SOUTHBANK NEWS

WORDS BY Sean Car
PROPERTY

Southbank's historic Robur Tea Building is expected to undergo restoration having been purchased by a new owner in March.

Developer CostaFox acquired the heritage-listed building for $28 million in an off-market sale managed by real estate group CBRE from developer RJ International (Aus) Pty Ltd who had owned it for 10 years.

CostaFox managing director Michael Fox told CBRE in March that he was “elated with the acquisition.”

“To buy a site like this in this location with such a beautiful heritage building is difficult at the best of times. We are hard at work at her chalk board last month with a few customers browsing. The bookshop has stayed open with Jaye and her son Cam braving the quiet days with fortitude and imagination. Read more on page 10.”

New leaf for Tea House building

WORDS BY Sean Car
PLANNING

The developer has history in restoring old buildings in Melbourne having won the Australian Property Institute Heritage Property Award in 2014 for its redevelopment of the old Tip Top Bakery site in East Brunswick.

CostaFox development director Gene Hubay said the company had already commenced a worldwide search for the “best architects” to bring the Tea House “back to life.”

While the news of a restored Tea House comes as welcome news for one of Southbank’s last remaining heritage icons, questions remain over the developer’s plans for the adjoining site at the corner of Clarendon St and Normanby Rd.

The news of CostaFox’s acquisition follows Heritage Victoria’s (HV) decision to refuse a permit to previous owner RJ International (Aus) Pty Ltd for its proposal to build a 24-storey hotel at the adjoining site to the Tea House last year.

That news came after the developer had previously attempted to seek approval for a 39-storey proposal. Its ultimate proposal for 24 storeys was knocked back by HV on the grounds that it would have negatively encroached on the Tea House.

“It has been determined that the construction of a 24-storey tower on the Robur Tea Building site would have a substantial detrimental impact on the cultural heritage of Southbank.”

Continued on page 4.

What Australia’s tallest tower means for Southbank

WORDS BY Sean Car
PLANNING

Southbank is Melbourne’s home of high-rise. As Lord Mayor Sally Capp referred to us last month, “Cloudbank” is synonymous with the fact that this community is no stranger to a tall building. Vertical living defines our identity.

So, why, when other “tallest” towers such as Eureka and Australia 108 sit in the city, has Beulah International’s 316-metre project at 118 City Rd been met with a particular degree of excitement never before seen in Southbank?

A $2 billion project that is expected to generate more than 4700 construction jobs via the provision of $1 billion additional investment stimulus to the Melbourne construction market, it’s no wonder such projects are favourable with local and state governments. Particularly during a once-in-a-generation pandemic.

But from the outset, Beulah International has recorded a number of “firsts” for a high-rise developer never-before-seen in Southbank, as well as the property industry more broadly.

From its design symposium, which brought the world’s best architects together to put forward their competing visions for achieving the best outcome for the site, to the independent judging panel of experts assembled to select the best proposal, Beulah has kept Southbank front of mind in its ambitions.

And the chosen winner, UNStudio and Cox Architecture’s Green Spine, now known as Southbank by Beulah, was testament to the developer’s desire to respond to the local context. The building feeds into the City of Melbourne’s new linear park along Southbank Boulevard up to the Royal Botanic Gardens, paying homage to Melbourne’s old title, The Garden City.

It also speaks true to transparency and engagement when the Southbank Residents’ Association (SRA) is right behind Beulah’s vision for the site, having embarked on a “rare” community engagement process.

“SRA was pleased this developer took the unprecedented step of engaging with our residents’ association prior to approval for their application,” SRA president Tony Penna said.

“While we have reservations with the height, we acknowledge this is not a blight on the developer as they are only required to comply with the scope of the planning scheme, which surprising they have.”

“It is rare for us to see a developer that isn’t trying to negotiate special dispensation outside of the planning scheme. We are particularly impressed with the sustainability efforts and the degree of street level activation.”

“We believe this development has the potential to be a local’s meeting point possibly transforming into Southbank resident’s social centre of gravity, offering a great mix of seats and amenities for reasons for us to be there.”

Speaking at the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting in March, where all councillors agreed to respond to the local context.

Continued on page 3.

A message from the Lord Mayor

B Keeping faith in Southbank

C KidsCo wins council grant

D An interview with the Arts Centre’s CEO

Looking to rent in Southbank?

Let us help you find your dream apartment.

melcorp.com.au | info@melcorp.com.au | 9696 8689

A message from the Lord Mayor

A message from the Lord Mayor

A message from the Lord Mayor
As we adjust to a radically different way of life, Melbourne must remain a caring city that lends a helping hand during tough times. We know this is an extremely stressful situation for most people and looking after those most at risk has never been more important.

All levels of government are joining forces to combat COVID-19 and, amid the lockdown, the City of Melbourne is continuing to deliver essential services for the community. Waste and recycling, services to older people, family and children’s services and support for the homeless are essential public health functions. Meals and in-home services are being delivered to more than 600 older residents and residents with a disability; family violence and counselling services are being increased, child care centres remain open and maternal and child health support is being provided over the phone and via video conferencing. We continue to provide our community immunisation service, our daily support team is helping to find shelter for people sleeping rough, and cleaning services have been ramped up across the city.

The situation also calls for us to help each other through the traumatic economic shock of a sudden shut down. State and federal governments are offering billions of dollars in support for business and workers who have already lost their jobs. Local governments are also doing their bit for cafes, restaurants, artists and small firms and small enterprises in our heart and soul of our neighbourhoods.

About 80 per cent of 16,500 businesses within the City of Melbourne are small businesses. They are family operations, sole traders and small firms that have taken a risk to turn their ideas into a livelihood and provide jobs for others. Real people are impacted, not just balance sheets.

As the level of government closest to the people, local councils have a direct and personal connection to many small business operators and their staff. How can we best support them and ensure they survive this ordeal? The speed and strength of our recovery will depend on the moral support and financial lifeline we provide through this period.

The City of Melbourne recently announced a $5 million support package that includes waiving fees for certain licences, registrations and street trading permits for three months, allocating special grants for e-commerce and online activities, halving rent for tenants in Council-owned buildings, and establishing a rates hardship policy. Queen Victoria Market offers an essential food service and its 600 traders will receive 100 per cent rent relief for the next three months.

Melbourne is also a city of artists and performers, and they are among the hardest hit by the downturn. The City of Melbourne is providing $2 million in grants to help them and smaller creative organisations plan and create their next work or showcase their performances online. They form the backbone of our city’s cultural life and in more challenging times their creative contributions uplift other businesses, attracting visitors from far and wide, especially at this time of year.

The City of Melbourne has established a Business Concierge service to provide one-on-one advice on accessing financial support, services and information. The support packages for businesses and our creative community have generated hundreds of enquiries and thousands of applications. There are so many people in need, but no easy way to keep everyone sustained.

We ask landlords to consider temporary rent discounts for local businesses, while those of us able to weather the storm should take the opportunity to spend online or by phone with local retailers and eaters. Organise home delivery from a favourite dinner spot or order a book from the local bookshop. They are small gestures, but will help the commercial heart of our communities to keep beating.

While our city is strangely silent, missing the millions of people who would normally be moving through the streets, safety and security remain top priorities. Many shopfronts are closed and thousands of residents are at home. The City of Melbourne’s on-street compliance team is monitoring the streets daily, working closely with Victoria Police. Our council cleaning services are taking the opportunity to sweep, scrub and disinfect the city. Coordination with our community providers and state government has helped most of rough sleepers into temporary accommodation so they can receive care. No one should be left behind and it’s inspiring to see how deeply Melburnians feel about this.

For one am not surprised. The depth of our generosity for others was on display during the state’s horrendous summer bushfire crisis. Little did we realise was to come. Melbourne, we are a caring community that puts people first and will never be a better time to reinforce that notion.

**Message from the Lord Mayor**

**Words by Lord Mayor Sally Capp**

As we adjust to a radically different way of life, Melbourne must remain a caring city that lends a helping hand during tough times. We know this is an extremely stressful situation for most people and looking after those most at risk has never been more important.

All levels of government are joining forces to combat COVID-19 and, amid the lockdown, the City of Melbourne is continuing to deliver essential services for the community. Waste and recycling, services to older people, family and children’s services and support for the homeless are essential public health functions.

Meals and in-home services are being delivered to more than 600 older residents and residents with a disability; family violence and counselling services are being increased, child care centres remain open and maternal and child health support is being provided over the phone and via video conferencing. We continue to provide our community immunisation service, our daily support team is helping to find shelter for people sleeping rough, and cleaning services have been ramped up across the city.

The situation also calls for us to help each other through the traumatic economic shock of a sudden shut down. State and federal governments are offering billions of dollars in support for business and workers who have already lost their jobs. Local governments are also doing their bit for cafes, restaurants, artists and small firms and small enterprises in our heart and soul of our neighbourhoods.

About 80 per cent of 16,500 businesses within the City of Melbourne are small businesses. They are family operations, sole traders and small firms that have taken a risk to turn their ideas into a livelihood and provide jobs for others. Real people are impacted, not just balance sheets.

As the level of government closest to the people, local councils have a direct and personal connection to many small business operators and their staff. How can we best support them and ensure they survive this ordeal? The speed and strength of our recovery will depend on the moral support and financial lifeline we provide through this period.

The City of Melbourne recently announced a $5 million support package that includes waiving fees for certain licences, registrations and street trading permits for three months, allocating special grants for e-commerce and online activities, halving rent for tenants in Council-owned buildings, and establishing a rates hardship policy. Queen Victoria Market offers an essential food service and its 600 traders will receive 100 per cent rent relief for the next three months.

Melbourne is also a city of artists and performers, and they are among the hardest hit by the downturn. The City of Melbourne is providing $2 million in grants to help them and smaller creative organisations plan and create their next work or showcase their performances online. They form the backbone of our city’s cultural life and in more challenging times their creative contributions uplift other businesses, attracting visitors from far and wide, especially at this time of year.

The City of Melbourne has established a Business Concierge service to provide one-on-one advice on accessing financial support, services and information. The support packages for businesses and our creative community have generated hundreds of enquiries and thousands of applications. There are so many people in need, but no easy way to keep everyone sustained.

We ask landlords to consider temporary rent discounts for local businesses, while those of us able to weather the storm should take the opportunity to spend online or by phone with local retailers and eaters. Organise home delivery from a favourite dinner spot or order a book from the local bookshop. They are small gestures, but will help the commercial heart of our communities to keep beating.

While our city is strangely silent, missing the millions of people who would normally be moving through the streets, safety and security remain top priorities. Many shopfronts are closed and thousands of residents are at home. The City of Melbourne’s on-street compliance team is monitoring the streets daily, working closely with Victoria Police. Our council cleaning services are taking the opportunity to sweep, scrub and disinfect the city. Coordination with our community providers and state government has helped most of rough sleepers into temporary accommodation so they can receive care. No one should be left behind and it’s inspiring to see how deeply Melburnians feel about this.

For one am not surprised. The depth of our generosity for others was on display during the state’s horrendous summer bushfire crisis. Little did we realise was to come. Melbourne, we are a caring community that puts people first and will never be a better time to reinforce that notion.

As we adjust to a radically different way of life, Melbourne must remain a caring city that lends a helping hand during tough times. We know this is an extremely stressful situation for most people and looking after those most at risk has never been more important.

All levels of government are joining forces to combat COVID-19 and, amid the lockdown, the City of Melbourne is continuing to deliver essential services for the community. Waste and recycling, services to older people, family and children’s services and support for the homeless are essential public health functions.

