Two new train stations for Southbank

The State Government has announced two new underground train stations to service Southbank as part of its 2014-15 State Budget.

The new train line will go underground at Southern Cross Station, travel under the Yarra River near South Wharf, and eventually emerge at South Yarra. It includes two new stations, called Montague and Domain. Montague station will be on the border of Southbank and new suburb Fishermans Bend, while Domain station will be underneath the Domain interchange on St Kilda Rd. The two new stations will also have tram interchanges.

The Melbourne Rail Link project also includes a train link to the airport. This plan replaces the Melbourne Metro Plan, which had four new stations, including one at Domain.

But before we get too excited at the estimated $8.5 - $11 billion investment, just $40 million (less than 0.5 per cent) is committed to the 2014-15 Budget. Funnily enough, there’s an election before the other 99.5 per cent of the money on the project will be spent.

Construction is due to begin in mid-2017. Premier Denis Napthine said the tunnel would accommodate for the growth in the area.

“This is about the future. It is about building a better Victoria by ensuring we provide the services Victorians will need as our population grows,” Dr Napthine explained.

“The Melbourne Rail Link will support the growing office and residential precinct in the west of the CBD and will further develop Southern Cross as a transport hub,” he added.

“The Melbourne Rail Link will help ensure Melbourne’s position as one of the world’s most liveable cities,” Public Transport Minister Terry Mulder said.

“By building a better Victoria through major new job-creating infrastructure.”

He also explained that the Melbourne Rail Link would reduce delays, improve reliability and boost capacity across the network.

“The Melbourne Rail Link will be the biggest investment ever in our metropolitan rail network,” Mr Mulder said.

Planning Minister Matthew Guy said it was vital to have a train station in place for Fishermans Bend.

Continued on page 2.
Two new train stations for Southbank

“"The largest urban renewal project in Australia must have a railway station," Mr Guy said.

"Providing this vital heavy rail service to Fishermans Bend is a priority of the Coalition Government and will meet the needs not only of this new community but also the expanding Southbank area," he added.

"There will also be significant productivity benefits from more people locating close to jobs and services in the CBD, Southbank and Docklands." Member for Albert Park and Labor representative Martin Foley said the new rail plan through Southbank missed the mark. "The new ‘metro lite’ station, out the back of Jeff’s Shed is in the wrong place and misses the whole point of Melbourne Metro - to take people where they want to go in the CBD and the health and education precincts," Mr Foley said.

"It will add time and difficulty getting around Melbourne and squanders a once in a lifetime opportunity to get this project right." He also questioned the timeline around the project.

"The fact that this ‘promise’ is at least as far away as 2026 makes it a mirage," Mr Foley said.

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Good Beer Week

It will be beer-lovers’ heaven in Southbank during May when the Good Beer Week hits town.

There will be nine events held in Southbank between May 17 and May 25.

One of the highlights will be the Tramcar Restaurant’s “Game of Cones” on May 23.Bringing the tastes of the Margaret River region to Melbourne, this event features Colonial Brewing Co's Justin Fox and Paul Wyman, plus beer food guru Mitch Mitchell.

World Restaurant and Bar is holding “Have an ale of a time” where chef Dave will be cooking up a beer feast, matched with a Hop Hog IPA from Feral Brewing. You’ll be able to get the meal throughout the festival.

Boatbuilder’s Yard will be showcasing some of Bendigo’s finest breweries as part of its event "Bendigo to Booties". Brookes, Holgate, 7-Cent and Bandicoot will all be on offer to guests on Thursday, May 22.

The Australian Craft Brewers’ Conference 2014 will be held at Arts Centre Melbourne, a two-day conference featuring world-class presenters and industry leaders. The trade exhibition is on May 21 and costs $200.

Other events include The Brewer’s Market at Showtime Events, The Shed at the Malthouse, Beer Safari at South Wharf and Moon dog vs Rogue and Beer Academy, both at Belgian Beer Café Melbourne.

For more information  head to www.goodbeerweek.com.au

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Locals say City Rd needs an overhaul

The City of Melbourne’s (CoM) consultation process that took place in February and March as part of Participate Melbourne and showed 98 per cent of respondents had had a negative experience on the road.

Given its prominence through Southbank, it’s little wonder that 120 of the 182 experiences shared came from local residents, while 21 came from people who work in Southbank.

Participants were asked to select the emotion they felt when using the road. The most popular were unsafe (68 people), frustrated (41) and angry (21).

Just eight people said they were happy when using the thoroughfare at present.

The consultation process included an interactive map, which was online for a month, where users of City Rd could pin their comments to any section of the road and a drop-in consultation at Boyd Community Hub where users could talk to CoM staff.

