The voice of Southbank

SOUTHBANK LEGYIEWS

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CLUEs released on rapid growth

The City of Melbourne has confirmed what most already know: Southbank is growing at a rapid rate.

The council has released the latest Census of Land Use and Employment (CLUE) Southbank 2010 research and it outlines extensive growth between 2010 and the previous report in 2002.

While unemployment remains a concern for much of the country, Southbank's economy is booming, with employment increasing 30 per cent in the eight-year period. Almost half of that rise occurred in the last two years of the reported period (2008-10), up 12.2 per cent.

The report states 41,427 people are employed within Southbank as of 2010. Not surprisingly our largest employer is the arts and recreation services sector. It employs 21 per cent of all workers in Southbank.

The study also analysed floor space within Southbank and listed retail as the boom sector, growing 53 per cent in size over the eight-year period.

That result can largely be attributed to the redevelopment of South Wharf during that timeframe.

In the hospitality sector there are now almost double the number of cafes/restaurants the area than in 2002, growing from 65 to 119.

As has been well documented, the report also confirmed the large growth in residential areas of Southbank. The 2010 figure was estimated at 11,744, up 18 per cent from 2006.

Those who have been vocal about a lack of open space in Southbank will be interested to read that of the 3.3 million square metres

of built space within Southbank just 12,000 square metres is classified as public open space.

Of the 15.7 per cent increase in built space, the most growth has come from indoor common areas (foyers, lifts, stairwells), residential accommodation and private carparks.

Chairman of the Future Melbourne committee and councillor Kevin Louey was encouraged by the results of the research, commenting that it proved there was great growth occurring in Southbank.

"The City of Melbourne recognises that Southbank is an evolving and thriving community. The establishment of a new community hub with a library and civic centre at the Boyd School site is going to be a great addition to the Southbank precinct, giving residents and visitors access to a range of community services," Cr Louey said.

"The CLUE report provides us with a snapshot of Southbank, with overwhelmingly positive trends"

He also stated that the report was further proof that the area was well placed to continue to grow and evolve, saying: "The future is certainly bright for Southbank and the addition of new community infrastructure will make it even more prosperous."

To see all the facts, figures and explanations, the full report is available to the public at www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/CLUE.



Mad Easter fun

It was all fun and games at Southgate during the Easter school holidays as the retail centre hosted some unique and very brightly coloured characters. Find out what these fantasy characters were at Southgate on page 11.

FOODWORKS

(Norks for me!









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SOUTHBANK The bridge with no name

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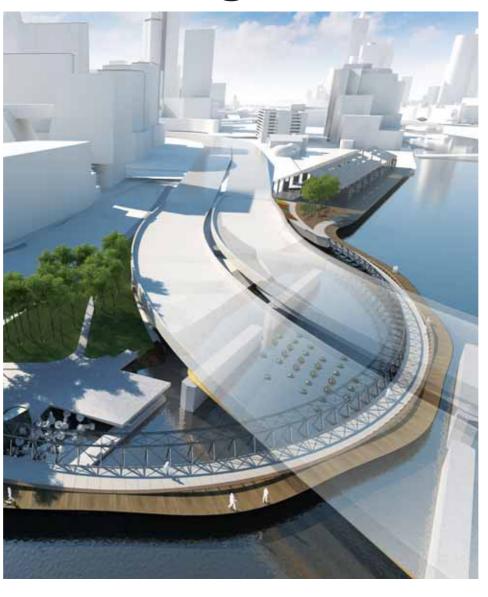
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The Yarra will acquire yet another bridge after Planning Minister Matthew Guy announced the new bridge to connect Northwharf and Docklands.

Mr Guy called the bridge "The final piece of the jigsaw" after he acted to amend the Melbourne Planning Scheme, making sure the bridge could be delivered by the predicted 2013 date of completion.

The Minister is calling for the general public to come forward with ideas of a name, saying: "I am delighted to announce the final stage of the Northbank project can now commence and invite Victorians to submit ideas to name the distinctive bridge that builds on Melbourne's revitalised waterfront

As you can see from the picture the bridge is a uniquely designed, in a way that is supposed to appear as though it is hovering above the water. Either way it will be a spectacular view along either by foot or bike.

"Once completed this addition to Melbourne's Yarra will provide a continuous open space along the riverfront for recreational purposes, encourage walking and cycling and contribute to the quality of the public space," Mr Guy said.





New parent group established

Just in case further proof was needed to show how desperately the area needs a primary school, a new parents group has started in Southbank.

The group is the brainchild of Igor Glavanic who decided it was time the parents of Southbank had a collective voice to strengthen their standing in the community.

The group was initially organised as a playgroup for their children, but as the parents started sharing their experiences of living with a family in Southbank they realized they all faced similar issues, and it was time to stand up and have those issues heard.

"It is really just a group of parents we know. Through the childcare we met more parents and they all had the same issues," Mr Glavanic said.

The group plans to become a voice for all parents in the Southbank area, ensure their needs are at least heard and to advocate for a more parent and kid friendly suburb.

"This (the lack of a primary school) is a very important issue to us because we live here and there's nothing here," Mr Glavanic said.

He said it was easier for governments to establish schools in other growth suburbs because land was far easier to come by, and that a school in Southbank was going to need initiative and creativity from authorities.

"Can we go and look at other countries and look at how they're doing it? There are suburbs in Sydney, suburbs in Brisbane and suburbs in Adelaide with these same problems. Are we doing something fundamentally wrong when establishing these inner-city suburbs?" Mr Glavanic questions.

He also suggested that ideas around innercity apartment living had changed, saying: "I think 10 years ago the authorities thought

professionals would live here, then once they were ready for a family move out. Well it's not happening, I certainly have no plans of moving."

The group knows the primary school dilemma is not going away anytime soon, and Mr Glavanic knows simply rezoning won't be enough.

"You can rezone these other schools, but if there's no room to fit more kids in any of them, where do we go from there?"

He stressed that this wasn't a matter for politically point scoring, saying: "To be completely a-political there's the issue, now lets fix it."

"Who's got the vision to say in 30 years we'll have 74,000 people here but what about amenities for these people. We'll need an ambulance and a police station. How many schools will we need? How many shops? All of these things need to be considered," Mr Glavanic said.

"If we are thinking the issue will go away, we're being foolish."

If you are interested in joining the parents group or want to find out more information on these issues email Igor iglavanic@parcusgroup.com





VCA parties in style

The conditions were far from ideal but that did not stop the VCA party last month.

The Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) celebrated its $40^{\rm th}$ anniversary in style.

Despite the cold weather, the street party attracted hundreds of revellers, all in the mood for a celebration. The attendees included staff, students, alumni, friends, family and general supporters of the college.

The atmosphere was kept alive by music performances, with acts such as DJ Manchild, ScotDrakula, Saskwatch and Clairy Browne & the Bangin' Rackettees.

Director of the VCA, Professor Su Baker said the party was a celebration of the achievements of the VCA, in particularly the amazingly talented students the school had produced over its 40 years.





NGV a popular gallery

The national gallery of Victoria has been announced as the most visited art gallery in Australia, and the 25th most popular worldwide.

The result was published by London's The Art newspaper, in its annual survey of art gallery attendances around the world.

NGV Director Dr Gerard Vaughan was obviously delighted with the news and said the NGV was thrilled with the results of the attendance surveys.

"This ranking today confirms that Victorians, and our many visitors to Melbourne, appreciate both the NGV's highly important permanent collection, and our strong exhibition program," Dr Vaughan said.

Premier and Minister for the Arts Ted Baillieu said last year was a wonderful time for the gallery and this was an additional feat that it should be congratulated on.

"It celebrated its 150th anniversary, opened new spaces for children and for contemporary art, announced new acquisitions and hosted a stunning array of exhibitions with everything from German Expressionism to Melbourne's street art," Mr Baillieu said.

Mr Baillieu said it was a particularly noteworthy result considering Melbourne's

population compared to competing galleries cities.

"This is a fantastic achievement, especially when we consider that all the gallaries ranked ahead of the NGV, and many ranked lower, are in cities with more than 10 million people," Mr Baillieu pointed out.

He added that the local community had a big say in these numbers, saying: "This means the NGV enjoys one of the highest community participation rates in the world, proving once again that Victorians are passionate about embracing the arts."

Further proving the gallery's popularity, internet giant Google has included NGV in its Google Art project.

The Art Project is in its second phase and gives online access to high-resolution images of artworks from galleries all over the world.

Dr Vaughan was thrilled that the NGV could share their pieces with an even bigger market space.

