Oh my hat! Fashion takes over

Southgate became the fashion capital of the universe (well, of Melbourne at least!) last month when it hosted the launch of Melbourne Spring Fashion Week.

Melbourne milliner Richard Nylon (pictured) was one of many fashionistas to walk the red carpet. Find out more on page 4.

By Sean Rogasch

The City of Melbourne has been left questioning its decision to forgo third party appeal rights as part of Amendment C171, as debate rages over the proposed high-rise tower at 54-56 Clarke St.

The council took the original 240-metre proposal to VCAT, after Planning Minister Matthew Guy approved it in February this year. While the case was being heard the Amendment was applied, so the developer, BBK Architects, has lodged an almost identical proposal, knowing it could not be appealed if Minister Guy approved it again.

The council has again opposed the tower, but is left concerned that it can only hope Minister Guy will heed its reasoning.

While losing third party appeal rights is standard when land is rezoned as capital city zone, the council has previously applied for a concession in the City North Structure Plan, to allow an appeal process.

In the council meeting discussing the Clarke St proposal, councillor and deputy planning chair Stephen Mayne suggested the council could have done the same in Southbank.

“Now that was something we originally requested when we put up C171, possibly we may now regret it,” Cr Mayne said, adding: “We certainly made a last minute change in the City North Structure plan to hang on to the appeal rights, I guess in part because we were a little concerned with seeing these sorts of proposals come through the door.”

Cr Mayne clarified his comments later in the week, telling Southbank Local News: “It’s a tricky one, but it’s concerning because we have a Minister (Minister Guy) with an unprecedented appetite for height.”

“It’s only a regret in the context of the current minister,” he added.

CoM’s planning chair, Cr Ken Ong, explained the situation at the council meeting.

“With the C171 Amendment being approved by the Minister and gazetted it basically means we have no third party rights to this one but, because it’s been sent to us for comments by the Minister, our comments remain unchanged,” Cr Ong said.

He later told Southbank Local News that Southbank would be far worse off without Amendment C171 as it puts the structures for appropriate planning into place.

“The rest of C171 is very clear on height restrictions, setback requirements and separation,” Cr Ong explained, adding: “Without C171 Southbank would be worse off because we’d be fighting every step of the way, without any clear guidelines. We needed those guidelines to be clear and, with C171 in place, they are.”

Cr Ong also outlined the fact that no one had brought the issue of third party appeal rights forward when discussions and negotiations over Amendment C171 were taking place.

“Third party appeal rights were never required by any stakeholders, who were more interested in height restrictions, setbacks and separation.”
Clarke Street concerns

The City of Melbourne has maintained its ongoing opposition to an apartment tower proposal on Clarke St.

The 54-56 Clarke St apartment building was approved in February by Planning Minister Matthew Guy, but was resubmitted by developer BKK Architects due to the introduction of Amendment C171.

The developer behind the project, BKK Architects, has previously stated that the tower would be an iconic addition to Melbourne’s skyline.

“It’s iconic in the way it can be seen from many points in South Melbourne and along Southbank. Also in its location and appearance. It’s located next to a bend in the Westgate Freeway and the design means it looks like it’s animated as you drive around the bend,” BKK director Simon Knott explained.

The council had previously appealed Mr Guy’s approval at Victorian Civil and Administrative Council (VCAT), so its opposition to the new (but almost identical) proposal is hardly a surprise.

Planning portfolio chairman, Cr Ken Ong, explained that the council’s position also remained unchanged.

“Since the implementation and gazetting of Amendment C171, the Southbank Structure Plan, a couple of months ago it (the proposal) has come back to us in exactly the same form that we objected to in the first place,” Mr Ong said at the Future Melbourne meeting in early September. “Our comments remain unchanged,” Cr Ong added.

Cr Stephen Mayne also spoke to the report, saying he hoped the residents in surrounding buildings were aware of the plan.

“I certainly hope the residents of The Bank are fully aware of this public delegates report and that they may make some direct representation to the Minister, in terms of their amenity. The impact that such a very large tower on such a small site in Southbank will have on the amenity of the broader area,” Cr Mayne said.

He also stated he was disappointed the proposal hadn’t been changed, in light of the opposition to it last time around.

After his re-election to the federal seat of Melbourne Ports, local member Michael Danby also expressed his opposition to the tower proposal, saying the tower would cast a huge shadow over Southbank and dominate the views of people living in Southbank and create a massive wind tunnel.

Because the tower is over the 10,000 sqm threshold, the decision on the tower will ultimately lie with Minister Guy and, as reported on page 1, there are no longer rights for any third party to appeal his decision.
Confusion over police presence

By Sean Rogasch

Despite appearing to conclude in 2011, Southbank is no closer to having a police presence after the St Kilda Rd station closes.

In 2011, the City of Melbourne dumped plans for a “police pod” in Queensbridge Square believing there was no longer a need because the St Kilda Rd station would be relocated elsewhere in Southbank by 2015 and a mobile service for peak times would pick up the slack.

It now appears any promise of a police station has been revoked by both the State Government and Victoria Police and both are happy to continue with the current arrangement, using a mobile police facility during peak times along Southbank Promenade.

Even the mobile service has come under scrutiny, with some believing it is not used often enough.

