Get on board Arbory Afloat for NYE!

In what has become a spectacular local summer sensation and a welcome activation of the Yarra River, the team at Arbory is inviting locals to celebrate this New Year’s Eve at Arbory Afloat.

Find out how you can spend the night on the Yarra dancing under the fireworks on page 29.

Traction gained on hoon cyclists

By Sean Car

Stage one, which is independent from Crown Resort’s and Schiavello’s development plans surrounding Queensbridge Square, would see a 300-metre section between Princess Bridge and Evan Walker Bridge torn up in the second half of 2019.

As well as replacing the pavement, improved growing conditions for trees and installing better lighting, the scope of the works will also include creating a greater division of space between people riding bikes and pedestrians.

With 1.2km of new dedicated bicycle lanes to be completed late next year as part of the current Southbank Boulevard transformation, it’s understood that the temporary closure of the promenade is being timed to force speeding cyclists into the boulevard.

With Southbank Boulevard to provide a safer and faster route to cyclists, a council spokesperson told Southbank Local News that an awareness campaign would be launched prior to promenade construction works to educate cyclists on the changes.

The expectation is that by the time the promenade is re-opened, there will be a high level of awareness that Southbank Boulevard provides a better alternative.

“These investments into protected bicycle lanes in our city will boost cycling participation and are imperative as our city grows,” the council spokesperson said.

“Melbourne is a cycling city and our cycling infrastructure needs to be safe to support those who cycle in the city.”

The news has emerged following renewed talks between council’s engineering services and the Yarra River Business Association (YRBA), which has lobbied council for many years in an effort to prevent what it calls the “lycra brigade” from using the promenade.

Speaking at the YRBA’s business luncheon last month, Lord Mayor Sally Capp said that council had “a plan moving forward” to provide feasible alternatives for cyclists currently using the promenade.

“What does that mean? We’ll be able to take those hard-core cyclists and commuter cyclists off the promenade by giving them a legitimate alternative pathway in and around the city. I think that’s going to be fantastic for everyone,” Cr Capp said.

According to council data from 2017, more
Upgrade for red stairs

Despite plans to demolish them in the future, the City of Melbourne will invest up to $10,000 to refurbish Southbank’s infamous Red Stairs at Queensbridge Square.

The news comes after Crown Resorts all but confirmed in its October annual report that its plans to build Australia’s tallest tower in 2017 as a “state significant” project largely on the basis that it funds the redevelopment of Queensbridge Square, Sandridge Bridge and Southbank Promenade.

The $1 billion development was granted planning exemption in 2017 as a “state significant” project largely on the basis that it funds the redevelopment of Queensbridge Square, Sandridge Bridge and Southbank Promenade.

With Crown’s permit set to expire in March 2019, Southbank Residents’ Association (SRA) president Tony Penna asked Lord Mayor Sally Capp at November’s Yarra River Business Association (YRBA) event whether council had a contingency plan in place.

“We haven’t yet had any formal notification from Crown although we do know that their permit expires in March next year so we are preparing ourselves for some of those discussions at the moment,” Cr Capp said.

“We haven’t worked out the $100 million contingency yet but we’ve certainly made a commitment to do some works ourselves.” Despite future plans to demolish the red stairs as part of the transformation of Southbank Boulevard, the Lord Mayor said that council had committed to refurbishing them while it awaited more news from Crown and project partners Schiavello.

“We’re going to undertake our own program of works to at least refurbish those [the red stairs] in the short term so at least what is looking a bit tired at the moment at least looks a bit smarter while we wait to understand what’s going to happen,” she said.

A spokesperson for the City of Melbourne later told Southbank Local News: “The City of Melbourne will complete minor repairs and painting on the postmodern Red Stair amphitheatre at Queensbridge Square, Southbank.”

“The purpose of the maintenance is to reinvigorate the Red Stair amphitheatre while the area undergoes further changes. The City of Melbourne is investing up to $10,000 in the maintenance of the Red Stair amphitheatre.”

The City of Melbourne had flagged upgrades to the Southbank precinct surrounding Freshwater Place for years prior to Crown’s commitment and the ongoing delays have left both council and local residents frustrated.

Council’s chair of planning Cr Nicholas Reece told Southbank Local News in October that there was only so long the council could tolerate Crown and Schiavello’s delay in upgrading Queensbridge Square.

At its annual general meeting (AGM) on November 1, Crown Resorts executive chairman John Alexander said: “We have active conversations going on, I can’t put a timeframe on how and when that will happen and I’m not going to speculate on the status of the permit.”
Emphatic win for Foley and the Labor Party

Labor’s Martin Foley has been returned to the seat of Albert Park as our local member for a fourth consecutive term following his party’s historic victory at the November State Election.

A crushing 11 per cent swing towards Labor in Albert Park saw Mr Foley defeat Liberal candidate and City of Port Phillip Councillor Andrew Bond with 63 per cent of the two-candidate preferred vote.

Receiving 16,174 primary votes and a total 23,482 votes following preference flows, Mr Foley comprehensively outpolled his opponent at every voting booth in the electorate. In Southbank, Mr Foley recorded 554 more votes than Cr Bond as preferred candidate.

The Greens vote stagnated against its result in the 2014 election, with candidate and City of Port Phillip Councillor Ogy Simic recording 6110 primary votes.

The results in Albert Park were reflective of a state-wide swing against the Liberal Party, with Labor claiming a landslide 56 of 88 seats in the Victorian lower house.

Mr Foley has retained his cabinet folios as the Minister for Equality, Mental Health and the Creative Industries, while two of his folios, Housing and Disability and Ageing, have been taken over by Richard Wynne and Luke Donnellan respectively.

“I want to thank the people of Albert Park for the confidence they have shown in me and the Andrews Labor Government,” Mr Foley said.

“They made it overwhelmingly clear that fear-mongering and scare campaigns have no place in our community. This is a place where values such as inclusivity, fairness and hard work are what matters.”

“Our community voted to have a strong, stable, majority government and we have the positive and progressive plans to build a better Victoria.”

“Here in Albert Park that means upgrades at Port Melbourne and St Kilda Primary Schools, a new secondary school and community hospital for Fishermans Bend, a new community and education performing arts centre at Gasworks Arts Park, redeveloping St Kilda Pier, new separated bike lanes down St Kilda Rd, two new pocket parks and so much more.”

As reported widely in other media, Liberal candidate Cr Andrew Bond made headlines with a scathing post-election review of his party’s campaign whereby he declared that Matthew Guy was “unelectable”.

Mr Bond told Southbank Local News that while he was disappointed by the result, he had enjoyed participating in the democratic process, the many community forums, and meeting so many new residents particularly in Southbank and Docklands.”

Greens candidate Cr Ogy Simic said the outcome in Albert Park and the state generally was a positive one for his party and progressive politics.

“Despite being massively outspent by the major parties, we held our vote from 2014 in the face of huge voter backlash against the Victorian Liberal Party,” he said.

Bold new pool proposal

Yarra Pools has teamed up with WOWOWA Architects to create a stunning new design concept for its Yarra Pool proposal at Northbank.

Incorporating a 50m lap pool, wetlands, café, changing facilities, community facilities, community pavilions, tourism info centre and a kayak launching spot, the design would truly transform part of the Yarra’s underutilised northern river bank at Enterprize Park.

The diversity of uses and array of native vegetation seek to create a true oasis for recreation and a water focused meeting place for the community.

Yarra Pools president Michael O’Neil said that while the concept had the support of business and Melbourne Water, funding and backing of politicians was now required.

“We now need key decision makers to get behind the project,” he said. “The feasibility work is showing us that there is a definite need for a facility like this, which will also tackle the well-known urban design challenges around the north bank.”

Yarrapools.com

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Bureaucrats formalise river governance malaise

By Shane Scanlan

In 2014 hopes were high for the establishment of an independent authority to activate local waterways.

But four years later, those hopes have not only been scuttled, the bureaucratic overlay of intersecting state government organisations and regulations is recommended to be worse.

Southbank Local News has secured via Freedom of Information the state’s latest report in its effort to rationalise waterways governance – Lower Yarra River: Recommendations on Future Funding, Governance and Strategic Considerations for Management of the Lower Yarra River.

The report documents the conclusions of a three-person committee established in 2016 in response to the government’s rejection of a previous committee’s views, which in 2015 unanimously called for establishment of a local port authority for local waterways.

That committee had industry representation and, in hindsight, was the best opportunity for reform in this area in the past 28 years.

The government’s latest effort winds back the clock as it recommends formalisation of a situation where responsibility for local waterways is shared between Parks Victoria and Melbourne Water but had failed to even consult in any way. My only conclusion is that they want to kill the industry. They don’t want us. We’re obviously in the way.

Mr Gordon said: "It looks like PV has secured its grip over the waterways. It is not prepared to give it up." "It is reaching out to the City of Melbourne and Melbourne Water but had failed to even discuss anything with the businesses who use the waterways for their livelihood." "I fail to understand why the charter boat industry of Melbourne has not been consulted in any way. My only conclusion is that they want to kill the industry. They don’t want us. We’re obviously in the way."

Besides governance, the 2016 report made a number of other recommendations which can be summarised as:

- A $2 million floating wharf for Southgate (with the cost to be recouped from the industry itself);
- 20-year leases for boat operators;
- Land and funding set aside for back-of-house facilities;
- PV to complete a dredging study by October 2015 and the government then fund a dredging program for the river; and
- Streamlined approvals process for events. Some targets have been hit:
  - The floating wharf at Southgate has been achieved;
  - 20-year leases have not been achieved. Rather, the government is offering 10-year licences which, as Mr Gordon points out, are not recognised by banks and offer no real security of tenure;
  - Land and funding has “theoretically” been set aside for back-of-house facilities. But Development Victoria is currently assessing five-year tender bids for non-marine recreational use of this government-owned site upstream of the Bolte Bridge;
  - Funding for dredging has been achieved; and
  - Event approval processes remain as cumbersome and inaccessible as ever.

Overall, opportunities for commercial activation of the waterways are further away than ever.

A high-performing commercial operator assessing Melbourne as a place to introduce river-commuter ferries would take one look at the governance structure and run 100 miles.

The winners are the bureaucrats who have secured their short-sighted right to hold Melbourne back and put further pressure on its fleet of third-world vessels.

The loser is Docklands, which needs water-based activity to realise its full potential.

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FESTIVE TRADING HOURS

WED 19 DEC 8AM - 4PM
THU 20 DEC CLOSED
FRI 21 DEC 8AM - 5PM
SAT 22 DEC 8AM - 4PM
SUN 23 DEC 8AM - 4PM

MON 24 DEC 6AM - 4PM
TUE 25 DEC CLOSED
WED 26 DEC CLOSED
THU 27 DEC CLOSED
FRI 28 DEC 8AM - 5PM

SAT 29 DEC 8AM - 4PM
SUN 30 DEC 8AM - 4PM
MON 31 DEC 6AM - 4PM
TUE 1 JAN CLOSED
WED 2 JAN 8AM - 4PM

*4AM FRESH PRODUCE OPENS, 8AM GENERAL MERCHANDISE OPENS.
+WED 2 JAN - REGULAR TRADING RETURNS.

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The City of Melbourne’s planning scheme amendment C308, which outlines rules for better urban design for new developments in the CBD and Southbank, has moved a step closer towards legislation.

Following a presentation of council’s recent public exhibition of C308 to the Future Melbourne Committee on November 20, councillors requested the Minister for Planning to appoint an independent panel to consider the 41 submissions received.

The amendment proposes to introduce new urban design provisions into the Melbourne Planning Scheme along with a guide to improve urban design quality.

“We want to encourage development that gives back to the public, not featureless glass towers,” council’s planning chair Cr Nicholas Reece said. “This means the highest standards of architecture and design, more fine-grain detail and using higher quality materials especially at the street level.”

