New networking opportunity for all

New networking opportunities are on the horizon in Southbank as the Yarra River Business Association (YRBA), in conjunction with the ‘Southbank Local News’, launch the first of its quarterly networking lunches in November.

Usually the domain of the business-minded, these events are encouraging corporates and residents alike to network with people from the local area and make new connections. The first event will be held at Rivers Edge at WTC Wharf on North Wharf.

The lunch is $60 a head for residents and YRBA members and $75 for non-members. The menu will include a two-course meal, canapes and beer, wine and coffee. The first lunch will also include a short presentation about the plans for Chinese New Year celebrations along the Yarra.

The obvious positives for businesses will be coupled with the chance to get to know exactly what’s going on here in Southbank. These lunches also present a terrific chance to get to know the hundreds of different types of businesses right here in our region.

In a bonus for businesses wanting to come along, any business who joins the YRBA on the day will enjoy the luncheon for free. YRBA executive officer Tim Bracher said the lunches presented all locals, business or residential, a fantastic opportunity to keep up to date with the happenings of the region.

“It also helps the association to extend its reach more deeply into the precinct and to provide a forum to discuss new ideas, opportunities and to hear what other people are doing,” Mr Bracher said.

“The luncheons will be a high quality two course meal, with canapes, drinks and coffee. They will be informal gatherings, with limited speeches and maximum time to mix and share information,” he added.

Mr Bracher said the YRBA hoped the event would build into a must-attend for all community-minded locals.

“We’d love to see residents as well as business people attending because the interaction between the two groups is very beneficial. It will be a really fun, good-value event, which no business in the precinct can afford to miss.”

“A lot of our Southbank residents are retired or semi-retired business people, so they may also appreciate an opportunity to become plugged into what is happening now in the commercial sphere,” Mr Bracher added.

“We feel that the business and residential community of the precinct needs a regular informal get-together and a Friday lunch is a traditional time to renew business ties and to make new contacts.”

“We know that if they attend once, they will be keen to be a regular guest!”

The first of the networking lunches is on November 15 at Rivers Edge, a function space at WTC Wharf on North Wharf.

Tickets can be purchased by heading to the YRBA’s website or by calling the executive officer on 0412 992 931.

Ready to fight the Eureka tower

The Medieval Man, aka Richard Bird is ready to tackle the Eureka Climb, even with his extra 21 kilograms of armour. Find out more by reading our story on page 9.
Bike lane made permanent

The trial of the northbound bike lane on Princes Bridge has been hailed a success and the City of Melbourne has agreed to install the lane permanently.

After receiving a report on the effects of the lane at a Future Melbourne Committee meeting in October, the council was unanimous in its decision.

The review presented to the council showed that, while average travel time for cars was affected, it was only increased by an average of 48 seconds in morning peak and it was actually quicker to get into town during the afternoon peak.

The data also revealed that bicycle use northbound on Princes Bridge had increased by almost 30 per cent.

Critics have disputed this data in other mainstream media, but only one speaker spoke against the statistics.

Cr Rohan Leppert strongly defended the report, saying: “I completely reject any notion that the consultation process has been inadequate.”

Cr Leppert said the statistics presented to the council gave it an easy choice.

“It’s very exciting that we can make such a clear-cut decision tonight. I’m very much looking forward to seeing the green paint going down and seeing the northbound lane become permanent,” Cr Leppert said.

“The most exciting thing is that the capacity for getting the total number of people, regardless of their mode of transport, has markedly increased and there’s no two ways about that,” he added.

Ben Rossiter from Victoria Walks also spoke to the report and reminded the council that the debate had been hijacked by talk of cars and bikes, and the formerly shared footpath had been forgotten.

“We believe permanently retaining the lanes will correct the previous error of putting bicycles on the footpath in the first place,” Mr Rossiter said.

“We’ve been extremely disappointed that the public debate has centred on the impact on cars and cyclists. Many times of the day there are more people walking across the bridge than there are on cars and bikes,” he added.

The council will soon make a decision on the neighbouring southbound bike lane.

Boyd takes a step in the right direction

The Boyd Community Centre site is a step closer to completion after the next phase of the development was approved last month by Planning Minister Matthew Guy.

Adding to the site’s community hub and library will be an urban park, as well as the residential building “Cairo”, being developed by the Mackie Group.

Cairo will also include affordable housing for people with disabilities, giving a wider range of people the opportunity to live in an inner-city suburb.

The development also includes retail and commercial space.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said the council was excited that its continued development of the site is moving in the right direction.

“This development will complete the transformation of the former JH Boyd School site into a key civic centre for Southbank,” Cr Doyle said.

“Boyd has had 60,000 visitors since it opened last year, with an innovative combination of library, maternal and child health and family services, community meeting rooms and artist studio spaces,” he added.

Mackie managing director Ralph Mackie said his team had enjoyed the collaborative effort to get the site approved and was excited to bring the plans to fruition.

“Our team is looking forward to the next stages of development and commencing construction in 2014,” Mr Mackie said.
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Commanding on the edge

Eureka 89 played host to graduates of a recent Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) Commander course last month and the newly-announced commanders were asked to show no fear from the get-go, taking on “The Edge”.

Judging by the calm looks on the faces, it appears the MFB is in good hands with this crop.

