SOUTHBANK NEWS

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A Green pledge for park over CityLink

WORDS BY Sean Car PHOTOGRAPHY BY John Tadigiri ELECTIONS

Illusive plans for a 2.5-hectare elevated park linking the two halves of Southbank over CityLink would be kick-started under an elected Greens leadership team at the upcoming City of Melbourne council elections.

First flagged in the council's Southbank Structure Plan in 2010, the cost and coordination of bridging the gap between the tops of Balston and Power streets over the freeway to Miles and Sturt streets with green space has prevented any progress of the vision to date.

But The Greens, led by Lord Mayoral candidate Apsara Sabaratnam and two-term councillor Rohan Leppert, have pledged to give the project the attention it deserves if elected on October 24, sharing their plans exclusively with *Southbank News*.

But irrespective of Ms Sabaratnam winning Lord Mayoralty, Mr Leppert, who is all but guaranteed to

win a third term on council, said he would push for the City of Melbourne to progress financing and feasibility options with the state government and CityLink operator Transurban.

As the headline project of its "Parks for Everyone" policy initiative, The Greens have costed the project at \$385 million over 10 years, proposing a mixture of funding streams from the council, state government and Transurban.

With Southbank still by far lowest in the City of Melbourne's rankings of open space per individual at 0.62 sqm, compared with Parkville at 180 sqm, Mr Leppert said the proposal represented the only opportunity to rectify the shortfall.

"Our policy for the creation of new open space focuses on the areas of greatest need," he said.

"The Southbank Structure Plan 2010 found that 'the approach to the CityLink tunnel has created a large void in Southbank. This fragments Southbank into disparate

Continued on page 2.

Boyd building proposal reignites local anger

While the submission of a planning application last month for a 42-storey development at the western edge of Boyd Park has been expected for some time, it has renewed some fierce opposition within the local community.

WORDS BY Sean Car PLANNING

Last year, the City of Melbourne sold the 1843 sqm portion of land currently occupied by a basketball court and pop-up orchard to developer PDG for \$16.5 million, who as part of the deal, agreed to deliver a range of community benefits in its proposal.

On July 4 last year, Lord Mayor Sally Capp appeared with PDG managing director Vince Giuliano and Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) president Tony Penna to unveil the long-awaited ending to the saga that has been the council's Boyd dealings.

Following a series of failed attempts to develop the site with previous developer Mackie since 2011 in order to fund Boyd Park, the Lord Mayor and Mr Giuliano announced a new deal for a 110-metre mixed-use building last year.

This was despite the council ultimately funding and building the park itself in spite of its failed attempts to get a deal over the line with Mackie following pressure from the local community, which had called for the entire site to become a park.

But having purchased the entire site, formerly home to JH Boyd Girls School, back in 2007 and delivering the Boyd Community Hub at 207 City Rd, the council has insisted that selling off a section of the site was necessary.

Due to a council policy dating back

to 2014, all profits generated from both the previous and current sales of the site are directed to funding the renewal of Queen Victoria Market (QVM); a continued topic of angst within the community, according to Mr Penna.

PDG's development, which was 27 metres higher than Mackie's previous proposal for the site, was allowed additional height under an agreement by the developer to include 1000 sqm of council-run community facilities over the first two levels of the building.

But the application submitted to planning authorities last month by PDG has returned with a higher tower at 138.7 metres and 920 sqm of council facilities facing the City Rd end of the development nearest the Boyd Community Hub.

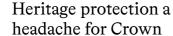
PDG development director Sebastian Mahoney said that the current height of the proposal was consistent with the planning scheme and that it had delivered more community space than what the council had requested.

"The City of Melbourne's original tender called for 550 sqm of council facilities and PDG reached an agreement with the City of Melbourne to include a minimum of 920 sqm of council facilities at ground and level one," he said.

"The community facilities will adjoin the new park and will be a fantastic asset for the local Southbank community."

The DKO Architecture-designed *Continued on page 3*.

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Another Southbanker runs for local council



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Arts Centre veteran leads the YRBA



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Council elections ... all you need to know



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A Green pledge for park over CityLink

Continued from page 1.

pieces and tends to blight the immediately surrounding uses."

"The proposal at the time was to 'stitch together the northern and southern fragmented 'halves' of Southbank by decking over the void with new development to create a connected and continuous mixed-use area and provide the opportunity for new public open space."

"We disagree. To bring green open space in Southbank up to a level approaching the World Health Organisation's recommended minimum of 9sqm per individual, let alone the recommended ideal rate of 50 sqm, all of this space should be green parkland for public use."

"The City of Melbourne's Open Space Strategy 2012 moved in this direction, but the sheer expense and challenge of multi-level governmental coordination has prevented this project from being explored."

"It is well past time that this idea is taken seriously, budgeted for and progressed. Our proposal will connect the two halves of Southbank and lift green open space rates per capita greatly. There is no other space in Southbank able to cater for new public open space at this scale."

Appearing at the site this month with Ms Sabaratnam and local Southbank candidate Nakita Thomson, who is running fifth on The Greens councillor ticket in this election (read more in this month's Southbanker profile on page 23), Mr Leppert said the new park would connect Melbourne Square to Habitat Filter on Miles and Sturt streets.

Representing 1.6 per cent of the total area of Southbank, the park would require decking over the section of CityLink freeway approaching the Domain Tunnel abutting Power St.

The plan would also require that the offramp from CityLink westbound join the Miles and Moore street intersection, rather than Power St.

"Over time we will further throttle traffic where possible to limit heavy truck movements through the local area, without creating a liability for ratepayers by removing the CityLink BEFORE



AFTER



lacktriangle A before and after representation of The Greens take on an elevated park over CityLink in Southbank.



traffic guarantee that the state government has agreed to," Mr Leppert said.

While 48 per cent of the open space would be on ground, 52 per cent would be built on decking. Mr Leppert also flagged the possibility of the triangular parcel of land between Power and Sturt streets being decked in the future to allow for mixed and community uses.

Its \$385 million project costing over 10 years would include \$65 million and \$30 million

from the council's open space reserve and capital works contributions, respectively, as well as a \$290 million contribution from the state government, which Mr Leppert said could be recouped over time from Transurban by extending the CityLink concession deed by nine months from January 2045 to November 2045.

"Absolutely it's a longer-term project but we need to start somewhere," Mr Leppert said.

"It's nearly two per cent of the suburb. No other site in Southbank can deliver this degree of open space."

"The tolls from CityLink are pretty extraordinary and it's well time we draw some contributions from Transurban."

A spokesperson for Transurban said that while it was always open to working with the community to improve areas along CityLink, it wasn't appropriate on policies put forth by different candidates during the election •

news@southbanklocalnews.com.au



Boyd submission reignites local anger

Continued from page 1.

tower also includes 394 residential apartments, 40 affordable housing units, retail, bicycle facilities and 104 car parks over podium levels designed to be retrofitted to future commercial office space pending a reduction in demand for car parking.

Mr Mahoney said that it hadn't ruled out a build-to-rent component in its project and would be testing the market's interest over the coming months.

With its planned Southbank Community Day and opening of Boyd Park in March having been postponed due to COVID-19, the SRA said it was disappointed about the timing of the application.

The SRA encouraged locals to make submissions to the council and Minister for Planning Richard Wynne, while one local has even launched an online petition opposing the proposal titled "Save Boyd Community Park".

"This year has highlighted how green spaces such as Boyd Park are crucial for apartment dwellers for regular sunlight, outdoor activity and a place to connect with locals," SRA wrote in a Facebook post last month.

"We are still waiting to officially open the park with our Southbank Community Day cancelled and in the short time that the park has been opened, it has become a much loved and needed community asset. Other areas promised to Southbank haven't been finished or finalised such as Southbank Boulevard, [which was] due for completion in 2019."

Many locals have already made submissions to oppose the development and express their frustration in the City of Melbourne's decision to sell the land, with one local Craig Elphick describing it as "another blow to the inner city".

"Council should be doing their utmost to make the area an attractive place to live, this is doing the exact opposite," he said

Another local John Anderson said that the development was a "horrific" mistake by the council.

"The Boyd Community Park took far too long to build, but once it was finally open, it became a welcome and necessary part in many people's daily lives," he said. "To build yet another glass and concrete private high rise in the area would be a horrific mistake on the behalf of the council, and one that cannot be readily undone."

The Southbank Sustainability Group, which operates a

pop-up orchard on the site proposed for redevelopment, has also expressed its strong opposition to the application.

But in what Lord Mayor Sally Capp described last year as a "win-win" for the community, the council has previously said that locals would be consulted on how the 920 sqm of community space in the building would be maximised.

Mr Mahoney said PDG remained "extremely excited and motivated" about realising an "outstanding outcome at this precinct shaping development" and that it was working with authorities with the view of achieving an approval by the end of 2020.

"PDG's vision for Boyd Village is to fully utilise the abundance of green open space to create a true mixed-use vertical village on the park − high-quality residences, first-class amenities, affordable housing, fine-grain retail and community facilities," he said ●



lacktriangle An render of the proposal showing an aerial view from Kavanagh St.



▲ The scooter was reunited with its owner.



▲ An image of the alleged thieves.

Southbank Community Hub reconnects local with her scooter

WORDS BY Sean Car COMMUNITY

An online community established by *Southbank News* dedicated to Southbankers wishing to connect via Facebook, has helped one local reclaim her stolen scooter last month.

On September 25, local resident Andrew Taza posted in the Southbank Community Hub Facebook group sharing that his housemate's red Vespa scooter had been stolen from outside their Wells St apartment complex.

The Facebook group was established in response to the pandemic in April and in the space of just six months has seen more than 630 locals sign up to connect, share and exchange ideas among their community.

And following Mr Taza's post on September 25, many locals were quick to respond with messages of support. However, against the odds, local Sara Riva spotted the scooter not far away in Coventry St and posted an image of it on the post's feed.

Remarkably, Mr Taza's housemate was reunited with her scooter soon after as a result and he shared their gratitude with Ms Riva and the group

"She found it. She's so happy," he wrote.

"Sara thank you so much sweetheart. We really appreciate it. The helmet was missing but at least we got the bike. What a great community."

Mr Riva also shared an image of the alleged thieves and has asked for anyone with information to contact police.

If you're a resident or business and would like to join our growing online community head to the link below ●

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Hotel's heritage protection a headache for Crown

WORDS BY David Schout

A host of historic Southbank buildings, including the Queens Bridge Hotel, have been given the seal of approval for heritage protection.

In September, a planning panel report was handed down that supported the call to protect the former hotel, plus other local sites including the Castlemaine Brewery complex and the Robur Tea House.

The move to provide a heritage overlay to 1-7 Queensbridge St (subject to council approval) however is likely to further frustrate Crown Resorts, which until last year had planned to build Australia's tallest tower at the site.

After Crown's planning permit expired and Minister for Planning Richard Wynne denied an extension, plans have remained up in the air.

Now, the granting of heritage protection will ensure future One Queensbridge plans are under even further scrutiny.

The City of Melbourne's heritage portfolio chair Cr Rohan Leppert said the latest development was a win for locals.

"Although we have lost too much heritage fabric in Southbank over the years, this amendment gives us the opportunity to protect the remarkable heritage buildings and structures that remain," he said.

"I am particularly pleased that the Queens Bridge Hotel came through the panel process unscathed. This will help the owner and government to ensure that Queensbridge Square remains an interesting, attractive, human-scaled place for public gathering."

The hotel was first known as the Falls Bridge Hotel, built in the 1880s.

It was reconstructed in 1926 as the Queen's Bridge Hotel and, more recently, converted to QBH nightclub in the 1990s.

Proponents had argued the hotel was "historically and aesthetically" significant for its role in serving the travellers and workers in the Southbank area.

But Crown, according to the report, argued



▲ An historic image of the Oueens Bridge Hotel in Southbank in 1982.

via expert evidence that heritage protection would "potentially undermine legitimate development opportunities" and limit community benefit.

It also argued that a heritage overlay "could potentially frustrate the achievement of positive design and architectural outcomes" as works to the building interface were required.

Further, it questioned the assessment of the site's historical significance.

But the council's expert evidence, from heritage consultants Biosis, countered these claims.

Crown were contacted by *Southbank News*

for comment but did not respond.

Just last month, council's planning chair
Nicholas Reece told *Southbank News* that
Crown's ongoing delay to Queensbridge Square

plans was "extremely frustrating".

The report's summary concluded it was a win for locals.

"The net community benefit of achieving objectives in the Act and heritage policies in the Planning Scheme (by protecting Southbank

properties with local heritage significance for present and future generations) outweighs any individual," the report stated.

The planning scheme amendment will return to council for adoption after the October 24 election.

"Personally, I am delighted that the Castlemaine Brewery complex is one step closer to protection in the planning scheme," Cr Leppert added.

"These remarkable buildings in the heart of Southbank are what drove me to commission the Southbank heritage review in the first place." ●





▲ Dr Ursula Hoff.

Southbank's new streets

DI ANNING

Melbourne Square has further cemented its position as a new mini suburb within Southbank through the creation of two of its own new streets.

As a testament to Southbank's world-class Arts Precinct, Melbourne Square developer OSK Property has created two new thoroughfares through its precinct celebrating two of Australia's most notable women of the arts – Dr Ursula Hoff and Alice Bale.

The new streets, Hoff Boulevard and Bale Circuit, are open to pedestrians, with vehicles expected to use the new internal arterials for the first time in the coming months.

With six towers being developed on a plot of land bigger than the Melbourne Cricket Ground along Kavanagh St between Power and Balston streets, the new streets provide added accessibility for Melbourne Square's residents and visitors.

The decision to name the streets after the two women pays homage to Melbourne Square's arts-centric location and Southbank's deep-rooted connection to the arts.

Born in London and migrating to Australia in 1939, Dr Hoff was the National Gallery of Victoria's (NGV's) first female curator and assistant director, while the Melbourne-born Alice Bale was a highly regarded artist and loyal staffer of the NGV who played an active role in the early years at the gallery •



Apsara Sabaratnam for Lord Mayor Cr Rohan Leppert for Councillor

For a Council that puts the people of Melbourne first, including its central city residents, vote for the team that lives here.

Rohan Leppert has fought hard on Council for Southbank residents' rights and interests. Councillor candidate Nakita Thomson is a Southbank local. Our team all live in the City of Melbourne; we don't take developer or gambling donations: we fight for *you*.

Our plan supports:

- A good night's sleep by reforming construction noise and waste collection regulations while improving communications and notice to residents.
- More green open space for Southbank residents by prioritising a new tree-lined high street for City Road, and an ambitious plan to reclaim space over the freeway near Power Street to provide a new large-scale park.
- An economic lifeline to the central city by halving rates for 5 years on cafes, restaurants and venues, while doubling them for gambling premises.
- Sunlight, open space and energy efficient design, not treating City and Southbank planning controls as an economic plaything.

See our full plan for Southbank and the City of Melbourne at melbournecitygreens.com

Authorised by R Leppert, 1/45 William St, Melbourne



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The people who failed to lead us during this crisis can't be trusted to lead us out. Lets get a new team on Council and let's get Melbourne Back to Business.

Jennifer Yang Lord Mayoral Candidate Back to Business



Another Southbanker runs for local council

WORDS BY *Jake Pike*PHOTOGRAPHY BY *John Tadigiri*ELECTIONS

Dandenong City Council project manager and Southbank resident Samantha Tran has nominated as a councillor in the City of Melbourne council elections.

Ms Tran, a Southbank local with a passion for mental health and local community has nominated as an independent candidate in the City of Melbourne postal elections on October 24. She is the second local to do so after Southbank Sustainability Group leader Artemis Pattichi announced her candidacy last month.

Ms Tran will run third on a councillor ticket behind two other women in *Southbank News* "Skypad Living" columnist and Docklands resident Janette Corcoran and West Melbourne resident Mary Masters under the name Residents First – an apolitical group that represents "Melbournians on the ground level".

Originally from Perth, Ms Tran has lived in Melbourne since 2012, where she studied a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in criminology and psychology.

Ms Tran moved away from criminology and psychology to pursue a career in project management and has worked for the City of Dandenong council for almost two-and-a-half

While working for a local government and seeing the effect her work had on the local community, she decided that she wanted to bring a positive impact to residents of the Melbourne CBD.

Ms Tran's plan includes making informed and strategic decisions based on grassroots feedback from locals in addition to council experts and to use "common sense".

"I'm not accusing anyone of not having common sense, I just think it's really important to listen to people and make informed decisions



based on what you hear and the ability to discuss with them," she said.

If elected, she plans to advocate for small businesses and mental health awareness in the community as well as improving access to green spaces and bike paths in the area.

"One of the reasons I think that I would make a great candidate is because I don't have any business affiliations. I'm not running on a fixed agenda, I'm really about the residents, I want to listen to what they have to say," she said.

At 25, she is one of the younger candidates in the running, but she thinks she would add "broader representation" to the City of Melbourne.

"I think the council has done a lot of things right, I just think there needs to be some broader representation on the council," she said.

"My age, my heritage and obviously female representation - which they have done really well might I say - but there's always room for improvement." ●

For more information:

facebook.com/samanthatrancom

City bears brunt of COVID pain

WORDS BY David Schout
ECONOMY

Inner Melbourne has suffered the worst economic hit from COVID-19 within Australia as a result of restrictions, according to research commissioned by the City of Melbourne.

The local economy was set to suffer a \$110 billion hit in the next five years compared with pre-pandemic projections and see 15 per cent of jobs lost by the end of 2020.

PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) research commissioned by the council helped shape its recently released Reactivation and Recovery Plan, which highlighted the immediate action it must take as the city moves out of lockdown.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said Melbourne was an "economic powerhouse of Australia", and steps taken in the coming months could prove crucial.

"We know that Melbourne is the engine room of our state economy and plays a major role in our national economy. The national recovery is dependent on how we bring life back to our city," she said at a September 15 Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting.

While public health and safety remained its key focus, the council also sought to support a staged return of people to Melbourne's city centre.

"Over and over the feedback has come from employers, from visitors, from our key stakeholders in the city, to say that a clean and COVID-safe city is absolutely vital and that's why it's our number one priority," the Lord Mayor said.

Part of that plan includes numerous outdoor dining hubs, including along Southbank Promenade and Riverside Quay (see report on page X of this edition).

The PwC report noted that while the city accounted for around a quarter of the state's economy, it was set to represent more than half of the state's losses.

As a result, councillors united in declaring

the economic impact a "businesses and jobs emergency" under a motion introduced by Cr Philip Le Liu on September 15, calling on the state government to waive, rather than defer, upcoming payroll tax and expand eligibility for sole trader support.

It also called on the federal government to include higher education sector workers within JobKeeper, and a permanent increase to Newstart when JobSeeker expired.

"[There is] a disproportionate impact of the pandemic on our city economy and we do need a proportionate response from federal and state governments. Other levels of government have more resources than we do, and that is why we must keep calling on [them] to work with us," the Lord Mayor said.

The Reactivation and Recovery Plan also identified "priority infrastructure projects" that should attract strong support from higher levels of government.

Among 12 "city-shaping opportunities", which called on accelerated state and federal funds, was a tram link to Fishermans Bend.

"This connection is critical to unlocking the potential of Fishermans Bend as current public transport connections do not meet minimum standards of access," the report read.

The strategy also targeted the city's struggling retail sector with a "ShopKeeper" plan, which aimed to assist new retail ventures, community services and social enterprises.

Under the plan, the council would work with owners, landlords, banks and retail associations to ensure empty shops did not remain vacant post-pandemic, and even pledged to consider taking out tenancies themselves.

Cr Nicholas Reece said that while facts and figures currently portrayed a grim reality for Melbourne, the city would bounce back.

