Changes ahead for City Road

By Sean Rogasch

The City of Melbourne (CoM) is taking the first tentative steps towards a City Rd Masterplan, speaking to stakeholders and the community, before developing a draft plan to formally present for consultation.

Boyd Community Hub will play host to CoM officers for a week in February to gauge the community’s experiences of City Rd.

The ridiculously-named “City Road Participate Melbourne Engagement Portal” will run from Monday, February 24 through to Saturday, March 1. The officers will be there from 8.30am – 7pm on Monday; Thursday, 8.30am – 2pm on Friday and 10am – 2pm on Saturday.

The ideas presented in this community engagement will no doubt help guide the draft City Road Master Plan, which the council said it would release later this year.

2010’s Southbank Structure Plan outlines the need to redevelop City Rd for both road users and the general Southbank community.

In the structure plan council identifies City Rd as “a street that caters predominantly for local traffic movements” and, as such, it wants to make it more pedestrian and cyclist friendly.

It has long been acknowledged by locals that no matter where the traffic on City Rd comes from, it acts more as a freeway than a local thoroughfare and is, for the most part, unsuitable for cyclists and pedestrians.

A CoM spokesperson said the City Road Masterplan was about getting the balance of usage right.

“No doubt this refers to increasing the people-friendly side of the equation. Clearly the CoM understand that Southbank’s growing population will force the need of locals to be able to claim the street as their own.

“City Rd is one of our city’s major arterial roads. Stretching 2 km, it is an important traffic link but also acts as the main street for the growing Southbank neighbourhood,” the spokesperson said.

“With Southbank’s residential population expected to reach an estimated 74,000 by 2040, a significant increase on the existing 10,500, there is increased need and opportunity to improve the road,” the spokesperson added.

“Before we develop a draft masterplan, we will be speaking with the community and key stakeholders about what issues they face along City Rd and what opportunities they see to improve their experience.”

CoM will develop the masterplan in conjunction with VicRoads, with whom it shares responsibility for City Rd.

The draft is expected by mid-2014.

As well as the consultation at Boyd Community Hub, you can find out more and have your say online at www.participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au

What changes to City Rd would you like to see? How can the road be made more user friendly?

Let us know via our Facebook page (Southbank Local News) or on Twitter (@SOUTHBANK_News) or emails us (news@southbanklocalnews.com.au).
Life begins at 50 for IMLAC members

As more people move into Southbank after downsizing from the family home, activities and groups for the more mature among us are becoming popular within the inner city.

Inner Melbourne Life Activities Club (IMLAC) is one such group and its number of Southbank residents is increasing quickly. IMLAC provides activities and social gatherings of all kinds, for a membership that is generally over 50.

IMLAC president John Smith said about 15 per cent of the group now resided in Southbank, and that the area was a fruitful one for many activities the group organised. He said the arts precinct, plus the vibrant bars and restaurants provided fantastic meeting places for events and the variety was exactly what the group was about.

“It’s all about what the members want to do. You might only have three or four people in any given activity, but if you’re happy with that, then it will work,” John explained.

IMLAC event organiser Carolyn said the group was all about making new friends and, most importantly, feeling comfortable in the city.

“It’s not a dating group, it’s purely for socialising!” Carolyn said.

“When I moved to the city I figured I’d better meet some people and IMLAC provided the perfect opportunity. As time went by I realised a lot of other people were in the same boat.”

Southbank Local News also met with some locals who have joined IMLAC, including the Life Activities Clubs Victoria’s (IMLAC’s parent organisation) president Lindsay Doig. Lindsay said he was a great example of how IMLAC offered you as much or as little participation as you’d like.

“There are almost no limits to the activities we do. People decide what to do and as long as you’ve got a couple who are interested then away you go,” Lindsay said.

“As for participation, you can simply attend events, organise one yourself, help run the club, or as I have, help the organisation.”

Another Southbank local, Heather, explained that there were plenty of people in Southbank yet to discover IMLAC, saying: “There are so many older people here in Southbank who don’t know about us.”

Ann moved to Southbank from Canberra and said getting to and from the activities helped her learn to get around on public transport, plus the group was pivotal in getting to know people here.

“If I didn’t join, I might have had to move back to Canberra!”

If you’d like to find out more about IMLAC go to its website www.life.org.au/imlac

SOUTHBANK DIRECTORY 2014

Don’t miss out on getting your copy.

It’s out now - you can pick one up at most supermarkets in Southbank!
Fed Square Men’s Shed gets funding

The long haul for men’s shed advocates has reached its conclusion with funding for a Melbourne men’s shed at Federation Square announced last month.

The site, on the ground floor of the Fed Square car park, is likely to be as close to a Southbank Men’s Shed as locals can hope for, as the City of Melbourne is touring the shed as serving residents of the CBD, Southbank and Docklands.

The City of Melbourne will spend $160,000 over the next five years on the project, $45,000 fitting out the space, while the rest will contribute to rent over the first five years.

The State Government has also provided $60,000 as part of its investment into new men’s sheds across Victoria. Minister for Community Services Mary Wooldridge used the announcement at the Melbourne site to declare the state-wide spending.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said the shed was a vital piece of community infrastructure as more and more people called the inner-city home.

“This is an important project for our city community. Having a men’s shed at Federation Square, with easy access to public transport, is vital to ensuring inner-city men also have the opportunity to get their hands dirty,” Cr Doyle said.

Cr Beverley Pinder-Mortimer said the shed was open to all and pointed out the benefits of such a facility to unemployed and socially disadvantaged people and people with a disability.

