and canapés

VEGETABLE PUPPET WORKSHOP
EXPERIENCE THE WONDERFUL FLAVOURS FORM THE FERMENTED FORBIDDEN FRUIT AND THE VERACIOUS PEAR VARIETIES WHILE BASKING IN ALONG CAME A CIDER

When: 4 March, 10:30AM - 12:30PM
Where: The Arts Centre, Famous Spiegelent, Melbourne
Cost: $18.00 per child

BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY’S
HIGH TEA IN THE SKY

When: 4 March, 10:00AM - 12:00PM
Where: Showtime Events Centre, 61 South Wharf Promenade, South Wharf
Cost: $15.00 five course brunch accompanied by French champagne

SEAFOOD, BOATS & BBQ

When: 4 March, 2:00PM - 4:00PM
Where: World Trade Centre, Docklands
Cost: $125.00 cooking demo, boat ride, lunch with matched beverage

BARRIE SCHOOL BY THE YARRA
EXPRESS THE WONDERFUL FLAVOURS FORM THE FERMENTED FORBIDDEN FRUIT AND THE VERACIOUS PEAR VARIETIES WHILE BASKING IN A LUXURY WATERFRONT LOCATION OF SHOWTIME EVENTS CENTRE.

When: 3 - 4 March
Where: Showtime Events Centre, 61 South Wharf Promenade, Ph 9066 3867; www.showtimeevents.com.au

ALONG CAME A CIDER

When: 3 - 4 March
Where: South Wharf Promenade, South Wharf
Cost: $8.00 per Child, $42.00 Family Ticket

STRANDED

When: 3 - 4 March, 12:00AM - 12:00AM
Where: Ponyfish Island, Southgate
Pedestrian Bridge, Melbourne
Cost: Prices from $12.00

FOOD TRUCKS UNITE

When: 3 - 4 March, 12:00PM - 9:00PM
Where: Signal Youth Space, Flinders Walk, Melbourne
Cost: Prices from $10.00

SEAFOOD AND SAILORS

When: 3 March, 10:30AM - 12:30PM
Where: Showtime Events Centre, 61 South Wharf Promenade, South Wharf
Cost: $150.00 five course brunch accompanied by French champagne

A TASTE OF MORNINGTON IN MELBOURNE

When: 3 March, 12:00PM - 4:00PM
Where: River’s Edge Events, World Trade Centre, Docklands
Cost: $135.00 four courses with wine

MEETING THE MULES AT THE MUSEUM

When: 3 March, 12:00AM - 12:00AM
Where: World Trade Centre, Docklands
Cost: Prices from $12.00

STRANDED

When: 3 - 4 March, 12:00AM - 12:00AM
Where: Ponyfish Island, Southgate
Pedestrian Bridge, Melbourne
Cost: Prices from $12.00

SEAFOOD, BOATS & BBQ

When: 3 March, 2:00PM - 4:00PM
Where: World Trade Centre, Docklands
Cost: $135.00 three-course seafood BBQ and all beverages

FOOD TRUCKS UNITE

When: 3 - 4 March, 12:00PM - 9:00PM
Where: Signal Youth Space, Flinders Walk, Melbourne
Cost: Prices from $10.00

HIGH TEA IN THE SKY

When: 3, 4 March, 2:00PM - 4:00PM
Where: Eureka 89, Level 89, Eureka Tower, Southbank
Cost: $85.00
MELBOURNE FOOD AND WINE FESTIVAL

**FOODIE FILMS**
*When:* 2 - 9 March, 1:30PM - 12:00AM  
*Where:* Federation Square, Cnr Swanston and Flinders Streets  
*Cost:* Free

**GREENHOUSE BY JOOST**
*When:* 2 - 21 March, 8:00AM - 10:00PM  
*Where:* Greenhouse by Joost, Queensbridge Square, Southbank  
*Cost:* Prices from $15.00 breakfast, lunch and dinner menu available

**MASTERCLASS IN PORTRAIT**
*When:* 2 - 21 March, 8:00PM - 10:00PM  
*Where:* MasterClass in Portrait, Queensbridge Square, Southbank  
*Cost:* Free

**FARMERS’ DELIGHTS & CITY NIGHTS**
*When:* 3 March, 7:30PM - 9:30PM  
*Where:* Eureka 89, Level 89, Eureka Tower, Southbank  
*Cost:* $95.00

**YEAR OF THE FARMER**
*When:* 3 - 4 March, 9:00AM - 5:00PM  
*Where:* Batman Park, Batman Park, Melbourne  
*Cost:* Free

**SWEET FESTIVITIES**
*When:* 3 March, 10:00AM - 9:00PM and 4 March, 10:00AM - 6:00PM  
*Where:* Crown Riverside, Yarra Promenade, Southbank  
*Cost:* Free