“Melbourne is famous for its quality streets so we don’t want to see poor-quality design reducing public amenity. The next stage of the amendment is a step towards creating better design outcomes on private land, especially at the interface between buildings and streetscapes.”

Held between June 28 and August 10 this year, the public exhibition period of C308 included workshops with industry leaders across the planning and design industry, as well as government. While half the submissions expressed full support of the amendment, others raised issues including car parking, mandatory building service requirements and impact on small sites, as well as conflicts between urban design and heritage.

Cr Reece said the amendment sought to “raise the bar on urban design outcomes,” and generate meaningful discussions around design culture in order to achieve a greater contribution to the public realm from private developers.

“The engagement we received throughout the exhibition stage has been incredibly valuable and we hope these submissions can support the continued development of high-quality design policy,” Cr Reece said.

While the amendment comes as positive news to the ongoing development of the CBD’s already vibrant street and laneway culture, there is a large school of thought that it has come too late for much of Southbank.

If supported by the state government, C308 would create new rules for developers to ensure greater liveability at a street level. These would include setbacks between buildings and “sleeved” podium parking to encourage active uses.

Given planning rules are not retrospective, these new rules would only apply to new developments. With a majority of Southbank already developed, there are very few opportunities left to create the sort of liveability C308 desires.

The amendment also represents the first comprehensive rewrite of the city’s urban design principles, which were established in council’s 1983 strategy plan with minor adjustments in 1999.

Recognised by the Planning Institute of Australia’s 2018 Australian Urban Design Awards last month, Cr Reece said the Central Melbourne Design Guide aimed to provide a design standard for all Australian cities.

“The design guide includes illustrations and photographs to break down complex urban design ideas into simple principles,” he said.


Christmas cheer and fun at Boyd!

Local families gathered at the Boyd Community Hub for a Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 5.

The fully-packed two-hour event saw families come together for an evening of children’s activities including a kid’s version of laughter yoga and Christmas arts and crafts.

Local families can enjoy a range of activities throughout the festive season and more information can be found at the City of Melbourne’s website.

Southbank Local News wishes all readers a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

Milestone for better urban living

By Sean Car

The only number to remember

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A mastermind behind Southbank

By Sean Car

One of the three founders of prominent local development group Central Equity, chairman Eddie Kutner, this month sat down with Southbank Local News to provide an insight into his shared vision for Southbank.

It’s pretty much impossible to go anywhere in Southbank without encountering one of Central Equity’s developments. From Southbank Village to the river and back, many Southbankers call one of its developments home.

Along with co-founders Dennis Wilson and John Bourke, Eddie has been delivering residential apartment projects in Melbourne for more than 30 years – a time well before the city’s love affair with high-rise started.

While they originally began their foray into property development in Carlton in the 1980s, Eddie said the prospect of being at the forefront of Southbank’s transformation had been enticing to the company from the outset.

“Southbank was less than a blank canvas,” he said. “While its industrial past represented significant challenges to creating a new mixed-use precinct, its location by the river and the CBD made it the ideal location.”

“Dennis, John and I already knew that Melbourne was an amazingly livable city but I think we each saw Southbank’s potential in helping shape it into the world’s most livable city during a time when few others could.”

The vision to rezone the south bank of the Yarra River was largely that of former Victorian planning minister Evan Walker, who served under John Cain’s Labor government in the 1980s. The footbridge between Southgate and Flinders Street Station, is named in his honour and marks his legacy.

While this period marked the start of a drastic shift in Melbourne’s view of the river precinct, Eddie said it wasn’t until the election of the Kennett government in 1992 that development started accelerating in Southbank more broadly.

The transformation of the former Exxon Mobil building from office tower to apartment complex at 28 Southgate Ave marked the completion of Central Equity’s first Southbank project in 1995.

Since then it has delivered a whopping 28 residential projects in Southbank. Its latest project, Southbank Central at the corner of City Rd and Balston St, recently won the Housing Industry Association (HIA) Victorian Apartment Complex 2018 Award and marked its 80th project in Melbourne.

Having had the foresight to enter the Southbank market before land values skyrocketed in the area, Central Equity has been able to develop more residential properties than any other developer in Southbank.

From 100 residents to more than 20,000 today, said Southbank had come a long way during his time.

“The Federal Government’s National Housing Strategy in the early 90s set out some ambitious targets to address population growth and changing demographics in Melbourne. We recognised these opportunities early on in Southbank,” he said.

“I can still remember standing on the old Commonwealth Clothing Factory site on Miles St in the early 90s with Dennis and John and saying to them we had to buy this, but of course people would say you’re crazy there’s nothing there!”

“In the early days, one of the things we did to cater for the first residents was to set up the first two convenience stores despite the fact we had no experience in this area. In the absence of any services, it was enough to get things moving.”

It’s that “holistic approach” to real estate that has seen the company continue to deliver projects and record strong financial results during what has been a challenging few years for the property market in Melbourne.

While changes to stamp duty, new rules surrounding foreign investment and the introduction of planning scheme amendment C270 have seen the market slow in recent years, Central Equity has taken a different approach to managing risk.

By providing a “one-stop shop” of real estate services through its wholly-owned Melbourne Inner City Management (MICM) business, Eddie said the company was able to manage all of its projects more effectively.

“The property market is a risky business,” he said. “From buying off the plan and the three or four years between moving in, a lot can change in one’s life so we’re able to assist our clients through that period by managing our own real estate and mitigating a lot of the risk.”

Having arrived in Australia with his parents in the 1950s from post-war Germany, Eddie’s success story as a migrant is something to celebrate.

A successful career as a chartered accountant would pave the way for his transition into co-founding what is now one of Australia’s largest private companies.

His success has also laid a strong foundation for him to give back to the city he loves. With a life-long passion for art and science, Eddie founded not-for-profit organisation Wondersment Walk five years ago.

The initiative, which aims to create accessible open-air galleries of sculptures and installations that combine science, mathematics and art, has already seen projects commissioned throughout Melbourne.

Its next project, Waterline by artist Ian Strange, has been donated to the City of Port Phillip. It will be placed at the forecourt of the new South Melbourne Primary School in Southbank and represents the area’s association with water and flooding.

As reported in the October edition of Southbank Local News, Eddie also played a key role in helping keep the popular Shearwater sculpture at Riverside Quay in Southbank.

Central Equity has also provided free space to popular local initiative One Roof, which has become Australia’s leading co-working space dedicated to women-led businesses since moving to City Rd, Southbank in 2016.

While his roots may stem from overseas it’s fair to say he has well and truly found his home in Australia. With four “kangaroo children” and nine grandchildren of his own, he said Melbourne had been very good to himself and his family.

Moreover, he remains a staunch advocate of Southbank and said that, with the likes of Southbank Boulevard and Boyd Park soon coming on the grid, the suburb was only going to get better.

“I don’t know another area in the world that has the likes of the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne Recital Centre, Royal Botanic Gardens, the city and the Sports Precinct within walking distance,” he said.

“We’re now seeing more and more services such as medical centres and supermarkets come into the area and that will continue as the suburb grows and I believe we’ve provided a good foundation for that growth.”

“We don’t really sit back and dwell our contribution to Southbank. We’re always focused on getting on with the job but I suppose there is a sense of satisfaction in what we’ve been able to achieve.”

More information: centralequity.com.au and wondersmentwalk.org.au
Sally Capp-tivates the YRBA

Field at the Cargo Hall at South Wharf Promenade, Ct Capp left a lasting impression on all members during her 20 minute presentation through which she expressed her desire for “big, bold and ambitious” ideas to further enliven the precinct.

Speaking in front of 78 precinct stakeholders ranging from Federation Square and Southgate to the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) and South Wharf, Ct Capp was complimentary of the YRBA's longstanding role and service.

“We know at Town Hall that the voice of the Yarra River through the businesses along Southbank is very loud, which is always good,” she said. “But much more than that there are always quality conversations that are always focused on a better future for everyone.”

To have consistency of leadership, of effort, motivation, determination and hard work over that time really speaks volumes in terms of what you’ve been able to achieve. It’s absolutely fantastic.”

Over the course of her presentation, the Lord Mayor outlined key capital works projects currently being rolled out and planned by council including the new park at Southbank Boulevard and associated upgrades to Southbank Promenade.

She revealed to members that the YRBA had played a key role in helping inform a new cycling plan to reduce conflicts between riders and pedestrians (read full story page X) as well as structural and safety upgrades.

“At Southbank Promenade we are in the early design stages for a number of measures to replace damaged pavements, improve tree growing conditions, reduce pedestrian and cyclist conflict, integrate key artworks, and improve amenity and illumination more generally,” she said.

As part of her 2017 election campaign, Ct Capp caught the attention of all Melburnians when she flagged her vision for a New York-style high-line park along the top of the elevated train platform between Flinders and Balston streets to connect up with Fliinders Street and Southern Cross Stations.

While acknowledging the engineering challenges of her intended vision of scale might be too great, she said the desire for enlivening the Northbank of the river remained a key focus of both herself and for the entire council.

Council has set aside $200,000 to explore options for the project in consultation with the likes of Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria and Development Victoria and Ct Capp said she was looking forward to seeing what was possible.

“I am accepting that there is a level of complexity and difficulty involved in that [constructing a high-line park]. But the intent is still the same,” she said. “How can we enliven that Northbank of the river and really embrace it into our activation of the area to create vibrancy and add to what is already a fantastic precinct?”

“It incorporates a lot of imagination. We want it to have direct high-quality walking paths and bike lanes on that side of the river to alleviate some of the pressure on the south side.”

With summer approaching, council is reportedly working through a number of proposals for new precinct activations including a film projection onto the river and an international rowing regatta under lights.

Ct Capp said she was keen to continue working with the YRBA to drive the positive momentum currently being felt by businesses along the Yarra.

Yarrariver.melbourne

Traction on hoon cyclists

From page 1

than 2000 cyclists travel in and out of the city using either side of the Yarra River trail or St Kilda Rd during peak hours every day, making Southbank the most densely populated for cyclists in the municipality.

As one of the most pedestrianised parts of the City of Melbourne, Southbank Promenade has been notorious for near misses and collisions over the years. Efforts to curb speeding cyclists by installing rumble strips, enforcing 10km/h speed limits and conducting awareness campaigns have had little to no effect.

YRBA executive officer Tim Bracher said he was pleased that council had finally recognised the "major amenity issue" on the promenade, after what he described as years of largely failed talks with previous council officers.

"Productive meetings with the City of Melbourne’s head of engineering services has seen a refreshing re-set of council’s attitude regarding the impact of the lycra-brigade on our precinct," he said.

"Previous discussions had hit a brick wall. I.e. no recognition that there is even an issue."

"The latest talks have elicited a council admission that there is a major amenity issue on the promenade, even though the official stats don’t rate it as a priority safety problem."

"It seems that the many near-misses do not count. You need reports of collisions, injuries, hospitalisations and even deaths before it can be addressed as a safety issue."

While council said it had no plans to implement permanent bans for people riding bikes along the promenade, it said it would consider temporary restrictions requiring people to dismount bikes for short distances during construction.

The new bike lanes along Southbank Boulevard will take cyclists off the promenade from Lindleygow Ave and up Southbank Boulevard. The City Road Master Plan will also see upgraded cycling routes installed along Kavanagh and Balston streets to connect up with City Rd West.

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Lord Mayor Sally Capp and Melbourne city councillors have announced that the new City of Melbourne CEO is Justin Hanney.

Mr Hanney has extensive professional experience in the public and private sectors, most recently as the lead deputy secretary of the Employment, Investment and Trade Group at the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources.

He has been responsible for overseeing key entities including Regional Development Victoria, Creative Victoria, Visit Victoria, Development Victoria, Agriculture Victoria, Trade and Investment Victoria and Small Business Victoria as well delivering Victorian Government-nominated major projects.

Mr Hanney has worked to attract and facilitate international and domestic investment, grow employment and expand Victoria’s offshore trade.

