Queensbridge Tower is back on drawing board

By Sean Rogasch

Queensbridge Tower developer Schiavello has gone back to the drawing board, and has submitted new designs for the mega apartment complex.

Planning Minister Matthew Guy controversially approved the first Queensbridge Tower, amid concerns from residents in adjoining apartment complex Freshwater Place.

The new plan is even bigger than the original, taking in more Queensbridge St properties, and has had a 408-room hotel added to the original design.

The proposal was given to the Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD), but has been handed back to the developer, with a request for more information before a decision can be made.

It will be interesting to see what Mr Guy’s department makes of the new proposal, given that Amendment C171: Southbank (story on page 5) has been adopted since the original approval.

Schiavello’s owner Tony Schiavello said the new plan incorporated new land, thanks to a purchase the company had recently made.

“The revised design of Queensbridge Tower extends south over 17 to 23 Queensbridge Street, a property recently purchased and accommodating a hotel as well as residential apartments,” Mr Schiavello said.

“The design of the tower does not change, only the facade provides an extra ripple. The height remains the same,” he added.

Mr Schiavello also confirmed that the position of the original tower remained the same.

“The position of the tower to the north, adjacent to Freshwater Place, does not change,” he said.

Unsurprisingly, Freshwater Place residents are infuriated by the new proposal.

Freshwater’s Owners Corporation chairperson Peter Renner said the adoption of Amendment C171 would mean the tower could not be approved.

“The application violates virtually every prescription of this schedule. Our major concern is, and always has been, separation between towers,” Mr Renner said.

“The application is still at 10 metres, where Schedule 60 in the Melbourne Planning Scheme (which includes Amendment C171) stipulates 20 metres,” he added.

“Traffic impact is also a key issue on an already-congested Queensbridge St. As all traffic must enter the property from the north, the city grid will be further choked.”

After the council admitted it mishandled the original approval of Queensbridge Tower, Mr Renner attended the Future Melbourne Committee meeting last month to challenge it to stand beside residents when considering the new proposal.

Speedo sprint makes a splash

Some brave souls took to Southbank promenade in their bathers last month, all in the name of a good cause. Find out more inside on page 6.
Hand over the keys, we’re 21!

Finally, ‘Southbank Local News’ can be considered a fully-grown adult.

Welcome to our 21st edition and, in the tradition of embarrassing 21st speeches, we thought it was the perfect time to share some lighter and embarrassing (mostly to me) stories from our first 21 editions.

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My day as a monarchist
I consider myself quite a staunch republican and critic of the royal family, but when the Queen rolled into town late in 2011 it was a big story for our burgeoning publication. Everything hinged on getting a shot of the Queen here in Southbank. Expecting large crowds I found a prime position along St Kilda Road, but had to sit and wait for three hours among enthusiastic school kids and families, continually asking me the reasons I loved the Queen! I got the shot, but my republican spirit was crushed that afternoon!

Career peak, almost
In our fifth edition we ran a front cover story on the window cleaners of Eureka Tower. We actually had that story in the can for a couple of months and were just waiting for the right day to organise a photo shoot. I had been bragging to anyone who’d care to listen with excitement about scaling to the top of Eureka and having the once-in-a-lifetime day up on the roof with the window cleaners. When I received an email from the cleaners on a clear and breathless morning in early March I was pumped, until seeing the attachments in the email, five fantastic images, taken the day before, without needing me to get onto the roof at all!

That’s just a sample of some of the day-to-day occurrences we have here in the Southbank Local News office, which, over the last 21 months has really been a fantastic place to work.

We again need to thank all of our advertisers and supporting businesses. Without these, we simply would not be here to provide the local news to the growing Southbank community. I implore you to support them.

Thanks too, must go to you, the readers. We’ve had a wonderful response from people engaging with their local rag and it’s been very pleasing to know people enjoy getting their teeth into the local issues.

Here’s to the next 21.
Cheers!

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Boyd’s birthday bash

The Boyd Community Centre celebrated its first birthday last month, with a party to celebrate the many activities Southbank now has access to.

Again Boyd proved its popularity among locals, with a great crowd turning out to enjoy the festivities. The day showcased the best of Boyd, with activities including Tai Chi, a paper workshop and a ukulele band performance.

One of the many guests was Cr Ken Ong, who said the popularity of the centre was great for the Southbank community. “The Boyd first birthday event was very good with many of the locals turning up. This Boyd centre is definitely very popular with the locals of Southbank,” Cr Ong said.

Cr Ong added that, upon explaining to many on the day the next stage of the site, the development and open space, guests were excited for the future at Boyd.

“There was a lot of enthusiasm about having the open space for more group activities such as Tai-Chi, group dancing and other organised outdoor activities,” he said.

Cr Ong also made mention that the lessons learned from the success of Boyd would be taken to other facilities within the City of Melbourne (CoM). “This project will assist council in other similar projects in Docklands, Carlton and Kensington. The CoM staff at Boyd are great. Enthusiastic and helpful, they seem to connect well with the people using the centre.”

Separating cyclists and pedestrians on promenade

Action is to be taken in alleviating the dangerous interaction between cyclists and pedestrians along Southbank Promenade.

The City of Melbourne has highlighted the stretch between Southgate and Crown Casino as an issue needing to be addressed as part of its Road Safety Plan 2013-17, presented to the council during July.

The report suggests the need to: “Explore on-road separated bicycle lanes to enable commuter traffic to bypass Southbank (promenade), to mitigate pedestrian-cyclist conflict and safety concerns.”

It is listed as a medium priority within the report. The report also includes safety details from 2007-2011 and showed a number of serious injuries were suffered and there was one fatality were caused by road accidents on the Southbank end of Clarendon St. There were several other serious injuries suffered on St Kilda Rd and City Rd.

Celebrating Bastille day? Oui oui!