The day was a celebration for the graduates, who had undertaken an 11-week intensive training course.

The skydeck was the perfect place to start their new jobs, giving them the best possible view of the city they are charged with protecting.

Steady as she goes for business association

The Yarra River Business Association held its annual general meeting (AGM) on October 10, announcing no major changes to the executive committee.

There were two changes to the committee with the inclusion of Bobby Stephens from Chill On Ice Lounge and Cassandra Geneopoulos from South Wharf Promenade’s Plenary Group.

Moving on are Persia Hill from Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre and Nicole Smith from Chill On Ice Lounge.

The membership of the group grew significantly last year thanks in part to a new partnership with Crown Casino, which included 25 of its businesses becoming members.

Executive officer Tim Bracher told the meeting the group would continue to lobby for improved governance of the river, an activity that often went unnoticed.

“We’re going in really hard for better governance on the Yarra River. At the moment the private sector looks at the river and says we’re not touching that with a barge pole, we’ll take our money to Sydney or Brisbane. We’re working hard to change those attitudes,” Mr Bracher said.

Tim Bracher (left) and John Ahern (right) remain at the helm of the Yarra River Business Association.
Can you help shape Fishermans Bend?

The Fishermans Bend draft vision was released last month and Southbank locals will get an opportunity to have their say when a community forum is held at Boyd Community Centre later this month.

Our new neighbour is expected to house 80,000 residents, so it’s important Southbank has its say on the outcomes of the development.

The draft vision outlines the four precincts that will make up the new suburb. The “Montague” precinct will neighbour Southbank and South Wharf, with its border running along the West Gate Freeway and City Rd.

It will become Melbourne’s largest mixed-use renewal area, meaning that along with the residential facilities, there will also be community, retail, entertainment, industry transport and commercial space. It is intended to accommodate 40,000 workers.

The total suburb will span about 250 hectares.

Premier Dennis Napthine and Planning Minister Matthew Guy announced the draft vision in September.

Dr Napthine said Fishermans Bend would offer even more opportunity to live within the expanded CBD.

“It is incredible to think how the Fishermans Bend Urban Renewal Area has the capacity to accommodate a population approaching the size of Ballarat or Bendigo on the doorstep of the existing CBD,” Dr Napthine explained.

“The co-location of residents and jobs in an area only minutes from the existing CBD will be a major boost for the state’s productivity and economic growth over the next 50 years,” he added.

Minister Guy was equally excited about the project, saying: “The Fishermans Bend project will set the standard for urban renewal across Melbourne and Australia over the next three decades, bringing thousands of new residents to areas close to jobs, transport and Australia’s greatest cultural heart.”

“When looking at the plan, it is clear that a number of precincts will develop to include low-rise family-friendly housing, medium scale development, and high density development around a future transport corridor and new employment hubs,” Mr Guy added.

The community forum on the development will be held at Boyd Community Centre on Wednesday, October 30 from 5pm -7pm.

On top of the forum, you can view the plan and submit an official response at the website www.fishermansbend.vic.gov.au

Visit our College for a Talk & Tour
Monday October 21st at 9.30am or Friday November 22nd at 9.30am
For further information or to register for a tour, please contact Jodie McLeod on 9329 0411
31 Curran Street Nth Melbourne www.aloyngus.vic.edu.au

St Aloysius
A Catholic Girls’ College Year 7–12
Council to act on flooding reports

The City of Melbourne has confirmed it will begin to take action on the Port Phillip Bay Coastal Adaptations Pathways project, the report into potential flood concerns released in April.

The project, which was outlined in edition 18 of the Southbank Local News, was produced hypothetically, as an example of the sort of tools councils might have access to when tackling climate change.

Given the flooding risks the study exposed in Southbank, it’s little wonder the council has decided to act on it.

While not specific at this stage, the Future Melbourne Committee on October 1 endorsed the draft Total Watermark – City as a Catchment Strategy. The draft report states that the council will implement an “investigation and potentially deliver a project that aims to reduce flood risks in the catchment, including Southbank, and provide an alternative water resource for the surrounding parklands including Fawkner Park.”

The report says the investigation and possible action will take place from July 2013 to 2015.

A City of Melbourne spokesperson confirmed to Southbank Local News that the reference to flood risks in the Southbank region came from two sources, the Adaptation Pathways case study and a project on water flow through Albert Park Lake, prepared by Parks Victoria and The Office of Living Victoria.

The Adaptation Pathways case study revealed that Southbank was at high risk of flooding now and, without remedial action, a large portion of the suburb would be under two metres of water in the event of high tides and a one-in-one-hundred-year storm.

“Council should continue to progress actions to improve drainage in conjunction with Melbourne Water. This is expected to be the most cost-effective approach to reducing both current and future flood risks.”

Graffiti targeted

The City of Melbourne has launched a four-year draft plan to tackle graffiti in the city, but it is very careful in making the distinction between graffiti and street art.

Perhaps the best example in Southbank is The Wall (pictured above) underneath the Kings St Bridge on Crown Promenade.

The Wall, created by street artist Adrian Doyle has, at different times, been vandalised by “tags.” Tags are what the council is focused on eradicating.

The major part of the plan is to continue the council’s graffiti removal services contract, which has removed more than 100,000 square metres of graffiti, but costs $1 million a year to keep in operation.