"I would stress that Melbourne has seen bad times before, we all know that," he said. "We've come back every time we've been down before, and we absolutely will come back again. I think with this plan the city has a fantastic framework to take it forward." •



Arron is an experienced Councillor who as Acting Lord Mayor was a fierce advocate for Melbourne's residents and businesses. A local resident, father and environmental campaigner, Arron continues to fight for Melbourne's future and focuses on delivery for ratepayers and small businesses.



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- ✓ Pushed through rate freeze and will commit to rate freeze until June 2022
- ✓ Small business care package announced for retail, hospitality, events and all small businesses
 - ✓ Real solutions to homelessness
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 - ✓ Ratepayers and small business consultation a Town Hall priority

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Seeking answers on birdlife in Southbank

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge* ENVIRONMENT

Many people love bird watching and locals around Sturt St often look across at the leafy sculptured forms of the *Habitat Filter* opposite the arts precinct hoping for some action.

Faye McDonald of the Southbank Sustainability Group claims to look every morning and night from her apartment with binoculars.

She lives just across the street towards the top of the former IBM building.

"Where are the birds?" she asked. "I never see any. I don't think they like the concept."

Transurban developed the site in 2016 on a piece of contaminated land next to the freeway.

According to a statement issued by the company, the "once-vacant" site was regenerated in consultation with Landcare Australia and planted with more than 14,000 native plants from 40 different species.

It also included a water filter and nest box habitat to support birds and bats to move across the densely populated landscape.

In May 2019, a survey of flora and fauna was conducted, which found that weeds made up less than five per cent of all flora.

"The survey also recorded a total of 11 bird species either using or flying through the site, most of which were identified as being native. Unfortunately, the exact species were not recorded," Faye said.

Swallows, wattlebirds, crows, seagulls, starlings, cockatoos and sparrows are some of the species that have been sighted in the area, but experts say you need to know what food source is available at the filter before



▲ Fave McDonald at the Habitat Filter in Sturt St.

you can attract particular species.

The revegetated area was fenced off and closed to the public as part of the process so that birds would nest in the sculpture. Solar panels provide heating for nesting boxes.

Four years on and native grasses such as reeds, rushes and native iris provide a wild foreground to the glass towers surrounding the area and the eucalypts are growing.

But residents have lost heart. They used to be able to walk up the hill, sit under trees full of nesting birds and look at the lights of the city.

Now they can't see any wildlife and there's a sign warning them not to walk on the regenerated areas around the filter.

"We've been denied this area," Ms McDonald said. "I think it

looks terrific, but has it fulfilled its purpose?"

Ms McDonald said that human and wildlife could cohabit, that residents were short of green space and that they would need coaxing out of their private worlds following the pandemic.

"It's difficult to develop a community attitude," she said, even at her apartment block where they have some communal space.

"We've got a communal vegie garden. People say where is it? I say come down the stairs and turn right."

The removal of the fence or at least the sign would send out a more welcome message to local people. "There's a big sign saying not to trespass. I never see anyone walking around," Ms McDonald said ●

Capp pledges "Community Assist"

WORDS BY Sean Car ELECTIONS

Local residents and businesses will be able to nominate safety-related issues to be fixed by the City of Melbourne, if Sally Capp is re-elected as Lord Mayor.

Cr Capp told Southbank News the "Community Assist" program would contribute to the ongoing work to "change the culture" at Town Hall, so that it better engaged with and responded to the needs of residents in particular.

And she said that in her first week, if re-elected, she would get to work in directing the City of Melbourne to start delivering her policies for residents

"Community Assist will allow residents and businesses to let us know what they want to be fixed as a priority," Ms Capp said.

"These local safety-related projects might include sections of footpaths and roads in need of repair, new lighting or extra road crossings."

"Locals will be able to register their requests with an email to a dedicated Community Assist team within the City of Melbourne."

"Requests will be reviewed every quarter, assessed alongside Town Hall's priorities, and then funds will be directed to the areas of most need."

In September, Ms Capp also announced that she would be establishing a resident panel, consisting of the municipality's resident group presidents, to meet monthly with the City of Melbourne.

Ms Capp first flagged the idea in 2018 at the Southbank Residents' Association annual general meeting (AGM) and said, if re-elected, she

would follow through with the proposal. She said the panel would work similarly to how consultation currently took place with the city's many business precinct groups.



Southbanker runs with Team Capp

While she won't be elected to the City of Melbourne from last position on Team Sally Capp's councillor ticket, Southbank resident Tina Kuek's life of public service is another great story to come out of the incumbent Lord Mayor's team.

Having worked in public policy for the Victorian and federal governments and the United Nations (UN), Ms Kuek has dedicated her life to public service.

She is also a successful social entrepreneur having founded non-profit organisation, Kazi Victoria, which provides free support to people of migrant and refugee backgrounds to secure professional employment.

In addition, she's been on the board of a charity to provide clean drinking water to rural communities in Kenya and the executive committee of Girl Guides Victoria.

Tina's resume also includes one unusual entry – she appeared in the Australian sci-fi movie, *Blue World Order*! ●

MELBOURNE CITY REACTIVATION FUND



The City of Melbourne and the Victorian Government have announced the landmark \$100 million Melbourne City Reactivation Fund to assist businesses and reactivate the central city as restrictions ease.

In addition, hospitality venues can apply for free extended outdoor dining permits, which will support the COVID-safe reopening of our crucial hospitality businesses while maintaining resident amenity. Eligible businesses can also apply for free sessions with the Small Business Mentoring Service by 16 October.

To enquire about any of the support available, contact the City of Melbourne's Business Concierge Service on 9658 9658 (press 1 for business) from 7.30am to 6pm Monday to Friday, or visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/business



Arts Centre veteran leads the YRBA

WORDS BY Sean Car BUSINESS

Newly-appointed president of the Yarra River Business Association (YRBA) and executive officer of Arts Centre Melbourne Jeremy Vincent is looking forward to bringing a cultural edge to our precinct's economic rebuild amid COVID-19.

Following the departure of outgoing president and former general manager of Eureka Skydeck John Forman last month, long-time committee member Mr Vincent has taken up the challenge of leading the YRBA through its toughest period.

But having been involved with the Arts Centre since before its opening in 1984 and with a life of experience across the media, tourism, hospitality and creative sectors, the YRBA is incredibly well placed with Mr Vincent steering the ship.

And as the City of Melbourne and the state government flags the likes of outdoor dining and entertainment to revitalise the city's empty streets following the pandemic, he said he wanted to draw on his own networks to help revive the precinct.

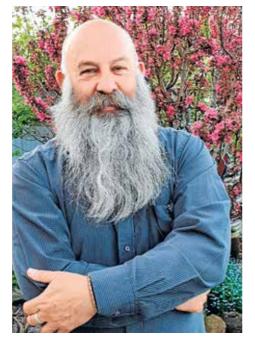
"It is a challenging time. There is no doubt about it." Mr Vincent said.

"It's all very well for restaurants to have diners but you've got the financial viability and the readiness of the public to come back."

"Unfortunately, I think the biggest hurdle will rely on people coming back to work but it's the day time activities that bring the Southbank area alive. It's a really lively place when it works."

"But part of that bringing back to the city will also be about engaging our buskers and performers and I'd be really keen to see how we'd connect with performers from the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) and other artists throughout the Arts Precinct.'

The New Zealand-born Vincent began his career in media, specialising in a number of



topics including sport, food and wine, travel and music in various high-profile publications such as Leader newspapers, Home Beautiful, The Weekly Times and The Australian.

He said when he first came to Australia in 1980, he had written to the Arts Centre enquiring about a possible job and soon after, he said he "got the gig".

"Basically it [Theatres Building] was a hole in the ground and I learnt about Melbourne from there," he said.

But having branched back out to working in the media throughout the '90s, he would return to the Arts Centre in 2001 and he hasn't left since. Over the journey, he said his role had morphed from working in communications into eventually becoming the executive officer working directly with the CEO.

And from his position at the helm of largest creative institution in Australia, he has overseen



There weren't a lot of cultural organisations in the YRBA and I was keen to wave the flag.



huge transformation in the creative industries, as well as in the Arts Precinct in Southbank. It's a precinct which alone attracts more attendees every year than Melbourne's Sports Precinct.

Having been Arts Centre Melbourne's representative to the YRBA since 2001, he has played an important role in raising the creative sector's voice within the Southbank precinct, which he said had initially been lacking.

"There weren't a lot of cultural organisations in the YRBA and I was keen to wave the flag,"

"When we renovated Hamer Hall between 2009 and 2012 we had modernised ourselves to sell that we were right against the river so it was great for us to keep that going."

When I joined the executive there was a lot of emphasis on the river but in those last couple of decades the residential side of Southbank has changed immensely and the restaurants are growing so it has become a real destination for tourists.

"The cultural side was so important. I don't program what's on at the Arts Centre but there are connections in the precinct that can be applied to so many of our activities like Melbourne Festival or AsiaTopa."

"I had the interest to make it work and all yarrariver.melbourne

the other cultural institutions in Southbank are key contributors to Victoria's creative economy. We're not just about what goes on with our

"We've got the restaurants near Hamer Hall and it all becomes one big mix. All the [YRBA] members - we're all in this together."

Arguably the City of Melbourne's most thriving precinct group, the YRBA also continues to be led by a diverse leadership team driven by executive officer Tim Bracher, who has been in the role for more than 20 years.

While it first and foremost exists to support businesses in the precinct, with that responsibility has come an increased role to advocate to local and state governments for many important major projects over the years.

Mr Vincent said that he was proud of the working relationships with the river's main custodians City of Melbourne, Parks Victoria and Melbourne Water, which culminated in the first dedicated strategy for the lower-Yarra released in 2019.

And he said that sense of collaboration would be vital in rebuilding after the pandemic.

"We are as a precinct part of the City of Melbourne and I think a lot of it is about allowing conversations to happen and not to expect things to happen. But from my experience in the past few weeks, they're [the council] bending over backwards," he said.

"As we look towards the light at the end of the tunnel we're in summer so it gives us a chance to look at coming back safely."

The COVID situation means we're going to get out of this together but we have to collaborate more with our colleagues. We're all looking forward to being able to get back to Southbank and feel the breeze of the river." •

For more information:



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Written and authorised by Jackie Watts 15-17 Palmerston Place, Carlton. 3053



I'm a Southbanker

Stories from the locals you know

Southbank and South Wharf are a vibrant mix of residents, workers and businesses. Over the past 20 years they have evolved from just places to live into communities with a growing heart. We invite you to get to know some of the personalities behind the shops, bars, restaurants and cafes. Drop in for a chat, enjoy a drink or meal with friends, because it's your "front yard", and it's you who make it our "home".

Cloud 09

Tel. 0418 536 735 www.cloud09.com.au



You might not know Southbank resident Warren Box, but you have probably seen his beautiful 1950s style wooden speedboat plying the waters of the lower Yarra River. He's usually at the helm for the shooting of an advertising campaign, or providing his boat as a memorable setting for wedding photos.

Warren and his wife moved to Freshwater Tower in 2010. They had been involved for many years in their busy blind and awning business. Prior to his semi-retirement, Warren decided to satisfy a long-held desire to build the type of stylish speedboat you once might have seen JFK and Jackie using off Martha's Vineyard, or - more recently -George and Amal Clooney on Lake Como.

Over 7 years he assisted his friend, a boat builder in Echuca, to build the handcrafted African Mahogany vessel from original specifications.

Maintenance of any boat is always ongoing, but especially for wooden hulled vessels, so its home is out of the water for much of the time, when it's not turning heads along the riverbank.

As a local micro business owner, Warren felt a bit disconnected from the local marketplace until he joined Yarra River Business Association in 2015.

Since then, his regular presence at the Association's lunches and social get-togethers has put him

in touch with a wide range of contacts locally and further afield.

"It's like a neighbourhood social club, with great business benefits" Warren says.

"Often you don't realise it, but that last casual chat you had with someone turns into an enquiry from a friend of a friend several days later.

"The benefits of the good old fashioned 'face-to-face' contact is very underrated in this largely digital era".

We look forward to this spring and summer when Cloud Nine becomes a welcome sight again on the waterway.

Left Bank Melbourne

1 Southbank Boulevard Tel. 9682 4500 www.leftbankmelbourne.com.au



Stan Delimitrou is Executive Chef at Left Bank Melbourne, and has also been a director of the iconic waterfront business since 2011.

His surname hints at Greek heritage. In fact, it was his Greek grandfather who inspired the young Stan's love of food, and whose influence ultimately moved him to take up cooking as a profession.

His grandfather spent his younger years travelling the world working on cargo ships as a diesel mechanic, but his love for the kitchen never failed. He used the opportunity to explore different cuisines from all around the world and brought home new recipes that were not generally seen in the tradition-

al Greek gastronomy. From a young age, Stan would watch his retired grandfather spend hours in the kitchen experimenting and creating extraordinary dishes.

Stan embarked on his journey as a chef more than 30 years ago, at age 16. He began his apprenticeship at a little Italian restaurant called Vic Av Pasta and Wine in South Melbourne. In more recent times he has been Head Chef at Fellinis and at Terra Rosa, before taking up the role at Left Bank in 2009.

Left Bank is a stylish blend of restaurant, bar and an events venue. Stan says his favourite event at Left Bank was the 2019 Truffle Festival, when he 'had a ball' setting up a truffle stand and cooking with fresh black truffles, which he describes as a 'nuclear-powered' ingredient.

What do you like most about being a chef?

"I would have to say the people that I have met and friendships forged. Some of the chefs that I have trained or have worked with have become family to me. I was the best man at two chefs' weddings and one of my chefs asked me to name his daughter when she was born, which was such a huge honour. I also love the hustle and bustle of service and how a good team comes together under pressure and delivers amazing food"

What's his favourite dish at Left Bank?

"My favourite dish from our current menu, before we closed, was flamed green coconut curry. The reason being, I enjoyed the flavours, smell and freshness of working with fresh ginger, chilli, lemongrass, coconut and coriander.

Life at Left Bank has been busy since March, with two lockdowns failing to stop the venue in its tracks. An extensive menu of home delivered meals and drinks has kept the core staff occupied. Left Bank's weekend gourmet food markets (Friday nights, Saturdays and Sundays) have also been one of the few bright spots for Southbank residents along the Promenade for the past two months. Stan's two daughters, Nia and Steffi, have taken two of the market spots, to showcase some beautifully fresh produce – perhaps the first stage in the next generation of Delimitrou chefs?

When Stan is not in the kitchen or managing the business, you're likely to find him unwinding on the open road, aboard one of his restored Honda or Ducati motor cycles –but probably still thinking about food, and his next feature dish for Left Bank Melbourne!



yarrariver.melbourne



Business Friendship Offer

As our gift to the Southbank business community, Yarra River Business Association is offering a six month (July to December 2020) membership free of any charges.

Try us out for 6 months at no cost and with no strings attached.

You'll get a weekly e-bulletin of news, issues and opportunities. Then, when things are up and running again, you'll have opportunities to rub shoulders with fellow small business people, through lunches, workshops and drink events. In between, we're always here to chat and share our 20 year knowledge about business in the Southbank and South Wharf precincts.

After 6 months, you can choose to stay with us for the remainder of the financial year, or we can part on good terms, having been able to learn who you are and what you do!

To take up this free 6 month membership offer, simply email the Executive Officer, Tim Bracher, at **exoff@yarrariver.melbourne**, or phone him on **0412 502 931**



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It's times like these that all businesses need

a friend, colleague or sometimes a mentor,



Check us out at www.yarrariver.melbourne/about-us

Montague is about to transform

WORDS BY Meg Hill & Sean Car PLANNING

The Montague precinct of Fishermans Bend has had a mammoth amount of development moving through its pipeline, and it's recently begun to speed up.

While the rollout of the state government's renewed vision in the remainder of Australia's largest urban renewal precinct continues at a slower pace largely due to a lack of public transport, Montague, wedged between South Melbourne and the city, is ready to go.

Serviced by two tramlines and supported by the early delivery of a new primary school and Kirip Park, the precinct has been the subject of a flurry of mixed-use residential apartment projects in recent years and that momentum has continued. Planning expert Meredith Sussex, who has been on the Fishermans Bend journey since 2014, was reappointed as chair of the Fishermans Bend Development Board by the state government on October 1.

Ms Sussex originally led the state government's ministerial advisory committee, a process which culminated in the release of a new vision and planning controls for the four residential precincts and the employment precinct in 2018.

She was appointed as the board's inaugural chair soon after and she, along with its other five members who all are charged with leading the vision for 80,000 new residents and 80,000 new works in the area by 2050, received another term this month.

Ms Sussex said she looked forward to continuing the board's work "including its contribution to Victoria's economic recovery from coronavirus".

"The recent announcement of permits for Fishermans Bend projects is a strong signal to industry of the government's commitment to the vision for the precinct," she said.

Speaking to *Southbank News* in March, Ms Sussex said development in Montague was "going gangbusters" and on September 9, two further approvals were announced by Minister for Planning Richard Wynne on Montague St and Normanby Rd.

However, the Montague community continues to await the release of the finished precinct plans, which as reported in the July edition of *Southbank News*, are being held back until after the October council elections.

While it waits to see how all the development would be knitted together under the plans, Montague Community Alliance convenor Trisha Avery said the community was looking forward to seeing how developers communicated with existing residents and businesses.

"For us it's interesting to see how developers reach out to the community and work with them, because it will be a couple of years of development happening here," she said.

"It's really about the community. The most important thing we focus on is how the developers work with the existing community, the disruption to the existing community, which is now around 1000 people, and how we all work

and live together.'

Completed projects in Montague include the high-rise Gravity Tower on the corner of Gladstone and Montague streets, Beulah International's Habitus Townhouses at 10-16 Boundary St and BPM's Nightfall on Gladstone St. Smaller commercial projects at 508-510 City Rd and 144-148 Ferrars St have also been recently completed.

As for what's to come, here's a snapshot of the current state of play ...

Current applications

Applications submitted and currently undergoing assessment include five applications on Normanby Rd:

- 272-280 Normanby Rd: 30-storey tower
- 264-270 Normanby Rd: 20-storey tower
- 256-262 Normanby Rd: 20-storey tower248-254 Normanby Rd: 20-storey tower
- 240-246 Normanby Rd: 34-storey tower



▲ Gurner's approved project at 2-28 Montague St.

Approvals

As previously mentioned, two new approvals were announced on September 9 as part of the state government's COVID-19 prompted building and development acceleration.

Announcing the acceleration, Minister for Planning Richard Wynne underlined the importance of a steady development process in the current crisis.

"It's more important than ever we continue adding to our pipeline of shovel ready projects to create jobs and stimulate the economy as we get to the other side of this second wave," he said.

The two new Montague approvals were:

- 2-28 Montague St: a \$206 million threetower development at 15, 24 and 38 stories,
- 203-205 Normanby Rd: a \$100 million 36-storey mixed-use tower.

Construction activity

There is currently more than \$1.1 billion worth of development in the construction phase alone in Montague, according to the Fishermans Bend Development Board.

They will collectively provide around 3741 dwellings and 9386 sqm of commercial office space, and include:

• 199-201 Normanby Rd: a 40-storey development by Capital Alliance, including apartments and a hotel. Construction is expected to be completed in 2021.

 202-214 Normanby Rd: An apartment tower by developer Blue Earth Group that



▲ 253-273 Normanby Rd.

will provide 284 residences.