"This will provide important worldwide access to some of our greatest artworks."



Sounds like Signal

Young people throughout Southbank and the City of Melbourne had a unique opportunity during the school holidays, with Signal putting on an innovative program, giving a group of youngsters great insight into the life of being a professional musician.

The program, Pika Pika Picnic, introduced electronic bands Baaddd and Toxic Lipstick to break down perceptions of what it is really like to be living and working as an artist.

Emily from Baadddsaid the shows can be various sizes and not just the stadium shows you see on television.

"We do a lot of shows. Sometimes there might be five people or 300 people, but it's always really fun."

Kake, who is in both bands, told of the different way bands can rise to prominence these days. She said Toxic Lipstick had made their way through the help of social networking site Myspace.

"We just did it (the band) on our home computers as a silly joke – and it's taken us all over the world," Kake exclaimed.

The three-day course combined sound, digital and visual artworks. For more information of Signal programs visit their website www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/signal

Plates for mates

"Plates for mates" comes to Southbank in April, as the Australia wide initiative will be venturing into the Meat and Wine Co. at Freshwater Place.

The Plates for mates phenomenon was born when chefs around the country wanted to rally behind celebrity chef Matt Golinski, after his wife and two children perished in a house fire. Mr Golinski suffered extensive injuries, but survived.

The Meat and Wine Co. will be holding their event on the weekend of April 27-29.

Over the weekend the restaurant will donate \$1 from every meal to the Matt Golinski recovery fund.

Celebrity chef Matt Golinski



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Zoning déjà vu for students

By Sean Rogasch

Just as primary students are being zoned out of their closest school, our secondary aged kids now face the same fate, as our closest and easiest to access school is set to announce a new zone.

Albert Park College's new zone will run up Ferrars St and then up Montague St, completely blocking out Southbank from its access to the public secondary school.

The school cannot be blamed for wanting to implement the zone, as it has been overrun by requests for positions since re-opening in 2010.

This zone cuts even more of Southbank out than the proposed re-zoning of Port Melbourne Primary, which will also exclude large sections of Southbank.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development confirmed the school has requested a zone, with a spokesperson saying: "Albert Park College's Council has requested the Department consider adjusting its neighbourhood boundary due to increasing enrolments in the area."

Albert Park MP Martin Foley has been vocal on the issue of education in the inner-south and he believes the rezoning of Albert Park College provides a good opportunity to properly fix the problem.

He told the Southbank Local News that a rebuild of Elwood College should be looked at to help ease the high-school squeeze.

"It can't be resolved in isolation of the other areas. It can't be fixed without upgrading Elwood and looking at a Prahran College as well," Mr Foley said.

He also suggested that some creative thinking may have to be employed to

address the shortfall of secondary level public education.

"We might have to look at junior, middle and secondary schools to fit them all in. This problem is what happens when you take a holiday from investment."

Mr Foley is forthright when asked the importance of the lack of public schooling options facing Southbank.

"It's the most glaring component of the community and social infrustructure problems that exist in Southbank, clearly it is the most pressing issue."

Spokesperson for the new Southbank parents group (report on page 3) Igor Glavanic said although he wasn't across the issue specifically, his group will treat it in the same way as the current primary school problems, and call for action.

The DEECD agree with Mr Foley about the issue not being isolated to one school, saying: "The department is in the process of consulting with the school and other neighbouring schools regarding the proposal."

The department stressed it was mindful of all students in affected areas, saying: "The Department is working closely with schools in Melbourne's inner south to ensure every student is able to attend their neighbourhood government school."





Pets living the high life

Pets and apartments. Some believe they should be kept separate at all times, but for many residents in Southbank, having a dog, cat or fish living the apartment lifestyle is a must.

Kristie Russell and her two energetic dogs Bob and Jazzy are an example of how pets can successfully live in high-rise apartments. They happily reside at Freshwater Place.

Previously Kristie had owned a cat in a ground floor apartment, but moving up to level 51 with dogs was a completely different experience.

She is honest when admitting having two dogs in an apartment setting, who were puppies at the same time, has been extremely difficult.

"My number one tip is don't get two puppies at the same time – especially two different breeds," Kristie says laughing, although she added that the hard work had been worth it now.

She also suggests getting dogs into day care. Kristie believes this is the best way for them to learn to socialise. "It's also very convenient when we travel with work," she added.

It is also important for dogs to take on some form of etiquette training, because the dogs need to know how to act around others in common areas and obviously their barking needs to be controlled."They only bark when they see a dog on the TV," Kristie said, although she added: "I think the window cleaners are our dog's version of the postman."

The Investors Club, which manages many apartment complexes all over Australia has released its tips on owning pets in apartments too, stressing that many people were not properly aware of their rights when it came to pet ownership.

Its five tips include knowing the local council's restrictions and seeking permission from owners' corporations.

Let us know your tips for owning pets in apartments on our website, by commenting on this story at www.southbanklocalnews.com.au



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Revamped residents group gets strategic

Mabel Vargas has been in the job for just four months, but the president of the Southbank Residents Group has already begun to re-energise the group.

Ms Vargas admits it took a little while to find her feet in the new role but now feels comfortable in what she is undertaking.

She said the first priorities were revitalise the group's image and then connect with the community.

The image is set for an upgrade, with the organisation of a social media strategy and a new website both in the pipeline.

The latest work in connecting to the community is a strategic plan for the group, to entice people to join, and make all members as effective as possible.

The strategic plan outlines the issues the SRG feel it needs to cover and also prioritises them, so that all meetings are kept on track and the members are all heading in the same direction.

The plan lists C171 Amendment and appropriate development, traffic congestion and noise, public school and childcare, police presence and appropriate open space as high priorities.

Sub-committees have been set up to cover all of these groups in another attempt to attract people to the SRG.

Ms Vargas suggests that the growth of Southbank's residential population is the key to the group having a louder voice.

"The more the owner occupier rate increases, the more people will be concerned with these types of issues," Ms Vargas explains.

Ms Vargas has also distributed a letter and petition for all residents, in another attempt to gain awareness and membership.

The letter also urges resident's to take their own action by contacting Planning Minister Matthew Guy and Lord Mayor Robert Doyle.

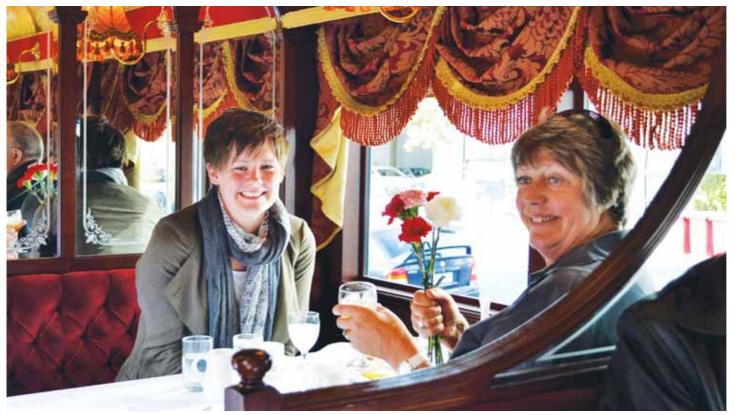
As the number of residents continues to grow, Ms Vargas hopes the SRG will grow and prosper, and with her at the helm, it is certainly heading in the right direction.

To find out more visit the group's website www.srgi.com.au or email Mabel srgi200@gmail.com.au









Good on you mum

Mark it in your diary right now. Sunday, May 13. Mother's day is just around the corner, but Sophie Dott got in early.

Her mother Adie lives in Wellington in New Zealand, so while she was over visiting Sophie treated her mother to a special early Mothers Day lunch on the Colonial Tramcar restaurant.

Normally Sophie is serving as a waitress on the moving restaurant, so she knew her mum wouldn't be disappointed. You can keep mum happy with a Mother's day voucher from Tramcar, go to the website for more details www.tramrestaurant.com.au or find out more in our "Businesses in Southbank" column.

What are your Mothers day gift ideas? Let us know by commenting on this story on our website.



YRBA autumn networking

The Southbank business community has another opportunity for networking, with the Yarra River Business Association announcing their autumn meeting for members.

The event will be held at the historical Mission to Seafarers building in Docklands.

All members are encouraged to get along for a night of Thai food and drink vouchers.

Entertainment will include a musical performance by Stephen Cummings as well as guided tours of the historical building itself.

