Moomba takes over St Kilda Road

The oh-so-Melbourne Moomba festival rolled into town last month, with St Kilda Rd central to the time-honoured Moomba parade. The parade this year saluted our emergency services. Seven emergency service workers were named as Moomba monarchs. See our story on page 4.

Photo courtesy of City of Melbourne

Melbourne precincts funding shake-up

The City of Melbourne funding of destination marketing groups, such as the Yarra River Business Association (YRBA), has undergone a change in structure, with the abolishment of over-arching Melbourne Business Precincts (MBP) organisation.

MBP was established to bring together Melbourne’s eight business precincts, pooling their funding and encouraging them to undertake joint marketing campaigns. A council review into the MBP program found “various issues associated with the MBP program 2011-13”, which included:

- Lack of collaboration;
- Duplication of activities by MBP (of what the council was already doing);
- Extra costs;
- Confusion regarding program objectives and performance requirements; and
- A lack of standard process.

The review put forward a new model for 2013-17, whereby funding is distributed to associations individually, as was the case before the formation of MBP.

YRBA President John Ahern said his major concern was first and foremost maintaining the association’s funding and, therefore, its ability to market the Yarra River region.

“The important thing is that council has reaffirmed its commitment to a precinct program, regardless of any change in how it is administered, so that augurs well for the future of the city’s precinct associations,” Mr Ahern said.

He also pointed out that, despite YRBA’s full support and co-operation with the MBP model, it had become unworkable in recent times.

“It became clear very quickly that each precinct had its own specific issues and challenges, which made collaboration difficult.”

“YRBA still believes there is room for a more co-operative and cross-precinct approach to business development in the city.”

The new program will require each group to have at least 25 paid members. The council also outlined objectives for these associations, such as marketing and promotional activities, representing the interest and views of precinct members and to seek opportunities for recognised associations to collaborate with each other.

Each association is eligible to apply for up to $75,000 annually under the new scheme, $25,000 for administration and $50,000 for marketing, with funding to be determined by the number of members in each association.

As for YRBA funding, Mr Ahern said the new program might be advantageous towards the YRBA.

“The revised program could see an increase in funding for YRBA, or at least maintain the existing level of funding,” Mr Ahern said.
No excuse for staying quiet

A perfect storm of events has led to arguably Southbank’s most intriguing month of planning issues in its history.

Both the State Government and the City of Melbourne are showing more signs of wanting to have community input into city planning than ever before.

The council has evolved into its position as spokesperson on planning for residents. It’s a long way from the organisation that openly admits it let the approval of Queensbridge Tower slip through its processes.

It was the backlash of the Queensbridge Tower decision, coupled with the election of a new team of councillors in last year’s elections that has led the city to be far more active in opposing approvals from Matthew Guy on proposals over the 25,000 square metre limit (the size of which a proposal is handed directly to the Minister, bypassing the council).

Just last month the council officially voiced concerns over both Australia 108 and Clarke St apartments.

This new position is a fantastic opportunity for locals to voice their opinions and feel like they are being heard.

In addition, this month saw two major opportunities to communicate planning ideas and opinions to the State Government. As our story on page 5 describes, both events are another sign that the Minister for Planning, Matthew Guy, is starting to, at the very least, understand that he must canvass community ideas before going ahead and approving proposals.

All this boils down to being a fantastic time to make your own voice and opinions on planning matters heard. Locals must move on from the “they won’t listen to me anyway” mentality, because the opportunities are being provided.

If locals don’t grasp these chances while they are available, the State Government, and council will likely turn around in future and say: “when we asked, nobody responded, if our strata plan is looking the council will likely turn around in future and say: “when we asked, nobody responded, if our strata plan is looking

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Head this way, it’s KereKere day!

For the first time Southbank got to experience KereKere day last month, to celebrate the sixth birthday of KereKere cafes.

Newly housed in the Boyd community centre, the cafe celebrated by giving away free coffees all day on March 6.

KereKere manager, James Murphy, said the day had been a great success, and was thankful to the Southbank community for embracing the idea.

“We were delighted with the overwhelming response to the day. It was terrific to meet so many new locals, both residents and workers in the area and introduce them to KereKere and our culture of ‘Giving without expectation’,” Mr Murphy said.

“The highlight of the day was providing over 700 free coffees.”

Do you have questions about your Owners Corporation?

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BCS Owners Corporation and Community Management offers you:

- Expertise of a market leader with over 40 years experience
- Professional and proactive solutions
- Expert and local knowledge of all building matters
- Consistent and reliable processes and systems
- Courteous, timely and friendly service

Q: What are by-laws and how are they made?
A: Community living means that it is necessary to have a set of rules to regulate the day-to-day running of the strata scheme and the activities of the people living in it. The model rules often cover such issues as keeping pets, noise and parking on common property.

The model rules for owners corporations are set out in the Owners Corporations Regulations 2007. If the owners corporation does not make a rule covering an item then the specific rule.

Owners corporations can make their own rules for:
- health, safety and security
- use of common property
- use of and work to lots
- design of lots
- management and administration
- behaviour of persons
- vehicles and parking
- committees and sub-committees

A breach of the model rules is usually dealt with by the owners corporation taking to the person first. In a lot of cases, breaches occur because someone is not aware of the specific rule.

If talking doesn’t resolve the problem, then the matter is taken to Consumer Affairs Victoria for conciliation. After that, one of last steps available is via an application to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

Any questions about rules – either their creation or contravention – can be answered by your owners corporation manager.

Owners, here’s your chance to have your questions answered by Owners Corporation professionals – for free. Send your questions to info@bcssm.com.au and we will endeavour to provide you with an answer.