A State Government spokesperson would not be drawn on the question of future policing options in Southbank, suggesting it was simply one of many sites that could be considered for further infrastructure.

“The operational need for new police stations in locations such as Southbank is, in the first instance, progressed through the Victoria Police Strategic Facilities Plan, where such projects are considered in the context of other police priorities across the state,” the spokesperson said.

Despite this unwillingness to speak frankly, Southbank Local News understands Victoria Police believes the Government sees Melbourne East or Melbourne West police stations as being close enough to cover Southbank, after the St Kilda Rd facility is closed.

The procrastination has left the council and local stakeholders reeling.

Councillor Ken Ong said he didn’t believe Melbourne East or Melbourne West could accommodate the influx of police vacating St Kilda Rd.

“I’ve discussed this issue with Lord Mayor Robert Doyle and we are writing a letter to Police Minister Kim Wells,” Cr Ong explained.

“We believe the Southbank location should be a priority,” he added.

Cr Ong also raised concerns that the stop-gap mobile facility was not being used as often as it should be.

The Yarra River Business Association’s (YRBA) Tim Bracher agrees.

“The foot patrols on Friday and Saturday night have been extremely well received by business and residents, but the mobile police unit is becoming a rarer sight in the precinct,” Mr Bracher said.

Both the YRBA and Southbank Resident Group (SRG) clearly want the Government’s response to be more urgent and are behind a push for a stronger police presence in Southbank.

SRG’s Michael Smolders said residents will continue to call for a stronger police presence in the area.

“With a rapidly growing population this side of the Yarra, we must be better served by a local police presence. If the Government fails to secure land for a site now, there will be no hope of securing a site once all has been sold to private interests,” Mr Smolders said.

Air force band blows its own trumpet for birthday

The Royal Australian Air Force Band was in party mode last month celebrating 90 years of existence. To celebrate, the band put on a special performance here in Southbank, at the ABC Centre.

Guests were treated to a program which included a musical performance, a special speech from Group Captain Anthony Checker and even a slice of cake.

Air Marshall Geoff Brown said the band was an important part of Australia’s Air Force.

“As our Air Force Band celebrates 90 years, I am proud of the role our musicians have in enriching Air Force culture through the power of music,” he said.

Air MSHL Brown also pointed out that music has always had an important role to play in the Air Force.

“From a poignant bugler to a full concert band, our band represents Air Force to the world – providing music at ceremonial parades, entertaining our deployed airmen and airwoman and connecting with the Australian community.”

Group Captain Tony Checker and Commanding Officer of the Air Force Band and Squadron Leader Matthew Miller.
SRG sets AGM date

Now that the federal election has been run and won we can get down to the more serious business of voting in a new Southbank Residents Group (SRG) president.

The SRG will hold its annual general meeting (AGM) on Thursday, October 31 at the Assembly Hall in Boyd Community Centre.

The SRG set the date last month and hoped to attract a good crowd of locals for the growing group.

The group is also calling for residents to join as members, to ensure they will be able to cast their vote at the meeting.

Outgoing president Michael Smolders said he wanted the SRG to continue growing and this meeting was the first step.

“The SRG has been a great advocate for residents and owners corporations in Southbank over the years.”

“As the last 12 months draw to a close, the SRG now looks for a new leadership team to take us into 2014,” Mr Smolders said.

Fashion week launched

Southgate laid out the red carpet last month, welcoming fashion-lovers to the launch of Melbourne Spring Fashion Week.

The week was kicked off with a screening of the short film Reflections on the Southgate Cinema screen.

Guests included TV’s Rhys Uhlich (pictured below) and popular milliner Richard Nylon.

Southgate’s Jo Gartner said she was pleased with the evening and that Southgate prided itself as a destination to celebrate major city events, so was proud to be asked to host a fashion event of this nature. The event was one of three launches across the city.

Boyd joins in on fashion week

Boyd Community Centre also joined the fashion week festivities, hosting a fashion show called The Colour Chameleon (pictured above). The event was a collaboration between Boyd Community Centre, KereKere Cafe and the Social Studio.
New signs to guide visitors

The City of Melbourne (CoM) is in the process of erecting new information and mapping signs along South Wharf, helping to guide visitors around the burgeoning precinct.

A council spokesperson said the signs were designed to help local businesses.

"CoM is committed to investing in the visitor experience and to ensuring the visitor economy benefits local businesses, attractions and precincts," the spokesperson said.

"The new maps will initially be installed in a number of the signs along the pedestrian routes that connect Southern Cross Station and the city with South Wharf, MCEC and WTC Wharf."

The Yarra River Business Association (YRBA) has long agitated for more directional signage all over the precinct. Executive officer Tim Bracher said this was a step in the right direction.

"YRBA has been lobbying for more than a decade to get the City of Melbourne to be more responsive to signing needs in the decade to get the City of Melbourne to be more responsive to signing needs in the right direction."

The City of Melbourne (CoM)

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Happy birthday Irene!

Freshwater Place’s first resident, Irene Ward, celebrated her 80th birthday in September. Thanks to her granddaughter Angela, Southbank Local News paid a surprise visit to the party.

"That girl will be the death of me!" Irene exclaimed after it was explained why we had come along.