He has previously worked as the chief executive officer of Regional Development Victoria and was the chief executive officer of the City of Yarra and other councils.

He started his career as a youth worker in Collingwood and has also worked with some of the largest firms in the state.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said Mr Hanney would start in mid-January.

“Our CEO recruitment process was very robust and thorough, Justin was chosen from an extremely strong field of more than 140 candidates,” the Lord Mayor said.

“We are delighted he will be leading our organisation at a critical point in our 168-year history.”

Mr Hanney said he would like to thank Cr Capp and councillors for their confidence in appointing him as CEO.

“As a long-term resident of the city, I know and respect the City of Melbourne for its complexity, richness, diversity and inclusiveness. I believe there is no better city in the world to lead,” Mr Hanney said.

“I am eager to begin working with the councillors, executive and officers to continue delivering the tremendous work for which the City of Melbourne is renowned.”

“In endorsing and appointing me as the CEO of the City of Melbourne, the councillors have entrusted in me the leadership and responsibility of the organisation. The importance and prominence of this leadership role is one that I will not take for granted.”

Students from the Southbank-based campus took the opportunity to engage with and participate in a range of industry-leading events.

A highlight of the calendar - Melbourne Fashion Week - saw five final year Bachelor of Fashion Design students (pictured) premiere their latest collections at a runway held at Melbourne Town Hall.

“The teachers allowed us the space to explore our own potential,” student Joan Rose said.

The event concluded Holmesglen’s involvement, which also included a standing fashion exhibition at Docklands.

Creativity was also a national spark during the year. Student Ella Strong represented the Melbourne East region at the WorldSkills National Championships held in Sydney. The three-day competition is a chance for students to showcase their talents and compete against their peers.

A strong community focus featured at the Southbank campus. Holmesglen’s Culture through Craft program invited the public to attend a workshop, which included renowned Melbourne identities from SisterWorks, The Handmaker’s Factory, Angela Clark Boutique Beads and artist Sohail Yamin.

Holmesglen’s Chadstone campus also hosted a special underground runway - attended by industry and the wider community.

“This is a team that’s open to new ideas and a ‘give it a go’ ethos,” Holmesglen fashion co-ordinator Julie Wright said. “A team for whom nothing is too much trouble; if it will help our students be the best they can be.”

Holmesglen.edu.au
A progressive push in Macnamara

By Sean Car

With the advantage of having previously contested the seat at the 2016 Federal Election, Greens candidate Steph Hodgins-May is well placed to see inner-Melbourne’s progressive wave hit Macnamara in 2019.

After the Victorian Liberal Party contested last month’s State Election without candidates in the seats of Melbourne, Northcote, Richmond and Brunswick, it’s clear our city’s political spectrum has now well and truly shifted left.

While such evidence may not be enough to suggest a victory for the Greens in Macnamara, with the change of electorate name (formerly Melbourne Ports) has also come a change of boundary that could see Labor’s majority wiped out.

5000 new voters in Windsor, a postcode dominated by the Greens in recent times, will now vote within Macnamara. With retiring Labor MP Michael Danby having only outpolled Steph by 953 on preferences in 2016, Greens preferences saw Labor eventually overtake the Liberal candidate Owen Guest to win by 2337 votes.

Combined with going up against two brand new candidates in Josh Burns (Labor) and Kate Ashmor (Liberal), Steph said she had real hopes of joining Greens MP for Melbourne Adam Bandt in the House of Representatives.

Should she emerge victorious, she would become the first woman to represent the Greens in the lower house and end a 110-year Labor stronghold in the seat.

“It would be great to provide Adam [Bandt] with some company” she said. “I think the Greens are really important for bringing a balance into all levels of politics and all levels of government and we’ve seen what Adam as one Federal MP can do.”

“If we doubled that representation we’re going to see a really strong voice for the environment, people seeking our protection and those really progressive issues that I think Melburnians are crying out for.”

Born in Ballarat to a fifth-generation farming family from Blampied near Daylesford in Western Victoria, Steph’s “green” values for issues such as climate change and conservation stem from a young age. Her passion for politics and people is in her blood. The inspirations of both her father, a former Hepburn Shire mayor, and mother, a public-school teacher, led her to study and practice law and international relations before pursuing a career in politics.

Now a small business owner and St Kilda local, she and partner Ogy Simic, a City of Port Phillip councillor and recent Greens candidate for Albert Park, are also new parents having given birth to son Otis this year.

Having come incredibly close to election in 2016, she said the experience had only reinforced the power of grassroots politics, which her party was notorious for.

“It’s talking to people on their doorstep and listening to them,” she said. “You’ve got to do the outreach, the consultation and have the discussions to really make sure that you’re really reflecting what they want out of their politicians.”

Macnamara recorded the third highest vote in Australia during last year’s same-sex marriage plebiscite and will also become home to the country’s first pride centre in St Kilda in 2020.

It’s such progressive issues as this and addressing climate change, refugees, affordable housing and energy that Steph said the electorate was becoming increasingly concerned about. Issues she said she would continue to champion.

And for the nearly 8000 registered voters in Southbank, she said she was keen to ensure better amenity for the whole community by getting tougher on planning, combustible cladding and short-stay accommodation.

“We want to make sure that we’ve got a liveable local community into the future and we’ve got a growing population so it’s just about managing those population pressures with adequate infrastructure, services and amenity to support our community,” she said.

“I think that’s one of the things you will get with a Greens member of parliament is that they will work with whichever government it is of the day to get good outcomes for the community.”

“We’re not working to election cycles as much. We’ve got a long-term vision for the state and for the country and I think we reduce the amount of politicking because for us it’s about good policy, good decisions, regardless of which party it is.”

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Dick is Mayor again

14 years since last serving as Mayor, City of Port Phillip councillor Dick Gross is back in the position following a special council meeting on November 29.

Fellow Canal Ward councillor Louise Crawford was named Deputy Mayor, which was most recently held by Cr Gross under outgoing Mayor of three years Cr Bernadene Voss.

Both Cr Gross and Cr Crawford were elected unopposed for the 12-month positions.

Elected to the current council in 2016, Cr Gross was a former Port Phillip councillor, including three terms as Mayor, from 1996 to 2008. He is also a former president of the Municipal Association of Victoria.

Cr Gross praised outgoing mayor Bernadene Voss for the skill and energy she brought to the role, noting council had succeeded in gaining 10 of its 11 advocacy priorities at the recent Victorian State Election.

In a heartfelt Facebook tribute to his council colleague, he said Cr Voss had given so much of herself to the job and three years of her life full time to the City of Port Phillip.

“Her family may miss her, and welcome her back, but her fellow council colleagues are eternally indebted to the strength of her leadership and to her innate ability to bring our tribes together and find the middle ground,” he wrote.

“Being Mayor is not easy. Thanks are far fewer than critiques and yet we have managed to deliver a set of council policies and strategies that will lead this council into the next decade.”

“So, to you Bernadene, on behalf of council, residents and businesses of Port Phillip, I say thank you.”

Gateway Ward Cr Voss thanked her family for their support during her three consecutive stints as Mayor over two council terms.

“This is a brave council and I look forward to continuing to serve our community as we keep delivering on our commitments,” she said.

Cr Louise Crawford said she felt privileged to have the opportunity to learn and serve as Deputy Mayor in her first term as a councillor.

“I am looking forward to supporting the Mayor and my fellow councillors and encouraging as many members of our diverse community as possible to participate and get involved as we implement our council plan priorities,” she said.

Carols at Southbank

The spirit of Christmas will officially grace Southbank with a vibrant, family-friendly festive Christmas Carols spectacular at Queensbridge Square on Friday, December 21.

As the city prepares for the season of giving, residents and visitors to the precinct are invited to join in the festivities with world-class Christmas entertainment that is sure to spread some joy.

The Christmas Carols will take place on Southbank’s renowned Red Stair Amphitheatre from 7.30pm until 10pm.

Get on board for New Years

Spend the night on the Yarra dancing under the fireworks with free flowing champagne & Grey Goose cocktails.

Tickets available at arboryafloat.com.au
We are thrilled to bring you a night of Carols, underneath Melbourne’s largest and brightest star. Best owl pals Hoot & Hootabelle and Banans in Pyjamas bring their Christmas shows so you can sing and dance along.

Enjoy performances by Maya & Kate Carols, Holy House of Horns, Red Roses DJ Band, the Melbourne Saint Valentine Choir, plus meet Santa Claus.

The show will conclude with a spectacular fireworks display at 9.30pm.

See the full event program on our website thedistrictdocklands.com.au

Friday 21 December
7pm for a 7.30pm start

– Supporting Kids Under Cover –

Carols at The District
Art to stop tagging
By Tas Mavridis

*The City of Port Phillip has turned to commissioned street art in an attempt to reduce illegal tagging in the Montague precinct.*

Unveiled on November 16 as part of a street party event on George St, the *Burgerlove Lane* artwork painted by local artist Liam Vear is part of the council’s Graffiti Mitigation Street Art Program.

The street art, located on the side of local business Burger Love, features burger lovers Elvis Presley and supermodel Gigi Hadid, as well as recent royal visitors to South Melbourne beach the Duke and Duchess of Sussex.

In an attempt to prevent illegal tagging City of Port Phillip Mayor Bernadene Voss said the $2000 mural investment was an economically viable way of reducing illegal tagging.

“Graffiti removal has cost council more than $330,000 over the past 12 months- and the problem is getting worse,” Cr Voss said.

“We know that taggers avoid defacing street art so we hope this quirky art work will act as a deterrent.”

The council also hopes that by providing a unique and visually appealing attraction it would draw people to Montague.

The mural can be found at 2 George St, South Melbourne.

No more straws
By Tas Mavridis

*The South Melbourne Market has expanded its plastic waste reduction program to include plastic straws.*

After banning single use plastic bags in April, South Melbourne Market manager Ian Sumpter said the straw ban, effective from December 1, was important in reinforcing the market’s commitment to reducing waste.

“The market is dedicated to being as sustainable as possible, reducing its environmental footprint and reducing plastic waste,” he said.

“As a result, we have implemented a program to systematically review problem areas and work with traders and the community to make some changes.”

“Plastic straws cause enormous damage to our environment, particularly along the foreshore, and in our waterways and parklands.”

“That’s a real concern, not just for us, but for our traders, shoppers and our local residents.”

The straw ban is part of the City of Port Phillip’s Love Our Bay campaign, which was something Cr Bernadene Voss said the market was heavily committed to.

“Council sees first-hand the damage plastic waste is making to our environment, particularly the waterways and beaches,” Cr Voss said.

“It is (the ban) a further reflection of the Market’s commitment to reducing waste and keeping plastics away from our bay and vulnerable marine life.”

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This is your allotted space for the trip. You can’t lie down because you’re side by side with thousands of others. If you fall on this rolling ship, you die. Temperatures on board climb to well over 50 degrees. And it’s all OK-ed by Australian Standards for Live Export.

This is how Australia has been shipping our livestock overseas.

Not acceptable? Then why do Scott Morrison’s Libs think it is?
Arts tourists on the rise

By David Schout

In the last five years, the percentage of “arts tourists” (those who took part in at least one cultural activity) that visited Melbourne rose 73 per cent according to a new report from the Australia Council for the Arts. The figure is higher than the overall tourist rise of 64 per cent. Given that Southbank is home to Melbourne’s Art Precinct, it’s great news for the thriving area.

Visitors from China (22 per cent) were the best-represented art tourists in the state, followed by the UK (10 per cent), US (8 per cent) and New Zealand (8 per cent). Nation-wide, arts activities proved more popular with tourists than wildlife activities, theme parks, wineries and sporting events.

International tourists who engaged with the arts also tended to stay in Australia longer than those who didn’t.

Mark Lambert, a UK tourist who visited several theatres and galleries while visiting Melbourne in November, said he had been aware of the city’s cultural offerings. “I’d heard that Melbourne had a thriving arts scene before I arrived, so it was good to explore this in person and see what the city has to offer,” he said.