**THE LUDLOW BUTCHERS STALL & GRILL**
*When:* 3 - 4 March, 12:00AM - 12:00AM  
*Where:* Southgate, On the banks of the Yarra River, Southbank  
*Cost:* Prices from $6.00

**FARMERS’ DELIGHTS & CITY NIGHTS**
*When:* 3 March, 7:30PM - 9:30PM  
*Where:* Eureka 89, Level 89, Eureka Tower, Southbank  
*Cost:* $95.00

**YEAR OF THE FARMER**
*When:* 3 - 4 March, 9:00AM - 5:00PM  
*Where:* Batman Park, Batman Park, Melbourne  
*Cost:* Free

**FANCY FISH**
*When:* 3 March, 12:00PM - 8:00PM and 4 March, 12:00PM - 3:00PM  
*Where:* South Wharf Boardwalk, South Wharf, South Wharf  
*Cost:* Free

**FED SQUARE FAVOURITES**
*When:* 3 - 4 March, 10:00AM - 6:00PM  
*Where:* Federation Square, Cnr Swanston and Flinders Streets, Melbourne  
*Cost:* Free

**URBAN PICNIC**
*When:* 3 - 4 March, 12:00PM - 6:00PM  
*Where:* NewQuay & Waterfront, Docklands Drive, Docklands  
*Cost:* $10.00 per picnic voucher

**DOCKLANDS GOURMET SAILS**
*When:* 3 - 4 March, 12:00PM - 10.00PM  
*Where:* The Banks of the Yarra  
*Cost:* $99.00 includes Cruise, Glass of Champagne & Canapes

**URBAN PICNIC**
*When:* 3 - 4 March, 12:00PM - 6:00PM  
*Where:* NewQuay & Waterfront, Docklands Drive, Docklands  
*Cost:* Free

**RARE SPIRITS & VINTAGE COCKTAILS**
*When:* 4, 11, 17, 18 March, 12:00PM - 11:45PM  
*Where:* Byblos Bar and Restaurant, World Trade Centre, Docklands  
*Cost:* $55.00 cocktails and tasting notes

**GHAN’S EDGE DOCKLAND SEAFOOD BBQ FEST**
*When:* 3 - 4 March, 11:00AM - 6:00PM  
*Where:* NewQuay & Waterfront, Docklands Drive, Docklands  
*Cost:* Free

**URBAN PICNIC**
*When:* 3 - 4 March, 12:00PM - 6:00PM  
*Where:* NewQuay & Waterfront, Docklands Drive, Docklands  
*Cost:* Free

**FESTIVAL INFORMATION HUB**
*When:* 2 - 21 March, 8:00AM - 10:00PM  
*Where:* The Festival Information Hub, 3 Freshwater Place, Southbank  
*Cost:* Free

**URBAN PICNIC**
*When:* 3 - 4 March, 12:00PM - 6:00PM  
*Where:* NewQuay & Waterfront, Docklands Drive, Docklands  
*Cost:* Free

**FED SQUARE FAVOURITES**
*When:* 3 - 4 March, 10:00AM - 6:00PM  
*Where:* Federation Square, Cnr Swanston and Flinders Streets, Melbourne  
*Cost:* Free

**FAMILY FOODIE WEEKEND AT ARTPLAY**
*When:* 3, 4 March, 11:00AM - 4:00PM  
*Where:* Artplay, Art Play building, Melbourne  
*Cost:* Free

**DOCKLANDS GOURMET SAILS**
*When:* 3 - 4 March, 12:00PM - 10.00PM  
*Where:* The Banks of the Yarra  
*Cost:* $99.00 includes Cruise, Glass of Champagne & Canapes

**A SPANISH TWIST**
*When:* 3 - 4 March, 12:00AM - 12:00AM  
*Where:* South Wharf, 20 Convention Centre Place, Melbourne  
*Cost:* $5.00 Frozen Sangria, $10.00 Paella & Grill items

**GREENHOUSE BY JOOST**
*When:* 2 - 21 March, 8:00AM - 10:00PM  
*Where:* Greenhouse by Joost, Queensbridge Square, Southbank  
*Cost:* Free

**MELBOURNE FOOD AND WINE FESTIVAL**

Join us for the Yarra River Launch Weekend on the Progressive Gourmet Luncheon Cruise

1 - 5pm Saturday 3 March and Sunday 4 March

What better way to enjoy the sights, sounds and tastes of Melbourne’s premier food and wine event than by enjoying a four hour guided cruise of the river, with canapés and bubbly, then calling-in to enjoy signature dishes, complemented by a glass of fine wine, at Southgate’s Scusami (entrée), Pier 35 (main) and Byblos at WTC North Wharf (dessert and coffee).