Letting Irene compose herself, Southbank Local News came back to visit later that week to have a chat about the milestone and, in particular, the last eight years, which she has spent at Freshwater Place.

Irene explained that she and her husband Maurice were the first residents to call Freshwater Place home, despite some resistance from the rest of the Ward family.

"The kids thought we’d gone mad when we said we were moving into the city," Irene explained.

"We met all the new tenants as they arrived, and Maurice got to know the builders who were finishing the tower and they showed him the ins and outs of the building." Sad, Maurice passed away last year, but Irene said she never really thought about leaving her home.

"After Maurice passed away I think my kids were a bit worried about me living here alone," she explained.

"A couple of months ago I strained my ankle and was struggling to walk up and down the stairs. My neighbours were so helpful, with groceries and just generally helping out, that’s when my kids knew I was going to be fine here."

Irene said retiring to the city had been a great decision, making things as simple as a walk along the promenade, an interesting daily occurrence.

"If I was still in Forest Hill I wouldn’t go for a walk around the block. Once you’ve seen all the gardens, it’s too boring."

She also put to bed the perception that living in a high-rise building can lead to a lonely existence, saying: “It’s more of a neighbourhood here than where we came from.”

"You can have it either way. You can have it private if you like, or you can be social. Personally, I always prefer being social!"

Irene added.

Southbank Local News wishes Irene a very happy 80th birthday and all the best for the years ahead.

Growing up fastest

If the unprecedented rise of apartment towers wasn’t enough of a hint, last month there was confirmation that Southbank has the fastest rate of residential growth of any inner-city suburb in Australia.

The Australian Bureau of Statistic has released figures showing that Southbank’s population increased 11 per cent between June 2011 and June 2012.

Southbank’s residential population was listed as 13,600 as of June 2012.

Southbank also has the third-largest increase in population density of Melbourne suburbs with 430 people per square kilometre.

Southbank Residents Group’s outgoing president, Michael Smolders, said the continual rise of the population was only going to get faster and the needs of all the new residents needed to be considered, before they got here.

"If not managed correctly by local council and State Government – and at the moment it’s not - there will be a rapidly diminishing impact on resident amenity," Mr Smolders said.

"We must urgently see a state/local government vision and commitment on how the suburb will be developed and what guaranteed improvements will be made to local infrastructure," he added.

Mr Smolders said there was still plenty of community infrastructure that needed to be considered.

"Southbank is yet to see the sod being turned on a school development. There is no police or ambulance station and child care facilities do no exist," he said.

"Open spaces are not being secured for future public use, roads are becoming increasingly clogged with private vehicles, no announcements have been made on increasing public transport options and towers are being inadequately massed with a lack of separation between them."
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Labor loses, but Danby holds his Melbourne Ports seat

A win at Southbank’s polling booth has helped Labor’s Michael Danby hold his Melbourne Ports seat in September’s federal election, despite a swing to Liberal candidate and Southbank resident Kevin Ekendahl.

MSV awards at St Johns

By Sean Car

The Musical Society of Victoria (MSV) will present nine outstanding young classical musicians in concert when St Johns Southgate hosts the Hephzibah Menuhin Memorial Awards on September 29.

The musicians have been chosen as finalists by MSV and will showcase their skills in front of a live audience for a chance to claim a total of more than $4000 in prize money.

Since 1982, the event has become a highly valued scholarship for musicians under 25, with many performers on the threshold of making decisions about careers in music and further overseas studies.

The concert begins at St Johns Southgate at 2.30pm with tickets available at the door.

More information: www.msv.org.au

Indian dance wins hearts

The Indian Music and Dance Festival enlivened Queensbridge Square last month and a Southbank-based dance crew was the highlight.

The event was organised by the Federation of Indian Associations of Victoria and included plenty of dancing, singing and musical performances.

One such act was NB Dance (pictured), which brought the crowd to its feet. NB Dance used the community space at Boyd Community Centre to hone its routine in the lead-up to the event.

NB Dance’s Natasha Baweja said it was thrilling to perform in front of so many Melburnians.

“Our performance was appreciated so much that the organisers requested we perform again” Ms Baweja said.

Southbank’s only polling booth, at The Victorian College of the Arts (VCA), echoed the results of the overall electorate, with Mr Ekendahl scoring more first preference votes, but Mr Danby winning after preferences.

While the overall result in Southbank gave Mr Danby an 81 vote win (898-817), Mr Ekendahl received 716 first preference votes, compared with 508 for Mr Danby. His win was helped by preferences from Greens candidate Ann Birrell’s who registered 344 first-preference votes. The best of the rest was the Sex Party’s Melissa Star, who received 90 votes, which equated to 5.25 per cent of votes cast in Southbank.

Toby Simon Stodart from Palmer United Party was the only other candidate to reach double figures in Southbank, collecting 34 votes.

In total, 1753 votes were cast at VCA, including 38 informal votes.

Mr Danby was unsurprisingly pleased with the result, and told Southbank Local News he looked forward to continuing his representation of Southbank.

He said at the top of his list was opposition to the proposed tower on Clarke St and pushing the ongoing petition for a night-time security guard at the botanical gardens.

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From court to cafe, and back again!

Paul Scidone is familiar to many in Southbank, but most haven’t seen him like this before.

The popular restaurant manager of La Camera in Southgate has swapped the rat race for a racquet and headed back to his first love, tennis coaching.