Councillor Richard Foster explained that the council had no time for tagging.

“The City of Melbourne has a zero tolerance for tagging and will continue to remove graffiti in the form of tags from public and private property as soon as possible,” Cr Foster said.

“But we also recognise that street art is a celebrated part of Melbourne’s cultural fabric and will work to cultivate the next generation of street artists to secure our reputation as a global street art destination,” he added.

The draft plan can be viewed at www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/participate until mid-December.

Stabbing at ABC building

An Ascot Vale man was arrested in October after stabbing another man in front of the ABC building on Southbank Boulevard.

The incident happened on October 7 at around 10pm.

Victoria Police said the man was trying to gain access to the building, but after being denied stabbed a passer-by in the shoulder.

The victim was taken to the Royal Melbourne Hospital with minor injuries.

Commendable effort

Two Southbank businesses will receive Lord Mayor Commendations next month, celebrating their longevity in Southbank.

American Rag and AquaJ will both receive a bronze commendation for small businesses operating for 10 years or more within the City of Melbourne.

Other awards being presented are Silver Commendation (for 25 plus years of operation in the City of Melbourne), Gold commendation (for 40 plus years), Platinum Commendation (for 50 plus years) and a special Generation Family Business Commendation (for any business that has run within the City of Melbourne over at least three generations).

Since the program began in 2005, 330 small businesses have received commendations, while another 12 have received generational awards.

This year’s recipients will receive their commendations at a presentation evening on October 21.

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Invite your friends and work colleagues
Complimentary light supper provided
Early mail on Boyd’s garage sale trail

Thought moving to Southbank would spell the end of your garage selling days? Think again.

Thanks to the Garage Sale Trail, Southbank residents are being given the opportunity to sell unwanted stuff at the Boyd Community Centre, as part of state-wide initiative. The Garage Sale Trail will be on Sunday, October 26 and, along with many bargains, attendees will also enjoy a bicycle repair workshop, live music, food trucks, balloons and the kids’ favourite, face painting.

For more information on the Garage Sale Trail head to www.garagesaletrail.com.au

More Moomba mania for us

The Moomba festival’s creative program has been presented to the council and again Southbank will be at the heart of the festival.

It will be the 60th Moomba festival and the parade up St Kilda Rd will focus on celebrating this milestone.

The festival will also focus on five pillars: listen, discover, play, look and taste. As always, the festival will be held over the Labour Day long-weekend, from March 7 through to March 10.
Once tallest, soon gone

There was a ‘sign of the times’ moment for Southbank last month when Hanover House, formerly the tallest building in the suburb, was put on the market.

The site, on the north-east corner of City Rd and Power St, will likely be marketed as a prime destination for a high-rise residential apartment complex, given the projects that have been approved in its immediate vicinity.

At seven levels high, Hanover House was developed in 1973 and, until the 1990s, was Southbank’s tallest structure.

That tells you a bit about how far we’ve come in the last 20 years.

You should be dancing, YEAH!

The First Friday Dance Club is back after a hiatus during the cooler and non-daylight savings months.

The City of Melbourne initiative invites locals and passers-by to have a boogie on the first Friday of the month, with a different style of music represented each month.

For October it was Bollywood style, with the class led by Natya Bollywood.

Genres to come include hip-hop, jazz and even line dancing.

Councillor Rohan Leppert said the idea for the dance club had come from activities held in many Chinese cities and towns.

“The First Friday Dance Club is a fun and creative way to activate the city and encourage a sense of community. The public classes are for everyone and they are a great way to meet new people," Cr Leppert explained.

“People don’t need to have any dance experience at all and we encourage everyone to get involved," he added.

Cr Leppert said the dance club had proven popular and the council was hoping it would be well received again.

“Since its inception, we have seen hundreds of people get involved in free dancing classes each month. Everyone from young children and families, to teenagers, business people, visitors to the city and older Melburnians have joined in the fun,” Cr Leppert said.

Do the bus stop?

The double decker ‘Melbourne City Sightseeing’ bus is set to provide a boost in visitors to Southbank after the City of Melbourne allowed it to use the public bus stop at the Arts Centre last month.

The privately run tourist venture applied to use three new public stops, the others being at the Shrine of Remembrance and in Harbour Town, Docklands.

The bus was using the council’s visitor shuttle stops on a trial bases but, after the conclusion of the trial, has been left to use generic stops with the addition of some privately-owned ones at hotels.
Southgate cinema back

Southgate Cinema has returned and, with the help of the relocated Blue Train, movie-lovers now have the opportunity to enjoy films with a side of food and drink.

As the restaurant is now located adjacent to the open plan cinema, guests can pre-order snacks and drinks from the movie menu.

Some of the films featured during the October-December season include The Sapphires, Midnight in Paris and Silver Linings Playbook.

Southgate’s Jo Gartner said the centre was looking forward to re-launching the cinema and that the guest experience was enhanced with the new location and offering at Blue Train.

“It’s exciting to be able to re-launch the cinema with a new movie menu designed by Blue Train’s head chef Jay Sinclair,” Ms Gartner said.

“Cinema-goers can now enjoy dinner at Southgate before the film and pre-order snacks and drinks to be delivered straight to their deck chair during the movie,” she added.