There was a unique opportunity to celebrate Bastille day in Southbank this month, as champagne company Laurent Perrier hosted ‘La Fete National, a brunch celebration at Eureka 89 function space.

The event, commemorating France’s national day, featured a two-course brunch, live entertainment and, of course, stunning views of Southbank, Melbourne and beyond.
Footpath not so fine and Danby

Federal parliamentarian Michael Danby has weighed in on the closure of the footpath on Queensbridge St, penning a letter of distress to Lord Mayor Robert Doyle on behalf of local residents. The local member was moved to action through the constant agitation of residents’ safety concerns. Writing the letter on behalf of several residents who had spoken to him about the footpath closure, Mr Danby said the closure was causing a significant safety risk to locals. Talking about the letter, Mr Danby even said that local residents feared: “that eventually someone will be injured or at the very worst killed because of the frustration that has been caused by the three year footpath closure.” “This is an extremely busy section of Queensbridge St and the closure of this section of the footpath is placing local residents and other pedestrians at risk, particularly as some people while commuting in the area must cross the busy road numerous times to reach their destination,” Mr Danby said. He also blasted both the council and the State Government for their collective lack of consultation on the issue with locals. “The council and the State Government have offered no assistance to the local community regarding this problem and I have written to the Lord Mayor asking that he look into the safety of local residents and taxpayers and find a solution to this problem and re-open this section of the footpath.” As reported in February’s Southbank Local News the footpath, on the eastern side of Queensbridge St, between Queensbridge Square and Power St, is closed during working hours while the construction of Prima Pearl takes place. Since that article, Southbank Local News has also received two “Letters to the Editor” from concerned residents about the footpath closure. The Lord Mayor replied to Mr Danby’s letter, saying the council’s position on the footpath closure would not be reversed. He pointed out that public safety was the City of Melbourne’s number one priority when deciding to close the footpath. “Due to the existence of overhead electrical assets above Queensbridge St, Brookfield Multiplex (principal contractor for the construction of Prima Pearl) advised that they could not install a protective gantry over the footpath which would have allowed for safe pedestrian access past the construction site,” Cr Doyle wrote. “Brookfield Multiplex has placed traffic controllers at both ends of these footpath closures to manage pedestrians past the worksite in a safe manner.” In response to Mr Danby’s letter, a council spokesperson said she could only reiterate the position previously stated on the footpath. In February, the council told Southbank Local News: “It is generally not necessary to close a footpath for long periods as part of a major development, however this site presents a number of challenges such as being located at the intersection of two major roads and the proximity and number of overhead power cables that are unable to be easily relocated.” “The arrangement has minimised any potential disruption to vehicle traffic along Queensbridge St and into Power St,” the spokesperson said.

Southbank the focus of AFP investigation

Southbank was at the centre of a major federal police operation last month, when Operation Kitrino closed in on a syndicate, allegedly profiting from the illegal management of sex workers. Assets were seized from an apartment in Southbank. The sting was part of a collaborative investigation between Victoria Police and the Australian Federal Police (AFP). Three Southbank residents were charged. A 38-year-old woman was charged with dealing in proceeds of crime while a 56-year-old woman and a 25-year-old man was charged with aiding and abetting proceeds of crime. Two others were also arrested as part of the raids. The five are accused of illegally managing sex workers through four licensed Melbourne brothels, none of which are in Southbank. AFP Co-ordinator Crime Operations, Ian Bate, said the operation had been a success. “The cooperation and close working relationship between the AFP and its partner agencies such as Victoria Police and Department of Immigration and Citizenship has been vital to the disruption of this complex syndicate,” Detective Bate said. “These arrests are signification disruption to this syndicate which police will continue to target and investigate,” he added. The AFP said the investigation was on-going and would not rule out further charges being laid.
Planning Minister Matthew Guy approved the City of Melbourne’s planning scheme Amendment C171: Southbank last month after much discussion and deliberation.

The decision will have a lasting impact on new developments in the area, finally putting in concrete, rules and guidelines for future planning in Southbank.

Mr Guy said it was vital to have these structures in place in Southbank, given its importance to the design and feel of Melbourne as a whole.

“This site is in one of the best locations for high density living, taking the pressure off Melbourne’s suburbs, being within easy walking and cycling distance of the CBD and on the doorstep of major tram and train routes, with shops, entertainment and an array of services,” Mr Guy said.

“In a rapidly evolving area like Southbank it is critical that we plan to protect the quality and street life of the area by providing more services and more public spaces while being sympathetic to the neighbourhood,” he added.

He also pointed out that the amendment was great news for the arts precinct in Southbank, as it protected it from high-rise development.

“This amendment highlights the significance of our city’s much loved arts precinct by setting a 24-metre mandatory height limit around Hamer Hall, the Spire, the Arts Centre and adjoining area.”

The decision to approve the amendment comes after it was reconsidered for lodgement to the planning department by the City of Melbourne a number of times, due to community concerns with setback and mandatory height levels.

At the time the council submitted the amendment to the Planning Minister in September 2012, Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said: “At some point, even if everyone doesn’t like it, you have to draw a line. I think we’ve got it right. I think the wording is stronger than when we looked at it last time.”

For more reaction on the approval of Amendment C171 read this month’s column by Southbank Residents Group president Michael Smolders on page 12.

The initiative, run by Active Melbourne City Sports (AMCS) in conjunction with Southbank Local News and the Yarra River Business Association, held three exercise sessions during June and July.

Active Melbourne City Sports’ Peter O’Rourke said he was encouraged by the events, which were well attended and enjoyed by the participants.

“I was really pleased with the first year event. AMCS will continue to grow the event and continue to provide free community activation events,” Mr O’Rourke said.

He also pointed out that of the participants who responded to the AMCS survey, 100 per cent of people enjoyed the utilisation of lunchtime to engage in physical activity.