The 25-year-old said a particular highlight was the National Gallery of Victoria. “There was a huge variety of pieces on offer there, from contemporary art pieces and displays to indigenous art. I really enjoyed seeing pieces of indigenous art, as I studied this while living in the Netherlands so it was nice to put this in context,” he said.

Mr Lambert travelled with a friend also from the UK, and admitted that while they fit as many cultural outings as possible during their stay, they would love to return.

“We only scratched the surface so would love to come back and see everything else the city has to offer!”

Australia Council executive director for strategic development and advocacy Dr Wendy Were said the research underlined the importance of the arts in enhancing the tourist experience.

“The arts provide an important point of connection,” Dr Were said.

“(They are) a highly influential and powerful tool for building national identity and for sharing Australian culture, stories and perspectives with the world. The research highlights the growing potential for the arts to drive and support tourism activity, and for our artists to increase their engagement with the international tourist market.”
The National Gallery of Victoria’s (NGV) latest major exhibition is the first of its kind in the world to feature the extraordinary work of Dutch graphic artist M.C. Escher in dialogue with the work of acclaimed Japanese design studio nendo, led by designer Oki Sato.

“Escher’s artistic practice, due to its complex play with space, logic and mathematics, has had an indelible impact on architecture and design for many generations,” NGV director Tony Elwood AM said.

“This rich legacy was the catalyst for the NGV to conceptualise the idea of pairing Escher with nendo. It’s a unique opportunity to explore how art can be perceived and experienced differently through the lens of design.”

Seamlessly presenting the worlds of one of the 20th century’s most recognisable artists and one of the 21st century’s most innovative designers, the exhibition features more than 150 of Escher’s most renowned prints and drawings from the collection of Gemeentemuseum in The Hague, presented in an immersive exhibition space designed by nendo, alongside never-before-seen work from the design studio.

Acknowledged as a master of optical illusion, Escher created some of the most iconic images of the 20th century, which intrigue viewers with their visual puzzles and challenge established notions around space, time and the everyday world.

Escher’s work depicts impossible architectural structures, endless staircases and seamless transformations of form and pattern. His fantastical constructions and repetitive infinity patterns reveal a technical and inventive genius that in recent years has become increasingly revered and celebrated.

Escher X Nendo | Between Two Worlds explores Escher’s unique artistic vision covering the full span of his career, from 1916 through to his final work produced in 1969. Highlights include some of Escher’s best-known works including Day and night, 1938, a woodcut representing light breaking over a Dutch landscape of exactly mirrored towns, fields and waterways, through to the masterpiece that was his final work, Snakes, 1969, created three years before his death in 1972 at age 73.


Building on Escher’s optical illusions to create an otherworldly spatial installation, nendo has taken cues from Escher’s manipulation of space and his use of shifting perspectives and playful visual devices. These have inspired the creation of an exhibition experience that transcends traditional gallery displays and manifests Escher’s world in a three-dimensional reality.

nendo has devised a signature motif for the exhibition design – the minimalist form of a house – universally understood as an icon and symbol of space. The house appears throughout the exhibition in varied forms that reference Escher’s skillful manipulation of patterns as well as creating innovative displays for Escher’s work. The results are truly extraordinary and at times, breathtaking.

Speaking at the media launch on November 30, Minister for Creative Industries Martin Foley said: “Only the NGV would think to bring together the work of M.C. Escher, one of the 20th century’s most intriguing artists, with the 21st century innovation of Japanese design studio nendo.”

“This extraordinary exhibition is the kind of innovative approach we’ve come to expect from Australia’s most popular gallery.”

Escher X nendo | Between Two Worlds will be on display until April 7, 2019 at NGV International at 180 St Kilda Rd, Southbank.
Family fun Music Play

The Melbourne Recital Centre's (MRC) annual family festival Music Play returns to Southbank with a series of big and mini concerts, workshops and free foyer fun from January 16 and 19.

The “big little” festival designed to encourage kids and families to discover music and play an instrument returns with a fun-filled line up of events that are sure to get everyone making noise!

With tickets starting from $20, Music Play also offers a range of free foyer activities including Open Stage, Song Play and face painting hosted by the multitalented artist Madame Lark.

Supported by the Betty Amsden Kids and Families program, Music Play highlights will include:

**The Nutcracker & I by Alexandra Dariescu**

Enter the magical story land of Tchaikowsky’s Nutcracker in a gorgeous retelling brought to life with exquisite digital animations. Thursday, January 17, 10am and 1pm.

**James Morrison Kids Show**

James Morrison and his band introduce kids and families to wonderful jazz music and learn to play the ukulele with expert ukuleleist Woody Clark and his cheeky friend Hercules the Cat. Wednesday, January 16, 9am, 10.45am and 12.15pm.

**The Lullaby Project**

Sit back and relax to beautiful lullabies by jazz pianist and composer Nat Bartsch supported by kids and parents. Thursday, January 17, 9am, 11am and 1pm.

**The Kiddyrock Band**

The five-piece indie-rock band play a fun set of bubblegum classics covering many well-loved and familiar pop songs to dance to. Friday, January 18, 9am, 11am and 1pm.

**The Ukulele Kids Show**

Unlock your creativity through music and learn to play the ukulele with expert ukuleleist Woody Clark and his cheeky friend Hercules the Cat. Wednesday, January 16, 9am, 10.45am and 12.15pm.

**Peter & The Wolf**

Follow young Peter, his grandfather and their friends the bird, duck and cat on their exciting adventures in the forest! Saturday, January 19, 9am, 11am and 1pm. melbournerecital.com.au/musicplay

Both theatre and non-theatre goers are welcomed to immerse themselves in the colourful Latin American culture.

The installation is now serving local brewed beers, including an exclusive Argentinean-inspired lager and wine to pair off with foods from both sweet and savoury flours.

Look forward to a menu with Argentinean classics beef or cheese empanadas to street food choripan – chorizo roll with chimichurri, lomito – a grass-fed steak sandwich, ensalada – coal roasted vegetable salad with ancient grains and chickpeas and Argo style fries with chipotle called papas.

Polish off your meal with dulce de leche served as soft serve ice cream, sandwiched between two shortbread cookies – also known as alfajores or indulge in both, just because.

Visitors could enjoy occasional Argentinean inspired performances or participate in tango lessons.

When visualising the pop-up with Melbourne illustrator and muralist Justine McAllister, co-founder of Stomping Ground Brewing Co Steve Jeffares wanted to infuse the colourful and vibrant streetscapes of La Boca to Melbourne’s arts centre.

“Given the inspiration behind La Boca for us was the town of La Boca in Argentina which is famous of its brightly coloured buildings, we felt that that would suit Justine’s style very well so we decided to ask her to get involved with creating something special with us at La Boca,” Steve explained.

“She will be hand painting shipping containers that we’re converting into bars and she will be painting further elements to the exhibition.”

The two shipping containers will be stacked on top of each other featuring Justine’s well-known bright and vibrant colour palette.

“I researched the La Boca area and we’re playing on the really bright colours on all the buildings and the blocky geometric shapes,” Justine said. “I had a bit of a look into the Italian culture that has settled in the La Boca area so we sort of took those elements and apply it to the shipping container but still got that very modern twist, so I guess it’s a new digital spin on the traditional La Boca aesthetic.”

The eye-catching beer garden will be open until February 24 2019 at Arts Centre Melbourne’s forecourt. artscentre melbourne.com.au
"12 years in one place is a long time for me," says Fabrizio Evans.

He’s referring to his old job, as co-owner of a graphic design company, but he means it literally as well. Fabrizio has travelled a lot, which suits the switch to photography. In fact, when he first moved to Australia 15 years ago he lived in Sydney. He came to Melbourne for a couple of days, and spent six hours walking from St Kilda to the city. After that walk he’d decided he wanted to move to Melbourne.


After moving to Australia, he met the man who would be his future business partner. “12 years later we had an office in Southbank and 15 staff, behind the Casino off City Road, and I’d just had enough. I’m a creative and it was all too business, too corporate.”

He sold his shares to his business partner and travelled a bit again, while renewing his old hobby of photography gear.

He went back and forth over the decision of doing a photography degree. Although he knew photography made him happy, he wasn’t sure if he needed a new qualification or if he should just experiment and learn on the job.

But he ended up at PSC: “It was the best decision because it forces you to do work you wouldn’t otherwise do.”

“I recently presented a print at town hall to Councillor [Susan] Riley. It was for an exhibition Faces of Osaka, Faces of Melbourne run by the City of Melbourne to celebrate the relationship of sister cities.”

“She said she liked it. But that’s not the kind of work I would have done had I not come to PSC.”

The print is almost photojournalism, and incorporates architecture in an innovative way. Fabrizio had previously been most comfortable in portraits and fashion shots.

“The brief was basically what do you think the face of the city is? I thought well, you’ve got faces, but architecture is the face of the city as well,” he says.

“I spent the first day in Federation Square taking photographs of people. Then I realised I was supposed to be focusing on architecture.

“The second day I took photos of the architecture, but then I realised I still had to incorporate people into it somehow.”

“So, I went back and sat down on Flinders St and took photos of people walking past different faces of the architecture for about two hours, and then I superimposed them with other parts of the architecture.”

Fabrizio has a year left of his degree, and has an ongoing project to finish.

“I started shooting cans of Spam as a project which is really interesting because it took something mundane, a can of Spam, but then I did all this research,” he says.

“I found it is over 80 years old, came out in 1937 and was massively important to the war effort. Over a hundred million cans of Spam were sent to the fronts in World War Two.”

“Then, as part of my research, I started looking at lab grown meats. You can grow a piece of meat in a lab, but where do the ethics lay?”

“Will they only make the meat we eat now or, because you don’t endanger the animal, can we potentially eat anything we want?”

Fabrizio wants to capture this novel, but somewhat uncomfortable, dilemma in product photography like it’s a real business.

“Lah grown canned meat, but it could be like iguana flavour.”
Humans are out and funny creatures are in

Often artists working outside the system in peculiar places produce the best work. The French are good at theorising the overlooked. Funny little creatures might need a bit of understanding. They cry out for some attention in a busy world.

On a shelf in one of the gallery spaces was an abandoned bio-cup and two small stones. Were they left there by someone on purpose as a clue? There’s no denying that the still life has been overlooked in this year’s graduate exhibition at the Victorian College of the Arts.

This is significant for art watchers who regularly visit the graduate show to see what the latest crop of students value. What is on trend and what has been relegated to being an artifact of a dying civilization? Students learn how to deal with limits and there were some nice little moments on display in the exhibition, figurative renderings of small corners near drains and footpaths, for example.

These settings drift into your memory but they were painted from photographs so there was too much detail for the images to really stick. A drawing records just the main facts. The rest is invention. The artist enhances the image so it passes across to the viewer’s mind. Freshness soon fades but a concept helps plug the image in. What do you remember the next day or the one after that? Is novelty more important than content?

A robotic hand that crept across the floor when activated by a foot was pretty mind-boggling as were the vibrant paintings of someone called Michael who wrote his name across all of them.

More modest was a work called Dear Young Poet that was so beautifully rendered that it clawed its way into your mind. The work depicted a scranny hand reaching across an empty space while a few linear strands of face seemed to ignore its gesture. Dear Young Poet was particularly seductive because it was in the Photography Department and there was not a trace of the digital about it. Good art is subversive. Many have tried to create a formula but failed. It works in the moment, showing up the zeitgeist for all of its pretensions. The dear young poet was having a moment of doubt. Aren’t we all?

Painting was certainly the dominant force with this year’s crop of artists and that will annoy the 3D people who were more subdued this year. Painting has been so deconstructed in the past two decades that it was a pleasure to see it whole again.

Most of the painting genres were present including neo-Gothic, landscape, gestural, geometric, illustrative, tonal and graphic. There was no abstract expressionism, popular in recent years with its heavy impasto applications, nor still life. In fact, narrative work appeared to have made a strong comeback after being the poor cousin of materiality for a decade or two.

