Arts plans unveiled

A model of the proposed plan to revitalize Southbank's Arts Precinct was unveiled at the Arts Centre Melbourne's 30th anniversary dinner last month.

The Victorian Coalition Government has pledged $1 million to the next major phase of the Melbourne Arts Precinct Blueprint, if re-elected. The blueprint, developed by the Victorian Arts Centre Trust, was devised to identify key strategic initiatives that would enhance the visibility and vibrancy of Melbourne's cultural hub for the future.

Read more on page 5.

Guy rules in favour of Southbank

By Sean Car

Many have been left stunned by Planning Minister Matthew Guy's shock decision to reject a 300-metre high-rise proposal at 447 Collins St in the CBD.

Having received the support of Melbourne City councillors back in September, many had expected Minister Guy to give the development the green light ahead of the state election.

Despite approving changes to planning rules last year to allow overshadowing of the Yarra on a nearby Collins St site, the planning minister has denied developer Cbus a building permit, ruling in support of the overshadowing prohibition.

“There were considerable design issues associated with the 447 Collins St proposal, as well as overshadowing of the south bank of the Yarra,” a spokesperson from the Minister’s office said.

While the news comes as a boost to Southbank, ALP member for Albert Park Martin Foley said residents should be under no illusion that the decision was based on anything other than political motivations.

“Mr Guy and the Napthine Government have been forced to temporarily back off their support for mega towers,” he said. “This decision has more to do with the shadow of an election rather than support for the planning scheme to protect the Yarra.”

“Southbank residents should have no doubts the Liberals will continue to undermine its future with bad planning decisions.”

It comes after Melbourne City councillors went against the mandatory advice of its planning officers to support overshadowing Southbank, in return for open space in the CBD.

Continued on page 2.
Guy rules in favour of Southbank

Continued from page 1.

Under the deal, developer Cbus had agreed to provide the City of Melbourne with 1900sqm of public open space for a park, in a "trade-off" for council supporting increased height of its proposed tower.

Having been one of the six who voted in favour of the proposal, councillor Ken Ong said he was disappointed by the planning minister's decision.

"It could be said that while the City of Melbourne had considered the trade-off between getting a single 3000-plus sqm open space in Collins St and some overshadowing of the Southbank promenade as a desirable outcome, the minister did not see it that way," he said.

Cr Ong said he was unsure whether the developer would submit an alternative proposal, which he said wouldn’t come close to delivering the benefits put forward in the original application.

"Chas may or may not put up the alternate proposal, which is two standard unremarkable towers and a much smaller open space of about 480 sqm," he said.

"The result would be no positive contribution to the Collins St streetscape and a small open space, which has limited use."

Had it been approved, the tower would have cast a moving 25-metre shadow over the Southbank Promenade, Crown Casino and Freshwater Place during the deepest part of winter.

Freshwater Place Owners’ Corporation chair Peter Renner welcomed the Minister’s decision and said he hoped it drew a line in the sand for future development.

"We were pleased and surprised by the Minister’s decision," he said. "It is the right decision in light of the Melbourne Planning Scheme statutes."

"We at Freshwater Place have continuously and consistently argued with the City of Melbourne and the Minister for a faithful interpretation of their own planning statutes."

"If they always observed these, developers would have certainty in what would be approved too, and may not pay speculative prices for land to build inappropriate developments."

Southbank Residents Group president Tony Penna also welcomed the news and said he hoped it reflected the Liberals’ true stance on planning regulations.

"The residents of Southbank are happy that commonsense has prevailed," he said.

"We only hope the decision was a true reflection on Minister Guy’s positioning on overshadowing and not just that of a looming election in a marginal seat."

Mr Penna said he was equally happy with Labor’s commitment to preserve the planning overlay, should it be elected at the November election.

Planning Minister Matthew Guy.

Dorcas tower

A planning application for 68-70 Dorcas St in Southbank has been submitted to the State Government for consideration.

Having acquired the 1478 sqm site for $17 million in May, the newly-registered Asian developer 20Q Development Co has lodged a proposal to build a 92-metre-high mixed use tower with 274 apartments and 193 car parks.

Located on the corner of Dorcas and Dodds Streets, the 29-storey tower would sit directly next to the Global Television Studios at 58-66 Dorcas St, which was recently approved for another high-rise development.

If approved, the new tower would also include ground floor retail space and more than 100 scooter and bike parking spaces.

An artist’s impression of the proposed tower for Dorcas St.
MCEC to expand

The State Government has unveiled major plans for the proposed expansion of the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The proposal expands the South Wharf precinct footprint to include new retail space, additional car parks, a new hotel and more multi-purpose convention and exhibition facilities.

The announcement has been endorsed across the industry with the venue struggling to cater for increased demand due to a lack of available space.

In announcing the project alongside Premier Denis Napthine last month, Tourism Minister Louise Asher said discussions would now start with the centre’s owners, The Plenary Group, to establish the best way forward.

“Demand for the exhibition centre space means the centre is currently turning away around 20 per cent of business,” she said.

“These negotiations will allow Plenary an opportunity to put forward an expansion proposal to provide integrated services with an expanded exhibition centre.”

Premier Napthine said the proposal would provide a major boost to the Victorian economy.

“Business events generate economic benefits of around $1.2 billion each year to Victoria,” he said.

“Collectively, business events provide not only economic benefits but also the constant positioning and profiling of Victoria nationally and internationally. They drive tourism, employment, industry and business linkages.”

Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Trust chairman Bob Annells welcomed the proposal as an initiative that would “significantly benefit the entire state.”

“The expansion business case has been in the pipeline with the Victorian State Government and stakeholders for some time and we are grateful for their support,” he said.

The centre’s CEO Peter King said the proposal would ensure MCEC continued to adapt to the changing business events industry and the global market.

“The development will enhance the flexibility of the whole precinct and ensure MCEC continues to deliver world-class event experiences,” he said.

MCEC recorded its most successful year in history during August, having hosted 1030 events, 1.5 million visitors and generating more than $274 million to the Victorian economy.

The Victorian State Government will be working with major shareholders to negotiate and finalise the proposed expansion master plan in the coming months.

Despite being forced indoors due to thunderstorms, the weather failed to dampen the atmosphere of the launch, as attendants were given a fun taste of what’s in store come January 16.

Members of Melbourne’s art consortium have combined for the very first time to establish the entirely outdoor event, which will offer a mixture of free and low-cost arts activities and shows throughout Southbank’s arts precinct.

In a sample of what’s to come, the launch featured entertainment from indigenous performance artist Kamahi Djordan King as well as a series of jaw-dropping stunts from a troupe of circus performers.

In launching the festival alongside Minister for the Arts Heidi Victoria, festival director Kirsten Siddle said she hoped people would delight in Summersalt and discover the city’s “quirky artistic heart.”

“Bringing so many companies and artists together in collaboration to present Summersalt is a first, as is the uniquely outdoor focus of the festival,” she said.

SummerSalt unleashed

Southbank’s new outdoor summer arts festival SummerSalt was officially launched at the Malthouse Theatre on October 27.

“Summersalters can expect cross-pollinations of arts companies and exciting cultural mash-ups – a bit like Melbourne itself – happening in surprising places around the precinct.”

Visitors to SummerSalt will weave their way through Melbourne’s arts precinct, taking in music, art installations, massed dance, circus and puppetry classes, as well as theatre, aerial dance and circus performances.

Festival highlights will include Creature Features, a series of giant inflatable animals unleashed around Southbank; Black Cabaret, a night time event at the Malthouse Theatre featuring the musical, comedy and dance routines from some of Australia’s finest indigenous artists and Dance at Dusk; a collaboration between Australian Ballet and Chunky Move.