Ask BCS Melbourne - The experts in Owners Corporation

Call us on 1300 184 608 if your strata plan is looking for a new Owners Corporation manager.
Black Hawks soar over city

If you didn’t see the Black Hawk helicopters last month, you definitely would have heard them, as they flew around the high-rise towers in Southbank. Making a noise that surely rivalled those other loud machines last month, the helicopters were running drills, which involved lowering themselves over WTC Wharf at North Wharf.

Two schools now? One school, not yet

School lobby group Two Schools Now has upped the ante in demanding action on schools in the Southbank, South Melbourne and Port Melbourne region, with a call to action last month.

A meeting, held at South Melbourne Commons on March 13, was used to garner extra support and to ensure the group continues to lobby the Government and let it know that this issue isn’t going away.

The meeting heard committee members run through updates of what the group had been up to and guest speakers included Port Phillip Council members and State Labor Member for Albert Park, Martin Foley.

Interestingly, the group received a press release from the Minister for Education, Martin Dixon, just a couple of hours before the scheduled meeting. The release held little new information, other than an assurance that he, along with other ministers, was putting a strong case forward for funding of a new school.

“As Minister for Education, along with my parliamentary colleagues Mr Matthew Guy, Ms Andrea Coote, and Ms Georgie Crozier, a strong case has been made to secure funding in the City of Port Phillip,” Minister Dixon’s release said.

“Two Schools Now is to be commended on its advocacy work in promoting the provision of government education services in the inner city area.”

Meeting MC, Carney Elias said the acknowledgement was great news for the organisation, but the work was far from over.

“It’s an indication that they are hearing us. This is great news and it is a step forward, but there is no funding in the budget yet that we are aware of,” Ms Elias said.

If you’re interested in joining Two Schools Now head to the website www.twoschoolsnow.com.au

Carney Elias speaks to the crowd at the Two Schools Now meeting, held during March at South Melbourne Commons.
Melbourne tallest approved

The controversial Australia 108 tower will be built at 70 Southbank Boulevard after Planning Minister Matthew Guy approved the final proposal last month.

The tower, which will stand at 388 metres tall – 91 metres taller than Eureka – will be the tallest building in the southern hemisphere, and the 19th tallest in the world.

Minister Guy hailed the new tower as an iconic addition to the city’s skyline.

“I am proud to approve a tower that will define our city for many years to come and which I am sure will become as iconic a Melbourne landmark as Flinders Street Station or Federation Square,” Mr Guy said.

“Towers such as Australia 108 are consistent with the Coalition Government’s drive to concentrate high-density development in defined areas and out of existing, quiet neighbourhoods,” he added.

“Every apartment in this tower is one less apartment in an existing quiet neighbourhood.”

The tower contains 646 apartments, a 288-room 6 star hotel, plus retail and office space.

Moomba takes over the streets

Moomba fever hit St Kilda Rd last month, as Melbourne’s favourite street festival rolled into town.

The street parade, at its new permanent home on St Kilda Rd was again well attended, with visitors braving sweltering heat to enjoy the festivities.

Those who endured the heat were rewarded with a spectacular parade of colour and movement.

One of the highlights was the reception saved for the Moomba monarchs, employees from emergency services in Victoria, received from the appreciative crowd.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle was gushing in his praise of both Moomba as an event, and the people of Melbourne who continued to support the iconic festival.

“What a wonderful weekend in Melbourne Moomba is. It’s kind of a mixture of community event and celebration of Melbourne,” Cr Doyle said.

“For me, the most important part this year, was to have seven monarchs from our emergency services, the people who protect us, and who care for us in the community. I can just feel an enormous thank you welling up from the people of Melbourne to those organisations represented,” he added.

“I am never surprised at the turnout from the people from Melbourne. Put on a parade and we will come.”

The Lord Mayor also indicated that if he had anything to do with it, the parade would remain at its St Kilda Rd venue.

“I think people love St Kilda road. The grassy banks there, being able to bring your family, and a bit of shade under the trees is welcome on a day like today,” Cr Doyle said.

“We’ll talk again to the council after this parade. I like St Kilda Rd, I think it works really, really well.”

White Night a huge success

The inaugural White Night Festival was an overwhelming success, with an estimated 300,000 people diverging into the city and Southbank on February 23.

The spectacular evening saw Southbank institutions such as the Arts Centre, Malthouse Theatre and NGV stay open between 7pm and 7am.

While the busiest part of the night was around 9.30pm, there were plenty of night owls out until the early hours, enjoying the novelty of White Night.

One of the major highlights of the night was the conversion of Flinders St Station entry into a music stage for acts to belt out tunes to the thousands of visitors all night.

Organisers say the night’s success will ensure a likely follow up will be on the cards again next year.

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Buoyed @ Boyd

Join us for our first community get together, an evening of fun and entertainment, recreation and mini exhibitions at Southbank’s vibrant community hub, Boyd.

Connect with your friends, family and neighbours, and explore Boyd and all it has to offer.

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Thursday 4 April

5.00 pm - 7.00 pm

There’ll be face painting, bubbles and henna, old fashioned skipping and quoits, board games and table tennis, music and art and a pirate-themed wear your pyjamas (the kids that is!) bedtime storytime presented by the Southbank Library.

KereKere cafe and the Taco Truck will be open and we’ll have open yoga and tai chi demonstrations.

Boyd: explore, connect, create …belong.