“I believe that the biggest barrier to participation comes from a lack of internal promotion and support within the workplace. It takes ownership and leadership from within this environment to drive participation,” he added.
Off the blocks to save energy

Southbank residents living in high-rise apartments have access to a new online tool, encouraging them to save energy.

The City of Melbourne, in conjunction with a number of other partners, launched the Smart Blocks website last month (www.smartblocks.com.au), and is hopeful the program will be taken up by Southbank building managers and owners corporations.

The website’s major focus is saving energy and money in common areas of high-rise apartment dwellings, so often a cause of friction among residents in these buildings.

At the launch of the program, Cr Aaron Wood said it was a particularly important program for Melbourne, given the rate of growth in high-rise living.

“We need to be smart about the way we develop in the future, but we also need to make our existing buildings more efficient. This is a critical step to reaching our ultimate goal of becoming a carbon neutral city,” Mr Wood said.

The program partners included Strata Community Australia, City of Sydney, Owners Corporation Network of Australia, Green Strata and the City of Melbourne.

Music strategy to be formed

By Sean Car

The City of Melbourne has gathered a range of members from the music community to be a part of the Music Strategy for the Melbourne Advisory Committee.

The strategy will seek to assist and support the music industry through events and campaigns by outlining ways in which council and government can best engage with the industry.

With Southbank’s bustling arts institutions, not to mention many very talented buskers, the strategy is sure to be shaped by locals.

Council has been encouraging innovative music businesses, industry leaders, entrepreneurs, promoters and artists to help provide expert advice on the current 2010 music strategy and the implementation of a new strategy for 2013-17.

Councillor and Chair of the Arts Portfolio, Rohan Leppert, said the establishment of the committee is about working together to help develop what is an integral part of Melbourne.

“From the live music venues, to the artists, musicians, producers and punters; Melbourne’s reputation for being a city of music is well established,” he said.

“If we’re going to continue to foster an environment and opportunities for the city’s music industry and creative soul to thrive and grow, we need to work with the key players involved.”

Applications are now closed. For more information call 9658 9658 or visit www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/music

Shivering sprinters in their Speedos

Some in Southbank missed the memo about the freezing winter weather last month, as they took part in the Speedo Sunflower Dash at Queensbridge Square.

The revealing race was all in the name of a good cause, raising money and awareness for the Leukaemia Foundation.

The Leukaemia Foundation's Meaghan Bush said the dash was a great day for contestants but, more importantly, for patients.

"The Speedo Sunflower Dash was a great success for its first year. We were thrilled with the turnout at Southbank and that we raised much-needed funds for patients and their families with blood cancers," Ms Bush said.

She was also complimentary of the dash’s Southbank location, saying: “Southbank was a great location as it was really central for our participants to attend, we had lots of great on-lookers, thanks to the prime location.”

“We certainly will be back next year and let’s hope the sun shines bright again,” Ms Bush added.
Love you locks

The worldwide phenomenon of locking padlocks onto bridges to signify the love between couples has made its way to Southbank.

There are early signs the footbridge between Flinders St Station and Southgate may become covered in the locks, with about 100 appearing last month.

The practice has been made popular in Europe on bridges in cities such Paris, Prague and Dublin.

The locks often have names and dates scribbled on them, with many couples believing it to be good luck for the future of their relationship. It is also seen as symbolically locking in love.

Or perhaps it’s just less of a commitment than tattoos?

Have you locked in your love on the bridge? Tell us about it on Twitter (@SOUTHBANK_News) or on our Facebook page.

Shout out for Rotaract

By Sean Car

Young leaders of Southbank want to form a Rotaract Club to encourage young people to create positive change in their local community and around the world.

Southbank Rotary has recently welcomed a number of potential Rotaractors along to its meetings to share its wisdom and provide a forum to discuss plans for the new club.

Rotaract is a worldwide organisation and has more than 200,000 young members across 170 countries.

Southbank Rotaract will allow young people the unique opportunity to engage in social initiatives and events to help them become the professional leaders of tomorrow.

At a meeting on July 9, prospective members heard that “networking, developing professionally and filling a need to help society” were some of the key motivations to form the club.

Rotaract Southbank spokesperson Stuart McArthur said Rotaract was a great vehicle for helping young people achieve their goals.

“Rotaract as a program for young people aged 18-30 is one of a number of stepping-stones that members of the community can become involved with in order to have fun and give back to the community,” he said.

He said that Southbank Rotary had provided fantastic support in assisting present Rotaractors establish the club so far.

“The Rotaract proposal has been taken very favourably by the club,” he said.

“As many of our members are past Rotaractors we have a lot of experience to share.”

Southbank Rotary president Steven Aquilina said Rotary strongly focussed on working closely with young people.

“Youth programs are a significant part of Rotary,” he said.

“The Rotary Club of Southbank as a club of professional people of all ages – young and old – is in a fantastic position to be able to work with young people who are just starting out in their careers.”

Southbank Rotaract currently comprises 13 members and is growing, with 15 required in order to draw up a charter and officially establish a club.

Rotaract is calling upon anyone between the ages of 18-30 to get on board. For more information visit www.southbank.org.au

Rotaract Southbank’s president Steven Aquilina (middle) is flanked by Rotaract members P.J. Tosh (left) and Stuart McArthur (right) at the Rotaract meeting last month.
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Who is opening up in Southbank?

By Sean Car

Seven of Southbank’s most renowned buildings will open their doors this month as part of Open House Melbourne.

The free event is on July 27 and 28 and provides Melburnians with the unique opportunity to gain behind-the-scenes access to some of the city’s most iconic buildings.

The Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC), Southbank Theatre, Victoria Police Mounted Branch, Arts Centre Theatres Building, Hamer Hall, The Guilfoyle and the National Gallery of Victoria will all be featuring in this year’s event.

Hosting over 1000 events and more than 250,000 visitors annually, MCEC Chief Executive Peter King said that it was proud to show off one of the city’s best kept secret.