The festival is scheduled to conclude with the popular all-night cultural event White Night on February 21, 2015.

For the full program and more information: www.summersaltfestival.com.au

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Planning key to Southbank vote

By Scott Tibballs

Up to 50 people gathered at the Boyd Community Hub on Tuesday October 8, to quiz candidates ahead of this month’s state election.

The result was an informative, if somewhat bland, question and answer session.

“Southbank is treated like a permanent building site,” said one resident. “(We are) purely at the whim of developers.”

All three candidates, Labor’s Martin Foley MP, the Liberal’s Shannon Eeles, and the Greens’ David Collis were present for the discussion.

Southbank Residents Group president Tony Penna said he had specified on the Facebook event invitation that the forum was exclusively for Southbank residents, in order to discourage residents affected by urban renewal elsewhere from influencing discussion.

“We do not want this hijacked by residents from other parts of the electorate - they can arrange their own,” he said.

Liberal candidate Shannon Eeles had in the past dropped out of a similar forum organised by the Montague Community Alliance – a residents’ group organised specifically to fight Fishermans Bend and re-zoning.

The October 8 forum was a clash of ideologies, with Ms Eeles saying she believed any and all problems facing communities are best solved by the private sector.

Meanwhile, incumbent MP Mr Foley has constantly attacked planning Minister Matthew Guy on his free-market approach.

Mr Foley said the Liberal Party’s “small-target, market-based planning” was the reason inner-city communities were faced with apartment towers being built further and further south of the CBD, or “monsters rolling towards the bay”, as he put it.

He said it was the Government’s job to “lead planning, not leave it to the market”. There were few opportunities for the candidates to debate these differing views, with the moderator Mr Penna, keeping the event on a tight reign.

Greens candidate David Collis threw down a challenge to his rivals - demanding they commit to ensuring Southbank planning powers would be given back to local government.

Mr Collis said that Southbank residents didn’t have the same rights as other Victorians, as they didn’t have adequate right to notice, objection, and appeal. Freshwater Place Owners Corporation president Peter Renner responded that while he liked what Mr Collis was saying, “you’re not going to be in power”.

Mr Penna had earlier commended Mr Collis for his opposition to the development of 447 Collins Street – a mixed-use tower that would have overshadowed the Southbank Promenade.

Developer CBUS, was recently denied a permit for the proposal by Mr Guy.

Both Martin Foley and Shannon Eeles expressed their support for protecting the overshadowing prohibition, having been challenged to do so by Mr Penna.

However, Ms Eeles was unable to satisfy the Southbank residents at the forum, responding to many questions by saying all she could do was take their concerns to the Minister. “That’s my job,” she said.

Mr Penna responded that SRG had already raised issues with Mr Guy, but been ignored.

Transport was another key concern, with Ms Eeles and Mr Foley sparring on their parties’ opposing plans for new rail lines and tunnels.

Ms Eeles said the construction of a new train station at Montague and Domain, serving Fishermans Bend, would become a hub for Southbank residents.

Mr Foley responded that Labor would prioritise building the Melbourne Metro “where people want to go”, not Fishermans Bend.

Mr Penna said he was happy with the outcome of the forum, stating that it was clear the candidates understood that planning was the “number one issue” for Southbank, and that power needed to be returned to local government.

Scott Tibballs is a Master of Journalism student at the University of Melbourne.
The Federal Government has announced that it will pitch in $1 million over four years towards efforts to help clean up the Yarra River.

The funding will support installation of a new system of floating litter traps as well as an education initiative, "Melbourne Down Under", promoting the marine life of Port Phillip Bay and practical actions Melburnians can take to prevent storm water pollution.

It is estimated the new and refurbished traps will remove the equivalent of 720 wheelie bins of additional litter from the river each year - a 20 per cent improvement on the existing system.

Making the announcement as part of National Water Week during October, Federal Environment Minister Greg Hunt said the Government was proud to help improve the health of Melbourne’s much-loved waterway.

"Providing funding to improve the health of the Yarra was a key Coalition election commitment," he said. "I am proud to announce work will soon be underway."

"The people of Victoria care deeply about the Yarra River and Port Phillip Bay and this project will help them identify ways they can contribute to their overall health."

The project will help restore ageing infrastructure associated with the existing Parks Victoria litter trap program, which collects 500 tonnes of debris each year.

In addition to the funding, Mr Hunt said two Green Army Teams would be deployed in 2014-15 to carry our revegetation and weed control along the banks of the Yarra.

Yarra River Business Association Executive Officer Tim Bracher said while he welcomed the funding, it was a band-aid solution.

"Upstream entry of street waste into the river is still at unacceptable levels and the real solution is to stop it entering in the first place," he said.

"Keeping Melbourne's prime recreational asset clean and free of rubbish should be an ongoing priority, not just irregular, one-off grants from the State or Commonwealth."

"This will better connect the precinct and create a vibrant public space for tourists and the wider community, as well as local residents."

The blueprint, developed by the Victorian Arts Centre Trust, was devised to identify key strategic initiatives that would enhance the visibility and vibrancy of Melbourne’s cultural hub for the future.

The project includes plans for a hotel, restaurants, commercial outlets, a pedestrian boulevard and a new theatre and gallery to house the Performing Arts Collection, which is currently exhibited underground.

"Keeping Melbourne’s prime recreational asset clean and free of rubbish should be an ongoing priority, not just irregular, one-off grants from the State or Commonwealth."

"The open space between Hamer Hall and the Arts Centre building would also be removed as part of the overhaul and turned into a major plaza, while a centralised ticketing office would be created for the whole precinct."

Hosting more than 3 million visitors and more than 3000 shows and events annually, Arts Centre Trust president Tom Harley said greater accessibility to the precinct was key in ensuring these figures continued to grow into the future.

"It’s making the whole area much accessible to the city," he said. "It’s putting pedestrian traffic right through the spine of the arts precinct and making it a lot more open to breathe and invite people in,“ he said.

"The centerpiece of the Arts Centre Melbourne’s concept study is the proposal for the Australian Performing Art Gallery, which will be a major new attraction at the heart of the center."

"The concept also opens up a fabulous boulevard connecting the arts precinct’s main institutions to the city, St Kilda Rd and Southbank.”

For more information visit www.arts.vic.gov.au
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Residents pen their frustration

Nearly 200 residents from Southbank’s Clarendon Towers have signed a petition calling for the State Government to stop ignoring the community when making planning decisions.

The petition was presented to the City of Melbourne at a council meeting on October 28 by Cr Rohan Leppert in support of a motion, and was unanimously received by council.

The summary on the petition says the State Government is ignoring the views of the community, local councils and other expert bodies when approving high-rise developments in Southbank.

The petition calls for policy-makers to consider the livability of the amenity of Southbank residents when approving high-rise developments by ensuring:

- There is sufficient space between the proposed and existing buildings;
- Infrastructure (including traffic flow and parking) is available to service the increased number of residents;
- Provision of green space, schools and community spaces; and
- The new buildings meet specific guidelines in relation to apartment size, quality and external windows and that external walls are not just left as grey concrete slabs.

Labor Member for Albert Park Martin Foley, Liberal candidate Shannon Eeles and Greens candidate David Collis, were also sent a copy of the petition along with a letter signed by Cr Leppert urging each of them to “give our community the rights and amenities it deserves”.

“We have had our rights taken away from us and have been treated as second-class citizens for some time now and will carefully consider what your party can offer our community when casting our votes,” it states.