“The men’s shed is an important champion of men’s health and welfare and we are delighted to support the CBD initiative,” Cr Pinder-Mortimer said.

Minister Wooldridge said the sheds were a fantastic community builder.

“Men’s sheds provide men with opportunities to develop and use new skills, establish social networks and give back to their local community,” Ms Wooldridge said.

“The establishment of a men’s shed in the heart of Melbourne is significant first for the precinct,” she added.

Ms Wooldridge explained that inner-city living lent itself to communal sheds such as this.

“It is particularly relevant for men who are retired, have downsized from suburban areas and no longer have access to a backyard shed, and often have no local community connections.”

Love in the air

Love was certainly in the air on Valentine’s day in Southbank. There were plenty of couples adding to the already packed love-locks on the bridge and the Heart Foundation also had a display in Queensbridge Square, where loved-up couples could express their feelings.

The display allowed couples to “lock in” their love on giant hearts. Among the many visitors during the day was arguably Australia’s greatest ever soccer export Harry Kewell, who declared his love for wife Sheree.

This lovely couple (picture left) locked their special message and love on the heart displays.

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**Centre of the food and wine festival**

Southbank will again be central to the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival thanks to ‘The Immersery: Festival Kitchen, Bar and Raingarden’ in Queensbridge Square acting as a major focal point for the festival.

This year the kitchen will be an open air dining area, raised above Southbank Boulevard and running parallel with the river.

A selection of top chefs provide the menu over the two weeks of the festival while, at night, the space will transform into a riverside bar.

As was the case last year, Hassell designed the festival’s Queensbridge Square location.

Southgate will also play a big part in the festival, holding the Southgate Fiesta on March 1 and showing foodie films at Southgate Cinema on selected dates.

Southgate Fiesta will include live music on the promenade and an opportunity to taste some of Southgate’s finest food and wines from its collection of restaurants.

Other Southbank locations holding events are Ludlow Bar, Left Bank, Ponyfish Island, NGV, Langham, Arts Centre Melbourne, Crown and South Wharf.

The festival runs from February 28 – March 16.

For more details on the Southbank events head to the website www.melbournefoodandwine.com.au

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**We love getting on our bike**

It seems professionals are not the only cyclists enjoying a ride along Southbank, as the Queensbridge bike share station is one of the most popular in Melbourne.

The Melbourne Bike Share Scheme experienced high usage during December, with December 28 breaking the record for most trips during a single day.

The station at Federation Square experienced the highest use, with Queensbridge Square the second most used.

Public Transport Minister Terry Mulder said the signs were very positive that the Bike Share Scheme was on the rise.

“This increase highlights the importance of the scheme to the general public. We have a great opportunity here to promote cycling as a viable and sustainable transport alternative,” Mr Mulder explained.

“These results really show us, that we are still learning about what Melburnians and tourists really want out of the Melbourne Bike Share, and how small changes can make it successful and meet the needs of all users,” he added.

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**Drag(on) boat racing at WTC**

A good crowd gathered at WTC Wharf for the annual Chinese New Year Dragon Boat race during February.

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*For full Terms and Conditions visit the DFO South Wharf Centre Management Office. Authorised under VIC Permit number 14/3367
Renewed push for station upgrade

While the Flinders St design competition received plenty of publicity last year, the lack of intended action has led the Yarra River Business Association (YRBA) to increase its lobbying to have the Elizabeth St underpass upgraded.

The underpass, a key gateway into Southbank from Flinders St, is in desperate need for attention and the YRBA has presented a concept to both Transport Minister Terry Mulder and Lord Mayor Robert Doyle.

The concept includes an art installation across the back wall, which currently features heritage listed but broken, dirty and generally run-down tiles. The YRBA is not suggesting replacing the tiles, but covering them with art displays.

The YRBA commissioned graphic designers who used a mural from the Arts Centre as an example of just what could be achieved in the space.

The YRBA says it has been lobbying for an upgrade to this passage for several years, but has never had any support at a bureaucratic level.

YRBA president John Ahern said the government was kidding no-one into thinking it had the funds to pay for the revamp from competitions such as the one held last year.

“Everyone knows the Government doesn’t have the money to do anything about the transformation of the station, and future governments are unlikely to either,” Mr Ahern explained.

He said the YRBA really wanted to create a user-friendly entrance into the important tourism section of Melbourne, between Southgate and Queensbridge Square.

“We are saying that the underpass is an eyesore and is an intimidating space for workers and visitors, especially after hours,” Mr Ahern said.

“IT’s a brilliant, do-able, relatively low cost concept that would make the current dank space the talking point of the city for locals and visitors,” he added.

Minister Terry Mulder failed to respond to Southbank Local News’ request for comment, while Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said it was a state matter and, as such, would not comment until a decision was made at state level.

Tour begins riverside

A flood of lycra converged on Southbank last month as the Jayco Herald Sun tour, Victoria’s premier cycling event, hit town.

For the first time the race started in the middle of Melbourne, with a 2.5 km time trial prologue. The prologue began in Birrarung Marr, travelled across Princes Bridge, and then raced along Southbank Promenade to the finish line in Queensbridge Square.

Jack Bauer won the prologue stage with a time of three minutes. The race then toured regional Victoria, travelling to Geelong, Ballarat and Bendigo before finishing at the scenic Arthurs Seat on the Mornington Peninsula. The overall winner of the tour was Simon Clarke.