- 134-142 Ferrars St: an 18-level residential tower opposite the new South Melbourne Primary School.
- 6-78 Buckhurst St: Four residential buildings, at 27, 29, 30 and 30 stories, respectively. It will provide 1023 residences.
- 253-273 Normanby Rd: Two towers at 37 and 40 stories by R Corporation, including 153 hotel rooms and 824 residences. It's currently on schedule for a 2022 completion.
- 245-251 Normanby Rd: a 41-level residential tower by Blue Earth Group.
- 15-35 Thistethwaite St: an eight-level residential building with ground floor retail. Estimated completion in April 2021.
- 51-59 Thistlethwaite St: A residential building by Spec Property, including 148 residences.
- 156-162 Thistlethwaite St: four-level townhouses by Beams Projects.
- 161 Buckhurst St: a six-level residential building ●



▲ 51-59 Thistlethwaite St.



Seafarers project moving ahead

WORDS BY Meg Hill

The state government has given final endorsement to Riverlee's \$500 million Seafarer project at North Wharf.

The site, home to the heritage-listed Good Shed 5 located next to the Mission to Seafarers building, has remained dormant for more than 40 years and is one of the last remaining waterfront opportunities in the precinct.

Riverlee development director David Lee said Seafarers was a key development project for the City of Melbourne.

"Over the past 10 years, we've been dedicated to planning and designing a new riverfront precinct that will inspire, excite and bring new life to the Yarra in a never before seen way in Melbourne," he said.

"It is a huge achievement to see activity start on site and we hope this will provide a glimmer of hope to the Melbourne economy."

The project is scheduled for completion in 2023, when the site will house Australia's first brand 1 Hotel.

The sustainable mixed-use riverfront precinct will include 123 luxury residences (Seafarers Residences) and 277 guest rooms.

It will also include a lobby lounge bar, worldclass event venue and meeting spaces, a health centre and a 3500 sqm public park – Seafarers Rest – which has been pledged in partnership with the City of Melbourne and the state government.

As reported in our sister publication *Docklands News* this month, restoration work on the historic Goods Shed 5 began last month. Key elements like the roof trusses, doors and windows will be taken offsite for remediation and returned during the construction phase.

The precinct also includes the post-war era wharf, and Melbourne's last-remaining original electric crane, which was restored by the developer last year. Planning is also underway by the council and state government for the establishment of a maritime heritage centre at the neighbouring Missions to Seafarers building, which will combine with Riverlee's development and the new park to create a maritime hub in Melbourne.

Riverlee estimates that more than 1000 construction-related jobs will be created each year during the build.

It is also estimated that 1 Hotel Melbourne will generate around 310 full-time jobs once it opens and will further boost Melbourne's tourism industry with up to 105,000 visitors estimated per annum ●



Setting the standard for a future in high-rise

WORDS BY Jack Hayes PLANNING

The developer of Southbank by Beulah (SBB), set to become Australia's tallest building, has said its project would set a new design precedent for high-rise development for Southbank well into the future.

Melbourne developer Beulah's project at 118 City Rd in Southbank will mitigate the issue of unsightly above-ground car parking by taking it entirely below ground level, opening up the street level and above for public amenities such as green spaces, retail, dining, art galleries and transportation.

In what inner city residents will hope to becomes standard practice for Southbank and beyond, Beulah executive director, Adelene Teh, said the two towers that made up SBB would "push engineering boundaries that others had not before us."

"We want to push all parking underground so that the first eight levels are completely accessible to the community to fulfil our vision, Ms Teh said.

"We want to create a place where Melbournians can access, explore and use a wide range of transformative spaces and experiences."

With the site just metres from the Yarra River occupying the current 6061 sqm BMW showroom, Ms Teh said several limitations had been overcome by world-class engineering and design.

"We are only metres from the banks of the Yarra. Fortunately, Australia has world-leading engineers and contractors for building basements in difficult situations," Ms Teh said.

"Barangaroo in Sydney's Darling Harbour, Queens Wharf on the banks of the Brisbane River and Elizabeth Quay in Perth have all been built with basements in waterfront locations."

"Closer to home, the same Melbourne Metro stations currently under construction have been built using equipment and engineering we will



▲ A render of Southbank by Beulah's activated street frontages.

use for our basement."

Following an international architecture competition in 2018, Beulah awarded the winning design to a partnership between Cox Architecture - one of Australia's leading architecture practices - and UNStudio from Amsterdam.

With a large portion of high-rise development along City Rd adding little to no street level public or private amenity, it is hopeful this winning design becomes a new trend for Southbank.

"One of the most important reasons for this design winning the competition was the way it responded to the attributes and needs of the location in a very personal way," Ms Teh said.

"The public spaces at the base of the towers all open out to large public terraces featuring a

mix of gardens, art spaces and activity spaces, depending on the use inside. Terraces are interconnected by staircases which can be used to walk from floor to floor and for exercise."

"The stairs are widest at the ground level where they land next to the newly extended footpath, which will extend over 20 metres for pedestrians, cyclists and activity."

Beulah will also assist the City of Melbourne to complete the Southbank Boulevard upgrade to increase public open spaces at the street level

For more information: southbankbybeulah.com



Another setback for South Wharf

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge BUSINESS

The streets have been deserted for so long that it was a shock to the proprietor of the Urban Hub Foodstore to find 30 police cars on his

doorstep at 7am this month. It was the first day of October and police and media were converging on the Novotel hotel just across the road from his store. This was the day Victoria Police took over the security of the hotel after The Age reported a breach.

"They came down pretty hard," he told Southbank News. "There were 30 police cars this morning and TV crews."

The local businessman said that the quarantine had just been re-instated on the Friday before and that they'd consolidated at the South Wharf hotel from other hotels in the CBD.

"They think they can manage it a lot better than in the CBD where it's on the main road,"

By mid-morning the road in front of the hotel was empty save for two remaining television vans. He said that the breach was an internal affair within the hotel and would not affect him.

But another worker from a nearby clothing store said he'd seen people from the hotel shopping in DFO.

"A couple of months back people walked into DFO. It was pretty bad. It was between the lockdowns," he said.

The streets around DFO are deserted but some businesses have stayed open. He said they hoped the area would open up again on October



postal vote, with ballot packs mailed to everyone on the Melbourne City Council voters' roll from Tuesday 6 October.

Voting is compulsory, so - to avoid a fine - voters must post their ballot material by 6pm on Friday 23 October.

You can check if you're on the voters' roll by calling the Elections Helpline on 1300 735 427 or using the 'Check your enrolment' tool at melbourne.vic.gov.au/elections



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Outdoor dining returns to Southbank

WORDS BY David Schout
BUSINESS

Southbank Promenade and Riverside Quay will feature as two of Melbourne's key outdoor dining precincts under a council plan to bring visitors back into the city.

After months of takeaway-only trade as a result of coronavirus restrictions, struggling local cafes and restaurants will soon be able to host diners at the popular public spaces.

The City of Melbourne has assigned both areas to host "pop-up cafes and restaurants", where businesses without existing outdoor areas can operate.

Of the 2390 cafes and restaurants within the municipality, only 800 venues have outdoor dining spaces.

Businesses with existing outdoor permits will be allowed and encouraged to expand their operations

"For those that have outdoor spaces, if their neighbouring shop allows them they can expand either side," the council's CEO Justin Hanney said last month.

"They can go onto the car parking bays out on the street; the green car parking bay."

The council, along with the state government, have committed to supplying relevant COVID-safe protection such as bollards, planter boxes and safety barriers to assist with the initiative.

Southbank Promenade and Riverside Quay are two of 16 locations across the City of Melbourne where outdoor dining will be allowed.

Nearby, locals will also be able to dine al fresco at Batman Park along the north bank of the Yarra River, and Yarra's Edge in Docklands.

Modelled on New York's "Open Restaurants" initiative, the plan the outdoor dining plan is a way to work around strict indoor dining health rules.

Mr Hanney said the council anticipated the move would be more than just a stop-gap.

"We expect outdoor dining to be so popular

with patrons this summer that it will become a permanent feature of our city for generations to come. We encourage business owners to keep coming forward with ideas because we want to see our cafes, restaurants and retail stores thriving again. We will endeavour to do everything we possibly can to assist our businesses to reopen and begin trading once restrictions lift," Mr Hanney said.

At the time of publishing, outdoor dining was tentatively expected to return on October 19 under an easing of state government restrictions, although this date was largely dependent on metropolitan Melbourne's COVID-19 caseload.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp urged the state government to consider bringing this date forward if case numbers continued to fall.

In detailing council's support, Mr Hanney said they hoped to make outdoor dining an experience people would return to.

"It's important that the outdoor dining spaces are high quality and are inviting. To achieve this, we will support businesses to install bollards, planters and barriers. Businesses will be responsible for furniture such as chairs and tables and fast grants are available to assist cash-strapped tradersm," he said.

In September, Premier Daniel Andrews urged local governments to avoid "bureaucratic delays" getting outdoor dining off the ground, and it appeared the City of Melbourne had heeded the call.

The council also announced that applications for grants of up to \$10,000 were open to assist with post-lockdown operations.

This included not only cafes and restaurants for the move to outdoor dining, but small and medium-sized businesses in any industry to assist with COVID-safe equipment and infrastructure, staff training and other marketing or promotional needs.

The grants are part of the \$100 million Melbourne City Recovery Fund, a joint program between the council and government announced in September ●



▲ Holden Sayers at Westgate Biodiversity



▲ Native mat rush on Southbank Boulevard.

Rare lily flourishing near the NGV

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge* ENVIRONMENT

We are now in the second half of the Kulin Nation tadpole season and the local Southbank grasses are flowering.

This rare Lomandra species was once prevalent across Melbourne in the native eucalypt forests. But now there are no remnant patches of pre-colonial seed to be collected.

Nick Brinkley and Holden Sayers work for Westgate Biodiversity in Fishermans Bend and they are keeping an eye out for healthy plantings of this native mat rush.

The species is actually a lily and a butterfly food as well, although it looks like a grass.

On the first day of the tadpole season Nick was out on a reconnaissance mission for the lily on nature strips in the Arts Precinct.

A very healthy planting of the grass was capturing his attention. He does not want to reveal the exact location in case the seed is stolen.

"It was true woodland," he said of Melbourne's

former habitat. "There's almost none left. We can't get the seed that predates settlement."

Westgate Biodiversity propagates 35 native species from seed. Some rare species are collected from bayside locations.

"Remnant is the key term for stuff that has survived from the past," Holden said. "Finding these sites in urban areas is increasingly difficult." "When you put through an ecological burn you might get a change in structure to allow in light and heat. You might germinate seed that is 50 years old that links to 50 years before."

Local councils notify them, and they collect the seeds and store them in a seed bank. They will be going out to collect from Westgate Park in week 47 and the seed goes straight into bags.

Ecological vegetation classes help ecologists create a map of what Southbank was like in 1750. There was deep sand, herbage woodland forest and grasslands, Holden said.

"Southbank is an interesting convergence of basalt plain with the mouth of the Yarra and river sediment soils this way."

Indigenous plants such as the mat rush do well because they have co-evolved with the landscape and have adaptations to the soil.

The City of Melbourne has a pilot program of native plantings to attract bees between the tram tracks near the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) on Southbank Boulevard.

Pig face was in bloom when *Southbank News* visited, and a small Emperor moth was flitting about despite the regular disturbance by the South Melbourne tram.

"This provides a great ecosystem function for a bee," Nick said. "Lawns are as useless as a desert."

"There are even bush foods between the tram tracks. I wouldn't eat them though." ●



Meet the Candidates Event

What local issues are you concerned about?

Melbourne City Council elections are coming up this month. We're inviting all Southbank residents to hear the policies and positions of the candidates in this open forum. Don't miss this opportunity!

A member from each team standing for Council will have 5 minutes to outline their policies. Followed by Q&A.

Date: Monday 12th October
Time: 6.30pm to 8.30pm
Where: Live Stream via Zoom
Register: southbankresidents.org.au/
meet-the-candidates

For more information email: secretary@southbankresidents.org.au



SRA: info@southbankresidents.org.au www.southbankresidents.org.au This free community event is an initiative of the Southbank Residents Association



Council elections ... here we go! All you need to know ...

WORDS BY Sean Car

With candidate preferences submitted and ballot packs already being mailed out, voters can now meet the full field that's in front of them ahead of the council elections on October 24.

With 59 candidates having lodged with the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) for the nine councillor positions and 18 for the leadership positions of Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor, the virtual race for Town Hall is now on!

With COVID-19 meaning direct access to candidates will be restricted in what is an entirely postal voting election, Southbankers will have the opportunity to meet the candidates from 6.30-8.30pm on October 12 via an online Zoom forum hosted by the Southbank Residents' Association. A representative from each of the leadership teams will be present at the event, with Southbankers and councillor hopefuls Artemis Pattichi and Samantha Tran also invited to take part. To register visit southbankresidents.org.au.

Voters can also gain a greater sense of who they're voting for in this election thanks to voluntary donation and personal interests disclosure registers hosted on *Southbank News* publisher Hyperlocal News's website (hyperlocalnews.com.au).

While the current *Local Government Act* 2020 only requires candidates to disclose their donations 40 days after the election, six of 11 councillors voted in favour of the voluntary scheme in August. Five abstained, largely citing privacy concerns.

Candidates shouldn't feel forced to declare their conflicts given the voluntary nature of these initiatives but voters can be assured that such concerns are invalid and if anything, questionable. Both registers set very clear and general guidelines.

The first register calls on candidates to declare donations or gifts to the cumulative value of \$500 or more received during the calendar year 2020. The second register invites candidates to voluntarily disclose board positions, political party memberships and financial interests valued at more than \$10,000 (excluding superannuation but including self-managed super funds)

At the time of publishing, only Teams Arron Wood, Morgan-Watts and The Greens had participated in the voluntary scheme but more were expected to cooperate in the weeks still leading up the election.

While most of the 59 councillor nominees are splashed across team tickets outlined below, there are a handful of independents who will be hoping for as many locals to vote below the line for them as possible.

As for the leadership team tickets, here's what we know ...

Team Sally Capp

The frontrunner and incumbent Lord Mayor Sally Capp left her big reveal to the last-minute announcing Team Capp on September 21 just a day before nominations closed. And in no great surprise, Labor Party member Nick Reece will run alongside her as deputy, while the experienced Kevin Louey looks set for another term sitting in the number one councillor position on her ticket.

Despite both Reece and Louey carrying some baggage as former Team Doyle councillors, the appointments appear smart strategic moves by Capp, with Reece's presence meaning the Labor Party has preferenced her over Arron Wood. While not being regarded as a particularly vocal councillor over his three council terms, former John So chief-of-staff Louey brings loyalty, capital and a wealth of experience to the Capp ticket and will no doubt help her navigate her first fully-fledged election campaign.

While barrister and Liberal Party member Roshena Campbell looks set to win a seat on council sitting next on the ticket underneath Louey, it's the third name which provides perhaps the most exciting prospect of Team Capp.

If elected, RMIT law professor, deputy pro vice-chancellor for indigenous education and engagement and Wiradjuri man Dr Mark McMillan could become the first ever indigenous councillor to serve at the City of Melbourne. But while his appointment would signal a smart strategic move in attracting



▲ Team Capp: (left to right) Kuek, McMillan, Campbell, Reece, Capp, Louey, Davidge and Young.

preferences from left leaning teams, The Greens have surprisingly favoured Team Wood ahead of Team Capp due to the independent candidates on her team being placed at the end of her ticket. Those remaining independents include architect and artist and Citizens for Melbourne president Tania Davidge, Cherry Bar owner James Young and international relations expert, anthropologist and Southbank resident Tina Kuek.

All in all, given Capp's political inexperience, the constraints she has been forced to contend with during her two years rebuilding the council's reputation following the demise of Robert Doyle and her leadership during COVID-19, she's very well placed.

While many had vented frustration with delays in revealing her team, her excuse of responding to the pandemic has been more than reasonable, and in spite of these challenges, she's managed to form a well-balanced ticket.

In unveiling her team on September 21, she described it as "the right team for Melbourne" and she pledged to lead the city's economic rebuild and create 80,000 new jobs during the next fours.

"The team represents the breadth of the talent, diversity and character of our great city," Capp said. "Every one of them deserves to be elected."

"There's a big job ahead in reactivating and revitalising our city and, if I'm re-elected as Lord Mayor, I will need a team to help get the job done."

"If re-elected, I will use every lever that I have to generate jobs, jobs and more jobs."

sallycapp.com



▲ Arron Wood and Lisa Teh

Team Arron Wood

The current Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood hasn't enjoyed his two years working with Sally Capp and he is now putting it all on the line by challenging her for the top job under the slogan, "Revive Melbourne".

The announcement of his nomination did, however, clash with Premier Daniel Andrews revealing his long-awaited roadmap out of COVID-19 on September 6, meaning less exposure on his *Herald Sun* exclusive than perhaps he would have liked.

While he too carries the unwanted baggage of "Team Doyle", his bid for Town Hall has been welcomed by many who haven't been completely sold on Sally Capp's leadership style and Wood undoubtedly presents as her biggest challenger in this race.

With a strong track record over his two terms on council, particularly in the sustainability, business and homelessness spaces, he's framed his campaign on the narrative of "less glossy renders, more hard work and delivery". His tireless work in helping deliver the likes of the Melbourne Renewable Energy Project, shouldn't be taken lightly by voters.

Accompanied by business owner, marketing,

fashion and lifestyle guru Lisa Teh as his Deputy Lord Mayoral running mate, Team Arron Wood is vowing to fight for ratepayers and businesses if elected.

"I am a rate paying resident and small business person – can any other Lord Mayoral candidate claim to be as well?" Arron said.

"Reviving Melbourne is my only motivation. It's fine to cut ribbons and rub shoulders but I'm more interested in getting things done, in reviving Melbourne for our ratepayers."

"I am not beholden to any political groups, corporate interests or developers. With me what you see is what you get and if you vote for me, you get me."

Fellow business owner and Chinese-born Jason Chang is placed in first spot on the Team Arron Wood ticket and based on how preferences could likely flow, could be the only member of the team elected to council.

But the appointment of Liberal Party member, close colleague of former state Liberal opposition leader Matthew Guy and former Melbourne councillor Peter Clarke at number two had raised some concern for Wood as to the likelihood of preference swapping with the left in this election but The Greens have given Team Wood the nod ahead of Team Capp.

Mr Clarke was previously elected to council on pollster Gary Morgan's ticket, who has directed preferences to Clarke on his councillor card in this election.

While being touted by many as Wood's chosen deputy in this election, close colleague and friend Beverley Pinder slots in at number three on the ticket, despite contributing a healthy \$30,000 donation to his campaign.

Nevertheless, having served on council for the best part of eight years, Pinder is veering towards retirement anyway, saying she felt like she had nothing to lose and was proud to support Arron's campaign.

The remainder of Team Arron Wood consists of clinic research professional and small business owner Abdi Ali and lawyer, appeals judge, law lecturer and entrepreneur Beverley Honig.

The team's priorities include getting people back to work, developing a targeted precincts strategy, supporting a rate freeze, reviving construction and tackling the homelessness crisis.

teamarronwood.com.au



▲ Phil Reed and Wesa Chau.

Team Labor

Labor Party veteran Phil Reed and his official Labor endorsed ticket represents the only team to have publicly unveiled itself months ago, rather than days or weeks in the case of Team Capp and Team Wood.

While the Labor team naturally hasn't been hampered with the burden of running the city at the same time as a campaign, its early exposure to voters places it in a favourable position; less so for its leadership nominees, but more in relation to its councillor hopefuls.

Mr Reed and Deputy Lord Mayoral candidate in businesswoman and multicultural campaigner Wesa Chau have been out in force over the past few months, spruiking their vision for "cultural change" and "real city government" at Town Hall focused on delivery and accountability.

It's a vision supported by a track record of a major political party engine room that has obvious merit. However, there is also concern among some voters as to the Labor Party's growing influence at Town Hall.

Many were surprised by Labor powerbroker Nick Reece's early decision to jump on Team Capp rather than join his party cohorts. It's led to some speculation of his role as the so-called "puppet master" of this election, and Phil Reed has preferenced Sally Capp's team ahead of Arron Wood and The Greens.