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melbourne.vic.gov.au/boydcommunity

boyd@melbourne.vic.gov.au 9658 9658
Ms Bryce was in town to attend the Half the Sky event at Melbourne Recital Centre, held to commemorate International Women’s Day. The event included a speech from Ms Bryce, among other guests, plus performances from high-profile female artists such as Clare Bowditch and Em Rusciano.

International Women’s Development Agency (IWDA) spokesperson for Half the Sky Kelly Smith-Holbourn said the event was a great success and the organisers were thrilled with the response to it.

“We were really pleased with how the event turned out. All our artists and speakers gave moving and outstanding performances and we had a great crowd of supporters who really made the evening into the uplifting celebration that it was,” Ms Smith-Holbourn said.

She said Ms Bryce’s speech was one of the highlights of the day.

“IWDA’s president Therese McCarthy and executive director Joanna Hayter were both very relevant and engaging as well. The artists donated their time and did a fantastic job.”

“We were lucky to be able to hold Half the Sky at Melbourne Recital Centre in the arts precinct of Southbank. It’s a beautiful venue that was perfect for the occasion, and the location was convenient both for us and for our guests.”

Planning for future

In what was a massive month for state politics in Victoria, there was a concerted push by Southbank locals to have a bigger say in planning matters and, in particular, the discussion surrounding the Metropolitan Planning Strategy.

The first opportunity for interested parties was at the State Government-run community consultation forum. The forum, held in Docklands last month, featured a large number of Melburnians, all with the common goal of having an input into the future direction of planning in and around the city.

The Metropolitan Planning Strategy free community forum run by community groups, including the Southbank Residents Group was held as Southbank Local News went to print, but promised to provide a pivotal opportunity for locals to voice their concerns and opinions.

The State Government is welcoming public submissions on the Metropolitan Planning Strategy, and submissions close on March 28. Planning Minister Matthew Guy said Melburnians had embraced their opportunity to have a say on these important issues.

“More than 8000 individuals have downloaded the discussion paper and there have been more than 30,000 visits to the Plan Melbourne website,” Mr Guy pointed out.

“The Government is committed to driving the largest community consultation in Victoria’s history to develop the Metropolitan Planning Strategy, and the scale and scope of today’s event (forum in Docklands) is unprecedented,” he added.

“The Metropolitan Planning Strategy is a particularly important document being worked on by the Coalition Government and the outcomes will shape the way Melburnians work and live for decades to come.”

Safety message spreads

A novel way to spread a road safety message was run at Southbank last month, when the Transport Accident Commission unveiled a 27-metre stretch of road along Southbank Boulevard.

Passers by were then challenged to walk the stretch of road, wearing a blindfold and avoiding a number of obstacles, such as pedestrians, construction workers and cyclists. The message was that when you’re travelling at 60 kmh and look away from the road for two seconds, you are travelling blind for 27 metres.

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sake’s in bloom at wagamama

join us for our sake master class to celebrate the japanese cherry blossom festival this march and april spend an evening with resident sake master toshi maeda and journey through a selection of premium sakes that have been expertly paired with delicious wagamama favourites

6.30pm thursday 11 april 2013 at wagamama southgate $40pp places are limited, to book call (03) 9696 9140

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MCEC opens for Open Space

Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre hosted its own event last month, opening the doors for locals to come and check out the world-class facility here on our doorstep.

Open Space not only acted as a chance to see MCEC, it also gave guests the chance to hear from business heavyweights like AFL CEO Andrew Demetriou, AusBiotech CE, Glenn Cross and MCEC’s own CEO Peter King.

The discussion was hosted by Simon Hammond, a world leading expert on brand excellence and customer engagement.

After the Plenary session with the panel, guests enjoyed an array of food for lunch and a great networking opportunity with the other guests.

MCEC CEO Peter King said the event was a great success for the venue.

Council wants your say on direction

The State Government was not alone in seeking consultation last month, with the City of Melbourne releasing an outline of its Council Plan.

The eventual document will outline the key goals of the newly-formed council over its four-year term.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle (pictured) was adamant a clear plan for the upcoming four years was vital to a successful council, and said it was exciting to open up this consultation opportunity to residents and ratepayers.

“What we love about Melbourne is not a result of luck or accident. It is very much a result of strategic planning and our partnership with our residents and ratepayers,” Cr Doyle said.

“Over the past three months, council has been developing its Council Plan 2013-17 which will seek to ensure that we retain the aspects of our city we love while meeting new demands. We considered the challenges ahead, the outcomes we would like to see in the next four years and our priorities to go about achieving them,” he added.

“Melburnians have created one of the world’s great cities through their collective ideas, energy and enterprise,” Cr Doyle said he wanted as many people as possible to see and comment on the plan.

“The results of our deliberations now are available for the public to see and comment on. I encourage you to join in the conversation about our city’s future.”

Councillor Stephen Mayne said the City of Melbourne was committed to engaging with stakeholders and community members about the plan.

“This important document will have a bearing on the final council plan. We need to hear from as many people as possible,” Cr Mayne said.

He also pointed out that the plan reflected the six goals of the Future Melbourne Community Plan:

- A city for people;
- A creative city;
- A prosperous city;
- A knowledgeable city;
- An eco-friendly city; and
- A connected city.

To view the council plan document and comment, head to the council website www.melbourne.vic.gov.au or alternatively you can access printed versions of the forms at City of Melbourne customer service centres and libraries.
New business association for Southbank?

With the changes to the precinct funding program being undertaken by the City of Melbourne (as reported on page 1) a new precinct may emerge on the southern border of Southbank.

The St Kilda Rd Precinct and Promotions Committee was not a recognised association under the previous Melbourne Business Precincts (MBP) program and has, therefore, not received council funding.