Entry is free for members and \$30 for nonmembers. If you are interested in attending you should get into contact with executive officer Tim Bracher on 9787 0962 or via email bracher@tpg.com.au



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Running on time

Fitness fanatics have no excuse for recording times, after two new digital clocks were installed at the Tan Track, just a short jog from Southbank.

The iconic track can thank Bennelong Foundation for the new technology, after it presented the City of Melbourne with the digital clocks as a gift.

The clocks have been located at the start/finish line on Alexandra Ave and at the halfway point on Birdwood Ave.

The tan may not be specifically within the Southbank postcode, but with our lack of parks and open spaces many residents who are interested in running and exercise use it.

The Deputy Lord Mayor Susan Riley was on hand to help unveil the new clocks, and talked about just how engrained sport and exercise was within Melbourne's culture.

"The Tan Track has been used by Melburnians for more than 100 years and around 350,000 people use the track every year," Cr Riley said.

She was full of praise for the Bennelong Foundation, adding: "The clocks were a wonderful idea by the Bennelong Foundation and we are very grateful for this generous gift. They complement the recent work the City of Melbourne has undertaken on the Tan, including widening the track and installing lighting."

"These fabulous new clocks have greatly added to the enjoyment and ease of using the track." Cr Riley said.

The Bennelong Foundation's Chairman, Jeff Chapman was happy on two counts – one that his foundation could provide these clocks, and two that he is a local and a keen sportsman.

He was exciting the foundation could contribute to the health and fitness of Melburnians, saying: "The new clocks recognise the history and tradition of Melbourne's much loved Tan Track in the beautiful Botanic Gardens, and are a practical encouragement to Melburnians and visitors alike to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle, which is one of the strong themes of the Bennelong Foundation."

"In addition, the clocks will enhance Melbourne's reputation as Australia's pre-eminent lifestyle and sports-oriented city," Mr Chapman added.

There is a chance for you to feature on the clocks, as they will display the 10 fastest recorded times around the Tan, so get your running shoes on and get into training.



Mayor set for round two

Robert Doyle has announced he will stand for a second term as Lord Mayor of the City of Melbourne.

He has listed Southbank as one of the important projects he wants to tackle if reelected.

The former state Liberal Party leader announced that as part of a second stint in City Hall he wants to incorporate Southbank and Docklands more into the city.

He announced his decision on 3AW's Neil Mitchell program and declared he had "unfinished business" as mayor.

It is expected that there will be others putting their hands up to challenge Mr Doyle for the role of Lord Mayor.

City of Melbourne elections will be held in October.

Meeting of a different kind

Get set for a unique council meeting held in Southbank during April – but not by the City of Melbourne.

The Regional Victoria Living Expo will be held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre will see members from all 48 regional and rural councils under the one roof, between April 27 and 29.

It is the first time all 48 councils have gathered under one roof.

The councils will be showcasing all that regional Victoria has to offer, in the hope of attracting both more residents and visitors to their areas.

The individual councils will be showing attendees assets of their region, including educational, career and business opportunities, as well as housing and property options.

You'll be happy to hear that unlike the traditional council meetings the general public will have plenty of opportunity to put their point across with councillors from all regions answering questions throughout the three-day event.

Entry into the event is free, and if you're after more information on the 2012 Regional Victoria Living Expo, head the website www.rdv.vic.gov.au/expo









Southbank 32/79 Whiteman Street SPACIOUS WITH TERRACE

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Inspect

Private Sale \$430,000 By appointment

This immaculate apartment comp bamboo timber flooring and is conveniently located within easy reach of the nearby CBD, Southbank Promenade and cosmopolitan South Melbourne, ensuring its suitability for investors and owner-occupiers alike. Features include: Secure car space, reverse-cycle heating/ cooling in living area, laundry facilities in bathroom (dryer included), tram stop on the doorstep, impressive building facilities include a heated indoor swimming pool, tennis court, gym, BBQ terrace. Richard Mindraoui 0437 250 964



Southbank 2107/63 Whiteman St GREAT LOCATION TO LIVE OR INVEST

1 🟣 1 들 1 🍙

Private Sale \$410,000 By appointment

Located on the 21st floor is, this great quality huge 1 bedroom 1 Bathroom 1 Car Space superb condition apartment, Includes Modern kitchen fittings, stainless steel Miele appliances including cook-top, oven, range-hood and dishwasher. This near new apartment has a generous size bedroom with BIRs. Included also, video intercom and resort style facilities. VUE GRANDE Southbank is situated within walking distance to Melbourne CBD, Southbank Promenade and restaurants Richard Mindraoui 0437 250 964



Southbank 1203/109 Clarendon Street EXCELLENT AND AFFORDABLE equipped gym and spa pool.

2 🛌 1 들 1 🍙 Private Sale \$450,000 Inspect By appointment

Near new city pad within walking distance to Crown casino and Southbank promenade. Functional floor plan includes fitted kitchen with stainless steel appliances, and ample cupboard space. Good size bedroom with two way ensuite and a second room which could be used as a large study or optional second bedroom. Secure under cover car park and the use of a fully

Richard Mindraoui 0437 250 964



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2 🟣 1 🦢 1 🍙

Private Sale \$570,000 Inspect By appointment This luxurious & spacious near new two bedroom apartment located on the top floor in the newly completed Atlantis building comes fully furnished and presents the latest in inner city living. The unit features a modern kitchen with stainless steel appliances and ample cupboard space that opens to a dining/living area which leads to a balcony with spectacular bay and Dockland views. This apartment is great for an investment or perfect for someone just starting out

in Melbourne. Lina D' Ambrosio 0430 929 851



Southbank 1507 - 8 Kavanagh Street Southbank

TRIPTYCH WILL AMAZE YOU

2 🗯 2 🔙 1 🍙

Inspect

Private Sale \$1,200,000 By appointment Triptych invites you home to the heart of the Melbourne Arts & Cultural precinct. This apartment offers the discerning buyer the comforts of 138sqm of north facing luxury living. Comprising 2 bedrooms + study, 2 bathrooms, 7sqm balcony, bamboo timber flooring, miele appliances, secure car park, storage unit and features vertical garden and podium roof top garden.

This is a must see.

For a private inspection contact Richard Mindraoui 0437 250 964

Magnificent Victorian sub



Southbank 187/88 Southbank Boulevard, Southbank

3 BEDROOM WITH A VIEW 3 🛌 2 🔙 1 🍙

Private Sale \$638,000

Inspect By appointment

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Inspect

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Private sale \$1.8 mil Inspect

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Easter tea party thrills

Easter and school holidays were the perfect time for the tea party and that's exactly what happened at Southgate over the festive long weekend.

The colourful costumes were a hit with the crowd and while the tea party was reserved for younger visitors there were plenty of onlookers enjoying the entertainment.

Events and marketing manager at Southgate Jo Gartner said the centre was so pleased the activities had created such a fantastic atmosphere.

"It was another great Easter at Southgate this year, with large crowds yet again visiting the centre for our mad Hatter's Tea Party. Children and families enjoyed free activities during the day as well as performances on the promenade while dining and shopping in the new look centre," Ms Gartner said.

"Melburnians love visiting Southgate during major events and public holidays, and Easter is no exception. We look forward to continuing to welcome local families and visitors to Southgate over Easter in the years to come," she added.

Men's shed back

The idea of a Men's shed for those within Southbank who miss having their own work area was re-ignited in April with a meeting announced for April 18. Unfortunately the meeting was cancelled after organisers decided there was too little interest.

The lack of interest shown is somewhat surprising given the encouraging number of men and women who were able to hold initial meetings on a shed idea late last year.

Far from giving up hope, the City of Melbourne's Community Development Officer Jasmina Stanic plans to hold the meeting at a later date and ensure there is a real publicity push to get the numbers behind it.

The meeting will invite a wide range of guest speakers who have intimate knowledge of the way Men's sheds are set up and operate, through their associations with other sheds of this kind across Victoria. Guest speakers planned for the cancelled meeting included director of the Victorian Men's Shed Association Paul Sladdin, Heathdale community and neighbours Shed coordinator John Gowlett, Hobson's Bay Shed coordinater Thomas Boon and Daylesford Men's Shed's Mark Rak.

No doubt the rescheduled meeting will contain similar luminaries.

There is no date for the next meeting yet, but if you are interested in getting behind a Men's shed for Southbank be sure to register your interest contact either Jasmina at the council or Mabel Vargas from the Southbank Resident's Group.

Tracy gears up to conquer cancer

Southbank resident Tracy Stoessiger is gearing up for The Ride to Conquer Cancer benefiting Peter Mac.