Some of the negative comments included:

• “This is not some country or suburban highway - left turn slip lanes have no place in a high-density, high pedestrian volume urban area - totally wasted public realm of the first order;”

• “City Road is not a nice road to walk down. I wish it could have more of the feel that you get walking down Southbank Blvd;” and

• “Need to create quality pedestrian link between Kavanagh St and Moray St under the Kingsway overpass.”

While positive comments on the interactive map were few and far between, there was the occasional one, like this contribution from a resident: “I chose to live in the building because of its proximity to transport and amenities like Boyd. Love the vibrancy and ease of life as a pedestrian.”

There was also an endorsement for the map concept: “This interactive map is a good idea. Why doesn’t it cover the whole city?”

The council’s strategic urban planning team leader, Leanne Hodyl, said the initial community consultation had been really well received and had provided some detailed responses.

“We had a high level of participation and we had some great comments, really rich comments,” Ms Hodyl said.

She also explained that the consultation had shown the council a City Rd Master Plan is needed, because the public isn’t happy using it at the moment.

“It confirmed our expectations that a lot of people don’t have good experience using the road,” Ms Hodyl said.

“We asked people how they felt and predominantly they answered frustrated, angry and unsafe,” she added.

Ms Hodyl said the online Participate Melbourne website and particularly the interactive map had worked extremely well for this consultation.

“This is the first time council has used the interactive map and we found it really helpful. It’s been a great tool, enabling so many more responses.”

All responses can be viewed at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au

Shrine to be protected from development shadows

The Shrine of Remembrance was the centre of attention last month on ANZAC Day and Planning Minister Matthew Guy announced new planning controls to ensure it would continue to be protected long into the future.

The controls were developed in consultation with the City of Melbourne and surrounding councils and mean the iconic landmark cannot be overshadowed by any future development.

They have been in place as interim planning controls but will now be made permanent and mandatory.

The controls focus to the west and southwest of the Shrine, encompassing Southbank.

Mr Guy said the Shrine was a special place for all Australians.

“The Shrine itself has a special location in Melbourne and it is vital to preserve the spectacular and uninterrupted views you get as you look up from Swanston St or walk through the forecourt,” Mr Guy explained.

“These new controls recognise and respect the significance of one of Australia’s most recognisable and most loved structures and will protect its integrity from the possible impact of external development,” he added.

“By mandating limits on the height and location of nearby buildings, we are ensuring that the view and backdrop of the Shrine is preserved forever.”

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The South Melbourne Primary School received funding in May’s State Budget, but not everyone is pleased with the pace of progress.

The school, which will be located on the Southbank side of Ferrars St, had $5 million committed to it for site preparation and planning, $3.5 million of which it will receive in 2014-15.

The Minister for Education, Martin Foley, said the funding for South Melbourne Primary School was part of the Government’s wider education plan.

“We believe that all Victorian students should have access to the best and most up-to-date school facilities and that is why $5 million will be available from July 1, 2014 for the South Melbourne Primary School,” Mr Foley said.

“Now Napthine allocates money for planning and clean up of the old MTC site over the next two years – which takes us to 2017 before any construction of the school starts,” he added.

“Local families wanting to know where to send their kids have been given no answers or hope.”

Does the $5 million for the preparation and planning of the South Melbourne Primary School go far enough? Tell us on our Facebook page “Southbank Local News”.

SRG president’s special trip

Southbank Resident’s Group (SRG) president and returned serviceman Tony Penna is getting set for a special pilgrimage to Gallipoli for the 100th anniversary of the ANZAC landing.

Mr Penna (pictured below right) joined the Air Force at the age of 18 and has been on two tours, to East Timor and the Middle East.

He decided to apply for the returned service ballot for a place at Gallipoli Peninsula for the 2015 ANZAC Day service and last month received the call that he had been successful.

Understandably, Mr Penna was thrilled to hear the news.

“When you’re a serving person and returned from active service, it means a lot. I suppose it brings back all the memories in many aspects, of the tours that you’ve done,” Mr Penna said.

“A lot of people have got ancestors who have come back from wars, I know that I have,” he added.

He also explained that while the ANZAC legend was born at Gallipoli all those years ago, it wouldn’t be the only battle on his mind during the service.

“It’s about remembering all the battles. The most significant is where the ANZAC legend was born, which they say was what gave Australia its identity, but absolutely it’s about remembering all the wars.”

“Obviously those that will really stand out in my mind are those that I’ve served in, where colleagues have fallen,” he said.

The feedback we are hearing is that local families are disappointed that the building phase has been pushed back,” Ms Vaz said.

“This has been a long process and we will continue to represent the community’s urgent need for more school places until there are kids sitting in classes at Ferrars St school,” she added.

Lobby group Two Schools Now’s Alanna Vaz said the group was continuing to work closely with the Education Department and looked forward to the planning and construction beginning.

The promised school funding never arrived. If it is to happen it is not until at least 2019,” Mr Foley said.

“The feedback we are hearing is that local families are disappointed that the building phase has been pushed back,” Ms Vaz said.