Many years ago, the group had been a council-funded organisation, and was one of the founding precincts when the funding was launched in 1984.

The MBP model only allowed one precinct in the southern region of the city, and with the Yarra River Business Association (YRBA) holding the majority of that area, the funding for the St Kilda Rd group ceased.

In its report on the failure of MBP the council suggests the St Kilda Rd group may apply for funding and goes as far as suggesting the council should put funding aside to allow it (as well as a group from Kensington) to do so. St Kilda Rd Precinct and Promotions Committee executive officer, Ken Davis, was non-committal on a decision, and said the group was simply yet to make up its mind as to whether it would apply for the funding or not.

“it’s certainly on our radar. We obviously used to be a precinct, and we are going to review the opportunity to become one again,” Mr Davis said.

“At this stage we may or we may not, I really can’t say either way what our decision is going to be,” he added.

“An issue for us is that only about one third of our membership is actually in the City of Melbourne. Having said that, we’ve always liked working with the council, and its been very good to us in the past.”

The existing association in Melbourne’s district south, the YRBA, said it welcomed the introduction of another council-funded group in the region.

YRBA president John Ahern said there were diverse issues facing businesses along St Kilda Rd and they were not always the same as those facing businesses along the Yarra River.

“It has become apparent that the issues facing St Kilda Rd and their community of interest are much different to that of the Lower Yarra and Southbank areas,” Mr Ahern said.

“We would be comfortable with a St Kilda Rd group,” Mr Ahern added.

Full from food festival

Southbank was central to much of the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival last month, with many events and the permanent coffee hut in Queensbridge Square.

The Urban Coffee Farm was the mainstay and meeting point for the festival and quickly became a popular feature of Queensbridge Square.

Unlike last year, Mother Nature was smiling on the opening weekend and Southgate’s event was full of fun and tasty food.

Tasting plates were popular and activities such as cooking demonstrations and live entertainment kept the large crowds entertained all afternoon.

Southgate spokesperson Kerrie Allen said all the traders within its complex had embraced the festival, and it resulted in a fantastic vibe over the weekend.

“Our event, Celebrate a World of Flavour, offered a weekend of dining and entertainment throughout Southgate. Delicious tasting plates were available from the likes of BearBrass, PJ O’Brien’s, La Camera, Miyako, Scusami, Tutto Bene, wagamama, Chill On Ice Lounge and Trampoline,” Ms Allen said.

Southgate wasn’t the only place in Southbank you could celebrate the festival last month, with events at Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC), Crown and the Arts Centre.

MCEC’s From Farm to Fork was a spectacle dinner, highlighting the journey of food, keeping in the overall theme of the festival – Earth.

MCEC executive chef, Tony Panetta, said the event was a wonderful chance to enjoy the world-class facilities at MCEC.

“Our MFWF From Farm to Fork dinner was an example of how MCEC supports local producers, which I think is rare for a venue of our size,” Mr Panetta said.

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Located in the heart of Southbank opposite Crown Entertainment Complex, only minutes walk to the CBD, and close to the vibrant South Melbourne Market shopping precinct.

Apartments feature stunning views & stylish design throughout, and include all appliances with refrigerators concealed within the integrated kitchen design, dishwashers, microwaves and European cooking appliances.

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Dancing in the Street

The streets of Southbank are about to be hit by music like never before, when they become the centerpiece for the launch of the Melbourne International Jazz Festival during May and July.

The program was announced last month and the party will kick off with a jazz marching band playing through the streets of Southbank. American band Rebirth Brass Band will march through Southbank and onto Federation Square, where an opening concert will be held on May 31. The Melbourne Recital Centre will also feature during the festival, holding concerts for the likes of Cristian McBride Trio, Maria Schneider and Darcy James Argue, James Carter Organ Trio and the Mike Stern Band.
Melbourne Recital Centre's (MRC) Local Heroes program has been underway during March and is attracting great crowds to see some of Australia’s finest musicians.

While performances have already included the likes of The Sutherland Trio, Ironwood and Latitude 37, there is still an opportunity to see Benaud Trio, Seraphim Trio and Songmakers Australia.

One of the features of the program is Firebird Trio’s Faust & Schubert. This piece retells the legend of Faust, a man who sold his soul to the devil for power and youth. It also includes music from a modern version of the tale, Angel Heart.

For more information on the Local heroes program, head to the website www.melbournelocalheroes.com.au

The performance, at Hamer Hall, is Ms Chang’s debut appearance in Melbourne, but is a reunion with the MSO, with whom she performed in Europe in 2007.

She will be the soloist during Samuel Barber’s heartbreakingly lyrical violin concerto.

Ms Change said that the piece had fast become one of her favourites to play.

“Samuel Barber’s concerto is really special for me. I am completely in love with it. There is a very unapologetic heartfelt romanticism in it that, for a 20th century piece, is from another time and place,” Ms Chang explained.

“I am so looking forward to playing with the MSO. I have already worked with the orchestra and they are such a beautiful, wonderful group of musicians with exceptional chemistry.”

To heighten her performance here in Southbank, Ms Chang will be using a 1717 Guarneri del Gesu, a violin that was given to her by her former teacher, the late Isaac Stern.

Ms Chang will perform with the MSO at Hamer Hall on March 23 and 25. For tickets call the MSO on 9929 9600 or head to its website www.mso.com.au

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The premiership was not the only position Ted Baillieu lost last month, he was also stood down as Minister for the Arts.

New Minister Ms Heidi Victoria spoke to Southbank Local News about her new role and the world-class arts precinct she now oversees.