Paintings and even video installations came with blurbs and quotes this year. “Life is a beautiful sport” was a quote from Lacoste used by Bronte Stolz in her study of the consumer, a generic creature defined by the products on display and swiftly dismissed as a lightweight in the battle for exposure. The Michael series came with a narrative about love that was quite endearing while the illustrative paintings of Sara Brasier gave small creatures a plug. One work showed the revenge of sword-wielding ants and a warrior butterfly and another a precarious place for creatures in a tree where they were making the most of their moment of peace by pouring tea out of an elephant teapot.

Is Brasier still hovering in the magic faraway tree of childhood or are her funny fantasy pictures lighting up our dreary days with a bit of fancy?

The magic has it in this year’s exhibition. Humans are out and funny creatures are in.

Friday nights are back

By Tas Mavridis

The National Gallery of Victoria’s (NGV) popular Friday Nights series returns this summer with fusion between the modern and traditional being a common theme throughout the event.

Each evening will feature a different electronic artist as well as a creative collaboration from platform anon of Bach x Remixed, providing a fusion of classical and contemporary styles.

The event will also provide patrons with a chance to access the Escher X nendo | Between Two Worlds collaborative display, which combines the work of Dutch graphic artist M.C. Escher in dialogue with the work of acclaimed Japanese design studio nendo.

Performances will also be staged in the NGV’s new look Grollo Equiset Garden, which currently features its latest 2018 Architecture Commission Doubleground night through until autumn.

Designed by architect Amy Muir of MUIR Architecture, landscape architect Mark Jacques of OPENWORK and the Hugh Williamson senior curator of contemporary design and architecture at the NGV Iwan McEoin, the garden is open for the public enjoy.

"Offering access to Escher X nendo and the garden afterhours provides the unique experience of art, music and unforgettable Friday nights at the NGV this summer," NGV director Tony Elwood AM said.

Guests can also enjoy a range of bar and dining experiences throughout the series, which will feature:

- December Friday Nights resident Albrecht La-Bruyé, plus: December 14 - Hoodlem (DJ Set)
- December 21 - Fantastic Man (DJ Set)
- December 28 - Nicole Millar (DJ Set)
- January Friday Nights resident Elish Gilligan (DJ Set), plus:
  - January 4 - Andy Hart
  - January 11 - KLP (DJ Set)
  - January 18 - Film School Collective
  - January 25 - Zuri Akoko
- February Friday Nights resident, Pjenné, plus:
  - February 1 - Chela (DJ Set)
  - February 8 - Harvey Sutherland (DJ Set)
  - February 15 – Alice Ivy (DJ Set)
  - February 22 – OJ KUSH

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### Australian Music Vault

**Ongoing - Arts Centre Melbourne**

### MPavilion

**Until Feb 3 - Queen Victoria Gardens**
MPavilion 2018, designed by renowned Barcelona-based architect Carme Pinos of Estudio Carme Pinos is now open to the public through to February 3, 2019 at the Queen Victoria Gardens. The four-month program comprises over 400 free events taking the form of MTalks, MMeets, MMusic, MRelay, MProjects and MKids. [mpavilion.org](http://mpavilion.org)

### Julia Holter

**Jan 21 - Elisabeth Murdoch Hall**
Memorising art-pop composer Julia Holter brings her distinctive sound to Melbourne, off the back of her ambitious new album ‘Aviary’. Coming from a distinctly avant-garde and academic background as a composer, Holter melds influences from classical music and baroque to post-rock, 70s pop and folk, all held together by her electronic harpsichord and delicate vocals. [melbournerecital.com.au](http://melbournerecital.com.au)

### Underground Railroad Game

**Jan 30 - Feb 17 - Beckett Theatre**
Underground Railroad Game is a darkly comedic take on how the post-colonial world has become juiced up by its racially-charged backstory. With repartee, acuity and nudity, creators and performers Jennifer Kabwe and Scott R. Sheppard interrogate the confusion of arguments and stereotypes that have arisen from the shadows of Western society. [malthousetheatre.com.au](http://malthousetheatre.com.au)

### The Theatre is Lying

**Until March 24 - ACCA**
Constructed as an exhibition in five acts, 'The Theatre is Lying' brings together artists who create alternative narratives and worlds through illusionary, cinematic and theatrical devices, including installation, mixed-reality, historical re-enactment, digital montage and compositions with video, light and sound. [acca.melbourne](http://acca.melbourne)

### Designing Women

**Until March 2019 - NGV International**
Spanning nearly 40 years, ‘Designing Women’ highlights the ongoing role of female designers as a dynamic and critical force in shaping contemporary design culture. From fashion design, contemporary jewellery, and product design, to architecture and digital innovation. [nga.vic.gov.au](http://nga.vic.gov.au)

### TIXATsix

**Ongoing - Arts Centre Melbourne**
Ars Centre Melbourne has decided to revive the spontaneous night out with tixatsix. Shake off the peak hour blues and come by Arts Centre Melbourne for magnetic experiences from 6pm each night...for just $30! Be sure to check out what’s on before coming thought [artscentremelbourne.com.au](http://artscentremelbourne.com.au)

### PolypHony

**Until Jan 28 - Café Vic Terrace**
Artist Louise Paramor has created a group of four sculptures specifically for the terrace outside Café Vic in Southbank. The works, titled Polyphony 1-4, have been commissioned as part of a Contemporary Art Projects program. FREE. [artscentremelbourne.com.au](http://artscentremelbourne.com.au)

### Faces of Osaka - Faces of Melbourne

**Until Feb 28 - PSC Pop-Up Gallery, Southgate**
This annual exhibition features a showcase of creativity and innovation from our graduate and undergraduate photography students. The exhibition will continue throughout 2019. [pavilion.org](http://pavilion.org)

### Doubleground

**Until April - Grollo Equiset Garden**
Doubleground, the winning proposal for the fourth annual NGV Architecture Commission is a collaboration between Melbourne architecture practice MUIR and landscape architecture studio OPENWORK, inspired by key architectural elements of Sir Roy Grounds’s iconic NGV International building in the year of the building’s 50th anniversary. Open to the public.

### Escher X Nendo

**Until April 7 - NGV International**
Escher X nendo (Between Two Worlds) is the first exhibition in the world to feature the extraordinary work of Dutch graphic artist M. C. Escher in dialogue with the work of acclaimed Japanese design studio nendo, led by designer Oki Sato. [nga.vic.gov.au](http://nga.vic.gov.au)

### Events

- **PSC Summer Exhibition Opening Night**
  - **Dec 12 - Photography Studies College**
  - Join us in celebrating another great year of achievement and success for our students. This annual exhibition features a showcase of creativity and innovation from our graduate and undergraduate photography students. The exhibition will continue throughout 2019. 65 City Road, Southbank [psc.edu.au](http://psc.edu.au)

- **Designing Women**
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- **Escher X Nendo**
  - **Until April 7 - NGV International**
  - Escher X nendo (Between Two Worlds) is the first exhibition in the world to feature the extraordinary work of Dutch graphic artist M. C. Escher in dialogue with the work of acclaimed Japanese design studio nendo, led by designer Oki Sato. [nga.vic.gov.au](http://nga.vic.gov.au)
Cop shop becomes office precinct

A major site at 637 Flinders St currently leased by the Victorian Police will be renewed into an office precinct after the current lease ends in July 2020.

The site, almost two city blocks, is currently the World Trade Centre, with the Victoria Police Centre as its main tenant.

Developer Zone Q acquired the site earlier in 2018 and has just released its plans – adding approximately 26,000 sqm of net leaseable area in a "campus style" office precinct.

Zone Q has a strategy of acquiring sites with value-add opportunities. In this case, that is an unusually large area of space sitting between the Yarra River and the CBD grid.

"A rare find in the CBD, workplaces will have direct outdoor access from the original terrace areas on most levels and incredible views of the city, Yarra River, Port Phillip Bay and Southbank," said Zone Q acquisitions and sales manager Daniel Crotty.

The site will be designed by Cox Architecture and will include ground floor retail aimed at both the wider community and those who work in the building. A piazza style entrance will also be included.

"The design pays homage to the richness of maritime architecture in the area, with references to wharfs, sheds and industrial aspects woven throughout the facade and interiors materially and architecture," said Cox Architecture director Christina Prodromou.

Construction is expected to start in mid-2020 and be completed late 2021.

Local author set to Blab!

Children and young adults author and Southbank resident Chrissie Perry will launch her brand-new series with publisher Scholastic Australia in February 2019.

Blabbermouth, book one 'Oops I've Done It Again' introduces a hilarious new character and her world of mistakes, mishaps and fun.

"Amelie Anderson is a blabbermouth," Chrissie explained. "She just can't help it sometimes – she's so bubbly that words fizz out of her mouth! Then things go terribly wrong. But Amelie is always determined to right her wrongs."

"Watch this space for related events for kids aged 5-10."

Chrissie is the author of more than 35 books for children and young adults including 13 books in the blockbuster Go Girl! series, the award-winning Whisper and the delightful Penelope Perfect series. Her work has been published in 12 countries.

Chrissie lives in Southbank with her husband, three children and her "opinionated" Maltese Shih tzu called Gidget!

For more information visit chrissieperry.com

A toast to our masters!

Southbank's own community-run public speaking group Teahouse Toastmasters took a clean sweep at the Toastmasters Area 41 contest on November 24.

The group was competing against three other local groups and claimed victory in all four of the competition categories.

"This was a great achievement for the club, which is comprised of Southbank locals who have taken up the challenge of improving their public speaking skills," group president Jo Vanselow said.

Teahouse Toastmasters Southbank meets on the first and third Thursday every month at the Boyd Community Hub at 6:30pm. Its first meeting for 2019 will be held on January 17 and new guests are always welcome.

Shake-up for community grants

The City of Melbourne's community grant framework has received a shake up with the new framework placing a greater emphasis on social innovation.

According to council, the new framework will consist of four streams: connected communities, community funding agreements, partnership and professional development and social innovation partnerships, with a total of $2.4 million being budgeted for these grants.

The most significant change is the introduction of the Social Innovation Partnerships stream which according to the 2018 framework is aimed to help the council tackle "social priorities and create sustained social change."

People City portfolio chair Cr Beverley Pinder said the new stream would help the council "invest in areas that will have the highest social impact."

"The new Social Innovation Partnerships will facilitate funding of piloting well-developed program ideas and improve access to council support for projects," Cr Pinder said.

$660,000 will be dedicated to this particular stream with the projects focusing on issues prominent in the area such as homelessness, youth, diversity, alcohol and drug safety and violence.

Managing director of Social Traders, David Brookes, said the willingness of local governments to contribute to these types of projects was pivotal to their success.
Federal Politics

Stand together against Jihadist terror

Can you be concerned for Australia’s environment and also concerned for the safety of Australians?

My answer is a definite “YES!” I have deliberately withheld this strong policy attack on the Green Political Party’s weakness on counter-terrorism (see the attached advertisement).

I did not want to politicise the issue of community security before the state election, especially given the very emotional angst widely felt throughout Melbourne about the murder of iconic café proprietor Sisto Malaspina (proprietor of Pellegrini’s).

However, the Green Party must be criticised for their record in Parliament on counter-terrorism. The Green Party still has secret national and state conferences to which the media are not admitted. But it is their parliamentary habit of voting against all measures to enhance our counter-terrorism response that must be exposed to Australians. Green Party Senators have voted against all legislation on national security and counter-terrorism passed by the Australian Parliament since 9/11 when Al Qaeda murdered 3000 people in the Twin Towers in New York. These major laws (some of the more significant recent examples set out below) have protected Australians from mass casualty attacks. Counter-terrorism laws have only passed with both Government and the Opposition voting together in the Senate. Otherwise, given the make-up of the Senate and the necessity for the legislation to be passed in both houses, these laws wouldn’t have come into existence.