But while nothing is certain, North Melbourne pub owner Davydd Griffiths and experienced former Glen Eira Mayor Mary Delahunty are well positioned in the first two councillor spots and would undoubtedly bring fresh and experienced voices to council.

Rounded out with Carlton community liaison Hamdi Ali, the Labor team is promising action- and innovation-based approaches to supporting housing affordability, renewable energy, employment, small businesses and waste management.

Notably, Labor has put forward a self-described "game-changing" policy to deliver a rate-holiday to build-to-rent developments in an effort to provide more affordable housing in the city.

Mr Reed also cites the under-delivery of council's capital works budget as a key motivation for change at Town Hall, stating the days of simply running tenders and turning up for the ribbon cutting were over.

"After 2020, our city will never be the same again. Labor doesn't fear this change - we see residents, business owners, artists and creators who will flourish again with clear vision and strong leadership," Mr Reed said.

"We are asking people to vote Labor for Melbourne, because we have a real plan to get the job done."

melbournelabor.com.au



▲ Rohan Leppert and Apsara Sabaratnam.

The Greens

Never to be underestimated, The Greens have a loyal and ever-growing base of grassroots voters and could pose its greatest challenge for Town Hall yet in this election.

With the impacts of COVID-19 forcing the focus of policy-makers at all levels of government firmly back to the needs of the local community, residents and businesses alike, The Greens policy platform presents as an increasingly attractive proposition to voters.

If the "top-heavy" leadership of the other tickets doesn't bode so well for those feeling disenfranchised by the bigger players, then who knows how far The Greens might go in 2020.

With a more competitive and stacked field this time around as opposed to 2016 where The Greens won 26 per cent of the overall vote to Team Doyle's 52 per cent, it will all come down to preferences.

But in what is largely a progressive (and even socialist) field, CBD resident of 19 years Apsara Sabaratnam could give Sally Capp a real run for

The experience of Cr Rohan Leppert is



▲ Dr Olivia Ball

well-known from his two terms on council and one can all but lock in a third term. Dr Olivia Ball replaces outgoing three-term councillor Cathy Oke in second position on the ticket having run as the party's Lord Mayoral candidate in 2016

In an effort to retain more residents in the city, Ms Sabararatnam will lead the team under the policy initiative, "A Good Night's Sleep for Everyone", which targets areas close to the hearts of Southbankers including building regulation and residential amenity.

Rohan Leppert said sunlight, open space and energy efficient design needed to be protected and enhanced in Docklands by not leaving its planning controls open to secret development agreements.

North Melbourne resident and midwife Roxane Ingleton will run as deputy to Ms Sabaratnam on The Greens ticket, with Carlton resident Emily Corcoran, Kensington resident David Jeffery, Southbank resident and urban planner Nakita Thomson, and East Melbourne resident Charlotte George making up the remaining councillor spots.

melbournecitygreens.com/election-2020



▲ Nick Russian.

Bring Back Melbourne

The surprise packet of this election, without question.

Somewhat renowned nightclub owner Nick Russian emerged out of nowhere in August as a possible challenger for Lord Mayor by the *Herald Sun*, having reportedly been approached by forces within the Liberal Party, despite being an independent.

While the Liberal Party doesn't officially endorse candidates, Russian's nomination certainly provides the only current Liberal councillor in Philip Le Liu's campaign for re-election with more of a profile.

Le Liu had flagged his own unofficial Liberal Party ticket for some time, placing himself in the number one councillor slot. In the end he has finished up with a team consisting of Serena Lu Jiang, Lauren Sherson and Darin Schade – all ex-Liberal state and federal candidates.

Russian will run alongside Liberal member Michael Burge (deputy), under the motto of "Bring Back Melbourne for business, residents and students". Like many business owners, Russian has felt the devastation of COVID-19 and is putting his power and prestige to good use with a foray into local politics.

The team will focus on a number of key policy objectives, namely allowing residents to choose where 50 per cent of their rates could be invested, reenergising the night-time economy and "NO" to a safe injecting room in Melbourne.

Philip Le Liu has more than held his own during his four years on council having been elected in 2016 on Ken Ong's ticket. Having



▲ Philip Le Liu.

served as chair of the council's international engagement portfolio, his passion for international students and business has shone through.

On September 15, he called on the council to declare a business and jobs emergency in the City of Melbourne and he said his team would be putting the same pressure on the state government in the post-COVID recovery.

businessresidentsstudents. melbourne



▲ Jennifer Yang.

Back To Business - Jennifer Yang

Labor Party member Jennifer Yang has vowed to become the "night-time" Lord Mayor if elected and is campaigning under the slogan "back to business".

The former Manningham Mayor and Lord Mayoral by-election candidate in 2018 where she came close to toppling Sally Capp, shouldn't present as so much of a threat in this election given the stacked nature of the field.

But she is understood to be backed by Labor's industrial left, which includes some unions, and her presence in the race does present some concern for Sally Capp, who has been preferenced behind Arron Wood on the Yang ticket.

And with Team Capp choosing to encourage voters to vote down the line it ironically means Yang will also receive their preferences.

Ms Yang's Deputy Lord Mayoral running mate is Block Arcade business owner Sandra Gee, while the councillor ticket features construction figure Elizabeth Doidge and businessman and former Manningham Mayor Charles Pick.

Ms Yang's greatest role in this election is undoubtedly stirring up the anti-Sally Capp forces and she will once again pose a challenge helped also by being preferenced second on the Phil Reed Labor ticket.

"I know what business needs to get back on its feet after the COVID lockdown," Ms Yang said. "The city's traders, retailers and businesses need our Lord Mayor to be a strong voice, not a weak echo. Let's put the 'B' back into CBD with policies aimed at supporting our business community and a Lord Mayor who'll stand up for us, whether to the state government or to narrow interest groups."

Ms Yang said her team was focused on a strong rate relief plan, creating dedicated business portfolios for key industries within the council, advocate for "substantial changes" to the government's C270 planning controls and provide greater stimulus to businesses suffering from the impacts of COVID-19.

back-to-business.com.au



▲ Gary Morgan

Team Morgan-Watts

Pollster and chairman of Roy Morgan Research, Gary Morgan is no stranger to the City of Melbourne and he's going around once again largely to help get long-serving councillor Jackie Watts re-elected.

Friends of Queen Victoria Market (QVM) Mary-Lou Howie will run as his deputy under a campaign heavily focused on getting businesses in Melbourne out of lockdown, supporting QVM traders and relocating residents living in public housing towers.

"The Queen Victorian Market does not need the negative impacts of an active drug market in its area – on top of COVID," Mr Morgan said.

"The Morgan-Watts Team priority will be to relocate residents from state government housing towers to COVID-safe housing, continue homeless housing – with additional social programs, protect Melbourne's heritage – stop 'selfish' destruction, and cut Melbourne rates – both business and residential."

While Morgan has preferenced Sally Capp high on his leadership voting card, Morgan's former running mate Peter Clarke, who is running on Team Arron Wood, will receive his councillor preferences.



▲ Mary Lou-Howie

Either way, Labor Party member Jackie Watts looks likely to win another term on council and her community-driven politics has found a practical voice during the past four years on issues such as maritime and knowledge.

The rest of the Morgan-Watts ticket consists of Liberal Party member and Coalition of Resident and Business Associations (CoRBA) president Michael Kennedy, logistics engineer Haya Al-Daghlas and Docklands academic Dr Dashi Zhang.



▲ Jackie Watts.

jackiewatts.com.au



▲ The Socialist councillor hopeful Chris di Pasquale.

Victorian Socialists

As reported in the September edition of our sister publication *CBD News*, the Victorian Socialists having formed a ticket for the election, spearheaded by Flinders Street Station worker Kath Larkin, Daniel Nair Dadich (deputy) and Chris di Pasquale in the first councillor spot.

While vowing to revolutionise the position of Lord Mayor and represent front line workers, Ms Larkin's major objective will be attempting to get di Pasquale, an ESL teacher working in the CBD, elected as a councillor.

This might not be as unlikely as it seems with the Socialists receiving favourable preferences from The Greens, Labor and Sally Capp. It will be interesting to see how they fare.

Ms Larkin slammed current councillors for their failure to put the interests of city workers and residents above big business. She said constituents were struggling to be heard by a council hopelessly compromised by donations from developers and the top end of town.

victoriansocialists.org.au/ melbourne-city



Team Zorin

Long-time political hopeful Wayne Tseng (pictured) is running for Lord Mayor alongside Gricol Yang as deputy under the name Team Zorin and hopes to improve his political record of four losses with the Liberal party at state and federal levels.

Mr Tseng is the founder of eTranslate, a company that offers translation and cultural consultation for businesses. He is also an avid property investor and founded the Chinese Chamber of Property Investors, a non-profit organisation that helps Chinese nationals invest in the Australian property market.

While he has since resigned from the Liberal Party, Mr Tseng is running on the platform of improving transparency in government and giving citizens a bigger say in what goes on by implementing a "digital democracy".

"Our main advocacy is to promote stronger participation of people in the course of government – in this case council – decisions," he said.

His plan includes implementing a social media platform specifically for council to hear suggestions and interact with voters so that they can have a better say in the democratic process.

teamzorin.com.au



Sean Car EDITOR

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Your City of Melbourne Community Update

CITY NEWS

CITY OF MELBOURNE PLANS FOR REACTIVATION AND RECOVERY

A new COVID-19 Reactivation and Recovery Plan aims to protect jobs and businesses, help the community and support the staged return of people to Melbourne's city centre.

The City of Melbourne has been working with business and community leaders for months to develop the best ideas to support the city through this health crisis and recession.

The resulting Reactivation and Recovery Plan recognises the unique challenges facing the central city and outlines major, collaborative initiatives to drive immediate reactivation when restrictions ease.

As well as making sure Melbourne is open for business in a safe and welcoming way, the initiatives will create a foundation for the city's longer-term regeneration and resilience.

FAST FACTS Benefits to businesses and residents

The COVID-19 Reactivation and Recovery Plan outlines the City of Melbourne's plans to:

- deliver new bike lanes to create more transport options
- ✓ create more space for people in our Little Streets
- support outdoor dining through advocacy, a faster permit system and extension of fee waivers for street trading
- work with precinct associations, businesses, community groups and Melbourne's creative industry to reactivate retail strips and vacant shopfronts

- deliver Melbourne Fashion Week, the Christmas Festival and other pop-up activities, installations and performances in innovative ways to draw people back to the city when it is safe to do so
- encourage major employers to bring workers back to the city in a safe and staged way once restrictions ease, which will be central to Melbourne's reactivation
- secure State and Federal government funding to commence major infrastructure projects that will create jobs and benefit our community for years to come, including a transport route to Fishermans Bend, affordable housing and new sporting and community facilities.

To find out more about the City of Melbourne's response to COVID-19, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

SAFER PACE FOR LITTLE STREETS

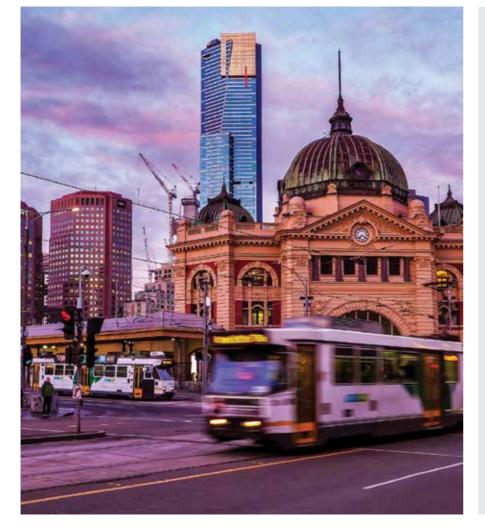
The City of Melbourne has reduced the speed limit from 40 to 20 kilometres per hour on Little Lonsdale, Little Bourke and Little Collins streets and Flinders Lane, and people now have right of way over cars and bikes.

These changes will improve safety for people walking and cycling, create more space for physical distancing and encourage people to return to the city as COVID-19 restrictions ease.

The new speed limits better reflect current average vehicle speeds and are not expected to impact drivers' travel time.

The initiative is the first step in a broader program of works to create more space for shoppers, diners and pedestrians, which will use art and activities to revitalise our streets and laneways.

For more information, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/littlestreets



ECONOMIC SUPPORT PACKAGE

The City of Melbourne is partnering with the Victorian Government to deliver a joint \$100 million economic support package for businesses and workers.

The fund includes \$50 million from the City of Melbourne and \$50 million from the Victorian Government to reactivate the central city, as part of the roadmap to a COVID-safe reopening for Melbourne.

The package includes funding to extend outdoor trading, waive permit fees, activate vacant shopfronts and increase marketing, events and entertainment to attract people back to the city.

To find out more, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/business or contact the City of Melbourne's Business Concierge Service on 9658 9658 (press 1 for business) from 7.30am to 6pm Monday to Friday.



IN-BRIEF

MINDFUL SPRING CLEANING

The challenges of COVID-19 have strengthened our community, with many people seeking to support their neighbours.

This spring, help out someone in need by donating quality unwanted items. For anything that can't find a new home, book a free hard waste collection.

melbourne.vic.gov.au/springclean

WILDLIFE GARDENS

From native plants to bee hotels, there are many ways to make your garden wildlife-friendly, even if you just have pot plants on your balcony. Help boost urban biodiversity by getting a virtual garden assessment from the City of Melbourne's Gardens for Wildlife volunteers.

melbourne.vic.gov.au/ gardensforwildlife

CREATIVITY IN LOCKDOWN

Rock band Rudely Interrupted is among 75 recipients of the City of Melbourne's COVID-19 quick-response arts grants who identify as living with disability. Find out how the band has been creating new tunes during lockdown in *Melbourne* magazine online.

magazine.melbourne.vic.gov.au

YAMIKO'S UNIQUE STORY

Read the compelling personal essay by writer, therapist and food truck owner Yamiko Marama that won the Lord Mayor's Creative Writing Awards. This competition showcases emerging artists and celebrates Melbourne as a UNESCO City of Literature.

melbourne.vic.gov.au/creativewritingawards

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COMMUNITY NEWS

SEVEN WAYS TO ENJOY MELBOURNE IN SPRING

The weather is warming up and, while we continue to be vigilant against COVID-19, there are plenty of opportunities to safely support local businesses and enjoy Melbourne during spring.

Here are some highlights from the City of Melbourne events calendar and the What's On Melbourne blog to get your ideas flowing.

Make a new plant friend

Folia House at Queen Victoria Market is a popular destination for plant parents, and the team is now offering home-delivery.

Browse the virtual jungle online, from mini cacti and bonsai to towering monstera. Shop by light-level or size, or choose a pet-friendly pot.

2 Frock up for Fashion's Night In

Support local retailers who have been doing it tough by immersing yourself in Vogue American Express Fashion's Night In.

This virtual shopping festival is a new take on a popular Melbourne Fashion Week event. Tune in for activities and special offers from Thursday 22 October to Sunday 1 November. Learn more at mfw.melbourne.vic.gov.au

3 Order sweet treats

Enjoy legendary Lygon Street gelato at home by ordering a tub of Pidapipo's finest on Uber Eats.

Mix flavours, order waffle cones on the side or treat yourself to a drizzle of Nutella on top. Head to Instagram to feast your eyes on Pidapipo's latest seasonal flavours.

4 Mask up in style

Many of Melbourne's favourite designers and retailers have begun making chic, DHHS-compliant face masks to help us all stay safe.

Choose from floral, eco-friendly and hypoallergenic options created by Kuwaii, Gorman, entrepreneurial international students and more. Search for suppliers at whatsonblog. melbourne.vic.gov.au

5 Have a crafternoon

Be inspired to draw the galaxy, make clouds or raise a paper giraffe by browsing Craft Victoria's endless online encyclopaedia of crafting activities.

If you need to order supplies, check out local businesses like Deans Art, Stranger Than Paradise or Morris and Sons.

6 Join a high-tech conversation

How should we use technological innovations in states of disaster?

Join innovator, inventor and entrepreneur Tan Le on YouTube for this virtual Melbourne Conversation on Wednesday 28 October. Find out more at melbourne.vic.gov.au/melbourneconversations

Enjoy music, movement and more

Fill your diary with online events for older people presented by the City of Melbourne. The October program includes yoga, tai chi, live music and informative talks.

To find out more about these events and ways to stay connected, call 9658 9190 or visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/olderpeople

To keep up-to-date, follow What's On Melbourne on social media, or visit **whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au** and subscribe to the newsletter.

What's On Melbourne

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COMMUNITY CORNER

SHARE YOUR STORY

You're invited to contribute stories and photos towards a community timeline that will celebrate the unique life experiences and diversity of older Melburnians.

The 'Years of Our Lives' project will give you an opportunity to reflect and reminisce about important moments and people in your life, treasured memories, achievements and adventures.

Submissions will be curated by a group of artists into a creative shared timeline that will be presented in print and online during the Victorian Seniors Festival in November.

To contribute, complete the form at participate.melbourne.vic.gov. au/years-of-our-lives by 11 October.

For more information, or to request assistance, please contact the City of Melbourne's Healthy Ageing team on 9658 9190 or email healthyageing@melbourne.vic.gov.au





KEEP IN TOUCH

To stay connected with all the latest news from the City of Melbourne, follow us on social media and subscribe to *Melbourne* magazine online at magazine.melbourne.vic.gov.au

You can also join conversations to influence plans for your neighbourhood through Participate Melbourne at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au

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Susan Riley calls time on council

WORDS BY Sean Car **FEATURE**

After a decorated 15 years on council, which included being the first woman to ever be elected Deputy Lord Mayor of Melbourne, the muchloved Susan Riley has said farewell to Town Hall ahead of the October 24 elections.

Having served under three different Lord Mayors and been a pioneer for women and cultural change at Town Hall during her four council terms, Cr Riley announced her resignation this month citing now was the time for fresh voices and ideas for the city.

While "heartbroken" about the state that the city currently found itself in amid the devastation of COVID-19, she said she departed council with a great sense of pride in what she had been able to achieve during her 15 years.

Foremost, she said she had always been a businesswoman. Entering politics off the back of a successful career in media and publishing which has spanned 30 years, perhaps her greatest legacy as a politician is having opened up Town Hall to women.

Working a majority of her career under the city's two longest-serving Lord Mayors in John So and Robert Doyle, she said the two men had "very different" styles, but had been equally influential to her success in local politics.

Describing John So as a "humble" man who she "adored" working under, she said he had seen potential in her that "she never knew she had".

"I left school at 14," she said. "My passion for Melbourne made up for lack of experience in local government and I will be forever grateful for the opportunity John gave me."

"John asked if I could bring women into Town Hall and I did not know any business women. I had never walked into Town Hall before the first day I was elected. Even though I operated my business out of the Block Arcade, no one had ever asked me to go into Town Hall."

"When he said 'we've got to get women into the city' he asked if I would do a business lunch



and I could sit 10 people around his boardroom table. The truth is, I didn't even know 10 women! But from that lunch, history was made."

"Reaching out to businesswomen in the city became quite easy, because they wanted it."

Since then, the City of Melbourne has hosted the Women in Business Lunch that now, with the exception of 2020 due to coronavirus, welcomes around 400 people to Town Hall each year and has culminated in the creation of a women's business network.

Through her leadership roles in small business, retail, hospitality and major events, she was also instrumental in establishing events such as Melbourne Fashion Week, the Lord Mayor's Commendations, the Melbourne Awards and many others.

While she didn't run for council following her first term working under John So for business reasons, she was approached by Robert Doyle in 2008 to run again as his deputy in what would become known as Team Doyle.