The cinema will be showing free films every Tuesday evening, but bookings are essential. To book, head to the website www.celebratesouthgate.com.au

Racing to the top

Be they crazy or competitive, fun-run enthusiasts will again head for Southbank in November, with the Eureka Climb set to attract its biggest crowd ever.

The climb is up the 88 levels, or 1642 steps, and encompasses both individual and team events.

Along with the inevitable dress ups within the crowd (including Richard Bird in his medieval gear, pictured right), there is also the “Victoria’s Emergency Service Challenge”, pitting teams from the Melbourne Fire Brigade, Ambulance Services and Victoria Police against one another, in full uniform.

Again the climb is raising money for charities Whitelion and Interplast Australia and New Zealand.

Last year’s event raised more than $300,000 and organisers are hoping to top that this year.

Whitelion CEO Mark Watt said the event was a great way for people to both support his charity and challenge themselves.

“We are looking forward to another fantastic event at the Eureka Tower for the annual race to the top of Melbourne’s tallest building. Everyone who does the Eureka Climb is raising much-needed funds for two charities,” Mr Watt explained.

Olympic Gold Medalist Michael Klim is the ambassador for the Eureka Climb and he too was excited about the next installment.

“2012 was the biggest year yet for the Eureka Climb with more than 2500 participants and a crowd of hundreds watching the action. By all indications, 2013 is set to be the best year yet with registrations coming in from all over the country and overseas,” Mr Klim said.

Tell us who has ‘Made your Day’

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

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

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

Your name_______________________________________________________________
Your address __________________________________________________________
Your email (or tel. no) ____________________________________________________

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

1. Individual nominee ___________________________________________________
   The business they work for ___________________________________________

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

Cut out this form and post to: Yarra River Business Association
Reply Paid 88876
Flinders Lane Vic 8009
**THE ARTS PRECINCT**

**SPACE USED AS TESTING GROUNDS**

A new and creative space has been introduced to Southbank as Testing Grounds has taken over one of the most talked about sites in the suburb.

1 City Road, which has long been discussed, is now home to an open-air art space, free for locals, workers and visitors to enjoy.

Testing Grounds is, at its heart, a space for artists to come together and work on new ideas. Given its location in the middle of the arts precinct here in Southbank, it seems like a good fit. It is an initiative by Arts Victoria.

Joseph Norster from The Project said he hoped the activation of the space would engage the local community.

“As a design practice we are interested in ways to provide greater civic amenity and the idea of an artist-in-residence program also interested us,” Mr Norster explained.

“We hope to attract local residents to the open space to enjoy the garden and watch the artist program evolve over time,” he added.

He also told Southbank Local News the feedback on the site had so far been overwhelmingly positive.

“The reaction so far has been a mixture of delight and surprise, we have been working on the site for a few months before we opened the gates and have got to know the locals that walk past on a daily basis,” Mr Norster said.

“We have already started building a really lovely relationship with the local community and we hope that just gets stronger as summer comes along and more people come to Testing Grounds.”

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**THE RING:**

**WAGNER ANIMATED**

Fantasy, anime and music collide in a dynamic presentation based on Richard Wagner’s epic opera cycle, *The Ring of the Nibelung*.

Enjoy The Ring Cycle in just two hours, with animation and live singers bringing to life a selection of the most famous and memorable scenes. Wagner’s soaring melodies, Japanese-style animation and a great story makes *The Ring: Wagner Animated* the must-see production this year.

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**TICKETS $45 ($35 CONC)**
Southbank is set for a visit from Australian entertainment royalty, academy award-winning actor Geoffrey Rush.

Rush will be in town to inspect The Extraordinary Shades of Geoffrey Rush, an exhibition dedicated to the star of Shine, The Kings Speech and Pirates of the Caribbean.

Rush will be signing copies of the catalogue that accompanies the exhibition.

The exhibition, at Gallery 1 in the Arts Centre, has been open since July and has already had 130,000 visitors. It will close on November 3.

Rush will appear on Sunday, October 20 at 2pm until 2.45pm.

The Melbourne Theatre Company hosted a moving tribute to John Sumner, the theatre company’s founder, in October

Mr Sumner was the founder and also Artistic Director between 1953-55 and 1959-1987. Family, friends, and many from the theatre world Mr Sumner inhabited attended the service.

Speakers included former MTC Artistic Directors Simon Phillips and Roger Hodgman, as well as actor and stage manager Malcolm Robertson.

Messages were read from a number of different people, including Barry Humphries, Graeme Blundell and Ann Tonks. In his speech, Mr Phillips told guests it was John’s vision that led to other state governments establishing their own theatre companies around Australia.

“He was the father of theatre in this state,” Mr Phillips proclaimed.

“John had an extraordinary nose for the theatre animal. Many of whom are sitting in the audience today,”

John Sumner died in May. He was 88.
It may not be a particularly pleasant thought, but it is an important one.

Estates and wills are becoming more important and when you see a statistic like 50 per cent of Victorians not having a will when they die, it’s easy to understand why Rigby Cooke lawyers are all too familiar with the pitfalls.

Rigby Cooke’s Rachael Grabovic has lived in Southbank for 10 years. She’s also an accredited wills and estates specialist. She hopes to help fellow locals who want to get their affairs in order.

“It’s all about peace of mind really,” Ms Grabovic explained. “When you do die without a will, the ramifications can be quite hard on people.”