Mr Scidone said he was thrilled to be back out on the court, enjoying his first passion in life.

“As much as I love working at La Camera, and I really do, my kids come first now, and it is hard working Friday and Saturday nights,” Mr Scidone explained.

He also said his tennis coaching style had evolved since he was last out on court.

“My perspective has completely changed after having my own kids. 99 per cent of kids are there just to have fun, so I want to develop a program I know kids will really enjoy,” he said.

The move to the tennis court is part of his Kaizen School of Tennis.

“The word Kaizen means ‘continual improvement’. I think that is best achieved for kids by having as much fun as possible, so that’s what these lessons are all about.”

Mr Scidone said he was also planning to bring a cardio tennis program to Southbank.

“I’d like a way of keeping in touch with all the people I have met here in Southbank and I know they are always on the look out for local activities like this.”

What’s the big black dome?

A mysterious black dome appeared in Queensbridge Square last month, enticing interested onlookers.

The accompaniment of two swish-looking Mercedes-Benz cars both added to the intrigue and gave away that it was in fact a promotion for the high-end car company.

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Business partner cities tour Southbank

By Sean Car

The Southbank precinct was put on display in September as representatives from Asia-Pacific gathered for the Business Partner Cities Roundtable, this year devoted to the business of design.

The Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre held the official welcome reception where about 120 guests including 40 delegates from 11 cities met for the event.

The annual event, which was held from September 3 to 6, aims to help facilitate stronger links between Melbourne enterprises and business and investment organisations in Asia.

This was the third time Melbourne has hosted the event since joining the Business Partner City Network in 1999 and Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said the City of Melbourne was proud to play host.

“We have invited these cities to bring design-oriented businesses with them to create linkages and business opportunities for our city and theirs,” he said.

Not only coinciding with Melbourne Spring Fashion Week, the event was also a celebration of the 35th anniversary of the Melbourne-Osaka sister city relationship.

The Osaka delegation enjoyed a behind the scenes tour of Southbank’s Boyd Community Hub while also meeting with Planning Minister Matthew Guy and Crown representatives.

Interested in White Night?
By Sean Car

Expressions of interest are now open to musicians, performers, artists, businesses and organisations wishing to participate in White Night Melbourne 2014.

Southbank was central to the success of last year’s event with venues such as the Malthouse Theatre, the Arts Centre and NGV participating in the all-night event, which also included the stunning conversion of Flinders St Station (pictured right) entry into a music stage.

Planning is well underway for the highly anticipated dusk to dawn event on Saturday, February 22, 2014.

Expressions of interest will be accepted until October 1, via the website www.whitenightmelbourne.com.au

Left: Chief strategy officer for Deloitte Australia, Gerhard Vorster with City of Melbourne Councillor Kevin Louey.
Picture provided by City of Melbourne.
The first round of performances has been announced for Melbourne Music Week and it is already clear that Southbank and its various venues will be at the centre of the week-long festival.

Already the Melbourne Recital Centre and Birrarung Marr have been named as venues hosting events, the latter holding the opening night on Friday, November 15.

The Recital Centre will have a distinctly international feel for its performance, hosting a collaboration between German Pantha du Prince and Norwegian The Bell Laboratory (pictured above).

"The music week is the result of a collaboration of 90 different event partners and Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said he was looking forward to the mid-November event. "Melbourne Music Week is a great celebration of Melbourne’s world-renowned music scene and a unique event that supports and works with the local industry," Cr Doyle said.

"This year’s program has 110 events, half of which are free, with 230 artists across 60 city locations.”

Melbourne Music Week will run from November 15 to November 24. For more details head to the website www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/mmw

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In Hymns & Hits, old and new worlds collide spectacularly when the Trio take Mendelssohn’s dramatic C minor Trio and juxtapose it with Paul Schoenfield’s fun and funky MTV-inspired hit, Poor Music Videns.
On that date in 1953, MTC opened its first ever performance, Colombe by Jean Anouilh.

The MTC was the first professional theatre company to establish itself in Australia, under founder John Sumner, Current artistic director, Brett Sheehy said the company continues to be proud of both its heritage and the standard of theatre it continues to produce.

“The company’s commitment to the highest standard of theatre-making is as strong today as it was under John Sumner’s leadership when he established MTC as the first professional theatre company in Australia,” Mr Sheehy said.

“His vision created the model for all state theatre companies that followed,” he added.

Mr Sheehy said the company was passionate about Australian theatre and it looked forward to its future productions.

“We’re committed to telling Australian stories and supporting talented writers. From next year we’re delighted to welcome Lally Katz as the Australian Writers’ Foundation Playwright in residence based here at MTC,” Mr Sheehy said.

“Through the support of the Cybe Foundation for our annual playreadings and the John and Peter Clengner Trust for our commissions, new Australian plays will be seen on our stages for decades to come.”

In total, 342,029 people visited the exhibition, which opened in May and finished on September 8.

Minister for Tourism and Major Events Louise Asher said the success of Monet’s Garden further proved the value of the Melbourne Winter Masterpiece series to Victoria’s economy.

“The Melbourne Winter Masterpiece series has once again proven to be a strong tourism draw card and leading major event on the calendar. I look forward to welcoming the 2014 series exhibitions to Melbourne,” Minister Asher said.