The petition formed a part of the council’s submission to the Planning Minister’s department at November 11’s Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

Legal implications for owners

A recent High Court decision could have implications for strata communities Australia-wide.

On October 8, the High Court of Australia found that Brookfield Multiplex did not owe a duty of care to the owners’ corporation (OC) of a Chatswood apartment tower.

Brookfield built the tower in 1998 and in 2008 the building’s OC brought proceedings in the Supreme Court of NSW, alleging defects existed in the common property of the serviced apartments.

The developer of the building had sold the apartments to various owners, and all apartments were then leased to hotel operator, Park Hotel Management Pty Ltd, which used them to operate a serviced apartment hotel, with the hotel management effectively controlling the OC.

According to Strata Title Lawyers’ Tom Bacon, the High Court found that the nature and content of the contractual arrangements, the sophistication of the parties and the relationship of the developer to the OC “all militate against the existence of an asserted duty of care to either the owners’ corporation or the developer.”

He said the case could have implications for residential buildings and OCs.

“The decision suggests that a builder would not owe a duty of care to an owners’ corporation of a residential strata scheme if vulnerability could not be established,” Mr Bacon said.

He said in Brookfield’s case, the vulnerability of the OC could not be established.

“In coming to this decision the High Court made references to the general rule of common law that damages for economic loss which are not consequential upon damage to person’s property are not recoverable in negligence even if the loss is foreseeable.”

“The High Court focused on the vulnerability of the parties to ascertain if the owners’ corporation could fall within the parameters of an exception to this rule.”

“As the developer was the original owner of the apartments and was not vulnerable, the owners’ corporation could also not be vulnerable.”

Pele to visit Southbank

Widely touted as the greatest football player of all time, Brazilian football legend Pele (Edson Arantes do Nascimento), will appear at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre’s Plenary stage this month.

Pele returns to the country for the first time in 10 years and will be a special guest at a tribute luncheon for retiring SBS broadcaster Les Murray on Wednesday, November 19.

An evening show entitled, Pele. My Life. My Story, will follow on from the luncheon, when the three-time World Cup champion will share his footballing and life journey with the audience.

Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre CEO Peter King said the centre was extremely proud to be hosting such a high-profile sporting legend.

“We’re looking forward to welcoming one of the biggest names in sporting history to our Plenary Stage for his first Australian appearance in quite some time,” he said.

Having started his career at the age of 15 at Brazilian club Santos, Pele was just 16 when he first represented his country in the national team.

In a career spanning 1363 games, Pele scored a remarkable 1281 goals - a world record, which still stands today.

Since retiring in 1977, he has been named Athlete of the Century by the International Olympic Committee and Footballer of the Century by FIFA and continues to work on humanitarian and human rights projects in his native Brazil.

For more information on Pele’s trip to Southbank visit www.pelelive.com.au.

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Plan your night out these holidays

Police are urging the public to take greater responsibility for themselves and others this festive season.

While the Christmas and New Year’s break represents a time of year most look forward to, the opposite can be said for law enforcers.

With the holidays seeing higher than usual numbers flocking to the CBD and Southbank to celebrate, station commander at St Kilda Rd Police Station, Sen-Sgt Steve Bills said it always marked as a busy time for police.

“Coming up to the end of the year with Christmas parties, people going away on holidays, the new year’s break, with all that we get a lot more people coming into the city,” he said.

“A lot of the problems that we have coming up to this end of the year is around what we would term public order. So alcohol-related, drug-related and not only violence, but just behaviour”

Sen-Sgt Bills said police were urging the public to take greater care when going out this holiday season, by looking after each other, limiting their alcohol consumption and planning their night out.

“You should never find yourself alone at the end of the night working out how you’re going to get home,” he said. “You should have planned for it before you went out.”

“People should consider their consumption and around where they’re going, what they’re doing, how much they’re going to drink and plan for that evening or afternoon or whatever it is, because how are you actually going to get home?”

Police are also reiterating the message of reminding people to take greater care with leaving valuables around when going out, such as handbags, wallets and phones.

Sen-Sgt Bills said a greater level of responsibility would ensure that a night out remained memorable for all the right reasons.

“We’re certainly not anti-people going out enjoying themselves and having a drink and even having too much to drink necessarily so long as you look out for yourself and your friends,” he said.

“You won’t get hassled by the police and you won’t become a victim.”

Bargain hunters unite at Boyd

Up to 300 people converged on the Boyd Community Hub in Southbank on October 25 for the annual Garage Sale Trail.

More than 20 local stallholders set up shop as part of the nation-wide event, offering everything from second-hand clothes, books and toys to handcrafted wooden antiques and artifacts.

The day also featured live entertainment, with a number of local musicians providing softening sounds as shoppers went on the search for a bargain.

The Garage Sale Trail is a national not-for-profit mission promoting sustainability, local commerce and community building.

By organising communities around the country to hold garage sales on the same day, the initiative aims to encourage reuse, reduce waste, provide a fundraising platform, inspire creativity and stimulate local economies.

For more information visit: www.garagesaletrail.com.au

Shoppers search for hidden treasures at the Garage Sale Trail at Boyd Community Hub.
Creating social harmony through eating

Southbank resident and foodie Wayne Parry is aiming to bring Melbourne’s global community together, one country at a time.

Born and raised in Melbourne, the well-travelled 43-year-old language teacher said he had always held an interest in helping people through a love for language and food.

Having recently returned to Melbourne and settling in Southbank just over a year ago, the former international studies graduate said he was determined to finish a social project he started as a university student.

“I covered one community at a time as part of a social project for the degree I was doing and it always felt a little bit unfinished,” he said. “It’s been one of these burning desires of mine to get back into these communities.”

“I had all of this great material, covering restaurants for each community as places where people socialise but it was quite old and needed to be updated.”

Since returning, Mr Parry and a friend have established FoodSocial, a social movement dedicated to connecting people through the love of food.

What started off as a hobby has now snowballed into a regular event at the South Melbourne Market, with each dinner involving a three-course meal featuring a cuisine inspired by flavours and traditions from a different country.

The concept is based on bringing people together around a table in a social setting, while injecting a cultural aspect by spreading awareness about different parts of the world through food.

Working through a list of countries alphabetically, Mr Parry said he was determined to help provide each community with a platform to share their culture with others.

“I want to go through all these communities one by one – it’s a massive list and a very ambitious list. There are about 200 countries”, he said.

“The aim is to go through and just expose them one at a time and what we hope to do by this is to not only expose these communities but to get these communities to use this as a platform.”

“Who says there can’t be a restaurant in Melbourne for a place like Malawi, as ridiculous as it sounds, but it just encouraging people to say why not!”

Proceeds generated from the initiative are donated to a cause relating to each event’s chosen country.

With the current nature of discussion surrounding asylum seekers in Australia proving hard for many to swallow, Mr Parry said he hoped the initiative could be an effective way of breaking down barriers between communities.

“It’s the most harmless way of getting a whole lot of different people together at a table through food,” he said. “It’s where everybody just lets their guard down, lets their prejudices go and leaves their baggage at the door.”

“If we can learn to eat Afghan one day and Brazilian the next and so on, it will open up an understanding of what it’s like for people we know very little about.”

The next event, to be held on Saturday, November 15 at South Melbourne Market, will be themed on Afghanistan.

For more information visit www.meetup.com/Food-Social

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The Air Force Band play at the ABC Centre in Southbank, to celebrate a centenary of Australian military aviation.