“MCEC is a great asset to Melbourne,” he said. “We want Melburnians to see what we do and be proud of what MCEC achieves on a daily basis.”

Mr King said that Open House is a great initiative providing a rare opportunity for people to experience a real insider’s view.

“Visitors are excited by the rare opportunity to stand on the same Plenary stage as the likes of Neil Young and His Holiness the Dalai Lama.”

“It’s not often you get to tour a kitchen the scale of MCEC’s and people are sometimes surprised we have a team of chefs who produce all our dishes in-house.”

With a record 111 buildings opening their doors to Melbourne for this year’s event Peter Maddison, Open House Ambassador, said that the program would offer something for everyone.

“Open House Melbourne provides a unique opportunity to see some of the city’s very best buildings and learn how high quality innovative design both improves and makes our city more livable,” he said.

“Melbourne is internationally renowned for its architecture and it is fascinating to see how buildings have changed over the past 150 years.”

Melbourne mates on a mission for Jared

By Sean Car

Yarra River Business Association (YRBA) president, John Ahern, has launched a charity in bid to help a long time friend.

Along with fellow Publican group director, Steve Garcia, Mr Ahern has established the Melbourne chapter of Mates On A Mission, a non-for-profit charity originally started in Sydney, in order to raise funds for a different yearly cause.

The two men have drawn their inspiration to launch the charity by helping raise funds at an August 1 fundraiser for the son of long-time Publican Group contractor and friend Spiro Bombos.

Four year-old Jared Bombos suffers a combination of thalassemia and sickle cell anaemia, two inherited red blood cell diseases.

All funds raised at the Charity Gala Night, held at River’s Edge Events, will go towards a vein finder machine and a part-time children’s play therapist for the Medical Therapy Unit at Monash Medical Centre in Clayton.

The vein finder is a revolutionary technology that greatly enhances patient care, safety and comfort by greatly reducing the number of attempts needed to place an IV or needle.

Mates On A Mission was originally launched more than ten years ago by NRL and West Tigers star Robbie Farah and friends Charlie Haddad, Steve Boukaram and George Katrib.

The August fundraiser will be the second major fundraising event for Mates On A Mission and the first for it’s new Melbourne Chapter in a bid to help raise awareness for inherited Red Blood Cell Diseases in Australia.

To find out how to sponsor the evening, donate and more information on the charity visit www.matesonamission.com.au or www.publicangroup.com

Steve Garcia and John Ahern (left) are pleased to be helping out long-time contractor Spiro Bombos and his son Jared.
THE ARTS PRECINCT

POP HISTORY WITH A TWIST

There’ll be plenty of colour and life brought to town for the new show at the Melbourne Recital Centre when Taylor Mac takes to the stage.

Taylor, no ordinary performer, brings his acclaimed show The History of Popular Music to the Melbourne Recital Centre (MRC) stage in August.

This is a two-hour version of his 24-hour show, it will be only the very best bits.

Taylor said he loved that his show could engage so many different people.

“My job is to bring people together, give them a shared experience and remind them of what it means to be human,” he said.

Taylor Mac’s The History of Popular Music will hit town on August 16 and 17, for more information, head to www.melournerecital.com.au
The American Songbook Series continues this July when the Melbourne Recital Centre plays host to ‘On A Clear Day’ featuring two renowned Australian performers.

Much-loved entertainer Jay Laga’aia and acclaimed jazz vocalist Gian Slater lead a stellar jazz band and the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra in the July 18 event. Most recognised to Australian families as a host of Play School and Captain Typho in Star Wars, Jay Laga’aia is well renowned for his stage credentials after highly praised performances in The Lion King and Wicked. Gian Slater, known for virtuosic improvisations and inventive compositions, will grace Southbank audiences with the pure voice that has seen her release seven original albums.

Widely regarded composer Graeme Lyall AM will present a stripped back arrangement that combines rich jazz with soaring orchestral harmonies featuring music from Gershwin’s Porgy and Bess, Sondheim’s A Little Night Music, and Bernstein’s West Side Story.

Jay Laga’aia said he is greatly anticipating the genre, “he said. “The musical foundation of the great American Songbook. ‘I am actually looking forward to working in the genre,’ he said. ‘The musical foundation that Graeme has created allows the listener to be immediately transported back to when they first heard some of these memorable tunes.”

The series, which launched on July 5, features a vast selection of renowned musicians, singers and DJs who will mix it up with crowds through until September 6. The line-up will include Australian artists such as Vance Joy, Robert Forster, Machine Translators, Good Heavens, Brighter Later, Halfway, Courtney Barnett, Seekae, Harmony and Jae Laffer.

Tony Ellwood, Director of the NGV, said the event would help transform what is a wonderful exhibition.

“The Friday night series will completely transform the gallery through these major evening events,” he said. “It will run over the final ten weeks of Monet’s Garden. Mr Ellwood said that visitors could also catch a ‘pop-up’ talk with special guests including host of Gardening Australia Costa Georgiadis, celebrity chef Matt Wilkinson and Australian contemporary artist Fiona Hall.

“Their insights will enlighten, entertain and no doubt be full of interesting surprises,” he said.

The event runs every Friday from 5.30pm to 9.30pm and a range of food and drink offerings will be available throughout the evening.

The National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) is welcoming crowds to experience a stellar range of some of Australia’s finest musical talent this winter for Friday Nights at Monet’s Garden.

The series, which launched on July 5, features a vast selection of renowned musicians, singers and DJs who will mix it up with crowds through until September 6. The line-up will include Australian artists such as Vance Joy, Robert Forster, Machine Translators, Good Heavens, Brighter Later, Halfway, Courtney Barnett, Seekae, Harmony and Jae Laffer.