Ms Victoria said she was amazed at the transformation of Southbank over the last 30 years and was looking forward to playing an active role in its future development.

“Southbank was once a place you passed through, it was a place for factories, car yards and car parks. Over the last 30 years it has transformed and now it is one of Melbourne’s fastest growing residential and business areas, and has one of the highest concentrations of arts and cultural organisations in the world,” Ms Victoria said.

“Personally and professionally, I spend a great deal of time in the precinct. It is a place of dynamism and energy and I see the potential for the area to become one of the great drawcards and destinations for our city, and our state.”

Ms Victoria said that in her role she would continue to use the Southbank Blueprint already in place to further develop the arts precinct.

“We are currently working on the Southbank Blueprint which, for the first time, will create a shared vision and a plan for the future of the area. This has involved consultation within state and local government, with arts organisations, Southbank businesses, residents, students and visitors to the precinct,” Ms Victoria said.

“We’ve recently seen small successful ‘pop-up’ events such as the Melbourne Recital Centre’s Garden Party, where it transformed a car park into an outdoor music venue. Also Arts Backyard, which used the vacant site at 1 City Rd to stage performances by musicians including the Australian National Academy of Music.”

Moving into the future, Ms Victoria also hoped to put her own stamp on the development of the arts precinct.

“I’d like to see better connections between the city and arts precinct, in much the same way as the sports precinct is seamlessly connected to Federation Square, I’d love to see that effortless connection that would invite people to cross the river and experience all that Southbank has to offer,” she said.

“While Melbourne once turned its back on Southbank, now it’s knocking on its door and we’re all excited about what’s inside.”

21 ENSEMBLES | OVER 65 CONCERTS | A YEARLONG FESTIVAL OF CHAMBER MUSIC

**JOE CHINDAMO & ZOE BLACK**

**Game of Tones**

**Wed 3 April $35 / $25**

Original works by Chindamo, reimaginings of Mendelssohn, Gershwin and Purcell combine for a dazzling world of tones.

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**Mon 22 April $25**

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**Trio Anima Mundi**

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**Tickets from only $35**

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SARAH CHANG & TCHAIKOVSKY
March 23 & 25
Hamer Hall, 100 St Kilda Road
Superstar of the violin, Sarah Chang, makes her rare Australian concert in Samuel Barber’s lyrical concerto. Music by another supreme melodist, Tchaikovsky, opens and closes the program: the colour and spectacle of the 1812 Overture, and the turbulent passion of the 5th symphony.
www.mso.com.au

MATTHEW HERBERT: ONE PIG
March 14 - 23
Malthouse Theatre, 113 Sturt Street
In One Pig, Matthew Herbert tells the life story of a pig through its sounds, instruments made from the pig itself and the sty-harp.
www.melbournerecitalcentre.com.au

NEON
May 16 - July 21
The Southbank Theatre
NEON features original works from Daniel Schlasser Ensemble, Fraught Outfit, The Hayloft Project, THE RABBLE and Sisters Grimm.
www.mtc.com.au

A DIOR AND YAMAMOTO: THE NEW LOOK
March 16 - July 28
NGV International, 180 St Kilda Rd
Dior and Yamamoto: The New Look is a small exhibition that considers two pivotal moments in the history of fashion through designers Christian Dior and Yohji Yamamoto.
www.ngv.com.au

SILVER SCREENS
March 20-21
Space 28, VCA 28 Dodds Street
Enjoy staged readings from the Golden Age of Cinema presented by Acting Company 2013 and Production Stage Management Students.
www.vca.unimelb.edu.au/events

THE MELBOURNE MUSICIANS CLASSIC TREATS
April 18 - May 12
The Malthouse Theatre 113 Sturt Street
Alice and Edgar's marriage would be perfect, if they didn't want each other dead. In this most ambitious production, master Friedrich Dürrenmatt has created an electrifying adaptation of his 1966 jet-black comedy. Direct from their sell-out UK performances, the cast of Action to the Word’s physical theatre tour -force will head to Australia in April.
www.clockworkorange.com.au

MATTHEW HERBERT: MADE OF MUSIC
April 8
Melbourne Recital Centre, 31 Sturt Street
In this concert, Matthew Herbert gives the world premiere of a work commissioned by Melbourne Recital Centre. Using sounds generated by the Hoop Pine which wraps the interior of Elisabeth Murdoch Hall, www.melbournerecitalcentre.com.au

REGIMES OF VALUE
March 15 - April 13
Margaret Lawrence Gallery, 40 Dodds Street
A fascinating exhibition over two venues that investigates the appropriation of urban detritus and ephemera as a contemporary art strategy.
www.vca.unimelb.edu.au/events

THE ARTS PRECINCT
March 20-21
St Johns Southgate, 20 City Road
This beautiful concert features Pergolesi’s Stabat Mater, a favourite of Dame Elisabeth Murdoch. She attended many performances by these excellent soloists and Elisabeth Murdoch was a generous supporter.
www.maltousetheatre.com.au

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www.ngv.com.au

BELLISSIMO!
April 12
Arts Centre Melbourne, 2 Kawungan Street
This beautiful concert features Pergolesi's popular Stabat Mater, a favourite of Dame Elisabeth Murdoch. She attended many performances by these excellent soloists and was a generous supporter.
www.maltousetheatre.com.au

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www.maltousetheatre.com.au

BEBI OD: LIFE STORY
April 11
St Johns Southgate, 20 City Road
This beautiful concert features Pergolesi’s Stabat Mater, a favourite of Dame Elisabeth Murdoch. She attended many performances by these excellent soloists and was a generous supporter.
www.maltousetheatre.com.au

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SOUTHBANK RESIDENTS GROUP WITH MICHAEL SMOLDERS

Metropolitan Planning Strategy

By the time you read this, we would have held our community forum for the Metropolitan Planning Strategy at the Town Hall.