Describing Mr Doyle as a "true statesman" who could sell Melbourne better than anyone, she noted that his demise following allegations of sexual misconduct in 2018 had marked a "devastating" low point for her personally.

"One of my very low points, on a very personal note, is the demise of Robert Doyle and the circumstances through which he lost everything. That was another break-your-heart moment because I did admire him as a Lord Mayor," she said.

"That Team Doyle, us as Team Doyle, we felt like we were branded on our forehead and it was only one man that did wrong, not us."

Despite this, she said she had experienced "enormous satisfaction" working as deputy under both leaders, who had both encouraged her to travel and help transform Melbourne into the world's most liveable city.

While she wouldn't be drawn into commentary on current Lord Mayor Sally Capp, she did note that her friend and current Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood had not been afforded the same privileges she had during her time as

"Arron took my place as Deputy Lord Mayor so I helped him understand what a deputy does and it's very time consuming," she said. "Under Robert Doyle, I was a face of Melbourne because he had so many other duties to do, he would just flick me anything that he couldn't possibly fit in his diary."

"I don't think our current deputy has had that privilege to get out there as much as I did with Robert, but that is just the nature of how it has unfolded. I respect Arron. I think if he gets through this election, he would make a sensational Lord Mayor. He has great empathy and is in touch with the real people, the ratepayers."

"She [Sally Capp] is the Lord Mayor of Melbourne and I don't want in any way to take that away from her. But I do think that whoever our next Lord Mayor is, they need to be authentic and be there for our ratepayers.

"They [Lord Mayors] are there for the people and I think just of late there has been a bit of party politics, but I don't want to be unfair to the lady.'

She also noted the "sheer joy" of working with "real people's person" Cr Beverley Pinder, and said she couldn't have asked for two better Greens councillors to have worked with than Rohan Leppert and Cathy Oke, who has also announced her retirement from council.

And on current CEO Justin Hanney, she said he was the best she had ever seen.

"Honestly, Justin is the best in my eyes," she said.

"He listens to councillors. Whereas some CEOs thought we [councillors] just needed a pat on the back and told us what we need to know. Justin is superb in listening and acting on our advice."

"I couldn't wish for the council to be in better hands knowing that Justin is there, and a fantastic leadership team that he's got behind him."

While she leaves council with a heavy heart knowing the uphill battle the city faces to rebuild from COVID-19, she said she had also been proud to have played a role in the council's response to the pandemic. Namely, the establishment of the council's business concierge hotline, providing a one-stop-shop for support and mentoring.

And it's in that direction where she plans to head next, flagging her desire to mentor traders at the Queen Victoria Market, as well as the next generation of female business and political leaders in our city.

"We've [the council] gone through the worst nine months, all of us, trying to rescue businesses, so with new ideas, new councillors and a refreshed council is one of the reasons why I decided that it was my time to retire and let that new blood come in," she said.

"But I'm not leaving Melbourne by the way! I still have my apartment in the city and somewhere I'll fall into a position where I can continue to still serve Melbourne."

Town Hall door might close on me, but Melbourne is open.

Congratulations on a wonderful career Susan. The team at Southbank News wishes you the very best for whatever's next!

Melbourne City Council postal elections

Your Melbourne, your vote

Check the mail for your ballot pack

Melbourne City Council elections are underway. Ballot packs containing voting material will be mailed to enrolled voters from Tuesday 6 October 2020.

This is a postal election only.

If you do not receive your ballot pack by Friday 16 October 2020, please call (03) 8619 1444 during business hours to arrange a replacement.

Candidates

Candidates who have nominated for election are listed in the ballot pack and at vec.vic.gov.au The ballot pack contains booklets with photos and statements (if these have been provided by

Responses to a candidate questionnaire, where provided, are also available at vec.vic.gov.au

How to vote correctly for both elections

the candidates), for the Leadership Team and councillor positions.

You will vote in two elections—one to elect the Leadership Team and the other to elect nine councillors. You must complete your ballot papers correctly for your vote to count.

Leadership Team

(Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor)

Put the number 1 in the box next to the team you most want to see elected, then number ALL the other boxes in order of your choice. You must number EVERY BOX and only use each number once.

Councillors

You can vote in one of two ways for the nine councillors. Either vote for a group by putting the number 1 in just one of the boxes above-the-line

Or vote for individual candidates by numbering ALL the boxes below-the-line in order of your choice. If you vote below-the-line, you must number EVERY BOX and only use each number once.

How to return your completed ballot papers

Follow the instructions on your ballot papers to complete your vote. To return your completed ballot papers, put them in the ballot paper envelope then use the reply-paid envelope provided or hand-deliver it during office hours to:

Drill Hall Multicultural Hub 51-57 Victoria Street, Melbourne

Voting is compulsory

Voting is compulsory for everyone who is enrolled in the Melbourne City Council elections, including non-Australian citizens and corporation voting representatives.

If you don't vote and do not have a valid excuse, you may be fined.

Your completed ballot pack must be in the mail or hand-delivered

by 6 pm* Friday 23 October

*Local mail clearance times vary. Ballot packs must be mailed before final clearance times in the last week of voting. Don't risk a fine.

State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at vec.vic.gov.au

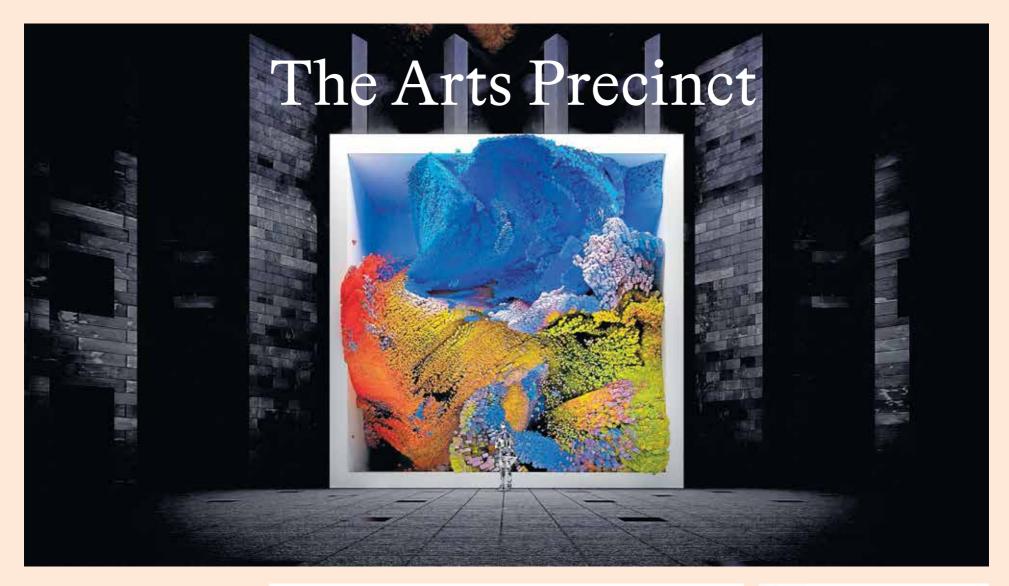
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Authorised by W. Gately, AM, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria





Triennial is coming back to NGV

WORDS BY Wing Kuang

Featuring works from more than 100 artists, the National Gallery of Victoria's (NGV's) new NGV Triennial returns in December, exploring recent global issues and pandemic isolation through international contemporary arts.

Opening on December 19, the much-loved NGV exhibition will feature 86 projects curated by artists, designers and collectives from more than 30 countries. Thirty-four major new world-premiere works specifically commissioned for NGV Triennial will also be exhibited.

This year, the exhibition will explore four themes; illumination, reflection, conservation and speculation. The exhibits draw on recent global issues, including COVID-19 lockdowns and isolation, transforming the artists' ideas and emotions into arts forms.

Audiences can expect a transformation of NGV International's appearance decorated by lights, digital presentations, artificial intelligence and contemporary artefacts. This transformation includes the NGV's Gallery Kitchen café, styled by flamboyant scenography as part of the art project by England's Adam Nathaniel Furman and Australia's Sibling Architecture in exploring safe public space.

Other highlights include a huge mirror-finish sculpture of Roman goddess Venus by American artists Jeff Koons, aboriginal artist Dhambit Mununggurr's 15 exclusive large-scale paintings, and Japanese architect Kengu Kuma's collaboration with Melbourne's own Geoffrey Nees on a sensorial pavilion.

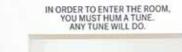
The exhibition will also showcase French artist JR's world-premiere portraits of people from the Sunraysia agricultural region of Victoria and New South Wales. The artefacts will be presented in the NGV Grollo Equiset Garden, aiming to bring













attention to the ecologically declining Darling

NGV director Tony Ellwood said the exhibition would be a celebration of the arts amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are all living in a world in flux: there has never been a more important moment to celebrate human capability than now," he said.

"The NGV Triennial offers visitors a significant opportunity to explore how we use art to express ourselves, communicate and consider the world as it is, while also asking how we would like it to

Free and exclusive to Melbourne, the upcoming exhibition is the second instalment of the NGV Triennial following its establishment in 2017. It's also the first on-site NGV exhibition open to the public since Melbourne started the first lockdown in March.

Held every three years, the inaugural instalment in 2017 saw more than 1.23 million visitors walk through the NGV's doors in what marked the gallery's largest ever attendance for an

ngv.vic.gov.au ●

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ACCA innovates with an online gallery

WORDS BY Maeve Bannister

Although the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA) is physically closed due to COVID-19 restrictions, the art has been taken online with exhibitions and artist talks.

The ACCA team wasted no time in reconfiguring existing programs and took the opportunity to develop new initiatives during Victoria's lockdown.

ACCA's executive director Claire Richardson said she was extremely proud of how the ACCA team had quickly pivoted to create and launch ACCA Beyond Walls.

"It's an innovative program which supports artists to create new work, engages audiences with contemporary art experiences online and off-site, and delivers curriculum-aligned digital education programs beyond our gallery walls," Ms Richardson said.

"The program has enabled ACCA to continue our mission to do art differently and ensured that ACCA remains the go-to place to engage with art now."

As part of ACCA Beyond Walls, a new commission series called ACCA Open was created for contemporary digital art projects.

The project allowed ACCA to continue to work with and support contemporary artists during the gallery closures due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The gallery called on Australian artists from





all backgrounds, career levels and practices to submit ideas for projects that could be presented digitally.

"There were more than 340 submissions to ACCA Open, from which six exciting projects

were chosen, supported by Creative Victoria's Strategic Investment Fund," Ms Richardson

"Artists have really appreciated the opportunity to develop new works and projects while so many other opportunities were closing down."

Currently available to view is *Multiply* by Archie Barry, a sensory excursion into domestic and digitised life, and *AOAULI* by Léuli Eshraghi, an exploration of ancestral knowledge, drawings, epic poetry, manifestos and performance videos.

Other initiatives in ACCA Beyond Walls include a lecture series delivered as freely accessible videos and podcasts, a public digital billboard project by artist Kent Morris, and an education workshop video series with Melbourne-based artists.

In November ACCA will launch the *Walking Tour* podcast, which commissions well known Australian writers to create walking tours of Melbourne.

Ms Richardson said the online exhibitions worked by traversing the fields of artificial intelligence, sound, animation, video and archives all via the ACCA website.

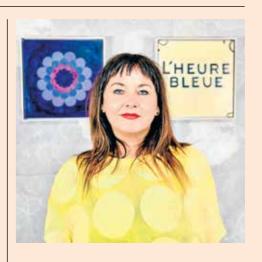
"Whether the works are something to watch or read, something to listen to or a chatbot to talk to, each speaks to the breadth of possibility working in the digital realm, and responds to the unusual times and cultural conditions in which they are produced," Ms Richardson said.

If all goes to plan in the Victorian roadmap to recovery, ACCA would be able to safely have visitors in between mid and late November.

Ms Richardson said the team looked forward to contributing to the social, cultural and economic recovery of Victoria.

"And in the meantime, whether anchored to its physical space, or beyond, ACCA will continue to play an inspirational and critical role investing in our city, our artistic and wider communities, leading the cultural conversation and setting the agenda for contemporary art." she said.

acca.melbourne ●



Show me grace

Kate Daw passed away of breast cancer last month. She was the head of art at the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA).

Southbank News reviewed her 2018 exhibition at the Margaret Lawrence Gallery.

They were modest little figurative paintings.
The college organised a Friday afternoon
Zoom meeting last month to commemorate her
life.

Former colleagues talked about her achievements, but the photographs told the real story.

There was Kate at art openings chatting to the girls.

We loved her take on life.

She enclosed us in a story, and we enjoyed the experience.

Show me Grace was the name of her exhibition. RD ullet

CRITIC

There's more to life than work

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

How great it is to be a fiction writer.

Monica McInerney is onto her 12th novel and according to Penguin she's Australia's number one bestseller.

A section of her latest novel *The Godmothers* is set in a 14th-floor apartment in Southbank.

The heroine, a girl with major issues, has arrived in Melbourne to start a new life.

She rents the one-bedroom apartment then gets a job as the personal assistant to a conference organiser in the CBD.

Eight years she lasts in this demanding and busy position, until the proprietor, an ungrateful schemer, sells the business without giving her any credit.

There must be a lot of girls in Eliza Miller's position, lured to the big smoke to prove themselves as worthy employees.

Eliza works long hours, is a model of efficiency, virtually runs the business but can be

turfed out at a moment's notice by the capitalist system.

The set-up for this novel might ring a bell for some of those laid off during the current pandemic. When Eliza suddenly finds herself without a life she is forced to do some soul-searching.

It becomes apparent that she has been putting too much of herself into the job and not enough into resolving her family issues.

The rest of this novel takes place in Scotland and Ireland (it can only happen in fiction!) where Eliza tracks down the secret to her birth and meets a handsome hotel manager.

In Scotland she discovers a lot of good sense emanating from the mouths of her two godmothers and in Ireland a convivial collective spirit that accepts the personality of Eliza's mum and her regular fibs as part of the storytelling craft.

The novel lays it on thick in the heart-warming department but it also does a good job of exploring the fine line between trouble and fun.

Eliza's mum has died young, leaving the

17-year-old with a mess to clean up but Eliza remains loyal to her mum's imagination and wit, even if it is a bit manic.

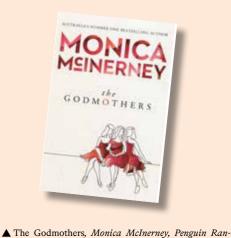
Eliza's search for a family drives the novel towards its conclusion when she returns to Melbourne and rents a flat in the more traditional suburb of Collingwood where she begins working as a temp.

For those looking for a cultural analysis of Southbank, chapter two portrays it as a corporate kind of place where you can get lost in the bowels of office work.

Eliza is in the habit of selecting her outfits in the evenings to make her routine more efficient – "corporate suits in neutral colours, low-heeled shoes".

She wears her hair in a bun, leaves her apartment at exactly 7.15 am and has a 25-minute walk to her office in Exhibition St where she works 50 hours a week for Gillian Webster Enterprises.

Eliza rarely takes holidays, pay rises are begrudgingly given, Gillian has a fake laugh and McInerney has a bit of fun taking a few digs at the "business woman" rhetoric that is thrown at the young and vulnerable.



dom House, 2020.

Eliza's life feels real but its provisional nature is used by McInerney to examine how lives can be squandered by too much dedication to work, an encouraging message in today's economic climate •

Love, Melbourne.





























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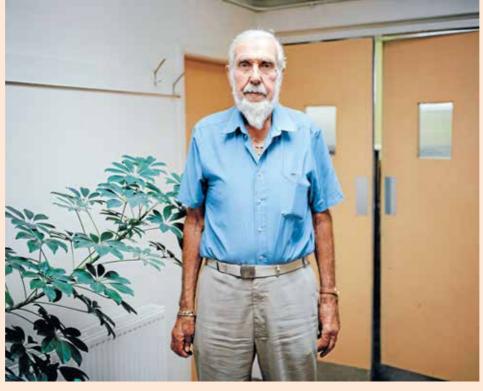






A semester to remember

As Melbourne entered its second lockdown in July, Stephanie Rose-Wood started a new position at the Photography Studies College (PSC), and it turned out to be one of her most rewarding teaching experiences yet.



 $\blacktriangle \textit{Some examples of Stephanie Rose-Wood's portaiture work. }$

WORDS BY Maeve Bannister

Stephanie is a Melbourne-based documentary and portrait photographer who began working as a photographic assistant in London in 2010 and now regularly shoots for Australian publications including *Frankie*, *Smith Journal*, *Archer* and *SPACES*

She also teaches the visual documents subject at PSC to second-year Bachelor of Arts degree students.

When the restrictions began again, it created many limitations for PSC, especially for the students who weren't in metropolitan Melbourne, and it needed to adjust some of the assignments.

In the process of her research, Stephanie discovered a remote shooting app called Clos, which allowed students to take high-resolution images remotely.

"That ended up being really interesting, and collaborative, especially when used for documentary portraiture and collaborative portrait-making sessions," Stephanie said.

While the experience was still a challenge for her students, Stephanie said she was so impressed by the quality of the work produced remotely.

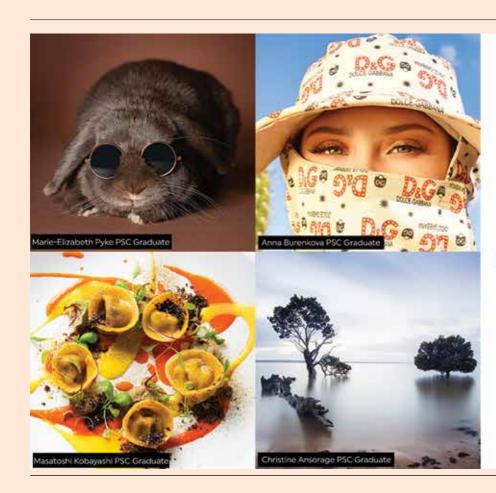
"The important thing about working in photojournalism is being able to build up a relationship with your subject really quickly to clearly communicate with them about what your intentions are and what you need from the shoot, and also hear what they need from it too," Stephanie said.

"The students had to go in prepared to communicate really clearly with their subjects and that spoke to ethical implications that are embedded in photojournalism and how we can embrace new technology and new approaches to documentary storytelling."

Instead of seeing these restrictions as limitations, and worrying about everything they couldn't do, Stephanie's students embraced the technology, which has allowed them to organise shoots with people in New York, Los Angeles, India and all over the world.

"What first felt like really strict parameters actually became really freeing," Stephanie said.

"I've been blown away by the quality, the innovation and the interesting nature of the work, even more so under the circumstances."





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At look at elections in the Gateway Ward

WORDS BY Jake Pike ELECTIONS

While most of our readers are impacted by the City of Melbourne's council elections, those who live and work in the Montague Precinct and its surrounds, will be paying closer attention to the elections in the City of Port Phillip (CoPP) on October 24.

And the Gateway Ward, which covers the St Kilda Rd precinct, South Melbourne, Port Melbourne and Fishermans Bend, is being hotly contested with eight candidates vying for the three councillor positions.

Regardless of the outcome, Gateway will see at least two new faces with outgoing Mayor Bernadene Voss and Greens Cr Ogy Simic both choosing not to recontest, meaning Liberal councillor Marcus Pearl is the only incumbent running.

Here's a snapshot of the field ...



Heather Cunsolo - Independent

An American expat and Port Melbourne local who runs a residential design practice, Ms Cunsolo is a community-focused independent with a passion for community involvement. She also has the backing of outgoing mayor Bernadene Voss.

She is perhaps best known locally for leading the "Port Melbourne Focus" Facebook page, which she said started from "humble beginnings" having been originally established as a platform for local families to connect. It now boasts a 6000-strong online community, most of whom are locals from the greater Port Melbourne area.