Normally priced at $170 – festival weekend special price of $98 per head.

Phone 8610 2600 to reserve your place for this special festival cruise.

Sponsored by the Yarra River Business Association, Melbourne River Cruises, and associated restaurants
Looking for something?

Southbank Directory.com.au
THE NIGHTLIFE with DJI

Food…Wine…Festival!

What three things does Melbourne do super splendidly? Food, wine and yes festivals.

It’s totally like the festival capital don’t ya know! For 20 days in March the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival will celebrate its 20th birthday.

With almost 300 events happening across Melbourne there will be plenty to get involved with. The Hub in Queensbridge Square will feature lunchtime live-cooking demonstrations on the main stage with some of Melbourne’s top chefs giving you the low-down on how to chef-up the ultimate Barbie. Yummo!

One new exciting addition to the festival for 2012 is the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival Greenhouse by Joost. A living, breathing greenhouse will rise up from the banks of the Yarra. Welcome to the future – it tastes delightful, two, four, six, eight, bog in don’t wait!

WHAT: Melbourne Food and Wine Festival
WHERE: Queensbridge Square, Southbank
WHEN: Friday, March 2 to Wednesday, March 21
WEB: www.melbournefoodandwine.com.au

Did you say, Bon Iver?

You probably won’t hear or see them on the commercial channels here in Oz but wow, has Bon Iver made an impression on the world.

With four Grammy nominations in the US from their last album, For Emma, Forever Ago, the nine-piece band hit number four in Australia with its latest album and has just sold out three nights each at the Tivoli Theatre in Queensland and a smallish venue called the Sydney Opera House.

The creation of Bon Iver the self-titled new album was a three-year process led by front man Justin Vernon. Recorded at a remodeled veterinarian’s clinic in Falls Creek, Wisconsin with too many magical musicians on the album to name, it was given 9.5 out of 10 by Pitchfork, not bad.

Good news is, you can catch Justin and the gang that is Bon Iver at “The Bowl” here in Melbourne and the outdoor venue should match their signature sound.

WHAT: Bon Iver Live in Concert
WHERE: Sidney Myer Music Bowl
WHEN: Thursday, March 8
WEB: www.boniver.org

Letters to the Editor

Show us the money

The Baillieu Government has to snap out of its investment holiday it has been on for 15 months.

Booming communities like Southbank cannot be allowed to grow without the social and community investment they need to make them a place with a heart.

That’s why the former Labor Government was committed to the building of a new primary school in the Port Melbourne/Southbank catchment. There are real options out there for a new school.

They need hard work and investment to turn them into schools. They do not need more consultant reports. The Southbank families facing being “zoned out” of a booming Port Melbourne Primary and unable to get entry into South Yarra, Albert Park or Middle Park Primaries need a new school now. Not more fine words.

The same can be said for the mysterious new Southbank police station that the Melbourne City Council is convinced is coming – and hence its dropping of its commitment to a “police pod” in Southbank.

The pity is that there has not been one dollar allocated in the last budget or the next three years forward projections for such a police station. The promised new police headquarters in Docklands, due post-2016 at the earliest, will be further away than the Flinders St HQ and not much use to the community safety needs of Southbank.

Our children’s education and our community safety demands that Mr Baillieu funds these two important projects in the 2012 State Budget. To not do so will be to continue to ignore the growing community of Southbank by the Baillieu Government.

Martin Foley MP
State Member for Albert Park

Food…Wine…Festival!

Experience the wind in your face, and that Feeling of Freedom that only a Trike Tour provides.

Our Tour Guides supply an informative commentary about our wonderful and unique Melbourne. We supply Weatherproof Jackets, Helmets, Gloves and have short, long and tailored Trike Tours to suit everybody.

RECOMMENDED TOURS

City Night Time Delights Tour (See the City Lights at Night)
The TrikeMan’s Treat (Our Special every day 2hr Tour)
Round the Bay on the OZtrike (A Great Full Day)
The Grand Prix Lap (See the actual F1 track)
Christmas Gift Vouchers (Book on Line)

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Martin Foley MP
State Member for Albert Park
Like all forms of popular culture, fashion has a rather unoriginal propensity to recycle trends from eras gone-by, with vintage styles from every decade making a comeback every few years or so.

The latest old-school fad to pop up is in fact only about 20 years old, with the best and worst of the early 90s finding its way into magazines and stores everywhere. Grunge is back in all its greasy-haired, carefree, glory, although some would argue it never left.

Whether you were an infant, teenager or baby boomer, we all remember the 90s in one way or another, sartorially or not. Your mind may be conjuring up images of butterfly hairclips, tazos and bedroom walls adorned with Hanson posters but leave these flashbacks where they belong, in 1995.