“From the moment the exhibition opened in May, visitors of all ages across Victoria and indeed Australia, have enjoyed the exhibition and the programming events,” Mr Ellwood said.

“One of the most successful events was Friday Nights at Monet’s Garden (pictured above) which had an overwhelming response and we look forward to launching similar events throughout summer,” he added.

NGV director Tony Ellwood said the exhibition was a hit from day one.

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“His vision created the model for all state theatre companies that followed,” he added.

Mr Sheehy said the company was passionate about Australian theatre and it looked forward to its future productions.

“We’re committed to telling Australian stories and supporting talented writers. From next year we’re delighted to welcome Lally Katz as the Australian Writers’ Foundation Playwright in residence based here at MTC,” Mr Sheehy said.

“Through the support of the Cybe Foundation for our annual playreadings and the John and Peter Clengner Trust for our commissions, new Australian plays will be seen on our stages for decades to come.”

In total, 342,029 people visited the exhibition, which opened in May and finished on September 8.

Minister for Tourism and Major Events Louise Asher said the success of Monet’s Garden further proved the value of the Melbourne Winter Masterpiece series to Victoria’s economy.

“The Melbourne Winter Masterpiece series has once again proven to be a strong tourism draw card and leading major event on the calendar. I look forward to welcoming the 2014 series exhibitions to Melbourne,” Minister Asher said.

“One of the most successful events was Friday Nights at Monet’s Garden ( pictured above) which had an overwhelming response and we look forward to launching similar events throughout summer,” he added.
A meeting with Planning Minister, Matthew Guy

Recently Roger Gardner (Docklands Community Association), Michael Kennedy (Eastenders) and I spent an hour with Planning Minister, Matthew Guy, discussing key issues facing residents in the City Zone (CCZ) on behalf of the Coalition of Resident and Business Associations (CoRBA).

We spoke at length on three top issues – 1. Tower massing and separation; 2. Legitimate community consultation; and 3. Transparency and governance of ministerial planning decisions.

On tower massing and separations, we discussed that, while existing residents are keen for the completion of CCZ suburbs, we must ensure sensible development occurs that does not adversely impact resident amenity and liveability standards. It was our contention that current minimum tower separations of only 10m fall short of our contention that current minimum development notices in the coming weeks.

We asked the Minister to consider introducing a “yellow board” planning development notice process, where developers are required, as part of the planning application submission, to erect a large development proposal notice at the front of the development site. The erection of this notice (which occurs in Sydney and some council districts in Victoria) ensures that neighbours to the development site and any passing traffic/pedestrians are made aware of the intention to seek a planning permit and advises residents of how they can obtain a copy of the permit being considered. This process will ensure that residents are well informed in advance of any decision being made with respect to development proposals in the CCZ.

On the final matter of transparency and governance, we outlined to the Minister that residents are becoming increasingly disillusioned at their exclusion from the planning application process, more so when Ministerial decisions are made in a manner that appears to be at odds with the prevailing planning guidelines and that no context or reasoning for these decisions is publicly provided.

We advocated for the consideration of introducing a planning advisory committee – similar to the system in NSW – where any planning matter requiring a Ministerial decision is referred to the committee. This committee has the ability to take public submissions regarding a planning application in an open forum and then provides the Minister with a recommendation on the planning application for ratification.

While the Minister didn’t commit to any of our discussion points during the meeting we did leave feeling confident that our case regarding improved tower separations and the “yellow board” process would be given serious consideration. The final idea on the planning advisory committee appeared to be an unattactive proposition. While disappointing, if we continue to advocate for the “yellow board” process, at least residents will be informed prior to a planning decision being made – and will have time to make a submission direct to the Minister’s office or council, either for or against the proposal.

We will follow up the Minister on our requests for greater tower separations and development notices in the coming weeks.

AGM and call for nominations

The SRG Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 31 from 6pm – 7.30pm in the Assembly Hall at Boyd (207 City Rd, Southbank). The AGM will run through the activities of the SRG over the last year and will also seek to appoint a new president and vice president of the group who will set the agenda for 2014.

If you, or someone you know, may be interested in becoming the next president or vice president of the SRG, please send me an email at srg2008@gmail.com and I’ll get in touch to discuss the roles in further detail.

Membership

In order to hold a position with the SRG, or to vote in president/vice president elections, you must be a registered member. Individual memberships are only $19 p.a. and membership for owners corporations are either $350 p.a. or $550 p.a., depending on the number of apartments in the building.

To become a member or to renew, simply visit www.southbankresidents.com.au/membership.

Find your inner zen at Federation Square

Escape the stress and busyness of life and discover the peace of meditation for yourself at these free lunchtime classes. Your guide, Buddhist Monk Gen Dornying, is the resident teacher at Kadampa Meditation Centre Australia.

This is a perfect opportunity to break up your busy week and find that “me time” that many of us struggle to find.

Where: The Atrium

When: Every Tuesday, 12.30pm – 1pm

Price: Free – no bookings required

Visit www.fedsquare.com/events/lunchtime-meditation/

Ride2Work Day

Residents and workers of Southbank, you are in luck. You have the choice of two fantastic venues for the upcoming Ride2Work day, set for Wednesday, October 16.