"With that role of creating and being an admin, I've just seen that connection with the community and where I can fit in and help make decisions for the community," Ms Cunsolo said.

If elected, Ms Cunsolo said she would endeavour to bring the community into the council's decision-making processes as she seeks to revive the area's retail precincts and businesses, clean up the Station Pier precinct and evaluate all of the council's services.

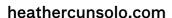
And with a degree in architecture and background in urban planning and sustainable design, she plans to use her knowledge to ensure "sensible" development in the area; namely key growth areas of St Kilda Rd and Fishermans Bend.

"I think there's flexibility for what it [Fishermans Bend] does become, but we need to have some forward vision and work towards a goal, so we don't just get this hodgepodge that doesn't really work together," she said.

"Although I won't be the one designing the buildings in development, I know what they can and can't do and I have the vision for the spaces in between."

She wants to "beautify the area" by giving utility to underused areas such as nature strips by installing seats as well as water fountains with dog bowls that make the area more pet friendly.

Ms Cunsolo hopes that her community care factor sets her apart from the other candidates with more political backing. "I'm not in it for the politics, I don't come with those experiences, but I'm very willing to learn, but I find that care factor can't be taught," she said.





Peter Martin - Labor

Labor candidate Peter Martin believes that after almost two decades as principal of Port Melbourne Primary School, he's got his finger strongly on the pulse of the local area and the needs of its residents.

Mr Martin is a long-time member of the Labor party and is no stranger to rubbing elbows with politicians from all three levels of government.

He believes that his long track record of service to the local community and expertise in running organisations with a big budget puts him ahead of the other candidates.

Not afraid to ruffle feathers to get results, throughout his career he's been an agitator for causes that he believes in, which he attributes to his strong sense of social justice.

"I've got a track record of getting things done in the local community, lots and lots of agitation in getting new school and local childcares up and running," he said.

"I've always seen myself as the local principal, not just being there for the educational needs of the kids – which is very important – but also being a major representative of the local community who advocates for the needs of the community."

He supports temporary rate relief for businesses struggling to cope during the lockdown and believes that council should advocate for additional funding from the state government to help out.

"We need to try and encourage people back into these shopping precincts to spend money to support local businesses," he said.

Mr Martin believes that the state government often fixes issues retrospectively and that a planned proactive approach needs to be taken with Fishermans Bend.

"When I look at the planning for the new schools, childcare and other community facilities in the Fishermans bend precinct - and particularly in Wirraway - I don't really see enough long-term planning to meet the needs," he said.

On the contentious issue of parking, he supports the consultation of local voices "to get the mix right" between making cyclists and pedestrians safe and making sure people have access to park in front of their own homes.

While he is a resident of Elwood, Mr Martin has stated that, if elected, he will rent an office out of his own pocket, so that residents can come and see him in person to discuss issues.

petermartin4gateway.com.au



Marcus Pearl - Liberal

Marcus Pearl is the only Gateway Ward councillor contesting their seat in this election and he is in a strong position to earn another term following a successful and active first four years on council.

Away from local politics, he's the CEO of Primacy Underwriting Management, a company that offers insurance on agriculture and forestry.

Considering his strong first term supporting

residents and businesses, he believes that his job isn't over yet and that his skills in finance and business are needed more than ever as the community looks beyond COVID-19.

"There's never been a more important time to have people with good quality business skills to be on council ready to roll their sleeves up and get the job done," he said.

Mr Pearl said his platform had been fighting for the council to make common sense decisions and reduce wasteful spending and that, if re-elected, he would continue fulfilling that pledge.

As a pertinent example, he cited his introduction of zero-base budgeting to the CoPP; an idea that cuts a team's budget to \$0 and only spends what is necessary to get their job done, eliminating unnecessary costs.

"We've saved millions of dollars in efficiency saving in the four years I've been on council," he said.

Having voluntarily taken a 50 per cent pay cut to support the council's response to COVID-19, he said he wanted to continue focusing the next year on getting local businesses back to where they were before the pandemic.

"People don't understand the huge community benefit that small business provide, council needs to get small business into its DNA," he said. "We need these businesses to understand that council is side-by-side with them."

He also supports the use of traders temporarily using extra space for outdoor dining during COVID restrictions to help businesses get back on their feet.

"There may be some resident disquiet, but I would say to them that this is for the common good for a short period of time," he said.

"Removing more car parks for permanent bike lanes, particularly on Park St and the removal of car parks on Albert Rd is asinine and I've voted against a number of parking restriction policies in my four years on council."

marcuspearl.com



Earl James - The Greens

Port Melbourne local Earl James is the new Greens candidate for Gateway Ward after Cr Ogy Simic took a new job with the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre.

Mr James said that he was running for The Greens because he aligned with the party's values of nonviolence, ecological sustainability, social justice and grassroots participatory democracy.

Mr James has a background as a secondary school educator and now works for the Independent Education Union, a trade union for non-government education.

In addition to Green policies, he has three priorities he would like to tend to if elected to council: housing, early learning and active transport.

Mr James believes in taking a compassionate approach to housing and would like to see an increase in social and public housing in the area as well as Fishermans Bend.

Having seen firsthand the effects of good early learning as a teacher he said he would push for more quality early learning in the Port Phillip area if elected.

"As a teacher I believe they are crucial in setting children up for their future. You see the difference that a good learning journey has made when there's high quality early learning," he said.

He spent a number of years teaching abroad in the Netherlands where he can recall huge amounts of students being able to safely walk and ride bikes to school even in the snowy winter months. Borrowing from the *Field of Dreams*, Mr James said, "if you build it, they will come", and believed there should be greater focus on safe cycling infrastructure in the area.

"There is a limit on space, but the more people we get on bicycles the fewer car spaces we'll need," he said.

"Parking is a limited resource that is paid for by all of us, so if we can use that space in a more efficient way, we should."

He considers climate change to be the most pressing challenge we face and has plans to improve the tree canopy across Port Phillip to mitigate the heat island effect. He also wants to intoduce organic waste bins for food and garden waste.

Mr James said he would advocate for an honest and transparent council and fight to see that Fishermans Bend was planned for a sustainable future.

greens.org.au/vic/person/ earl-james



Trina Lewis - Independent

Trina Lewis is a South Melbourne local and is the director of Changemakers International, a consulting practice that offers businesses workshops to achieve organisational change.

Ms Lewis is an independent candidate that stands for better community outcomes, fiscal responsibility and fair and efficient non-partisan politics.

If elected, she would like to increase council transparency with the public and find better methods for communicating with residents and ratepayers.

She believes that the unique skills she's acquired from years of business will be a great asset to the council and community.

"After over 30 years of doing what I do, I know what makes organisations work well and how to enable positive change. It would be wonderful to be able to give back to my community by leveraging these skills in local government," she said.

"My professional training and experiences enable me to easily spot opportunities and be highly constructive and creative in problem solving."

Ms Lewis wants the council to employ sensible and fair decisions on parking, including one free parking permit per household and a reassessment of parking costs for residents.

She said she was committed to "finding ways to stop rate hikes while maintaining service levels," and planned to challenge the council on increasing spending efficiency.

She would like to see green spaces maximised in the community and Fishermans Bend developed in a sustainable manner.

"I would like to see Fishermans Bend developed in a sustainable way, with plenty of parks and community facilities that ensures it becomes an attractive, functional and vibrant precinct for all key stakeholders," she said

Ms Lewis is an advocate for the redevelopment of the Station Pier precinct, which she currently sees as a wasted opportunity for the local community.

She said she valued diversity and inclusion and that, as a councillor, she would be fair, balanced and responsible.

trinaforportphillip@gmail.com

Other candidates that did not respond to requests for an interview include Sami Maher from the Ratepayers of Port Phillip, Cleo Papageorgiou and Stan Gyles.

A Green-minded Southbanker

WORDS BY Sean Car

While she may be only 24 years old, Southbank resident Nakita Thomson is already running in her third election campaign at the upcoming October 24 City of Melbourne council elections.

Ms Thomson is running fifth on The Greens councillor ticket and while she won't be elected being placed so far down the order, she is certainly keen to have her voice heard and advance her party's vision for the local community. In particular, its policy initiative of "Parks for Everyone".

Originally from Shepparton and having most recently moved to Southbank from Bendigo, the country town values of fostering community and conserving the environment are certainly close to her heart.

And since moving to Southbank with her boyfriend in 2018, she said she had quickly identified the area's "disconnection" and was keen to address the shortcoming by advocating for more green space and sustainable planning.

Living in the heritage Bond Store apartment complex at Riverside Quay, she said the "chasm" of City Rd meant residents in her neighbourhood were more likely to engage with the CBD rather than Southbank.

"What I'm really interested in is connectivity in the local area," she said. "I've experienced just how disconnected places in Southbank are."

"I don't have a car so I rely on my feet and there's such a lack of green space. To fix pedestrian connectivity, particularly around City Rd, would be really beneficial for our community."

"I believe that providing more green connections between the north and south of Southbank would help keep the area cool in summer, while benefiting mental health, recreation and wildlife, as well as the local economy."

"Moving from the country to Southbank, adjusting from national parks to concrete was a bit of a shift. Even just more plants, shrubs and trees



▲ The Greens Party councillor candidate for Melbourne and Southbank resident Nakita Thomson.

would go a long way."

"It also gets so hot here in summer. As a young person, I'm able-bodied. I can't imagine being an older person or a someone living with a disability more prone to heat stroke without much green space to absorb some of that heat. It isn't a great outcome for public health."

Her achievements at the age of 24 are beyond impressive. Having recently completed her masters in urban planning, she currently works as a transport planner for a private consultancy

group and is now participating in her third election campaign for The Greens.

While she's certainly more politically ambitious than your average young person, she said she fell into politics "by accident" saying she was "forced into it by climate change".

Now, with state and federal election experience under her belt, she said she was currently hard at work helping advance The Greens' vision for the City of Melbourne, under the leadership of Lord Mayoral candidate Apsara

Sabaratnam, and two-term councillor Rohan

"I believe that providing more

green connections between the

north and south of Southbank

would help keep the area cool

mental health, recreation and wildlife, as well as the local

in summer, while benefiting

economy."

"For me, [politics] was more an accident. It came out of a sense of duty," she said.

"I joined The Greens in Bendigo but I was really concerned about climate change. I feel like I was forced in by climate change. It was more based on that I had to more than I wanted to." "With the challenges that society is facing, we need more people in parliament that care about keeping our planet sustainable." •

HOUSING ALL AUSTRALIANS

Housing vulnerable Australians means making tough choices



Welcome to the third of our 12part series which will attempt to explore the role that housing can and should play within Australian society and why it is important to our economy that we house all Australians, rich or poor.



This series intends to draw on a range of perspectives centred around housing and homelessness. We will hear a range of views from business, the not-for-profit sector and hopefully government, as to why they believe housing is an important social and economic building block for Australia's future prosperity.

This month we have asked Brendan Coats, Director of the Household Finances Program at Grattan Institute, to share his thoughts around why the objective around housing all Australians should be considered an economic imperative for Australia...

All Australians are spending more of their incomes on housing, but high housing costs are hurting low-income earners the most.

Many vulnerable Australians are in poverty and a growing number, both young and old, are homeless. The housing affordability crisis is widening the gap between rich and poor.

Governments need to do more to help house those most in need. But housing subsidies are expensive and government resources are scarce, so our politicians need to prioritise to do the most good with the money they have. This means making hard choices.

Many low-income Australians are capable of securing housing privately. But housing will only become substantially more affordable if we build more of it. Our major cities have not built enough housing to meet the needs of Australia's growing population. As a result, house prices and rents are higher than they should be.

State governments should step in and fix planning rules that prevent more homes being built in inner and middle-ring suburbs of our largest cities. And that means taking on the NIMBYs. Either people accept greater density in their suburb, or their children will not be able to buy a home, and seniors will not be able to downsize in the suburb where they live.

Reforms to Australia's social safety net could also stop many low-income Australians from falling into poverty and housing stress. Commonwealth Rent Assistance has not kept pace with the rents low-income earners have to pay. It should be boosted by 40 per cent. And the permanent rate of the JobSeeker unemployment benefit should be increased by at least \$100 a week.

These changes could pull many vulnerable Australians out of poverty, but they wouldn't be enough to ensure all had a roof over their heads. Which is why the federal government should build more social housing, replicating the success of "housing first" programs abroad.

Despite its importance to vulnerable Australians, our governments have invested little in social housing in the past two decades. The stock of social housing has barely grown, while our population has risen by one-third.

One of the few good things to come from the public health crisis caused by COVID-19 is that it has forced government to conduct an unplanned trial of a "housing first" approach. Many people who were sleeping rough were given hotel vouchers, to help them socially isolate through the crisis. By one estimate, the number of rough sleepers fell by 60 per cent almost overnight.

The COVID-19 crisis makes the case for investing in social housing even more compelling.

Australia is in the midst of its worst economic crisis in at least three decades. Construction employs almost one in 10 Australian workers, but the Housing Industry Association (HIA) predicts that in this financial year new starts on multi-unit dwellings will fall by one third in New South Wales and nearly half in Victoria.

Consulting company McKinsey estimates the construction sector shed 46,000 jobs between the start of the pandemic and the end of June. It predicts job losses could hit 205,000 by March 2021. The federal government's HomeBuilder program is inadequate for the challenge at hand.

Australian governments should urgently invest in more social housing as stimulus for the construction industry. Building 30,000 new units would cost around \$10 billion, and the boost to the economy would be almost immediate. After all, it's much easier to build a five-storey apartment building than to try to build a tunnel under the Yarra River.

Of course, even more social housing is needed in time. Yet a bigger boost in social housing would be even more expensive. Given the cost, social housing should be reserved for those most in need – people at significant risk of becoming homeless for the long term. Beyond those at serious risk of homelessness, most extra support for housing should be delivered by the federal government boosting rent assistance.

Housing vulnerable Australians poses substantial policy challenges. Past governments have refused to face up to the size of the problem for fear that doing so would fuel demands for massive new spending. But the challenge is not insurmountable if present governments make the tough choices.

I hope you found the above perspective by Brendan interesting and insightful. While what was said may not align with our view of the world, we all need to listen and digest what is said by others in order to find common ground. This is why we are focusing on the fact that the provision of shelter is a fundamental human need (not human right) and without that need being met, we have unintended social and economic consequences that will span generations. As I said in my first article, doing nothing is NOT AN OPTION! We need to act now. All of us need to be part of the solution so please feel free to write to me with your thoughts

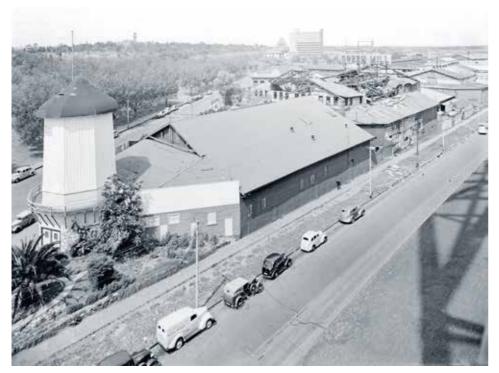


Rob Pradolin

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▼ The Green Mill dance hall.





The oddly-shaped piece of land just south of Princes Bridge fronting onto St Kilda Rd, and bordered by Sturt St and City Rd, was highly-regarded as a centre of public entertainment and was leased from the Crown for purposes of amusement and recreation.

Dancing at the Troc!

Today, Southbank is the centre of Melbourne's cultural scene, anchored by the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) but also boasting concert halls and other venues dedicated to the arts.

But for many years the area around St Kilda Rd and City Road was a thriving centre of entertainment of a more populist variety, such as circus sites, ice-skating rinks and dance halls.

The oddly-shaped piece of land just south of Princes Bridge fronting onto St Kilda Rd, and bordered by Sturt St and City Rd, was highly-regarded as a centre of public entertainment and was leased from the Crown for the purposes of amusement and recreation.

The Green Mill dance hall was established in 1926, on the site formerly known as the Olympia Jazz Pavilion. It was an eccentrically designed hall, intended to look like a piece of Holland. Designed by William McCutcheon (of the prominent firm of Bates Smart and McCutcheon), it boasted a well-sprung dance floor, an elaborate (and expensive) lighting installation, waterfalls and starlit ceilings.

But things were tough in the years of the Depression and in 1933 it passed to new owners, who renamed it as the Forty Club. Once again it became immensely popular, regularly attracting large crowds of enthusiastic well-groomed and well turned-out dancers. Even when a large fire broke out in a warehouse on the other side of Sturt St in 1936, 1000 men and women danced the night away in ignorance of the fire and the fire brigade.

Based on its success, in 1938 the owners launched an ambitious plan to replace the existing Forty Club buildings at a cost of £50,000 with a new building including dance halls (on

two floors), a picture theatre, and a broadcasting station. But in 1940, before plans could be finalised, much of the club was destroyed by a fire and a war-time shortage of materials and labour meant that it couldn't be rebuilt.

A smaller version the club re-opened on the area that previously served as the entry foyer of the extensive site and was renamed as the Trocadero. On opening night, 3000 turned up. During WWII, "the Troc" became a highly popular site for local and US troops stationed in Melbourne. It was not without its share of dramas that kept its 20 bouncers busy – drunk customers, a girl stabbed multiple times by a jealous ex-boyfriend when dancing with another man, or disputes over dancing contests.

The area around the Troc was leased to many small businesses, mainly car repairs and panel-beaters. Regarded as unsafe, and subject to fires, they were an eyesore and were hardly an inspiring entrance to those entering the city from the south. Many asserted that the site should contain a building of "significance and dignity" and dreamed of the site as the location for an art gallery and cultural centre.

In the early 1950s the land was reclaimed as the site for the NGV. But that's a story for another time! ●



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SKYPAD LIVING

Making residential living a council election priority

The City of Melbourne elections are fast approaching but how prominent is residential living in candidate priorities?

Residents know well the impact of COVID-19 on the fabric of the City of Melbourne (CoM).

We live it. We see it 24/7.

And naturally, COVID-19 recovery is a priority for CoM candidates with many already presenting their plans for business revival – getting workers back into the city, expediting construction and kick-starting hospitality (with various promotions for eating and drinking "the block").

But what is astounding, by its absence, is any genuine focus upon residents, especially us vertical villagers.

Once again it appears that many candidates think that a choice has to be made between promoting economic recovery or supporting residential liveability – when, in fact, residents, public spaces and business can all proposer, if they are designed to work together.

Take the issue of energy efficiency.

We are well aware that our residential buildings and our individual apartments are deemed energy guzzling. According to NABERS (National Australian Built Environment Rating System), our common areas consume up to 60 per cent of our energy and constitute approximately 25 per cent of our administrative fund levies. Then add to this our individual apartment energy consumption (which the City of Melbourne has identified as problematic for vertical dwellers as we consume up to 25 per cent more energy per person than those living in detached dwellings).

To me this appears an obvious business opportunity, and one which also brings liveability benefits. This point is agreed by the International Energy Agency (IEA) and International Monetary Fund (IMF), which jointly advocate energy efficiency as a "jobs machine". In their recent Special Report on Sustainable Recovery, the IEA and IMF analysed multiple energy-related stimulus options - and energy efficiency in buildings (both retrofits and new builds) came top of the list.

Also supporting this are Australian groups such as the Energy Efficiency Council, the Property Council of Australia and the Australian Council of Social Service. In fact, according to Tennant Reed, the Australian Industry Group is "barracking for energy efficiency upgrades, because they are a way to score five goals off one kick. You can grow jobs, you can cut costs, you can improve health, you can strengthen energy systems and you can slash emissions at the same time".

Now let's shift attention and consider the field of design.

Our less-than-spacious apartments cry out for clever solutions to make the most of our compact and communal lifestyle. Over the years I have seen the design sector, in countries such as Italy, Japan and the USA, develop suites of transforming and multi-purpose furnishings, including robotic-walls (like ORI). But locally, our design choices remain very limited.