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“The Friday night series will completely transform the gallery through these major evening events,” he said. “It will run over the final ten weeks of Monet’s Garden. Mr Ellwood said that visitors could also catch a ‘pop-up’ talk with special guests including host of Gardening Australia Costa Georgiadis, celebrity chef Matt Wilkinson and Australian contemporary artist Fiona Hall.

“Their insights will enlighten, entertain and no doubt be full of interesting surprises,” he said.

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We need more certainty than C171 provides

As reported on page 5, the Minister for Planning, Matthew Guy, has approved the much discussed and debated C171 Southbank Structure Plan.

After years of community, developer and council consultation, Southbank residents (and future residents) should in theory have greater certainty in the planning future of our suburb. But, do we?

With only a small handful of mandatory elements protecting height, predominately in the arts precinct, the structure plan is primarily constructed around “guidelines”, offering the much-used and abused ability for development applicants to talk their way around having to adhere to “restrictive” planning standards that, some argue, stifle the creative planning development of the suburb.

Currently traveling through Europe, I’m in constant awe at how Amsterdam and Paris staunchly protect their architectural heritage, at how Barcelona and Madrid have successfully created vibrant communities and plazas/open spaces around predominately low rise CBD suburbs and how, on my stopover, Singapore continues to create one of the most integrated and liveable high-rise cities in the world.

What do all these cities have in common that is still lacking in Melbourne? Long-term planning vision. These fantastic and vibrant cities haven’t been developed by chance. Nor have they been left in the hands of developers to determine what’s in the best interests of the city. Both local and regional/state governments have established long-term development plans (including many mandatory requirements) that have been implemented over decades of bipartisan agreement and have resulted in positive community outcomes.

You can even visit some of these cities’ planning offices and, on public display, are the scaled models of what the city will look like in 20 years time. Now that’s real planning vision!

And what does Melbourne have? Half-baked guidelines that leave most of the development decisions in the hands of developers who are interested in maximising their return on investment rather than taking into account public needs and infrastructure requirements. And who can blame them for taking this stance anyway? For it’s the role of government to establish the planning vision for a city and to ensure that it has strong planning guidelines in place that deliver to this vision.

I challenge the State Government to show us a scaled model of what Southbank will look like 20 years from now. Or to outline what public infrastructure it will commit to during the same time frame.

Schools, new tram/bus routes, police stations, open spaces, community venues. If Singapore, Hong Kong and Shanghai can model it all out and have it on permanent public display, why can’t we?

We’re all still left wondering what Fishermans Bend will look like but a lack of town planning vision hasn’t stopped the development applications from already being lodged and approved.

Until the State Government provides the same level of planning foresight and policy frameworks as its overseas counterparts do, we’ll continue to see uncertainty in planning and simply block-by-block development approvals.

That doesn’t create a great suburb or city. You can’t leave town planning to chance.

Anthony loves the relaxing side of Southbank and said he often came here for meditation. He also enjoys coming to see the famous landmarks in the area such as Flinders St Station and Federation Square.

Callum said that Southbank was one of his favourite places in the city. Being central to everything, it is a great place to visit with plenty always happening.

Caden enjoys the “beautiful boats” that travel up and down the Yarra River. He said it was a wonderful place to go for a walk and there was always plenty to see.

On a nice day there is nowhere as peaceful as the Botanical Gardens according to CC. She said Southbank was a really “decent” area and the gardens were a great place for a picnic.

Liam said he was always excited to come to Southbank. He said he loved the area particularly because it was home to his favourite landmark, the magnificent Eureka Tower.

Liam describes Southbank as “a really nice place” and said it was an interesting place to explore.
Bluetrain re-opens on Southgate’s upper level

Bluetrain officially re-opens its new doors on the upper level at Southgate this month, with an exciting new look and menu ready to be tasted.

The revitalised eatery has undergone a significant transformation with a nod to the retro feel of Melbourne’s 1993. Think smart industrial versus city street art fused with contemporary dining and here you’ll have a meeting place that echoes Bluetrain’s vibrant heritage, all with a spectacular view of Melbourne’s city skyline.

Having established itself as the ‘people’s café’ for well over 20 years, Bluetrain now offers greater choice and more distinct dining zones for patrons to choose from than ever before, including a main dining room, concourse café and espresso bar, laid-back lounge, DJ booth and function area. The bar hosts up to 16 beer taps while a Moretti Forni pizza oven and char-grill have also been installed.

With all this, Bluetrain is destined to be ‘Melbourne’s meeting place’ for any number of occasions year-round.

Newly appointed head chef and part owner Jay Sinclair is at the helm having had extensive experience working in restaurants such as Bella, GPK and Euro in New Zealand, White Rabbit in Brighton, and Monza in Perth. Sinclair’s creativity and flair in the kitchen creates an ‘Aussie Fusion’ menu for Bluetrain.

Bluetrain welcomes Southbank’s locals to come in and see the new look venue. Visit Bluetrain on Southgate’s upper level, or for more information visit celebratesouthgate.com.au

Limited bookings are still available during July and August for Southgate’s renowned social dining event, Progressive Dinners. Enjoy two or three courses with matching wines, tea or coffee for only $45 or $85 per person on any Sunday lunch or Monday evening until 2 September. Restaurants to choose from include BearBrass, Chill On Ice Lounge & Ski Lodge, La Camera Southgate, Miyako, P.J.’s Sidebar, Pure South, The Deck, Red Emperor, Tutto Bene, Scusami, Wagamama and Waterfront. Online bookings are essential and can be made at celebratesouthgate.com.au

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Shop 10, Podium Level, 3 Southgate Ave
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Southgate News & Lotto is your one stop shop for stationary, newspapers and magazines, gift cards, public transport tickets and much more! Our family-owned business provides friendly service and is conveniently located right here in the heart of the podium level of the Southgate complex.

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Shop P 16, 3 Southgate Ave
9682 0123 | www.eyeson.com.au
Eyes on Southgate is located on the Podium level at Southgate. We are an independent optometry bulk billing practice. We provide full scope optometry services and carry approximately 800 fashion frames and sunglasses.