Yet, the Green Political Party has voted against every proposal in the Australian Parliament to protect the safety of Australians against many aspects terrorism threats, such as jihadists travelling in and out of Australia. Currently, we have the phenomenon of the return of former foreign fighters from Middle East battlefields, as IS (Da’ish, as it is known in the Arab world) is militarily defeated and geographically restricted to a small section of eastern Syria. Yet the Green Party has fought every attempt in the Federal Parliament, over the years that I have been a Member, to face up to these responsibilities. Australians have not encouraged these terrorist plans or attacks in the streets of Melbourne. Australia and Australians are the terrorists’ potential victims. In Bourke Street an attacker drove a vehicle loaded with gas bottles, intending to blow it up in a crowded pedestrian area and then jumping out and stabbing random passers-by. This type of attack is an IS paradigm all over the world – from London to Kabul. IS doesn’t even need to direct orders at individuals. IS and Al-Qaeda just connect on the net with fanaticised followers to take these low-tech “opportunities” to cause maximum mayhem.

There have been two potential and one actual attack in Melbourne in three weeks. We have, as a responsible national parliament, faced up to this ugly phenomenon. However, not the Green Party. Even before the Batman by-election, which Labor thankfully won, you would have thought that the Green Party would have been a bit more cautious and responsible. No. Their leader, Senator Di Natale, insisted on the ABC’s Q&A that foreign fighters and jihadists be allowed to return to Australia. The Green Party chief described these people as “good people who’ve made mistakes”. They are not. They’re enemies of Australia and people who are a risk to the peace and security of ordinary Australians. The most fundamental human right that all of us have is the right to safety and the sanctity of human life. If anyone, for some gratuitous overseas political grudge, or ideology that idealises the 6th century, says that they have the right to kill Australians, they do not. These are not “good people gone wrong”. Every weekend in my electorate, hundreds of volunteers work to protect the safety and security of local institutions. These people are selfless. They work very closely with the Victorian police and they’ve been highly successful—I won’t go into details—in preventing attacks in Melbourne. These threats are ongoing and very local as far as we’re concerned. It should be crystal clear to the voters of Melbourne Ports, which will be renamed Macnamara, that this is a key difference between the Labor Party and the Green Political Party at the next election.

One, the ALP, is a responsible party that has, of course, a huge range of views on domestic matters that are strongly critical of those of the government but is responsible and wants to protect Australians’ circumstances, safety and lives.

If you take the protection of lives of Australians seriously, it’s absolutely clear you cannot support the Green Party. The Australian Labor Party has been proud to stand up for the security and safety of all Australians, as our voting record clearly shows. We will continue to do so.

Michael Danby MP - Federal Member for Melbourne Ports
michael.danby.mp@aph.gov.au

THE USUAL GREENS

Since Sept 11 the Green Party voted against all counter-terrorism legislation.

Their leader, Senator Di Natale, said on the ABC’s Q&A (5/3/18) that foreign fighters and jihadists could return to Australia. The Green Party chief described these people as “good people who’ve made mistakes”.

Michael Danby
Federal Member for Melbourne Ports
michael.danby.mp@aph.gov.au
Southbank Residents Association

Congratulations
Martin Foley!

Well, another election has passed and another term of a Labor government is upon us.

While a Labor government was probably not an unexpected outcome for many of us, the massive swing to Labor certainly caught us by surprise. While State and Federal Liberals will continue to blame each other for the outcome, I firmly believe Federal Liberal had a lot to do with the swing.

In any case, from a Southbank perspective, the Liberal campaign was essentially finished the moment Mathew Guy announced he would be rolling back the C270 Built Form controls that were introduced by Labor. While Mathew Guy was planning minister in the previous government, Southbank residents have seen, and are living with, the results of his unfettered planning decisions. While C270 is certainly not perfect, at least it provides residents with some clarity of what might be happening in their neighbourouhood. So, when you take this away, one can’t help but be suspicious with what Matthews Guy’s intentions were. Southbank residents need some certainty and clarity.

I spoke with Martin Foley and conveyed the congratulations of Southbank Residents Association (SRA). I also spoke with Ogy Simic (Greens) and Andrew Bond (Liberal) and conveyed our commiserations.

Considering both Ogy and Andrew are still Councillors with the City of Port Philip we would like to wish all residents in Southbank a safe and joyous Christmas and a refreshed start to the New Year. I am looking forward to meeting our residents and hearing their concerns throughout the next year.

Tony Penna
Tony Penna is the president of Southbank Residents Association. southbankresidents.org.au

St Johns Southgate

Baubles and bollards

The beginning of the festive season in Melbourne saw the erection of a large abstract Christmas tree at Federation Square.

At the same time, it was being assembled, the pavement across the road in front of Flinders Street Station was being ripped apart. Concrete and soil were being shifted so that safety bollards could be implanted, their purpose being to minimise casualties during homicidal attacks of the vehicular kind. At first glance, it seemed to be a stark contrast. But on further reflection, I saw in these two very different installations a paradoxical symmetry.

Need
The humble bollard, try as it might to be inconspicuous, brings to mind the need for protection from premeditated acts of violence in places of mass gathering. While the Christmas tree, at least for those to whom it carries Christian significance, brings to mind the birth of Jesus - whose coming would “shine light on those... in the shadow of death, and guide our feet into the way of peace.” Both the bollard and the tree disclose a shadowland we’d prefer not to be as safe as possible from mass-casualty incidents, and our hearts and minds need to be kept from the dark, empty spaces of universal aloneness.

Rescue
The shiny new pillars of protection do more than hint at a need. The fact is, they are built for a purpose and if that purpose is called upon, they could be someone’s salvation. In the same way, the heady scent of pine needles and the adhesive sap of the Christmas tree must shine. The streets need to be as safe as possible from mass-casualty incidents, and our hearts and minds need to be kept from the dark, empty spaces of universal aloneness.

Peace
A city with protective infrastructure is a city in which its people can dwell with a greater sense of peace than they might otherwise. The installation of bollards isn’t giving in to fear, it’s a warranted remedy to a clear but invisible danger and will give a certain peace of mind. Christmas too, sends fear heading for the door. The scriptures describe the angels singing, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.”

The aforementioned shadow of darkness is done away with at Christmas as the glorious light of a new day shines. The Christmas dawn brings with it the promised possibility of peace, with each other, and with God. It reminds us that despite the dangers of the world, there is rescue, and there is peace to be known in the original Christmas gift.

Recent acts of violence could cause one to despair, but the way of hope is undoubtedly the better route to travel. Christmas is a time of hope. A time to remember that yes, there are realities that need rescue from, but there is safety to be found, and even the promised possibility of peace.

This Christmas I’ll be praying for our community’s safety from harm and danger, and that God’s peace might be known by all the people of this city and the world.

Tom Hoffmann
Tom Hoffmann is the pastor at St Johns Southgate Church. www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au

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St Johns Southgate

Christmas

Every Sunday
9am Traditional worship with communion
11am Informal worship with communion
6pm Sunday Night at St Johns (except 23 and 30 December, 6 January)

Sunday 23 December
9am Worship with Bach Cantata Unser Mund sei voll Lachen (BWV110)
11am Informal Worship with Communion

Christmas Eve
7:15pm Outdoor carolling with brass ensemble, followed by Worship with poetry and carols
7:30pm

Christmas Day
10am Worship with Communion

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

Martin Foley at the Southbank meet the candidates night in October.
New cadets start their journey

The summer break looks set to be action-packed for 48 local university students as they join the Metro Tunnel Project team as cadets.

From design, construction and tunnelling to mechanical engineering, sustainability and environment, the cadets will gain hands-on work experience, expert advice and training and a once-in-a-generation experience working on the state’s biggest ever public transport project.

We look forward to sharing their stories with you in the new year.

Tram network improvement

Final works are underway on Park Street, South Melbourne to complete the installation of the new Wells Street tram stop (Stop 119), with the bulk of works taking place from November 5 to December 13. Nine redundant poles will be removed from December 17 to 20.

These changes will only occur overnight, and detour routes will be in place. For more information visit metrotunnel.vic.gov.au.

Anzac Station: The year that was

Construction of Anzac Station, one of five new underground stations as part of the Metro Tunnel Project, took a major leap forward in 2018. Here are some of the key highlights from this year:

- Our crews working around the clock during the April school holidays to realign the St Kilda Road tram tracks, making way for the new construction site;
- The arrival of the bentonite plant and associated slurry to help create the station's underground supporting walls;
- Reaching the final stages of station wall construction in the north side while we start the walls on the south side.
- Rescuing a family of ducks that strayed into our work site, by escorting them back to Albert Park Lake!

Looking ahead to 2019, excavation of the station box will soon get underway before two giant tunnel boring machines arrive to start their work to build the Metro Tunnel. Thanks for 2018. See you in 2019.

Our construction team will take a break over Christmas, with the site shut down from December 22, 2018 to January 7, 2019. Thanks to all the residents, businesses, public transport users, pedestrians, cyclists and motorists for their patience this year as we worked to deliver Domain’s new train station.

The Metro Tunnel Project wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season and look forward to sharing more project news in 2019.

Owners’ Corporation Law

Happy with your OC manager? Most are

The owners’ corporation (OC) management industry is well overdue for a shake-up.

Certainly, there are some excellent OC managers out there in the marketplace who do a terrific job, and those excellent managers are well-incentivised (as is the case in any industry).

However, there are some poorly-performing OC managers who simply shouldn’t be in the industry and are bringing the rest of the profession down a notch or two at least in the eyes of the committees they serve.

Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) has legislation all drawn up to clean up the industry to introduce much-needed regulations and reforms.

However, this legislation has been collecting dust on the bookshelf at Exhibition St for the past four years. The current government has seen fit to delay the introduction of these reforms until at least mid-2019 when the Owners Corporation Act reforms are introduced. In the meantime, OGs will just have to continue muddling through.

I advise my clients that a building is only as good as its building manager and OC manager.

These two “run” the building’s daily operations, and should leave the committee to simply administer the building by approving quotations, periodically checking expenditure to ensure the budgets are being adhered to and to provide further instructions to the manager. Pretty simple stuff really, huh?

Committees that don’t have the above management model flourishing in their buildings need to look very carefully at the roles their managers are playing and what their expectations are. A good place to start will be the source documents and the standing delegations to the manager that would have been provided by the developer at the first annual general meeting (FAGM) or by an earlier committee decision.

The OC manager’s contract (which should be in the approved form) will contain the schedule of duties that the OC manager must perform to earn the base fee. The contract will also contain the duties that manager shall perform for an additional hourly rate.

Committees should also take care to review the minutes of the FAGM and any early committee meetings where the developer controlled the committee because the minutes of these meetings will likely specify the standing delegations (if any) that have been provided to the OC manager.

If those delegations stretch too far (or not far enough, as the case may be) then these can be reviewed at the next annual general meeting for the building.

The terms of appointment and the procedure for automatic rollovers and extensions should also be well understood by the committee. Moving from one OC management company to another can be a very stressful and laborious process. It is best practice to start this process early and with strong communication to the current OC manager about performance expectations.

Finally, communication is a two-way street. OC managers have a lot of experience in acting for hundreds of buildings and they are best-placed to provide case studies and help to solve problems for committees by suggesting solutions that have worked for other buildings.

Remember, there is hardly ever a unique situation that a manager has not seen before in at least a dozen other buildings.

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

Open for business

The Nicholas Building

Throughout construction of the new Town Hall Station, the Nicholas Building will remain open and accessible from Swanston Street and Flinders Lane.

Please continue to support your favourite Nicholas Building businesses. For more information visit metrotunnel.vic.gov.au or call 1800 105 105.
Spreading the word from the heartland

By David Schout

Having visited 64 countries and hundreds of cities to grow the game of Aussie Rules, Brian Clarke’s passport is a weathered collection of stamps.