**The Barracks mark 100 years of aviation**

More than 200 people gathered at the ABC Southbank’s Iwaki Auditorium on Saturday, November 1 for a concert celebrating 100 years of military aviation in Australia.

Organised by the Victoria Barracks in Southbank, the free concert featured the renowned Air Force Band, which played its third and final concert as part of a centenary celebration tour.

The audience was treated to musical works related to military aviation including a spectular rendition of Stravinsky’s masterpiece The Firebird Suite, which provided the finale to the concert.

The Air Force Band’s commanding officer and director of music, Squadron Leader Mathew Shelley said the finale summed up what was a rousing performance.

“The conclusion showcased the precision, agility and excellence of the Air Force Band,” he said.

“The audience really enjoyed all the musical works, which were all related to military aviation.”

Military aviation in Australia dates back to March 1914 when the first military flight took place at Point Cook.

That plane was constructed of wood, linen and wire and powered by a single 50 horsepower engine that flew with a top speed of 64 km/h.

Having advanced a long way since in aviation technology since those days, Squadron Leader Shelley said the milestone was an occasion well worth celebrating.

“It is amazing to consider how far we have come in military aviation and I believe 100 years of tradition, innovation and evolution is highly worth celebrating and commemorating,” he said.

After three successive years at The Forum on Flinders St, the renowned music and arts festival will return on Saturday January 24 at the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) in Southbank.

As one of Melbourne’s most renowned creative hubs, it will mark the first event of its type to ever be held on VCA grounds, providing the festival with the extra space required to present its biggest line-up to date.

American rapper Nas will headline the event, performing his classic 1994 album Illmatic – one of the most illustrious rap albums.

The festival will also feature a huge line-up of influential, experimental and iconic local and international artists.

Sugar Mountain promoter Simon Huggins said the festival was glad to be making its return in Southbank.

“Sugar Mountain Festival is very excited to be coming to the Southbank Arts Precinct on the Australia Day weekend,” he said.

“The festival combines a strong contemporary visual arts program with a world-class musical lineup to give festival-goers a very unique experience.”

“We’re extremely pleased to be partnering with some of Melbourne’s best bars and restaurants, and the SummerSalt festival in Southbank to combine food, art and music in way only Melburnians know how to enjoy.”

According to organisers, the festival will now comprise of three outdoor stages and two indoor stages, with the main stage sitting at the end of a closed Dodds St.

VCA’s Space 28 and Studio 45 will be home to the festival’s indoor offerings, while Sturt St and the ACCA forecourt will also be utilised for the event.

Ticketing and artist information can be found at www.sugarmountainfestival.com

**Sugar Mountain comes to Southbank**

**Following a one-year hiatus from Melbourne’s music calendar, the Sugar Mountain Festival will return in 2015 to its brand new home in Southbank.**

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**Are you passionate about living in Southbank? Would you like to see it evolve and contribute?**

The Southbank Residents Group

**AGM**

**November 18 - 6PM**

Boyd Community Hub, 207 City Rd

We are seeking motivated and passionate Southbank residents to be a part of our committee to drive Southbank into the future.

Or maybe you would just like to support our community advocacy and become a member?

Come along to our AGM and hear what your local not-for-profit community group is doing for you.

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DRIVE AWAY PRICE
Jean Paul Gaultier

Friday Nights at Jean Paul Gaultier opened its summer season last month, and the Melbourne public already loves the string of bands performing every week at the gallery. The Fashion World of Jean Paul Gaultier will be transformed into a late night destination every Friday night at the National Gallery of Victoria, with live musical performances gracing the stage each week.

Visitors can enjoy an after hours look at Jean Paul Gaultier’s exhibition ‘From the Sidewalk to the Catwalk’ while enjoying the live performances and French-inspired cuisine.

A range of well-known local and international artists will perform on Friday nights throughout summer, with the final performance on Friday, February 6. Elizabeth Rose, Touch Sensitive, Kate Miller-Heidke and Remi are just some of the artists participating in Friday Nights this season.

The series has already seen performers DJ Samson, Cibo Matteo and Saskwatch grace the stage over the past few weeks.

This week The Bombay Royale will step up with a performance on November 14.

Other artists to play in November include Cumbia Cosmonauts on the Friday the 21st and Nun on the 28th.

For those wanting to take a break from the exhibition, NGV’s Gallery Kitchen and Great Hall will be serving a contemporary, French-inspired bar menu throughout the evening. Treat yourself to some nibbles, quiches, cheese boards or sweet crepes.

The exhibition will also include a “Dressed by Jean Paul Gaultier: Movie Marathon” and “Drop By Drawing: Fashion” classes throughout December and January.
Calpurnia Descending

MALTHOUSE THEATRE
13-30TH NOVEMBER
By Chloe Strahan

Calpurnia Descending is premiering on the 13th of November at the Malthouse Theatre. This parody play is created by the Sisters Grimm, a Melbourne-based queer theatre group, who frequently dance with the border of inappropriate comedy with their high camp melodramatic stories.

The latest creation by the Sisters Grimm follows Beverly Dumont, a fabulous star turned inner-eager to resurrect her on-stage career.

In order to toss the booze and get back in the limelight, Dumont teams up with Violet St Clair, a “starry-eyed” naive character, played by Ash Flanders.

Dumont schemes and screams her way back to Broadway alongside the not-so-innocent Violet St Claire, in a growing catfight between two spotlight-loving divas.

Creators Sisters Grimm says that their playwriting is always “full of passion, jealousy, secrets and insane women. But also about ageing, excess and the terrifying hunger of youth.”

Dumont is played by Paul Capsis who steals the show in this stellar performance. Capsis’s many years of theatre performing is evident in this passionate and hilarious role. Dark, daring and mischievous, his extreme vocal and stage performance is one not to miss.

Coming to Melbourne after a sell-out season in Sydney, Calpurnia Descending will play at the Merlyn Theatre until the 30th November.

Channelling Bach – The Goldberg Inventions

DECEMBER 3RD 2014 – MELBOURNE RECITAL CENTRE
By Chloe Strahan

During duo Joe Chindamo and Zoë Black invite you to see Channelling Bach: The Goldberg Inventions show this December. Life partners and musical duet Joe and Zoë are adding a fresh layer to the classical Baroque piece, without altering the original Goldberg Variation music.

Capturing the essence of Bach, composer and pianist Joe Chindamo will be performing the original and unaltered Goldberg Variation piece. Joe has composed another layer for violinist Zoë to perform on top of the original melody.

“I am playing Bach and Zoë is playing Chindamo” Joe said.

“It is like introducing another character into a Shakespearian play without altering the style of dialogue.”

The composition Joe has created is written in the same Bach style, so the changes do not feel like a dramatic transformation. Joe says that it creates a “Baroque experience for a modern audience. It makes it sound like the whole thing is freshly written.”

The duo have made music together for the past three years. Zoë Black is currently a part of the Australian Chamber Orchestra, and plays strictly classical music according to partner Joe.

“Zoe and I have an amazing musical connection. We challenge and inspire each other, and are each other’s muses” said Joe.

Described as a daring and semi-outrageous performance, the pair is quite confident that their alterations to the classical Bach piece will be well received.

“As a composer I thought it would be fun to take something from that era, and try and give a modern audience the same experience that an audience from that time might have had when they heard something like this for the first time.”

The duo’s latest album ‘Dido’s Lament’ was nominated for the 2014 Aria Awards for Best Classical Album. Upcoming album ‘Goldberg Inventions’ is hoped to be released by the end of this year.