Meals and in-home services are being delivered to more than 600 older residents and residents with a disability; family violence and counselling services are being increased, child care centres remain open and maternal and child health support is being provided over the phone and via video conferencing. We continue to provide our community immunisation service, our daily support team is helping to find shelter for people sleeping rough, and cleaning services have been ramped up across the city.

The situation also calls for us to help each other through the traumatic economic shock of a sudden shut down. State and federal governments are offering billions of dollars in support for business and workers who have already lost their jobs. Local governments are also doing their bit for cafes, restaurants, artists and small firms and small enterprises in our heart and soul of our neighbourhoods.

About 80 per cent of 16,500 businesses within the City of Melbourne are small businesses. They are family operations, sole traders and small firms that have taken a risk to turn their ideas into a livelihood and provide jobs for others. Real people are impacted, not just balance sheets.

As the level of government closest to the people, local councils have a direct and personal connection to many small business operators and their staff. How can we best support them and ensure they survive this ordeal? The speed and strength of our recovery will depend on the moral support and financial lifeline we provide through this period.

The City of Melbourne recently announced a $5 million support package that includes waiving fees for certain licences, registrations and street trading permits for three months, allocating special grants for e-commerce and online activities, halving rent for tenants in Council-owned buildings, and establishing a rates hardship policy. Queen Victoria Market offers an essential food service and its 600 traders will receive 100 per cent rent relief for the next three months.

Melbourne is also a city of artists and performers, and they are among the hardest hit by the downturn. The City of Melbourne is providing $2 million in grants to help them and smaller creative organisations plan and create their next work or showcase their performances online. They form the backbone of our city’s cultural life and in more challenging times their creative contributions uplift other businesses, attracting visitors from far and wide, especially at this time of year.

The City of Melbourne has established a Business Concierge service to provide one-on-one advice on accessing financial support, services and information. The support packages for businesses and our creative community have generated hundreds of enquiries and thousands of applications. There are so many people in need, but no easy way to keep everyone sustained.

We ask landlords to consider temporary rent discounts for local businesses, while those of us able to weather the storm should take the opportunity to spend online or by phone with local retailers and eaters. Organise home delivery from a favourite dinner spot or order a book from the local bookshop. They are small gestures, but will help the commercial heart of our communities to keep beating.

While our city is strangely silent, missing the millions of people who would normally be moving through the streets, safety and security remain top priorities. Many shopfronts are closed and thousands of residents are at home. The City of Melbourne’s on-street compliance team is monitoring the streets daily, working closely with Victoria Police. Our council cleaning services are taking the opportunity to sweep, scrub and disinfect the city. Coordination with our community providers and state government has helped most of rough sleepers into temporary accommodation so they can receive care. No one should be left behind and it’s inspiring to see how deeply Melburnians feel about this.

For one am not surprised. The depth of our generosity for others was on display during the state’s horrendous summer bushfire crisis. Little did we realise was to come. Melbourne, we are a caring community that puts people first and will never be a better time to reinforce that notion.
What Australia’s tallest tower means for Southbank

Continued from page 1.

provided unanimous endorsement of Beulah’s plans, chair of planning Cr Nicholas Reece spoke to the project’s significant community benefits.

“We sometimes hear people in this city say, ‘Melbourne has never seen anything like it’. That is often said with a little bit of exasperation but I think we can confidently say ‘Melbourne has never seen anything like Beulah’,” he said.

“It’s not just about the height — so much thought and effort has gone into the design and the green space. The apartments will provide a high level of amenity and proximity with services such as bike and car parking, a child-care centre, retail, hotel and office space.”

Described as a “vertical mini-metropolis”, it will be subject to market conditions, while height is still subject to Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) clearance.

Adelene Teh said Beulah hoped to commence construction next year, subject to market conditions, uplift and a number of short-stay apartments having been pending, and the assessment was already given his approval last month, Ms Teh said that Minister for Planning Richard Wynne “inform our brief.”

She said that from the beginning, Beulah International wanted to use its opportunity to address a number of shortcomings in Southbank. And having previously worked for renowned locally-based architect Fender Katsalidis as a student, she knows the area well.

“When we received the leaflet from CBRE when the site was on sale, there were some team members who said Southbank was not that compelling to address a number of shortcomings in Southbank. And having previously worked for renowned locally-based architect Fender Katsalidis as a student, she knows the area well.

“As I looked into the site in further detail you could see an opportunity to do something special here.”

With this project, it has sought to do just that. Described as a “vertical mini-metropolis”, it will comprise apartments, public and green spaces throughout the building, roof-top gardens, a town hall, offices, a five-star urban resort, childcare centre, health and wellness precinct, arts and cultural facilities and retail.

Adelene Teh said the outcome, drawn through its architecture competition, had reinforced important lessons in collaboration in urban planning.

“I think just being open and transparent and collaborative with all stakeholders is such a key part of doing such a good project,” she said. “We engaged the public, we did a lot of documentation to bring the public on a journey.”

“Even the symposium wasn’t about presenting a design but it was about having a conversation with people who are passionate about their city. Even when we put up an exhibition at Queensbridge Square we had Beulah team members rotating and being there talking to people asking their thoughts. Those insights are really valuable for what we deliver, it actually informs our brief.”

While many were shocked at the speed in which Minister for Planning Richard Wynne issued his approval last month, Ms Teh said that the project was “go per cent unchanged” from what was originally submitted. A decision had been pending, and the assessment was already complete.

Fencing is already up around the site as geotechnical investigations are conducted to understand soil conditions, while height is still subject to Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) clearance.

Adelene Teh said Beulah hoped to commence construction next year, subject to market conditions.

news@southbanklocalnews.com.au

▲ A render highlighting the project’s greenery.

### Impromptu balcony party erupts

Hundreds of Southbank apartment residents broke out into song and dance on Good Friday as locals showed social distancing wouldn’t break their partying spirit.

Perhaps inspired by apartment dwellers in Spain and Italy finding creative ways to interact under quarantine, the ad hoc party quickly brought many locals out to their balconies.

And best of all, no one really knows how it started.

“My name is Claire,” Waverly resident and the final year bachelor of music student soon joined in the fun. “I agree, it was such a welcome relief to the quiet many have become accustomed to in recent months.”

“I don’t actually know,” Balston St resident Claire said when asked how the celebrations began.

“I was just sitting in my room and then I started hearing some yelling outside. So, I went out onto my balcony and everyone was just having a good time and I thought ‘oh this is fun’. I thought I’d participate in the best way I know how, and got my horn out.”

“That horn was her saxophone and the final year bachelor of music student soon joined in the fun. “I agree, it was such a welcome relief to the quiet many have become accustomed to in recent months.”

“I don’t actually know,” Balston St resident Claire said when asked how the celebrations began.

“I was just sitting in my room and then I started hearing some yelling outside. So, I went out onto my balcony and everyone was just having a good time and I thought ‘oh this is fun’. I thought I’d participate in the best way I know how, and got my horn out.”

“But then it became a cacophony. And when I thought ‘here we go, people aren’t adhering to the rules’, he said with a laugh.

“Then there was a saxophone. And then someone decided to play music and everyone started to come into sync, it became something else entirely. It was really nice to hear the music and an obvious sense that people were enjoying that. This idea of coming together and being able to be part of a community; as odd and as unusual as it was, it was actually really nice.”

Mr de Rijk especially sympathised with those living by themselves during this period, and hoped the impromptu party gave a sense that

locals were in this together.

He also wanted to thank his neighbour for spinning some great tracks!

“Whoever was the nearest person to me certainly selected music that I enjoyed,” he said.

While the government’s “stay at home” directive has made Southbank a far quieter neighbourhood than usual, there were signs in the final weeks of April that things were slowly coming back to life.

“I feel like the foot traffic is starting to pick up compared to when isolation started to hit,” Claire said. “Back at the start things were very, very quiet but now I think more people are getting out, walking to get a coffee and that sort of thing. It was really weird at the start; walking to Flinders St and hardly seeing any cars. It was such an eerie feeling.”

She said, like many, she was leaning on those close to her.

“It’s not too bad. I live with my two best friends so they’re keeping me sane and I’m still getting out for work and stuff like that, so it could be a lot worse.”

*Wished to withhold her real name*

David Schout

Local News

Visit: lacamerasouthgate.com

For all orders above $60, receive a free bottle of wine!
New leaf for Tea House building

Continued from page 1.

heritage significance of the place and on the setting and views of the Robur Tea Building,” a letter from HV to RJ International said. “It has been determined that refusal would not prevent the reasonable or economic use of the registered place; also, that viable economic use of the Robur Tea Building does not require the level of change proposed.”

The City of Melbourne’s heritage portfolio chair Cr Rohan Leppert said at the time that Heritage Victoria’s decision acknowledged that the proposed new building would have overwhelmed the Tea House. “I think the site is able to be developed, but like Heritage Victoria, council will be considering whether the Tea House is being given enough room to ensure its integrity as a building of state significance stays intact.”

Southbank Residents’ Association (SRA) president Tony Penna said, “we acknowledge the recent sale of the Robur Tea Building does not have this building preserved after a development was proposed on the car park adjoining which would have truly impacted on the heritage of the site, which was also the view of Heritage Victoria.”

Fortunately, owing to those heritage issues, that development was not able to proceed. Southbank’s Tea House is one of the few remaining heritage sites left in Southbank. We would certainly welcome any preservation or enhancement of the sight by the new owner.”

The Tea House’s southern lift shaft, which was added onto the original building, is not heritage listed and could be demolished as part of any development plans on the adjoining site.

Built in 1887, the heritage-listed property is one of the most prominent examples of a 19th century warehouse in Melbourne. The building was designed by Nahum Barnet and built by James Moore and John Granger for printers and manufacturing stationers, Ferguson & Mitchell. For many years the former factory and warehouse was one of the tallest buildings outside the CBD, with its height and character establishing it as a Southbank landmark. The building, which has been largely vacant for several years, has a net lettable area of 3730 sqm and occupies a large 2948 sqm site.

Keeping faith in Southbank

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY Tamara Clark

Although Southbank’s Arts Precinct is looking like a ghost town, one corner of the community has remained open with a touching message.

Pourya Sadr, owner of Café Godot at the Guild on Sturt St has always had a connection with art.

Be it photography, film or as of right now, drawing, he always has his hands in something creative.

Sadr opened his café with the challenging art student budget in mind. “I remember my art student friends struggling in art school and struggling afterwards,” he said.

And then I started working in the hospitality industry and I had that soft spot because I would see my art student friends have to work for free here and there and they would rarely have any income. So, I reached for that market so they could get a sandwich, lunch and a coffee for $15.”

Like so many others during this pandemic, the café has faced some adversity. Customers are fewer, and freshly-made perishable dishes became less viable.

So, the menu has changed significantly.

“When it was a normal day, we were very busy and running out of food every day,” Sadr said.

However, Godot seized the opportunity to add staple grocery items like milk, meat and coffee to the menu to support the community.

“Anything that will make it easier for our customers,” he said.

“You can come and pick up fresh, fresh bread and we keep our prices a little bit lower than the supplier.”

Pourya said he had received a hand-written letter from the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) detailing how the university was setting up a break-off room to replicate his café.

“They pretend they’re really here. Students stand around and joke they are waiting for their soy milk latte,” he said. “It is just beautiful to hear.”

Café Godot has plans to start delivering to the university.

Pourya outlined some roses in an otherwise thirsty situation.

Ironically, the café was named after a word which references small talk; the niceties of generic coffee shop conversation; “Hi. How are you? How’s the weather?”

But over the three years of Godot living at the base of the Guild building, conversations have become longer and more “emotionally open”.

“What we’re going through at the moment is something similar to those silent meditation retreats you hear of,” he said. “The silence makes you think of all the conversations you could be having but aren’t.”