At time of print we had over 40 registered attendees coming to hear more about the draft discussion paper and what it means, in particular, to the future of the Melbourne CBD and immediate surrounds.

The question I have for you as residents is: are these community forums a sleight-of-hand on the part of the State Government to make it appear that they are actively engaging with the community - knowing that they may not take on-board any of our feedback, or is it a legitimate call for feedback on shaping our future?

I pose this question as the Minister for Planning has just approved the development of Australia 108 on the corner of Southbank Blvd and City Rd. At 108 storeys, 388m high, it will be the tallest tower in the southern hemisphere. When the planning application was discussed at the Future Melbourne Council meeting, councillors and the Southbank Residents Group spoke about the advantages of the design to the greater cityscape of Southbank and the city, and the disadvantages associated with a lack of vision on what the future growth of Southbank would look like if this development - in contravention of the Melbourne Planning Scheme and Southbank Structure Plan - were to be approved.

Based on the planning guidelines which are publicly available, the SRG opposed this application and the council unanimously rejected it. Why? Because our planning guidelines do not allow for this large-scale development, both in terms of height and plot ratio. Here we have an example of an open and transparent planning process in action. The guidelines say no, the public say no, the council ultimately says no. All this decision-making and discussion was held on the public record.

So, why then, did the Minister approve it? No one knows. There is no public gallery where we can hear the state’s arguments for/against the development. And with the Minister choosing once again to ignore his own planning guidelines, what certainty do we have in the future of what our suburb could potentially look like? And where is the public record that clearly articulates his planning guideline reasons for approval?

This lack of good governance and transparency in decision-making is making a growing mockery of what should be a genuine effort for government and community to come together to shape a positive future for our suburbs.

Melbourne Men’s Shed

On a positive note - Barry and I were pleased to attend the inaugural Melbourne Men’s Shed meeting held recently at the Multicultural Centre. There was a great turnout at the meeting where a full interim committee was appointed. About 30 people from across the City of Melbourne, plus a staggering 40 apologies were noted. Great numbers to justify the establishment of a shed in our city.

The committee is now spending the next fortnight finalising a proposal and will call a first official meeting where permanent office bearers will be elected and calls for membership be made.

If you would like to be kept posted on this great initiative or to get involved, please email us at srgi2000@gmail.com and we’ll get you in touch with the Melbourne Men’s Shed team.

Michael Smolders
President
Southbank Residents Group

St Aloysius
A Leading Catholic Girls’ College

Enrolments are now available for Year 7 to Year 12.
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Footpath closure outrage

I saw your article in issue 16 of the ‘Southbank Local News’ regarding “Footpath blockage, but no help” and I would like to give you a residents, ratepayers and pedestrian’s perspective of the Queensbridge footpath closure.

A year ago they closed the footpath without notice or any information on why and when it would be reopened. This is an appalling situation and it appears the Mayor, City Council or the construction company just don’t care that the residents are inconvenienced.

I have written and e-mailed the Mayor and the council and they think it is acceptable that, when the residents walk out of their building, they are confronted by barriers blocking them from crossing the road and they are continuing the increase these barriers so now people waiting for a tram can no longer access the shelter.

If the Mayor or the CEO of the construction company were faced with this outside their house they wouldn’t be happy, so why should the ratepayers who pay the council’s wages be happy too?

We now find out it will be another two and half years before the residents can access the footpath we paid for, making it over three and half years in total it will be closed!

The Mayor doesn’t care. The council runs the city for its own convenience and its charter should read “to inconveniences the residents, ratepayers and pedestrians as much as possible”.

Just to give you a couple of examples, both Flinders Lane and Little Collins St have two footpath closures each ever Swanston St, I have personally had to change my walk to work four times in the past two years to avoid the closures!

And September last year they put a fence around Birrarung Marr without any notice and closed it too. They did put a sign to explain why – eight weeks after the closure, which was very kind of them!

Just to show you how much the council cares I have a letter form the CEO which is head “Docklands Footpath Closure”. They don’t even check their letters!

Craig Foster

SOUTH BANK SUDOKU

A variation of Sudoku, but 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 extra difficult!

Good Luck!

George, the bundle of energy

Meet George the Cavoodle. It’s a miracle the picture of him isn’t blurry, given the fact George seems to struggle to sit still for any length of time.

George’s owner, Leeanne Sharp, said as soon as she got home from work on this night, George was at the door with the lead in his mouth, demanding a walk before dinner.

That would’ve been okay, if not for the fact Leeanne’s son had taken George for a walk, only an hour earlier.

Even as Southbank Local News stops to talk to Leeanne during the walk, George is pulling the lead along in his mouth, pleading to keep walking.

With all this energy, the obvious question needs to be addressed. How does George go living in an apartment in inner-city Southbank?

Well Leeanne says despite his energetic facade, she has occasionally snuck home at lunchtime and found George fast asleep on the couch. It seems he’s adjusted his body clock, allowing him to store all energy reserves for when his family get home.
ON THE BOX
with Korey Fernando

The late night issue

In Australia, the history of late night television is much revered.

However, since Rove left a big gaping hole in local variety programming back in 2010, nothing and no one has stepped in to fill the void. That is to say, nothing and no one who is Australian, anyway.