The Canadian will be joined by thousands of others to travel throughout Victoria for two days, on October 27 and 28, 2012.

Funds raised from this epic event will support breakthrough cancer research, treatment and the discovery of new therapies at Peter Mac.

One in two Australians will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime. Tracy rightly viewed the Ride to Conquer Cancer as a call to action.

She first participated in this inspiring ride back home in Vancouver, Canada last June.

After moving to Australia last December, she saw that the ride had been brought to Australia and she immediately registered. She is passionate about this ride and the cause - regardless of the country she lives in she is always looking to make a difference and raise awareness and funds for cancer research.

It will be a challenge for her to raise the funds for Peter Mac as she is in a new city and new country but it is a challenge she is absolutely willing to take on.

Tracy (Participant ID#760662-3) has set herself a goal of \$2500. To help her reach this goal, or to join her on this journey, visit **conquercancer.org.au** or call **1300 00 RIDE**.





Food festival at Yarra's Edge

The Melbourne Food and Wine Festival came to Yarra's Edge on March 3 and 4.

Mirvac and the local business community really got behind this event and made it happen.

Unfortunately on the Saturday it teemed with rain, but thanks to the free river shuttle that was operating throughout the weekend, a small consistent trickle of visitors made it Yarra's Edge and this was further swelled by the devoted fans to Yarra's Edge Jazz Festival.

Lucky this was a two-day event, because on the Sunday the sun came out and all the restaurants and cafes were very busy. One out of two ain't bad, as the song goes!

Kinya was out offering tempting sample plates from Japan and the staff were all dressed in traditional costume. Loading Dock had a free wine tasting to complement numerous sampling plates it had on offer.

Further up Mad Duck Café had hoped to run a gourmet barbecue but the weather put a dampener on that, but Sunday saw a busier day for them. Over at Bistro Vite there was plenty of seafood tasting plates on offer which proved popular with the crowd.

The Yarra's Edge drawcard was a jazz spectacular presented by Adam Johnstone Events featuring the best Jazz bands from leading Melbourne of secondary colleges. The event aimed to encourage visitors to come and enjoy the free music at Yarra's Edge as they sampled the many offerings available. Feedback from schools and the local community is that this should be an annual event.

Thanks to our major sponsor Mirvac and all the local businesses who made this event happen - Kinya, Loading Dock, Bistro Vite, Marina YE, Papillon Day Spa, Mad Duck Café, Apartment Genies, Kingston Management Group and Barry Plant Real Estate.

Discover Yarra's Edge

Yarra's Edge is located just across the Yarra from the ANZ building. Take a walk across award winning Webb Bridge to this truly undiscovered gem. This pristine neighbourhood, developed by Mirvac, boasts stunning apartments as well as luxury homes. Delightful dining opportunities and a beauty salon also make it well worth a visit on a beautiful day. Take advantage of the sunny north facing bank of the Yarra - it is there for you.

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YARRA'S EDGE





NGV keeps celebrating

Founded in 1861, the National Gallery of Victoria is Australia's oldest public art gallery. It is Australia's most visited gallery and the 25th most visited art gallery in the world in 2011.

Premier and Minister for the Arts Ted Baillieu congratulated the NGV team on the great result, as revealed by London's The Art Newspaper in its annual survey of art gallery attendances around the world.

"Last year was a milestone year for the NGV," Mr Baillieu said.

"It celebrated its 150th anniversary, opened new spaces for children and for contemporary art, announced new acquisitions and hosted a stunning array of exhibitions with everything from German Expressionism to Melbourne's street art.

"Overall, the attendance figure was 1,547,495, bringing our gallery in ahead of its interstate counterparts and leading international galleries such as Tate Britain in London, the Guggenheim Museum in New York, and the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam," Mr Baillieu said.

June sees the NGV present the spectacular Melbourne Winter Masterpieces Exhibition, Napoleon: Revolution to Empire. Exclusive to Melbourne, the exhibition will bring to Australia for the first time nearly 300 works, examining French art, culture and life from the 1770s to the 1820s.

Just opened is the exhibition, Fred Williams: Infinite Horizons, the first major retrospective of Fred Williams's work in over 25 years.

Fred Williams: Infinite Horizons showcases over 100 works from this iconic Australian artist drawn from public and private collections in Australia and overseas, including many works that have never been on public display before.

The exhibition highlights Williams's strength as a landscape artist including important oil paintings and luminous gouaches that reveal his distinctive approach, and his ability to poetically convey a feeling of place.

Frances Lindsay, Deputy Director NGV, said: "This is a rare opportunity for visitors to see a comprehensive retrospective of this seminal Australian artist.

"In the late 1950s Williams was determined to paint what was widely considered a hopelessly outdated subject. In doing so he redefined how Australians view

and understand our unique landscapes and became one of the most important Australian artists of the twentieth century."

Infinite Horizons is a reflection of one of Australia's most distinctive and recognisable artists providing new insights for those who are familiar with his work. This retrospective showcases the classic Williams works in various series alongside his nonanthology works.

In the 1960s, Williams often painted outdoors with gouache, subsequently working on his oil paintings back in the studio, often with a minimal palette. In the 1970s, however, he felt an urgent desire to paint outdoors in oil with vibrant colour, partly driven by his need to reinvent his art.

Humphrey Clegg, NGV Coordinating Curator explains: "Although Williams was a modest man, he was ambitious for his art. He saw the Australian landscape as a vehicle for extending the possibilities of contemporary painting."

The vibrancy of Williams's palette reaches its peak in works inspired by the Pilbara. After visiting the West Australian region twice in 1979 he painted the Pilbara series in 1981 before his untimely death the following year. This series was generously gifted to the NGV by Rio Tinto in 2001; a number of the oil paintings and gouaches feature in this exhibition and a further seven works remain on display in the permanent collection at The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia.

Infinite Horizons, on display in Williams's home city of Melbourne, includes the bush and desert landscapes that he is most commonly associated with and also presents his fascination with water, in works featuring seascapes, ponds, creeks, billabongs and waterfalls.

Visitors to the exhibition will engage with a stunning range of Williams's paintings inspired by unique Australian locations, from Upwey in Victoria to the Pilbara in Western Australia and Weipa in North Queensland.

Also of great interest in the exhibition are the portraits Williams produced throughout his career. Initially trained at the National Gallery School in Melbourne, Williams was adept at depicting the figure and these works show an artist engaged with his subjects, and intrigued by a sense of his sitter's individuality.

Fred Williams's body of work holds the highest significance in Australian art history and is comprehensively presented in this major exhibition that comes to the NGV from the National Gallery of Australia. Curated by Deborah Hart, Senior Curator, Australian Painting and Sculpture post-1920 at the NGA who says of the exhibition:

"Infinite Horizons provides insights into Fred Williams's unique take on the Australian environment. It includes major international loans from the Tate in London, and numerous works from Australian collections which have not been displayed publicly prior to this retrospective."

Fred Williams: Infinite Horizons will be on display at The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia, Federation Square. 10am-5pm (closed Mondays), from April 7 - 22 July 2012. Admission fees apply: Adult \$16, Concession \$12, Child \$7.50.

For more information about the range of informative programs that accompany the exhibition or to buy tickets online please visit www.ngv.vic.gov.au.





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Easter is the beginning

Easter may have passed but for the community of St Johns Southgate it is the beginning of just about everything.

Pastor Ian Vainikka quoted St Augustine in his Easter Sunday sermon to make that very point. "We are Easter people," said Augustine, "and Allelluia is our song."

The message of redemption through Christ's death on the cross and his resurrection is, of course, the focus of Easter but also of just about every activity at St Johns.

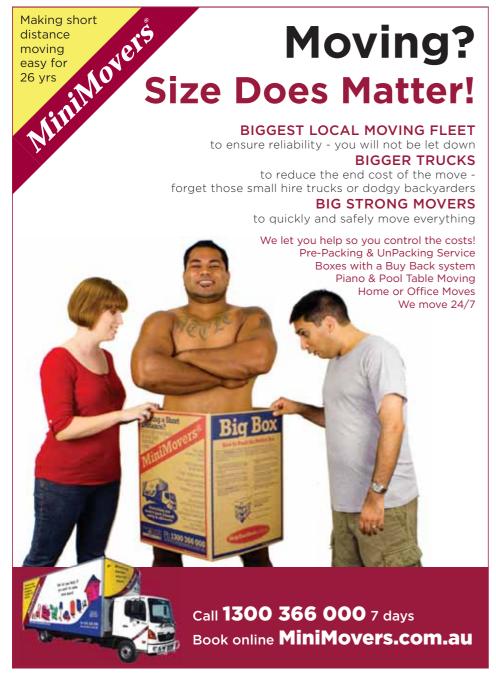
To make this point in joyful fashion this Easter, tenor Robert Macfarlane and members of the St Johns Bach Orchestra performed G.P. Telemann's cantata "Ich weiß, das mein Erlöser lebt" ("I know that my redeemer lives).