*Valid until the end of March 2014 on presentation of this voucher. Not to be used with any other offer, excludes happy hour.
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Resident hailed as top public speaker

Glenn Capelli is a man of the world, travelling all over the planet on the professional speaker circuit.

Mr Capelli has been a professional speaker for years and last year was recognised as the National Speakers Association Australia’s (NSAA) Keynote Speaker of the Year. The 2014 awards were held on February 14-17 at Crown Casino, but Mr Capelli officially holds his title until April.

“It’s nifty to get recognised. I started my business in 1987, so hopefully it shows I’ve been getting better every year. It’s one of the things I teach people, so I need to be doing it myself,” Mr Capelli said.

He also explained that through the awards and the NSAA he really enjoyed mentoring younger speakers.

“We don’t need another Anthony Robbins in the world, one might be enough. We don’t want another Glenn Capelli either, it’s about every person being the best them that they can be, with their unique stories.”

He hails from a teaching background but told Southbank Local News that he was sick of having to teach to a curriculum and wanted more freedom.

“I’m a teacher by trade, but now I get to write my own curriculum. When I started I was teaching history, economics and English and in many ways I’m still teaching these things.”

Despite his wide and varied travels, Mr Capelli considers himself lucky to call Southbank home.

“Whether presenting in Beijing, Prague, Los Angeles, Rio, Bangkok or Bendigo, it is wonderful to return to my Freshwater Place abode on Southbank.”

“I moved here from Kalgoorlie, so Melbourne’s a bit different, but it’s such an innovative city. You can go down to Boyd Community Hub, just how fantastic is that set up!”

Mr Capelli’s enthusiasm for public speaking is very obvious and he said he was looking forward to many years ahead in the field.

“I still feel like as if I’m just beginning.”

Tourism leader to speak at quarterly networking lunch

The Yarra River Business Association and Southbank Local News’ quarterly business lunch will return in February and will feature one of Australia’s leading tourism officials.

Felicia Mariani, who was recently appointed as director of marketing for Tourism Victoria, will speak to local businesses about the changing needs of the area’s visitors. Ms Mariani’s impressive CV includes stints as director of marketing for Tourism Victoria, as well as director of marketing for Tourism Australia.

At the last event, the SLN executive officer Tim Bracher said the networking lunch had attracted over 70 locals and hoped the lunch would attract a mix of local business owners, local workers and local residents.

“We see the lunches as a way of helping to narrow the gap between the precinct’s workers and residents,” Mr Bracher said.

Both the YRBA and the SLN are hoping to replicate the success of last December’s networking event, which attracted over 70 locals.

Tickets are still available and are $66 per person. This includes a two-course meal, plus drinks.

For more information head to www.yarrariver.info/event/yarra-river-quarterly-business-luncheon

Marking Moomba memories

Having found a home in Southbank in recent years, Melbourne’s iconic Moomba festival will turn 60 this year and the City of Melbourne (CoM) has plans for a unique celebration.

The council wants to hear from anyone who has experienced the festival over the past 60 years, offering the chance to take part in the festival’s centerpiece, the parade.

CoM will collect all entries on social media site Tumblr on a page called People of Moomba. The best 30 entries will be asked to be part of People of Moomba floats. Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said the city wanted to pay homage to the people who have enjoyed the past six decades of Labour Day weekend fun.

“Moomba is Melbourne, and we are very proud that our iconic festival is celebrating its 60th anniversary. The City of Melbourne believes there’s no better way to celebrate than by honouring the people who have enjoyed and participated in Moomba for six decades,” Cr Doyle said.

If you have a special memory of the parade, the birdman rally or the water skiing event, you can enter the competition at www. peopleofmoomba.tumblr.com or write to the council.

For more information head to www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/moomba

Glenn Capelli is a man of the world, travelling all over the planet on the professional speaker circuit.
Our night to turn white

White Night Melbourne will return this year with even more events and excitement to be created at Southbank venues.

The evening will see Melbourne split into regions. Southbank locations fall into “The Vortex” and “Tattooed City”.

“The Vortex” covers events at Southgate Cinema, Signal and along the Yarra, including an exciting light installation on the bridge over to Southgate. “Tattooed City” runs along the Southbank side of St Kilda Rd, encompassing the National Gallery of Victoria, Arts Centre Melbourne and testing grounds.

Bringing in the Chinese New Year

The Crown Promenade was again Melbourne’s centre of attention for the Chinese New Year celebrations with a carnival, market and concert performances, attracting a huge crowd.

The loss of the planned 100 metre dragon on Sandridge bridge to Docklands (you’d think the council would want people to see it!) didn’t dampen the party which took place over three days on January 31-February 1.

Signing Southgate

Southgate has moved into the new year by unveiling new electronic directories to help guide shoppers around the centre.

The new guides are touch-screen and include electronic advertising opportunities for the Southgate traders.

Southgate’s Marina Levitsky said the new signs were able to convey both basic information about the centre while also covering the surrounding area.

“The new information kiosks were installed to provide easy to use 24-hour information for visitors searching for Southgate restaurants and stores, as well as basic customer service information like parking and parent change rooms,” Ms Levitsky explained.

“Customers can also access up-to-date information about what’s on at Southgate, as well as important events and shows in Melbourne and the surrounding arts precinct,” she added.

“They have been received very well. Early data has shown high levels of usage in the first month of operation.”

Tell us who has ‘Made your Day’

The Yarra River Precinct Customer Service Awards is a consumer awards program that enables you to nominate a business and/or an individual in the local retail, accommodation or hospitality sector who has impressed you with their commitment to service.