At the moment, we are locked down and thinking of all the opportunities we are given to connect and to know our neighbours. We are all thinking about how we want to connect when this is all over,” he said.

Café Godot is located at 152 Sturt Street, Southbank.
Supporting our city businesses

Melbourne businesses are the lifeblood of the city, and the City of Melbourne is offering services to help support businesses affected by COVID-19.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp is encouraging businesses to take up the offers of support from the City of Melbourne.

“Our COVID-19 Business Concierge Hotline is a useful and practical resource for small businesses during this difficult time,” the Lord Mayor said.

“We’ve launched this dedicated phone line so small businesses can call in and find out important information about what support is available and how to access our services.”

“It is staffed by a team of people here at the City of Melbourne who can speak with small business owners directly, offer mentoring and help people through the process to apply for support.”

Business owners can call the COVID-19 Business Concierge Hotline on 9658 9658 between 7.30am and 6pm Monday to Friday and between 10am and 4pm on weekends.

The Lord Mayor said there are more than 16,500 businesses in the City of Melbourne, with 80 per cent of these sole operators, family operations and small firms with just a few employees.

“Real people are being severely impacted. So, we’re doing everything we can to help businesses stay open and keep Melburnians in jobs,” she said.

The City of Melbourne is offering a number of relief and support measures to help local businesses through the coming weeks and months. The support package includes waiving certain fees, reducing rent for tenants in Council-owned buildings and developing a rates hardship policy.

“The speed and strength of the city’s economic recovery will depend on how well we can sustain and save businesses through this period,” the Lord Mayor said. “We want to understand the needs of businesses. We want to know how we can help. Listening to them is the best way we can effectively respond to this uncertainty together.”

“And when the health crisis is over, we will find a momentous way to celebrate, to welcome people back to our city, but most importantly to acknowledge and appreciate our city businesses and organisations, they are the heartbeat of our city and community, they make Melbourne impactful, interesting and iconic.”

For more information: melbourne.vic.gov.au/business

Real people are being severely impacted. So, we’re doing everything we can to help businesses stay open and keep Melburnians in jobs.

MELBOURNE’S BIGGEST WINE SALE!

At The Golden Fleece Hotel

• Wholesale wines
• Big brands
• $10 Wine

• $100 cases
• $100,000 of wine to clear
• Buy in store or online

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY
Including Docklands & Southbank for orders over $200

bottleshop.goldenfleechehotel.net.au | P 9696 9662 | 120 Montague St South Melb
If your business is experiencing financial hardship, the City of Melbourne may be able to help.

City of Melbourne's COVID-19 Business Concierge Hotline is now available to help small businesses and organisations access support services and important business information.

The newly-expanded Business Concierge service is a dedicated team of people who can speak to small business owners directly, offer mentoring and help people through the process to apply for support.

To find out how we can assist you, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au or call our Business Concierge Hotline on 9658 9658 (press 1 for business).

melbourne.vic.gov.au
Short-stay “apocalypse”

WORDS BY Meg Hill
PROPERTY

The rental market in Southbank and surrounds is flooded due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic related collapse of the short-stay market, according to real estate agents and short-stay operators.

Reports from apartment-based markets in the CBD, Southbank and Docklands all show a similar trend, with a rush to move short-stay apartments into the rental market.

Ray White Southbank principal and director Andrew Salvo said there had been a flood into the rental market.

“It’s mainly the larger short-stay accommodation companies. We had one hotel operator that had about 500 short stay apartments they were subletting arrangements on and they pretty much just closed their doors,” he said.

“We had about 50 on our books and the operators just left the furniture and everything in them. We managed to rent them out pretty quickly, but it required rent reductions around 10 to 20 per cent.”

Mr Salvo said Ray White Southbank had actually experienced a record leasing month with the rise in supply, even though demand had sunk.

“We don’t have borders open, we don’t have interstate migration and we really benefit from that in this area in normal times,” he said.

“The people moving are people in the area looking to upsize, to take advantage of the interstate migration and we really benefit from that appears to be from short-stays all around the city.”

“The heavy competition is coming with the test will be how many short-stay operators can sustain themselves for this period, and what the market will look like on the other side.”

Real estate agents have reported the same trend in the CBD.

Belle Property’s Carlton and Melbourne business development and leasing manager Suzie Inglis said on April 21 there were over 2200 apartments online in the CBD alone.

“The 1000 extra properties are all furnished and have all come online in the last two to three weeks which is simply unheard of.”

“This heavy competition teamed with the fact there are hardly any prospective tenants in the market anyway has forced owners to significantly drop prices in order to be competitive.”

Rus Littleson, a representative of property owners and long-term resident advocacy group We Live Here, said COVID-19 was an “apocalypse for the whole short-stay industry”.

“We have residents telling us that short-stay operators are collapsing throughout the city,” he said.

“Short-stay companies that have been around for more than a decade have not been immune - they’re crumbling under the pressure of paying above-market rents with near-zero income.”

“We Live Here is hearing that short-stay operators are invoking the small print in their rental agreements and bailing out, abandoning their apartment owners in the long-term rental market.”

Ms Inglis said April 21 there were over 2200 apartments online in the CBD alone.

“In our busiest period this number will usually never exceed 1200, so you can see the huge and rapid increase happening,” she said.

“The 1000 extra properties are all furnished and have all come online in the last two to three weeks which is simply unheard of.”

“This heavy competition is coming with the fact there are hardly any prospective tenants in the market anyway has forced owners to significantly drop prices in order to be competitive.”

Rus Littleson, a representative of property owners and long-term resident advocacy group We Live Here, said COVID-19 was an “apocalypse for the whole short-stay industry”.

“We have residents telling us that short-stay operators are collapsing throughout the city,” he said.

“Short-stay companies that have been around for more than a decade have not been immune - they’re crumbling under the pressure of paying above-market rents with near-zero income.”

“We Live Here is hearing that short-stay operators are invoking the small print in their rental agreements and bailing out, abandoning their apartment owners in the long-term rental market.”

Police are investigating after a vintage vehicle was stolen from a Southbank carpark in March.

The incident occurred on March 9, when the owner parked his vehicle in a Whitman St carpark about 11.30pm and returned about 3.30pm to find the car missing.

The vehicle is described as a 1974 Holden Torana SL/R 5000 registered with club number plates E859-HA.

Investigators wish to speak with a man seen in the area at the time, as they believe he may be able to assist with their enquiries.

He is perceived to be Caucasian in appearance and aged in his 50s.

He was wearing dark colour pants, a red/salmon coloured top, a blue jacket, a navy cap and a grey jumper tied around his shoulders.

Investigators have released images of a man who they believe can assist with their enquiries.

Police are appealing for anyone who may have seen the vehicle or who recognises the man to come forward.

Crime Stoppers:
1800 333 000 or crimestoppers.vic.gov.au

 Owners Corporation Management Services

Established in 1968 Whittles is the largest Australian owned strata management company and widely recognised for its experienced staff and the provision of professional strata management services nationally.

With specialist expertise in prestigious high-rise buildings, marinas, commercial and residential, Whittles is proud to be part of Southbank in Melbourne.

whittles.com.au

For superior owners corporation management services, contact the Docklands dedicated team
Whittles, Level 1, 838 Collins Street, Docklands VIC 3008
T 03 8632 3300 E info.docklands@whittles.com.au

Please support our advertisers because without them we would have no Southbank News
Support arrives for international students

The Council of International Students Australia (CISA) said the comments were disheartening.

"Due to lockdown enforcement in many countries, lots of international students are not able to (go home) at the moment, leaving them struggling every day," it said in a statement.

"It is disappointing to see international students being disregarded. There is a lot beyond monetary matters that needs to be considered and addressed which should not be shrugged away."

The City of Melbourne said it would continue to work with Study Melbourne, the lead agency in delivering online support for international students.

It also pledged to investigate setting up:
- free resume-checking;
- increased opportunities for students to connect online;
- expanding communications with international students; and
- delivering a special edition of the Nextstar internship program.

Speaking at the City of Melbourne’s virtual business summit on April 16, vice-chancellor at the University of Melbourne Duncan Maskell outlined how severe the impact of COVID-19 had been on universities.

"We have a unique model in that we totally rely on student enrolment as our main revenue source," he said. "Over the last few years, that has gone into international students in a big way. So, the current travel restrictions are hitting us very hard."

"It is likely to have a long-term effect on us. In fact, the prediction is that, nationally, there will be a decline in reversal revenues of between 3.5-4.5 billion over the rest of the year. A significant amount of money."

Dr Maskell said the state government announced earlier in the month that it was setting aside $4 billion over the rest of the year. A significant amount of money.

"That is the amount that would provide healthcare and support across the seven big universities in Melbourne."

"That amount is being cut in half."

"A significant amount of money."

Despite almost unprecedented expansion of Australia’s welfare system there has been an influx of those in need of homelessness support, according to the Salvation Army.

Major Brendan Nottle told Southbank News last month that the increase in demand was even greater than what the Salvation Army had expected.

"The influx played out exactly as we expected it, but I think the demand has actually outweighed what we expected there," he said.

"We were seeing a lot of people, we’re seeing who aren’t sure if they’re going to pay for medication, food and rent. And a lot of this started before the JobKeeper payment was announced but there are still lots of people, we’re seeing who aren’t sure if they’re eligible."

One demographic rendered uniquely vulnerable has been international students, who like other workers have found themselves in dire situations.

"I think their lives became uncertain in a lot of ways – will they have a job in the short term and long term, will the company they work for still be standing, how are they going to pay for medication, food and rent? A lot of this started before the JobKeeper payment was announced but there are still lots of people, we’re seeing who aren’t sure if they’re eligible."

"We have a unique model in that we totally rely on student enrolment as our main revenue source," he said. "Over the last few years, that has gone into international students in a big way. So, the current travel restrictions are hitting us very hard."

"It is likely to have a long-term effect on us. In fact, the prediction is that, nationally, there will be a decline in reversal revenues of between 3.5-4.5 billion over the rest of the year. A significant amount of money."

Dr Maskell said the state government announced earlier in the month that it was setting aside $4 billion over the rest of the year. A significant amount of money.
COVID-19 and what it means for Fishermans Bend

WORDS BY Ann Car
PHOTOGRAPHY BY John Tadigiri

Planning

The economic impacts of COVID-19 are being felt far and wide. But for Australia's largest-ever urban renewal project in Fishermans Bend, the pandemic could prove the major catalyst in determining how the state government's vision plays out.

Since the state government adopted its recast vision for Fishermans Bend in 2018, physical progress, while prevalent, has been slower than what some had expected given its forecasts of 80,000 new residents and 80,000 new workers by 2050.

While the University of Melbourne's investment in the Employment Precinct, which will be centred around advanced manufacturing and innovation, has provided cause for optimism, the all-important question around public transport looms large.

Leading up to the outbreak of COVID-19, the state government's growing debt crisis was well understood following a record investment in new infrastructure across the state.

It's a situation that has now only intensified, with last month's Department of Treasury and Finance modelling signalling an unprecedented 14 per cent decline in Gross State Product (GSP) in the June quarter.

In response, the state government has borrowed $24.5 billion in emergency funding to help see us through the crisis; a debt that many economists say will take a generation of tax-payers' money to settle.

However, while the situation appears grim, Fishermans Bend, as some are predicting, could form a major part of the road to economic recovery in the post-COVID world.

While the situation appears grim, Fishermans Bend, as some are predicting, could form a major part of the road to economic recovery in the post-COVID world.

Including Melbourne University's new campus, is critical. RMIT University is also interested in Fishermans Bend, but its investment weighs heavily on the delivery of public transport.