“This has been a long process and we will continue to represent the community’s urgent need for more school places until there are kids sitting in classes at Ferrars St school,” she added.

Labor MP and State Member for Albert Park, Martin Foley was, unsurprisingly, stronger, saying it now appeared the school was still years away.

“The promised school funding never arrived. If it is to happen it is not until at least 2019,” Mr Foley said.

“We believe that all Victorian students should have access to the best and most up-to-date school facilities and that is why $5 million will be available from July 1, 2014 for the South Melbourne Primary School,” Mr Foley said.

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Does the $5 million for the preparation and planning of the South Melbourne Primary School go far enough? Tell us on our Facebook page “Southbank Local News”.

SRG president’s special trip

The much-loved Royal Children’s Hospital Good Friday Appeal found a new home in Southbank in April.

It was held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC).

The annual telethon raised a record $16,846,396.09 for the Royal Children’s Hospital.

It was the first time MCEC had hosted the event, which included the telethon throughout the day and the charity gala into the evening.

MCEC chief executive Peter King said he and his team were very happy to be involved and help out in any way they could.

“MCEC is a valuable community asset and we were incredibly proud to open our doors to the Victorian public, do it for the kids and deliver such a wonderful result in our first year as hosts,” Mr King said.

“Our venue has taken the event to a new level and we look forward to welcoming the Good Friday Appeal back for many more years to come,” he added.
Many of the people on the tours have successful and were enjoyed by participants. Mr MacKenzie said the tours had been very popular, with inclement weather having done nothing to deter the enthusiasm of the participants.

On the day Southbank Local News joined the tour, inclement weather had done nothing to dampen the tour group's enthusiasm.

Mr MacKenzie said the tours had been very successful and were enjoyed by participants.

"Many of the people on the tours have memories of this area from the 60s and 70s, or it has been a mystery area that they drive over as they head towards the Westgate," Mr MacKenzie said.

"They have been amazed so much has come from Southbank. People have loved visualising the mid-19th century and early 20th century foundries, timber yards, ice and lolly factories, brickworks and engineering firms," he added.

"For me the most important part is that residents and non-residents get a sense that Southbank does have a history, an amazing one at that, and if you know this history you get a deeper sense of attachment and pride to where you live."

Mr MacKenzie said the popularity of the walks has him planning more in the future.

"Additional traffic on City Rd would potentially worsen the existing issues, which the master plan seeks to address," he continued.

"The removal of condition 2 (allowing cars to use the car park between 5am and 9.30am) would exacerbate existing traffic congestion on the surrounding road network and would be to the detriment of the master planning of City Rd." While councillors did not debate the issue in depth because the application had been withdrawn, Cr Rohan Leppert did express his displeasure with it.

"The condition, as it was imposed in 2004, was an absolutely appropriate means of deterring commuter car parking and it's now 2014, we've endorsed many updates to our transport strategies and tweaked planning scheme accordingly since then," Cr Leppert explained.

"The rationale for the deterring of commuter car parking is stronger today even than it was in 2004," he added.

"If it was just to go to us today without that deferral, I think the CoM shouldn't have any hesitation in recommending to the minister and the department that it objects because there is no appropriate rationale to remove the condition."

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**Walk though our history**

Southbank’s history was highlighted last month as part of the National Heritage Festival.

A series of three tours were run by the Boyd National Heritage Festival. The tours included many historical facts about the area, including its significance to indigenous people before European settlement, its role as an industrial hub for early Melbourne and its role as a high-density residential suburb of modern Melbourne.

On the day Southbank Local News joined the tour, inclement weather had done nothing to dampen the tour group’s enthusiasm.

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**Futuristic sculpture revealed on Northbank**

By Robert Brenner

North Wharf is now home to a sculpture that gives the public a chance to travel back to the future.

The sculpture, by Russell Anderson, is an interactive public artwork reminiscent of 19th century Melbourne.

Mr Anderson's work entitled *Apparatus for Trans temporal Occurrence of Impending Space* celebrates the beauty of engineered objects such as trams, period cars and other scientific inventions. Through the human-scale machine, visitors will be able to see a fictionalised version of the future.

The City of Melbourne's arts portfolio chair Cr Rohan Leppert said the artwork would enhance the landscape of Northbank Wharf.

"Public art makes the experience of walking around Melbourne an ever-changing and intriguing one," Cr Leppert said.

Mr Anderson said the work had only recently been restored after spending 80 years in storage.

"The surfaces are machined and cast bronze, brass, steel and copper. People will be able to turn a crank handle and peer into a porthole showing images of 19th century Melbourne," Mr Anderson explained.

Mr Anderson has exhibited work both nationally and internationally for the past 17 years. His work includes anything from community to state and local government public art commissions.
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Council objects to new development

The redevelopment of the historic global television studios on Dorcas St has hit a hurdle, with the City of Melbourne objecting to a planning application for the site.