Nominated businesses or individuals need to be located or working in the area along the Yarra River between Punt Road and Bolte Bridges, including Southbank and on the north bank to the southern edge of Flinders Street.

The nomination also puts you in the draw for some great prizes.

1. Your name ______________________________________________________________
   Your address ____________________________________________________________
   Your email (or tel. no) __________________________________________________

   I wish to nominate the following person and/or business for consideration in the Yarra River Customer Service Awards

   1. Individual nominee ___________________________________________________
   The business they work for ____________________________________________

   2 Business nomination _________________________________________________
   (note: feel free to nominate an individual and a business)

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THE ARTS PRECINCT

SPECTACULAR SECRET SYMPHONY

The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra took its unique Secret Symphony program to Melbourne Aquarium last month.

The Secret Symphony perform around Melbourne and locations are given on MSO’s various social media pages 24 hours before the event, but the musical program is a closely guarded secret until the performance begins.
**THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR**

February 28 - March 23
Merlyn Theatre
A chaotic comedy of errors that deconstructs Gogol’s original, The Government Inspector will have you questioning where reality ends and theatricality begins.

www.malthousetheatre.com.au

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**FRIDAY NIGHTS AT MELBOURNE NOW**

February 28 - March 28
NGV International, 180 St Kilda Rd
Over four nights at NGV Australia and NGV International, enjoy live performances by Melbourne’s best artists and musicians, feast on great food, share a drink with friends and enjoy focus talks.

www.ngv.vic.gov.au

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**THE LORD OF THE RINGS**

February 28 - March 2
Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne
Howard Shore’s Academy Award-winning score performed live to the epic motion picture by the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, National Boys Choir of Australia and soloists.

www.mso.com.au

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**UNREEL**

February 24 - 7
The Coopers Malthouse
UNREEL uses both classic and contemporary examples of film as stimulus to expand students’ knowledge of the medium by turning passive viewing to physical action!

www.malthousetheatre.com.au

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**PRIVATE LIVES**

January 25 - March 8
Southbank Theatre, The Sumner
Coward’s plot-perfect marital farce is a sparklingly witty and wickedly vicious theatrical favourite. Starring musical theatre star Lucy Durack, this is an ideal comedic summer romp.

www.mtc.com.au

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**ST DAVID’S DAY CELTIC CONCERT**

February 28
Elisabeth Murdoch Hall
The Victoria Welsh Male Choir performs throughout Victoria, interstate and overseas, celebrating the power of the male choral voice and Celtic tradition.

www.melbournerecital.com.au

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**STOMPIN’ AT THE TRAM**

March 1 - March 2
Tram Bar, Arts Centre Melbourne
Tram 69 at Arts Centre Melbourne isn’t your usual tram ride! It may not move, but it is the place to stomp grapes from the Yarra Valley, taste great wines and vote for our next Signature Series wines.

wwwartscentremelbourne.com.au

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**ST MARY’S DAY CELTIC CONCERT**

February 28
Elisabeth Murdoch Hall
The Victoria Welsh Male Choir performs throughout Victoria, interstate and overseas, celebrating the power of the male choral voice and Celtic tradition.

www.melbournerecital.com.au

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**A JOURNEY THROUGH JAZZ**

March 8 - March 9
Hammer Hall
Take a trip through the history of jazz in the company of Australia’s master of the jazz trumpet, James Morrison.

www.mso.com.au

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**COCK**

February 7 - March 22
Fairfax Studio
Earning rave reviews from its New York and London seasons, Olivier Award-winning playwright Mike Bartlett’s razor-sharp play dissects one man’s emotional indecision in our commitment-phobic age.

www.artscentremelbourne.com.au

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**JAMS FOR JUNIORS**

March 15 and July 26
Deakin Edge, Fed Square
A musical adventure for young minds and bodies! Our Jams for Juniors offer a 30-minute musical adventure for children aged 0-5 years and their parents.

www.mso.com.au

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**MELBOURNE NOW DESIGN RESIDENCY**

February 27 - March 2
NGV International
The Bobwell EDGE Caravan Studio plays host to Melbourne designers as a design studio each week over the duration of Melbourne Now. The EDGE is the designer’s studio from Thursday through to Sunday 10am-2pm.

www.ngv.vic.gov.au

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Merlyn Theatre
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www.malthousetheatre.com.au
The Melbourne Recital Centre (MRC) celebrated its fifth birthday last month, with a giant party and show.

Over 5000 visitors and musicians visited over the birthday weekend.

MRC’s CEO Mary Vallentine said the huge crowd had made it a very special celebration.

“We were overwhelmed by the participation of the Melbourne musical community – both professional and amateur – who performed throughout the day,” Ms Vallentine said.

“These festivities are only the beginning of what will be a huge year of incredible programming at the Melbourne Recital Centre.”

While there are many high-profile art and theatre performances in Southbank each month, Southbank Local News accepted an invitation to a slightly more low-key show at Trading Spaces by theatre group PUMP theatre.

The group, run by Josephine Daly, has been holding workshops and activities at Boyd Community Hub over the last year and confirmed its connection to Southbank by performing at the rejuvenated space on City Rd.

For more details head to the NGV website www.ngv.vic.gov.au
Smoke cigarettes in common property areas and on the balconies of units is a hotly-contested issue that divides any residential building.