Ms Grabovic explained that you’re really sorting out your estate for the benefit of your loved ones, after you’ve gone. Rigby Cooke is expert at guiding people through this difficult process.

“You want to make sure it’s a smooth process for people. We understand they’re already grieving, but you don’t want to leave the stress of financial issues as well,” she explained.

“Clients should come to us and tick off all the boxes.”

Ms Grabovic also explained just how confusing estates could be in the digital age, particularly when someone passes unexpectedly.

“We look after everything, not just wills. Super, life insurance and, increasingly, digital assets,” she explained.

“It goes further than social networks. Bank accounts and utilities bills are often accessed exclusively online these days, so it’s important to have a plan in place.”

Rigby Cooke is based on LaTrobe St in the city and is one of Melbourne’s oldest commercial law firms, with origins dating back to the 1840s.

While Ms Grabovic certainly hasn’t been around that long, she is the best person to speak to when dealing with these matters. As she summed up to Southbank Local News: “Overall, we always try to be sympathetic and empathetic when dealing with death.”

To book a free 30 minute consultation call 9321 7888 or for more information on Rigby Cooke head to the website www.rigbycooke.com.au

Rigby Cooke’s Wills and Estates expert, Rachael Grabovic.

We all know Southgate’s attraction for tourists. The restaurants and bars set along the picturesque riverfront ensure there is always a rush of people around, but increasingly, Southgate is catering for locals’ needs as well.

This is especially (but not exclusively) the case on the podium level. The cluster of “everyday” services includes medical care, a newsagency and hair and beauty services.

Southgate’s Jo Gartner told Southbank Local News she hoped that, as the residential population in Southbank continued to grow rapidly, these businesses would come in handy for locals.

“With a range of services available here at Southgate, locals can find key everyday needs without having to travel all the way over to the CBD,” Ms Gartner said.

It’s little wonder more locals are coming into Southgate, given the extensive list of services on the podium level:

- Southgate Medical Centre;
- Southgate Pharmacy;
- Eyes on Southgate;
- Southgate News and Lotto;
- TAB;
- Mark’s Service Depot;
- iBag Intelligent Drycleaning;
- Rooprani Hair and Beauty Salon;
- Flight Centre; and
- Max Therapy on the mid level.

With growing concerns over amenities for residents in our ever growing suburb, it’s reassuring Southgate is providing these services all in one place.

“Providing a range of local services complements our diverse mix of restaurants and retailers to provide an even greater experience for our local residents,” Ms Gartner explained.

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

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Spring Carnival Specials

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It’s true these days that there’s very little to separate products and services from one another. They can compete on perceived quality, price or customer service.

Here in the Yarra River Precinct we know that we have the “quality,” whether it be in our retail, dining or general hospitality sector, such as the colourful myriad of bars and cafes that we offer.

The ever increasing popularity of online buying means that it’s becoming much more difficult to compete on price alone. So, what we are left with in distinguishing ourselves is customer service. We need to concentrate on achieving great levels of service, so that our high product quality is matched by excellent attention to the customer.

One of the best ways to lift standards is to highlight and publicly acknowledge those businesses and individuals in the Yarra River Precinct who are already exceeding customer expectations.

It’s often said that it is no longer enough to simply satisfy customer needs – you need to exceed a customer’s wants and expectations. It’s the unexpected “delight” factor that will convert first-time visitors and one-off purchasers into regular customers. What’s more, they will spread the word among friends and family. Word-of-mouth is the cheapest and the most effective form of marketing, yet so many owners and managers neglect this essential part of their business.

We’re seeking your help to highlight those businesses of the Yarra River Precinct that are consistently setting high standards of customer service.

Over late spring and during summer we want you to be on the lookout for excellent examples, then to nominate them using the cut-out coupon (on page 9 of this edition) included in this newspaper. Simply fill it in and post it reply-paid to our office. By nominating, you will be in the running for some excellent prizes and, of course, the satisfaction of profiling your favourite business or one of their staff.

The inaugural Yarra River Customer Service Awards will be presented at a cocktail function in March next year. Look for the nomination coupon now, cut it out, and place it under a fridge magnet.

A very exciting new major event for the Yarra River Precinct is the inaugural Night Noodle Markets, being held in the Alexandra Gardens every night between November 18 and 30. Imagine the banks of the Yarra transformed into an authentic Asian-inspired hawkers’ market for two weeks. Cool restaurant stalls, fun bars, great music and loads of atmosphere. Some of your favourite eateries will be there, such as Longrain, Mamak and Wonderbao, dishing up everything from roast pork belly gau baos and freshly made roti to pho and Shanghai-style soup dumplings.

A reminder also that many of the events featured in the Yarra River Precinct are highlighted in the events section of the official Yarra River website – www.yarrariver.info/events. Bookmark the page so that it’s easy to quickly check out what is happening on your doorstep every week.

exoff@yarrariver.info

A variation of Sudoku, with the letters SOUTH BANK replacing the numbers.

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

Good luck!

SOUTHBANK
SUDOKU

It’s true these days that there’s very little to separate products and services from one another. They can compete on perceived quality, price or customer service.

Here in the Yarra River Precinct we know that we have the “quality,” whether it be in our retail, dining or general hospitality sector, such as the colourful myriad of bars and cafes that we offer.