Late night television is something of an institution in the States, and has been so for the better part of 30 years. In fact, the hours of 11pm-1am are coveted slots of almost prime-time proportions.

Twelve-piece bands, carefully-crafted jokes and relevant Hollywood star guests are a stark contrast from our local equivalent - though there are people that do enjoy learning how to use that steam mop or that re-run of that really interesting episode of Offspring (nothing personal, Offspring, I'm just not that into you).

The Late Late Show occupies the airtime directly following David Letterman’s Late Show on the CBS Network. Craig Ferguson - better known as being playing a supporting role in the Drew Carey Show in the early 2000s - took over the program in 2005 and has slowly built up a large cult following. Ferguson is fast becoming a real success story in the entertainment industry and his quirky style and ability to break a lot of the conventions of television in general, makes his show refreshing to say the least.

In comparison to competitors such as The Tonight Show, The Late Late Show or even Letterman’s own program, The Late Late Show is very toned down in its delivery. There is no band leader, there is no orchestra and there is no smarmy human off sider. The set is incredibly minimalist, and Ferguson’s show almost has a no frills, a grainy feel to it and this is one of the reasons that it is so endearing.

As a host, the Scottish-born Ferguson is charming and hilarious and is always at his best. Everything Ferguson does on the show almost references the fact that his show is a little different - from the fact that Ferguson starts every show with members of his audience joining him onstage for a questionnaire, to the use of animal puppets that use foul language.

Ferguson takes elements from the standard late night program formula and puts his own take on them - electing to have his desk littered with personal objects, tearing up guest cue cards to acknowledge that the interview is ad-libbed. Even his audience interaction through his staple mailbag segment has Ferguson’s quirkiness stamped on it. To put it plainly, the Late Late Show is a captivating deconstruction of the entire variety genre.

If you’re not already watching it, you’re either asleep or stupid. The Late Late Show airs on Channel 11 on weeknights at 10.30pm.

It’s not the end, but just the beginning!

‘Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in; he saw and believed.’ (John 20:8)

The disciples must have felt so empty, so confused, so down-hearted. After what seemed like a whirlwind of events, Jesus was dead. It seemed as if their lives had come to a standstill. So many promises, so many defeats he’s broken out of the grave and is alive. That’s really something! That’s really defeat him, he’s broken out of the grave and is alive! Jesus is alive, death could not be it and this is one of the reasons that it is so endearing.

As a host, the Scottish-born Ferguson is charming and hilarious and is always at his best. Everything Ferguson does on the show almost references the fact that his show is a little different - from the fact that Ferguson starts every show with members of his audience joining him onstage for a questionnaire, to the use of animal puppets that use foul language.

He lives! That’s enough to make our hearts beat faster! That’s enough to fill our lives with meaning and purpose! We have a joy that no one can take away. That same Jesus is alive and with us right now, and all the words of comfort and promise and hope are not buried in the ground, but they are living and able to work in us and for us. That’s great news!

Pastor Ian

The community of St Johns Church Southgate invites you to church during Holy Week and Easter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Palm Sunday, 24th March</td>
<td>Bach cantata service with communion</td>
<td>9am</td>
<td>St John's Southgate Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maundy Thursday, 28th March</td>
<td>Maundy Thursday Service with communion</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>St John's Southgate Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Friday, 29th March</td>
<td>Good Friday Service with communion</td>
<td>9am</td>
<td>St John's Southgate Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easter Sunday, 31st March</td>
<td>Easter Sunday Service with communion</td>
<td>9am</td>
<td>St John's Southgate Church</td>
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The chapel is open daily for private prayer and reflection

20 City Road Southbank Telephone 9682 4995 www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au
Come to Westgate Park on April 6 to help launch Rotarians and Friends @ Work

This year, over 120 Rotary Clubs from across Australia have registered to take part in the inaugural Rotarians and Friends @ Work campaign. Supported by key partner Bunnings, registered clubs will team up with their local Bunnings store to complete hands-on painting or planting projects in their local communities.

Rotarians and Friends @ Work will run from April 1-21. A national media launch will take place in Melbourne on Saturday April 6 at Westgate Park in Port Melbourne. Official proceedings will run from 11-11.30am and will comprise brief messages from Rotary, Westgate Park, a campaign volunteer and Bunnings.

To complement the official proceedings, Southbank Rotary, in partnership with other local clubs, will be conducting a gardening project with the Friends of Westgate Park. To help make the event a success, we are asking all members and friends of Rotary to join the Friends of Westgate Park for a fantastic day outside. This will be a unique opportunity to assist in nurturing one of Melbourne’s best-loved natural estates, and be part of the national launch of Rotarians and Friends @ Work. The day will run from 9am-1pm.

For further details please visit www.rotariansandfriendsatwork.org.au or contact the Rotary Club of Southbank on www.southbank.org.au

Marija Strajnovic, 31
Piano teacher @ Moving into music

Marija admires how close everything is when she’s in Southbank. Whether you’re after the business district, the arts precinct, a lovely river with parks and grassland or restaurants, Southbank has it all.

Belaney Stewart, 27
Guitar teacher @ Moving into music

Belaney described Southbank as being a musical and arts hub. He said teaching music within such a rich arts area helped to create a wonderful vibe for both the students and the teachers.

Nathan Slater, 27
Guitar teacher @ Moving into music

Nathan said it was special being able to teach within such an extensive arts precinct. The whole area was inspiring for his students and, according to Nathan, it was pretty cool for the teachers as well.