The proposed development will encompass both 49-61 Coventry St and 26-66 Dorcas St and includes two towers, 76.9 metres and 76.3 metres high respectively.

The development is more than 25,000 sqm, so the Planning Minister, Matthew Guy, is the sole authority on its approval.

In its submission to the Minister, the council said it objected to both the height and setbacks within the application.

“The height of the towers exceeds the maximum building height under the Design and Development Overlay and the height is inappropriate in the context of existing surrounding buildings in both the City of Melbourne and the City of Port Phillip,” the council report stated.

“The setback from the eastern boundary is insufficient having regard to the development potential of adjoining sites and the requirements of the Design and Development Overlay.”

The report did point out that if these two issues were addressed, the council would have no issue with the development.

“The objection could be considered to be withdrawn if the overall height of the development is reduced to 60 metres excluding plant and the setbacks to the eastern boundary are increased to minimum of 8 metres.”

When the matter was discussed at a Future Melbourne Committee meeting in May, Cr Ken Ong said: “What we’re objecting to is the built form outcome in relation to its surrounding areas and neighbouring properties.”

He also warned of the precedent this decision could set.

“This is only two tower developments out of a possible five on this location. So getting a good outcome now will set a precedent and baseline for the future three towers. If we get this wrong, we get it wrong five times.”

Does Power Street exit also need a static noise camera?

On the back of the installation of a static noise camera at the entrance of the Burnley tunnel, Southbank Resident’s Group (SRG) president Tony Penna has approached VicRoads about the need for another one, at the Power St exit of the freeway.

Mr Penna told Southbank Local News that while the Burnley tunnel camera was a breakthrough, there was plenty of intrusive truck noise coming from Power St as well.

“Power St also needs a noise camera because the drivers of the heavy vehicles use their engine brakes to slow down as they enter the 60km/h zone from the 80km/h zone, with the approaching two sets of traffic lights accentuating the need to slow down,” Mr Penna explained.

“Noise pollution from heavy vehicles comes from two points, those entering the tunnel and those who use the Power St exit,” he added.

Mr Penna said his discussions with VicRoads had been very positive in their early stages.

“I am confident VicRoads will see the problems and the potential need,” Mr Penna said. “I feel that if the need is identified, the VicRoads will move quicker than they have in the past.”

What do you think? Does Southbank need a second static noise camera to stop trucks using their engine brakes in a residential area?

Tell us on our Facebook page

Anzac Day march up St Kilda Rd

Thousands lined St Kilda Rd to enjoy the Anzac Day march.

Among them were siblings Izabel and Matthew (pictured above). Below left is the Australian Defence Forces Flag Bearers during the Anzac Day march and below right is Executive Officer HMAS Cerberus, Commander Michael Oborn, leading HMAS Cerberus’s contingent along St Kilda Rd.
Southbank has once again been shunned by the City of Melbourne's budget, receiving precious little of the $99.3 million to be spent on capital works throughout the municipality over the next 12 months.

It is the second year in a row the council has largely ignored the Southbank community without any meaningful funding for infrastructure.

Of the capital funding we did receive, part of $1 million allocated to flood mitigation works will be spent near Kingsway, $300,000 will be spent on a linear park along Southbank Boulevard and $100,000 will go towards pedestrian improvements on Dodds St.

In other areas of the budget, $65,000 was allocated to the development of the City Rd Master Plan (See our story on page 3) and funding was included for the continuation of the First Friday Dance Club.

Councillor Aaron Wood said the flood works were vital for the area.

"Through detailed flood mapping and updated studies completed in 2013 we’ve identified heightened flood risk in the Southbank precinct," Cr Wood explained.

"Investing in flood mitigation works for the Kingsway area is complementary to other aspects of the Southbank Structure Plan and ensures we are preparing for this risk," he added.

Cr Wood also spoke of the need to develop and protect open space in Southbank.

"As a high-growth precinct, open space is critical for Southbank and that’s why this year’s budget includes $300,000 to kick-start a linear park along Southbank Blvd," Cr Wood said.

"Green, open space is not only great for residents, but also reduces hard surfaces, which is another part of the solution in lessening the impact of flooding from storm events."

Leading the way in offices

It’s not just the residential population that is growing quickly in Southbank, according to a new report.

A Savills report released last month showed that office space is also on the upward curve.

The report highlighted Southbank and Docklands together had outpaced the CBD for new office space, over the last decade.

The statistics showed 560,000 sqm of office space was added to the CBD over the last 10 years, compared with 572,000 sqm added in the combined space of Southbank and Docklands.

The research also foreshadowed that Southbank would continue to outgrow the CBD into the future, simply because there was more space to grow.

Director of research at Savills Glenn Lampard said the combination of Southbank and Docklands had allowed the Melbourne city to expand and evolve.