REFLECTIONS

Jean-Efflam Bavouzet | PIANO

Colour and emotion are Jean-Efflam Bavouzet’s speciality, as you’ll discover when he showcases a hand full of Beethoven’s witty and imaginative sonatas including the tempestuous ‘Appassionata’ and Ravel’s magic ‘Miroirs’.

“The sound of the Bavouzet fingers is distinctive. It is searching, penetrating, imaginatively fired, and endlessly curious in its exploration of any composer’s unique sound palette and language.”

TUE 25 NOVEMBER 7.30PM
TICKETS FROM $50
A passion for story telling

Born and raised in Germany’s polycentric, formerly industrial region of Ruhrgebiet, Photography Studies College teacher Katrin Koenning said she has always been interested in the idea of a story.

Having attended a Steiner School, which possessed a curriculum embedded in arts and creativity, and growing up under the influence of artistic and musical relatives, Katrin initially aspired to be painter, singer or an astronaut.

It was these roots, which she said had provided the major influence and inspiration for her style of photography.

“My primary interest has always been in the idea of a story,” she said. “I tried a few different modes of story telling (print journalism, radio) before I ended up in photography.”

“It’s what I am most interested in, telling stories. A love for narrative and a general sense of wonder at the world around me is what ultimately drew me to base my practice in documentary.”

While she boasts a long list of achievements, Katrin recently took out one of her biggest awards to date – the prestigious People’s Choice Award in the Bowness Photography Prize for some of her most recent work.

She said for the audience to share her passion for capturing stories through a lens felt amazing.

“It was a humbling, joyful experience and a huge encouragement to my work,” she said. “It meant so much having been chosen solely by the audience of the awards exhibition.”

“At the end of the day, you have a creative practice because you want to touch an audience and when you succeed in that, it is the biggest reward.”

On top of her latest achievement, Katrin is also featured in the new “Photographers Sketchbooks” – a collation of 43 internationally-acclaimed photographers and the development and process of their work.

While story telling remains her major source of inspiration, she said working at the Photography Studies College in Southbank had also played a huge part in her success as a professional photographer.

“I truly love working at PSC; it’s a great place full of passion and commitment,” she said. “Teaching what you love, alongside people you admire, is a huge privilege - you never stop learning yourself really. The students teach you as much as you teach them.”

To find out more about Katrin and to view more of her work head to www.katrinkoenning.com
Beethoven’s early and heroic, middle period.

INESSA GALANTE
Nov 25 - Elisabeth Murdoch Hall
Inessa Galante is one of the world’s best loved sopranos. Long established as prima donna assoluta of Latvian opera, her international career only became possible when the iron curtain fell, leading to engagements by other major opera houses in Europe and the USA.
www.melbournerecital.com.au

I’LL EAT YOU LAST
Oct 31 - Dec 20 - Fairfax Studio
BAFTA Award-winner Miriam Margolyes stars in John Logan’s scintillating solo show – a titillating night of inmeshed tautle. When you meet Sue Mengers you’ll wonder why you’ve never heard of her. Afterwards you’ll wonder if you could ever forget her. A legendary Hollywood figure played by a legendary stage performer.
www.artscentremelbourne.com.au

BENJAMIN OPIE & PETER DE JAGER
Dec 4 - Salon
Ben Opie & Peter de Jager are two of Australia’s finest young musicians, acclaimed for their virtuosity in a wide range of repertoire and in high demand around Australia and the world.
www.melbournerecital.com.au

KATHY SELBY & TIMO-VEIKKO VALVE
Nov 21 - Arts Centre Forecourt
TJ is the most authentic Michael Jackson Tribute artist in Australia. The show features a 6 piece live band and vocals, some of the best dancers and complete with ‘State of the Art’ lightshow.
www.ticketek.com.au

MARIA HASSABI - INTERMISSION
Oct 10 - Nov 23 - ACCA main gallery
New York-based choreographer Maria Hassabi’s acclaimed live installation, Intermission, focuses on the notion of stillness within the moving body. This work premiered at the Cypriot/Lithuanian Pavilion at the 55th Venice Biennale and reflects the artist’s ongoing interest in the relationship between body and image.
www.accadone.org.au

SATURDAY WORKSHOPS - ART EXPERIENCE
Saturdays - NGV International
For children and families - over six sessions under the guidance of experienced art educators, children discover treasures of the NGV through visiting select original works.
www.ngv.vic.gov.au

BLAK CABARET
Feb 10 - Feb 22 - Malthouse Forecourt
Flipping Australia’s history on its head, the unstoppable diva Constantina Bush (Kamahl, Djordje King, The Shadow King) blazes onto the stage as a forgotten queen from a distant land, taking no prisoners and claiming this terra nullius as her own.
www.malthousetheatre.com.au

PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
Nov 8 - Dec 20
The follow-on to the smash hit ‘Songs For Nobodies’ ‘Pennsylvania Avenue’ sees Joanna Murray-Smith, Bernadette Robinson and Simon Phillips joining forces once again to present a brilliant new music theatre work.
www.mtc.com.au

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Richard’s a true believer

For a local councillor, Richard Foster speaks a lot like a politician.

Of course all councillors are politicians, but Cr Foster sounds like a “real” politician – the type you see on TV or hear on the radio being charming, but not really answering the questions.

This is not such a surprise when you understand how enamoured he is with the ALP. The former president of the Carlton branch says his values and the party’s are aligned.

Therefore, he says, he can take decisions within the council based on his own personal beliefs as well as the party’s values.

“I’ve very much felt at home there (the ALP) and I very much share the beliefs that it espouses. I don’t agree with all its policies but I know that its core beliefs are sound,” he said. “There’s very little difference between my own and the party’s values.”

Cr Foster is also very much at home as chair of the council’s “People City” portfolio, which roughly equates with what others might call human services.

After a career that started as a fraud investigator for a phone company, diverged into consumer advocacy before arriving in the welfare sector, Cr Foster is passionate about his brief.

He lists addressing disadvantage, community health and childcare as his three main priorities and is confident about making a real difference in the area of homelessness during his four-year term.

“We’ve engaged in a lot of band-aid solutions because we haven’t really done the work to know any better,” he said. “Our city is not the most liveable for everyone. I think we need to spread the benefits a little better.”

In his current day-job, Cr Foster finds work placements for Monash University finance and business students within not-for-profit organisations such as community legal centres and welfare agencies.

He says former prime minister Paul Keating sparked his political interest when he was a teenager, but he didn’t get seriously involved in the Labor Party until his late 20s.

“If you’re asking whether I am socially aware and sympathetic to people less fortunate than me? Then, yes, absolutely,” he said.

“But I’m very pragmatic about it. I’m not some loony-lefty racing out with, probably well-founded, but unachievable ideas.”

“I’m very much of the school that believes that if you are seriously trying to achieve social change, then you need to bring people with you.”

Cr Foster is coy about his future political ambitions.

“I’m very, very happy in local government. Very, very happy at the council,” he said.

“Yes, but you may still harbour ambition for the future?” CBD News suggested.

“Like I said, I’m very happy at the council,” he responded.

Cr Foster had an accelerated path towards self-reliance as a child.

“I was born to a single mother. My mother flitted around through a lot of lowly-paid jobs when I was growing up. Her task was to make ends meet and she generally did that,” he said.

At 14, he put himself into foster-care for the rest of his school years after his mum married a man he “didn’t see eye-to-eye with.”

“I think its fair to say that anyone who finds themselves in that position when they are in their teens is not going to have it too easy. But I don’t think it’s the worst story you will ever hear, but probably not the best either,” he said.

“There’s not one part of me that regrets that decision. In fact, I verily believe that if I had not taken that decision when I did, my life would be very different now and I don’t think it would be for the better.”