These two events include the Ride2Work Community Breakfast Docklands at 800 Bourke St, Docklands and the Ride2Work Day at Federation Square.

So what are the benefits of riding to work?

- Three hours of bike riding a week reduces the risk of heart disease and stroke by 50 per cent;

- Every bicycle km ridden saves society 25 cents, every car km driven costs society 16 cents;

- The health risk of inactivity is 20 times greater than the risk posed by a potential accident on a bike;

- Women who ride their bicycle 30+ minutes a day have a lower risk of breast cancer; and

- 63 per cent of people who rode to work for the first time in 2011 reported that they were now riding to work more than once per week.

For more information about the range of freebies, give-aways and entertainment available on the day visit www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/amcs. So get riding and start enjoying the numerous benefits.

Brazillian Jiu Jitsu

Looking to get involved with a sport that offers something completely different? A sport that combines a multitude of unique movements and techniques?

Well then you must look into this fantastic opportunity. The Brazilian Jiu Jitsu club based in Docklands is offering free trial sessions to anyone who might be interested in the giving the sport a go.

Brazilian Jiu Jitsu is the type of martial art where you can go at your own pace. It can be a considerable work out if you push yourself or a light workout if you slow the pace and focus on technique.

Spring fashion arrives in style at Southgate!

Discover fashion, shopping, spring racing and more at Southgate this month.

As the city welcomes the new season, Southgate’s restaurants are preparing special spring racing packages, while local retailers are showcasing the latest in unique fashion styles and accessories for those heading to the racetrack.

At the start of September, Southgate held a Define your Style fashion party as part of Melbourne Spring Fashion Week. Southgate’s Resident Stylist Bec Cole showcased some of the exciting looks that can be created from Southgate’s own fashion and accessory retailers, ensuring racegoers stand out while at the track. To complete your race day outfit, Southgate is offering one lucky shopper the chance to win their very own designer headpiece, created by Melbourne celebrity milliner, Richard Nylon. All shoppers need to do is spend $30 or more at a participating Southgate retailer to enter the draw. But be quick! Competition closes on Monday 30 September, terms and conditions apply.

While visiting Southgate, don’t miss the stunning Richard Nylon runway exhibition on Southgate’s mid level, now showing until Friday 27 September. Inspired by the book ‘Green Universe’ by Stephen Blackmore, the collection draws inspiration from the microscopic views of plants and interprets the spring trend towards flowers in a unique way.

If you are heading to the races, why not organise to meet friends at Southgate before heading to the event. Choose from a champagne breakfast on all the major race days at BearBrass, a Derby Day breakfast at PJ. O’Brien’s, or a chicken and champagne Melbourne Cup breakfast at Bluetrain.

For more information on these great offers, events and more visit celebratesouthgate.com.au

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**BEARBRASS**
GR3A, Southgate
9682 3799 | www.bearbrass.com.au

Located on the Yarra at Southgate. BearBrass offers a social environment to suit all moods. BearBrass is open 8am til late weekdays and 9am til late on weekends serving breakfast, lunch, dinner or just drinks! With unbeatable views of the city, there is no better place to meet friends.

**ROOPRANI**
P 5/6, 3 Southgate Ave
9686 6504 | www.rooprani.com.au

RoopRani offers a variety of services and treatments, from facials, hair, nails, waxing, threading, massages to make-up. Aiming to make you feel like a true RoopRani - Beauty Queen.

**SOUTHGATE NEWS & LOTTO**
Shop 10, Podium Level, 3 Southgate Ave
9696 8311 | www.southgatenewsandlotto.com.au

Southgate News and Lotto is your one-stop shop. Seeking stationery and need delivery? Don’t go past our Stationery website. We have specials on almost 3000 Printer Toners and Cartridges. Our family owned business continues to strive to meet and exceed all your stationery needs.

**MARK’S SERVICE DEPOT**
Shop P9, 3 Southgate Avenue
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.

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**EYES ON SOUTHGATE OPTOMETRISTS**
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.

**LA CAMERA SOUTHGATE**
Shop MR 1/2, 3 Southgate Ave
9699 3600 | www.lacamerasouthgate.com

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.
With spring well under way, it is time again to celebrate the bonds between all of God’s creatures. On October 13 at St Johns, children have been invited to bring a loved pet to the 11am service for a blessing.

It may be only a once-a-year event but it is a children’s favourite and children are special at St Johns.

“Of course every single person is important at St Johns,” said Pastor Ian Vainikka, “But children are especially so because they are God’s creatures. On October 13 you might join a wriggling array of God’s creatures for a St Francis celebration blessing.

Melburnians got an inkling of what the north bank could be when the aquarium opened in 2001, followed by Federation Square in 2002, with Birrarung Marr opening soon after. When the Commonwealth Games people moved out of the old World Trade Centre in 2006 the transformation began of what had been known as Melbourne’s “white elephant” into what is now the vibrancy of WTC North Wharf, which opened its doors in 2011. There’s still plenty to come at WTC, with a new addition soon to come to its waterfront dining and the redevelopment of the old convention centre site that sits behind Crown Plaza.

Inside the complex, you’ll find an array of artworks, including a few of the former river fish sculptures from 2006, some good quality budget dining places, and the fascinating Police Museum. The museum has free entry and its permanent and temporary displays are always very professionally presented.