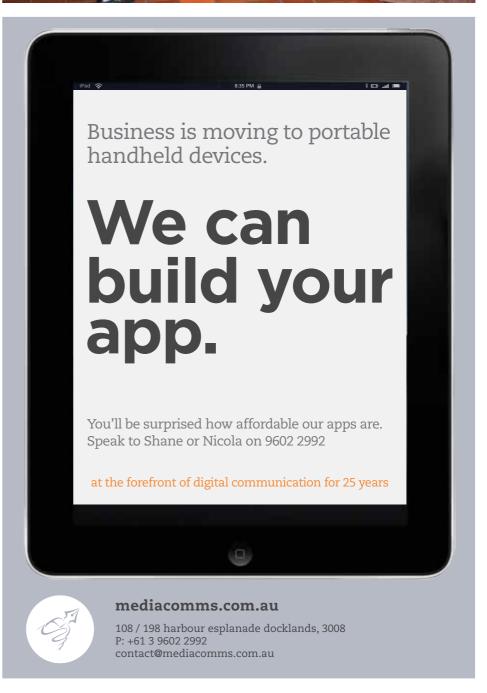
And the celebration continues in similar fashion at 7.30pm on Ascension Day, May 17, with J.S. Bach's "Gott fähret auf mit Jauchzen" ("God ascends with shouts of

joy"), a cantata for four soloists, chorus, strings, two oboes, three trumpets, timpani and continuo.













At home in their new home

Eddy and Becca are not ordinary apartment living dogs. They haven't grown up not knowing what it's like to have a big back yard to run around and enjoy.

They moved into Quay West with their owner Jill just two years ago from Mont Albert North, and thankfully have adjusted brilliantly to their new surroundings, to the point where Jill doesn't think they want to go back.

She described their attitude to living in Southbank now that they have adjusted to the lifestyle was "Absolutely peachy!"

Jill did concede that it wasn't all smooth sailing at the start, saying: "There were a few accidents to start with."

In the two years the Cavalier King Charles' have been in Quay West they have become very popular with the locals.

It seems more people stop to talk to the pair than they do for Jill. "They think their names are hello and hello! That's what everyone says to them, and that's what they respond to," explains Jill.

Becca, the older of the pair, is so friendly she has been known to invite herself to random picnics. "Eddy loves exercise, but Becca is all about food. She'll eat anything!" Jill said.

Eddy may lack the experience of Becca, but makes up with it in enthusiasm, and from the short time Southbank Local News spent with the dogs we got the feeling he may get on her nerve.

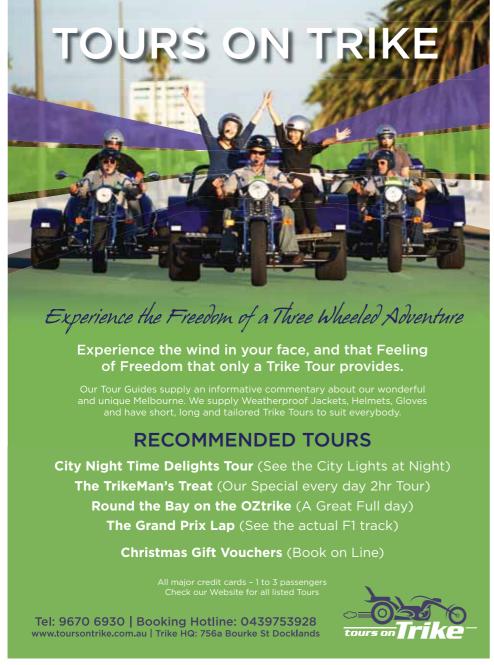
Jill assures us they get along very well and do enjoy each other's company.

The pair still loves getting out into the open expanses, and their favourite play area without doubt is Alexandra gardens.

Jill knows the importance of letting them out into the open, and takes them out at least three times a day.



Eddy & Becca receive a \$25 gift voucher from Pet Stock South Melbourne









Blaise, 23

LOCATION?

South Wharf

WEARS?

A vintage dress, vest and shoes and a Michael Kors watch.

DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE

I mainly wear vintage, I like having clothes that no one else does.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO **SOUTHBANK?**

Shopping with a friend.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

South Melbourne.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF **CLOTHING?**

This open denim shirt.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT?

Taking one item off before you leave the house. I like simple things.

Caitlin, 21

LOCATION?

VCA

WEARS?

Sass & Bide jeans, Sportsgirl t-shirt, vintage leather jacket, House of Harlow necklace and Doc Martens.

DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE

Classic yet still edgy.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO **SOUTHBANK?**

Meeting friends at VCA.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

Oakleigh.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF **CLOTHING?**

A good leather jacket.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT?

Putting your own personal twist on current trends

Jack, 19

LOCATION?

Southgate

WEARS?

Black leggings, Sportsgirl mesh top and Acne shoes

DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE

Edgy with a colourful twist.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO SOUTHBANK?

Siting the NGV.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

Hawthorn

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF **CLOTHING?**

My black leather pants.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT?

Block colours and contrasting shades.

Combat the winter blues

By Samantha Goss

With temperatures dropping as quick as the prices of summer swim suits, it's a solid idea to start investing in those key winter pieces that will keep you from turning blue as the colder weather creeps on in.

The biggest winter trend that was previewed this time last year was the return of the knit. General Pants offers an extensive range of men's and women's knits in all kinds of varied colors and styles. A little tip: you'll often find your most desired knit in the section of the opposite sex!

To update the look, pair soft-colored knits with a cut-off leather biker vest for an edgy take on the pastel trend or throw on a denim vest with a vibrant neon knit to carry on with the surf influence from summer.

Oddly enough, raincoats are making somewhat of a comeback this season, with assorted styles from metallics to transparent 60s mod styles to be seen at retailers such as Topshop. Keep it modern with dark jeans or leather to avoid looking like Paddington Bear. If the raincoat fad is not to your liking, Zara is constantly dropping an assortment of thick woollen coats for all your wintery needs.

Another sound investment is a durable pair of leather boots to see that you avoid your toes turning an unflattering shade of purple when the cold kicks in. For a cheaper option, head into chain stores Sportsgirl or Country Road and ask for something with a bit of a heel to ensure they are sturdy and flattering. If you're looking to splurge, the Acne "pistol" boot is still going strong in a few different colors for a luxe boot that will last you for years to come.

The most important winter tip? Layers, duh! Pile your basics on top of each other in slightly contrasting shades to beat the winter blues.







The truth about metabolism

As a nation, we are getting bigger each year. The health and fitness industry is pushing people more and more to get into "shape", be "healthy" and lose "weight".

But is this really the right message to be pushing?

In this column my aim will be to explore the clear connection between food and exercise and the benefits of healthy living.

Our metabolism is broken down into the

following – 66 per cent muscle tissue; 17 per cent exercise; 12 per cent nutrition and 5 per cent body temperature regulation.

This means, that to get the body that most people want, they must include something to increase their lean muscle tissue to aid the metabolism each day.

Exercising is the number one thing that will do this but a structured-based resistance training program is the only non-surgical way to shed body fat and keep in shape.

Fiction: Most people think that with lifting "weights" they are automatically going to get bigger and "bulk up", this is not the case.

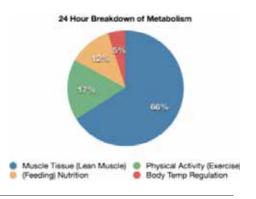
Fact: As testosterone is the single most important hormone involved in building

muscle mass, it is easy to see why males are much more susceptible to building muscle than females are. The average adult can expect to lose around 0.25kgs of muscle mass every year from 30 to 60 years of age and gain approximately half a kilogram of body fat each year over that same time span. That's a 7kg loss of muscle and a 15kg gain in body fat!

Hence why as we age it's vital that we include a form of resistance training module into our busy lifestyles, which has to be no more than 2 per cent of your week (less than two hours of intense exercise over seven days), with quality nutrition, correct supplementation and the intense cardiovascular training with adequate amounts of rest. Remember this formula, as we will continue to explore it in coming editions.