The overwhelming medical evidence today concludes that not only is smoking severely injurious to personal health, but also “smoke drift” or passive smoking can sometimes constitute a nuisance. If the problem is spread throughout a building and on many levels, an ordinary person would need to find the smoking to be unreasonable, meaning that an ordinary person inhaling the cigarette smoke odour and smoke is offensive, then it can be declared to be a nuisance, and can be banned via an order from the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT).

The key to remember here is that the activity complained about must be objectively unreasonable, not subjectively unreasonable, meaning that an ordinary person would need to find the smoking to constitute a nuisance. Similarly, if the problem is spread throughout a building and on many levels, then an owners corporation may pass an additional rule to restrict smoking on common property, and to restrict smoking on balconies where that may cause nuisance to other residents. The additional rule would need to be passed by a special resolution at a general meeting of the owners corporation.

On a policy front, the smoking of cigarettes shall continue to be marginalised by lawmakers in the years to come, to the extent where smoking cigarettes may even be banned in apartment buildings altogether. It is only a matter of time until new developments will have compulsory rules registered to ban smoking in all areas of the building. But will Victoria be the first state in Australia to pass laws to essentially make new buildings “smoke-free”? I would think so.

Tom Bacon is the principal lawyer of Strata Title Lawyers. tom@stratatitlelawyers.com.au

Stoking the embers of a smoking debate

In an effort to escape the new seasons of the same old reality formats that litter the programming guide, and artfully dodging the secrecy of ambiguous intentions, deception and motivations are never fully understood. The interesting thing about The Blacklist is that it isn’t really covering any new ground.

The stakes are always high and there’s always another endangering the entire agency in order to secure personal gain. Of late, serialised dramas are pitched as vehicle programs, usually anchored behind the weight of one central star. The thing that sets The Blacklist apart from programs like Hannibal, The Mentalist or Criminal Minds – is that none of these shows feature James Spader. There is a reason that he has won multiple Emmy awards for his work in the past and he truly drives the pace of the show with his performance.

The cast as a whole is solid and features a good balance of seasoned TV veterans and newcomers, but the focus is never far off Spader, who portrays Reddington as a dangerous and deceptive entity with the charm and charisma that one would expect to find in a criminal sociopath.

The Blacklist definitely fills into that “morib” category of television that can be savoured weekly in a ritualistic fashion, or just as easily all devoured in the one hit. Having just been extended to a second season of 22 episodes, the ratings and networks would tend to agree with me on this one, it’s definitely worth a look.

The Blacklist’s first season can be seen on Channel 7 on Wednesdays at 8.45pm.

Get the Blacklist on your list...

Spader: Red’s interest in the young agent begins a glimpse into the series’ themes of ambiguous intentions, deception and secrecy. The key to remembering here is that the activity complained about must be objectively unreasonable, not subjectively unreasonable, meaning that an ordinary person would need to find the smoking to constitute a nuisance.

Apart from programs like Criminal Minds, or Person of Interest, the new wave of “great Aussie dramas” that are almost always based on morbid true events – I seem to have found a gem. The Blacklist is both engaging and formulaic. Above all else though, it is a wonderfully-acted drama with a great cast. A truly unpredictable character and whose motivations are never fully understood.

One moment he is seen as saving the day, the next day he is seen as endangering the entire agency in order to secure personal gain. Of late, serialised dramas are pitched as vehicle programs, usually anchored behind the weight of one central star. The thing that sets The Blacklist apart from programs like Hannibal, The Mentalist or Criminal Minds – is that none of these shows feature James Spader. There is a reason that he has won multiple Emmy awards for his work in the past and he truly drives the pace of the show with his performance.

The cast as a whole is solid and features a good balance of seasoned TV veterans and newcomers, but the focus is never far off Spader, who portrays Reddington as a dangerous and deceptive entity with the charm and charisma that one would expect to find in a criminal sociopath.

The Blacklist definitely fills into that “morib” category of television that can be savoured weekly in a ritualistic fashion, or just as easily all devoured in the one hit. Having just been extended to a second season of 22 episodes, the ratings and networks would tend to agree with me on this one, it’s definitely worth a look.

The Blacklist’s first season can be seen on Channel 7 on Wednesdays at 8.45pm.

Wills & Estates

Have you been left out of a Will?

Have you been appointed an executor of a Will and don’t know where to start?

Do you have a valid Will?

If you were to lose mental capacity who would look after you and your money?

Are you concerned about any of your answers?

When experience matters contact an Accredited Wills & Estates Specialist

rigby Cooke lawyers

Level 13, 469 La Trobe Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000
T 03 9321 7857
F 03 9321 7900
E willsestatesgroup@rigbycooke.com.au
www.rigbycooke.com.au
Food and Wine Festival returns to Southgate

Southgate Fiesta
Saturday 1 March
Food and wine tastings on the promenade

To celebrate the opening weekend of Melbourne’s iconic Food and Wine Festival, Southgate will be hosting the Southgate Fiesta, a unique feast of restaurant tasting plates and wine tasting on Southgate’s promenade.

From 12noon, sample a Southgate Tasting Plate dish for only $15 inspired by the festival theme of water, and receive a complimentary wine tasting voucher. Dishes include Waterfront’s four tastes of the sea, ‘Acqua Pazza’ (meaning crazy water) from Tutto Bene, a charcuterie tasting plate from Pure South, and a fire and ice combination from Chill On Ice Lounge and Ski Lodge. Patrons can choose a tasting plate from up to nine of Southgate’s restaurants throughout the afternoon before heading out to the promenade wine tasting area.

