

The voice of Southbank

# SOUTHBANK Local NEWS

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## We're healthy, wealthy and wise

*The 2011 census results were released last month and showed Southbank is full of educated young professionals, students, people who are more likely to be renting than own their home and people who earn more than the majority of Australia.*

Amazingly, the individual wage for residents in Southbank is almost double that of the rest of Australia.

The average weekly income for Southbank residents was \$983, dwarfing the national average of \$577 per week. In addition, 18.8 per cent of households in Southbank had a combined income of over \$3000 per week, compared with the national figure of 11.2 per cent.

Despite this higher income, Southbank dwellers are happier to rent their accommodation than the rest of the country. Some 58.4 per cent of residents are renting, compared with 29.6 per cent nation-wide.

Perhaps that can be attributed to the larger-than-usual population of 20-34 year-olds. Of Southbank's 11,235 people, this group of young professionals and university students accounted for 57.7 per cent of the total Southbank population. Nationally only 20.6 per cent of people fall into this age bracket.

The push for better primary and secondary education services in the region appears to be backed up by the numbers, with over 1000 locals under the age of 19.

Our median age is 29, eight years younger than Australian median age.

This younger average age appears to explain the number of residents who have never married being 61.6 per cent, almost double the national figure of 34.3 per cent. We are also more multicultural than the rest of the

country. Only 35 per cent of Southbank residents were born in Australia, almost half the national figure of 69.8 per cent.

After Australia, the most popular country of birth was China (8.1 per cent), then Indonesia (6.7 per cent), Malaysia (4.9 per cent), England (4 per cent) and New Zealand (3.6 per cent).

In addition, only half of our households exclusively speak English at home, compared with the national rate of 76.8 per cent. The most popular alternative language in Southbank is Mandarin (10.4 per cent). Other languages spoken in Southbank include Indonesian (6 per cent), Cantonese (4.6 per cent), Arabic (1.6 per cent) and Korean (1.6 per cent).

There's good news in Southbank if you're looking for Mr Right. While the rest of Australia is suffering a man-drought (there are 239,691 more females than males) Southbank bucks the national trend, having 422 more males.

It seems we are also becoming more secular, with 32.2 per cent of Southbank residents saying they had no religious affiliation, up from 23.6 per cent in the 2006 census. It is also higher than the national figure of 22.3 per cent. Catholicism is the most popular religion (18.6 per cent), followed by Buddhism (7.5 per cent), Anglican (6.8 per cent) and Hinduism (3.6 per cent).



## Not a tall story

*Southbank celebrated the opening of Boyd last month, our brand new library and community centre. There was plenty on show at the open day, see the story and pictures from the day on page 6*

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# Boyd a step in the right direction

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Deadline for the Sept edition is August 9.

As reported on page 1 and 6 the Boyd library and community centre was opened by the City of Melbourne last month.

The council ought to be congratulated on the fantastic community facility. It has both respected the historical nature of the building, and provided a modern and practical space for the community to use.

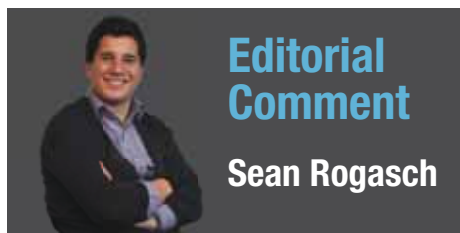
It is the first piece of public space Southbank has been desperate for, ever since the population started to spike.

The important thing for the council now is to ensure they use this positive momentum and continue to develop public spaces. It has surely been encouraged by the response to Boyd, and should be trying to harness the positive vibes.

It can, and should, do so by continuing the development of these precious community spaces. Leaving aside the obvious and much talked about need for a primary school (a State Government responsibility), the council has outlined its plans to create more than just Boyd.

The 2010 Southbank structure plan outlined the construction of the Boyd space, but also included two other "hearts" of the community, and it is those the council must now turn its attention to.

The three community "hearts" are planned to become the meeting points and public spaces for the ever-growing Southbank community of locals, workers and visitors.



Editorial  
Comment

Sean Rogasch

The next two planned spaces are an open activity node over the top of the Burnley Tunnel entrance and an Arts precinct site.

The CityLink deck should be the next focus of the Southbank community. In the structure plan, a timeline of one to five years is given for the site, which should remain the goal.

The site is planned to become a meeting

space. It will have green space, but also include retail, restaurants and bars to ensure a vibrant and commercially viable space.

While other precincts within the City of Melbourne are either half finished or well-established, Southbank's time is now. This district craves public space, as shown by the response to the Boyd opening and in its uptake since.

The job was done well at the Boyd site, but is now complete. It's important the council, governments and the community do not rest on their laurels and ensure community-meeting spaces continue to be created as our residential and commercial population grows.



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# Packed to the rafters

*The cries for more open space in Southbank became even more justified last month as it was revealed the suburb is the most congested in Melbourne.*

The figures, released by RP Data show that Southbank has a congestion rate of 8900 people per kilometre. That's almost 1000 more people per kilometre than the second-ranked Melbourne suburb, Carlton.

In the national stakes Southbank ranks 19th with every other place in the top 20 taken up by suburbs of Sydney. Number one is Elizabeth Bay with a whopping 20,165 people per kilometre.

It is a figure planners will need to look closely at because if Southbank reaches the predicted 74,000 residents by 2040, the figure will be an alarming 58,730 people per kilometre.

All suburbs on the list will inevitably change, but that number will surely see Southbank climb the congestion ladder and widen the gap between postcode 3006 and all other Melbourne suburbs.

Southbank Resident Group president Mabel Vargas said that, while the new figures weren't surprising to residents, it believed

the population density needed to be considered in future planning.

"No, there are no surprises here. Southbank's development has increased dramatically in the last seven to 10 years without the proper infrastructure put in place," Ms Vargas said.

"Southbank residents do not have the adequate facilities to cater for the current and growing population. All the land available in Southbank has been used for high-density buildings and someone has forgotten that all the people living here require the corresponding infrastructure."

Ms Vargas also said the current residents were worried about future congestion, given the plan to increase Southbank's population so heavily over the next couple of decades.

"Southbank residents are very concerned. There is an evident lack of planning and an aggressive development strategy, which do not go hand-in-hand," Ms Vargas warned.

## Eureka's sister site up for sale

*The sister apartment complex to Eureka tower is in major doubt, after owners of the site put it on the market.*

Part owners Nonda Katsalidis, Benni Aroni and Adrian Valmorbidia have included the plans for the new tower in the sale, but it is no guarantee any prospective developers would keep the plans in place.

The site, at 70 Southbank Boulevard, is

considered prime real estate and could fetch around \$25 million at sale.

The land is on the corner of City Rd and Southbank Boulevard and has 150 metres of street frontage.



## Salsa keeps us warm

*City of Melbourne's first Friday dance club helped keep locals warm last month as the red stairs at Queensbridge Square were transformed into a Spanish dance floor.*

The rhythm of salsa dancing took control of the crowd as it learned the basic steps to the much-loved dancing style. After the hour-long lesson the crowd was invited to

stay for another hour of free dancing.

The next first Friday dance club will be on Friday, August 3.



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# Goodbye Ms Tonks

After 18 years in the job, Melbourne Theatre Company's (MTC) general manager Ann Tonks is stepping aside, with the organisation in considerably better shape than when she started.



Ms Tonks played a vital role in the moves of both the old MTC offices and theatre, and credits these as the biggest changes to the company during her time.

"I think the major changes have been the physical ones - all within Southbank. The theatre on Southbank Boulevard which took many, many years is very special," Ms Tonks said.

"We spent a long time trying to get a new headquarters in Southbank. I'm now sitting in an office looking out the window at a tree and telephone poll and the light is coming in. We've come a long way!" she said

"The fact that we're all in the building together - often you find the office in the city, the workshop out in the 'burbs and the actors elsewhere. But here we're all together."

It's not only the company that has undergone extensive change while under Ms Tonks' watch, the suburb itself is unrecognisable to the one she started at in 1994.

"Our old building was in Ferrars St and known as South Melbourne. We got a letter in the mail from Australia Post to say the postcode had changed and we were now in Southbank. I thought - but we're nowhere near Southbank," Ms Tonks explained.