Next month - matching exercise with your nutrition.

For more questions please follow Jordan on twitter - @jordy_chenery or email - info@ jordanchenery.com



MADE IN HEAVEN * with angelina in

How compatible are you and your partner?

What are the working dynamics of your relationship?

Check the astrological charts by emailing yours and your partner's birth date and time to heaven@southbanklocalnews.com.au

What do you bring to the relationship and what gifts does your partner bring?



June 20, 1962

Sun in Gemini

Mars in Taurus

North Node in Leo

Abby Mark

December 27, 1960 Sun in Capricorn North Node in

Virgo Mars in Cancer

Abby:

Your view of love includes both caution and optimism. You are no frilly romantic – your head clouded with fantasies that could never come true – but neither are you a pessimist who disbelieves in the possibility of real, abiding love.

You will find success in love when you strike a balance between your hopes and your realism, which should not be a difficult task.

You enjoy lovers with whom you can go out on the town, attend parties or functions and generally have a good time out in public together. You are also attracted romantically to people whom you sense can help you achieve your own goals or improve your social standing.

You take your relationships seriously but are torn between a compulsive desire for close permanent ties and a fear of intimacy.

Power is sexy to you and even when a relationship is not a romantic one, you find ambitious go-getters in positions of authority very magnetic and fascinating.

Mark:

You have a strong, confident, expressive personality which inspires confidence in others. You often find yourself in a position of leadership as do your partners who are also dynamic and successful.

Your relationships are marked by mutual respect. Sometimes you feel like you cannot just be yourself and be loved.

You feel you need to earn your love in some way by being or doing something special. You are far more self-protective than most people realise. You hold your feelings close to your chest and find it hard to express anger or pain or resentment except when you are in an infrequent rage. This is a problem in close relationships.

Love for you is often a "divine discontent". You are so romantic and idealistic it is difficult for any mortal person to sustain your interest without disappointing you. Your need to idealise loved ones may make you susceptible to illusion. You don't like relationships which are overly defined or confining. You must feel free to love.

Outcome of relationship:

You really do work well together. There's something about Abby's influence which helps you to organise and harness your energy so that you can achieve your goals. You, in turn, stimulate Abby to dare and not be over cautious. You're a good team.

However else you may differ, when it comes to personal goals and life purpose, you appear to be moving in the same direction. You have similar attitudes toward authority and your compatible personal philosophies suggest you could achieve together professionally. You enjoy a wonderful sense of being seen and understood. This is a very strong common bond. Your very presence has a strong effect upon each other's emotions. There is a good balance between the masculine and feminine qualities in each of you

Mars in Taurus for Mark and Mars in Cancer for Abby clearly indicates you both share a love and passion for quiet nights at home with family and friends and each of you is fiercely loyal to your loved ones. If you both respect each other's differences and work together for a common goal nothing is beyond your reach as a couple.

Featured terminology

Mars – for Mark is in Taurus (loves food, wine and family)
Mars – for Abby is in Cancer (loves to nurture and support family)





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The recent hosting of the international Formula 1 Grand Prix, its cost to the taxpayer and the use of Albert Park public park with the associated noise and inconvenience has raised a doubt of what value this event has to Melbourne, Victoria and even Australia.

We at Southbank, without doubt, reap a considerable tourist dollar and international exposure from this activity and are therefore inclined to believe it is a good thing for us and particularly our commercial and business associates.

Some would say this is the taxpayer subsidising the sport of an elite few and their minders. Doesn't this apply to all our so called "sports"? The contribution we made this year is said to be in the vicinity of \$40 million plus the inconvenience to the Albert Park patrons has to be assessed.

But let us get this into some perspective. The total national expenditure, by us the taxpayer on the last figure I can find, the period 2000-01 was \$2.4 billion, yes, \$2.4 billion. The mind boggles and that was 12 years ago. What it is now is anybody's guess. I have trawled through the internet for more recent information without success but it will no doubt by now be near the \$3 billion.

Let's list just a few of our major local expenditures on sport and sporting facilities. Melbourne Park development \$363 million. AAMI Park \$267.5 million. Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre \$116 million. Rod Laver Arena \$94 million. MCG upgrade \$77 million just to mention a few.

Those listed are within the Melbourne precinct and are only a representation of how money is spent on sport. Add to that the hectares of our public parks that have been seconded to house these buildings and associated car parking.

So talk of the grand prix as a venue for the rich and famous can also be applied to most of our modern sporting events. At least Albert Park was returned to us usually in a better order than we gave it to them for the three or four weeks of restricted access. Not so the rest – locked away from us the general public, try kicking a football on the centre of the MCG or any other permanent major fixture. No outcry by the general public here.

What about Southbank? Where are our sporting facilities? Where is some of that \$2.4 plus billion dollars spent to serve our proposed 74,000 inhabitants? Sorry to say not a cent. We give but do not receive, so don't deny us a few days of a tourist invasion to support our local businesses.

A few weeks ago there was a picture in a Melbourne newspaper of State Government Minister Guy surveying Melbourne from about 40 + storeys. He was acting like a modern day Napoleon Bonaparte, scanning the skyline, revelling in a future Melbourne as a metropolis of high-rise buildings as far as the eye could see.

I think he may have had a bout of hypoxia and I suggest he return to ground level and walk among our high-rise developments in Southbank, but only if he doesn't suffer from claustrophobia.

How he and his past ministers of all persuasions can visit our area and not squirm at the effect of their decision-making is beyond us. When will they halt this unregulated development until sensible planning is promulgated, and that includes putting VCAT on notice until they show some recognition at the growing difficulties of residents due to their sometimes incomprehensible decisions?

Another interesting observation was the announcement by Mayor Doyle of a 40-storey building to be built on one third of the open space of the Boyd Girls School site. This structure will, in part, be low-cost housing for our socially and physically disadvantaged.

At no time did he suggest where the children of these residents were to go to school, or the medical clinics, or the banks, or the post office, or the playgrounds, or the sporting venues or the open space for mothers, aged or disabled to relax from their high rise residences. It's called the "cart before the horse" syndrome.

The recently-retired and current collection of politicians and their bureaucrats seem unable to apply their acquired knowledge, logic or common sense in the development and preservation of a community be it Southbank, Docklands or anywhere else.

Why they decided to enter or be appointed to the policy-making arena without the appropriate skills is beyond us. We can only hope the current well-educated Y and even Z generation will take over and somehow correct the errors and give us a balanced environment that is compatible with the needs of the people. I suggest they start with Southbank.

Letters to the Editor



Send your letters to news@southbanklocalnews.com.au

Southbank residents take stock

It often seems like the City of Melbourne and the State Government think they can take Southbank residents for granted. Why else would they behave as they do? Numerous issues of concern have been raised with them, by literally hundreds of residents on scores of occasions and in various forums. Yet, we see not one single positive action taken.

Here's the evidence.

Residents have doggedly objected to, appealed against and written about their concerns regarding the Southbank Structure Plan and C171 Amendment which targets raising our suburb's population from its current 13,000 population to an outrageous 74,000 through high-rise massing within the suburb. Yet the process of finalising the structure plan continues relentlessly with ongoing input and support from the council and developers.

Residents have objected to the recommendations and approval of highrise buildings which consistently violate existing built form regulations relating to loss of resident amenity, the 100 to 160 metres height restriction, and the 24 metres separation between buildings. Yet, these recommendations and approvals continue unabated.

Residents have repeatedly brought to the attention of the council and State Government that Southbank still lacks a large supermarket, resident-friendly retail strips, a medical clinic, a school, child care facilities, a post office and open spaces. Yet, there is no evidence of an iota of action on their part on any of these issues.

Residents have frequently complained about increased traffic congestion and traffic noise. However, VicRoads, the council and the State Government continue to play the blame game among themselves and nothing ever happens.

Southbank residents are tired of being taken for granted by their politicians. Consultations are indeed duly undertaken. But one gets the distinct impression that these are primarily pro-forma in nature and undertaken to enable the council or the State Government to claim that they have consulted. Residents' points of view seem to be consistently ignored and their requests or petitions simply filed away into forgotten files.

It appears now that the tipping point is near. And coincidently, so is the October 2012 election for the council.

Southbank residents realise they need to move from a fragmented community to a more organised voice and vote for the forthcoming council elections as well for the State Government elections which are due later. They are turning to the Southbank Resident Group (SRG) to channel their concerns and persuade politicians to take their persistent requests for help seriously. A number of significant initiatives are underway by the Southbank community in co-ordination with the SRG.