Up to 12 boutique wineries from across Australia will be participating in the Fiesta, offering tastings on a range of wine varietals. Meet the winemakers and discover a new favourite while you take in the riverside views. Once you have finished in the tasting area you can further enhance your appreciation for wine at our free wine education sessions held on the upper level at Southgate.

Finish the night off with relaxing evening at Southgate Cinema and enjoy free food themed screenings, providing a magnificent and festive backdrop to celebrate the best of Melbourne’s food and wine.

For restaurant booking information and more details on these events visit celebratesouthgate.com.au

PJ O’BRIEN’S IRISH PUB
Shop G12-16, 3 Southgate Ave
9686 5011 | www.pjobriens.com.au

One of Melbourne’s favourite destinations for locals and visitors alike. Open for lunch & dinner every day, oyster bar, enjoy a couple of quiet ones in a cozy snug or get right into the atmosphere with a mix of traditional and contemporary live music every night.

ROOPRANI
P 5/6, Podium Level, 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 PHARMACY
Shop P14, Podium Level, 3 Southgate Ave
9699 7000

Open: 8am - 6pm weekdays; 9am - 5pm Saturdays.
For all your healthcare needs. Full range of conventional and complementary medicines. Cosmetic and skin-care ranges include Napoleon Perdis, Revlon, Natio, Sukin and MooGoo. Free blood-pressure monitoring. NDSS Access Point.

SOUTHGATE NEWS & LOTTO
Shop 10, Podium Level, 3 Southgate Ave
9696 8311

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.
Season of lent - is it only about self-denial?

In about two weeks the season of Lent is upon us. It is kicked off by Ash Wednesday, when we are reminded of the fragility of life through the rite of Imposition of the Ashes. This ancient rite is a powerful reminder that we all live by God’s grace.

Lent is traditionally a time of self-denial. Many Christians, especially in the past, gave up the things they desired, which helped them to focus on what was truly important. I don’t believe, however, that Lent is only about self-denial.

The movie Chocolat is about single mother Vianne Rocher and her daughter Anouk, who moved to a town steeped in Christian tradition to open a chocolate shop. Unfortunately it was Lent when they opened so no one was eating chocolate! The town was also advised not to go into the chocolate shop, especially since the Rochers weren’t Christians.

An all-out battle of the wits ensued when a group of nomads entered into town looking for work. And lo and behold, these people were shunned by everyone except the Rochers. Hence this story about a chocolate shop is really a story about whom we include and exclude from our table – those who are acceptable to us and those who are not.

Jesus had to deal with the same problems. He was often criticised for the company he kept. His was a table that was always open and he had a way of making people feel whole. The crux of the movie can be found in the young priest’s sermon on Easter.

“We can’t go around measuring our goodness by what we don’t do, by what we deny ourselves, by what we resist and whom we exclude. We’ve got to measure goodness by what we embrace, by what we create and whom we include.”

I believe this is a good Lenten challenge to all of us. While self-denial has spiritual value, it’s also good to consider this Lent what positive things we can embrace which we haven’t embraced before and how we can be more inclusive in our relationships with others.

Well here we are, well into 2014 and with a big year ahead. The Southbank Residents Group committee certainly hopes all our community had a safe and relaxing break.

Firstly I would like to congratulate our vice-president Dharmendra (Dave) Poobalasingam and his wife on the birth of their first child, Thien Dharmendra. Welcome to fatherhood Dave!

It’s hard to believe it was two months ago that I was penning the previous column. There have been some great events around our neighbourhood during this time with the most recent being the wonderful expose of stalls along the Yarra foreshore to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

Once again, the Chinese community have really pulled together and put on a great event, right on our doorstep. I acknowledge the diverse array of cultures within Southbank, and with the Asian community being most prominent it did not surprise me that we residents couldn’t help but be immersed in their New Year celebrations - the Year of the Horse, Gong Xi Fa Cai! The committee will continue to engage with the Asian community to further build on mutually beneficial outcomes.

The 2014 state election is fast approaching. An election is when we as a community have the best chance to be heard because the politicians are listening (well most likely to listen).

We, the committee, are in the process of forming our strategy for the coming year in light of this election. It is important we have a clear and defined agenda as we enter the campaign stage of the election, however any agenda only has the best chance of success when there are numbers backing it up.

I would therefore like to ask the community that if you (or your building) is not a member, or have allowed your membership to lapse, of Southbank Residents Group, and you believe a community voice is important, then I encourage you to become a member or to speak with your building committee and ask them to subscribe the building.

The more members we have, the louder our voice and the more the politicians are likely to listen. Membership details can be found on our website www.southbanksresidents.com.au. I also encourage the community to like our Facebook page to keep abreast of what is happening in the local community.

Lastly I would like to send out a thank you to Grill’d at Southgate for their support of SRG through their community donation. As their motto states “Locals Matters” and we certainly agree with this.

I encourage our residents to offer reciprocal support Grill’d should they be in the Southgate vicinity and might be a bit peckish. I must admit, their burgers are great!

Tony Penna
President
Southbank Residents Group
Pastor Ian said he absolutely loves living here in Southbank. Ian has been the pastor at St Johns since 2009 and he said he was perfectly positioned in Southbank to walk to work and also enjoy his passions outside of work, including music and the arts.

Not surprisingly, Ange loved the vibrant arts precinct her office is in the middle of here in Southbank. She was quick to point out that the MSO was a highlight of the artistic area!

Lino said he was pleasantly surprised Southbank was such a quiet area, given its close proximity to the CBD. “It’s nice to be away from the hustle and bustle of the city!” Lino said. He also enjoys serving the always-friendly residents of the area.