WTC Water Taxi operates from WTC Wharf on a seasonal basis. This time of the year it runs a “float to the footy” service but, come November, it will resume its Yarra loop service until autumn 2014. It’s a great way to get around, to get a new perspective on Melbourne, and all for just a few dollars.

The magic that has transformed WTC is shortly to be applied to the North Wharf area, located between Flinders Wharf and the Grimes Bridge. Asset 1, the developer of WTC, has won the State Government rights to restore and enhance the historic wharf sheds and crane.

What you will see emerging will retain the historic wharf sheds and crane. The mood for all these activities is warm and friendly, well planned but not over-structured.

Of course, underpinning everything is rich worship services heightened by some of the best liturgical music you are likely to hear in Melbourne, such as St Johns’ highly-regarded program of Bach cantatas. Perhaps you would like to drop in sometime soon to see what goes on and perhaps on October 13 you might join a wriggling array of God’s creatures for a St Francis celebration blessing.

Join us at St Johns Church Southgate for these coming special events

Sunday 22nd September
9am
Bach cantata service
Liebster Immanuel, Herzog der Frommen (BWV 123)
for 3 violins, 2 violas, 2 cellos, 2 flutes and continuo
Early Voices (director Vivien Hamilton)
The University of Melbourne
Directed by Greg Donnan

Every Sunday
9am
Traditional worship with communion
Informal worship with communion
Sunday Night at St Johns
Informal contemporary worship hosted by Lutheran Students and Friends

Sunday 13th October
11am
St Francis of Assisi Celebration
bring your pets for a blessing of the animals
20 City Road Southbank Telephone 9682 4995 www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au

The chapel is open daily for private prayer and reflection.
ON THE BOX

with Korey Fernando

One out of 19 ain’t bad

Some 25 intelligent and stunningly-beautiful women, all vying for the attention of a well-kempt, charming, single, male – a perfect bachelor, if you will.

It sounds like an unreasonable and surreal concept, a scenario linked to a strange religious cult perhaps? Or maybe it’s just the premise of the latest local re-tooling of an American reality format! The Bachelor is here!

The Bachelor follows the journey of a young man, put up in an expensive mansion, while a bevy of beautiful women basically fight for his attention. Each week, one of the girls is sent home (usually in tears) until only two remain – and our bachelor proposes!

If this strikes you as kind of bizarre – you’re not alone. One man embarking on a romantic relationship with 20-odd ladies at the same time is unusual enough without the idea that it’s all shown on national television.

That said, bachelor Tim is a 30-year-old chiropractor and former model, and he’s pretty sure that this show is going to help him find “the one”. While it’s certainly a possibility, it’s worth mentioning that a quick poll of the original format revealed that of the 19 seasons that have aired in the US only one couple remains together.

Joining bachelor Tim as the only other male in the program, is host Osher Gunsberg. You might remember him as the delightfully beige host of Australian Idol, back when he used to call himself Andrew G.

Unfortunately the most interesting thing about Osher/Andrew Gunsberg is his name, and his presence as a host is reminiscent of a musical birthday card – bright and cheerful, but terribly repetitive and annoying.

Secondly, the other cringe-worthy component to the program is the way in which the women are selected, through a “rose ceremony” where, one-by-one, bachelor Tim chooses his favourites by handing over a single red rose until he’s out of roses and the poor women who are left empty-handed are also broken up with.

It isn’t too far into the proceedings before bachelor Tim is introduced one-by-one to the individual contestants through their quirks. This is catalysed by the inclusion of alcohol to every social outing with Tim. Tim’s own probing questioning of the ladies proves to individualise them: “So ... Why are you single?”

Despite the fact that The Bachelor seems to hold the fairer sex under the microscope a little unfairly, it’s definitely a fun night’s viewing.

It must also be said that half of the fun with watching a program like The Bachelor, is that guilty-pleasure feeling you get after picking out the crazies.

Then there’s the debates over which potential partner is the best and why and you can start to see why such divisive, car-crash television is so popular with audiences.

SOUTHBANK SUDOKU

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

The rules are the same as regular Sudoku, each line of the must contain the letters ‘SOUTHBANK’ as must each 9-square box.

This Sudoku is extra difficult!

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Friday November 22nd at 9.30am

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find us on the mid level above the food court
wagamama.com.au
City Road

While many have discussed its safety, flow and pedestrian issues, we’re going to delve into the origin of its name.

It won’t take a genius to work out that City Road’s name is, of course, in reference to its proximity to the city.

The name originated from the fact that it was the connecting road between the City of Melbourne and Sandridge.

It seems the road was the subject of a power struggle between the two councils, as it was originally called Sandridge Rd.

The big brother won in the end and the name was changed in 1893.

Having recently moved to Melbourne from the south of France, Paul says Southbank has made an immediate impression on his experience of the city. The beauty of the area and the wonderful variety of restaurants help to make it one of the nicest and most relaxing parts of the city.

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What are the working dynamics of your relationship?

Check the astrological charts by emailing yours and your partner’s birth date and time to sean@southbanklocalnews.com.au

What do you bring to the relationship and what gifts does your partner bring?