Look to the early grunge of 1993 using Kurt Cobain, the Cranberries and Winona Ryder in Reality Bites as your inspiration. Australian street fashion mainstays Ksubi is forever spearheading the grunge trend, with its latest collection WAR – full of tartan flannel shirts, dirty khaki and the omnipresent, supremely-distressed denim.

With the label opening its second Melbourne store on Chapel St late last year, expect an influx of studded vests and printed denim to hit the streets with gusto.

An easy way to delve into the trend is to sport a solid pair of black leather boots, the more distressed the better. For those not willing to sacrifice cleanliness and style for grunge’s sake, a tough black platform boot with a heal will suffice nicely. Even Spice Girls-influenced platform sneakers are making a mini-return with girls all over Melbourne sporting Converse’s take on the trend.

Take your tough-as-nails boots, your favorite pair of denim cut-off and a T-shirt of your most adored 90s band and throw on a worn-in flannel shirt and you’re ready for a night out in one of Melbourne’s throwback underground pubs.

Welcome to St Johns Church Southgate
A place for worship, prayer and community, located on the upper level of the Southgate Arts and Leisure Precinct

Sunday Service Times
9am Traditional, Liturgical worship
11am Informal, Liturgical worship
7pm Sunday Night at St Johns Informal, Contemporary worship

The chapel is open daily for private prayer and reflection

20 City Road Southbank Telephone 9682 4995 www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au

90s redux

Nicola
LOCATION? NGV
WEARS? A floral Topshop shift dress, military style khaki jacket by Cue and YMC ankle boots.
DESCRIPTION YOUR OUTFIT? No black when sunny! I love wearing bright prints and fun accessories when the weather is great.
WHAT BRINGS YOU TO SOUTHBANK? The gallery.
WHERE ARE YOU FROM? Melbourne.
WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF CLOTHING? The boots I’m wearing, they’re from a London-based designer.
WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT? Attitude more than anything and confidence. If you think you look good you feel good.

Charlotte
LOCATION? Arts Centre
WEARS? Hat from Henry Bucks, mum’s shoes, a vintage top, a vintage a-line tangerine skirt from a market and my nana’s pendant necklace.
DESCRIPTION YOUR STYLE? Old-fashioned with a modern twist.
WHAT BRINGS YOU TO SOUTHBANK? I’m off to the arts centre.
WHERE ARE YOU FROM? Brunswick.
WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF CLOTHING? A classic, tweed crop jacket.
WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT? Your own individual interpretation of a classic style.

Briana
LOCATION? Southgate
WEARS? Top from Fat, vest from Topshop and a Sportsgirl skirt.
DESCRIPTION YOUR STYLE? Either very feminine or very edgy, I like matchy-matchy.
WHAT BRINGS YOU TO SOUTHBANK? Ice cream!
WHERE ARE YOU FROM? Essendon.
WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF CLOTHING? My gold Ellery jacket.
WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT? A good statement piece.
Big losers and kitchen rulers

We’re only one month into the new year and the cracks are already starting to show in the networks’ programming schedules — with the first casualty of the year coming from the Nine Network.

Excess Baggage barely lasted three weeks on Channel Nine before being relegated to one of its digital-only stations, ‘GO!’ this month. The digital stations have almost become a dark corner of airspace where failed programs go to live out their seasons in relative obscurity.

Despite Excess Baggage playing out like a blatant rip-off of The Biggest Loser (now in its seventh season on Network Ten) the program took eight regular Australians and paired them with eight relatively well known people - the word celebrity need not apply here - and let them loose in the outback in order to solve their problems.

Its biggest weakness was that it didn’t emulate the parts that actually made The Biggest Loser work. It wasn’t the feel-good tale of the underdog that we wanted to see, and was more concerned with showcasing the antics of series pest Darryn Lyons than it was sending the messages of self-empowerment.

That said, if you’re already a fan in spite of these things be sure to watch out for one unlucky ‘celebrity’ who has another health scare (hint: it’s Britney’s ex-husband). The transformations on the final show should also prove more interesting than the actual show itself and host Kate Cebrano is said to be dropping a surprise of her own.

It is a rare thing of late to see a new program on commercial television actually flourish and capture an audience. That said, when this unlikely event does occur, you can expect a raft of imposters flooding the market on the other networks trying to recreate some of the “magic” usually unsuccessfully (see above).

In order to do so, production companies borrow ideas from one another and change just enough to keep the case out of the legal system. This can sometimes bear positive results. Unlike Masterchef, My Kitchen Rules offers something its predecessor lacks (and no, I’m not referring to a certain French chef).

Channel 7’s foray into the wonderful world of competitive tv-cooking has found the missing ingredient: it has venom.