“Southbank and Docklands have not simply been about adding space to expand the CBD offering, but have provided the opportunity for what some may interpret as a cultural revolution in the delivery of office space to the Melbourne market,” Mr Lampard said.

Massive crowds for Mother’s Day Classic

Thousands came to Southbank last month on Mother’s Day for the Mother’s Day Classic. As the picture above proves, many were out before dawn, ensuring they were ready for the fun run.
Melbourne Theatre Company (MTC) artistic director Brett Sheehy has congratulated all of the winners of the 2014 Green Room Awards.

Mr Sheehy was particularly delighted with the six awards that went to artists who appear on MTC stages.

Steve Mouzakis won best Male Actor in MTC’s widely-acclaimed production of The Cherry Orchard (pictured above) and Danny Pettingill won Best Lighting Design for Other Desert Cities. Neil Armfield took out Best Direction for The Book of Everything, which also took out Best Ensemble.

MTC received a total of 30 nominations in the 2014 Green Room Awards including 14 for its main-stage productions.

The Green Room Awards are the top accolades in Melbourne’s performing arts and recognise everything from artistic excellence to technical innovation.

According to Mr Sheehy, the awards are a way of celebrating great local productions that run all year round. The Green Room Awards “give us pause to reflect on the staggering richness and variety of work that Melburnians are able to enjoy every night of the year,” Mr Sheehy said.

Productions and companies register with the Green Room Awards Association in order to be considered for the awards and encourage the panel members to attend their performances.
RELIVING THE BEATLES

Beatles fans are in for a treat in July, when some of Australia’s rock’n’roll stars play The White Album Concert.

Phil Jamieson, Josh Pyke, Chris Cheney and Tim Rogers (pictured right) play the entire album during the show at Arts Centre Melbourne.

There will be three shows on July 15 to July 17 at Hamer Hall.

UNEXPECTED SUPPORT

Testing Grounds garnered some unexpected support last month, through the City Rd consultation.

The consultation included an interactive map (see our story on page 3), which included four positive comments about Testing Grounds, which makes up over 20 percent of all positive comments about City Rd during the consultation period.

Comments included:

- “Being part of the local community and watching the way that open public space can transform and be transformed by art and the free access to it has been both a pleasure and a privilege. We have high hopes for the future of the precinct and hope we can play our small part in its development;”
- “Love Testing Grounds. A great use of the site, and brings some life back to the area;” and
- “Testing Grounds is probably the one nice thing to go to on City Road. I hope that it can stick around.”

Testing Grounds’ Joseph Norster said he was proud of what the space had brought to Southbank.

“We think that it has added a point of difference,” Mr Norster said.

“It is an unusual place for Southbank in that it is a little wild and untamed and yet the overwhelming comment we get is that people feel like they are stepping into their own backyard,” he added.

While pleased with the response to Testing Grounds, Mr Norster also said that it was never going to be a permanent space.

“Testing Grounds is very much about how to activate vacant places so it is, in its very nature, that it will one day be gone,” Mr Norster explained.

“The important thing about Testing Grounds is that it helps people become aware, that just on their door step (forgotten for close to 20 years) is a real possibility for a public space,” he added.

Whatever happens to the site once we are gone, that memory will remain and guide future planning for the site that takes into account the lessons learned and desires of the community,” Mr Norster said. He hoped Testing Grounds would stay put for the next 12 months and, depending on the community response, possibly longer.

MORE INFO AND TICKETS:
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When Broadway’s Liz Callaway and cabaret’s Ann Hampton Callaway blend their voices together in perfect harmony, the sound is, simply put, exquisite. This dynamic duo from Chicago proves they’re one singular sensation, singing show tunes, jazz and pop.

WED 25 JUNE 7.30PM – TICKETS FROM $55

‘Their voices blend and soar majestically like eagles!’

The New York Observer

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When Broadway’s Liz Callaway and cabaret’s Ann Hampton Callaway blend their voices together in perfect harmony, the sound is, simply put, exquisite. This dynamic duo from Chicago proves they’re one singular sensation, singing show tunes, jazz and pop.

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‘Their voices blend and soar majestically like eagles!’