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After 13 years Melbourne’s most popular Italian Restaurant has a:
NEW LOOK, NEW WEBSITE, AND NEW MENU
Visit us this month and receive your free VIP card.

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9682 9333
All your shoe care needs in one spot. We repair shoes and sell a large range of products to keep your feet comfortable. We also repair watches and replace batteries, cut keys and have engraving services, so pop in for all your service needs. Mention this ad and receive 10% off your next bill.
Meet Monty, the 18-month-old Southbank local, who, according to owner Tanya Cheng, is capable of eating literally anything.

Admittedly being an impulse buy for 20-year-old Tanya, who purchased him from Victoria Market last year, Monty has already proven he can handle some pretty unique dishes. “He eats everything,” said Tanya. “Candles, lead pencils, plastic, tissue paper, anything.” Tanya even shared a story with Southbank Local News that is slightly inappropriate in nature but which helps to truly symbolise his passion for eating.

“He has eaten a condom, just once,” she revealed. “He actually pooped it out right here in front of everyone.”

“A man walked past and asked ‘is that what I think it is’? before taking a snap.” Otherwise Tanya described Monty as “a good dog” and said he has been an effective guard dog protecting her from the dark corner in her Southbank apartment.

Meet Monty, don’t eat that!

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**Prayer as Meditation**

Many people have asked me the question: “How do you find time for meditation and prayer in the midst of a busy modern life?”

My response usually is: “Meditation, contemplation and prayer help us to focus on that which is most important in our lives, helping us to overcome anxiety and fear, frustration and dissatisfaction.”

Christian meditation is actually a middle ground or blend of bible reading and prayer. I like to use Martin Luther’s contemplative method, as outlined in his famous letter on prayer that he wrote to his barber. The basic method is this: Take a scriptural truth and ask three questions of it. Adoration – how does this show me something about God to praise? Confession – how does this show me something about myself to confess? Supplication – how does this show me something I need to ask from God?

Luther proposes that we keep meditating like this until our hearts begin to warm to the realities of God. But, it is good to remember that we don’t ultimately pray in order to get something from God, but in order to honour him for who he is.

In order to practise our faith in meditation and prayer we need to engage in a ritual that sets clear boundaries and guidelines for our daily devotions. All true meditations have a specific form, specific instructions and are ideally practised regularly in order to be effective.

In the same way, true prayer also has a specific form, for example the Lord’s Prayer, which bears fruit through repetition. Ritual is a bridge, because its devoted practise builds the path that leads us from our world to the spiritual world and back again.

True prayer always starts with our relationship to God. We pray to Christ, who is the mediator between God and us. Therefore, prayer is less about petitioning than about bridging the gap between God and ourselves.

The more we engage in this conversation, this connecting with the spiritual being whom we seek, the more our prayer life will be strengthened, and prayer is strengthened through repetition. We will know it is being strengthened because we will feel peace, clarity, and warmth in our hearts.

As we advance in our practise, we begin to realise that this peace we feel is not ours, but is in fact the feelings, thoughts, and intentions of the spiritual being to whom we are praying, awakening in us. We will feel this presence more and more as its peace, its light, its joy come to life in us.

We can even open our thinking to this being in prayer and begin to experience its thoughts. Saint Paul encouraged us toward this when he wrote: “Pray with the spirit and understanding (1 Corinthians 14:15).”

And this is how transformation takes place through prayer: His thoughts, feelings, and intentions become alive in us.

The essential formula for this type of transformation is: “Not I, but Christ in me.” What’s more, we become gradually transformed into his image.

St Paul speaks of this as he writes: “And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the spirit (2 Corinthians 3:18).”

To really get to know what prayer is, one must do it, and learn by doing; there is no substitute. True prayer, when practised with one’s whole being in devotion again and again, becomes a bridge to the spring of life.

We know we have found this spring when we begin to feel that our soul would actually perish without its spiritual sustenance. 

Pastor Ian

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**STREETSMARTS**

**Fawkner Street**

The split street that runs parallel to City Rd was named after John Pascoe Fawkner, a founder of Melbourne.

Fawkner had moved from England with his parents to Tasmania, before deciding to cross the straight in 1835. He sold seven acres of his land in Launceston to buy the Enterprize, the ship he used for his venture. Unfortunately for Fawkner he arrived at almost the same time as a representative of John Batman and there is still debate to this day as to who the city’s true founder is.

The reason we at Southbank Local News prefer Fawkner is because, after settling in Melbourne, he published the city’s first newspaper, the *Melbourne Advertiser* in 1838.

Unlike the Southbank Local News, authorities suppressed his original weekly paper, because he had not complied with the Newspaper Act at the time.

In later life, Fawkner turned his hand to politics, becoming a councillor and eventually being appointed to the first legislative council in 1851.

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**Welcome to St Johns Church Southgate**

A place for worship, prayer and community
located on the upper level of Southgate

**Sunday Service Times**
9am Traditional worship with communion
11am Informal worship with communion
6pm Sunday Night at St Johns
Informal contemporary worship
hosted by Lutheran Students and Friends

10:30am Sunday School and Youth
The chapel is open daily for private prayer and reflection

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

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**ST JOHNS SOUTHBANK**

ISSUE 21 | SOUTHBANK LOCAL NEWS | 15
The Yarra River Business Association has been lobbying and researching the problem for many years. The issues are many and varied:

- A State Government that doesn’t see the waterway as a way to help ease city congestion;
- 15 Government agencies with some controlling interest on the Lower Yarra;
- No high profile ‘champion’ who could be a major advocate and ambassador for the river;
- A speed restriction on the river that precludes quick commuter transit;
- A Myki ticketing system that has been designed so that it can’t handle anything that doesn’t run on asphalt or rails; and
- The lack of a bold vision by Government and Council to make the river the ‘showpiece’ of Melbourne for visitors and residents.