Fortunately for the Southbank local, he has isn’t restricted to using just one. Born in Amsterdam, raised in Christchurch and then Darwin, there’s just one drawback to his enviable situation. “It is great, but I have to renew three bloody passports so sometimes you curse it,” he says with a grin.

Despite calling himself a “Territorian” somewhere he lived until the age of 34 – Clarke now calls Melbourne home, and is in no doubt its place in the global pecking order. “I’m lucky to have travelled to many countries, and Melbourne is the best city I’ve ever been to and ever will go,” he asserts.

In 2002 while still living in Darwin, the law graduate made a swift decision that would change his life. “I started my own business with football, trying to grow the game internationally,” he explains. “And I was watching the footy on TV, a game at the MCG, and I thought to myself ‘gee it would be good to get down to Melbourne one day.’ And I thought ‘why don’t I just do it?’ So I bought a one-way ticket to Melbourne. I didn’t have a job there and had nowhere to stay. I thought ‘bugger it, I’m just going to do it, have a crack and if I fail, I fail. I’ve been here ever since.”

Soon after arriving he moved to Southbank, where he lives to this day. He has since become CEO of Australian Football International, an organisation which aims to both grow Australian Rules football and unite communities through sport.

The body, with Clarke as its key driver, has developed the annual Harmony Cup and AFL International Cup and boasts the likes of Ron Barassi on its board. He is a key advocate of “Footy 9s”, a version of the game played on rectangular fields, thereby eliminating the biggest logistical barrier (that is, the availability of oval-shaped grounds) around the world.

Away from work with AFI, Clarke umpires football. “Having said that, get a pushbike and ride 10 minutes and you’re there. But that’s probably my Dutch background speaking.” To see some of the work Brian Clarke does with AFI, visit aflinternational.com

Montague Community Alliance

It really is the season to be festive!

Dear readers and Montague community members; finally, we have some certainty for the Montague Precinct. With the Labor Party having been re-elected and Richard Wynne returning to the planning portfolio, the latest Fishermans Bend Plan can now go ahead. There is a palpable sigh of relief amongst the residents, businesses, developers and builders that we at least now know what the rules are. The Fishermans Bend Development Board has been formed under the chairpersonship of Meredith Sussex AM, who had previously chaired the Ministerial Advisory Committee (MAC) and we hope that with all this in place, it means we can press go!

The first issue and our priority at the Montague Community Alliance (MCA) will be getting support from both the council and the state government for “A neighbourhood agreement”.

With the risk of repeating a previous column – we had taken the initiative ourselves to negotiate with developers to work together with the community to create a voluntary agreement that worked for residents, businesses and the developers.

These agreements included a flyer delivered to homes and business in a set vicinity of the build every week with the schedule of works. The developers agreed not to undertake pile driving and concrete pouring on Saturdays, not to park in residential permit zones and to ensure a courteous and professional engagement with the community. The agreement of the community was to engage respectfully with the developers, builders and contractors. To not disrupt or stop their work and to communicate with one representative only and at a reasonable hour. For the most part, this agreement worked very well. We look forward to making this part of the permits process, even if only on a voluntary basis and, of course, to ensure an ongoing engagement with the whole community.

As well as this type of agreement we look forward to working with all the stakeholders to continue to communicate and influence the liveability and amenity of our wonderful neighbourhood. 2019 is likely to be a year full of noisy, dusty building but by working together as a whole community, inclusive of the developers and builders, we can show the rest of Fishermans Bend how to embrace the exponential growth of a community with warmth, thoughtfulness and efficiency.

We would also like to thank all our local candidates in the State Election for supporting us and our neighbourhood and we are genuinely delighted that Martin Foley has retained the seat of Albert Park, as we know he will continue to be interested and aware of our circumstances and challenges. We would also like to thank the outgoing Mayor of the City of Port Phillip, Cr Bernadene Voss for everything she has done for the Montague Precinct. She has been a great advocate for our causes. To Mayor Dick Gross, we look forward to introducing you to our neighbourhood and gaining your support for our community alliance and the development of our precinct.

We would also like to thank all the Montaguans who bravely allowed themselves to be interviewed for our “Meet a Montaguan” segment, we have really enjoyed getting to know you all, and we will be back to “meet more Montaguans” in 2019.

In the new year we will happily, once again, take up the cause of our growing Precinct with a sense of renewed purpose that ensures full engagement and representation of “all” of us that live and work in Montague.

And finally, for 2018, the Montague Community Alliance would like to wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas and New Year and a peaceful and enjoyable break.

Merry Christmas!

Trisha Avery
Trisha Avery is the convener of the Montague Community Alliance.
trishaavery@bigpond.com.au

ISSUE 81
**Workhorses of industry in Southbank**

A series of electrical sub-stations were the workhorses of many industrial enterprises in Southbank in the 20th century.

Melbourne was one of the first major cities in the world, along with London and New York, to have a public electricity supply. In the late 19th century, electricity was distributed from a central generating station. Private enterprise was responsible for financing the pioneering electricity supply enterprises and ensuring the availability of electricity supply to commercial, industrial and residential consumers in Melbourne. The south side of the river became the engine house of “Marvellous Melbourne”, relying on electricity for operations such as manufacturing and refrigeration - not just to operate machinery but also to provide lighting.

Following the establishment of the State Electricity Commission (SEC) in 1921, the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity became the responsibility of government. Power was transferred from the high voltage transmission network to major load centres via terminal stations and zone substations, making these intriguing little buildings an integral part of the industrial landscape and electricity infrastructure of Southbank. Following the setting up of the SEC, a number of sub stations were constructed (or extended) across Melbourne to ensure continuity of supply.

Transport systems also required large supplies of electricity, and a key consideration in establishing new electric lines (such as along Sturt St. in 1925) was the amount of electrical equipment needed to ensure sufficient power to the lines. Power was supplied via the overhead trolley system, with power purchased from the electricity company.

Sub-stations are scattered throughout Southbank. They were generally designed by city engineers and, as a result, the styling was often basic. Two charming and distinctive examples can be found in Sturt Street. On the corner of Grant Street, a small pavilion is finished in Edwardian style, with stucco walls and a sloping four-sided roof finished with asbestos cement tiles laid in a pattern that resemble panes of glass, and topped by a ventilator. It sits adjacent to the former PMG workshop and was probably built to serve that site.

Further down Sturt Street, near Wells Street, a double-fronted substation was designed and constructed in the 1930s. It features a frontage of two peaked panels and utilises stylish brick work, with a variety of brick types.

Following the re-organisation of the power industry in the 1980s, sub-stations are again privately owned, and leased to electricity suppliers such as Citipower. An example is the cream brick 1960s substation in Dodds Street, which recently sold for around $4m.

As you walk around Southbank, why not keep a look out for these little buildings that make an important contribution to the history of Southbank.

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**Merry Christmas from Southbank Police**

As we come up to Christmas let me wish you all a happy and particularly a safe Christmas and New Year.

This time of year, is a busy one for Victoria Police as we focus on the extra traffic and public events that come about. And, of course, the Christmas parties and end of the year work functions add another interesting challenge for us.

As always you will see an increased presence of police on the streets and in public areas. We will be focusing on your safety and will maintain our zero tolerance of drink and drug driving and other safety offences on the road. From a crime perspective this is a critical time to maintain your personal peripheral awareness - i.e. being aware of your surroundings and what is going on around you and your family are out enjoying the holidays and Christmas activities. I’d encourage you to also remember about not leaving anything in your vehicles when you’re out. As I’ve pointed out before, breaking into vehicles is a very opportunistic offence. Generally they will only break in if they see something they think is worthwhile taking the risk for. Don’t give them that reason!

2019 will present new challenges for us all but Victoria Police will continue to maintain a focus on safety in all areas of the CBD and Southbank.

I will be moving on from Southbank in the New Year and S/Sgt Alex O’Tode will be taking over my role. I’m sure she will do a wonderful job looking after the Southbank community and enjoy it just as much as I have over the past seven years.

Merry Xmas and happy New Year to you all.

If you have a question around policing in the Southbank Area please feel free to send them to me at southbank-uni-oci@police.vic.gov.au. I will try to answer as many as I can and will print some in future additions of Southbank Local News.

Quote for the day: ‘To succeed in life, you need three things: a wishbone, a backbone and a funny bone’ - Reba McEntire
I'm very disappointed with the results. I think our children will be paying for the commitments made by Daniel Andrews. The government definitely should do something about the increasing violence cases going on here.

I'm very happy with the results because Labor won in my electorate.

I don't have any strong opinions on any parties. Although I felt that the shift for this election was definitely more.

I'm from France and UK, Brexit was definitely in our major political news but I'm not so sure about what's going on for politics in Australia.

What are your thoughts on the recent state election?

I think it's a different era with newer generations being eligible to vote, they're more connected to the current issues that's happening around them.

I'm happy with the results. I voted early and I think it's very good to have the early voting option, as the queue on voting day gets pretty long.

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Hope and Community

Seeing children finding joy in gardening is a joy doubled for grown-ups.

It gives us hope, seeing the youngest generation excited to interact with nature and fully engage with planting. That is the sentiment we walked away with at the end of a successful Children’s Sunflower Planting Day on Saturday, November 10. It gave us such joy to see young ones from 3 to 10 years old and their parents coming to the event with resealable containers to turn into planters and house their new sunflowers. We look forward to welcoming the lovely children and parents that joined us, again in January to show us who grew the tallest sunflowers and award them with their prizes.

Apart from doing a bit of gardening at the community garden, we attended a Disabilities for Community Gardens training workshop hosted by City of Melbourne. That was a great opportunity to learn how we can make the new Boyd Park community garden even more inclusive and accommodate a diverseness of disabilities. We look forward to working with council on that. It was also great connecting with other community garden groups to create a knowledge sharing community, and make our respective community gardens a true haven for our communities.

With the opportunity of the holidays, December will be a month where we focus on our members and strengthening our lovely community. On Saturday, December 8 we had a wreath making day where one of our members will guide us in creating sustainable Christmas wreaths using native plants and other natural material. On Saturday, December 15 we will each bring a small plate or drink from home to have a small Christmas feast and celebrate the group’s achievements and its future ahead.

Since both are member events, if you are interested in becoming a member and join us on the day, please email us ahead of time to make sure we save you a spot. The Christmas event will be hosted at Boyd, where we talk sustainability issues and solutions, and then tend to the community garden.

For more details or to get involved with the group or garden: facebook.com/SouthbankSustainabilityGroup or southbanksustainability@gmail.com

About the group: We are a community group of Southbank residents that work to bring positive change in sustainability practices and education to our neighborhood. We meet every fortnight on Saturdays at Boyd, where we talk sustainability issues and solutions, and then tend to the community garden.

Artemis Pattichi
Southbank Sustainability Group
southbanksustainability@gmail.com

Rare breed

By Jacklyn Yeong

Finn is a lively and intelligent West Highland white terrier and Coton de Tulear mix.

The unusual crossbreed, also known as a Weston, is one-of-a-kind in Australia. “Finn’s breeder was a pure breeder of westies and Coton de Tulear,” Finn’s owner Roz explained. “The crossbreed was an accident the breeder did not expect, six puppies came from that litter.”

At just 10 months old, Finn loves to mix and mingle with other dogs. He is constantly looking for new friends to play with and would run in circles just to attract the attention of other dogs.

Finn has a best friend called Fidel who lives in the same apartment building. He would recognise Fidel from afar and bark excitedly whenever he sees his best friend.

Roz also pointed out that Finn is always on a “treasure hunt” for things to chew on during his daily walks. “He likes chewing on things, sticks, roots, you name it,” she said. “He loves chewing on plastic water bottles and then crushing them. I will always pick up what remained and throw it in the bin.”

Although just a puppy, Finn has already had plenty of stand-offs with cockatoos and swans!
Both major parties disappointed the electorate by failing to articulate any policies to help residents in strata communities - all 1.6 million of us whose voices have not been and are not being heard.