The New York Observer
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May 17 - May 18
Melbourne Recital Centre
Melbourne Recital Centre welcomes newcomers Cosmos Cosmolino to Local Heroes in 2014. Exploring the territory of love and death, Cosmos Cosmolino drives into a rarely performed suite of songs by Astor Piazzolla, titled Quatro Canciones Porteñas.
www.melbournerecital.com.au

AMERICAN BRASS QUINTET
May 20 & May 24
Melbourne Recital Centre
In their first Australian appearance for four decades, the world’s leading ‘high priests of brass’ bring their rich-toned and perfectly matched sound to this unforgettable, masterly concert.
www.melbournerecital.com.au

UGLY MUGS
May 16 - June 7
Beckett Theatre
Ugly Mugs are the faces that modern life finds more convenient to ignore than confront; the violent clients of a culture concealed.
www.malthousetheatre.com.au

ITALIAN MASTERPIECES
May 16 - August 31
NGV International, 180 St Kilda Rd
The holdings of Italian art in the Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid are unique and unrivalled in museums outside Italy.
www.ngv.vic.gov.au

CHARLES LLOYD SKY TRIO
May 20
Melbourne Recital Centre
Charles Lloyd makes a welcome return to the Festival to reveal his most recent sonic explorations with drummer Eric Harland and bassist Reuben Rogers.
www.melbournerecital.com.au

EARS WIDE OPEN
May 19
Elisabeth Murdoch Hall
Introducing Beethoven’s Symphony No. 4. Journey with Richard Gill into the mind of one of the greatest composers of all time.
www.mso.com.au

JAMS FOR JUNIORS
March 15 & 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

THE SPEECHMAKER
May 31 - July 5
Playhouse
From Working Dog, the iconic team behind classic Australian films such as The Castle and The Dish, as well as TV series Frontline and The Hollowmen, comes a hilarious political satire about global power and the fumbling bands that hold it.
www.artcentremelbourne.com.au

NIGHT ON BALD MOUNTAIN
May 5 - May 25
Merlyn Theatre
Night on Bald Mountain is descending, as a nun travels from the city to the mansion that rests at its peak.
www.malthousetheatre.com.au

THE WITCHES
June 19 - July 5
Beckett Theatre, Malthouse
www.malthousetheatre.com.au

TEDDY TAHU RHODES AND MARINA PRIOR
June 14 - June 15
Hamer Hall
Teddy Tahu Rhodes brings his unique vocal magic to the Broadway song book for these very special MSO Pops performances. He is joined by the queen of Australian musical theatre, Marina Prior, for a night of unforgettable show tunes.
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Melbourne Recital Centre
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YESTERDAY'S ARTISTS
www.mso.com.au

ART OF THE TABLE
Feb 28 - Dec 31
NGV International
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www.ngv.vic.gov.au

YELLOW MOON
May 2 - May 16
Southbank Theatre, The Lawler
A contemporary tale of Bonnie and Clyde, ‘Yellow Moon’ has played to great acclaim around the world. Played on a bare stage with four actors, it is an inventive piece of drama for teenage students and daring theatre-goers alike.
www.mtc.com.au

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Monday - Thursday and Saturdays
Art Centre Melbourne
The Gallery & State Theatre Tour is a great way to explore Arts Centre Melbourne’s exhibitions and the iconic Theatres Building in which they reside.
www.artcentremelbourne.com.au

CHROMA
June 6 - 14
State Theatre
Wayne McGregor, resident choreographer of The Royal Ballet, is taking the classical style in electrifying directions.
www.artcentremelbourne.com.au
We are human beings, not human doings!

Our God is a God of grace. To us Lutherans, this is especially important, because it was Dr Luther who revived the teaching on God’s grace in the 16th century, during a time when the church’s focus was very much on performance and achievement.

Luther’s years as an observant Augustinian monk, during which he suffered severe bouts of anfechtung as he called them, or “dark nights of the soul”, taught him that it was pastorally essential to point troubled consciences towards God’s grace, in the means of grace of word and sacraments.

“A Christian is free from all things and over all things,” Luther wrote in his 1520 treatise The Freedom of a Christian: “So that he needs no works to make him righteous and save him, since faith alone abundantly confers all these things” (LW 31:356). Grace is the undeserved love of God for us. God accepts and forgives sinners “by grace”, moved by his own love, not because of our actions or acceptance of him. This is the main truth of the Bible.

We live in a performance-orientated society. We are all measured by what we do or fail to do and we are taught this right from the start. Doctors give newborn babies scores on how healthy they are and already in primary school, children are graded on performance – on what they do.

Someone said we have gone from being human beings to human doings. So if we want to be accepted we need to achieve. But it’s not so with God. Christ has already achieved everything for us. He took the death sentence we deserved and we have received his goodness, perfection and righteousness in return. This means that when God looks at us, he sees us as perfect, as if we are Christ himself, as if we have never sinned!

Christ’s death on the cross and his resurrection, rather than our performance, is the bridge that connects us with God.

If we try to get to God by our performance, we fall into the chasm. But when we put our faith in Christ and in his death and resurrection, then we are transported across the bridge - without any effort of our own!

Clarke St

Clarke St, located underneath the busy Westgate Freeway was named after Dr Edward Clarke. Dr Clarke migrated to Hobart in 1854 on the City of Hobart after graduating from the University of Giessen. He moved to Emerald Hill by 1873, living on the corner of Clarendon St and Albert Rd and practising in Montague St until his death in 1897.
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REVLON

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SALE ENDS 29TH MAY 2014
Every bar and restaurant wants to be described as “unique” and “unusual”, but few venues actually live up to their literal meaning. Amarok Bar & Restaurant alongside Ice Bar Melbourne are two spaces within a single location that fit the bill.