Yet despite the tram link being crucial for achieving the overall vision on schedule and restoring development confidence in the area, the cost of delivering it, totalling north of a billion dollars, could just as likely see it slip down the government's priority list. Who's to know?

Amid the uncertainty, Fishermans Bend Development Board chair Meredith Sussex said that the Board had met in April to "set its course in the new environment."

"Of course, a number of the people who support the Board are diverted to coronavirus duties - as is completely appropriate. However, the Board is now taking the time to think through how Fishermans Bend can best contribute to the post-COVID recovery in a way that is consistent with the vision for the area," she said.

"Construction in Montague in particular is proceeding, and work on the new secondary school in Wirraway is also underway. The Board will now be providing advice to Government on which other projects, both public and private, could get underway quickly and what work needs to be finalised to assist those projects."

"The Board is also redoubling its efforts on the development of the advanced manufacturing innovation precinct. One of the things we have learnt from the crisis is that we can, and must, keep making things, and that our adaptability and innovation will be central to the jobs and economic activity of the future."

"If COVID-19 has taught us anything, it's that our need to adapt and adapt quickly is going to be just as important in the recovery efforts as it has been in stopping the spread of the virus."

The response to this crisis has already produced incredible innovations in technology and the ways in which we conduct our everyday lives. As Meredith Sussex pointed out, the need to further explore these spaces and create the jobs of tomorrow is going to be critical when this is all over.

We've seen what investment in medical research can deliver. The output from the cluster of medical institutions in the Parkville Precinct has proven powerful in both the Australian and international efforts to combat the virus.

As we begin the economic rebuild, soon should come the time for the state government to place the same emphasis on job creation, investment and development in Fishermans Bend. It all starts with public transport.

Dorcas St development continues

The owner of a Dorcas St office building located near the Melbourne Metro Rail Project's new ANZAC Station tunnel, has submitted plans for a new mixed-use development in Southbank.

The Age reported last month investors Han Biao Liu and Jing Li Yang, who purchased the eight-level office building at 10-16 Dorcas St for $37 million in 2017, had submitted redevelopement plans for the site.

They have lodged plans with the City of Melbourne for a new 10,576 sqm building on the site, which includes 36 dwellings on the upper floors, ranging from one- to three-bedrooms, a residential hotel with 172 rooms and 2293 sqm of office space.

The news follows a string of new developments along Dorcas St, which include the recently completed Kings Domain and The Evermore twin-tower project, which is currently under construction.

As the border between Southbank and the Domain Precinct, the area continues to attract strong developer interest as it transitions from a commercially-zoned precinct to mixed-use urban renewal.

The City of Port Phillip last year adopted a new masterplan for Domain, which sets out a vision for managing growth in the precinct. With the Melbourne Metro Tunnel scheduled to open in 2025, the precinct and adjoining Southbank Village will have direct access to the new public transport services.
Virtual business summit provides important boost

The City of Melbourne’s online virtual business summit on April 16 has provided valuable support to many of the city’s businesses struggling due to the coronavirus.

With many businesses in lockdown and foot traffic plummeting in the central city, the council staged the online summit to provide business owners and workers with direct access to a range of experts and advice that could help them during the crisis.

Thousands of people tuned into the live-streamed summit, an initiative spearheaded by Deputy Lord Mayor and finance and government spokesperson Arron Wood. Thousands more have since viewed the summit online.

“This morning is really about connecting you with some of the experts to hear latest information. But also, to hear, critically, from you as our business community,” Cr Wood said.

“More than 600 people tuned in to the virtual summit. We saw a peak in registrations for the summit on April 16 with more than 1,700 attendees. This is a testament to the value our business community sees in connecting with each other and hearing from a range of top-notch experts.”

Mayor Sally Capp, Federal Treasurer Josh Frydenburg and state government Upper House spokesperson Cr Arron Wood joined the opening session of the summit on April 16 with a message to business owners and community leaders.

“I want to emphasise that this is not a case of health and economic being in opposition,” Prof. Sutton said.

“We are at a time in terms of our health status and in terms of having prevented a huge epidemic, is that we are in the very best position to bring back online some of the business and economic activity.”

“Simply by virtue of the fact that we have driven transmission down I think it is a matter for our own congratulation, and I hope that by virtue of where we are at today, we can be in a position to step up to resume activity earlier than a number of countries that will really need to be in lockdown because of the terrible situation they are in right now.”

Prof. Sharon Lewin said, “We have only known this virus since January 1. We’ve been able to generate an incredible response in Australia through a globalising resources innovation and we are now one of the leading countries in the world.”

There are a lot of brilliant minds being turned to this problem and I am very optimistic that there will be a number of solutions that will allow us to buy even more time when we take 12 to 18 months to get a vaccine.”

The panel discussion was followed by an “industry deep dive” into some of the industries worst hit by COVID-19, including tourism, hospitality, retail and education, which heard from the likes of University of Melbourne vice-chancellor Duncan Maskell and Australia’s Dr Prudeep Phillip and Victorian Chamber of Commerce CEO Paul Guerra.

Participants were able to write questions and submit comments through council’s virtual platform, which were read out to respective experts by Cr Wood as the summit progressed.

Both Prof. Sutton and Prof. Lewin provided heartening insights into the work being done by the nation’s medical community to combat the virus, with Australia now among some of the best countries in the world in terms of low case numbers.

“I want to emphasise that this is not a case of economy and health being in opposition,” Prof. Sutton said.

“There’s usually huge traffic from tourists,” Cam said. “It’s weird. I’m actually experiencing a resurgence. I encourage everyone to take a good look at the City of Melbourne’s website to explore the impressive range of services and resources our libraries have to offer – for free.”

Clickhouse from top: Cr Arron Wood, Dr Prudeep Phillip, Paul Guerra, Prof. Sharon Lewin and Prof Brett Sutton.

The summit was closed with a message from Beyond Blue CEO Georgie Harmon, who urged people to “stay connected” and to “reach for support if you need it”.

“The City of Melbourne has set up a dedicated business support web page (melbourne.vic.gov.au/businessPages/economic-support-businesses-covid19.aspx), as well as a Business Concierge Hotline, which can be contacted on 9658 9658.”

To view the summit visit:

City of online literature

The city and surrounds is defined in part by its public libraries, with Melbourne listed as a UNESCO City of Literature. There is something iconic, and unique, about the State Library of Victoria, the City Library, and Boyd Community Hub.

As our readers know, those libraries were all hit by COVID-19. Including tourism, including tourism, including tourism, including tourism. But what he reads himself is "The Great Gatsby" and "Boy Swallows Universe". It’s not what his customers crave.

Cam Dusting is stuck five hours a day behind a desk in Southbank trying to support our advertisers because without them we would have no Southbank News

There for you

Cam Dusting is stuck five hours a day behind a desk in Southbank trying to help people through the COVID-19 crisis.

But what he reads himself is "The Great Gatsby" and "Boy Swallows Universe". It’s not what his customers crave.

Cam Dusting is stuck five hours a day behind a desk in Southbank trying to help people through the COVID-19 crisis.

But what he reads himself is "The Great Gatsby" and "Boy Swallows Universe". It’s not what his customers crave.

Cam Dusting is stuck five hours a day behind a desk in Southbank trying to help people through the COVID-19 crisis.

But what he reads himself is "The Great Gatsby" and "Boy Swallows Universe". It’s not what his customers crave.

Cam Dusting is stuck five hours a day behind a desk in Southbank trying to help people through the COVID-19 crisis.
KidsCo wins council grant

WORDS BY Jack Hayes
BUSINESS

The City of Melbourne has awarded the first round of grants as part of its financial support package to help businesses adapt to COVID-19 restrictions.

Among the first successful applicants is Southbank’s KidsCo, which will share in the initial $166,000 of funding, with the remaining $450,000 to be allocated.

KidsCo works with employers to help increase the productivity of working parents during the school holiday period by providing school holiday programs in the workplace across the nation.

Now, with the majority of Australia’s corporate workforce working from home, founder and managing director, Adrian Rokman, has pivoted KidsCo’s business model to provide a “virtual after school care” program for busy parents.

“After the second stage of restrictions we immediately lost our biggest corporate partner and by 2pm that day we had lost $20 to $30 per cent of our client base,” Mr Rokman said.

“We’ve taken everything we are known for; nc-school, dynamic, educational activities, combined with qualified teachers and put it all online, in the space of nine days.”

According to Mr Rokman, KidsCo which employs 300 teachers nationally, will see over 10,000 children each school holiday period. That number slashed to just a meagre, promising, 3020 kids during the latest school holidays.

“The council’s $5 million grants program provides financial support for businesses to invest in online and e-commerce capabilities, take part in training and professional development and undertake capital works.

“To take everything online, we needed a platform that would enable us to do so. We ended up getting a Zoom educational platform,” Mr Rokman said.

“What it allows us to do is break the children down into classrooms and age groups.”

“With everyone in lockdown, there’s been no socialisation. The best part of this online pivot has been our ability to facilitate social interactions between children.”

“I jumped on during lunchtime when they have a break and found six who were all showing each other their pet dogs and doing pen pals on the screen to each other. It has been such an incredible win that we hadn’t anticipated—these children now have friends they would never have had before this.”

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said this was just the beginning of the council’s investment in Melbourne’s business community.

Fighting the virus with laughter

We all know that laughter is the best medicine, but can it help us with the COVID-19 virus? According to Australia’s leading laughter expert and Southbanker, Merv Neal, the answer is “yes!”

Best known locally from his weekly laughter yoga classes at the Boyd Community Hub, which have moved online due to COVID-19, the CEO of Laughter Yoga Australia is determined to keep spreading his message of laughter health during the pandemic.

“We are more likely to become ill when our immune system is not at full strength. While many of the people who are dying from the present virus are elderly, or experiencing a current chronic illness, the common circumstance for both of these groups is a compromised immune system. While we have been as laughter therapist and holistic health practitioner, Merv said he had seen firsthand how laughter could assist the sick, as well as prevent illness by promoting better health.”

“Our immune system becomes weaker when we’re stressed. Loss of income, changed working conditions, and lockdown in lockdown will only make the situation worse unless we adopt some coping mechanisms. Laughter is an aerobic workout that can be done anywhere and anytime,” he said.

Merv provided five ways that sustained and unconditional laughter could help fight illness:

• Boosts the immune system: When we laugh from our belly, the movement of the diaphragm moves the lymph around our bodies. It increases lymphocytes and killer cells to help fight disease, and in particular cancer;

• Reduces stress: Laughter produces serotonin that helps to reduce cortisol levels. It relaxes the muscles in the body to allow the blood to deliver oxygen to the body cells to provide energy, and the brain to provide clarity of thoughts;

• Expels air more efficiently from the lungs. Laughter is similar to prolonged meditation and deep breathing exercises. The dynamic exertion of the diaphragm expels more stale air and fluids from the bottom of our lungs. The COVID-19 virus attacks the respiratory system;

• Provides a positive mindset: Laughter puts us into the present moment. We can’t be anxious or depressed when we laugh. Anxiety levels are up at present but depression may result in the longer term;

• Develops a sense of humour: As critical as our other five senses are, a sense of humour can get us through tough times. Being able to laugh in spite of situations can help us to achieve a sense of control and ability to cope better.

The Southbank Laughter Club has gone online until the Boyd Community Hub reopens. It runs every Tuesday night from 6pm to 7pm.

For more information: mervNeal.com

La Camera returns for takeaway

BUSINESS

Following the sad news of its temporary closure last month, the family team at La Camera Southgate will reopen for takeaway on June 1.