The Yarra River Business Association continually advocates for a fleet of modern, fast, low-wave vessels, which would ply Melbourne’s waterfront every 30 minutes between Docklands and Federation Square, and would be fully integrated with Melbourne’s public transport system via the Myki card. No fiddling with coins – just a swipe of the card and you could jump-on, jump-off at probably 3–4 stops between Federation Wharf and New Quay. It would provide a huge boost for commuter transportation and would transform the waterfront experience for visitors.

In the meantime, the world’s most liveable city is stuck with a third-world attitude to its waterway.

Speaking of the third world, the early June deluge of rain demonstrated, yet again, how antiquated Melbourne’s stormwater management system is. The lack of effective entrapment baskets on the major upstream stormwater drains means that tonnes of street rubbish, debris and dog faeces gets swept along the river to pollute and create boating hazards. It gets stuck, often metres-deep, in places like South Wharf and Yarra’s Edge. Visitors’ views from the windows of our tour boats must be more like that of a Bangkok or Manila waterway, not to mention the stench of decaying matter.

Marina Y.E at Yarra’s Edge was the first marina in Australia to gain full eco-certification. The marina’s management prides itself on its commitment to the environment, yet on a regular basis they have to spend days and many thousands of dollars to clear-out the waste that should have never got into the river in the first place. Marina Y.E. at Yarra’s Edge was the first marina in Australia to gain full eco-certification. The marina’s management prides itself on its commitment to the environment, yet on a regular basis they have to spend days and many thousands of dollars to clear-out the waste that should have never got into the river in the first place.

The Bracks Government instigated an across-government stormwater management committee and plan, but it disappeared with the change of government and, once again, it looks like the Lower Yarra should revert to its old title on MMBW maps: ‘Main Drain No. 1’, not good enough Spring Street or Town Hall for the world’s most liveable city. C’mom Government and Council! Email: exoff@yarrariver.info

A variation of Sudoku, with the letters ‘SOUTHBAK’ replacing the numbers. The rules are the same as regular Sudoku, each line of the must contain the letters ‘SOUTHBAK’ as must each 9-square box. This Sudoku is extra difficult! Good Luck!

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**The Yarra River is a great feature of Melbourne, but it is seriously underutilised.**

There are many residents and business people who can’t understand why there is not a regular, fast water transportation system on our river. On land, we have some of the best assets to be found anywhere in the world, but on the water we still have a long way to go.

A senior manager from Crown recently commented to us that many of the hotel’s guests from around the world are astounded that they cannot walk out Crown’s front door and catch water transport, as they can do in so many other countries. Even within Australia you only have to look at how easy it is to get around Brisbane on their Rivercats, or around Sydney Harbour on the heavily government subsidised ferries to see how antiquated is this city’s lack of water transportation.

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**SOUTHBAK SUDOKU**

Last month’s Sudoku solution

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**We make apps**

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**The Benefits of Exercise; Genetics v Environment**

Everyone knows that as part of a healthy lifestyle you need to get active and exercise regularly. Numerous health campaigns have focused on the abundant physical changes that can occur with exercise. However there exists a large portion of the population that believe that even when exercising regularly they can’t achieve these physical benefits, and surprisingly they are right.

Currently there is an increased number of clinically overweight people in Australia. The main factor for this is not clear. The debate over the cause focuses on two main areas: genetic factors (metabolism) and environmental factors (increased work hours, less physically demanding jobs).

Most importantly what we do know is that regardless of physical changes there are numerous internal benefits of exercising regularly. Some benefits of regular, moderate intensity exercise include; increased cardiovascular performance, a beneficial effect on the immune system, a decreased instance of depression, a positive effect on the brain, a beneficial effect on sleeping and many more.

Therefore we cannot let physical changes be the sole motivation for exercise. This can potentially deter us from changing our environment and making a healthier way of life our long-term goal.

**Corporate Core Strength**

In Melbourne we are seeing an increase in the amount of hours worked and the amount of hours spent at the desk in a state of inactivity. As a result many corporate workers are feeling the brunt of these trends in their lower backs. The lower back region is an extremely important part of the human anatomy, which if not properly looked after can cause numerous lingering health issues. Mostly notably the lower back houses part of the spinal cord, which is responsible for housing the millions of nerve fibers that allow for movement in the lower limbs. Therefore pain and stiffness in this vital area can lead to decreased productivity at work and an increase in the number of sick days taken.

Australia is one country that has recognised the importance of lower back health and is actively promoting the benefits that exercise and physical activity has on this area.

Now that we have greater understanding of the lower back, we can look at some practical methods of reducing the instance of pain and injury in this area. By strengthening your core muscles you reduce the force being loaded through the lower back muscles, you improve your overall posture and also increase your flexibility.

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**Businesses in Southbank**

SOUTHBANK-BASED BUSINESSES WISHING TO BE PROFILED IN THIS SECTION SHOULD EMAIL: ADVERTISING@SOUTHBANKLOCALNEWS.COM.AU

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**BUDGET ‘PICKS UP’ THE PACE**

The service provides clients and customers the opportunity to be picked up from home, work or even panel shops and driven back to Budget’s office, where you can rent a car from there.

The service is available for anyone within five kilometres of Budget’s Southbank office, so all residents and workers within postcode 3006 have access to it.

Branch manager, Mario Alonzo, said the “Happy to Pick You Up” service offers a more comprehensive flexible service for our Southbank locals.

“It’s a brilliant concept that just makes sense,” Mario said.

“It’s such an easy process, with no hassles,” he added.

He also pointed out that it was simply an extension of the customer service levels the branch had always strived to achieve.

“We pride ourselves on providing the highest quality customer service as possible. With the new ‘Happy to pick you up’ service, we’re taking that to the next level,” Mr Alonzo said.