The ever increasing popularity of online buying means that it’s becoming much more difficult to compete on price alone. So, what we are left with in distinguishing ourselves is customer service. We need to concentrate on achieving great levels of service, so that our high product quality is matched by excellent attention to the customer.

One of the best ways to lift standards is to highlight and publicly acknowledge those businesses and individuals in the Yarra River Precinct who are already exceeding customer expectations.

It’s often said that it is no longer enough to simply satisfy customer needs – you need to exceed a customer’s wants and expectations. It’s the unexpected “delight” factor that will convert first-time visitors and one-off purchasers into regular customers. What’s more, they will spread the word among friends and family. Word-of-mouth is the cheapest and the most effective form of marketing, yet so many owners and managers neglect this essential part of their business.

We’re seeking your help to highlight those businesses of the Yarra River Precinct that are consistently setting high standards of customer service.

Over late spring and during summer we want you to be on the lookout for excellent examples, then to nominate them using the cut-out coupon (on page 9 of this edition) included in this newspaper. Simply fill it in and post it reply-paid to our office. By nominating, you will be in the running for some excellent prizes and, of course, the satisfaction of profiling your favourite business or one of their staff.

The inaugural Yarra River Customer Service Awards will be presented at a cocktail function in March next year. Look for the nomination coupon now, cut it out, and place it under a fridge magnet.

A very exciting new major event for the Yarra River Precinct is the inaugural Night Noodle Markets, being held in the Alexandra Gardens every night between November 18 and 30. Imagine the banks of the Yarra transformed into an authentic Asian-inspired hawkers’ market for two weeks. Cool restaurant stalls, fun bars, great music and loads of atmosphere. Some of your favourite eateries will be there, such as Longrain, Mamak and Wonderbao, dishing up everything from roast pork belly gau baos and freshly made roti to pho and Shanghai-style soup dumplings.

A reminder also that many of the events featured in the Yarra River Precinct are highlighted in the events section of the official Yarra River website – www.yarrariver.info/events. Bookmark the page so that it’s easy to quickly check out what is happening on your doorstep every week.

exoff@yarrariver.info

A variation of Sudoku, with the letters SOUTH BANK replacing the numbers.

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

Good luck!
Letters to the Editor

Expect better

With Southbank maturing as a community with an established residential heart, why is it that the State Government treats it as a repository for shovelling in as many cranes and as many approvals as possible without regard to its citizens and their futures?

ON THE BOX
with Korey Fernando

S.H.I.E.L.D. stands for rubbish

The ‘spin-off’ has been around for years. Be it an extension of an earlier program or a major tie-in from a book or film, television often has the misfortune of being an ungraciously melting pot of terrible ideas.

In 1977, after the huge success of Star Wars, 20 Century Fox pulled each of the main cast into a gutsy two-hour Christmas themed television program. The Star Wars Holiday Special has spent the last 38 odd years being buried by everyone associated with its creation.

Of late, the highly-anticipated arrival of Marvel’s Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. has been a good drawcard for the Seven Network. After debuting strongly, ratings for subsequent episodes have failed to hold the promise of its first episode.

Marvel’s Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. has been created off the back of the very popular Avengers film of 2012 which, in turn, has borrowed from the classic comic book tales from the Marvel comic book brand. You can almost see why the brains trust at Disney (the parent company to Marvel) green lit the idea. The Avengers film was written and directed by Joss Whedon, the mind behind cult TV classics like Buffy and Firefly. Spearheading the show would be Clark Gregg’s popular Phil Coulson character. The hope would be that
cameos from the popular heroes would follow suit. On paper it seems like a great concept, a sure-fire hit.

The idea behind this latest spin-off revolves around the super-secret organisation that binds the individual heroes together (aptly named S.H.I.E.L.D.). However, despite its good intentions, Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. really fails to deliver on the experience given by the film. Its biggest problem is that it suffers from a bloated cast of largely boring and unfamiliar characters. As none of your favourite heroes will feature in the show, Whedon has tried to create characters that really fail to connect, which is at odds with those of the film. Ironically, there is a sterile atmosphere to the program and, for a show about a secret government agency, there’s a serious lack of intrigue or espionage. The dialogue is clumsy and references to the films and comic books are so rife, it ends up as a painful reminder of how much better those other movies and books really are.

While there are always a few lines that are genuinely funny or hit the mark, they are few and far between. Clark Gregg’s portrayal as Phil Coulson is the only redeeming factor in a world class show that should not have to face the risk of becoming a serviceless canyon of Kwoon-like towers without services or connections to one another or the wider community.

Southbank should expect better from this State Government.

Martin Foley MP
State Labor Member for Albert Park
Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Planning and Infrastructure

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SOUTHBANK RESIDENTS GROUP WITH MICHAEL SMOLDERS

Strength in numbers

As the last federal election has shown, every vote counts. With some seats having a margin of less than 1000 votes (and in the case of a couple of seats, less than 100 votes!) we see that the collective strength of voters can make a real change in the outcome of an election, which ultimately shapes our political and economic framework for the next few years.

At a local, suburban level the same notion holds true. To have a real say in shaping our suburb’s future it takes a collective community effort to drive real change at local and state government levels. The voice of one is often lost in the process of planning and development but, as some cases over the last year have highlighted, the voice of many certainly gets us noticed and legitimately heard.