Located in Southgate, Amarok serves up a hearty menu, inspired by traditional North American and Canadian flavours, using the finest ingredients.

A solid collection of North American Boutique Beers complements the flavoursome menu, while a bespoke cocktail list is also on offer.

Bobby Stephens, founder and creator of Ice Bar Melbourne, this year engaged a business partner, Peter Anastas. With over 23 years hospitality experience within the restaurant and cafe industry, Peter set out to create a cutting edge restaurant and bar to complement the Ice Bar.

After recently completing Melbourne’s new Emporium, Charlie Ridis’ FSCI shop fitters, along with Andrew Wilson Architects, were brought in to re-invent the existing interior.

Peter, Andrew and Charlie combined with the management team, Liam Watt and Hazel Ocskó, to create the Amarok restaurant and bar theme. Liam has worked in renowned cocktail bars in Australia and Europe, Hazel in theatre production and program management both in Europe and the United States.

Having all travelled extensively, with a fondness for exploration, the idea of a “journey” became a solid starting point.

“The name Amarok derives from an Inuit mythological creature, described as a “gigantic wolf”, whose purpose is to “hunt down and devour anyone foolish enough to hunt alone at night”.

Head Chef Carey Stephens created the menu to stand out in Southbank. A native Maori from Te Awamutu in New Zealand’s north island, Carey has over 30 years industry experience in some of the worlds’ finest restaurants. “I loved the idea of the hungry explorer,” Carey explained.

A specialty on the menu is the Amarok Feast Board, fit for any hungry explorer. For a reasonable price, customers get to try up to six Amarok dishes. Similar to a tasting plate, the Amarok Feast Board is a fantastic way to help you decide what to have on your next visit!

Amarok Bar & Restaurant is on the mid-level of Southgate and open daily midday-late (closed Mondays).

For reservations call 9663 1877 or email enquiries to info@amarokbarrestaurant.com.au

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Owners Corporation Law

With Tom Bacon

How to change management

One of the more common legal issues that I am asked to advise on by owners corporations is in regard to the removal and replacement of contractors and agents that assist an owners corporation, from building managers and caretakers to owners corporation managers and security companies. Typically, an owners corporation may perceive, over a period of time, that the building managers and caretakers to owners corporation, from

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The termination of a company or contractor need not be a nasty or protracted affair: to avoid unnecessary litigation and costs, the owners corporation ought to take the time to inform the key personnel at an early point – and preferably face to face – exactly why the owners corporation no longer require their services.

Often, in return for a reference from the owners corporation, a contractor or company will forgo any outstanding service fees they are owed. While an owners corporation ought not to put up with a sub-standard service, an owners corporation committee should always be aware that they are held to a duty to act in the best interests of the owners corporation at all times.

Consequently, care should be taken in making these decisions, otherwise it can lead to needless litigation.

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

The circle of (television) life

It’s a fairly ho-hum time in television for the local market at the moment.

Any quick channel surf reveals that the big networks are playing it safe. There’s that cooking show you watched a few years back, that knock-off of the renovation show you don’t intend to watch – or the revival of that singing show with that guy you liked in the 90s.

Don’t get me wrong, it’s great viewing to get you through to that stage of the night right after dinner but before reading in bed, but it’s not exactly breaking new ground. Over in the US, it’s the most tumultuous time of year: renewals and cancellations. Many beloved shows have been given the executioner’s axe this week. Community, The X Factor (US) and The Carrie Diaries are but some of the high-profile programs to have bitten the dust. Some renewals this year have been less obvious – with Game of Thrones and The Walking Dead both renewed for a fifth season and The Big Bang Theory renewed for another astounding three years (someone’s clearly watching that show). Interestingly, some of these renewals haven’t been so clear cut. Low-rating superhero programs Marvel’s Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. and Arrow were just announced for their second and third seasons respectively. This is clearly a reaction to the flavour-of-the-week pop culture phenomenon that has been the superhero film genre, which continues to churn film after film for its respective studio. The television networks are craving the “cape and cowl” money – there’s clearly a market for it with the way they perform at the box office. Despite the fact that Arrow and Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. haven’t found huge audiences (either at home or in the US) both have been granted spinoff shows which will debut in early 2015. So why isn’t it working as well as it should be? There’s a few different reasons for this, but the main ones are that on television there just isn’t the budget that’s present for feature films. Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. suffered because, despite the fact that he runs the organisation, Samuel L. Jackson clearly couldn’t hang out in every episode. However it’s not just the actors themselves, sometimes these programs suffer from the unavailability of the actual characters, with the rights sometimes being locked up into other projects. Both shows suffer from a lack of production values at times, and this also shows in some of the special effects and set design. Have you ever noticed that Oliver Queen does most of his character progression in a burger shop for the first season? Let’s face it. Until the number of superhero programs on television grows to an unbearable rate (there’s also a new Batman-related one in the works at FOX) they’re probably going to be around for some time to come. Just like with the films, we’re looking at the birth of a new genre.