Laura said the whole Southbank area was a giant cultural experience and she loved the atmosphere down here. She thinks that’s helped by the friendly nature of most of the people who work and live here.

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Andrew opened the doors to Broad Bean in early February, but having lived in Southbank for three years he knows the area well. He said Southbank had a great community feel, which he experienced, as people were thrilled with their new opportunity to shop at a local grocer.

Taz said Southbank was a really clean area and one of its major features was the amazing architecture on display around every corner. “I admire the designs of all the new buildings. They’re always beautiful.”

Not surprisingly, Ange loved the vibrant arts precinct her office is in the middle of here in Southbank. She was quick to point out that the MSO was a highlight of the artistic area!
Get ready for festival season

The frenzy of school holidays at Southbank has passed, and now we look forward to the key festivals of late February and early March: White Night (February 22/23), Melbourne Food and Wine Festival (March 1-16), Moomba (March 8-10).

New Year’s Eve was a logistical triumph this year - thousands of people moving through our precinct comfortably and without incident. Congratulations to the City of Melbourne and Victoria Police. While our traders lament the fact that the fireworks are no longer fired from the river, the spread of pyrotechnics fired from rooftops throughout the CBD certainly makes for a safer event.

Southgate and the Yarra River Business Association has teamed-up this year to fund a very special installation on the Yarra footbridge for White Night. “The Vortex” will be a pulsating tunnel of light that responds to the number of people passing within it. It will only be there for one night, so make sure you catch it.

On a more regular basis is the introduction of free film nights on Thursdays during February and March at Point Park at Yarra’s Edge. A free ferry will depart Federation Square at 6.30pm and the first 100 people to get there can claim a free bean bag for the session. For more information head to www.destinationdocklands.com.au/movies-under-the-stars-at-yarras-edge/

Please also remember that at dusk every Tuesday on the mid-level of Southgate you can enjoy a free feature film while sitting in deck chairs. Recent releases, classics and art house films are screened. Bookings are essential so head to www.celebratesouthgate.com.au/experience/southgate-cinema/ to find out more.

Southgate’s La Camera restaurant has just released its 2014 program of community nights. Hats-off to the people at La Camera, because they have been running these feature nights on the last Monday of every month for seven years, to help build the community spirit of Southbank. Monday, February 24 is their Opera Challenge evening, when singers from the Australian Opera, Opera Victoria and local singers take to the competition floor. The community nights are always popular and you need to book ahead. Also remember that every Monday night at La Camera, Southbank residents receive 25 per cent off their food bill, to a maximum of $75.

A new initiative of the Yarra River Business Association is an event seeding fund, which can provide up to $5000 to assist an organisation establish new community events in our precinct. The events need to take place for at least one day or night and have the potential to attract new customers to the precinct (ie not just provide something for local residents to do). Enquiries can be made to exoff@yarrariver.info

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! Good Luck!

Last month’s Sudoku solution

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Businesses in Southbank

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

TONY’S A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES

With 30 years experience in the industry, Tony Carnovale knows a good pair of glasses when he sees them. As the owner and operator of Eyes on Southgate, on Southgate’s podium level, he is perfectly placed to look after anyone needing glasses, or even just an eye health check.

As with many of the outlets on the podium level, Tony prides his business on its customer service. “Because Eyes on Southgate is an owner-operated, independent practice, customers will receive exceptional old fashioned service,” Tony told Southbank Local News.

The other major point of difference at Eyes on Southgate is exactly that, a point of difference. “We have a great variety of great looking eyewear, from cool retro shapes to hand-painted, multi-coloured frames,” Tony explained.

“You won’t leave here looking like everyone else,” Tony explained that he was personally a huge fan of colour and frames that stood out as individual.

“I’m so glad to see the return of the larger colourful frames. Life’s too short to wear daggy eyewear.”

Tony has been operating at Eyes on Southgate for nine years now and he said over those years he’s really enjoyed working in the area.

“Southgate was the ideal location to start this business because of the diversity of people in the area. There’s locals, heaps of tourists and every day workers, particularly the ones who walk passed every day to get to the HWT and IBM towers,” Tony said.

He also explained many of the benefits available to customers, saying: “All eye examinations at Eyes on Southgate are bulk-billed to Medicare and all health insurance members with optical extras can benefit from our all-year-round offers.”

Offers include Ray-ban sunglasses from $99, two pair spectacle deals and nine months supply of contact lenses from $40.

“There are plenty more great deals in store, so next time you need to update your glasses, or simply want an eye check up, make sure you head in and see Tony and his team at Eyes on Southgate.

In the shadows of the high-rise apartment buildings down the southern end of City Road is a stunning building that is now home to a costume shop.

The Costume Shop

The site had a pub on it from as early as 1869, but Emily and James Rubina erected the current building. When it was built, it was considered a feature of the south bank of the Yarra River. It operated as a hotel until 1926, when it was de-licensed because the Licences Reduction Board felt not every building in South Melbourne needed to be a pub. Bloody bureaucrats!

Mystery surrounds the origin of Blakeney Place’s name.