For the most part, the contestants are blatantly honest with one-another to the point where meal time comes dangerously close to an all out melee and, as a result, it makes for entertaining television. Be sure to see how its second round unfolds, with a new doctor and lawyer team set to polarise viewers with their incredibly toxic feedback.

Bear in mind - the mixed messages from your television about losing weight and then putting it back on with your new recipes will only last a few more weeks.

Princess is a model pooch

Sometimes Pet’s Corner is an unbearable chore for pets who don’t want to sit still, or at the very least look in the general direction of the camera.

For Princess however, it was more like child’s play.

Princess’s owner Colin has been a prop builder for the Melbourne Theatre Company (MTC) for almost 40 years and for the past year Princess has been coming into Southbank with her owner, and loves getting her photo taken with all the actors and crew members of shows.

Colin says the tradition of getting photos with all the stars from the theatre company started with a previous pet, but Princess has been more than happy to take over the reins.

She also is an extremely obedient dog, thanks to Colin volunteering at the Altona Civic Obedience Dog Club.

Princess is at obedience level six and even has the skills to show other dogs at lower levels how to partake in what they are learning.

Colin says her agility and general obedience are her strengths, but the class work she does is what really impresses onlookers.

She is an extremely friendly dog and for a lot of the day is off her lead, meaning she can roam and visit all of her friends at the MTC.

Colin says it is not uncommon for someone to come and say hi to Princess, without him having any idea who it is.

No doubt Princess has become a bit of an icon at MTC and with her model good looks, the photo sessions don’t look like they’ll end any time soon.
We need a school

**The October 2011 Southbank Local News article on local MP Martin Foley’s recent address to the SRG on primary education for Southbank should have had the alarm bells ringing for concerned residents.**

It identified the current and future lack of educational planning and the potential compromise of our children’s learning. I am certain you will agree that education is the most important thing we can give our children to ensure that they are literate, for without a good primary education few opportunities will be available to them in later life.

Primary education is the “key-stone” to their future development and is not to be trifled with or diluted by any government bureaucrat. Our Government, by law, has decreed that all children aged 6 to 17 must attend a school and to this end the Government is committed to providing education to all. Incredibly it seems to have slipped their mind when it comes to Southbank. Our glossy Southbank Structure Plan 2010 – a 30-year vision of Southbank hardly gives it a mention. Not good enough.

If you can take notice of the predicted residential population growth to 74,000 by 2040 – currently 11,500 and growing at least 3,000 per year – you would expect our Minister of Education and his army of bureaucrats to have plans in place to provide at least a primary school in the area. Not so.

You are presently required to transport your children to some other “only by motor car” region such as Port Melbourne. Of course our intelligentsia at the Department of Education could have addressed this issue by retaining the Boyd Girls School site instead of disposing of it as excess to their requirements.

I kid you not, they were ready to sell it for commercial activity surely they can find $10 or $20 million to build and operate a school for the future development of the children, present and future, at Southbank.

We are sick to death with surveys, consultations, focus groups and the other entire wasteful obstructionist delaying tactics and I challenge the Minister of Education to instruct his army of bureaucrats and their helpers to take immediate steps to provide us with a school. No excuses. No “spin doctoring”. Just doing your job.
Designing a special place

Whenever architect David Cole is in Southgate, whatever else he is doing, there is one place he almost always visits – St Johns.

Mr Cole’s connection to the place is special. He was the man who designed it two decades ago.

On the fourth Sunday of next month St Johns Southgate celebrates the 20th anniversary of its dedication on March 22, 1992. In keeping with the very purpose of the church, the festivities will be a community affair.

Mr Cole describes the Southgate project, with St Johns very much at its heart, as “one of the most special commissions” he and his company, now known as The Buchan Group, have had.

“(St Johns) was a critical part of creating a mixed use development – a truly mixed use development with such an interesting diversity of uses that a church brought. But most of all what I recall from that time was the abiding commitment of St Johns to maintain its urban mission in that place and it’s gone from strength to strength over those 20 years in delivering that urban mission for the Lutheran Church and the community.”

Mr Cole says the St Johns congregation had a very clear idea of what it wanted.

The congregation was replacing church buildings that had stood for more than 60 years a little to the west along City Rd of the present location that had to give way in the construction of Southgate, a project that triggered the redevelopment of the entire Southbank precinct.

James Bittner, a member of the congregation who had a key role in building the new church, recalls how people were saddened by the move but grasped firmly the opportunities it presented.

“Our guiding principle was to honour the legacy of the 60 church members who, in the mid-1920s had the vision and faith to purchase land at 50 City Rd and to build the original St Johns church,” Mr Bittner said. “It was exciting for us to continue and expand on that vision of mission to the city of Melbourne.”