However, there is growing recognition of the importance of the design sector in kick-starting Australia's economy post-COVID-19.



▲ Residents First: (left to right) Mary Masters, Janette Corcoran and Samantha Tran.

According to Prime Minister Scott Morrison: "Good design, created by smart people in smart industries, is essential to a country that wants to grow and be prosperous." And this was the logic behind a "design-led renaissance" strategy where the Australian Design Council is bringing together captains of industry, innovators, entrepreneurs and thinkers to reshape the nation post-COVID-19. And this would appear a strategy that fits well with CoM being a knowledge city – and also one known for "good design".

We know there is no silver bullet to recovery. But the point of the foregoing is that there are real ways in which our city precincts can be sustainably rejuvenated for the mutual benefit of residents and businesses.

But to do this requires a critical shift in mindset.

It requires putting residents at the centre of council decision-making and designing around real local needs (after all, local government is supposed to be for locals).

I have been writing this column on vertical living for more than four years. My aim has been to highlight challenges and advance issues important to high-rise apartment residents.

But, as current electoral campaigns show, residents are still on the periphery.

This is why I have decided to stand in the forthcoming council election as a candidate for Residents First. Alongside two other locals, Mary Masters and Samantha Tran – our stated aim is to make residential living a council priority •

And to know more about us and our plans, please visit: residentsfirst.com.au – and VOTE 1 Residents First!



Dr Janette Corcoran

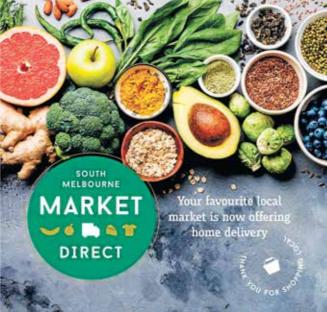
APARTMENT LIVING EXPERT

LEARN MORE ON FACEBOOK.COM/
SKYPADLIVING/









South Melbourne Market goes online

Making the trip to South Melbourne Market is a ritual many Southbankers hold dear to their hearts.

WORDS BY Jack Hayes

Now, with public health warnings limiting the amount we should be out and about, the market is bringing that experience to your door.

South Melbourne Market Direct (SMM Direct) is a new online shopping platform, allowing customers to browse and shop fresh produce, quality retail goods and market favourites from the comfort of their home.

South Melbourne Market Direct offers customers same-day home delivery or the option to click and collect, with a growing list of market traders represented in the online marketplace.

Shop favourites such as freshly-baked bread, craft beer, coffee beans, organic skincare, fresh seafood, chicken, meat and gourmet cheeses from around the globe, plus a wide selection of quality fruit and veg and pantry staples, are available to order.

SMM Direct launched in September and promises to add more products, traders and features in the coming weeks.

Chair of the South Melbourne Market Jo Plummer said the project would allow people beyond the five-kilometre radius to continue to buy from their usual market traders, providing much needed support for small business owners in what has been a challenging year.

"While there is something unique and special about a trip to South Melbourne Market, we understand that not everyone can always make it for their weekly shop, particularly at this time," Ms Plummer said.

"SMM Direct will allow the community to continue supporting our stallholders, with contactless delivery of products to their door."

Delivery is currently available within 10 kilometres of the market – an area that stretches as far as Brighton in the south, Brunswick in the north, Footscray in the west, and plenty of suburbs in between.

The market is open on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. For same day delivery, order before 12pm ●

For more information:

southmelbournemarket.com.au

Sell now or wait? COVID-19 – supply and demand imbalance

WORDS BY Michael Pastrikos – Rav White

The current state of emergency has had a significant impact on our daily lives. For many of our clients, it has created uncertainty with their plans to buy and or sell property.

Although physical inspections were no longer possible during stage four restrictions, the buyer enquiry and interest did not waver. Enquiries remained strong with many buyers registering their interest on properties early to be notified as soon as inspections were possible again.

Many of the properties sold during this period were to buyers who had inspected the property before restrictions began.

One of these sales was an online auction which had five registered bidders where the property sold at auction for \$21,000 above the reserve.

Throughout winter, we were already experiencing a severe shortage in supply, causing pent-up interest from buyers. With restrictions easing, we are anticipating a surge in the number of properties hitting the market from vendors who were planning to sell in the last 90 days but were thwarted by lockdown restrictions.

These properties will be on top of those that would usually hit the market in spring.

If you were thinking of selling in the next six months, there is an opportunity to gain greater focus on your property if you go to market now as supply levels are still low.

Buyer confidence is rising, and the shortage of property is feeding the demand further. Since restrictions eased last month, each of our sales team members have conducted 30 to 40 private appointments which is 20 per cent higher than pre-stage four activity levels.

Throughout this period, we have enhanced our technology platform and worked harder than ever to adapt to restrictions ensuring vendors capitalise on the low supply market.

We are now conducting one on one private inspections, following all guidelines and procedures, to ensure the safety of our clients (both sellers and buyers).

Exceptional Stage 4 lockdown results:

1011/28 Bank St, South Melbourne – sold for \$856,000 – online auction with five bidders achieving \$21,000 over reserve price;

1102/1 Roy St, Melbourne – sold for \$2,300,000 private sale – old sight unseen through virtual inspections. A record price for a three-bedroom apartment in the building;

1/55 Kavanagh St, Southbank – sold for \$710,000 before auction;

2707/250 City Rd, Southbank – sold for \$430,000 through virtual inspection, around 5 per cent higher than an identical apartment in the same building; and

B702/8 Grosvenor St, Abbotsford – sold for \$608,000 off-market, \$40,000 higher than the last result of a similar layout in the same building.

With pent-up demand, a delayed start to the spring market and healthy buyer activity, we should see a strong fourth quarter and finish to 2020.

To discuss selling your property or for a complimentary market appraisal get in touch with us today●

For more information: on 03 8102 0200 or email southbank.vic@raywhite.com



▲ Ray White's Andrew Salvo and Michael Pastrikos.

Voting creates your future...

The City of Port Phillip council elections are just days away and we hope locals are taking their votes seriously.

Considering which Gateway Ward councillor nominee you vote for is a decision that will affect your community, amenity and ongoing quality of life and work in your area or precinct.

In last month's column we provided a short overview of those candidates who had been in touch with the Montague community. To reiterate they were ...

Peter Martin, the Labor candidate and ex-principal of Port Melbourne Primary who is very well known in the community as a significant contributor to sports and education. Peter lives in Elwood but he feels he is closely linked to the issues in Gateway and is able to represent these successfully at Council. If you would like to contact Peter or ask any questions about his ideas for our precinct – Peter.martin@vic.alp. org.au.

Marcus Pearl, the Liberal candidate. Marcus has been a councillor for the past four years and has been very hands-on in the Montague Precinct. He is well-known to and popular with the local community as he taken the time to get to know us and understand our issues. Marcus does not live in Gateway, but as he says he's only a few metres away from the boundary!

Marcus would be happy to hear from you – Marcus.Pearl@portphillip.vic.gov.au

Heather Consulo, Independent candidate. Heather has the backing of our outgoing Mayor and Gateway Ward Cr Bernadene Voss. Heather lives in the ward, has worked in the Montague Precinct and has experienced some of the challenges as well as the joys we encounter living and working here. Heather took it upon herself to start a Facebook page for the community and this has become a significant communication tool for the local area.

Heather would be happy to hear from you – hello@heatherconsulo.com

There are of course other candidates, who were described in our September column, but we have had no one-on-one contact from them so other than saying their names – Earl James from The Greens and Sami Maher from the Ratepayers of Port Phillip, there is not more we can tell you. You can read more in *Southbank News*'s coverage on page 22.

In other news ... the Minister for Planning Richard Wynne has approved a number of new developments for the Montague and Sandridge precincts. And as well as the four towers under



▲ The new Fishermans Bend Secondary School is currently under construction.

construction along Normanby Rd of 28, 40, 40 and 40 storeys, respectively, there are multiple new towers approved for construction, which range in height from 15 to 43 levels. These are in Montague St and Normanby Rd.

Montague is certainly developing, and we hope the Fishermans Bend Taskforce or Development Board release the precinct plans very soon. It's been far too long to wait ...

To ensure there is community amenity for all this new construction, the new Fishermans Bend Secondary School adjacent to Murphys Reserve is progressing well and should be completed relatively soon.

Thank you all for reading our column and as usual if you have anything to add please contact us via our Facebook page or twitter feed, or on the email below.

Happy voting! ●



Trisha Avery
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ST JOHNS SOUTHGATE

"You're on mute!"

"What were you saying?" "Sorry about that ... What was I saying?... Never mind, the moment's passed."

As much as we have all tried to make the most of video-chats, they simply cannot replicate in-person contact. We can, and should, count our blessings for the phones, the tablets, the apps and so forth, but prolonged periods of exclusive use can just leave us longing for the real thing.

Distant a memory as it may be, do you remember what it was like to have someone pop around, to make them a cup of tea, and to be able to sit through a brief silence without it meaning that it's probably time to hit the red button?

It goes without saying but inhabiting the same physical space with someone creates a moment of mutuality. Sharing air, as much as

that sounds out of bounds these days, builds real-time rapport which no amount of reverse engineering can resurrect in the digital space.

Even when we enter a COVID-normal, video-gatherings, in many cases, are going to remain a necessity. So how do we find the authentic moment through the two dimensional medium? How do we breathe in the shared air, even when we're apart? Good lighting, the right camera angle, and remembering to smile even when you don't feel like it, won't eke out the elements of connection. So maybe, just maybe, what we're left with is giving attention to our words – the words we speak and the words that come through the speakers to us.

The Scriptures are full of passages that

express the importance of listening carefully, knowing when to remain silent, and discerning when to speak. And yet, even if we aspire to those principles, chances are that in this time of online communication weariness, our words aren't going to be uttered with their usual eloquence. We're going to need to be forgiving of each other's words or the struggle or hesitation to get them out.

As it happens, Jesus of Nazareth, is referred to in the Bible as "The Word". "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us," we hear of the incarnate God. And if there is one thing that Jesus – God in human form – embodies, it is merciful understanding.

Things aren't easy at the moment. But if we can put a little trust in each other to be forgiving of our lockdown fatigue, we might have the courage to unmute ourselves, converse with honesty, and give and receive the support we all so desperately need.

So, put your headphones on, plug in your microphone, listen up, and don't hesitate to pipe up. We can make this work together. Even when

it feels like it's failing, remember, we've got that Jesus guy listening in, receive our stuttering words as prayers and having his heart bleed for

It's going to be okay. At least that's what I keep telling myself. I think I believe it. But even if I don't, the faith that Jesus had in humanity − enough to die for us − gives me faith enough to hang in there and speak words that reflect his confidence in the future. If that's hope, I have it. And I hope you will share in it with me ●



Tom Hoffmann

TOM HOFFMANN IS THE PASTOR AT ST JOHNS SOUTHGATE CHURCH.

STJOHNSSOUTHGATE.COM.AU

STJOHNS

OWNERS' CORPORATION LAW

The future of apartment living - post COVID-19

We've all spent far too much time over the winter months holed up in our apartments working at home, educating at home and living at home.

Home has become our lives, and perhaps not for the better. And so, as spring thaws on our winter of discontent, and as restrictions ease somewhat, it is perhaps time to re-think what we need from our apartments and our common areas and facilities, and from the service we get from our facilities' managers.

At the very top of the list for the committees of owners' corporations (OC) has got to be some serious budgetary reform. Without exception, every single service contract has to be renegotiated in order to deliver value for money.

Having acted for OCs for more than 10 years all around Australia, I have said it before and I'll say it again, Victoria is by far the worst state for overinflated service contracts. I have never seen such largesse in any other state or territory.

Five-year OC manager contracts, 10-year cleaning contracts, 20-ear embedded network agreements, 25-year caretaker agreements. The list goes on.

No other state or territory permits this. Of course, the fault lies with Consumer Affairs Victoria for failing to regulate this. They have known about the issue for many years, and have done nothing to bring about reform.

Be that as it may, it is now up to OCs to investigate all possible options to escape these contracts. Most will be completely unenforceable, and many more will have been void ab initio. OCs could begin to take charge of their finances and repair the great holes in their budgets, only once they have renegotiated these contracts.

The next step for OCs is to think creatively.

It appears that a very high number of OCs have deferred their remedial works, painting, and internal upgrades contracts indefinitely, in order to undertake budget reform. While this seems sensible and practical for most buildings, some buildings could actually take the opportunity of the very-quiet economic conditions and could decide to undertake their planned projects (or bring them forward) if they can negotiate very good deals with contractors (who will no doubt be desperate for the work).

Now could also be the time to discuss with your contractors about a re-deployment of services. Perhaps less hours from security or the concierge is required, and the cleaning contractors can be re-deployed to provide more hours to dedicate to extra cleaning.

There may even be some possibilities for the rooftop and unused facades to be used for signage and telecommunications antennae to derive extra income for the building.

Of course, there are only limited opportunities for a building to make costs savings. The fixed costs are sometimes too difficult to move. But if you don't try, you'll never know •

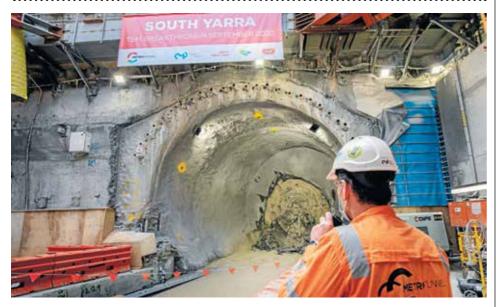


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METRO TUNNEL



Metro Tunnel reaches halfway milestone

Tunnelling has hit the halfway mark following the recent breakthrough of two tunnel boring machines (TBMs) through key sections of the Metro Tunnel.

TBM Meg broke through at the new Parkville station less than 24 hours after TBM Millie completed its journey from the Anzac Station site on St Kilda Rd to the eastern tunnel entrance in South Yarra.

The dual breakthroughs mark a major milestone, with 50 per cent of the tunnelling now completed.

Construction on the Metro Tunnel Project has continued throughout the coronavirus pandemic, with more than 1800 workers adhering to strict COVID-19 safety measures to keep the project going.

The TBMs have so far excavated more than 364,000 cubic metres of rock and soil and installed more than 30,000 individual concrete segments, each weighing 4.5 tonnes, to line the tunnel walls.

TBM Millie's cutterhead and shield are being lifted out of the South Yarra tunnel entrance site by crane and transported to the Anzac Station site. The rest of the TBM is being pulled back through the tunnel to Anzac Station, then reassembled and relaunched towards Town Hall Station later this year.

Students head for the virtual classroom

While it's all quiet at the Metro Tunnel HQ visitor centre in Swanston St, students can still discover lots about the project.

Education program manager Cherida Longley said providing a Metro Tunnel experience to students wherever they may be during lockdown had been a focus.

"We delivered our first series of remote sessions to Year 9s from Mullauna College, Mitcham," she said.

"Like many schools, their scheduled city experience week had to be cancelled, so we moved their bookings online"

Cherida expects that with excursions on hold, the free remote learning sessions will continue to be popular.

"We find ways to demonstrate how simple scientific principles translate to the Metro Tunnel Project," she said.

You can make a booking enquiry for a school session via the Metro Tunnel Education website, which includes a host of further ideas, activities and opportunities for children to learn about Victoria's biggest-ever public transport

metrotunnel.vic.gov.au/education •

For more information:

metrotunnel.vic.gov.au

An election is upon us ...

... and what a horrible time to be holding one.

Personally, I am disappointed the minister didn't postpone the election. How can the candidates truly present themselves to the electorate and explain who they are and what they stand for when they are limited to our letterboxes and the occasional "meet the candidates" event that might be held? This decision not to delay the election has only eroded our democracy – well for this election, at least.

Talking about meeting the candidates ... as usual. Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) will be holding our own event, albeit via Zoom. We have invited the leadership teams (Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor) to nominate one person from their team (leadership or councillor) to represent them. We have also extended a special invitation to the two Southbank candidates (on opposing teams), Samantha Tran and Artemis Pattichi. Many of you will probably know Artemis from her work with the Southbank Sustainability Group that she co-founded and we were fortunate to have her on our SRA committee for close to three years. Artemis would be a great representative for Southbank, and our whole committee is supporting her and wish her well.

Our event will be held on Monday, October 12 commencing at 6.30pm via Zoom. To register scan the OR code on page 13 or join via our website southbankresidents.org.au. The event will be moderated by myself. I think you will agree, after my eight years as president of SRA, also running for council at the last election and my never-ending involvement with council, I should be able to hold all candidates to account and know when they are trying to pull the wool over our eyes! I think this will certainly be one Meet the Candidates event that you won't want to miss. You will have the opportunity to send through any questions you would like asked when you register. We will try our best on the night to ask as many questions we can, but there

The programmed, "New to Southbank" event that I mentioned in last month's column, is going to be rescheduled to early 2021. Our committee felt that owing to COVID-19 there hasn't been much movement in the community so there are probably not too many people new to Southbank. We will certainly let you know when we are running that event again.

As many have probably noticed, there is signage on Boyd Park announcing the new development at the site. As many of you know, who have been following this over many years, this development was always planned. In fact, it was supposed to have been before we got the park, but SRA successfully managed to get the park

first so we didn't have to keep waiting.

The basketball court was always temporary as it was eventually supposed to be located under the Kings Way undercroft as part of the City Rd upgrade. This upgrade has been delayed, but rest assured we have not let up asking council when this will finally occur. This development will be put forward to council's Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) for further consideration before the minister signs-off on it. There will be an opportunity at that meeting for our community to have its final say on this development. SRA certainly will.

I would like to acknowledge the change in portfolios of our local state member, Martin Foley. As you may be aware, Martin was given the Health portfolio following the resignation of Jenny Mikakos. I am not sure if this Ministry promotion is a good or bad thing. Under the current circumstances I wouldn't wish that portfolio for anyone, but someone needs to do it and I know the portfolio will be in good hands with Martin.

However, I was fearful Martin may lose the creative industries portfolio, which is what happened. I don't know much about the new creative industries minister, but I do know that Martin was passionate about his creative industries portfolio and in his short time holding the portfolio he has had some major achievements, most notably progressing the Arts Precinct plan and the purchase of the old CUB site on Southbank Boulevard. Martin will no doubt continue to engage with the Southbank community and particularly SRA. We wish him all the best with his new challenges.

If you would like to support your local residents' association and its work, you can join via our website – **southbankresidents.org. au**, we would certainly welcome your interest. Without membership we don't have a voice and the community needs to be heard.

We are so close to being out of lockdown. Our community has been resilient and stayed the course. Thank you to everyone who has done their bit to reduce the spread. Keep safe and hopefully see you on Zoom on October 12 •

For more information: southbankresidents.org.au



Tony Penna

PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT®

SOUTHBANKRESIDENTS.ORG.AU



Southbank

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Gaslighting in relationships

Gaslighting can be defined as a form of emotional and psychological manipulation involving the distortion of reality in an effort to confuse another individual to the point where they question their sanity and reality.

Gaslighting can occur in a number of relationships, both personal and professional, however it is most commonly seen in romantic relationships. Gaslighting can make people question their own memory, thoughts or factual events that have taken place. Experiencing this over time can cause a victim of gaslighting to self-doubt, and lose their sense of identity and self-worth. Gaslighting can be hard to detect as the self-doubt victims experience can make it take longer for them to realise what is going on and to seek help.