On Southbank, Ms Tonks believes it is well

on its way to being a prime location for residents and visitors alike.

"What it needs and hopefully this is what the future will have, is areas like the arts precinct. I walk down Sturt St and constantly am stopped by people I know to have a chat," Ms Tonks said.

"There is a lot more down here now, but next they need to develop cafes and shops, that's what the area needs in the next 10 years, especially for residents."

As for what to do next, first on the list for Ms Tonks was a well-deserved holiday.

"The key will be to have a holiday, I'm looking for a break," she said.

"The thing about this job is that it's all-consuming. You work during the day and then see your show or somebody else's show at night, so it'll just be nice to have a break from that."

MTC will be looking for a new general manager over the next few months, and Ms Tonks will be staying on until a suitable replacement is found.

Comment on this story online:  
[www.southbanklocalnews.com.au](http://www.southbanklocalnews.com.au)



## Tibetan leader visits

Southbank had a special visitor last month when we played host to Tibetan political leader Dr Lobsang Sangay, who has been chosen by the Dalai Lama to become the next spiritual leader of Tibet.

Dr Lobsang was in town as part of his tour of Australia, spreading the Tibetan story to all those willing to listen.

He did point out that no meetings with Prime Minister Julia Gillard had been organised but he was willing to talk to her if she requested.

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# New suburbs announced Hamer Hall reopening upon us

**Planning Minister Mathew Guy has outlined the new residential district known as Fisherman's Bend, with three more suburbs to join our new neighbour Montague.**

In addition, the new area has had its Victorian planning provisions amended to a capital city zone, to allow developers more scope in producing high-density living.

The four new suburbs will be the previously announced Montague, Fennell, Plummer and Lorimer. In total the precinct covers over 200 hectares and will house 60,000 new residents.

The announcement continues the trend towards inner-city style living, first established in Southbank, Docklands and the CBD.

"This (the amendment) puts Fishermans Bend, E-Gate and Richmond Station in the same category as the CBD, Southbank and Docklands," Mr Guy confirmed.

"Fishermans Bend will be Australia's first inner city urban growth area. The Coalition Government is providing opportunities for Melburnians to live in both inner city locations and suburban locations," he added.

**Mark July 26 in your diary. After a long redevelopment, this is the date the Arts Centre will reopen and spectacularly reintroduce itself to the Yarra River.**

Hamer Hall has been out of action since 2010, so excitement levels for its return are at fever pitch. This is especially true among the major tenants of the hall, such as the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (MSO), which have had to make do with temporary homes since the renovations began.

MSO cello player Rohan de Korte told *Southbank Local News* the entire organisation was anticipating the reopening.

"Everyone at the MSO is very excited about our return to our home at Hamer Hall, after a two-year gap. For the musicians we're most looking forward to the improvement in acoustics in the hall – making it easier for us to hear each other across stage, but also for our audiences to get the most out of our performances," Mr de Korte said.

"It's opened up the concert hall to the river, making music and the arts even more a part of Melbourne's life," he added.

The Arts Centre management was equally excited about the pending opening with chief executive Judith Isherwood saying the whole organisation was looking forward to the re-opening.



"Having Hamer Hall back is music to our ears and we are absolutely delighted with its stunning transformation," Ms Isherwood said.

"Not only has the auditorium been improved but we now have new restaurants, new bars, new cafés, new box offices, new digital art technology and changes to the building's opening hours will ensure Hamer Hall becomes a new favourite haunt for Victorians and visitors alike," she added.

Victorian Minister for Major Projects, Denis Napthine said the re-opening was a landmark moment for one of the state's favourite facilities.

"This is a great moment for Victoria. Built 30 years ago, our wonderful hall had begun to

lag behind other concert halls around the world and so this project has transformed it into a first-class contemporary facility," Mr Napthine said.

"The Victorian Government's \$135.8 million redevelopment of Hamer Hall has made it more accessible, providing a better experience for audiences and ensuring that it can continue to attract and present a wide range of top international and local performers for many more years to come," he added.

The hall will re-open with a bang. The four-day celebrations kick off with a massive concert on the opening night with performances by k.d lang, Rachele Durkin, Caroline O'Connor, Eddie Perfect, Archie Roach and Lior.

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# Local library open for business

*The City of Melbourne last month opened Boyd, Southbank's much-vaunted library and community space.*

To celebrate, the library held a special open day on July 7, with a range of entertainment, plus the official opening of the centre by Lord Mayor Robert Doyle.

The library is in the refurbished heritage-listed JH Boyd School building, with the changes blending the history of the building with the needs of the burgeoning community.

All up, the redevelopment cost around \$20 million. The City of Melbourne purchased the site for \$10.5 million in 2007 and has spent \$9.5 million on its development. The State Government contributed \$350,000 towards the library collection, while the

Federal Government funded sustainability features to the value of \$132,000.

The community hub includes a fully-fitted library, childcare facilities, community meeting spaces and a café. The site will be completed by some open space behind the library and Cairo, a 27-level tower by the Mackie Group running along side it.

The Lord Mayor, the Victorian Minister for Local Government Jeanette Powell, indigenous elder "Aunty" Caroline Briggs and City of Melbourne councillors attended the open day and there was also a large media throng in attendance.

The Lord Mayor described the library as a

"jewel for the area" and said the council was extremely proud to be opening the library in an area that lacked community facilities.

"Developing areas like Southbank need community infrastructure and services to keep pace with the needs of a growing population," Cr Doyle said.

"As the area continues to grow and evolve, Boyd will become a vital community hub and meeting place for the next generation of Southbank residents," he added. "This starts to bring back the soul to Southbank."

Minister Powell was equally proud of the development and stressed that libraries were vital infrastructure for all communities.

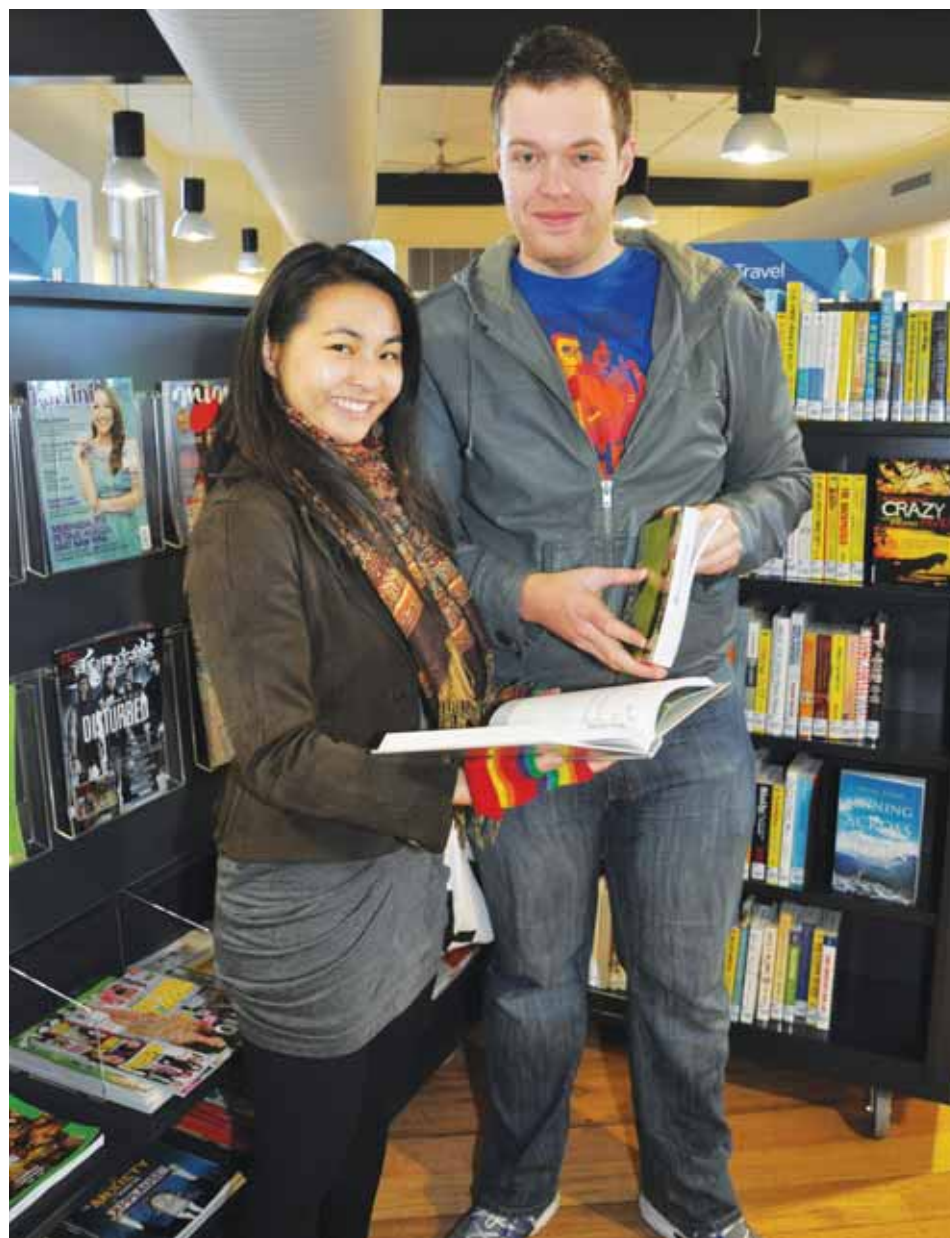
"Victorian libraries are at the very heart of our communities. They are much-loved and well used. That almost 50 per cent of Victorians belong to a local library is a good measure of how much the community values the broad range of today's library services," Minister Powell said.