What the people of St Johns got was a striking building and facilities that still paid regard to traditional ecclesiastical architecture and, symbolically, contained key elements of the old St Johns, including a small chapel furnished with artefacts from the previous church.

A new centre-piece was the wonderful Knud Smenge pipe organ, built in Australia in a German baroque style perfectly suited to the glorious music of JS Bach.

So how does St Johns work today, in the midst of the bustling Southbank community?

“St Johns has something to offer almost every demographic group in the inner city,” says St Johns chair Patricia Buchanan.

“We welcome a regular playgroup on Tuesday mornings, a friendship group for all ages meets monthly and there are opportunities for international and other students to meet, eat and socialise. As well as worship services, enhanced by a world-class music program, children look forward to the Sunday school and hospitality is extended through morning teas and lunches every Sunday.

“St Johns hosts weddings and classical concert performances in the nave, meetings and seminars in the boardroom or the multi-purpose function room as well as more informal gatherings in the lounge. It is also our privilege to offer our church for funeral and memorial services.”

“St Johns has become a community hub,” she says. David Cole agrees.

“I always pop quietly into St Johns whenever I am in Southgate. I am a regular anonymous visitor and it still feels a wonderful building and feels like it was designed and delivered fit for its purpose as a worship space and as a centre for St Johns urban mission and also for various other uses it has in opening its doors to the wider community.”

St Johns is celebrating its anniversary on March 25 in a service conducted by Pastor Ian Vainiakka, featuring wonderful music and followed by a hearty lunch. You are very welcome to attend.

For further details contact St Johns Southgate on 9682 4995.

Comment on this story online: www.southbanklocalnews.com.au

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AZIZA MEANS INDIA’S FINEST

The word “aziza” has several meanings.

In Arabic, it is “cherished”; in Egyptian it is “precious”, in some African dialects it means “respected”, and in India it refers to a “good friend”.

They all aptly describe the staff and the remarkable Indian furnishings on sale at Aziza Designs, in South Melbourne.

Business partners Jo and Gil Tucker (of Cop Shop fame!) and Lulu Extonpery describe their products, as “a textural feast of opulent, hand-picked furniture with symbolic elements”.

Antique timber doors, marble wall pieces and ornaments, intricate timber chests and jewellery boxes, brass pots and fixtures, the list goes on – and all are hand crafted.

Most are sourced from Rajasthan, in north-west India, where Ms Extonpery lived for eight years until recently returning to Melbourne. Another partner, Salim, heads their production team there.

“Lulu has the expertise to source the special, individual pieces, and to develop relationships with the individual crafts people,” Mrs Tucker said.

“We support the grassroots, crafts people and artisans,” Ms Extonpery added: “As well as goods perfect for apartment living, we cater to interior designers and architectural designers, and we are able to custom make any stone or marble product.”

“We have beautiful, hand-carved granite leaves about two metres high, which are ideal for a garden, a bistro or a hotel entrance.”

Mrs Tucker said: “Our incoming shipment includes textiles and jewellery.”

A beautifully-carved wall, with a door and windows is from early 18th century Rajasthan. Signed, limited-edition prints by noted Melbourne artist John Baird would be at home on any Southbank apartment wall.

Mrs Tucker points out intricately-latticed jali (windows) dating back to the Mogul Empire (1400s-1800s). Antique rosewood and teak doors, with brass and iron fixtures, are circa 18th century southern India.

Large antique brass cooking pots, called uruli, “would be perfect for floating candles, or as a fire pot on an apartment balcony,” Mrs Tucker says.

“We have collectible antiques called monstas, that were once in a Portuguese Catholic church in southern India.”

The store also has contemporary furnishings, such as decorative, metal hanging lights and industrial-type, iron furniture.

Aziza Designs is at 282 Coventry St, South Melbourne, ph 9699 4664, www.azizadesigns.com.au

COMMUNITY COMES FIRST AT LA CAMERA

There is no problem with the acoustics at La Camera restaurant, nestled near Hamer Hall at Southgate.

Manager Paul Scidone and his assistant, Renee, host an Acoustic Community Night on Monday, February 27, which Mr Scidone describes as “a perfect meet-and-greet night for local residents.”

“The first time we held it we had 20 people,” he says. “It has grown to be a huge night.”

“La Camera has a keen sense of community spirit. Our Monday Community Nights keep us well connected with local residents.”

La Camera has a Community Night every Monday, with a special theme on the last Monday of each month.

March 26 is Opera Challenge, “which is the most popular”, Renee said.

The other community nights are April 30 Jazz and Shiraz; May 28 Pianist (“He has the reputation for being a fabulous entertainer and it is our fifth birthday,” Renee said); July 30 Classical String Trio; August 27 Acoustic Night; September 24 Jazz and Shiraz; October 29 Opera Challenge; November 26 End of Year Party.