After finishing school in the Dandenongs, he supported himself initially working night-shift in a service station before progressing to being a voice-over artist.

Returning to Melbourne, he lived in Prahran and Brunswick before settling in Kensington.

Cr Foster acknowledges that the opportunity for achievement within the council may be limited.

However, he says, the platform it offers outside of the council and capacity for advocacy should not be overlooked.

“Last year I called for 24-hour public transport and now it’s part of the opposition’s policy,” he said. “It’s those type of things you can achieve in local government even though you might not have the direct lever to pull yourself. You can make the right noises to the right people.”

“You have to accept that you are not going to change the world in four years. You have to focus on what you think is important and concentrate on achieving those.”

Next month’s Councillor Profile we look at Cr Caty Oke.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS AT SEA LIFE MELBOURNE AQUARIUM

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DATE: FRI 21 NOV / FRI 12 DEC / SAT 13 DEC
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Let’s party!

The late Robin Williams once said “Spring is nature’s way of saying ‘let’s party’!” We couldn’t agree more.

It starts with asparagus, the gorgeous spears that poke up out of the soil as soon as there’s a hint of warm weather after the winter months. Around 95 per cent of the nation’s crop comes from the area around Koo Wee Rup in Gippsland, once part of a large swampland. Both our vendors, Jonella Farm and Raffa Produce, are based in the region, Raffa selling the rarer purple variety as well as the usual green asparagus. There’s not a lot of difference in taste but interestingly, the purple asparagus turns green when cooked.

Broad beans, peas and snowpeas also return to our plates, brightening up salads, appearing in free range egg frittatas, pasta and rice dishes, with soha noodles and quinoa. Try some ethical bacon with your broad beans (thank me later) and remember, you needn’t pod them if they’re young and tender. Strawberries herald the season change in the fruit kingdom and we’re now seeing cherries at markets … gracefully, given the wild rain and hail that has affected some growers.

When the party shoes come out, collect your provisions from our artisan stallholders to wow the guests with minimal effort. A dollop of Shuki and Louisa’s harissa in the centre of their hummus is a winner.

Make a platter of it with fermented Powerkraut vegetables on the side, a couple of Blue Bay cheeses, Pantson Hill or Villa Pilleggi olives, slices of Woodfrog Bakery bread and a truffle butter from Myrtleford Butter Factory. Golden Axe cider, Tanjil wines and fresh orange juice provide refreshment and a posy from Peninsula Wildflowers dresses the table. Bring on the silly season!

What motivates you?

Exercise is a means to an end. What’s your end point?

One’s motivation to pursue a fitness goal of any type is what fuels your prime mover to success. That is self-discipline.

I refer to the self-discipline to adhere to a diet plan and a training schedule. In today’s world of abundant, fantastic training and diet concepts, it is actually these two words that matter most – motivation and self-discipline. Without them, the best programs all fail. Where we get our motivation from, is the question that concerns me most.

Too many people come into our gyms motivated by change and the desire to get moving. These emotions are most common after January 1 or at the start of the spring racing carnival.

Once we start training, running and lifting, we get fitter, stronger and leaner. It’s all good. But what will keep us moving once this becomes the norm? What will keep us moving once our gym-buddy changes jobs or moves house? It’s time to get serious.

I was faced with this conundrum myself recently and probably for the first time in my life. Being sport mad and playing team field sports my whole life, I was always motivated by the desire to be in the best possible condition I could be each week.

Like all of us though, I hit an age where life demanded alternate priorities and the contact started to break. Furthermore, golf was fast becoming my sport of choice.

Training wise, I have never been one to train for the sake of training. Or as some may do, train to get better at training. This is part of why many Australians still don’t exercise regularly. Only about 20 per cent of us do something regularly for the health and fitness. Regular exercisers are the minority. Why?

Commit to something! Commit to something significant.

This is where I applaud the world of endless weekend fun-runs, half-marathons and other mostly well-meaning charity events. They offer a combination of external motivational forces for the individual otherwise doing very little.

A 200km bike ride for a cancer charity recently turned the lifestyle and the life, of a dear friend of mine for the better. “James” was motivated by the question of could he ride that 200km Everest, along with the desire to do something positive for a charity. For the first time in years James trained regularly and with a purpose. He paid his entrance fee, bought a bike and committed to his fundraising. He lost 10kg, raised $3000 for cancer research and achieved something he had never before in his life. He is now working out what he wants to do next and now knows how he is motivated.

I joined James on this year’s ride. I was most moved by his commitment and what it all meant to him crossing the line. In preparation for the ride myself I was confident that I had my needs in check, so I set an alternate external motivation for myself. Something I have never done before and something that will require a commitment level and adherence that I have only replicated for short times in my life.

Though I know, come March 2015, the sniggers and laughter from my family and friends will turn to cheers – that motivates me. Well that, and the idea of getting on stage in your undies, is enough to motivate anyone to get in shape.

Training and exercise should always be a means to an end. Choose your end. Choose your goal and come and tell me about it. I’ll then go back over the bits about how a foundation of strength is the best launching pad, though this time you will listen more, as you will see I am trying to help you climb Everest more efficiently and not just lift heavy stuff for the sake of it.

Be motivated. Be healthy.

Anton
Anton.pilli@genesisfitness.com.au

HEALTH & WELLBEING

with Anton Pilli
Genesis Southbank

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**FACES OF SOUTH BANK**

If you could meet someone past or present, who would it be and why?

**LUKAS DONERT, 18**
I’d probably catch up with someone who was still alive, maybe Ed Sheeran. I would love to have a jam with him that would be awesome.

**VERNER HELLESTEDT, 19**
I’d like to meet Neil Armstrong. I think it would be interesting to talk to the first person to ever walk on the moon and find out what it felt like to be in space.

**ZUZANA SOLCANKA, 29**
Right now right here, I would like to meet my family because I miss them and haven’t seen them in three months.

**MAREK MATEJCEK, 24**
I’d like to meet someone from the past like Napoleon or Cleopatra out of curiosity to see what the world was like back then and what they did and why they did it.

**SHARON CAGILLO, 24**
I’d like to meet Bon Jovi, I like his music and I guess that’s the main point of why I would like to meet him. I love the song Living on a Prayer.

**JOHN PITTMAN, 74**
Jesus Christ, because he lives in my heart and I’d like to meet him personally.

---

**SOUTH BANK SUDOKU**

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

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

This Sudoku is medium!

Good Luck!

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Last month’s Sudoku solution

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B A H K S T O U N
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Medidock Health Centre is owned and operated by Sid Vohra and his partner Shipra Vohra.

In Medidock Health Centre, September, clinic director Dr Sid Vohra said he and his team were determined to provide the local community with more than just a health service.

“We want to focus on all aspects of health because we are passionate about the health and wellbeing of Southbank people, so that’s everything from medical management through to preventative health checks,” he said.

“We want to be not just a medical centre sitting in Southbank but doing multiple things and getting involved in every aspect of the community.”

Having undertaken a Masters of Business Administration in France and worked as a health adviser for one of the world’s leading consulting firms, Dr Vohra has extensive experience in both business and as a medical practitioner.

Alongside his partner Shipra and an experienced team, he said he aimed to bring his experience and passion for healthcare to the Southbank community.

“I basically wanted to use what I’ve done to set up a service here in Southbank – an area which is under-serviced for medical facilities and has a growing population,” he said.