"I'm sure this will be a very popular magnet for Southbank residents, workers and visitors," she concluded.

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Cassiopée and her mother Marie-Lou enjoy the kids section of the library.



Geraldine Mu and Michael Easton discovering what the library has to offer.



An African drum workshop gave the Assembly Room an opening it won't soon forget!



# SRG gets high-tech

*The evolution of the Southbank Residents Group (SRG) has continued, with the launch of its new website, Facebook and Twitter pages.*

The website is full of information on the SRG, how to join and handy links for locals, including to the local newspapers website. How thoughtful.

SRG president Mabel Vargas said she hoped the website was here for the residents to utilize.

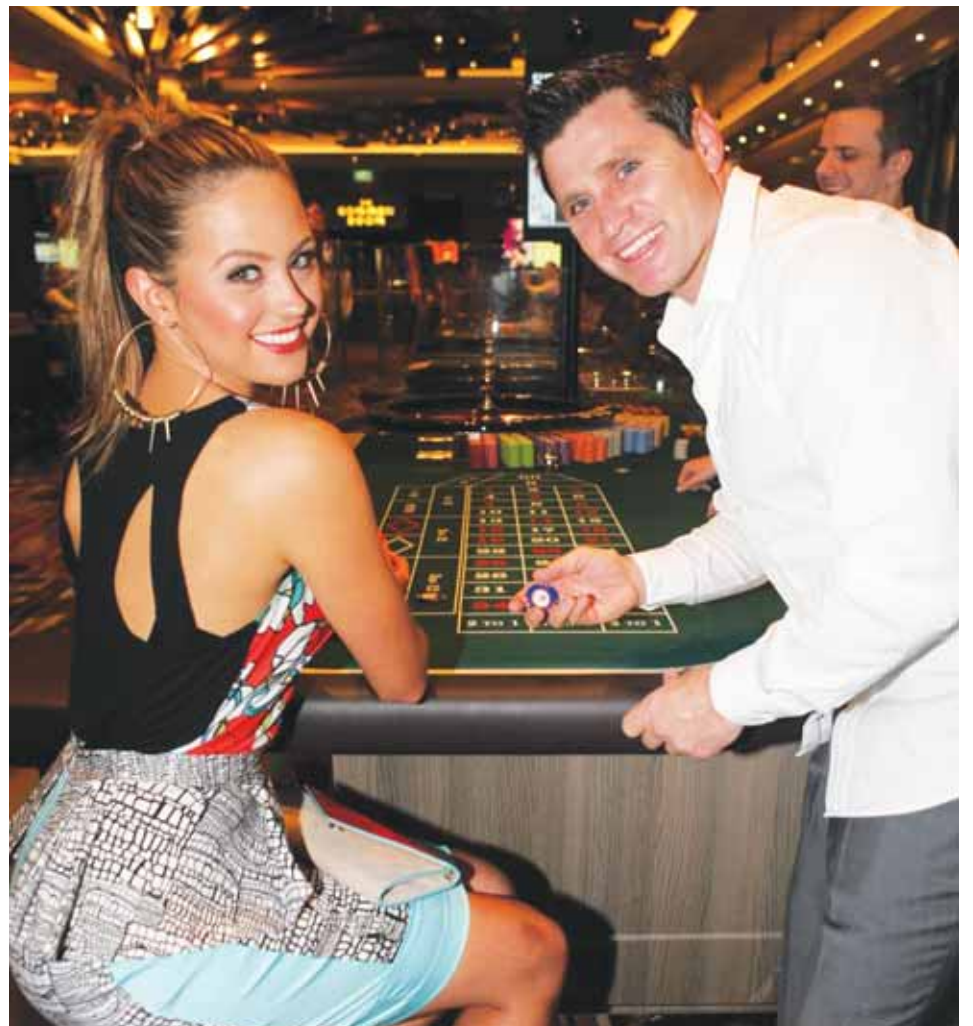
"Ideally it's for people to provide their own input, and to keep everyone informed," Ms Vargas said.

The addition of a Facebook page and Twitter account ensure the group has even more online presence and don't get lost in the ever-changing technical world.

"We want everyone to be networking and socialising. Hopefully that can lead to organising events and gatherings," Ms Vargas said.

Make sure you like the new Facebook page by search for Southbank Residents Group, and follow the group on Twitter @3006ResiGroup.

For the slightly less tech-literate the old fashion website is [www.southbankresidents.com.au](http://www.southbankresidents.com.au). If you've been confused by this entire article you can still reach the SRG by post at PO Box 1195, South Melbourne, Victoria 3205.



## West-end opens at Crown

*West-end ambassadors Jesinta Campbell and Shane Crawford enjoy the refurbished section of Crown, at the opening last month.*

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



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

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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 equipped gym and spa pool. Richard Mindraoui 0437 250 964



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
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



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
Absolutely stunning! This generous sized two bedroom apartment features fabulous modern kitchen with Gaggenau stainless steel appliances, gas and electric cooking, stainless steel fridge & dishwasher, ample cupboard space, open plan living and dining with floor to ceiling windows allowing loads of natural light. Main bedroom with built-in-robos and Italian tiling throughout. Second bedroom is also generous in size and has built-in-robos. Lina D' Ambrosio 0430 929 851



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# Questions asked on toxic site

By Melissa Chen

*New Southbank towers may have been built on contaminated land, had it not been for the intervention of the City of Melbourne and some observant construction workers.*

The Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) and, by extension, the Minister for Planning in late 2010 failed to audit the land for contamination. The council was the only authority to recommend a site assessment.

Workers on the site discovered contamination, which forced the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to review the site. The authorities have still not revealed if the contamination has been cleaned up.

The site is not publicly listed by the EPA but has been named by the Auditor-General as Site D.

*Southbank Local News* understands that Site D is in Coventry St, Southbank.

According to the December 2011 Auditor-General's report, an application for a high-density residential development project in inner Melbourne was submitted. Despite past uses of this site raising potential contamination issues, authorities including the EPA did not recommend a site assessment. The only authority that recommended a site assessment was the City of Melbourne.

According to a response from the Auditor-General's office, the Auditor-General's role is largely based on reporting to Parliament. The Auditor-General, Des Pearson said, "I have adopted the position that my reports and their associated recommendations should speak for themselves."

The City of Melbourne initially recommended a site assessment on Site D when issues of potential contamination were

brought up.

A spokesperson from the Planning department said: "City of Melbourne had advised a site assessment and a site assessment has been done." The Planning department's position uses the Auditor-General's report as a safety net. "Everything is written in the report and there is nothing much we can say about it," she said.

The Auditor-General's report states the DPCD "Does not require peer reviews because it holds the view that experience resides in-house to determine whether a site assessment is adequate."