That really begs the question: are superhero shows the new reality singing show?
Recently I attended a number of “open for inspections” around Southbank for rental properties.

A good number of the properties I inspected were generally new developments where the prospective tenant would be the first tenant to reside in the property.

There was a flurry of activity by agents at these properties as competitive forces engage to move an abundance of stock all within the same building, and for some unlucky developments, the building next door or just a few metres down the street.

I have never seen agents so active and attentive for one’s business as when there are a number of other agents circling like sharks awaiting to strike at the first sign of a confused (or maybe overwhelmed) prospective tenant.

I also learned the asking price for most, if not all, the apartments in these complexes was quite flexible. While my initial welcoming of these developments was somewhat entertaining, what I was to find inside was totally unexpected.

What I am referring to is the internal design. I was astonished to see how much an architect could fit into such a small space, and the rental agents had the audacity to tell me I was inspecting a two-bedroom apartment.

In reality I was inspecting a one bedroom plus study, however the agents seem to feel a little poetic licence is quite okay.

The only problem is that the study (the room without any windows) was actually larger than the bedroom (the room with the windows), needless to say, I was confused.

While I generally commend architects on their designs and good use of space, they do need to draw the line somewhere as to what is just too small, or more importantly just outright impractical. Maybe the agents get their poetic licence from the architects?

I experienced refrigerator and microwave recesses which were only big enough to fit the smallest of units – oh did I mention that was only if you removed the hinges and door in front of the recess otherwise it certainly won’t squeeze in, and then once it is in, you’re not going to be able to get that door back on!

I came across elevators that were so small that it made me ponder whether the developer was a shareholder of Ikea as I am certain the only large furniture items one is going to get into an apartment would be flat-packed and assembled once inside.

While on elevators, I would have thought a loading dock to assist move-in/move-out would have just been a matter of modern design, well not what I saw. But then again, if flat-packs are expected, then I can see why no loading dock is necessary.

There was also no, or very little, lighting in the places you need it most – kitchen workbenches and above mirrors/basins in bathrooms. There are smoke detectors which alarm every morning just from cooking toast (let’s not talk about if you want to fry something). Oh, did I mention I also learned that it would seem we people of the 21st century don’t need very large wardrobes.

Come on designers and architects, you can do better than this! But more importantly I wonder what oversight the City of Melbourne and the Planning Minister’s department put into the detail of the design and layout of the apartments and complexes which they approve.

Maybe, just maybe, the ones I inspected slipped through the gaps. I just certainly hope this oversight is not the norm, otherwise I feel the quality of the complexes in Southbank will become the laughing stock of Melbourne. They might look pretty on the outside, but they are a disaster on the inside.

If you have any such examples or experiences I would love to hear about them and learn something more about your complex and Southbank building design.

Send a message to our Facebook page Facebook.com/SouthbankResidentsGroup. If you haven’t liked us yet, or become a member, it’s something you might like to consider.

Tony Penna President Southbank Residents Group

The Police Stables

The heritage-listed police stables date back to World War 1 when the old barracks was handed over to the Commonwealth Defence Department and the current depot was built in its place.

For a short while longer, the stables are home to the Mounted Branch, which assists with a number of aspects of police work such as crowd control due to the high visibility. The stables are currently the only police presence in Southbank.

The stables were built out of red brick and were designed with an octagonal entrance. Workbenches and above mirrors/basins in the places you need it most – kitchen. There is also no, or very little, lighting in the places you need it most – kitchen workbenches and above mirrors/basins in bathrooms.

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Tony Penna President Southbank Residents Group
Kathryn loves how easy it is to get to Southbank via public transport. She also enjoys the restaurants and particularly shopping down at Southgate.

Katrina likes the people at South Wharf, in particularly the staff. “The whole centre is like a big family who all help each other out.”

Jane’s favourite aspect about working in South Wharf is being able to go to the bars and restaurants that are nearby after work.

According to Jeremy, the area is such a happy place, partly due to the large amounts of sunlight South Wharf soaks up. He also commented on how the area appeals to everyone and you have a variety of people visiting.

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- 606/1 Queens Road, Melbourne
- 417/566 St Kilda Road, Melbourne
- 204/530 Little Collins Street, Melbourne

RESIDENTIAL
- 258/83 Whiteman Street, Southbank
- 110/740 Swanston Street, Carlton
- 13/55 Villiers Street, North Melbourne
- 141/183 City Road, Southbank
- 903/480 Collins Street, Melbourne
- 2011/100 Harbour Esplanade, Docklands
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