With 43 years of history in Melbourne and having operated from Southgate for 21 years, owner Lino Scidone said the restaurant’s forced closure last month due to the impacts of COVID-19 was a day that nearly “scarred him for life.”

After being forced to stand down all of his staff on March 22, many of whom are overseas nationals, he said he was relieved to be able to call them back for recovery back, but we hope Mr [Scott] Morrison will get us all back to work. We have reopened in first week in June with everyone working behind the deli options, bread, milk, everything is on the table for what will be a long recovery back,” he added.

“Pasta and pizza are a given, but food prepared from our kitchen, to be eaten with friends and family, is what people are missing. We will be offering Take-home Cocktails and beverages, as well as online cocktail courses from June 1,” said Lord Mayor Sally Capp.

On May 1, the council announced a further 55 successful grant recipients sharing in $264,000, with more to be announced soon.

“Small businesses make up about 80 per cent of the total number of businesses in the City of Melbourne and are run by people and families who have turned an idea or a passion into an enterprise,” Lord Mayor Sally Capp said. “These businesses play a major role in providing jobs for Melburnians, and right now, they urgently need our support.”

“We have received an overwhelming response to this grant program with thousands of small and medium-sized businesses applying for financial support.”

“This goes to show that even in tough times, our local businesses are ready to tackle challenges head on, think differently and adapt, which is an admirable spirit we want to reward and support as much as we can.”

For more information visit lacamerasouthgate.com.au or call 9699 3600.

Please support our advertisers because without them we would have no Southbank News
At the City of Melbourne we are here to help. The safety of our communities, customers and staff is our top priority as we work to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

A taskforce has been established at Town Hall to implement the advice and actions from the Victorian Government and the National Cabinet for COVID-19 across our operations.

We’ve acted promptly on government advice to close certain facilities and services, and will continue to deliver essential services, while following the latest health and safety guidelines.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said many of Council’s services perform an essential public health function so it is important they continue.

‘Melbourne must remain a caring city that lends a helping hand during tough times. We know that this is a stressful time – so ensuring we continue to deliver for the community and look after those most at risk has never been more important,’ the Lord Mayor said.

‘Our organisation has done a significant amount of planning to ensure crucial services to the community are not severely impacted by this pandemic.

‘We will do everything possible to continue to deliver essential services such as waste and recycling, services to older people, children’s services, homelessness services and animal management.’

A number of Council’s non-essential services have been closed temporarily to help reduce the spread of the virus in the community.

‘Our libraries, recreation and cultural centres are important community meeting places so this is not a decision we take lightly,’ the Lord Mayor said.

IMPORTANT
The following information about suspended services and closed facilities is correct at time of print, but things are changing quickly.

For an up-to-date list of frequently asked questions, including closures and adjustments to services, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

Please support our advertisers because without them we would have no Southbank News
WHICH CITY OF MELBOURNE FACILITIES AND SERVICES REMAIN OPEN?

Planning, building, waste and recycling and animal management will continue to operate as normal.

Aged care support services, meals and community groups

In-home services including domestic assistance, home maintenance, meals, personal care, respite, and individual social support are continuing.

Our teams are asking COVID-19 screening questions to ensure the health and safety of our clients, community and staff.

Childcare facilities

All Council’s childcare facilities will continue to operate as usual at this time. Childcare is considered an essential community service. Advice from the Victorian Government is that all essential services remain operational for now.

The City of Melbourne will continue to heed the advice of the Chief Health Officer and the Department of Health and Human Services as the situation evolves.

Queen Victoria Market

Queen Victoria Market remains open for fresh fruit and vegetables, meat and fish, deli items, dairy, bread, eggs and other key essentials.

The market is open on Tuesdays and Thursday to Sunday.

Those who can shop safely at the market, directly from stallholders, should continue to do so whilst adhering to safe social distancing and practicing good hygiene.

For those who are unable to shop in-person, the market has launched a new pre-order and pickup service allowing people to shop from the comfort of their homes and cars.

Orders can be collected from 8am on market days (Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday) from the pickup zone on Queen Street, opposite D Shed.

For more information, visit qvm.com.au

WHICH CITY OF MELBOURNE FACILITIES HAVE CLOSED FOR NOW?

Melbourne Town Hall and other Council buildings will be closed to the general public until further notice.

Arts and cultural venues

Meat Market, Signal, ArtPlay and Arts House are closed until further notice.

Libraries

City Library in Flinders Lane, Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre in Carlton, Library at The Dock in Docklands, East Melbourne, North Melbourne and Southbank libraries are closed until further notice.

You can continue to access library collections online, using your library membership number. This includes thousands of free e-books, audiobooks, e-magazines and learning resources.

If you don’t have a library membership you can sign up at melbourne.vic.gov.au/libraries

You will not be fined for books due back during the closure, and reservations will be held until our libraries re-open.

Maternal and child health

All our maternal and child health centres are closed to the public. We will replace face-to-face home visits and centre appointments with telephone or electronic consultations.

If you have an existing appointment, maternal and child health staff will contact you to offer and consultation via phone, FaceTime or Skype.

Please phone 9340 1444 or email mchbookings@melbourne.vic.gov.au if you have any questions.

Neighbourhood houses

All neighbourhood centres and neighbourhood houses are temporarily closed to the public, though some programs and services usually run at neighbourhood houses will run remotely.

Connect with your local neighbourhood house by phone, email or social media for more information.

Parks, gardens, basketball courts, playgrounds and equipment

All playgrounds, basketball courts and skate parks are closed for now. Our 480 hectares of parks and gardens are still open for essential daily exercise, but all outdoor fitness equipment is closed.

Please remember to maintain 15 metres distance from other people when exercising and avoid gathering in groups.

Pools and recreation centres

Melbourne City Baths, Kensington Recreation Centre, Carlton Baths, North Melbourne Recreation Centre and The Venny are now closed until further notice.

Your membership will automatically be placed on free suspension during this time that we are closed, so you won’t be charged.

Visitor services

All City of Melbourne visitor centres are closed, and the visitor services offered by our red coat ambassadors have been suspended, until further notice.

More information and the latest updates on City of Melbourne services can be found at melbourne.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

Childcare facilities are operating as normal at this time

Queen Victoria Market remains open
Changes in the arts: an interview with Claire Spencer

WORDS BY Meg Hill

The arts sector could be very different in a post-COVID-19 world. It’s too early to trace the exact contours of that future, but its possibilities are being explored at Arts Centre Melbourne.

Its Chief Executive Officer, Claire Spencer AM, spoke to Southbank News about the organisation’s experience of the lockdown, the impact on employment, the logistics of opening back up and potential changes in arts creation and consumption.

“After the lockdown, the impact on employment, the logistics of opening back up and potential changes in arts creation and consumption, our work has changed a lot over the seven weeks,” she said.

“The first three to four weeks was very much about the crisis and people, cancelling performances, refunding tickets, it was very intense, and we have 100 people who work at the Arts Centre and up until very recently we were communicating with them every day.”

“It was a very intense period, utterly relentless and very draining. We are constantly having to think about big decisions and while not having perfect information.”

“But now we’re very much thinking about the future and not just about reopening the venues but about how this is going to change us as an organisation and how it’s going to change our audiences.”

Of the 1000 employees, 600 are casuals. This is typical in the sector, even for big state-funded institutions.

“When we closed obviously their work dried up because they’re very much attached to those events and audiences,” Claire said.

“When we closed on that Sunday night, we committed to paying them for the roster period of two weeks.”

“We held out a lot of hope about the JobKeeper payments, but it was a blow when it was made clear that State-owned organisations wouldn’t be supported, that was a big kick in the guts for us and our audiences.”

Claire said the Arts Centre was assisting those casuals with JobSeeker and Work for Victoria and had staffed someone to help those employees navigating Centrelink – knowing that many of those now reliant on welfare had never been before.

“The last thing we’re trying to do to help those casuals is get them redeployment somewhere else in the public service,” Claire said.

“Some 2100 employees, Claire said those with jobs that could be managed from home were working remotely, and those who couldn’t weren’t being paid salary maintenance – one lifeline the Arts Centre has been able to grasp due to its public service stature.

“But Claire also told Southbank News that the impact of the pandemic extended far beyond the logistics of lockdown. Like most parts of our society, the arts industry will not be returning unchanged from this experience, both logistically and creatively.

“We are watching with great interest the research coming out of the US about audience preparedness to return to venues so there’s a practical side of what we will need to do to make that safe.”

“In terms of the actual work I think the whole digital space which has been so crucial in this time will become a real feature of our organisation from now on.”

During the pandemic Arts Centre Melbourne has introduced Together With You, a new digital initiative aimed at uplifting, comforting, educating and entertaining while the venues’ doors are closed.

The program includes free performance broadcasts, family activities, podcast and long-form articles and features never before seen items from the Australian Performing Arts Collection and the Australian Music Vault.

“We did a bit of this stuff before, but not on this scale, and I think it will be part of everything we do from now on,” Claire said.

“We don’t know for sure how everything will change but I also think there’s an element around how artists are perceived by the broader community.”

“I’m hoping everyone will reflect on what an artist actually is and how those working in the creative sector have sustained people’s mental health through books or Netflix series or whatever it is you used to keep entertained in isolation.”

On April 26, the state government announced a $64.8 million survival package providing immediate support to Victoria’s creative industries to sustain employment, develop new works and provide opportunities for creative community participation.

The package includes support for non-government arts and cultural organisations, as well as grants for independent creatives and micro-organisations with at least five years of professional experience.

artscentremelbourne.com.au

CRITIC

The art of being alone

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

Artists are spending a lot more time by themselves as Victoria’s State of Emergency continues.

Some art students have deferred their studies and are using the lockdown period. Many have reverted to the kind of introverted practices that were once a feature of the past. Michael Mccafferty, an Honours student at the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA), listens to lectures while he’s working in his dispatch job. He’s listening to my lectures and sitting in on tutes while packing boxes at work,” he said. “It’s very efficient and very draining.”

Group critical sessions are done by Zoom and he’s surprised how well the system has worked. “I thought you would absolutely need to be in the room but I was wrong,” he said. “I think that our cohort is pretty on the ball and maybe they are used to seeing images on the net so they respond and contribute pretty meaningfully actually.”

He said that he felt sorry for teachers. “Personally, I’m just sticking my head in the sand and bulldozing through. If I were to dwell I wouldn’t get anything done.”

The online approach is being promoted by major arts funders such as Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA), the City of Melbourne and Australian Book Review (ABR).

The City of Melbourne awarded $772,000 in COVID-19 quick response arts grants to 226 artists last month and has another $1 million to allocate.

The grants are to help artists shift their work online or develop it during the lockdown period. Applications closed at the end of April for $8000 grants from ACCA for innovative, big idea digital proposals to be assisted by curators under its new digital commissions program ACCA Open.

And a podcast of poetry and critical reviews is being released each Wednesday by ABR through Google.

Editor Peter Rose said last week’s podcast "More Poetry for Troubled Times, read by 46 local poets, was for us as we “hunker down and live more privately”.

The poems deal with such issues as quarantine, death, landscape, bombings, the Blitz in London, the terror of everyday objects and being more attuned to elements of the natural world.

Perhaps the most moving was The Simple Truth by Philip Levine about a man who bought some red potatoes, walked and listened to the birds.

The woman who sold him the potatoes was wearing a pink-spangled sweater.

“Something you know all your life,” she said. “They must be laid on the table. They must stand for themselves.”

Please support our advertisers because without them we would have no Southbank News.