Every fault in Site D seems to point back to the lack of site assessment initiated by the DPCD.

Questions directed to the DPCD regarding Site D have been left unanswered or ignored.

The Auditor-General's office sent a copy of the proposed report "Managing Contaminated Sites" to the DPCD. In the DPCD's response to the Auditor-General, it explained that an advisory committee was working closely with the EPA to review the operation of the planning system provisions for effective management of appropriate use and development of land.

A response by Andrew Tongue, secretary of the DPCD, in the Auditor-General report said: "The advisory committee will provide its report in early 2012."

This report has not been released.



# Pack your snorkel

By Sean Rogasch

*The Victorian Minister for Environment and Climate Change announced last month the arrival of "detailed mapping of Victoria's coast line" showing sea level rise due to climate change.*

Unfortunately the maps show very little detail, and when *Southbank Local News* inquired about obtaining a higher resolution picture of the maps (so the possible damaged could be properly assessed) we were told these were the highest detailed maps available.

The new data released to the public appears to show that if nothing is done to combat climate in the next 100 years Southbank will be almost entirely inundated by the rising water of the Yarra River during a one in 100-year storm.

The Minister explained the benefits of the maps being publicly available, saying: "Local authorities and the communities they support are best placed to make decisions about how they manage the risks of rising sea levels along their coasts."

As you can see from the picture (and it's the same when you zoom into the map on a computer screen) they would barely be helpful to local councils, and certainly no

help for individuals wanting to know about their specific land.

As a suburb sitting on land that, less than 200 years ago, was a swamp, it is vital that Southbank locals and the City of Melbourne have access to more detailed maps before making decisions on what action should be taken to counteract water rising as an effect of climate change.

It is the hope of *Southbank Local News* that councils will gain access to more detail soon and, in the interest of democracy, the general public should too have access to the detail.

Perhaps the lack of detail is a tactic to calm the alarmist concerns of climate change, but if these maps are to serve the purpose intended, all will need access to the real picture, so the appropriate action can be discussed and undertaken.

Comment on this story online:  
[www.southbanklocalnews.com.au](http://www.southbanklocalnews.com.au)



# Bomb scare

A bomb scare forced the closure of Riverside Quay last month and caused evacuations of surrounding buildings.

A black suitcase left on the Southbank promenade caused the scare. A male was captured by CCTV footage looking around before leaving the suitcase next to a pole on the promenade.

After some time, with the public walking past and some people tweeting about the suspicious package, police arrived and blocked off the area.

The bomb squad was then called in and the bomb squad robot inspected the package before an officer in a protective suit declared the suitcase safe and removed it.

The event received plenty of media attention, given its close proximity to the Sky News and Herald Sun offices.





## Art installations add to Arts Centre

*As reported on page 5, Hamer Hall is close to completion and as part of the opening an art display was unveiled last month. "Silence" and "Falling light" are the work of artists Robert Owen and Rachel Burke, in collaboration with Electrolight.*

# Happy to stay small

*New research was released last month suggesting small and medium-sized business owners were happier than ever heading into a new financial year, a trend which is mirrored here in Southbank.*

The Telstra-conducted research surveyed 1000 small and medium-sized businesses and showed that 72 per cent of business owners would be happy to start up again and 53 per cent said their business was their passion in life.

Some 88 per cent of business owners said they would spend either the same or more money on their business in the upcoming financial year.

Melbourne Natural Combined Therapies is one such small business and directors Phil Romeril and Dr Greg Bowers supported the theory, saying they had experienced strong growth over the last year and were excited about the future.

"We've at least doubled in the last year," Dr Bowers said, adding: "Part of it has been because of this location."

It was also clear the pair was much happier being in control of their own business.

"If it's your own business, naturally you'll be there longer and put in more than if you're earning \$20 an hour," Mr Romeril said.

"Part of the reason I've got a business is that I don't work well with people I don't get along with, and when you've got your own business you've got more control of who you surround yourself with," Mr Romeril added.

Dr Bowers agreed, saying: "This space is exactly what I wanted to create ... I'm very, very happy with what we've created here."

Principal at Evolve, the real estate business on Queensbridge St, Gary Cakir is further proof that the report is accurate in Southbank.

He too was happy to be at the helm of a local company and was excited for the financial year ahead.

"With business you've always got to look forward. Throughout, you have to make steps in the right direction," Mr Cakir said.

His senior property executive, Rebecca Murray also pointed out that no matter the size of business, the key is being savvy in the marketplace.

"We look at what our competitors aren't doing, rather than what they are, which I think is vitally important to any small business, no matter the industry," Ms Murray said.



*Phil Romeril and Dr Greg Bowers are happy with their small business 'Melbourne Natural Combined Therapies'*

# Men's shed meeting is first step

*A second and more formal meeting was held by a group of locals last month to discuss and plan for the possibility of a Southbank men's shed.*

It was an historic event, being the first-ever public meeting in the assembly hall at the recently-opened Boyd Library.

The overriding message to come out of the meeting was to be patient, with several guest speakers warning the crowd that any shed will take time.

The Victorian Men's Sheds Association's president Paul Sladdin put it simplest when he said to the group: "It's like that old shampoo commercial. It won't happen over night, but it will happen."

He was the key speaker to the gathering, which also heard from representatives of the Werribee, Melton and Daylesford men's sheds.

Mr Sladdin went on to inform the group that, for a shed to be successful, it must come from the community.

"You as a community need to own it, and you need to drive it," Mr Sladdin urged.

He explained the popularity of the sheds nowadays and said that there were 230

sheds around Victoria and 812 throughout Australia.

"Most sheds have an auspicing body, but the ones that have lasted a long time and have been the most successful are those driven by the community and are owned by the community," Mr Sladdin said.

"There is no point re-inventing the wheel. Utilise the experience of the other sheds, and both the Victorian and Australian men's shed associations. Keep driving it, keep owning it and make sure it happens."





# New year, new direction for symphony orchestra

*The reopening of Hamer Hall is not the only exciting news for the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (MSO), which announced its new chief conductor and principal guest conductor for 2013.*

Sir Andrew Davis (pictured) has been announced as the chief conductor for the upcoming four years, while Diego Matheuz will be the principal guest conductor for the next three years.

On Sir Andrew's appointment, MSO chairman Harold Mitchell said: "From Sir Andrew's first downbeat with the MSO, it was clear that this was a very special relationship."

"It is a privilege to have one of the most widely-admired figures in classical music on the MSO podium and we are looking forward to an extraordinary journey with this inspirational man and musician," Mr Mitchell added.



Comment on this story online:  
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## Letters to the Editor

### Residents group doesn't speak for all residents

*I have noticed recently the numerous complaints from the Southbank Residents Group in relation to the Southbank Structure Plan.*

These complaints relate mostly to "excessive" high-density development and the need for more car parking in Southbank.

I find that its opposition is really only one side of the argument from a select group of highly conservative residents. However, I do not believe this represents the opinion of most Southbank residents and in particular the younger residents of the area.

Southbank is one of the few truly "high density" suburbs in Australia. If you have an issue with the minor downsides, which come with living in an inner city area,

there are an abundance of low-density suburbs throughout Melbourne you can live in. Southbank's high amenity levels (restaurants/entertainment/cafes etc.), excellent transport options and vibrancy can be attributed to the fact there is a high population in the area. Further increases to the population will make it more commercially viable for businesses to open up, more restaurants and achieve the critical mass for a full scale supermarket (indeed I work within the planning industry and this is essentially what one of the big two supermarket chains is waiting for).

More people living in Southbank will increase passive surveillance on the street and contribute to the vibrant "city" feel of the area much like the CBD. Southbank is not a quiet suburban area and people move here because they like inner city living (myself included). The last thing I would want is for Southbank to become another typical low scale, car dependent, boring Australian suburb.

The residents group has called for increased car parking in Southbank to match the increase population. However this merely just encourages more car usage in the area, which is like trying to cure obesity by loosening your belt - it does not cure the cause.

I work as a transport planner/engineer and reducing car parking/road capacity in inner city areas is desirable and in-line with what most progressive cities are doing throughout the world. By making car travel less attractive, people will be discouraged to drive and use sustainable transport options. Southbank is in a prime position to take advantage of these very options. As a resident I find it astonishing anyone even needs a car at all in Southbank. We need less parking, not more in Southbank to make it less car-friendly and more people friendly on the street.