Neither the Labor nor Liberal pre-election platforms made any mention of residents. A flyer letter-boxed in Melbourne district from Premier Andrews contained nothing about issues affecting inner city living.

Mr Andrews also turned down an invitation to the We Live Here “meet the candidates” forum. The Premier previously declined an invitation to attend our launch and has refused numerous other requests to engage with us over the past three years.

The Premier’s victory speech similarly did not mention inner-city residents.

The sole Labor candidate at our pre-election forum, Jennifer Kanis, stated her support of We Live Here and a willingness to work with us if elected. At the time of writing, the electoral fate of Jennifer Kanis was still in the balance. Either way, without the official backing of Labor we are afraid that her sentiments may not count for much.

So now Mr Andrews, it is time for Labor to take positive action and implement significant changes to support inner-city residents.

Work with council
Whatever the outcome of the next few weeks of political change, we hope the state government can learn to work collaboratively with the City of Melbourne.

The two tiers of government must work closely on issues around short-stays as well as other issues affecting residents including cladding, traffic congestion, planning, and the tram bridge.

Buildings fight back
Owners’ corporation (OC) committees are becoming stronger and more united and are taking matters into their own hands - dispelling the fake news that OCs are dysfunctional or apathetic.

Many OC committees have expressed to We Live Here that they are prepared to risk VCST action to ensure that their long-term residents – owner-occupiers and tenants – can enjoy the amenity of their Class Two residential building not designed for ersatz hotel-style accommodation.

To do this, short-stay operators and those who book short-term accommodation via on-line booking platforms – Airbnb, Stayz, etc. – are forced to comply with in-house rules. However, this comes at a huge cost to the OC in terms of increased surveillance, security and maintenance which is paid for out of levies.

There must surely be some government MPs, old and new, who are aware of the short-stay issue overseas and mindful of what cities such as Paris, London, Barcelona, Berlin, Amsterdam, New York and San Francisco have been doing to regulate the short-stay industry.

A recent report released by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute stated that short-term letting helps to “reinforce the increasingly inequitable housing landscape in Australia’s largest cities”, contradicting a report commissioned by Airbnb, and that a more comprehensive approach is needed to monitor and regulate the industry.

With its increased majority, this government must stop burying its head in the sand and take some action, allowing residents a seat at the table to ensure there is a level playing field for all so that the government is not seen to be kowtowing to multi-nationals like Airbnb.

We congratulate Daniel Andrews on his big win and invite him, as a matter of priority, to convene a meeting with representatives of We Live Here early in the term of his new government.

What do we want?
We Live Here calls on the Andrews government to:

1. AMEND the Owners Corporation Act 2006 to regulate the short-stay industry - far beyond the scope of the woefully inadequate pre-Airbnb “parry” bill that was shamefully passed just before the election. The Airbnb “parry” bill made it even harder for OCs to recoup costs of damage and it completely ignored issues of security, amenity and community development;

2. RESTORE POWERS to OCs to make decisions about use of a lot, lost in Justice Riordan’s Supreme Court decision in July 2017;

3. GIVE POWERS to OCs to determine if short-stays should be permitted;

4. REVISE the proposed scheme for individual owners to take out a bank loan to remediate flammable cladding and repay the loan via their council rates – which would be unworkable; and

5. ENGAGE with We Live Here. Talk to us - we represent more than 200 buildings throughout Melbourne and Victoria. We can help you understand how to look after strata communities.

Campaign donations
As a not-for-profit organisation, donations from individuals and buildings keep our campaigns going. To register as a supporter of We Live Here or to make a donation please visit our website at welivehere.net.

www.welivehere.net
emails to campaign@welivehere.net

Health & Wellbeing

Authenticity: what does it really mean and how do I get more of it?

In our busy world full of interactions with others, meetings, conferences, new adventures, newly formed relationships and the social media connectedness that we have, do you sometimes feel like you are not able to be your true “authentic” self?

What is authenticity?

There’s something funny about the way we talk about authenticity. We want to learn authenticity. We want to react authentically. Authenticity is something we want to get. We treat being authentic as something we have, as opposed to something we are. This can actually keep us from developing this trait, since we’re trying to attain something that, by definition, we already have.

Authenticity is more than when someone believes in what they say or acts in a way that is consistent with their beliefs. Authentic people possess a number of common characteristics that show they are psychologically mature and fully functioning as human beings. They have realistic perceptions of reality, are accepting of themselves and of other people, are able to express their emotions freely and clearly, are open to learning from their mistakes and understand their motivations to name a few.

How do I know when I am being inauthentic?
The truth is that we all have moments of inauthenticity. When we act in ways that are not aligned with our highest potential, with our values and with our beliefs, we move further away from who we authentically are. This can result in a lack of fulfilment, lack of happiness, and an overall disconnect from ourselves and others.

How to increase your authenticity
Get to know yourself! As you go around your day to day or try new things, observe how you feel/act in each situation. Learning to be more self-aware and in tune with your emotions in different situations will allow you to recognise when you are feeling uncomfortable or not. Ask yourself: what has the situation triggered? Why can’t I say what I want to say? Why am I feeling like I cannot be “me” in this situation/with these people, what version of myself am I portraying, and why?

Act on your personal beliefs and values. Get in touch with your moral compass and your personal belief system. This includes religious beliefs, moral beliefs, beliefs about the world, people, right and wrong. Begin to live in line with these values and beliefs.

Forget perfection: It doesn’t exist. If you try to be perfect or act in ways that please all people in all situations you are already being inauthentic. Embrace your imperfection and dare to be a bit vulnerable. You’ll be amazed where vulnerability can take you.

Be present: While someone is talking, it can be tempting to already be crafting the perfect response, or to be thinking about something else. To be present however, means to be engaged, and engaged means to be fully focused on the experience and feeling connected with the individual or activity. Being fully present will lead to being authentically engaged with your world, the way that only you uniquely can.

Find genuine connections: Seek to truly understand the people around you. Ask thoughtful questions, listen intently and spend time with people you share some commonalities with. By developing a genuine understanding of, and connection to other people, you are more likely to feel genuine and your authentic self.

Rajna Bogdanovic
Clinical psychologist
bogdanovicrajna@gmail.com

Image: www.welivehere.net

Andrew said their new location was very convenient for the local demographic of high-density residents. The business also invites customers to become members of ByRoyale, offering exclusive discounts, as well as invitations to member-only shopping events throughout the year.

To take up on these amazing discounts or to become a member visit the team instore or visit byroyale.com.au

ByRoyale is located at level 1 shop 111, Homemaker Centre, DFO South Wharf. The store has now been designed to “meld intelligence with beauty” to create seamless internal environment that artfully facilitated the necessities of daily life.

For first time apartment dwellers, moving from their family home into an apartment can be daunting so we have tried to create a mecca of wellness and entertainment that supports this transition and caters to their every need, including the need for a sense of community,” he said.

“This amenity and spaces at Melbourne Square have been designed to foster relationships between residents with carefully planned spaces and zoning outside of their apartments, which become an extension of living spaces.”

Xmas homeware savings

Local furniture, homewares and manchester store ByRoyale is offering customers up to 70 per cent off a variety of items throughout the Christmas season.

Located at DFO South Wharf in the Homemaker Centre opposite JB Hi-Fi, ByRoyale is offering 30 per cent off storewide, which includes a range-quality items such as bedding and linen and luggage. Selected items are discounted by a further 20 per cent.

A licensed retailer of top brands including DKY, US Polo and Pierre Carden, as well as its own ByRoyale brand, the store is currently filled to brim with high-quality baggage just waiting to be snapped up.

Manufacturing all of its own bedding and Manchester to tailor all bedrooms, store owner Andrew Justyna said all of ByRoyale’s products were proudly produced from 100 per cent Australian wool.

“We only stock top quality and we’re also supporting Australian farmers with only Australian made wool and nothing else. That’s one of the things that I’m very happy to support and we just try to maintain the top quality of the product,” he said.

A family business run by Andrew and wife Ursula, the store has now been operating at South Wharf for a year and a half after relocating from its original store in Camberwell.

Specialising in all things apartment living and offering free delivery to the local area, Andrew said their new location was very and steam room for health. For social connection, a music performance room, private dining rooms for entertaining, a theatre, demonstration kitchen and games room.

On level 54, there will be further amenity split into two areas - one for the entire building to share as well as an exclusive area of private amenity for prestige apartment and penthouse purchasers. Here, prestige buyers have their own private dining areas, an outdoor lap pool, sauna, premium gym and more to seek respite in and entertain friends.

Carr Design’s director of architecture Chris McCue said Melbourne Square had been designed to “meld intelligence with beauty” to create seamless internal environment that artfully facilitated the necessities of daily life.

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ByRoyale is located at level 1 shop 111, Homemaker Centre, DFO South Wharf.
TUESDAYS @ BOYD - £5 DONATION

BOLLYWOOD WORKOUT
Inspired by the high energy music from Indian/Bollywood films these workout sessions are focused on building and developing your dance technique and most importantly, having tonnes of fun!

SUNDAYS

ARTS CENTRE MARKET
Meet over 80 of Victoria’s finest artisans first hand. Discover how these unique artworks are made, chat directly about the products, inspirations and techniques. www.artscentremelbourne.com.au

TUESDAYS

YOGA: SATURDAYS @ BOYD
Suitable for all levels of experience and includes an appropriate amount of challenges and relaxation which will help you achieve a balance between strength and flexibility. Register: facebook.com/events/625656444477843/

WEDNESDAYS @ BOYD
FREE WALKING GROUP
Join local fitness experts JustinTime as they lead a ‘not just walking group’ for Boyd walkers. The program runs on Wednesdays from 9.30am to 10.30am.

TUESDAYS

INNER MELBOURNE LIFE ACTIVITIES CLUB
Meeting on selected dates and various locations, IMLAC takes in the city’s parks, its culture, fabulous eating options as well as festivals, galleries and concerts. www.life.org.au/mlac or call Dianne 0425 140 981

TUESDAYS

LAUGHTER YOGA @ BOYD
Laughter Yoga is a unique concept that allows you to laugh even when you least feel like it and is ideal for all ages. Sessions are at Boyd Community Hub, Assembly Hall each Tuesday at 6pm.

COMMUNITY TAI CHI
WULONG TAI CHI offers you the opportunity to enhance your strength, balance, flexibility and well-being in a friendly, supportive environment. All welcome. lily@wulongtaichi.com.au

SOUTH MELBOURNE MARKET
The market regularly hosts a range of cooking classes, workshops and kids activities. Find out what’s happening this month by visiting the website: southmelbournemarket.com.au/whats-on/

FRIDAYS 7.45AM - 9AM @ BOYD

COMMUNITY TAI CHI
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MONDAYS @ BOYD

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
Local Southbank JP Atilla Akguner offers two hour sessions every Monday morning from 11am until 1pm at the Principal’s Office at Boyd. To book in a time contact: atillaakguner@gmail.com

FIRST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH

SUNRISE PROBUS CLUB
Over 50, living in Southbank and want to join our vibrant club for activities, events and friendship? Meet at Library at the Dock at 11am. Contact Verna on 0407 065 910. MSPC.docklands@gmail.com

FIRST AND THIRD SATURDAY EACH MONTH

SUSTAINABILITY GROUP
A growing group of green and sustainability enthusiasts who live in Southbank looking to bring positive change. More info: facebook.com/SouthbankSustainabilityGroup

FIRST AND THIRD THURSDAY @ BOYD

TEAHOUSE TOASTMASTERS
Want to take your public speaking to a higher level or improve your English and make some local connections? Next meeting January 17 @ 6.30pm.
Enquiries: jvanselow@gmail.com

TUESDAYS

SOUTHBANK ROTARY
Rotary Club of Southbank meets weekly for dinner on most Tuesday evenings throughout the year at Federation Square. Visitors are always welcome.
www.southbank.org.au

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