“Th ere is a growing need and people currently have to go out of the area. Seeing the area develop over a long period of time, I thought this is a great time to come in and make a proper medical centre in Southbank” located in the heart of Southbank, directly opposite the Boyd Community Hub on City Rd, Medidock currently operates five days a week and will soon open during evenings and weekends.

Dr Vohra said considerable eff orts had been made to provide state-of-the-art facilities, with the centre offering all general health practice services as well as on-site pathology, podiatry, exercise physiology and psychology.

As well as providing corporate health consultations and health checks for businesses, Dr Vohra said the practice offered a flexible billing model with the intent of making health care accessible for the whole community.

“We’ll be bulk-billing children and anybody with a pension or concession card for seniors and students,” he said. “I think this is going to really help us have a billing model, which fi ts with the socio-economic group that we’re talking about.”

“We want healthcare to be accessible to everybody. We want to provide quality care – not fast consultations.”

Medidock Health Centre is located at 216 City Rd in Southbank.

For more information visit www.medidock.com.au

A passion for organic, wholesome and healthy living.

Having moved to Southbank three years ago, Broad Bean Organic Grocer’s Paul Bullivant said he and co-owner Andrew Crompton initially found it tough to access the sort of food they were looking for in the area.

“We found it very diffi  cult to access the kind of food that we were after, which is organic, wholesome, healthy food,” he said.

“We fi gured that for a suburb, which I think is the third-fastest growing in Victoria, there was a huge gap for being able to access that sort of stuff so we decided to do it ourselves.”

It is an initiative that has well and truly paid dividends for the pair, as the Fanning St store continues to go from strength to strength.

Paul said the decision to go organic stems from the pair’s personal values, which is something the Southbank community has whole-heartedly embraced since Broad Bean opened its doors.

“We decided to go organic because it sets the highest benchmark,” he said. "Organics take into account the health benefi ts; it takes into account the environmental impact, the impact on animals and animal welfare."

"Organic farming is the second or third fastest growing industry in the country and I think that’s because a lot of people are becoming a lot more aware of their food choices and their consumption choices."

As well as groceries, Broad Bean offers everything organic from smoothies, cold pressed juices and fresh meals; through to gluten free or vegan friendly raw treats and cruelty-free personal care products.

Paul said the overwhelmingly positive response from the community was proof that the area was crying out for an organic store.

“It obviously demonstrates that there was that need, we have residents telling us that they were waiting for something like this and workers wanted healthy, wholesome lunches,” he said.

Now an established part of the Southbank community, Paul said he and Andrew couldn’t be happier to be doing what they love anywhere else.

“Southbank people are awesome, we moved here three years ago and we’re never going to move away,” he said.

“Even in that space of three years it’s come a long way and there’s so much happening, it’s just coming alive and Southbank is the place to be.”

Broad Bean Organic Grocer is open 7 days a week at Shop 3, 26 Fanning St Southbank.

A medical centre for the whole community.

The new Medidock Health Centre on City Rd comes as a welcome addition to Southbank’s ever-growing community.

Having only recently opened its doors in September, clinic director Dr Sid Vohra said he and his team were determined to provide the local community with more than just a health service.

“We want to focus on all aspects of health because we are passionate about the health and wellbeing of Southbank people, so that’s everything from medical management through to preventative health checks,” he said.

“We want to be not just a medical centre sitting in Southbank but doing multiple things and getting involved in every aspect of the community.”

Having undertaken a Masters of Business Administration in France and worked as a health adviser for one of the world’s leading consulting firms, Dr Vohra has extensive experience in both business and as a medical practitioner.

Alongside his partner Shipra and an experienced team, he said he aimed to bring his experience and passion for healthcare to the Southbank community.

“I basically wanted to use what I’ve done to set up a service here in Southbank – an area which is under-serviced for medical facilities and has a growing population,” he said.

“Th ere is a growing need and people currently have to go out of the area. Seeing the area develop over a long period of time, I thought this is a great time to come in and make a proper medical centre in Southbank.”

Located in the heart of Southbank, directly opposite the Boyd Community Hub on City Rd, Medidock currently operates five days a week and will soon open during evenings and weekends.

Dr Vohra said considerable eff orts had been made to provide state-of-the-art facilities, with the centre offering all general health practice services as well as on-site pathology, podiatry, exercise physiology and psychology.

As well as providing corporate health consultations and health checks for businesses, Dr Vohra said the practice offered a flexible billing model with the intent of making health care accessible for the whole community.

“We’ll be bulk-billing children and anybody with a pension or concession card for seniors and students,” he said. “I think this is going to really help us have a billing model, which fi ts with the socio-economic group that we’re talking about.”

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Ray White Southbank

Much more than just a local real estate agent.

Having played a significant role in helping the local community grow for nearly three years now, the team at Ray White is passionate about Southbank.

From its prominent location on the corner of Clarendon St and City Rd, principal and director Andrew Salvo said Ray White Southbank had played a major part in the area’s development.

“We started this precinct,” he said. “We call it the Crown Precinct and the family was the first ones to put developments here so we’ve created our own community.”

As part of the Salvo family, which have developed many of the buildings in Southbank and continue to do so, Andrew said the group set out three years ago to start a management business with the intention to expand to the open market.

“We spoke to many different franchisees and Ray White seemed to have the biggest national presence and global reach,” he said.

“With Southbank being a new area, there aren’t many people tied to any brand because everyone is new to the area. They can recognise a brand and walk in and the strategy has worked for us.”

Beyond simply buying, renting and selling, Ray White Southbank continuously strives to deliver clients and investors the best service possible.

With high expertise in project marketing, Mr Salvo now heads up the banner of Ray White Projects Victoria, which takes on entirely new buildings on behalf of developers.

Marrying up to this service, Ray White Southbank’s sales team for the established market sells off the plan and provides comprehensive and ongoing management for all of its clients.

Having switched careers from engineering, sales team leader Michael Pastrikos said he thoroughly enjoyed building relationships and providing quality service to all of his clients.

“Before this I was 10 years in engineering and found myself to be very much a people person. Engineering, as much as I love the industry, wasn’t so much like that – drawings don’t talk back to you!” he said.

“At the end of the day, it’s an industry that is based on service and you have really got to provide it to people and show that you can stand out because otherwise you’re just another name online.”

Mr Pastrikos said he enjoyed the unique aspect of working in Southbank as opposed to a normal real estate agent, as he said, “every building represents a different street.”

And as for the area, he said he and his colleagues could think of no better place to ply their trade than in Southbank.

“The best thing about Southbank is how versatile it is. There’s all the cafes, the restaurants all the entertainment on your doorstep as well,” he said.

“We’re right on the edge of South Melbourne, you know it’s got that old Melbourne culture to it and that’s not going to change for decades.”

Ray White Southbank is located at 111 Clarendon St, Southbank.

For more information visit www.raywhitesouthbank.com.au

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Your king is coming

Hosanna to the son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest! Matthew 21:9

This Advent we once again celebrate Christ as the coming one. That is who he is. In the Old Testament, people waited for the coming one; in the New Testament they asked: “Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another?” Those who did not recognise him are still waiting for him to come. Those who recognise that he has come see and celebrate his coming over and over again.

Each Christmas we remember that Jesus is the coming one. He came from heaven to earth. He came to take on our flesh and blood, to become one of us. Each Christmas we again see him, not just as the one who once came, but as the coming one. His coming is as fresh and new as though it is the first time. He is the coming one who came.

This Advent season points us to the coming one. But not just to his coming at Christmas. An equally important focus is on his coming again at the end of time. “He will come again to judge the living and the dead”, we confess so easily each Sunday. Yet to take these words seriously should mean to be filled with expectation and joy. This Advent season again calls us to receive the Christ at the end of time.