Southbank is not an area to flaunt NIMBY (Not in my back yard) attitudes, and I get the feeling the community opposition comes from a select minority who are focused solely on protecting their property values.

Let's be a bit more open and forward thinking from now on.

James Mahony

*Southbank Resident.*



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# Napoleon: Revolution to Empire

Currently running at The National Gallery of Victoria is the spectacular Melbourne Winter Masterpieces exhibition, *Napoleon: Revolution to Empire*

Through hundreds of priceless treasures, never before seen in Australia, this exhibition brings to life the legend one of history's most extraordinary and complex figures mapping the first French voyages of discovery to Australia during the reign of Louis XV to the end of Napoleon's transforming leadership as first Emperor of France.

This panoramic exhibition features nearly 300 works, examining French art, culture and life from the 1770s to the 1820s and includes objects of breathtaking opulence and luxury - from paintings, drawings, engravings, sculpture, furniture, militaria, textiles, porcelain, gold and silver, fashion and jewellery.

Ted Gott, Senior Curator International Art, NGV said: "World leaders in the Age of Exploration, Napoleon and Josephine were a true power couple- famous and stylish."

"The stunning artworks and objects in this exhibition illustrate their belief that the advancement of knowledge was integral to social order; they welcomed scientists and artists to receptions and dinners where world affairs were reshaped under their rule."

Exclusive to Melbourne, *Napoleon: Revolution to Empire* will only be shown at the National Gallery of Victoria this winter. Open daily from 10am-5pm from 2 June to 7 October 2012 and until 9pm every Wednesday. NGV International, 180 St Kilda Road.



[Comment on this story online: www.southbanklocalnews.com.au](http://www.southbanklocalnews.com.au)

## SOUTHBANK SUDOKU

*This is our first Southbank Suduko puzzle. A variation of Sudoku, but with the letters SOUTHANK replacing the numbers.*

*The rules are the same as regular Sudoku, each line of the must contain the letters 'SOUTHANK' as must each 9-square box.*

*Answers will be revealed in the next edition of the Southbank Local News.*

**Good Luck!**

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





**ST JOHNS  
SOUTHGATE**

***On the face of it, there is not much to link the small church nestled in the heart of Southbank to the ancient European cities of Leipzig and Freiberg and to Boston and New York but step inside some Sunday soon and you are likely to hear the evidence.***

St Johns Southgate is steadily gathering renown for its program of services featuring the magnificent music of JS Bach. What may not be quite so well known are the strong links with the Bach community in Europe and the United States.

The St Johns Visiting Music Director program is testimony to the strength and great value of these links. In the past decade, three church musicians of international standing have been hosted at St Johns, including Georg Christoph Biller the Thomaskantor from Leipzig, Germany – the job held by Bach himself more than 260 years ago. The other visiting directors have been Albrecht Koch, Domkantor from Freiberg, where he is custodian of a precious 1714 Silbermann organ, and Thomas Schmidt, from St Peter's Church in New York City.

Links with Leipzig are particularly strong. Thomanerchor, the famous boys' choir of St Thomas founded in 1212, performed at St Johns under the direction of Georg Christoph Biller, during the choir's visit to Australia in 2009.

The connections have been established and fostered by St Johns director of music Graham Lieschke as part of the St Johns Bach cantata program, which is now in its 15th year.

In 2004, Dr Lieschke's energy and passion for Bach was rewarded with the Dame Roma Mitchell Churchill Fellowship to study church-based presentations of Bach's music overseas. He chose to go to Boston in the United States, where he worked with conductor Craig Smith at Emmanuel Church, and to the Thomaskirche in Leipzig, where he formed a strong relationship with Georg Christoph Biller.

In subsequent visits to Germany, Dr Lieschke has pursued his long-time interest in historic organs and has had the opportunity to play on many, including the

surviving organs of Gottfried Silbermann, grand examples of which are in the Freiberg Dom and the Dresden Hofkirche. He also played on many smaller versions which are similar in size to the Smenge organ in St Johns. Although the Smenge was built only in 1992, it is constructed in the style of organs built in north Germany in the 18th century. Dr Lieschke said the experience had made him aware of how fortunate the community at St Johns was to have such a fine organ.

He has also taken an international approach to other instruments at St Johns, which now has two hand-made oboes da caccia from Sand Dalton in the United States and two new baroque timpani hand-built in Germany.

Dr Lieschke has deservedly won wide recognition for the strength of the St Johns' cantata program, in which about eight cantata services are presented each year and this, in turn, has attracted eminent musicians to take part in the performances.

This is the case with the next cantata, to be presented at the 9am service on July 29. Ich lasse dich nicht, du segnest mich denn (BWV 157), a cantata for two soloists, strings, oboe, flute and continuo will feature the renowned oboist Geoffrey Burgess. The Australian-born Mr Burgess, who is now based in the United States, is with the American Bach Soloists.

However, the connections are local, too, with the cantata program recently involving collaborations with the Choir of Trinity College, University of Melbourne, Consort of Melbourne, Australian Chamber Choir and the Early Music Studio of the University of Melbourne.

All of this makes a visit to a cantata service at St Johns a great experience and a link to a whole world of Bach.



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Gideon receives a \$25 gift voucher from PETstock South Melbourne

## Gideon recovers well

***Gideon looks like any other staffie-cross-Jack-Russell in the park. He's happily got a half-torn tennis ball in his mouth and explores corners of the park most humans don't realise exist.***

It's amazing then that, just two years ago, Gideon underwent surgery to have a knee reconstruction.

On the day *Southbank Local News* caught up with him, Dave, his next-door neighbour, was pet-sitting Gideon.

Dave said Gideon went through some tough rehab but had come out the other end a strong little dog.

"He can't chase the ball the way he used to, but he is strong and still loves playing," Dave said.

As a neighbour, Dave said Gideon was a "legend." He may think he owns the block they live in, but he is very accustomed to living in apartments and rarely barks

while inside.

Dave also shared an interesting story of how Gideon came into the world. Both his parents were show dogs and his father (an opportunistic Jack Russell) didn't let the cage that separated them during a show get in his way while courting Gideon's mother.

Dave reckons his show-dog genes give Gideon a great blood-line. Followers of this column will know it has sometimes struggled to capture these wonderful pets looking at the camera.

Again this was the case with Gideon. But, given he's an 11-year old small dog who's still as lively as ever after a knee reconstruction, I suppose we can forgive him!

**Our Bach cantata service on Sunday 29 July 9am**  
for 2 soloists, chorus, strings, oboe, flute and continuo  
features Robert Macfarlane (tenor) and Jerzy Joslowski (bass)

**Regular Sunday Service Times**  
9am Traditional, Liturgical worship  
11am Informal, Liturgical worship  
7pm Sunday Night at St Johns  
Informal, Contemporary worship

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# SOUTHBANK RESIDENTS GROUP WITH ALLAN PHILLIPS

## More kids, but still no school

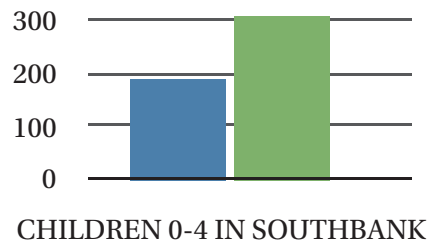
*Families in Southbank are worried and angry that there is no school here for their children.*

New 2011 Census data shows a large increase in the number of children living in Southbank.

Southern Metropolitan MLCs Andrea Coote and George Crozier recently wrote to residents asking for views on the provision of government primary and secondary schools in the inner city.

"Parents are right to demand access to the best public education close to home whereby children can walk or ride to school with confidence," Ms Coote wrote. Yet the Victorian Government feasibility studies looking at the provision of new schools ignores Southbank.

There has been a 67 per cent increase in the number of children aged 0-4 from 2006 to 2011. It is not just pre-school ages that have increased, 10-14 year-olds increased by 31 per cent and the 0-14 year-olds increased by 40.8 per cent.