▼ Paintings by Michael Mccafferty in the kitchen sink style.
Southbank’s Photography Studies College (PSC) is capturing and documenting stories of Melbourne’s lockdown with a virtual gallery. PSC students, alumni and teachers as well as the broader photography community are invited to share stories, projects and photographs in the virtual gallery, with a real-life print gallery show to be held post-pandemic.

Jamie Morey, a student at PSC, said to begin with lockdown had been a struggle for many students.

“Lockdown for me was pretty hard to start with just because a lot of us were wanting to do a lot of these grand big ideas for our portfolios that were almost due, and the kind of activities they required were banned,” he said.

“It was hard as well not having a teacher with you while taking photos. It was a struggle for a lot of us.”

“But last week I found out that we were allowed out for education purposes and we could take photos for our portfolios, I arranged a photoshoot and while I was at the Brighton Beach boxes waiting for the model to arrive I thought I’d just take some photos – which is how I ended up with my photos in the virtual gallery.”

“It was busy there actually and there were groups of dozens swimming together. The photo shows a different view of those beach boxes with the city and industrial landscape in the background, and it also shows social distancing as well as the people who weren’t taking it as seriously.”

Vicki Bell, a teacher at PSC, said she saw possibilities for the role photography could play from the start of the lockdown.

“I’ve been a photographer for 30 years. I embraced the challenge because I’ve always been used to change. We went from analogue to digital and I embraced that, dark room to Photoshop and I embraced that,” she said.

“It kind of excites me.”

Vicki has two photos in the virtual gallery – a self-portrait and a photo of her neighbours from over the fence.

“My two passions are photography and karate, so in my self-portrait I’m in a karate stance holding a kind of weapon we use in training.”

“My other photo I decided to do just as a little gesture and gift back to my neighbourhood, to capture some neighbours in isolation.”

“It was purely as a gift from me to them and to put a smile on their faces.”

Check out the virtual gallery: psc.edu.au/covid-photo-gallery.html
Livin’ la vida lockdown

I turned and knocked the front door. No way in or out. This was it. Isolate. Flatten the curve. Save lives. It was time to start living the lockdown life.

Walking back up the stairs I felt almost exalted, I’m embarrassed to say. It seemed like our family of six, six, sticks to ourselves, were going to be a part of something important – like we were participating in something that, paradigmatically, was happening beyond our four walls. But, of course, that feeling didn’t last long. I might have started rising high among the treetops, but I eventually found my way back down to earth.

Once reality set in – that of working from home, keeping the house clean and tidy, and the other two pre-schoolers ran riot – things started to sour. I knew the temperature was rising, and I was beginning to feel that I was losing the battle against the kitchen bench eating hot mango pickle from the jar – which, incidentally, in isolation I’ve decided is the only condiment I am sure of is that Jesus is with us in the messiness.

We’re currently in the Easter season of the Christian calendar, and in this period one of the stories that we’re drawn to is of the risen Jesus appearing to the apostles while they were out on a lake fishing. It’s quite a comical story, because Jesus – with more than a touch of teasing – asks them, “Have you caught any fish?” To which the disciples sheepishly reply, “No.” Jesus sees their ineptitude, he sees their sawing-fish hips, but he was able to give a wry smile about them, and perhaps even let out a chuckle. But at the same time, he didn’t leave it there. Graciously accepting the fact they didn’t know what they were doing, he helped them out. He showed them the way and made for the currents to shift so that a huge haul of fish could be caught and dragged to shore.

A big part of the Easter message is that Jesus meets us in the place between death and life, between failure and victory. He meets us in the uncertainty and insecurity between the now and forever. As the disciples’ next is, “Now I’m halfway through a jar of hot mango pickle, he’s shaking his head, smiling and saying, ‘Come on! I’ve got some proper food for you.’ That’s Jesus!”

Finally, you don’t need my advice. That would be like trying to give you a raincoat when you’re already wet! You know the drill. Like I do, you at least know what you should be doing: Get exercise; eat properly; look out for each other; do the right thing and all that jazz!

What you won’t hear from everyone else, though, is that even in isolation – even if you’re completely alone or you’re together alone, there’s someone who rose from the dead just so he can come to you, look at you in your all-day-pajamas, give you that wry smile and a chuckle and pull you into his loving, eternal embrace.

---

Tom Hofmann
TOM HOFMANN IS THE PASTOR AT ST JOHNS SOUTHGATE
STJOHNSOUTHGATE.COM.AU

Performance-based alternative solutions the key to cheaper cladding replacement costs

Owners’ corporations (OC) need not despair when served with an Order or Notice from the Municipal Building Surveyor or from the Victorian Building Authority (VBA).

There may literally be a “decided to satisfy” song in 2017, at the age of 12, he migrated to Australia like many other “Dutchies” in the preceding decades. In the 1920s he responded to an advertisement looking for members of the band, and shortly after became a drummer. While his experience with music is as a hobby, his wife is professional and as such, Southbank remains their ideal location. It’s great,” he said of postcode 3006, where he moved to in 2016.

With regards to other fire safety features at the present Southbank building, there is an ongoing process to verify and ascertain which covered the entire building including the basement. Also, each containing residential units unless otherwise resulted in a satisfactory level of safety. In November last year, a mixed-use building in Docklands was approved by the Building Appeals Board (BAB) to implement an alternative solution assigned by their consultant fire, which would have the effect of permitting some of the combustible material to remain in the building, provided that sufficient non-combustible material could be installed around the facade to act as a fire break, together with the installation of sprinklers on the facade. This caused the repair costs to drop by over 82 per cent, which is a great outcome for the OC.

The decision was followed up by another case in March of this year for an apartment complex of 21 units in Carnegie. The BAB ruled that the prescriptive deemed to satisfy test for compliance of combustible cladding, such as expanded polyurethane (EPS) or polystyrene, could be sidestepped if the performance requirements in CP2 and CP4 of the Building Code were satisfied, and if the holistic fire safety situation of the overall building otherwise resulted in a satisfactory level of safety.

In April 2019, the OC lodged an application with the BAB seeking a determination under s36A of the Building Act 1993. The determination sought was that the design or construction of the building complied with the performance requirements CP2 and CP4 of the Building Code, as an alternative path to compliance. Combustible EPS cladding had been installed only on the upper two levels of the building and on external walls on balconies, but with a combustible cladding on the ground level. In addition, there was an eyebrow/canopy on the top-most level consisting of combustible aluminium composite paneling (ACP), set back some distance from the edge of the building.

“lt’s always been great. In particular for my wife, as she is a keen musician and is often seen playing her gig with our band. On recent ANZAC Day commemorations, she was able to perform on stage and to bring a sense of connection to community here, those are just two areas that place pressure on everyone’s ability to feel connected, and a place they can be seen - not just living in a little box.” He said this sense of place, and community, was being challenged right now. But instances like the spontaneous balcony party at Southbank where residents gathered to raise a community of people eager to connect and look after each other. “I think the coronavirus, the sense of isolation has been obviously exacerbated and a question of how you deal with that as a community, and how everyone really nice to hear the music and an obvious sense that people were enjoying that. This idea of coming together and being able to sing, and to still move and to do whatever it is, as unusual as it was, it actually really nice.”

---

TOM BACON IS THE PRINCIPAL LAWYER OF STRATA TITLE LAWYERS.
TOMBACON@STLATITLELAWYERS.COM.
Is Montague the Toorak of Fishermans Bend?

How are you all managing? Well I hope you are all socially distancing while you are getting out and about in Montague. It has certainly been a very interesting time for all of us.

The hard-working Fishermans Bend Development Board, met a few weeks ago and concluded that it was comfort that construction was continuing during the time of coronavirus in Montague with many new towers of all sizes about to begin.

The Board’s role is to sell Fishermans Bend and to ensure that developers are attracted to build those apartments, offices, shops and amenities to make Fishermans Bend an attractive place to live and work.

And to remind you why … well according to those who decide these things, we need homes and offices for 80,000 residents and 80,000 workers. And the received wisdom is that these towers/constructions need to have affordable homes as a percentage of the stock, to ensure a community-focused liveable area.

As Montague is the first of the precincts to be built up, it is interesting to identify how those properties being constructed are fitting into this philosophical description of a mixed- and community-focused area.

The photos that follow are demonstrations of what is currently being built. As a community group, we want to highlight that the entry level to the townhouses is $1.9 million and there is a single family (four people) home that is being built over five levels with a swimming pool and more than 1800 sqm in size. That clearly is not affordable!

We just want to ask the question: are we designing Montague to be a community, or to be a precinct for the wealthy – the inner-urban Toorak?

The Montague Community Alliance (MCA) has been told for more than seven years that, yes, there is a design and that purposeful decisions about diversity and community are being made about the precinct. We have continually asked for more information but to no avail. We still don’t know.

Therefore, our question for you all, dear readers, is: are we going to be a suburb for the wealthy, i.e. those that can afford to buy up a couple of terraces and build a ‘McMansion’ or buy luxury townhouses? Or are we planning a connected, engaged and street-level diverse community that works for all. You decide … ●

Trisha Avery
TRISHA AVERY IS THE CONVENOR OF THE MONTAGUE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE.
TRISHAVERYPME.COM

Third tunnel boring machine launched

Another exciting milestone has been achieved on the Metro Tunnel Project with the launch of tunnel boring machine (TBM) Millie from the site of the new ANZAC Station.

TBM Millie – named after Victoria’s first female MP, Millie Peacock – is digging the first 1.7km tunnel between ANZAC Station and the Metro Tunnel’s eastern entrance at South Yarra.

TBM Alice, named after wartime medical hero Alice Appleford, is due to begin work on a parallel tunnel from the St Kilda Rd site in coming weeks.

Once both TBMs arrive at the eastern tunnel entrance later this year, the larger components including the cutterheads and shields will be dismantled and trucked back to ANZAC Station.

TBMs Millie and Alice will then be reassembled from inside the ANZAC Station box and relaunched towards the CBD. Elsewhere on site, construction of ANZAC Station’s first entrance is also underway near the Shrine of Remembrance.

The yellow bentonite plant that was installed before excavating the area has been decommissioned and removed from the site, with the team now removing the concrete slab before excavating the area.

TBM blessing

Construction is continuing across all Metro Tunnel Project sites, with many significant milestones being achieved.

While we continue to build the twin tunnels and five new stations, strict protocols are in place to protect the health and safety of construction workers and the community during the coronavirus pandemic.

Construction activities have been modified to adhere to social distancing requirements, where workers maintain a safe distance of 1.5 metres from other people.

This included the recent blessing ceremonies held at ANZAC Station before TBM Millie was launched.

A local parish priest conducted a traditional ceremony to bless a statue of St Barbara, the patron saint of tunnelling, before it was placed in her custom-made housing to watch over the TBM crews. The blessing of the St Barbara statue is a long-standing tunnelling tradition.

Wurundjeri Elder Uncle Ron Jones also conducted a traditional Aboriginal smoking ceremony to bless TBM Millie and the team. Since major construction started in 2018, indigenous smoking ceremonies have been held at all Metro Tunnel sites before work starts.

The strict health and safety protocols in place across the project help to protect our construction workers and the community and enable our sites to remain operational ●

For more information visit: metrotunnel.vic.gov.au

Open for business

Eckersley’s Art & Craft: 463 Swanston Street

Eckersley’s Art & Craft have all the art and design essentials you need to keep you busy and creative. Whether you’re a dabbler in art and craft, a student specialising in art and design, a teacher looking to find new and innovative ways to inspire students or a fine artist, Eckersley’s have everything you need. Shop online at eckersleys.com.au or in-store today.

For more information visit metrotunnel.vic.gov.au
The Voice of Postcode 3006 and Montague
Please support our advertisers because without them we would have no Southbank News

Faces of Southbank

Question:
What’s your favourite way to exercise during isolation?