The service is available between 9.30am and 3.00pm Monday to Friday. Accessing the service is as simple as booking online through the Budget website, then calling the branch to organize a pick up location and time. Or by dialing 9299 2222 and speak to the friendly staff.

“The service is designed for people who are in a hurry and haven’t got access to a car,” Mr Alonzo said.

“We think it is a service that Southbank locals will find extremely helpful and we hope people utilize it. And don’t forget we will happily get you back at the end of the rental” he added.

To find out more about “Happy to pick you up” or to book, head to www.budget.com.au
**READING CIRCLE**
First Tuesday of the Month 5:45 - 6:45pm
Southbank Library at Boyd, 207 City Road
Come along to talk about books: those you love, those you want others to love, and those you still haven’t discovered.
Phone: 9658 8300
www.melbournelibraryservice.com.au

**MELBOURNE SUNRISE PROBUS CLUB**
First Thursday of the month, 10.00am
Wharf Hotel, Siddleley St
Probus clubs cater for the needs of men and women over 50. Keep your mind active and meet new friends while enjoying a range of activities.
9600 1628 or carolobergb@gmail.com

**FREE TAI CHI AT BOYD**
Every Friday, 8am - 9am
Boyd Community Hub, 207 City Road
Instructors are from Yulong Wu-Shu Tai Chi. Classes are suitable for all levels from beginner to advanced. Courtesy of the City of Melbourne. Contact: www.yulong.com.au

**ARTS CENTRE SUNDAY MARKET**
Sundays, 10am–4pm
Arts Centre, 100 St Kilda Road
Meet over 80 of Victoria’s finest artisans first hand. Discover how these unique artworks are made, chat directly about the first hand. Discover how these unique artworks are made, chat directly about the

**CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS**
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday at 10:30am
Southbank Library at Boyd, 207 City Road
Come and share the wonder of books with us! Enjoy approximately 40 - 50 minutes of fun stories, songs, rhymes and activities.
Phone: 9658 8300
www.melbournelibraryservice.com.au

**ST JOHNS SOUTHGATE MIDWEEK EVENTS**
Second Wednesday of the month
St Johns Southgate, 20 City Road
Friendship group - Brief Chapel service at 12 noon, followed by lunch at 12.30pm in the Function room. Interesting speakers and a great chance to make new friends.
www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au

**ST JOHNS SOUTHGATE SUNDAY SCHOOL**
Every Sunday, 10.30am - 12pm.
St Johns Southgate, 20 City Road
Children 3-11 years welcome. Not available during school holidays. St Johns also runs a playgroup every Tuesday from 10am - 12pm.
www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au

**ST JOHNS SOUTHGATE MIDNIGHT EVENTS**
Second Saturday of the month
St Johns Southgate, 20 City Road
Dance off with Probus Clubs, end with free entry to the Friendship Karaoke Bar.
www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au

**MELBOURNE NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS**
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6pm-8pm
3 Southbank Promenade
This night photography class runs in Melbourne’s city centre and has all the night photography tips you’ll ever need.
For more info: www.pennykoukoulos.com

**ST JOHNS SOUTHGATE SUNDAY SCHOOL**
Every Sunday, 10.30am - 11.15am
St Johns Southgate, 20 City Road
Children 3-11 years welcome. Not available during school holidays. St Johns also runs a playgroup every Tuesday from 10am - 12pm.
www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au

**ST JOHNS SOUTHGATE SUNDAY WORSHIP**
Every Sunday
St Johns Southgate, 20 City Road
9am - Traditional liturgical worship. 11am - Informal liturgical worship. 7pm - Informal contemporary worship.
www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au

**SOUTHBANK LOCAL NEWS**
ISSUE 21
July 2013
BUSINESS DIRECTORY

ACCOUNTING & FINANCE

If you are interested in advertising your business here email advertising@southbanklocalnews.com.au or phone 8889 7980.

CHURCH

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

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What to do | Where to stay | Where to Eat/Drink | Beauty, Health & Fitness | Docklands Services | Where to Shop
All applications will be dealt with in the strictest confidence.

To be considered for this opportunity please forward a covering letter and resume to michael.t@evolverealestate.com.au.

If you are a top performing sales professional, with a minimum of 3 years’ experience, have the passion and drive to succeed in Melbourne, this is the perfect opportunity to build your career.

**POSITIONS**

**REAL ESTATE**

Contact: Angela Mesiti 9690 8855

**Landlords**

Contact us to see how we can save you money and manage your property with superior efficiency

**CONTACT ANGELA MESITI ON 9690 8855 TO SEE HOW!**

**FEATURED SALES**

- **1001/152 City Road, SOUTHBANK**
  - **3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 parking spots**
  - **Price: $530 per week**

  This is your chance to play a leading role in selling Melbourne’s exclusive residential projects. We’re seeking to appoint dynamic sales consultants, both for selling off-the-plan and, and also for residential listing and selling.

- **802/263 City Road, SOUTHBANK**
  - **2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms**
  - **Price: $420 per week**

- **1006/231 City Road, SOUTHBANK**
  - **1 bedroom, 1 bathroom**
  - **Price guide: $495,000**

**FEATURED RENTALS**

- **1605/1 Freshwater Place, SOUTHBANK**
  - **1 bedroom, 1 bathroom**
  - **Price: $350 per week**

  Located in arguably one of Melbourne’s iconic, and leading apartments is this spacious one bedroom apartment, with all the extras. Enjoy the convenience of being so close to the CBD and Southbank Precinct and the Arts Centre.

- **912/220 Spencer Street, SOUTHBANK**
  - **2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom**
  - **Price guide: $420 per week**

  Be one of the first to secure your tenancy in this one bedroom apartment. Comprising of 1 bedroom with Built in robe, Kitchen with Miele appliances.

**Head to www.evolverealestate.com.au to view our wide selection of properties!**

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