A drive for resident registration is in progress. Our suburb is the source of thousands of precious votes. Every one of them is important to each of our issues and concerns and our resident community intends to mobilise every single vote to further our cause.

A recent flyer-petition campaign against the C171 Amendment and other issues affecting residents was organised and the results are encouraging. Residents have sent in signed petitions to the Minister for Planning and Lord Mayor, as well as emails and tweets.

Cedric Saldanha, Southbank

Letter continues online at www.southbanklocalnews.com.au



DEBRA SOMMER, 52

Debra moved into Freshwater Place just last month but is already enjoying her time in Southbank. She will spend two weeks out of every month in Southbank visiting her husband, who recently moved here for work.

Debra said she has been out "discovering the sights" all morning and finding things to do with her time in Melbourne before she heads back to Brisbane. "I'm yet to decide what to do with all my free time here," she said. "But there seems to be plenty to keep me busy."



SIDNEY WASHINGTON, 45

Sidney has been in Melbourne for a little over a week on what he calls a "work holiday". He is here as a consultant with Headspace, a group that works with young Australians.

Sidney came across Southbank when he was taking a wander through the city and said he found the area "beautiful and peaceful". Born and raised in New York, Sidney is completely unfamiliar with Australian football but said he might watch a game while he was here.



JAMES LI, 22

James has been working at IBM Australia in Southbank for the past three months and thinks there are a million great things to list about the area. "It's next to the Yarra so there are always people around," he said. "It's just a nice environment and there are great places to eat all along here." James said Southbank's easy access was its greatest asset.



DANIEL THORDESILLAS, 33
Southbank

Daniel works in Port Melbourne as a consultant for the Department of Defence. He has been living in Southbank for the last two years and loves its central location.

Daniel said most of the people around Southbank were either corporate workers or tourists so there wasn't a lot of interaction between different groups but it didn't matter because everyone always seemed to be enjoying relaxing by the river. "I love that you have access to everything in Southbank," Daniel said. "The Botanical Gardens is just down the road, the beach is 10 minutes away and the city is over the river."



PHAUNGTS ONGSAWANGSRI, 50

Broadmeadows

Phaungts moved to Melbourne from Bangkok 22 years ago and is currently learning English at a language school in the city. She said while her English speaking was perfect she was still grasping how to write and read English.

"I'm meant to be at school but I wanted a break so I wandered down to Southbank," she said. "I like to come down here when the weather is sunny." Phaungts said her favourite thing about Southbank was its coffee. "They serve the best coffee in the cafes and restaurants around here," she said.



CAROL HOLMES, 22
England

Carol is here with her mother Susan on a short holiday. She said they had been doing "all the touristy things" while they had been here and they especially loved the Penguin Parade at Phillip Island. "We're just wasting time in Southbank before we go on a river cruise," Susan said.

"I love that we're in the city but it still feels tourist friendly." Susan said she couldn't get over seeing people walking around in scarves and coats when it was so warm and sunny. "They have no idea!" she laughed. "We don't put a scarf on until the temperature is below zero but everyone here is all rugged up."

Join the Yarra River Conversation

If you're a business located on, near or with an interest in the Lower Yarra River (Punt Road to Charles Grimes bridges), you should belong to the Yarra River Business Association – the City of Melbourne's endorsed business precinct for this side of the river.

It's run by local business people for the benefit of all businesses. Membership at \$170 p.a. connects you right into the issues and opportunities of the precinct, great networking events with our 140 members, and an opportunity to influence the development of the area. What's more, you'll also get an illustrated business entry on the official website www.yarrariver.info

Call 9787 0962 for a membership kit.



Businesses in Southbank

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WHET YOUR APPETITE AT MELBOURNE AQUARIUM

Imagine sipping a peach Bellini cocktail in Antarctica, followed by canapés on a river and finishing with desserts next to a coral atoll.

You might achieve it on a billionaire's yacht ... or simply join Friday night drinks at the Melbourne Aquarium.

Held on the last Friday of the month, the evening is a roaming affair, taking in the underwater "worlds" of the aquarium.

"The evening starts with the penguins in our Antarctica world, and finishes at the Fish Bowl," said the aquarium's food and beverage manager Jo Beshara.

"It's an amazing, two-and-a-half-hour underwater journey through the entire aquarium, accompanied by a live band," she said.

"You enjoy the spectacular night views of the Yarra River from the upper deck, and watch the graceful rays and marine life in the 2.2 million litre oceanarium."

Ms Beshara said the evening was one of many packages offered by the aquarium's Five Star Functions.

"We host weddings, birthdays, hens and bucks nights, and corporate get-togethers," she said.

"School formals, bar mitzvahs, gala dinners, charity fund-raisers – the list goes on."

"It can be a traditional three-course dinner, or a less-formal stand-up cocktail reception."

"There are heaps of marriage proposals on our Valentine's Day event!"

"Two couples held their wedding ceremony underwater in the oceanarium fish tank, while guests watched from outside."

"For a corporate function, you can have the company CEO underwater with a two-way, greeting his staff through the tank as they arrive."

Aquarium communications manager Gabriella Iacuone said company family days were popular, with face painting, balloons, tours, fish feeding and lunch.

"Our Mother's Day brunch and lunch will include all-day entry and is attractive to all age groups," Ms Iacuone said.

"Access is easy - there are no stairs."

Ms Beshara said executive chef Michael Craig was preparing a new winter menu. British-born Craig recently joined the aquarium following five years at the Melbourne Sofitel, and before that at Harrod's and the Mandarin Hotel in London, and the Caledonian Hotel in Edinburgh.

"We serve sustainable seafood and source our produce locally when we can," Ms Beshara said.

"And yes, we do serve fish - but they are not



Melbourne Aquarium is a stunning location for any function.

from our fish tank!"

The Melbourne Aquarium is on the corner of King and Flinders streets, Melbourne.

Call 9923 5952, email functions@
melbourneaquarium.com.au or visit
www.fivestarfunctions.com.au

MEALS ON WHEELS

We have all seen it and wished we were on it ... the iconic Colonial Tramcar Restaurant has trundled along Melbourne's tram tracks for 30 years.

Come hail, rain or shine, the tramcar restaurant has served lunches, dinners and special occasions daily since 1983. And with a punctuality that must be the envy of Yarra Trams.

"Autumn/winter is the best time of year to enjoy the tramcar restaurant," said manager Ingrid Marshall.

"Inside, it is like you are cocooned from the elements."

Ms Marshall said the restaurant's menu varied according to season, and always aimed to showcase Victorian produce and wine.

"A Mother's Day voucher would be a fabulous way to say 'thanks' to mum," Ms Marshall said.

"Our Mother's Day services are a luncheon departing at 1pm, an early dinner at 5.45pm or a late dinner at 8.35pm.

"We will have a 'Xmas in July' theme for every Sunday lunch in July. It will be a lot of fun."

The tramcar restaurant departure point is the undercover tram stop at 125 Normanby Road (corner of Clarendon St), South Melbourne.

The four-course luncheon trip takes about two hours, the three-course early dinner is 90 minutes, the five-course late dinner is three hours.

There are usually three tramcars operating and as one tramcar is retired, a new one takes its place.

Tramcar No.5 recently came into service, and the newest member of the fleet is due on the tracks in May.

Restaurant manager Mark Saltalamacchia said the newer trams stayed loyal to the historical colonial feel but were more aerodynamic and had state-of-the-art suspension.

"The stabilisers on the new trams are fitted on the floor rather than on the bogeys," he

"This gives an even smoother run. I can place a full glass of champagne on the edge of the table, and it won't move."

Also staying put are the tramcar



Colonial Tramcar Restaurant maitre de Melanie Green.

restaurant staff.

"Staff loyalty is a key feature of this company," Ms Marshall said.

"I've been here for 14 years. Most of the staff have been here for years."

Waiter Antoine Farsoun recently transferred to the tramcar restaurant from the Eureka Skydeck, and before that he was at Eureka 89 functions centre. All three businesses are run by the same parent company.

"It's like a big family," Mr Farsoun said.

Melanie Green joined the tramcar restaurant in February.

"Sometimes I'm a chef, a wine waiter, or the maitre de, and I'm already the trainee supervisor," Ms Green said.

"I love the variation."

For Mother's Day menus and timetables, visit **www.tramrestaurant.com.au** or call 9696 4000.