These increases are of great concern to families. With Southbank's zoned school of Port Melbourne Primary School already feeling the effects of overcrowding, where will all these new children go to school? There is no school for Southbank children to walk or ride to with confidence.

The reality is that Port Melbourne Primary School's projected numbers are for 784 children in 2015. Clearly the 2011 Census shows that those numbers will be exceeded. So where will Southbank's children go to school?

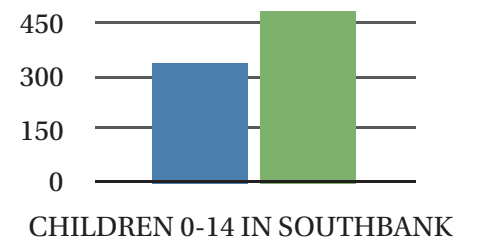
A sharp increase in the birth rate and a cultural change which encourages young families to choose high density housing has led to the increase in the number of children in Southbank.

Planning advice on Fishermans Bend suggests up to seven new schools will be needed for the population of up to 60,000 in the first three stages. With Southbank's population estimated to increase up to 74,000 it is obvious that Southbank needs its own local schools.

Members of the local community have formed the non-political Two Schools Now group, which is supported by the Southbank Residents Group, to campaign for the urgent establishment of two new schools. With Port Melbourne Primary School now seriously overcrowded and children from Southbank zoned out of other schools we need a school in Southbank now.

Two Schools Now and Southbank Residents Group hope all residents will sign the Two Schools Now petition calling on the Government to develop two local schools. It is now time for the Government to take decisive action on this matter.

Go to [www.facebook.com/TwoSchoolsNow](http://www.facebook.com/TwoSchoolsNow) and [www.facebook.com/SouthbankResidentsGroup](http://www.facebook.com/SouthbankResidentsGroup)




# ON THE BOX

with Korey Fernando

## Keep it simple, stupid!

*I'll be honest. I'm not a big fan of change.*

When something works, I like it to be left the way it is and for the most part, I'm not alone; television audiences are the same.

Once a program has a winning format, it can continue for as long as people will watch it - *A Country Practice*, *Home & Away* and more recently *MasterChef* and *The Block* spring to mind straight away. These programs have sustained, devoted followings throughout their history (despite their sometimes-questionable quality) by winning a dedicated fan base.

That said, there was little insight into Network Ten's decision to cut its long-running *Late News* format (and end Sandra Sully's 16-year run at the helm) late last year

at the time of its demise. Until now.

Ten's *Late News* mysteriously re-appeared last month in a "re-booted" format. There are now two new, younger and fresher anchors who spend time strategically placed at different points of the newsroom, constantly crossing to one-another, inducing a kind of seasickness in the viewer. Instead of the straight-forward style that made the old format popular (and watchable) this newer, flashier *Late News* program features multiple cutaways to giant view-screens, showcasing a more dynamic and fresh way to represent the Newspann ratings. The largest and most infuriating change comes with the addition of a nightly musical guest who not only

performs but also stays on for a brief and painful panel discussion.

This fresh take on the news is nothing new for Network Ten and it is no secret that this is an effort to jazz-up the format to mimic its other news/entertainment hybrid *The Project*. One key reason that this falls short lies solely with the fact that the hosts aren't comedians and so the arrangement is still sterile and bland despite the shiny new presentation.

The news side of things is exactly the same and there is no effort to add humour or discussion and this is one of the only redeeming factors of the new format.

Another notable highlight is that Brad McEwan returns to present sport and add personality to an otherwise inexperienced and beige panel.

Ten's *Late News* worked perfectly as straightforward news program. Adding things like tricky camera angles and a musical performance by a low-end musician (Shannon Noll was on last week) just makes the overall product confusing and downright annoying to watch. The news doesn't have to masquerade as anything but the news - and Ten's *Late News* is a clear example of what happens when you try to please too many people.



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# SOUTHBANK FASHION



## Fashion on the streets of Southbank

### Rose, 22

#### LOCATION?

Southwarf

#### WEARS?

A vintage dress and jacket and a mens t-shirt.

#### DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE?

Streamlined and edgy.

#### WHAT BRINGS YOU TO SOUTHBANK?

Shopping with girlfriends.

#### WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

St Kilda.

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

My cherry red Sass & Bide jumper.

#### WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT?

Dress to suit your personality.

### Victoria, 21

#### LOCATION?

Southwarf

#### WEARS?

Sass & Bide Jeans, an Asos top, Acne boots, a Louis Vuitton bag and a scarf I knitted myself.

#### DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE?

Contemporary and clean.

#### WHAT BRINGS YOU TO SOUTHBANK?

I'm here shopping with my friends.

#### WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

Caulfield.

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

These Acne Pistol boots.

#### WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT?

Investing in high quality key items.

### Amanda, 22

#### LOCATION?

Southwarf

#### WEARS?

A mens jumper, vintage bag, Topshop pants and Converse sneakers.

#### DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE?

Relaxed and interesting.

#### WHAT BRINGS YOU TO SOUTHBANK?

Lunch and shopping with my ladies.

#### WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

Caulfield.

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

My gold Ellery skirt.

#### WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT?

Building an outfit around one key piece.

## Stylish saving

By Samantha Goss

*Mid-year is a time where one is often a wee bit frugal.*

Reluctant to spend money on luxuries like new clothes and accessories? Until that miraculous gift from the Gods is deposited into your account in the form of a tax return, here are a few helpful hints to remain stylish and well heeled whilst saving for whatever island getaway you have planned for summer.

Melbourne is a wonderful city full of even more wonderful gems like DFO, the one in our very own Southwarf being a brilliant place to pick up a bargain. Stores including Mossman, Toni Bianco and Tigerlily will help you adorn yourself with dashing pieces for nifty prices.

With DFO's popping up all over the state, there really is no reason to shop full price round the clock when you can pick up a pair of \$40 Toni Bianco shoes and put the money you saved towards your plane fare or whatever tickles your fancy (i.e. more clothes).

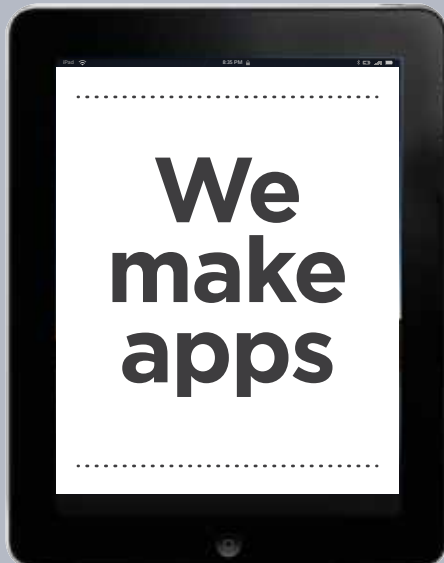
There are a lot of sneaky ways to obtain clothes at reduced prices in Melbourne if you do a bit of research. Chain stores including Bardot have warehouses in Abbotsford selling old and slightly faulty stock for as little as \$5.

Merely 'liking' the Facebook page of some of your favorite designers can alert you to their Top Secret sample sales where you can pick up bargains like Friend Of Mine boots for 70% off. Join all the mailing lists and follow all the instagram's your fingers can manage, as they are the best way to keep informed about sales, promotions and discounts.

Another thrifty solution is to sell the clothes that are gathering dust at the back of your closet in order to make some extra funds outside your day job. Sell your old horrors on EBay, Etsy or at a good old fashion market.

It is all but guaranteed that there is some strange little person out in the realms of the Internet who is hyperventilating over your PVC platform leather boots from your Goth phase in the 90s. Etsy is becoming a fashion favorite to score up-and-coming designers and one-off vintage pieces, as it's a great place to score one-of-a-kind items.

Lastly, Melbourne's Camberwell Rotary Market is an easy way to sell your out of date items and one of the most interesting places to pick a new bargain, spending the money you just earned selling your clothes. It's the sartorial circle of life.