Some common methods a gas lighter may use against their victim could be:

- Denying and forgetting: Telling the victim that something never happened or was never said or pretending to forget something ever happened.
- Countering and diverting: Telling the victim that they are remembering events incorrectly or questioning the validity of their thoughts.
- Blocking: Changing the subject or refusing to engage in a conversation with the victim.
- Discrediting and trivialising: Convincing others that the victim is unstable or insane and making the victim feel that they do not matter.
- Projecting: Accusing someone else (usually the victim) for their own faults to take the attention away from themselves.

Are you a victim of gaslighting?

It is often hard to understand or accept if you are a victim of gaslighting, however there are some significant signs that will give a victim the indication that they are being gas-lit.

Victims might question if they are worthy enough for their partner, they might no longer trust themselves with decisions, even the most basic ones, and might be scared to tell their partner the truth for fear of being put down for it. Further, victims may find themselves apologising for things without understanding why, feeling lost, crazy, confused and especially unhappy. Alongside this, there might be a feeling that something isn't quite right in the relationship. All of these thoughts and feelings revolve around questioning your reality, sanity and feelings-key factors in the manipulation of gaslighting.

How to combat gaslighting in a relationship

The best way to combat gaslighting is to maintain a sense of reality and the truth. Victims can do this in a number of ways. First, identify the gaslighting, understand there is a problem in the relationship, and understand the situation you as a victim are in. Then, separate the truth and the lies: gaslighters create a world of lies and inconsistencies, so try and figure out

what is true and what isn't. You can do this by keeping a journal of things that happened and are factual, write down thoughts and feelings of different situations down, or record voice memos of how you felt at the time. Confide in and seek help from a close friend, family member or a professional if possible, they may be able to help you find clarity as well as help you find a safe way out of the relationship.

It is important to remember that gaslighting can be detrimental to a victim's mental health and being able to talk with people who have experienced the same thing, or having a safe space to talk about your emotions and experiences will help the healing process •



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Masks of Southbank

Photos by John Tadigiri.



MATT, ROCHELLE AND THEIR SON SEBASTIEN

The family bought their unique looking masks at Culture Kings. Sebastien reckons that wearing masks in summer could be a sticky situation, but his mum quipped in to say, "got to do the right thing". Video games and walks are keeping them entertained. They love reading the *Southbank News*.



DAVID

Living with his housemates in Southbank, David works in the famous Melbourne Theatre Company (MTC). He absolutely loves his job even though he is on JobKeeper at present. His sister Emily made the mask for him and posted it from Ballarat. He said that he understood that his industry would be one of the last ones to reopen after the lockdowns.



VANESSA

Originally from Spain, Vanessa has been a Southbank resident for three years. Even though she initially was shy, after seeing her photo digitally, she hoped that her photo makes it to the *Southbank News*. She makes masks (yes, she made her mask!) and toys out of fabric. You can check her Instagram page **@Hand.Some.Toys**



PRIYANKA

Priyanka knew how to make her regular (Chemist Warehouse bought) mask stand out. She said she got a few more masks that were custom made for her and colourful ... but she preferred to wear the blue masks for her walks and outdoor exercises as they tended to be more breathable. When asked what was keeping her entertained these days, she expressed her gratefulness to have a job, a friend to go on walks with, and a boyfriend.



Coffee Break

"It's the thought that counts."

Southgate

Southbank Sudoku

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

The rules are the same as regular Sudoku, each line must contain the letters "SOUTHBANK" as must each 9-square box. This Sudoku is VERY HARD, good luck!

Last month's Sudoku solution

N	K	T	S	В	Н	U	0	A
В	S	Н	U	A	0	N	Т	K
A	U	0	T	K	N	В	Н	s
S	0	A	В	Н	K	Т	U	N
K	N	В	A	Т	U	o	S	Н
Н	Т	U	N	0	s	A	K	В
T	Н	S	0	N	В	K	A	U
0	В	K	Н	U	A	s	N	T
U	A	N	K	s	Т	Н	В	o

	В	Н		A				
	U	S					K	T
					T		A	Н
		A		0				
K			В		A			0
				N		K		
В	K		Т					
Н	S					Т	U	
				В		Н	0	

Something extra to be happy about

While we are all happy that restrictions are easing and the weather is getting warmer, our group has an additional reason to be happy ... we are a finalist for the environment category of the 2020 Sustainable Cities Awards by Keep Victoria Beautiful (KVB)!

The 2020 Sustainable Cities Awards recognise and celebrate exceptional environmental work done by communities and councils across the whole state of Victoria. The environment category focuses on work done that protects, restores and prevents damage to the natural environment. What puts us in the good company of other finalists, like the Yarra Riverkeeper Association, is both our fight and win to establish a permanent community vegie garden in our concrete-heavy neighbourhood, along with our many, creative educational activities over the last couple of years, which brought long-term behavioural change in our community's waste output and carbon footprint. To read more about the awards and see all finalists visit kvb.org.au/sustainable-cities/ sustainable_cities_2020_finalists

You can watch the winners announced on the virtual awards ceremony on November 12 at 8pm, on the KVB Sustainable Cities YouTube channel. Wish us luck!

Receiving this good news was especially important to us this month, especially when on the other end, we've seen a planning permit application submitted, which if granted, will take away our Boyd orchard area (large concrete

planters by the orange container) and basketball court, along with a big chunk of green space, to put up a high-rise apartment building.

While there will be a good amount of community space allocated within the building, it will also mean taking away an important part of open green space and exercise space from our community, and half the community garden from our group. We've filed an objection representing the 160-plus members of our group and the wider community. Hopefully enough objections have been received to keep this important space, where the community comes together, intact.

Garden talk

Spring is here! You will see that some of the garden beds that had gone to seed have been cleared and are now housing young seedlings. While those younglings are growing, we have other leafy greens and vegies available for harvesting. Just walk around the garden beds to see what is ready to harvest. One of the things you will see standing out, are the tall, luscious green broad bean stalks. As mentioned in the previous edition, feel free to harvest plenty of broad bean leaves (or fava bean leaves). They are very high in antioxidants, fight free radicals and have other great nutritional benefits. They are great for a quick stir-fry or in a salad. Don't be shy with the amount you harvest, it's very beneficial for the plant.

Gardening and watering volunteers

A lot of you have reached out to sign up to our iso gardening buddy system or watering roster! Thank you very much to you all.

We still need more volunteers, especially with soil change work coming up and with warmer weather meaning more watering. Email us at SouthbankSustainability@gmail.com to sign up for our gardening and watering roster.



While gardening experience is appreciated, it's not necessary. As a reminder, gardening and watering work falls under the exercise activity restriction.

We are all anxiously watching the easing in meeting restrictions to start our Saturday fortnightly morning meet-ups again! We will be sure to announce it on our Facebook page, so keep an eye on it to know when we can all meet and garden together again, or email us to notify you when we set the first meet-up date.

About the group: A solutions-focused group of Southbank residents working to bring positive change in sustainability practices and education to our neighbourhood, while building a wonderful community of like-minded people. 2019 Environment Melbourne Award winner •

Reach us at:

southbanksustainability@ gmail.com or facebook.com/ SouthbankSustainabilityGroup



Artemis Pattichi
SOUTHBANK SUSTAINABILITY
GROUP

SOUTHBANKSUSTAINABILITY@

WE LIVE HERE

Short-stays will endanger COVID recovery

Open letter to the Minister for Consumer Affairs (CAV) and the Minister for Health and Human Services (DHHS)

Dear Ministers

The COVID-19 pandemic and the worldwide collapse of tourism has demonstrated what years of lobbying has failed to do: that there is no place for short-stay operations in high-rise residential buildings.

The problem is fundamental: it's impossible to limit the spread of the deadly virus or to enforce social distancing rules in a short-stay environment.

Under COVID restrictions, the majority of commercial short-stay operators have abandoned our buildings and some have gone out of business altogether. Airbnb is on its knees.

Former short-stay apartments have been sold or are now earning more income from being rented out long-term.

Residents have rediscovered the security, safety and amenity of their homes, that had been lost during the rampant years of greedy commercial short-stay operators who make no contribution to the wear and tear of the buildings they invode

WE MUST NOT ALLOW THE SHORT-STAY PROBLEMS TO RETURN AND THREATEN PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY.

Ministers, several things need to happen as Melbourne gradually emerges from lockdown.

- We Live Here would like to engage with both of you so that you have a better understanding of how apartments in high-rise strata communities are not appropriate for short-term letting by commercial operators.
- 2. The Owners' Corporation Short-Stay Amendment Act 2018, backed by Airbnb and the two former Ministers for Consumer Affairs, but opposed by an all-party Parliamentary Inquiry, is due for review in February 2021 and must be scrapped.
- 3. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) must provide a public health road map for managing the return of visitors, so that we do not compromise what we have achieved at such sacrifice during the pandemic.

Ministers, we look forward to meeting with you to resolve these urgent issues.

P.S. Our chief grievance is with whole-apartment, commercial operators rather than individual owners renting out a room in the apartment they are occupying, the genesis of short-term letting platforms. Commercial operators should pay higher levies for additional wear and tear, and we need a comprehensive registration system.

Global coalition against Airbnb IPO ethics

We Live Here is a signatory on an official submission to the New York Stock Exchange regarding the forthcoming listing by Airbnb.

The submission by a global coalition of community groups asks US financial regulators – the SEC – to require Airbnb to disclose its revenue from commercial operators, the hosts who run multiple listings. The data could reveal how much of Airbnb's inventory might be affected if more cities enforce even reasonable regulations controlling the practice.

Barcelona, New York, Boston, Los Angeles, San Diego, London, Paris and Prague have all enacted laws to control commercial short-stays.

The global coalition argues that Airbnb's public pronouncements have repeatedly proven false, dissimulating and inaccurate, often directly contradicted by independent analysts and actual practices. The myth of "home sharing" covers up the vital role commercial operators play in the Airbnb business model. And the "ban on party houses" line is trotted out for every tragic incident.

"This is one IPO that shouldn't come to market without a thorough vetting by the SEC," JJ Fueser of Fairbnb Canada said.

Lord Mayor speaks out on short-stays

Melbourne Lord Mayor Sally Capp has spoken out on short-stay issues while addressing the Residents 3000 AGM.

The Lord Mayor said that more needs to be done for the 83 per cent of Melburnians who live in apartments, and that there is no satisfactory legislation to manage short-stays because the current legislation "did not go far enough".

Ms Capp expressed concern about the impact on residents in terms of amenity, safety in our own building and increased wear and tear costs.

Speaking to We Live Here, Ms Capp said she had previously contemplated a type of charter between the council and Airbnb but was unaware of the impact of the pandemic on the platform's business model. Also, the Lord Mayor did not know about the commercial operators with multiple listings, a reality that could make a charter

with Airbnb meaningless.

Ms Capp also said the hotel industry has complained that there is no level playing field in terms of regulations for health and safety, taxes and general legal compliance requirements.

This is where we are all in agreement: proper regulation is essential to manage the competing interests of tourism with the expectation of residents to the quiet enjoyment of their homes.

As Melbourne emerges from lockdown, we hope that lessons learnt from this pandemic will lead us towards proper regulation.

Cladding update

The recent Cladding Safety Victoria (CSV) Bill will formally separate CSV from the Victorian Building Authority and establish CSV as the responsible authority for delivering the Cladding Rectification Program. The Bill will also increase the time limit for pursuing legal action against builders by an extra two years.

CSV is now seeking expressions of interest for a clerk of works.

If you have some feedback on how the rectification programme is working for your building, including how it will be paid for, please let us know.

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 donate, please visit our website at welivehere.net. We Live Here does not accept donations from commercial tourism interests



Barbara Francis & Rus Littleson

EMAIL: CAMPAIGN@WELIVEHERE.NET LEARN MORE AT WELIVEHERE.NET



绿党承诺建高架公园

Sean Car

在即将举行的墨尔本市议会选举中,如果绿党领导团队胜选,将启动一个2.5公顷高架公园的幻想性计划,该公园将把CityLink两边的南岸(SouthbBank)连接起来。

作为《 2010年南岸结构计划》标志性的一部分,将高速公路上的Balston街和Power街连接至Miles街和Sturt街的绿地,由于其成本和协调工作原因至今未有进展。

但是市长候选人阿普萨拉·萨巴拉特南 (Apsara Sabaratnam)和连任两届的市政议员罗汉·莱珀特(Rohan Leppert)领导的绿党承诺,如果在10月24日胜选,将给予该项目应有的重视。

不管萨巴拉特南是否赢得市长职位,但莱珀特几乎肯定会赢得第三个任期,他表示将推动墨尔本市政与环城公路管理公司(Transurban)和州政府一起融资和可行性方案研究。

作为倡议"人人共享公园"政策的绿党, 测算了该项目的十年费用为3.85亿澳元,提 议资金由市议会,州政府和环城公路管理公司共同承担。

莱珀特先生表示,由于南岸仍然是墨尔本市人均开放空间排名中最低,仅为人均0.62平方米,远低于世界卫生组织的建议的人均9平方米。这个项目将是纠正这一缺口的唯一机会。

他说:"创造新开放空间的政策,我们 着眼于最需要的区域。"

"2010年南岸结构计划发现,'通往 CityLink隧道已经在南岸造成了一个巨大的 空缺。 将南岸分割成不同地块,有损周围 的直接使用。'"

"当时的计划提案是通过建造一个开发项目,把南岸南北分隔的两部分'缝合'在一起,修建一个相连和连续的混合用途区,并提供新的公共用地机会。"

"我们不同意这个原来的计划。为了使 南岸的绿色开放空间达到世界卫生组织建议 的每人至少9平方米的水平,更不用说建议 的每人50平方米的理想水平,所有这些空 间都应该是供公众使用的绿色公园。"



"墨尔本市的《 2012年开放空间战略》 是朝这个方向发展的,但是多级政府协调 的困难以及巨额项目费用阻碍了该项目的 进展。"

"早就应该认真对待这一项目提案了, 为其制定预算并有所进展。我们的提议是将 南岸的两半连接起来,并大大提高人均绿地 率。南岸没有其他空间能够满足如此规模的 新公共开放空间。"





开发项目激怒当地居民

Sean Car

上个月提交的Boyd公园西部边缘一个 42层高楼开发项目申请,再次引发了当地 社区的强烈反对。

去年,墨尔本市政以1650万澳元将目前 由篮球场和弹出式果园占用的1843平方米 的土地出售给开发商PDG,作为交易的一部 分,开发商同意在其项目提案中提供一系列 社区福利设施。

去年7月4日,市长萨利·卡普(Sally Capp)与开发商PDG董事总经理文斯·朱利亚诺(Vince Giuliano)和南岸居民协会(SRA)主席托尼·佩纳(Tony Penna)一同亮相,揭开了期待已久的市政Boyd交易

自2011年以来,为了资助Boyd公园,与前开发商Mackie合作开发该地块的一系列尝试均告失败,此后市长和朱利亚诺宣布

了一项110米混合用途建筑的新协议。

尽管市政未能与开发商Mackie达成协议,在当地社区的压力下,市政会最终资助并重建公园,但当地社区呼吁将整个场地建成一个公园。

墨尔本市政在2007年购买了整个场地 (以前是JH Boyd女子学校的所在地) ,交 付给位于City 路207号的Boyd社区中心使 用。墨尔本市政一直坚持认为有必要出售其 部分场地。

根据2014年的市政政策,该场地之前的收入和当前销售产生的所有利润都将用于资助维多利亚女王市场(QVM)的更新改造。佩纳先生表示,这是目前社区内焦虑的持续话题。

PDG的开发计划比先前Mackie的开发计划高27米,根据协议,PDG提供额外的楼层高度,其承诺是在底下两层修建约1000平方米的社区设施,由市政管理。

但是PDG上个月提交给规划部门的申请已经下来了,其中包括一座高138.7米的大楼,920平方米的市政设施,面向City路末端,靠近Boyd社区中心。

这座42层的大楼还包括394套住宅公寓、40套经济适用房,还有零售、自行车设施和位于平台层上有104个车位的停车场,考虑到随着停车需求的减少,可改造成未来的商业办公空间。

由于新冠疫情的原因,推迟了计划中的 南岸社区日和Boyd公园4月份的开放日期, 南岸居民协会表示,对该项目在这个时间提 出申请感到失望。

居民协会鼓励当地居民向市政和州规划部长理查德·韦恩(Richard Wynne)提出意见,有一名当地居民甚至发起了一项题为"拯救Boyd社区公园"的请愿,反对该项目中的高层建筑。

南岸鼓励室外用餐

David Schout

跟据一项让游客返回市中心的计划, 南岸河滨长廊Southbank Promenade和 Riverside Quay区域将成为墨尔本的两个主 要室外用餐区域。

由于新冠疫情的封锁,经过数月仅仅 是外卖的生易,苦苦挣扎的当地咖啡馆和 餐馆很快将能够在受欢迎的公共场地招待 用餐者。

墨尔本市政已将这两个区域指定为"弹 出式咖啡馆和餐馆",让没有室外区域的商 家可以在这里经营。

在都市内的2390家咖啡馆和餐馆中, 只有800家有室外用餐场地。 市政鼓励持有室外经营许可证的商家扩 大其经营。

市政府首席执行官贾斯汀·汉尼(Justin Hanney)对3AW广播电台说:"对于那些有室外场地的商家来说,如果他们的邻家商店同意,他们可以向任何一侧扩展。"

"他们可以在街道的停车位和绿色停车 场上经营。"

市政府与州政府一起,致力提供相关的 COVID安全保护,如护柱、种植箱和安全屏 障,以协助 实施此计划。

Southbank Promenade和Riverside Quay是墨尔本市16个允许户外用餐区域中的两个。

当地居民也可以就近在雅拉河对面的



Batman公园以及Docklands港区的Yarra's Edge区域露天用餐。

室外用餐计划是以纽约的"开放餐厅"计划为蓝本,严格按照室内用餐健康规定的一

种方式。

汉尼先生说,市政预计此举将不仅仅是 一个权宜之计。

疫情冲击经济 市区首当其冲

David Schout

根据一项由墨尔本市政府委托的研究显示,由于受到封锁限制,墨尔本市中心这次 受到了新冠疫情最严重的经济打击。

与疫情爆发前的预测相比,当地经济在未来五年将遭受1100亿澳元的损失,到2020年底,将有15%的工作岗位流失。

由市政府委托的普华永道(PwC) 研究机构帮助制定了最近发布的"重启和复苏计划"(Reactivation and Recovery Plan),强调本市解除封锁后必须立即采取的行动。

市长萨利·卡普(Sally Capp)表示, 墨尔本是"澳大利亚的经济动力源",未来几 个月采取的措施能够证明至关重要。

她在9月15日的未来墨尔本委员会

(FMC)会议上说:"我们知道墨尔本是维州经济的动力源,在国民经济中发挥着重要作用。国家的复苏取决于我们如何让城市恢复生机。"

然而,公共卫生与安全仍是本市的重 点,市政也希望支持人们分阶段返回墨尔本 市中心。

市长指出:"雇主、游客以及这座城市的主要利益相关者都一再反馈说,一个清洁的和疫情安全的城市绝对重要,也是我们的首要任务。"

普华永道的报告指出,虽然墨尔本市的 经济占维州经济约四分之一,但这次的经济 损失将占维州经济损失的一半以上。

因此,在9月15日菲利普·刘乐(Philip Le Liu)提出的一项议案中,市政议员一致 通过宣布本市这次经济冲击下的"商业和就 业紧急状态",呼吁州政府放弃而不是推迟 即将到来的工资税,并扩大对自营商支持。

议员们还呼吁联邦政府将高等教育部门的工作人员纳入JobKeeper之中,并在Job-Seeker截止后,永久增加Newstart津贴。

Business Directory

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SOUTHBANK NEWS

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e sean@hyperlocalnews.com.au about how to customise your campaign to our audience every month.

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We are also available to visit you and your property in person or virtually if you are looking for advice with respect to selling or leasing your property.

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