Calen, 27
Piano teacher @ Moving into music

The location of Southbank is it’s real advantage over other areas, according to Calen. Not only is it close to everything you need, it also has beautiful scenery, thanks mainly to the Yarra running through it.

Lili Liu, 25
Piano teacher @ Moving into music

Lili said she really enjoyed immersing herself in the arts culture that had been created in Southbank, because of the arts precinct. It makes it a great place to teach music.

Elyan Ferns, 50
Drum teacher @ Moving into music

Elyan describes Southbank as a fantastic place. It’s a place of beauty that is always kept clean and quiet, but still has all the facilities you could ever need. Elyan said Southbank has the best of both worlds.

Marija Stojanovic, 31
Piano teacher @ Moving into music

The alternative is Albert Hancock, a sea captain who was elected to the first Emerald Hill Council in 1855. He was a councillor until 1858 and was later known as an investor and property dealer. If you have any clues as to which Hancock the street was named after let us know via our website, on Twitter or on Facebook.

DELANEY STEWART, 27
Guitar teacher @ Moving into music

Theodore Hancock, a solicitor from Somerset arrived in Melbourne in September 1862 and was admitted to the Victorian Bar.

He was a member of the Emerald Hill local committee and also the MLA for Colac later in his life.

The alternative is Albert Hancock, a sea captain who was elected to the first Emerald Hill Council in 1855.

He was a councillor until 1858 and was later known as an investor and property dealer. If you have any clues as to which Hancock the street was named after let us know via our website, on Twitter or on Facebook.
Upon meeting new Southbank restaurant wagamama’s manager Mitesh Kothari...

... he describes “wagamama people” to Southbank Local News and explains why he wants to fill the franchise’s latest venue with them.

“We call it a wagamama people. When we interview potential employees we have a check-list: bubbly, likes the work, likes to give great service and likes the food. Then we can say, you’re a wagamama person, you can lie in the team,” Mitesh told us.

He should know. In many respects, Mitesh is the ultimate wagamama person.

Mitesh moved to Melbourne to study almost 10 years ago and took up a part-time job at wagamama in the city.

In the ensuing nine years, he has worked his way through the ranks, and has worked at every single wagamama store in Melbourne.

This loyalty has paid off as, not only is Mitesh the manager, but he’s basically filled every role he oversees, giving him a unique ability to run the restaurant.

He told us he had enjoyed the challenge of moving from Chadstone to Southbank.

“I was enjoying my job at Chadstone - everything was pretty much perfect. This is almost double in size and I really wanted to challenge myself in taking this on.”

“We’ve got a team who enjoy the work like me,” Mitesh said.

“I’m trying to be part of the marketing activity, which I’m enjoying expanding my horizons.”

There is little doubt that its location is one of the major strengths of the latest wagamama, sitting on level one at Southgate, with views across the river from inside the restaurant, and even more spectacular ones from its dining balcony.

“It’s an amazing location. You just come out onto the balcony and you can almost see the entire city. And then at night, it’s just spectacular. It’s the best location we could hope for,” Mitesh said.

He said the restaurant had a great flexibility, in that it could cater for a three-course sit-down dinner, as well as busy lunchtime diners.

“For lunch, we have more business people. They only have an hour break usually, so we do quick service for them and we’re very comfortable in that space.”

“Visitors who want to stay a bit longer also love it here. Wagamama is in about 15 countries and we’ve had a lot of tourists come in because they know the brand. Our menus are pretty similar across the world, so they feel comfortable here. It’s a good sign we’re on the right track.”

With $16 lunch specials, a massive array of Japanese cuisine and a “kids eat free” offer, there’s no excuse not to make wagamama your next stop for a quick and easy lunch, or a night out on the town.

For more information on wagamama head to its website www.wagamama.com.au or call the Southbank location on 9036 9140.

OUT AND ABOUT? WE’LL KEEP YOUR PET COMPANY

Craig and Paula Scher say it’s hard to get cat sitters at a reasonable price here in Southbank.

And they would know.

They live in Freshwater Place, they have a cat named Chow and they have tried many different sitters and cat-care centres, but have never really found one they’ve been happy with.

That’s why they set up Your Pet Company. Their extensive knowledge of cats, coupled with living here in Southbank means they provide a service to Southbank locals that is far superior to anything they have experienced before.

“It’s especially difficult to find a service at an affordable price. People usually have a surcharge for parking in Southbank. We are here, so we obviously don’t have to park,” Paula said.

“It’s a premium service, but at an affordable rate,” Craig added.

Paula said there were many reasons why people needed a petsitter and, because of its location, Your Pet Company had the ability to attend on almost no notice.

“It’s not only if you’re away on holiday, it might be that you’re held up at work and your pets needs food or medication,” Paula said.

Both Paula and Craig have been around animals for most of their lives. Paula grew up on a small farm” with hundreds of animals.

“We constantly had sick animals around and we’d always be looking after them,” Paula said.

Craig too grew up in an animal-loving household, describing it as a “cat-loving home.”

“We loved cats. I loved them so much I even played Busterfer Jones in an adaptation of ‘Cats the musical’, Craig explained.

“It’s not just a business idea for us. It’s a passion. We know how people feel about leaving their cats and how they’d hope to look after them,” Paula said.

The couple also know you’d want to know the people you’re letting into your home and are happy to provide a no obligation meet and greet with cat owners before they enlist their service.

“It’s important to have a level of trust,” Craig points out.

If you’re looking for a cat-sitting service call Paula on 0439 427 084 or check out the Your Pet Company Facebook page www.facebook.com/yourpetcompany because, as Paula says, “it’s all about the cat.”

Business is moving to portable handheld devices.

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