Whether it has been lobbying against the Australia 108 proposal, providing feedback on the Metropolitan Planning Strategy, holding the Government to account on a lack of schools, or advocating for a Melbourne Men’s Shed, it’s been the collective voice of Southbank residents that has made our political representatives stand up and take notice of our opinions. The Southbank Residents Group may be the “official” voice of the local community, but nothing compares to all the letters, emails and face-to-face meetings that you have initiated as an individual over the last year.

With a state election just around the corner, I encourage you all to continue your individual efforts in contacting our local and state representatives to let them know your thoughts, positive and negative, on how our suburb is being developed. The Southbank Residents Group will continue to carry the flag on the larger macro issues we face and we hope that through a continued strength in numbers we show our political representatives that we’re serious about how our suburb is shaped and supported into the future.

If there’s one thing that the last federal election has reminded our politicians, it’s that the individual voted them in - and it will be the individual that will vote them out. Make sure you continue to hold all our political representatives to account in the coming year.

After all, our collective strength will ultimately determine who will represent us moving forward.

Final reminder - AGM and call for nominations

The SRG Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 31 from 6pm.

Pastor Ian

We often do not fully appreciate a thing until it is suddenly taken from us. One of the privileges God has blessed us with is the freedom to worship. Our church doors are open; we have free access and can enter unafraid. Is it a joy for us to go to the house of God? Or does this privilege need to be taken away from us so that we appreciate it?

In Psalm 84, the psalmist expresses a deep longing for God’s house, a longing probably brought about by his recent and temporary banishment. Now that the barren experience is over he has an appreciation that as he never had before.

The psalmist realises more clearly that those who are in friendship with God, and who follow after him, enjoy many blessings. The Lord provides strength, security, peace, and guidance for his people; he helps them to be a blessing to others. Most of all, God is their rock and salvation.

The God whom the psalmist worshipped is our God. He has revealed himself to us in Christ Jesus, and he continues to meet with us through the Bible, baptism, and the Lord’s Supper.

Here at St Johns Southgate we are pleased to offer this privilege to people from all walks of life on every Sunday morning. So, come and experience what a privilege it is to hear God’s word! What a privilege to participate in the Lord’s supper! What a privilege it is to worship such a God!

Pastor Ian

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The God whom the psalmist worshipped is our God. He has revealed himself to us in Christ Jesus, and he continues to meet with us through the Bible, baptism, and the Lord’s Supper.

Here at St Johns Southgate we are pleased

The Privilege of Worship

Psalm 122, Verse 1 says, ‘I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord!”’

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

Sunday 27th October
9am
Bach Cantata Service
Reformation Festival Eucharist
Singer (4am Herr en) preus Lieb (BWV 190)
for 3 soloists, choir, strings, 3 oboes, 3 trumpets, Timpani and continuo
St Johns Church Choir & Orchestra
Conducted by Graham Leidsoke

9am, 11am

Sunday 3rd November
All Saints Day

Every Sunday
9am
Traditional worship with communion

11am
Informal worship with communion

6pm
Sunday Night at St Johns
Informal contemporary worship
hosted by Lutheran Students and Friends

The chapel is open daily for private prayer and reflection

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

Fanning Street was named after an Englishman who was actually born in Sydney, before making a name for himself in Melbourne.

Edward Fanning was born while his parents were visiting New South Wales, but grew up near Reading in England.

He moved to Melbourne in 1871 to work for the local branch of his father’s mercantile firm, Fanning, Nankivell and Co.

Edward fell in love and married Constance Moore in 1874, but tragically she died from pneumonia not long after. Undeterred, Mr Fanning promptly fell for Constance’s sister, Kate.

The couple were unable to marry until laws were amended allowing it, which they had by the time they tied the knot in 1885.

Mr Fanning was an active member of Melbourne life, playing cricket for the Melbourne Cricket Club and being a trustee of both the Alexandra and Melbourne clubs, becoming the president of the latter. He died in 1917.
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Victoria Harbour Ride2Work Community Breakfast

Calling all Melbourne city workers: join in the commuter revolution next Wednesday, October 16 and treat yourself to a free breakfast and a host of giveaways at the Victoria Harbour Ride2Work Community Breakfast!

Just follow the Capital City Bicycle Trail through Docklands (following your nose to the free coffee van!) and you can’t miss it! The event will take place in the heart of Victoria Harbour, on the corner of Harbour Esplanade and Bourke St. There are stacks of giveaways and freebies including:

- Victoria Harbour is providing free Bakers Delight products and free Australian bananas;
- Free coffee courtesy of the Rapha Coffee Cart;
- Massage, physio assessments and bike fitting from Pinnacle Health;
- Three x $100 shopping vouchers at Harbour Town Shopping Centre are being given away;
- Bike name engraving and security tips from Victoria Police and the Bicycle Patrol Unit; and
- A bike mechanic will be on hand to provide bike repairs thanks to Bike Force Docklands.


Free Yoga and Zumba at Fed Square

Yoga and Zumba at Federation Square aims to promote exercise during lunchtime as the perfect opportunity to get active.