LUKE GROUND
You can’t go past yogi push ups. They’re a lot of fun.

KELLY SWIFT
I’ve been doing heaps of walking and my partner and I actually made up our own work out. It’s a circuit of things like planking, sit ups and leg raises.

TODD PIERCE
My go-to is getting some walking in by the Yarra.

SHARON BURKE
I’ve been doing a lot of bear crawls up the hill.

Rajna Bogdanovic
CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST
BODGDANOVICRAJNA@GMAIL.COM

HEALTH & WELLBEING

What our loneliness can teach us in times of social distancing

With many of us confined to our homes, one of the biggest impacts of COVID-19 is social. Whether you’re alone, with family or in a share house, being unable to spend time with loved ones or even meet new people outside our bubble is hard - especially if you’re single or if you and a partner have been separated.

As humans we are hardwired for connection. Physical touch and quality time with loved ones helps to calm our nervous system which brings down our stress levels. Without this we may find ourselves feeling scared, anxious, struggling to sleep and on high alert.

The ways we have learned to deal with this can vary, some healthier than others. This time can be a great opportunity to learn new ways to help the body and mind through feelings of isolation, loneliness and panic. While we can reach out to loved ones online, we are still missing a physical aspect, one that we can develop ourselves while we wait to be reunited.

Here are some ways you can identify and meet your needs for intimacy and connection during social distancing:

• Use this time wisely. Use this time to identify your needs and values. This is a great skill to learn even for when social distancing does end; and we are able to make healthier and clearer choices about who we let into our lives.

• Confront unmet needs. Write down or say out loud what it is that you are missing about your interactions with other people. This can provide great insight into what you value in your relationships, what you would like to foster more of in your future relationships, as well as which of your current needs are not being met.

• Verbal affirmations. Often what we seek in relationships is to be loved, seen, and heard. If you could have a loved one close to you, what would you like to hear them say? Try saying these things to yourself out loud. (I love you, I’m here for you, I hear you, I see you).

• Self-touch. Stress and anxiety are controlled by the part of our brain that can be best accessed by calming our bodies. Self-massage and self-hugging can make a huge impact on calming our nervous system. Try this a couple of times a week as part of your daily routine, recommended before bed to aid sleep.

Release tension around your chest. Notice your body—often in times of fear and loneliness we tend to hunch our shoulders, protecting our hearts and vital organs. Research shows that opening up the chest can release some of the tension caused by fear and anxiety and improve your confidence, mood, and motivation. Spend a few minutes a day laying down on your back with your hands clasped behind your head, or with a towel rolled up and placed underneath your upper back.

Please take care of yourself at this time, stay connected to others as best as you can, and of course, nurture your connection with yourself, so that you can come out of this period with self-compassion and renewed vigour.

Southbank Sudoku

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

The rules are the same as regular Sudoku; each line must contain the letters SOUTH BANK as must each 9-square box. This Sudoku is MEDIUM, good luck!

Rajna Bogdanovic
CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST
BODGDANOVICRAJNA@GMAIL.COM

B H A
U S K T
T A H O
K B S N
K H S B T O A N U
H O N K H A T B S
B T A H O S N H K O
S O K O B H N A T
O N H A K T S U B
A R T N S U O H K

Please support our advertisers because without them we would have no Southbank News
When we know better, we do better. It’s time we do better.

Information leads to knowledge which leads to learning which leads to wisdom, program, and adaptive growth. At least that’s how the flow should go.

While we are still collecting information about this virus and with the transmission curve flattening, decision makers are - rightly so - looking in the mirror after lockdowns take us back to our “normal” way of lives, of doing business, commerce, etc. as quickly as possible. Everyone is looking to go back to a routine that is comforting familiar, we need to take in the information that’s pushing us now, to act for our collective survival and quality of life.

In short, while the narrative right now is focused on containing and steering our way out of this pandemic with the least amount of harm possible, we need to add a stronger voice in the conversation about the root cause of the problem — the long-term environmental destruction. Instead of trying to salvage old foundations that are no longer suitable for our collective best interest, we should talk about how we build the right foundations so we stop creating the ideal environment and conditions for another pandemic to happen. That is, while we’re getting out of this stage and working on rebuilding, our individual and collective decisions should always ask, “what will the environmental impact be?” and make sure we do better.

Leading global experts and scientists have established that pandemics like COVID-19 are not the result of a collapsing environment and ecosystem due to our over-exploitation of natural resources and our consumption habits. More and more scientists and experts, like Dr Peter Daszak and his team from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), are ringing the alarm and backing it up with exhaustive studies. In a recent article published in The Guardian discussing their published work on the “most comprehensive planetary health check ever”, Dr Daszak and his team clearly demonstrated the causation between destructive pandemic outbreaks and our “rampant destruction of the natural world...(driven by) global financial and economic systems that prize economic growth at any cost.” “Recent pandemics are a direct consequence of human activity...”[1] There is a single species responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic - us. They concluded that even if we take the actions to mitigate the consequences from our past actions and make sure we rebuild with solid foundations that will take us forward into the next few decades reducing the chances of a global pandemic repeating, while paving the way to thrive sustainably instead of following the existing paved way that’s leading to our demise.

So, right now, we need to build better, not go backwards. That is going to take all of us and it will mean doing some things differently. Whether we are making our voice count in collective decisions or deciding on what to buy for dinner or how stimulus funds are allocated, environmental impact should be in the centre of our decisions. And it may well be overwhelming or even frightening to figure out where to start, but sometimes we just need to start anywhere and go from there. There are many environmentally-friendly solutions, choices, and/or systems already available. We just need to get better at supporting and developing them. There are many ways to get involved, too. If you are looking for existing communities to help guide you or keep you motivated, you can always join a sustainability group like ours or find an online community that works for you.

The report highlighted that the way out of this is by taking advantage of the small window of opportunity we have right now to make choices, change habits, shift systems and industries that are contributing heavily to the problem instead of backing them up “as is”, and adopt a global “one health” approach.

A big story to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic has been its impact on the Airbnb juggernaut.

Airbnb has been valued at more than US$90 billion and this year it was preparing to be listed as a public company. Now the impact of the coronavirus has decimated its value.

Since the news of the rapidly spreading infectious and deadly disease caused by COVID-19, a world in lockdown, has watched many industries approach collapse. Tourism-related operations have, understandably, been the worst hit. Sharing accommodation industry among the foremost economic casualties.

The freeze on tourism and movement in general imposed by affected countries trying to control the spread of the virus has seen Airbnb bookings plummet. Since January, Beijing has seen a drop of 96 per cent, Seoul, South Korea 46 per cent, and Rome 41 per cent.

In many countries Airbnb’s website has now been shut down, and vacant houses have been used to accommodate travellers caught up in the worldwide lockdowns.

Already suspicious neighbours are up in arms over the tables of local short-term renters may spread the deadly virus.

In Australia, Airbnb properties are flooding back onto the long-term rental market as short-term visitors dry up due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. The Airbnb hosts who have been - like most other accommodation providers - paying to bill their homes are being bled dry by a lack of business.

The company has favoured travellers by allowing refunds, outside its own published guidelines. In doing so, the company has ar rested its hosts who have been left bearing the brunt of the cancellations.

Microorganism dismantles Airbnb - will it ever recover?

A big story to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic has been its impact on the Airbnb juggernaut.

Airbnb launched a relief fund for hosts struggling to make ends meet. A total of US$17 million has been contributed to the fund by employees, investors and founders; and grants of up to $500 will be made to hosts most in need and who also satisfy eligibility criteria.

One of the eligibility criteria published by Airbnb says the host must “Only share their primary or secondary residence—no more than two active listings.”

This criterion will exclude all apartment-based short-term letting operators who have more than one rental listing. That business model seems to be doomed by both the pandemic and Airbnb’s lack of financial support for hosts, including those who have been forced to back out of the short-term letting market. This is a telling point about the damage caused by the coronavirus and its effect on short-term rentals.

Whether we are making our voice count in collective decisions or deciding on what to buy for dinner or how stimulus funds are allocated, environmental impact should be in the centre of our decisions. And it may well be overwhelming or even frightening to figure out where to start, but sometimes we just need to start anywhere and go from there. There are many environmentally-friendly solutions, choices, and/or systems already available. We just need to get better at supporting and developing them. There are many ways to get involved, too. If you are looking for existing communities to help guide you or keep you motivated, you can always join a sustainability group like ours or find an online community that works for you.

COVID-19 and apartment living

Is your building taking extra precautions to prevent the risk of COVID-19?

For example:

- Frequent sanitising of high touch points such as intercom and lifts buttons.
- Hand sanitiser dispensers on each floor.
- Signage about washing hands.
- A limit on the number of people in each lift.
- Closing of some common areas.

We would welcome feedback on how the COVID-19 pandemic is being managed in your building and whether any specific issues arise.

Your stories

Thank you to all those who have contributed your stories to date, please keep your emails and cards coming in.

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.

Reach us at: southbanksustainability@gmail.com or facebook.com SouthBankSustainabilityGroup

Artemis Pattichi
SOUTH BANK SUSTAINABILITY GROUP
southbanksustainability@gmail.com

Our environment is what we live in, to take care of it is to take care of ourselves. Our environment should be in the centre of our decisions.

Whether we are making our voice count in collective decisions or deciding on what to buy for dinner or how stimulus funds are allocated, environmental impact should be in the centre of our decisions. And it may well be overwhelming or even frightening to figure out where to start, but sometimes we just need to start anywhere and go from there. There are many environmentally-friendly solutions, choices, and/or systems already available. We just need to get better at supporting and developing them. There are many ways to get involved, too. If you are looking for existing communities to help guide you or keep you motivated, you can always join a sustainability group like ours or find an online community that works for you.

This next phase will need to put into good use the collective sense of community and commonality this pandemic helped create. Especially if we are to follow the recommended solutions from our foremost experts and scientific minds. We all helped create this mess, no matter our level of contribution. Now we all need to help clean it.

As Maya Angelou said, “when we know better, we do better.” Now it’s time we do better.

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.

While we are not meeting fortnightly during these times, there’s still opportunities to help with organising or the community garden, where you can exercise while engaging with nature.

Check us out if you’re interested in getting involved.
Southbank comes together

It would seem that Australia is progressing well with our response to COVID-19, but sadly we have not been saved from attributed deaths. Any response from the Lord Mayor acknowledging our submission, the developer engaged with our members at Southbank Police and Vale Leading Senior Constable Taylor, Senior Constable King, Constable Prestney, and Constable Glen Humphris and their families have been overwhelming.

Southbank Police Station has received flowers, cards, emails, food and phone calls from our community of Southbank to express their sorrow at the loss of our colleagues.

The members at Southbank Police and ultimately Victoria Police are grateful for this support, which highlights the incredible level of community support from the residents, the media, the government and the business leaders of Southbank. The owners of the development, the developer, the builders, the designers, the architect, the planning department, the transport department, and the community have all been very supportive.

There have been many calls received at Southbank Police Station from the public who wish to donate following this tragic incident. Victoria Police Legacy has established the Victoria Police Remembrance Fund, a dedicated fund through Westpac to collect donations on behalf of the families.

More information:
southbankresidents.org.au

Tony Penna
TONY PENNA IS THE PRESIDENT OF SOUTHBANK RESIDENTS’ ASSOCIATION

The Voice of Postcode 3006 and Montague 20

Vale our fallen heroes

On Wednesday, April 22 at 5.40pm, Victoria Police lost four members of our blue family.

The outpouring of support for our fallen colleagues Leading Senior Constable Lynette Taylor, Senior Constable Kevin King, Constable Joshua Prestney, and Constable Glen Humphris and their families has been overwhelming.