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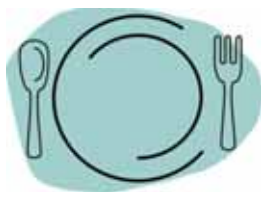
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# FLAVOURS OF SOUTHBANK

THE BEST PLACES TO MEET AND EAT. TO BE PROFILED IN THIS SECTION, EMAIL [GREG@SOUTHBANKLOCALNEWS.COM.AU](mailto:greg@southbanklocalnews.com.au)

## Fan fare for the Common Man

*It's always smart to eat where the locals eat, I say.*

You won't be on your Pat Malone when you dine with the common people in the Common Man bar and restaurant at South Wharf, Southbank.

Manager (and actor in between roles) Dave Carroll wants the Common Man to appeal to breakfast, lunch and dinner patrons from all walks of life.

"Local residents and workers keep coming back," Dave says.

"We want you to feel like you are at home. Whether you sit down with a latte and use the free wi-fi or are part of a huge group, you still get the same good service. We have many regulars and that is snowballing – regulars attract more people. We like getting 'slammed,' we just roll with it."

The menu reflects this common approach ... \$12 curries on Happy Mondays, \$9 pizzas on Tigh Arse Tuesdays, the \$20 parma-and-a-

pint on Wednesdays, and so on.

"What we are all about is providing affordable food and drink all day and night," Dave says.

"Everyone is under the pump with cash these days, so we try to appeal with price and variety.

"We offer a different pie each day, and a different parma of the week."

Head chef Trev Baker is, of course, a handy baker, and if demand is anything to go by, his best work are the prawn cakes.

Baker, formerly of The World restaurant just up the promenade at Southgate, is tight-lipped about the secret ingredient of said prawn cakes: "Let's just say it's love."

But there's no secret about what goes into the most popular drink, the Growler: two litres of Thunder Road bitter beer, from Brunswick. And they are just 20 bucks on Saturday nights.

"The Tin Shed All Day Rose (Barossa Valley, SA) fits in with our theme of all-day food and drink," Dave says.

Busiest times are Friday afternoons, and "lunchtime draws office workers from across the Yarra at ANZ and Myer in Docklands, and Yarra's Edge. Workers in DFO, ANL and

Kraft are loyal lunch customers," he says.

"And we babysit hubby while the wife or girlfriend is shopping in DFO. We are fortunate to have the South Wharf Hilton nearby, because the hotel will often send guests to us."

Weekends rock at South Wharf, and Dave sees the precinct only becoming busier.

"We fill up for Saturday and Sunday breakfast and lunch," he says.

"We opened only in mid December and already we are seeing a lot more foot traffic."

Dave says the Melbourne Food & Wine Festival in March took the South Wharf cuisine precinct to a new level.

"The Food & Wine Festival was our first big exposure to an external crowd," he says.

"We have been seeing a lot of new faces coming here following the festival."

Dave's first big gig in hospitality was managing the Chelsea Heights Hotel (famous for its over 28s club) when he was 20, and has had acting stints on TV series Neighbours and Satisfaction, and is a regular in advertisements.

The Common Man is at 39 Dukes Walk, South Wharf, call 9696 3774 or visit [www.thecommonman.com.au](http://www.thecommonman.com.au)



Manager Dave Carroll and a big, cold 2-litre Growler in the Common Man bar and restaurant at South Wharf.

# Businesses in Southbank

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Colin Linke, a partner at Bentley Partners, which acquired Tax Aid last year, focuses on business strategy. But he is surrounded by agents, who are doing local residents' and workers' tax returns.

"We specialise in strategy, starting from doing basic tax returns through to full-on company structuring," Mr Linke says.

"The biggest part of our practice is looking after businesses – from start-up right through to multi-nationals."

Mr Linke re-iterates the practice's website message: "With the already proven skills of the existing Bentley Partners team we are excited to add the deep taxation experience of the Tax Aid team. The combined business can now offer you every form of tax return, tax planning and ATO compliance requirement."

Mr Linke, who grew up in Melbourne's west and studied accountancy at RMIT, says Tax Aid's tax agents are flat out at this time of year, doing returns for clients but will always accommodate new clients.

He says the tax laws change every year.

"The government is not giving as much money back this financial year, which is even more reason to see a tax specialist such as us," Mr Linke says.

"We are local, conveniently located on Bourke St, near Etihad Stadium, and we are not expensive."

Mr Linke says Tax Aid "rolls out a whole communications strategy each year to keep our clients updated."

"Our tax agents have an average of 20 years experience in doing tax returns."

They can also help you with trusts, superannuation funds, rental properties, overseas income, pension implications and annuity management.

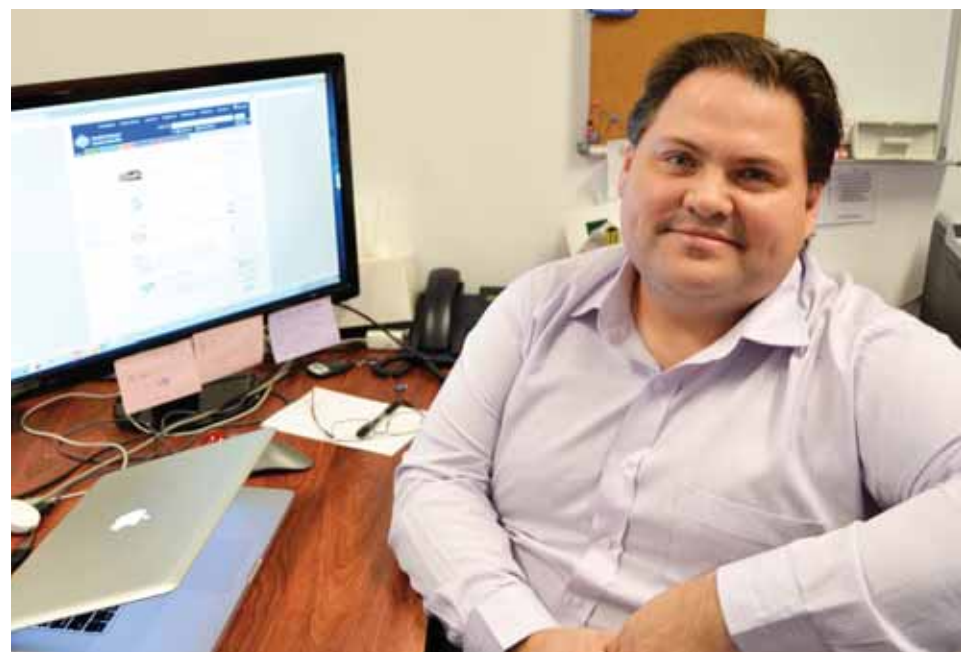
As their website emphasises, it pays to organise your tax at the start of any investment.

"All your investments need to be viewed from a tax angle also. So before you start buying, selling, altering any of your investments give us a call, let's do the tax planning upfront."

"Trying to adjust investments or divestments after the fact can be extremely complex and

costly when you consider the tax."

Tax Aid is at 744 Bourke St, Docklands. Call 9600 1100, email [info@bentleypartners.com.au](mailto:info@bentleypartners.com.au) or visit [www.taxaid.com.au](http://www.taxaid.com.au)



Bentley Partners' strategy specialist Colin Linke at their Tax Aid office in Docklands.