Frankly, no one seems quite sure where the name came from. Given the street was named in 1895 it seems the most likely source was Thomas Blakeney, who lived in Dorcas St during the 1860s and 70s. The reason no one wants to say it is definitely named after him is that there is no evidence to show he achieved anything worthy of the honour! There are also several places in England called Blakeney, so it is plausible that the name was brought over from there. Perhaps Southbank Local News should ask Federation Square’s CEO Bill Blakeney if he has any idea where the origins of the street’s name.
**SOUTH BANK COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**FASHION ILLUSTRATION CLASSES AT BOYD**
Boyd School Studios, Kavanagh & Balston St
Learn the art of fashion illustration from one of the most experienced illustrators in the world, Louise Baker. Classes designed to prepare their portfolios for tertiary admission or for potential careers in the fashion industry. By appointment. Call Louise Baker 9826 9019

**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

**THE FRENCH WORKSHOP**
Every Wednesday 6.30pm - 7.30pm
Southbank Library at Boyd, 207 City Road
Discover the beautiful sound of French with Lucie, a native speaker! Our beginner group sessions are friendly and open to everyone and all material is provided.
thewrenchworkshop@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/thefrenchworkshop

**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 products, inspirations and techniques. For more information:
www.theartscentre.com.au

** CHUNKY MOVE DANCE CLASSES**
Mondays to Thursdays 6.30pm-8pm, Saturdays 10am-1.15pm
111 Start Street
Chunky Move dance classes are the perfect way to unwind, get fit and improve flexibility and strength. For more info: www.chunkymove.com

**FREE TAI CHI AT BOYD**
Every Friday, 8am - 9am
Boyd Community Hub, 207 City Road
Free TAI CHI is suitable for all levels from beginner to advanced. Courtesy of the City of Melbourne.
Contact: www.yulong.com.au
boydcommunity

**ST JOHNS SOUTHGATE MIDWEEK EVENTS**
Second Wednesday of the month
St Johns Southgate, 20 City Road
Friendship group - Brief Chapel service at 11am, followed by lunch at 12.30pm in the Function room. Interesting speakers and a great chance to make new friends.
www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au

**YOGA WITH PEI**
6.30 pm Tuesdays & 9.00am Saturdays
Mums and bubs class at 9 & 10am on Wednesdays
Assembly Hall at Boyd, 207 City Road
Join us and explore strength, flexibility, balance and relaxation through Yoga. BYO Yoga mat and blanket/bath towel. $10 per session, every 5th session free.
peipei@yogawithpei.com

**WHITE NIGHT MELBOURNE**
Saturday March 22 - Sunday March 23
Various locations
The city comes alive for the all night event. Music, light displays and activities attracted hundreds of thousands of people last year and will again this year.
www.whitenightmelbourne.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

**SOUTH END DANCE CLASSES**
Mondays to Thursdays 6.30pm-8pm
111 Start Street
Southbank Library at Boyd, 207 City Road
Come and share your dancing shoes each month with different genres of dance, but always high levels of fun.

**melbourne night photography workshops**
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6pm-8pm
5 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.pennykoukoulas.com

**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

**BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT CLINIC**
Every Tuesday, 1.30pm - 3.00pm
Boyd Community Hub, 207 City Road
Providing breastfeeding counselling, support and advice, run by a Maternal and Child Health Nurse/Lactation Consultant. 
If you need any assistance/support for you and your baby! MCH 9340 1444, or mchbookings@melbourne.vic.gov.au

**SOUTH BANK ROTARY**
Every Tuesday, 6.30pm
Blue Train Southgate, but subject to change
Rotary Club of Southbank Inc meets weekly for dinner on most Tuesday evenings throughout the year in the Southbank area. Visitors are always welcome.
www.southbank.org.au

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**inner melbourne life activities club**
Selected dates throughout the month
Various locations
Most of our activities take place in the inner suburbs or in the CBD. We take in the city’s parks, its culture, fabulous eating options as well as the festivals, galleries and concerts.
www.life.org.au/imlac

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www.southbank.org.au
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Web specialists

mediationcommunications.net

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

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Your local one stop shop for Coffee, sandwiches, milk, bread, eggs, fruit & veg, same day dry cleaning.
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Beautiful venue for weddings and memorial services

Concert venue with excellent acoustic and comfortable seating

Spacious function room

Meeting rooms

Kitchen

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Telephone 9682 4995

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Melbourne, Victoria 3000
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F 03 9321 7900
www.rigbycooke.com.au

When experience matters

contact an Accredited Wills & Estates Specialist

Ray White Southbank

111 Clarendon Street, Southbank 3006
P: (03) 8102 0200
F: (03) 8080 3284

Ray White Southbank

Port Melbourne Veterinary Clinic & Hospital

109 Bay Street, Port Melbourne

9690 8800

25 Queensbridge Street, Southbank VIC 3006
www.evolverealestate.com.au

Ray White Southbank

111 Clarendon Street, Southbank 3006
P: (03) 8102 0200
F: (03) 8080 3284

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Celebrating 125 years of educating young women
31 Curran Street, North Melbourne
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Having worked in the local real estate industry for over 6 years, Cindy, who is fluent in English and Mandarin, has developed a deep understanding of Melbourne’s real estate market and knowledge of the area. This is of enormous value when choosing an agent to buy or sell your property. Her career began in the Melbourne suburbs where she thrived on working with vendors and buyers from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

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Cindy is committed to always providing results and service that exceeds the expectations of her clients. Cindy passionately believes in real estate, which she considers much more than just a job. By keeping clients up-to-date with buyer feedback and straightforward advice through every step of the sale process, Cindy ensures an enjoyable experience of what could otherwise be a stressful time. Cindy’s enthusiasm and fresh approach to the sale process is an asset to anyone looking at listing or buying real estate in Southbank, Docklands and CBD area.

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