The members at Southbank Police and Vale Leading Senior Constable Taylor, Senior Constable King, Constable Prestney and Constable Glen Humphris.

Crime at residential apartment buildings

There has been a spate of burglaries at Southbank residential apartments in recent months. Thieves have been targeting storage cages in basements/carparks, and letterboxes.

Help keep yourselves and other residents safe and secure by following these tips:

- Tailgaters: always ensure that only your car enters the carpark and wait for the security door to close after your vehicle upon entry and exit. Do not hold the entrance door open for a person to enter past a secure entry.
- Storage cages: don’t store expensive items in storage cages e.g. golf clubs or bicycles. Consider lining storage cages with fabric or other materials that conceal the contents of the storage cage.
- Letterboxes – always lock your mailbox and never leave any access fobs or keys to apartments locked in your letterbox. Locks on letterboxes are easily forced by thieves.
- Lock apartment doors – many residential burglaries have occurred where access has been gained through unlocked front doors – even when residents are home. Get in the habit of always locking your front door when leaving and also upon returning home.

Report suspicious behaviour to 000 or Southbank Police Station on 8635 0900.

More information:
southbankresidents.org.au

Tony Penna
TONY PENNA IS THE PRESIDENT OF SOUTHBANK RESIDENTS’ ASSOCIATION

Safer Southbank

Senior Sgt Alex O’Toole
STATION COMMANDER AT SOUTHBANK POLICE STATION

SOUTHBank:UN1-DIC@POLICE.VIC.GOV.AU

Southbank Police Station on

• Lock apartment doors – many residential burglaries have occurred where access has been gained through unlocked front doors – even when residents are home. Get in the habit of always locking your front door when leaving and also upon returning home.

Report suspicious behaviour to 000 or Southbank Police Station on 8635 0900.

More information:
southbankresidents.org.au

Tony Penna
TONY PENNA IS THE PRESIDENT OF SOUTHBANK RESIDENTS’ ASSOCIATION

Safer Southbank

Senior Sgt Alex O’Toole
STATION COMMANDER AT SOUTHBANK POLICE STATION

Southbank:UN1-DIC@POLICE.VIC.GOV.AU

Southbank Police Station on

• Lock apartment doors – many residential burglaries have occurred where access has been gained through unlocked front doors – even when residents are home. Get in the habit of always locking your front door when leaving and also upon returning home.

Report suspicious behaviour to 000 or Southbank Police Station on 8635 0900.
Shrine of Remembrance

On Anzac Day this year, the Shrine of Remembrance was eerily deserted due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Its form and structure have existed since 1914 and directly to the lives of citizens, it has always occupied a striking position in the landscape. But how did it come to be designed, constructed and occupied?

The form and site of the monument to those who served in the Great War became a major point of debate in Melbourne almost as soon as the final shots of the war were fired in 1918. It was a debate that raged through the country (and around the world) as governments, returned services groups, churches, civic groups and even private citizens argued over design, costs and usage.

Should memorials be commemorative or utilitarian? Should a large memorial (with sculptures) be constructed, or should the memorial be in the form of a structure that contributed to daily life, such as a hall, bridge, hospital, gardens, libraries or swimming pool? But as the years began to pass, discord continued among ‘stakeholders’, each convinced that their solution was the right one, and enthusiasm for the Shrine was starting to wane.

In 1922, a competition was announced for a design for a National War Memorial, which was won by the young firm of Wardrop & Hudson. James Hustle Wardrop was later responsible for some of Victoria’s most dramatic Moderne/Art Deco buildings (such as the former pub that became McDonald’s in Clifton Hill) but is probably best remembered for his work on the Shrine of Remembrance.

Born in 1891, he had seemed destined for a highly successful career until WWI intervened. In 1919, he returned to Australia and formed a partnership with another ex-serviceman, Phillip Hudson. Their design would be constructed on an elevated site in today’s Southbank, able to be seen from vantage points around the city.

Construction required a massive fundraising campaign. Enter the celebrated former army general, John Monash, who led a major effort in 1927 that raised the funds from ordinary citizens, local Councils, businesses such as Sidney Myer and school children. With months in the bank, construction began in 1927 and was completed in time for Victoria’s 1934 Centenary celebrations.

With COVID-19 forcing many Southbank businesses to adapt the way they work, one developer is embracing the challenge and transforming the way it communicates with customers.

Melbourne Square developer OSK Property has shifted its typical property purchasing process by bringing many of the elements online.

“The developer has launched a series of virtual tours of completed apartments in collaboration with CBRE and investor networks, as well as digital marketing campaigns to promote our projects,” said Mr Jessop.

Along with its virtual tours, OSK Property will ferry brochures, floor plans and materials boards directly to buyers, in addition to hosting private one-to-one appointments.

OSK property sales and marketing director Scott Jessop said these offers were attractive to the changing preferences of customers, who were now much more digitally savvy, while also providing new options in the current climate.

“At the end of the day we are here to support our customers and what we are hearing is that people want more options when purchasing and enquiring about property – in the current environment and even before COVID-19,” he said.

“It is a simple fact that customers live their lives online more than ever and so, as a developer, we have sought to find ways to bring our apartments to them in new ways.

“It is an initiative that seems to be paying dividends.

Melbourne Square commenced its first round of sales in early 2020 and has a range of settlements scheduled over the course of the year. While a small amount of apartments remain for sale, Mr Jessop said they were still receiving interest.

In March alone, the team made more than $6.5 million in sales, with buyers still enquiring. CBRE director Andrew Leonceli said Melbourne’s real estate market had a good track record of emerging from regular property cycles and even major economic events, such as the global financial crisis, intact.

“A mortgage has never been cheaper and Victoria’s interest rates sit at around 2.1%, the lowest they have ever been,” he said.

For more information:
melbournesquare.com.au

Please support our advertisers because without them we would have no Southbank News
扶助市中心的商业

墨尔本的商业是这座城市的命脉。墨尔本市正在采取一系列措施来帮助支持受COVID-19疫情影响的商业。

墨尔本的商业是这座城市的命脉。墨尔本市政正在提供服务来帮助支持受COVID-19疫情影响的商业。市长萨利·卡普鼓励商家来接受墨尔本市政的支持计划。

市长萨利·卡普(Sally Capp)鼓励商家来接受墨尔本市政的支持计划。

市长说：“我们的COVID-19商务礼宾热线是小型商业在困难时期的实用资源。”

市长说：“我们已经启动了这条专用电话线，这样小商业就可以致电了解我们提供什么支持，以及如何获得我们服务的有关重要信息。”

市长说，墨尔本市的图书馆是我国资源最丰富的图书馆之一。通过与Beamafilm和Kanopy的合作，墨尔本市图书馆会员可以观看免费电视节目、教育视频、艺术电影和纪录片。会员还可以通过Freegal下载免费音乐。上个月，通过墨尔本市图书馆服务的电影播出流量增长了54%。 Beamafilm电影月平均流量增加了一倍，而Kanopy电影播出量在三月份达到了3666部，是一个月内最高的使用量。
Business Directory

Bottleshop

POP-UP BOTTLESHOP

- Wholesale Wines - $500 Cases
- Beer Bear Bear
- $10,000 to clear - Take away meals

Shop 2, 180 City Road, Southbank
Tel: 0402 025 080

Photography

PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIES COLLEGE

Masters | Degrees | Diplomas | Certificates | Short Courses

Find Out More

PSC EDU + 61 3 9682 3191
www.psc.edu.au | 177 Flinders Street, South Melbourne, VIC 3008

Physiotherapy

ELITE SPORTS PHYSIO

Post-Surgical Rehabilitation
Pre & Post Injury
Sports & Injury

www.elitesportsphysio.com.au

Plumbing

J WALKER PLUMBING

J WALKER 0433 588 424
jw0433588424@gmail.com

Water, Gas & Electrical - Projects""

All General Plumbing

www.jwalkerplumbing.com.au

Real Estate

The Evermore

けばらすについて、施設管理サービスを提供しています。

www.theevermore.com.au

Selling | Leasing | Property Management

Central Equity

1800 63 8888
southbankplace.com.au

SALES Glenn Donnelly m: 0419 998 235
LEASING Lina D’Ambrosio m: 0430 929 851

CENTRAL EQUITY

AWARD WINNING MELBOURNE DEVELOPER

1800 63 8888

SOUTH BANK NEWS

Talk to Southbank News owner Sean Car
m: 0433 930 484
e: sean@hyperlocalnews.com.au
about how to customise your campaign to our audience every month.

Melcorp

Real Estate

Melcorp

Real Estate

www.melcorp.com.au | info@melcorp.com.au | 9696 8869

Renovation

ARM

APARTMENT RENOVATIONS OF MELBOURNE

1300 56 66 67
edgar@arm.com.au
www.arm.com.au

Melcorp

Real Estate

www.melcorp.com.au | info@melcorp.com.au | 9696 8869

Schools

HAILEYBURY

Melbourne | Sydney

www.melbournehaileybury.com

Services

Stop Noise

NOISE REDUCTION SPECIALISTS

1800 880 844
info@stopnoise.com.au
www.stopnoise.com.au

· Prices can vary depending on size of residences.

SALES

Glenn Donnelly m: 0419 998 235
LEASING

Lina D’Ambrosio m: 0430 929 851

www.cityresidentialbourkestreet.com.au

Bottleshop

POP-UP BOTTLESHOP

- Wholesale Wines - $500 Cases
- Beer Bear Bear
- $10,000 to clear - Take away meals

Shop 2, 180 City Road, Southbank
Tel: 0402 025 080

Photography

PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIES COLLEGE

Masters | Degrees | Diplomas | Certificates | Short Courses

Find Out More

PSC EDU + 61 3 9682 3191
www.psc.edu.au | 177 Flinders Street, South Melbourne, VIC 3008

Physiotherapy

ELITE SPORTS PHYSIO

Post-Surgical Rehabilitation
Pre & Post Injury
Sports & Injury

www.elitesportsphysio.com.au

Plumbing

J WALKER PLUMBING

J WALKER 0433 588 424
jw0433588424@gmail.com

Water, Gas & Electrical - Projects""

All General Plumbing

www.jwalkerplumbing.com.au

Real Estate

The Evermore

けばらすについて、施設管理サービスを提供しています。

www.theevermore.com.au

Selling | Leasing | Property Management

Central Equity

1800 63 8888
southbankplace.com.au

SALES Glenn Donnelly m: 0419 998 235
LEASING Lina D’Ambrosio m: 0430 929 851

CENTRAL EQUITY

AWARD WINNING MELBOURNE DEVELOPER

1800 63 8888

SOUTH BANK NEWS

Talk to Southbank News owner Sean Car
m: 0433 930 484
e: sean@hyperlocalnews.com.au
about how to customise your campaign to our audience every month.

Melcorp

Real Estate

Melcorp

Real Estate

www.melcorp.com.au | info@melcorp.com.au | 9696 8869

Renovation

ARM

APARTMENT RENOVATIONS OF MELBOURNE

1300 56 66 67
edgar@arm.com.au
www.arm.com.au

Melcorp

Real Estate

www.melcorp.com.au | info@melcorp.com.au | 9696 8869

Schools

HAILEYBURY

Melbourne | Sydney

www.melbournehaileybury.com

Services

Stop Noise

NOISE REDUCTION SPECIALISTS

1800 880 844
info@stopnoise.com.au
www.stopnoise.com.au

· Prices can vary depending on size of residences.
Covid-19 Lockdown Sales

Contact us for a Virtual Appraisal

These are some of our sales during stage 3 lockdown