SOUTHBANK COMMUNITY CALENDAR



RED

March 22 - May 5

Melbourne Theatre Company, 140 Southbank Boulevard

This Tony Award winning play makes its way to Melbourne from the West End and Broadway, telling the story of tormented abstract expressionist Mark Rothko.

www.mtc.com.au

THE HISTRIONIC (DER THEATERMACHER)

The Malthouse Theatre, 113 Sturt Street more notable for the number of local pigs www.malthousetheatre.com.au

AUSTRALIA DAY

April 2 - May 26

Melbourne Theatre Company Playhouse 100 St Kilda Road, Southbank

From Jonathan Biggins, one of Australia's most talented comic writers comes a play about a day of speeches, sausage sizzles and cultural confusion.

www.mtc.com.au

NEW 12: BOLD, BRAVE NEW ART FROM THE ART STARS OF TOMORROW

March 17 - May 20

Australian Centre of Contemporary Art 111 Sturt Street

'New 12' is the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art's prestigious annual commissions exhibition.

www.accaonline.org.au

TOP CLASS DANCE - VCE SEASON OF EXCELLENCE

March 7 - May 11

Melbourne Recital Centre, 31 Sturt Street

Top Class presents eleven concerts by outstanding VCE performing arts students who have completed Dance, Drama, Theatre and Music

www.vcaa.vic.edu.au

April 4 - May 5

Hell hath no fury like an actor ignored. What happens when a talent that knows no bounds is dropped into a tiny hamlet than its appreciation of theatre?

BOY GIRL WALL

April 17 - May 4

Melbourne Theatre Company, 140 Southbank Boulevard

After three sell-out seasons in Brisbane, this quirky and fast-paced one-man show hits Melbourne.

www.mtc.com.au

ST JOHNS SOUTHGATE SUNDAY SCHOOL Every Sunday, 10.30am - 11.15am

St Johns Southgate, 20 City Road Children 3-11 years welcome. Not available during school holidays. St Johns also runs a playgroup every Tuesday from 10am - 12pm.

MELBOURNE NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6pm-8pm

3 Southbank Promenade

This night photography class runs in Melbourne's city centre and has all the night photography tips you'll ever need. For more info:

www.pennykoukoulas.com

ARTS CENTRE SUNDAY MARKET

Sundays, 10am-4pm

Arts Centre, 100 St Kilda Road

Meet over 80 of Victoria's finest artisans first hand. Discover how these unique artworks are made, chat directly about the products, inspirations and techniques. For more information:

www.theartscentre.com.au

CHUNKY MOVE DANCE CLASSES

Mondays to Thursdays 6.30pm-8pm, Saturdays 10am-1.15pm

111 Sturt Street

Chunky Move dance classes are the perfect way to unwind, get fit and improve flexibility and strength. For more info: www.chunkymove.com

THE HERETIC

May 12 - June 26

Melbourne Theatre Company, 140 Southbank Boulevard

Noni Hazlehurst stars in the Australian premiere of this hit UK black comedy by Richard Bean - a play that will have you debating the issue of climate change all the way home. www.mtc.com.au

ON THE PRODUCTION OF MONSTERS

May 23 - June 9

Melbourne Theatre Company, 140 Southbank Boulevard

'On the Production of Monsters' displays all the biting wit and caustic humour for which Melbourne playwright Robert Reid's work is best known.

www.mtc.com.au



FREE TAI CHI IN SOUTHBANK Every Friday, 8am - 9am

Queensbridge Square

Because of the lack of open and recreations space on Southbank, the Melbourne City Council has funded weekly Tai Chi classes on Southbank. The instructor, provided by Tai Chi Australia structures a class that is suitable for beginners and all ages.

THE STREAM/THE BOAT/THE SHORE/THE **BRIDGE**

May 19-27

Ponyfish Island, 1 Southbank Wharf Way Water flows through the city. Where did it come from? Where will it go? Will you go with the flow? Part of the Next Wave Festival 2012.

www.nextwave.org.au

MSO METROPOLIS NEW MUSIC FESTIVAL

May 5, 8pm - 10.30pm

Melbourne Recital Centre, 31 Sturt Street This concert will also include a new work commissioned as part of the MSO's Cybec 21st Century Australian Composers Program

www.mso.com.au

MOSTLY MOZART: SYMPHONY OF THE

May 30, 11.30am - 12.30pm

Melbourne Recital Centre, 31 Sturt Street Tosca is a nail-biting thriller, tragic love story, and betrayal all rolled into one and blends real events and fictional characters in an edge-of-the-seat melodrama.

www.malthousetheatre.com.au

TOSCA - A DRAMA BY PUCCINI

Malthouse - The Merlyn Theatre, 113 Sturt

Tosca is a nail-biting thriller, tragic love story, and betrayal all rolled into one and blends real events and fictional characters in an edge-of-the-seat melodrama.

www.malthousetheatre.com.au

MELBOURNE PIANO TRIO'S PINK LADY CONCERT

May 13, 4pm - 6pm

Melbourne Recital Centre, 31 Sturt Street Celebrate Mother's Day with a special concert by Melbourne Piano Trio in support of Breast Cancer Network Australia.

www.mso.com.au

MSO METROPOLIS NEW MUSIC FESTIVAL -**COMING TOGETHER**

May 2, 8pm - 10.30pm

Melbourne Recital Centre 31 Sturt Street

The six members of Eighth Blackbird throw down the gauntlet, flinging themselves into Derek Bermel's wild Balkan romp, 'Tied Shifts'.

www.mso.com.au

ST JOHNS SOUTHGATE-COMMUNITY **SERVICES**

Every Sunday in April

St Johns Southgate, 20 City Road 9am Sunday-Traditional, liturgical worship; 11am Sunday-Informal, liturgical worship; 7pm Sunday-Informal, contemporary worship; 12.10 pm -Wednesday - 20-min informal service.

THE LARAMIE PROJECT - TEN YEARS LATER May16-26

Fairfax Studio, 100 St Kilda Road

Ten Years Later' is a play that investigates the ripple effect of a single, senseless murder and exposes how we tell our own history

www.artscentremelbourne.com.au

SUNDOWNER BY KAGE

Fairfax Studio, 100 St Kilda Road

May 8 - 13

Arts Centre Melbourne presents Sundowner, created by KAGE in association with Alzheimer's Australia Vic that explores the fear, humour and dignity of those living with younger onset dementia. artscentremelbourne.com.au

ESCAPE FROM PELIGRO ISLAND May 5, 11am, 1.30pm and 2.30pm

Fairfax Studio, 100 St Kilda Road

Audiences will choose their own adventure from over 24 different endings - no two shows are the same. Armed with a handheld controller, you'll be in charge of your own fate.

www.theartscentre.com.au

NAKED BOYS SINGING

May 1-12

The Malthouse Theatre, 113 Sturt Street You'll never find a more literal title with the three greatest words in the English language than 'Naked Boys Singing'. An incredibly fun evening for the whole family, 18+ only as the show contains $nudity. \ www.malthouse the atre.com.au$

MIDNIGHT SON

May 16 - 23

The Malthouse Theatre, 113 Sturt Street Set against the backdrop of suburban Melbourne, Midnight Son is a modern-day operatic tragedy. Gordon Kerry and Louis Nowra explore how passion and obsession can morally blind otherwise normal people. www.malthousetheatre.com.au

CIRCA

May 29 - June 10

The Malthouse Theatre, 113 Sturt Street Throughout history the circus in all its forms has returned obsessively, incessantly, to the strangest and most mystifying animal of all - the human.

www.malthousetheatre.com.au

INSTANT ROCKSTAR Febuary 18 - June 16

Victorian Arts Centre, 100 St Kilda Road Be the rockstar and director in this fun and easy music video workshop. Instant Rockstar lets kids unleash their inner pop diva and guitar hero. Create a hit song and then use the track to make a music video.

www.theartscentre.com.au

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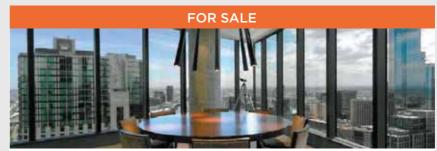


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Located in one of Southbank's most significant developments is this exceptional dual apartment, combined to offer some magnificent advantages. Four Bedrooms, Four Bathrooms, Four Car Spaces, Two Kitchens, & Two Entry Points!!! Need we say more?!

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Too good to resist, this modern Southbank apartment has plenty of room to move as well as being positioned in a great location, only minutes from all the excitement of the precinct. Crown Casino, Southbank Promenade, the CBD, Docklands - it is all just a short trip from your front door.

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3302/200 Spencer Street, MELBOURNE ENJOY THE INNER-CITY LIFESTYLE

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