Southgate residents and La Camera members receive a 25 per cent discount on their food bill up to $75 on every Monday night except Opera Challenge. Membership is available at La Camera’s website, www.lacamerasouthgate.com.

“We give our members a monthly special, and we’ll double the offer for anyone who joins us on Facebook in February.”

“We have over 12,000 members on our website, who see our regular newsletter. The major sponsors of the community nights are Central Equity, Angoves Wines and Coca Cola, and MCM provides prizes. This month’s sponsor is Southgate Pharmacy. Mr Scidone says La Camera is well positioned, on the mid-level above Southgate Food Court.

“Southgate has gone through the hardest part with all the renovations and once Hamer Hall reopens in July, it will be a fantastic place again,” he said.

“The location is second to none. There are now new shops as well as the popular restaurants.”

“La Camera has been here for 10 years and is one of Melbourne’s most popular restaurants.

“La Camera is Italian for ‘the room’ and we want to be your home away from home, always friendly and with great value meals.”

“Try our Full Monty brekky – it’s with everything, for just $8.90. We also have a lunch special: $12 for pasta or risotto with a glass of wine.”

“Our most popular item is the Roman-style pizzas, which are thin crusted but very large.”

Pop into La Camera this month to receive a VIP card. Phone 9699 3600, www.lacamerasouthgate.com
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SOUTHGATE’S SILENT DECK CHAIR CINEMA</strong></td>
<td>December 14 - February 29</td>
<td>Southgate, 3 Southgate Avenue, Southbank</td>
<td>Free films on Tuesday and Wednesday nights at Melbourne’s only silent deck chair cinema. <a href="http://www.celebratesouthgate.com.au">www.celebratesouthgate.com.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NATIONAL PLAY FESTIVAL 2012</strong></td>
<td>February 22 - 25</td>
<td>The Malthouse, 113 Sturt Street</td>
<td>The National Play Festival is coming to Melbourne and celebrating new Australian plays with a stellar line-up of performances, talks and readings at the Malthouse. <a href="http://www.nationalplayfestival.org.au">www.nationalplayfestival.org.au</a></td>
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<td><strong>THE SEED</strong></td>
<td>February 17 - April 4</td>
<td>Fairfax Studio, 100 St Kilda Road</td>
<td>Australian writer, Kate Mulvany, draws on her own family history in this witty examination of how tightly ties can bind. <a href="mailto:info@mtc.com.au">info@mtc.com.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FREE TAI CHI IN SOUTHBANK</strong></td>
<td>Every Friday, 8am - 9am</td>
<td>Queensbridge Square</td>
<td>Because of the lack of open and recreational space on Southbank, the Melbourne City Council has funded weekly Tai Chi classes on Southbank. The instructor, provided by Tai Chi Australia structures a class that is suitable for beginners and all ages. <a href="http://www.taichimove.com">www.taichimove.com</a></td>
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<td><strong>KIMMO POHJONEN</strong></td>
<td>March 8, 8pm</td>
<td>Melbourne Recital Centre 31 Sturt Street</td>
<td>Finnish musician, Kimmmo Pohjonen is nothing less than a jaw-dropping, brilliant monster. <a href="http://melbournerecital.com.au">melbournerecital.com.au</a></td>
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<td><strong>THE RAKE’S PROGRESS</strong></td>
<td>March 17 - 57</td>
<td>Playhouse, 100 St Kilda Road</td>
<td>At the core of Stravinsky’s great opera, The Rake’s Progress, is a battle between good and evil. The opera depicts the tumultuous journey of Tom Rakewell from man to monster. <a href="http://www.theartscentre.com.au">www.theartscentre.com.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TANGO AT MIDNIGHT</strong></td>
<td>March 11, 9pm</td>
<td>World Restaurant &amp; Bar, Shop 4, Building 2 Riverside Quay</td>
<td>Venture out for a late night fiesta on the Yarra with empanadas, asado meats, locro and wines from Argentina to Australia. And tango, of course. <a href="http://www.worldrestaurantbar.com.au">www.worldrestaurantbar.com.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WHITE</strong></td>
<td>February 15 - 19</td>
<td>Victorian Arts Centre 100 St Kilda Road</td>
<td>Direct from Scotland, ‘White’ takes you into a beautifully strange world. Full of birdsong and birdhouses, it gleams, dazzles and shines into the night. <a href="http://www.theartscentre.com.au">www.theartscentre.com.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MSO – BEETHOVEN VIOLIN CONCERTO</strong></td>
<td>March 22 - 24</td>
<td>Melbourne Recital Centre 31 Sturt Street</td>
<td>In this concert, Blacher guides the orchestra through a musical journey encompassing the grace of Haydn’s early symphony, the intensity of Shostakovich and the poetry of Beethoven’s glorious Violin Concerto. <a href="http://www.mso.com.au">www.mso.com.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SIBLINGS IN Sync</strong></td>
<td>February 18 - April 13</td>
<td>Victoria Arts Centre 100 St Kilda Road</td>
<td>IA music therapy workshop for young people with special needs and their siblings. Designed to promote shared abilities and co-operation through creative music making. <a href="http://www.theartscentre.com.au">www.theartscentre.com.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>INSTANT ROCKSTAR</strong></td>
<td>February 18 - April 13</td>
<td>Victorian Arts Centre 100 St Kilda Road</td>
<td>Instant Rockstar lets kids unleash their inner pop diva and guitar hero. Create a hit song using lots of cool music samples, and then use the track to make a music video. <a href="http://www.theartscentre.com.au">www.theartscentre.com.au</a></td>
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<td><strong>MSO – WIND POWER</strong></td>
<td>March 25, 11am - 1pm</td>
<td>Iwaki Auditorium, 120-130 Southbank Boulevard</td>
<td>This exciting program of wind music spanning three centuries begins with György Ligeti. <a href="http://www.mso.com.au">www.mso.com.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CHUNKY MOVE DANCE CLASSES</strong></td>
<td>Mondays to Thursdays 6.30pm-8pm, Saturdays 10am-1.15pm</td>
<td>111 Sturt Street</td>
<td>Chunky Move dance classes are the perfect way to unwind, get fit and improve flexibility and strength. For more info: <a href="http://www.cbunkymove.com">www.cbunkymove.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ARTS CENTRE SUNDAY MARKET</strong></td>
<td>Sundays, 10am-4pm</td>
<td>Arts Centre 100 St Kilda Road</td>
<td>Meet over 80 of Victoria’s finest artisans first hand. Discover how these unique artworks are made, chat directly about the process, techniques and inspirations. For more information: <a href="http://www.theartscentre.com.au">www.theartscentre.com.au</a></td>
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<td><strong>MSO – SHOSTAKOVICH QUINTET</strong></td>
<td>March 10 - 11</td>
<td>Victorian Arts Centre 100 St Kilda Road</td>
<td>The Peony Pavilion by the National Ballet of China is a deeply romantic tale of the power of love over death that dates back to the Ming Dynasty. <a href="http://www.theartscentre.com.au">www.theartscentre.com.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TAFELMUSIK – THE GALILEO PROJECT</strong></td>
<td>March 3 - 6</td>
<td>Melbourne Recital Centre 31 Sturt Street</td>
<td>Canadian ensemble Tafelmusik will take you on an epic space odyssey, performing exquisite period music from memory before stunning images from the Hubble deep space telescope. <a href="http://www.musicaviva.com">www.musicaviva.com</a></td>
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Level 53/1 Queensbridge Street, SOUTH BANK
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Situated in the ever-popular Arts Centre Precinct is this delightful 110m2 residence, offering a standard of living that is second to none. An endless list of features await you.