Your King is coming to you now. The one who came at Bethlehem, the one who rode into Jerusalem, the one who will come at the end of time: he comes to you now. He comes to you right now as you read this word about him. He does not come to you today on a donkey; he comes wrapped up in his word of love. He comes in the cleansing water; he comes disguised in the bread and wine. He even comes in the person of a needy neighbour, or in the loving Christian friend whose comforting arm is around you.

Pastor Ian

San Francisco’s Air BnB law ought to be considered by lawmakers here.

In San Francisco, the city passed a new ordinance into law in October to better regulate the renting out of rooms and apartment dwellings to short-term stay travellers and tourists.

It had always been unlawful in many US cities – including San Francisco and New York - for landlords and lessees to let their apartments out for periods of less than 30 days to any one person or group of persons. Under the proposed new ordinance in San Francisco it will still be unlawful for landlords and lessees to let their apartments out for less than 30 days. However, the new ordinance provides the flexibility for people to rent their dwellings out through sites such as Air BnB for three months in any given year.

In addition, the landlords and lessees must register with the city, and sign a declaration under threat of perjury to comply with the limits imposed under the ordinance. Ultimately, the owners must also pay commercial rates or “hotel” rates on the dwellings during the short-term stays.

This is the type of law that should be welcomed to Australian shores and adopted by Australian lawmakers, particularly in Victoria. Planning Minister Matthew Guy promised law reform in this area for Docklands 18 months ago, however no progress has been made with the ministry since then.

Consumer Affairs Victoria has an outstanding opportunity to legislate on the back of this precedent set in San Francisco, a move which has been welcomed by the short-term stay industry itself, Air BnB included.

A 30-day minimum stay rule ought to be imposed on all dwellings in the metropolitan areas, and the local councils would benefit from increased rate revenue from the commercial rates imposed on those who would seek to short-term let their apartments.

The issue of short-term stays currently divides the city, and the issue is crying out to be resolved by clear and unambiguous legislation. The current practice of leaving owners’ corporations to litigate in the courts and tribunals is cumbersome and expensive for all concerned, and it ought to cease.

There exists an opportunity to strike a legislative balance between the rights to enjoy one’s own property in quiet peace and enjoyment versus the right to lease and let one’s own property to others with reasonable flexibility.

San Francisco has got it right. It’s time for Melbourne to follow suit.

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

Join us at St Johns Church Southgate

Sunday 30th November
9am
Bach Cantata Service
Advent Festival Eucharist
O Fugit, Js Carmichael (BWV 20) for 9 soloists, chorus, strings, 3 oboes, trumpet and continuo
The Choir of Newman College and Newman Baroque Orchestra
directed by Gary Ekel

Every Sunday
9am
Traditional worship with communion
6pm
Informal worship with communion
Sunday Night at St Johns
Informal contemporary worship
hosted by Lutheran Students and Friends
11am
Sunday School (during school terms)
The chapel is open daily for private prayer and reflection

20 City Road Southbank Telephone 9682 4995 www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au
A rare victory for Southbank

I am excited to report that it seems we, the residents of Southbank, have had a win.

I have no doubt the Planning Minister, Matthew Guy, has heard the message the residents were sending him and he has thought long and hard about the 300m tall Cbus development on Collins St that was to overshadow the south bank of the Yarra river into the public open space at Queensbridge Square and the Crown forecourt, and as a result has decided to reject the application.

While this is great news, I am cynical that the decision was probably influenced by the looming election and the Albert Park seat being marginal.

In the past, the Minister has approved an application which also overshadowed the Yarra river, so a precedent was already there.

I would formally like to thank the Greens candidate, David Collis, for listening to us and offering his support through his party by way of a disallowance motion in parliament.

Talking about the election, the Meet the Candidates resident question-and-answer forum at Boyd was a great success with a great number of local residents present and armed with the questions that mean the most to them.

The forum was dominated with questions around planning. I feel the candidates left the meeting with a very clear understanding that planning is the number one issue on the minds of residents at present.

I was concerned that should Labor win government and the Cbus developer make an amendment to their application and resubmit for overshadowing exemption under a Labor government, as to where Labor stood on that.

The audience was assured by our local Labor member Martin Foley that under a Labor government overshadowing of the Shrine of Remembrance and the Yarra River will remain off-limits to developers.

Naturally the CFMEU affiliation with Cbus but also the Labor Party could only make one a little concerned, but thank you Martin Foley for putting our minds at ease.

Still on open space, the City of Melbourne has commenced community consultation on what the open space should look like for the final phase of the Boyd site redevelopment.

There is a board in the Boyd community hub where residents are asked to write their ideas. The board is photographed and sent to the council officers daily. This is your (our) space, so make the most of this opportunity and make your ideas known for consideration. Consultation has been extended by a week to coincide with my promotion of this at our AGM.

We have the Southbank Residents Group’s AGM this Tuesday, November 18 at 6pm at Boyd Community Hub, 207 City Rd.

I would like to invite all residents to attend and learn some more about your local community group that is trying its best to lobby council and Government on issues affecting us all. However if you would like to vote during the meeting, then you will need to be a member.

Are you also a passionate resident and would like to assist our committee? Why not consider joining our committee? For further information about Southbank Residents Group, our AGM or to join our committee, send me an email to info@southbankresidents.com.au. Don’t forget to like us on Facebook - Southbank Residents Group.

I hope to see many of you on the 18th at the AGM.

Tony Penna
President

PET’S CORNER

Three-year-old Charlie has well and truly taken to the apartment lifestyle in Southbank.

However, having only been a Southbank resident for three months, owner Keith Brocket said he was still settling into life beyond the apartment.

“We got him about four months ago, he was from a pet rescue shelter in Ballarat,” he said.

“He’s still getting used to the city and the frenetic lifestyle.”

“He’s good. He’s very confident when we’re at home but he’s still getting used to the crowds and traffic. He’s a bit nervous when it comes to strangers and so on.”

While he is still adjusting to his new lifestyle, Keith said he didn’t believe it would be too long before he found his feet in Southbank, with the new resident already proving a handful for his owner.

“We are out for his daily walk and he does this great thing where he always loves to just roll in the grass, which has just happened,”

Charlie receives a $25 voucher from Bayside Mobile Vet

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**TUESDAYS**
**SOUTHBANK ROTARY**
Rotary Club of Southbank Inc meets weekly for dinner on most Tuesday evenings throughout the year at Various locations. Visitors are always welcome. www.southbank.org.au

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 15, 22 & 29**
**BOYD COMMUNITY HUB**
**HOME @ BOYD**
Be part of the Melbourne Arts Centre's exciting public participatory art project Home and join in any one of three free artist facilitated workshops.

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 6**
**FARMERS MARKET**
On the first Saturday of every month, the market will be setting up the stalls at Boyd Community Hub. Buy direct from the farmers, enjoy live music and experience a little bit of country right here in the city.

**MONDAY - FRIDAY**
**KIDS COOKING CLASSES**
Entertaining cooking program the children will love. They will cut, bake, knead and roll. The kids receive a certificate at the end. www.itsybitsycchef.com.au

**WEDNESDAYS**
**BOOT CAMP @ BOYD**
If you’re looking for a great way to start the day, come along to Boot Camp at Boyd. Active Melbourne Instructors will take you through a series of fun and challenging exercises. Starts at 6:45am

**TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS**
**PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP**
This night photography class runs in Melbourne’s city centre and has all the night photography tips you’ll ever need. At 3 Southbank Promenade. www.pennykoukoulas.com

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