No experience is necessary. Just bring your enthusiasm down to Federation Square early in the New Year. Brief descriptions of the programs include:

- Are you ready to party yourself into shape? That’s exactly what the Zumba program is all about. An exhilarating, effective, easy to follow, Latin-inspired, calorie-burning dance fitness party that is moving millions of people towards joy and health.
- Yoga sessions will place emphasis on safe, thoughtful movements, promoting a sense of kinesthetic awareness. Stretching and postures will focus on controlled breathing aimed to improve key health areas of core strength and flexibility. Take a break from the busyness of city life and incorporate meditation and tranquility into your day.

Visit www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/amcs to register or to find out the program times and dates.

Free Tai Chi classes in the heart of Melbourne City

Start each week feeling refreshed, rejuvenated and energised with Tai Chi, the Chinese martial art that promotes health and relaxation.

Join expert instructors from Tai Chi Australia for a free class every Tuesday morning at Federation Square.

Exercise your mind, body and soul in this inspiring location.

When: Every Tuesday, 7.30am - 8.30am
Where: Main Square (the atrium if weather is poor)
Price: Free - no bookings required
Visit www.fedsquare.com/events/tai-chi/
BUSINESS DIRECTORY
peipei@yogawithpei.com
Join us and explore strength, flexibility, and relaxation through Yoga. BYO Yoga mat and blanket/bath towel. $10 per balance.

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www.melbournelibraryservice.com.au

FREE TAI CHI AT BOYD
Boydel Community Hub, 207 City Road
Instructors are from Yulong Wu-Shu Tai Chi. Classes are suitable for all levels from beginner to advanced. Courtesy of the City of Melbourne. Contact: www.yulong.com.au/boydcommunity

READING CIRCLE
First Tuesday of the Month 5:45 - 6:45pm
Southbank Library at Boyd, 207 City Road
Come along to talk about books: those you love, those you want others to love, and those you still haven’t discovered. Phone: 9658 8300
www.melbournelibraryservice.com.au

MELBOURNE SUNRISE PROBUS CLUB
First Thursday of the month, 10.00am
Wharf Hotel, Siddelsey St
Probus clubs cater for the needs of men and women over 50. Keep your mind active and meet new friends while enjoying a range of activities.

MELBOURNE NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6pm-8pm
3 Southbank Promenade
This night photography class runs in Melbourne’s city centre and has all the night photography tips you’ll ever need. For more info: www.pennykoukoulas.com

ST JOHNS SOUTHGATE MIDWEEK EVENTS
Second Wednesday of the month
St Johns Southgate, 20 City Road
Friendship group - Brief Chapel service at 12 noon, followed by lunch at 12.30pm in the Function room. Interesting speakers and a great chance to make new friends.

ST JOHNS SOUTHGATE SUNDAY SCHOOL
Every Sunday, 10.30am - 11.15am During school terms
St Johns Southgate, 20 City Road
Sunday School for children 3-11 years. Youth Group for teenagers. Every Tuesday 10am-Noon Playgroup for very young children and their carers www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au

ST JOHNS SOUTHGATE SUNDAY WORSHIP
Every Sunday, 10.30am - 11.15am During school terms
St Johns Southgate, 20 City Road
9am - Traditional liturgical worship.
11am - Informal liturgical worship.
6pm - Informal contemporary worship. www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au

STOMPERs
10.30am Tuesdays
Southbank Library at Boyd, 207 City Road
Stomper is Melbourne Library Service’s new weekly program for toddlers aged 18 months to 3 years. Come along for a half hour of stories, songs, rhymes, music and most of all, FUN!

YOGA WITH PEI
6.30 pm Tuesdays & 9.00am Saturdays
Beginners class at 9.30am on Wednesdays
Assembly Hall at Boyd, 207 City Road
Yoga mat and blanket/bath towel. $10 per session, every 5th session free. peipei@yogawithpei.com
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8207/1 Cade Way, Parkville  – **SOLD**
109/99 Whiteman Street, Southbank  – **SOLD**
308/41 Nott Street, Port Melbourne  – **SOLD**
1309/2 Albert Road, Melbourne  – **SOLD**
1201/83 Queensbridge Square, Southbank  – **SOLD**
1702/109 Clarendon Street, Southbank  – **SOLD**
203/55 Villiers Street, North Melbourne  – **SOLD**
1011/568 St Kilda Road, Melbourne  – **SOLD**
709/63-75 Coventry Street, Southbank  – **SOLD**
1316/480 Collins Street, Melbourne  – **SOLD**
2606/109 Clarendon Street, Southbank  – **SOLD**
3707/1 Freshwater Place, Southbank  – **SOLD**

The triptych building was built with award winning architecture in mind, this 2 bedroom apartment offers all the lifestyle opportunities Southbank has to offer, all within walking distance to Melbourne’s iconic Arts Centre, Botanical Gardens, Ballet Centre and all of Southbank’s finest wining and dining.

This bright and spacious apartment soaks in the morning sunlight and boasts 11m² of luxury living, as well as a secure undercover car park – sure to impress the fussiest of buyers.

Luxury amenities include: A state of the art gym, 25m indoor lap pool, rooftop garden with yoga deck. This property is Southbank’s most forward thinking address. The property is securely leased until February 2014. Inspection is guaranteed to impress!

For more information on this fantastic opportunity please call:

**708/5 Kavanagh Street, Southbank**

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