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LUXURY LIVING AND STYLE!
2 2 1
This large 1 bedroom apartment with Study offers executive living at its finest with floor to ceiling views across the Yarra and Port Phillip Bay. Spacious open plan living and more.

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3302/200 Spencer Street, MELBOURNE
ENJOY THE INNER-CITY LIFESTYLE
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With a generous size of approximately 84m2 with balcony, this property would suit families, and also purchasers wishing to enjoy a change in scenery.

FOR SALE

4506/1 Queensbridge Square, SOUTH BANK
EXPANSIVE VIEWS, EXCELLENT LOCATION
3 2 2
Located in a very prominent position, with outstanding views of the City & Botanical Gardens is this splendid 2 Bedroom apartment with room to move. Brand new!

OFF THE PLAN

Docklands - Apartments - 1 BR - 3 BR
$740k – $83m - Ready End 2012
Southbank - Apartments - 1 BR - 2 BR
$375k – $525k - Ready May 2013
South Melbourne - Apartments - 1 BR - 3 BR + Study
$490k – $842k - Ready Mid 2013
North Melbourne - Apartments - 1 BR - 2 BR
$399k – $574k - Ready October 2012
Prahran - Apartments - 1 BR - 3 BR
$550k – $685k - Ready Early 2013
Melbourne - Apartments - 1 BR - 2 BR
$475k – $595k - Ready September 2012
Clayton - Apartments - 1 BR - 3 BR
$515k – $595k - Ready July 2012
Footscray - Apartments - 1 BR - 2 BR
$325k – $515k - Ready Soon
West Footscray - Apartments - 1 BR - 2 BR
$295k – $489k - Ready May 2013
Travancore - 1 BR - 2 BR
$485k – $625k - Ready End 2012