**Dan**
You are a unique individual who doesn’t always need a relationship to feel good, but you do like to share your day-to-day observations with another. Your scorpio moon indicates that you love deeply when you find the right one and you are very loyal. Certainly no-one could accuse you of being a fair weather friend. Deep and passionate about your beliefs, you will fight all and any obstacles to achieve what you believe to be right, good and fair. At times you become despondent when others don’t either agree with you or don’t understand your vision. Work and outer achievements continually distract you from love and relationships as you feel that you can’t have both. You can Dan. But you need to balance your life with more discipline. Work/life balance, or life/work as I prefer to call it, will actually strengthen you and your place in the world. Let your significant other guide you in achieving this balance. In your work, you are gifted with technology, science maths and attention to detail. If you can bring some of this attention to detail to your relationships, you will achieve a true sense of peace, joy and prosperity, beyond what you can envision on your own.

You are eclectic, fascinating and able to bring your dreams to reality in a quiet and steady way. Nothing is unachievable in your eyes. You are clear, logical and persistent when your heart is ignited.

**Angie**
You are the supreme individualist and march to your own drum. You need and want a deep connection to others, but a traditional relationship is not for you. Whilst you are happy to support and nurture others in the most fundamental way, you still believe each of us has their path and lessons to learn in our own unique way. You attract and are attracted to successful, intense partners that energise you but somehow leave you feeling restricted and constrained. You need to be close and yet you need to be free to explore.

One of your biggest life lessons is to not give away your power in relationships for the sake of compromise. By being your own true self and pursuing those projects that really matter to you, you become the type of partner everyone wants on their team.

Keep your individuality and be sensitive to others’ needs. This will be the blessing your heart desires and will provide many rewards in this lifetime. You love to be drawn into really deep conversations by a partner, and staying up all night talking about life is your idea of living. Your partner tends to be the centre and rock around which you base your operations. Remember, though, not to live and breathe your partner at the expense of your own needs, goals and desires.

**Outcome of relationship:**

All relationships (intimate or otherwise) are given to us, not by co-incidence but by design to teach us something, to help us overcome something, to provide us with something or to help us achieve something. Bright ideas, big-picture thinking and brilliant discussion make this a fun relationship. You have a North Node connection in the Eighth House, which is the house of true, deep bonding (sometimes bondage). Sharing your lives, money and joint resources will empower both of you to achieve your worldly goals. This placement is the traditional soul mate connection, where each of you is strengthened in areas that the other lacks. You will both complete each other. The lesson is not to try to transform the other to your ideals but to accept, appreciate and value the differences. Together, you both focus very much on worldly ambitions, achievements and career goals, with one of you always providing the missing link.

All of this outer world focus is great, but you will both need to be mindful of the other’s emotions and deepest longings of the soul, rather than just the outer goals. Given the placement of North Node, it appears this relationship has legs and you will probably know each other all your lives so it behoves you to make something of it.

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Evolve Real Estate welcomes Vanessa Lillyman to the team as our Senior Property Manager/Property Development Manager.

Vanessa Lillyman’s greatest satisfaction comes from helping people achieve the best they can from their investments. Vanessa holds a Full Real Estate License and has majored in Property Management. Vanessa has over 10 years’ experience in the Property Management/Property Development industry, during which time she has earned a reputation for her exceptional standards of customer service and professionalism.

Vanessa’s success can be attributed to her friendly approach and ability to make clients feel at ease, combined with expert negotiation skills. “I’ll go the extra mile to please. It’s all about great customer service,” she says. “I’m very honest with clients which in turn brings me lots of referrals.”

When clients meet Vanessa, they are immediately struck by her energy and the passion she has for her work. “My approach mirrors the Evolve ethos. I work hard, but when you adore what you do it’s fundamentally enjoyable.”

Vanessa has a holistic approach to her work, and gains satisfaction from seeing a project through from beginning to end. “It’s always exciting listing a new property,” she says. “Finding that great tenant for the landlord, preparing the property and then setting in the new clients and their family. That’s a job well done.”

Please feel free to call Vanessa on (Office) 9690 8800, (Mobile) 0458 386 583, or drop into our Office for a chat to see how Vanessa can help you.

Evolve Real Estate would like to welcome Henry Jiang to our team as our newest Sales Executive.

Henry possesses great skills including reading and writing fluent Mandarin and Cantonese, holds a Full Real Estate License, understands his clients, negotiating, communication, customer service, knowledge of the local market and trends. Henry’s strong customer focus and attention to detail have made him a TOP performer. “My local knowledge gives me ammunition to take aim at would-be buyers. I can uncover the best-kept secrets about the area to pique their curiosity and then expand on that to help my clients secure the best return on their sale.”

Evolve Real Estate is a leader in the marketing field. Our systems make it easy for people to simply punch their preferences into the system and we match their criteria against our listings. Vendors get great prices and buyers don’t have to sift through countless property listings; we send email alerts about OFIs and new listings that will interest them.

The prospect of doing something different every day attracted Henry Jiang to real estate. “Sales is so diverse,” Henry says. “I’m meeting people, marketing, researching, working solo and as part of a team – no two days are the same because every client and property demands something different.”

For all your Real Estate needs please call Henry Jiang today on: (Office) 9690 8800 or (Mobile) 0467 890 123 or drop into our office for a chat on how Henry can help you.