# SOUTHBANK COMMUNITY CALENDAR



<p><b>ST JOHNS SOUTHGATE SUNDAY WORSHIP</b>  <b>Every Sunday</b>  <i>St Johns Southgate, 20 City Road</i>                  9am - Traditional liturgical worship.                  11am - Informal liturgical worship.                  7pm - Informal contemporary worship.  <a href="http://www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au">www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au</a></p>	<p><b>HELICOPTER</b>  <b>August 2 - 17</b>  <i>Melbourne Theatre Company, 140 Southbank Boulevard</i>                  Following a sell-out season and rave reviews for <i>The Dark Room</i> in Sydney, comes award-winning playwright Angela Betzien's latest work. This dark suburban satire is so familiar, it's scary.</p>	<p><b>PUNCH BROTHERS</b>  <b>August 6, 7.30pm - 10pm</b>  <i>Melbourne Recital Centre, 31 Sturt Street</i>                  One of the most exhilarating bands to come out of New York in recent years, Punch Brothers explains their music as, 'that of a bluegrass band, but our influences range from Radiohead and Wilco to Bach and Bill Monroe.'</p>	
<p><b>CHRISTINE BREWER</b>  <b>August 1, 7:30pm - 9:30pm</b>  <i>Melbourne Recital Centre, 31 Sturt Street</i>                  Christine Brewer is the consummate singing actress - with a double career as operatic star and recitalist, she can command an audience of thousands or just a lucky few with a voice that has been described as 'a sound like molten gold.'</p>	<p><b>FIRST FRIDAY DANCE CLUB</b>  <b>May 4 - December 7, 6.00pm - 8.00pm</b>  <i>Queensbridge Square, 1A Queens Bridge Street Southbank</i>                  Starting on Friday 4 May, the first Friday of every month will see Queensbridge Square transformed into a place for people to come together to dance.</p>	<p><b>IMPROVE YOUR SUNDAY WELLBEING</b>  <b>10am, Sunday</b>  <i>St Michael's, corner Collins and Russell St</i>                  On foot or on wheels. On bike or on tram. On your own or en masse - hear Dr Francis Macnab talk about the wellbeing of a New Faith that has many Old Faith religions protesting on and on.  <a href="http://www.stmichaels.org.au">www.stmichaels.org.au</a></p>	<p><b>MSO - MOZART SERENADE</b>  <b>August 2 - 4</b>  <i>Melbourne Recital Centre, 31 Sturt Street</i>                  A program of Mozart rarities presents an opportunity to bask in the master composer's classical purity. Conductor Reinhard Goebel is one of the most brilliant and insightful exponents of early music in the world today.</p>
<p><b>ARTS CENTRE SUNDAY MARKET</b>  <b>Sundays, 10am-4pm</b>  <i>Arts Centre, 100 St Kilda Road</i>                  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:  <a href="http://www.theartscentre.com.au">www.theartscentre.com.au</a></p>	<p><b>CHUNKY MOVE DANCE CLASSES</b>  <b>Mondays to Thursdays 6.30pm-8pm, Saturdays 10am-1.15pm</b>  <i>111 Sturt Street</i>                  Chunky Move dance classes are the perfect way to unwind, get fit and improve flexibility and strength. For more info:  <a href="http://www.chunkymove.com">www.chunkymove.com</a></p>	<p><b>TASTE OF SOUTHGATE: PROGRESSIVE DINNERS</b>  <b>August 8</b>  <i>Southgate, 3 Southgate Avenue</i>                  Back by popular demand, Southgate's Progressive Dinners allow you to enjoy three delectably different courses at three different restaurants, all under one roof.  <a href="http://www.celebratesouthgate.com.au">www.celebratesouthgate.com.au</a></p>	<p><b>A VOICE FOR OUR TIME</b>  <b>August 3, 7pm - 8:30pm</b>  <i>Melbourne Recital Centre, 31 Sturt Street</i>                  This Manins and Gould performance at Melbourne Recital Centre features Gian Slater, one of Australia's most gifted singers.  <a href="http://www.melbournerecital.com.au">www.melbournerecital.com.au</a></p>
	<p><b>FREE TAI CHI IN SOUTHBANK</b>  <b>Every Friday, 8am - 9am</b>  <i>Queensbridge Square</i>                  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.</p>	<p><b>RE-OPENING OF HAMER HALL</b>  <b>July 26-29</b>                  Huge celebratory concert featuring k.d lang and Archie Roach among others. Plenty of other activities taking place in and around the Arts centre, check <a href="http://www.artscentre.com.au">www.artscentre.com.au</a> or phone <b>1300 182 183</b></p>	<p><b>ST JOHNS SOUTHGATE SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>  <b>Every Sunday, 10.30am - 11.15am</b>  <i>St Johns Southgate, 20 City Road</i>                  Children 3-11 years welcome. Not available during school holidays. St Johns also runs a playgroup every Tuesday from 10am - 12pm.  <a href="http://www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au">www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au</a></p>
<p><b>ST JOHNS SOUTHGATE MIDWEEK EVENTS</b>  <b>Second Wednesday of the month</b>  <i>St Johns Southgate, 20 City Road</i>                  Friendship group - Brief Chapel service at 12 noon, followed by lunch at 12.30pm in the Function room. Interesting speakers and a great chance to make new friends.  <a href="http://www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au">www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au</a></p>	<p><b>TOP GIRLS</b>  <b>August 25 - September 29</b>  <i>Melbourne Theatre Company, 140 Southbank Boulevard</i>                  Dancing through history, Caryl Churchill's timeless masterpiece <i>Top Girls</i> asks all the difficult questions about women, career and corporate culture.  <a href="http://www.mtc.com.au">www.mtc.com.au</a></p>	<p><b>MASTER PETER'S PUPPET SHOW AND WHAT NEXT?</b>  <b>August 15 - 22</b>  <i>Melbourne Recital Centre, 31 Sturt Street</i>                  Based on an episode from <i>Don Quixote</i>, Victorian Opera, in collaboration with Black Hole Theatre takes the concept of a show within a show one step further.  <a href="http://www.melbournerecital.com.au">www.melbournerecital.com.au</a></p>	<p><b>MELBOURNE SUNRISE PROBUS CLUB</b>  <b>First Thursday of the month, 10.00am</b>  <i>Wharf Hotel, Siddeley St</i>                  Probus clubs cater for the needs of men and women over 50. Keep your mind active and meet new friends while enjoying a range of activities.  <b>9600 1628 or carolbergcb@gmail.com</b></p>
<p><b>THE IMPERIAL ICE STARS: NUTCRACKER ON ICE</b>  <b>July 25 - 29</b>  <i>State Theatre, 100 St Kilda Road</i>                  The world's premier theatrical ice skating company, The Imperial Ice Stars, make their return to Australia next winter with a new production of 'The Nutcracker on Ice'.  <a href="http://www.theartscentre.com.au">www.theartscentre.com.au</a></p>	<p><b>MELBOURNE NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS</b>  <b>Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6pm-8pm</b>  <i>3 Southbank Promenade</i>                  This night photography class runs in Melbourne's city centre and has all the night photography tips you'll ever need. For more info:  <a href="http://www.pennykouloulas.com">www.pennykouloulas.com</a></p>		<p><b>QUEEN LEAR</b>  <b>July 7 - August 18</b>  <i>Melbourne Theatre Company, 140 Southbank Boulevard</i>                  In this version of Shakespeare's darkest tragedy, Robyn Nevin plays Lear, opening a powerful perspective on a story that can still shake our humanity to its roots.  <a href="http://www.mtc.com.au">www.mtc.com.au</a></p>
	<p><b>HIS GIRL FRIDAY</b>  <b>August 11 - September 15</b>  <i>Playhouse, 100 St Kilda Road</i>                  Hecht and MacArthur's sly, cynical satire of tabloid journalism 'The Front Page' was never better filmed than as the 1930s classic 'His Girl Friday'.  <a href="http://www.theartscentre.com.au">www.theartscentre.com.au</a></p>	<p><b>QATSI TRILOGY</b>  <b>July 31 - August 2</b>  <i>Hamer Hall, 100 St Kilda Road</i>                  Performed by the legendary Philip Glass with The Philip Glass Ensemble and conducted by Michael Riesman, these performances are a unique synthesis of music concert and film event.  <a href="http://www.theartscentre.com.au">www.theartscentre.com.au</a></p>	<p><b>THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO</b>  <b>July 7 - August 18</b>  <i>Arts Centre, 100 St Kilda Road</i>                  Victorian Opera's new production reunites the team who brought you 'The Magic Flute' and 'Don Giovanni', with Richard Gill conducting and Jean-Pierre Mignon directing an acclaimed ensemble cast.  <a href="http://www.victorianopera.com.au">www.victorianopera.com.au</a></p>



# FACES OF SOUTHBANK



**ALYSSA NEWTON, 30**  
Pharmacist, Freshwater Place Pharmacy

Alyssa started working at Freshwater Place Pharmacy 18 months ago and the highlight of Southbank for her is the cafés with great food. Her favourite place in Southbank is Freshwater Place, the building where she works. Alyssa said she enjoyed the excitement and variety of people who passed through the area.



**RANJIT SHRESTHA, 25**  
Chef, La Camera Southgate

Ranjit joined La Camera two years ago after completing a cookery course. His favourite part of his job is making the pizzas. Ranjit enjoys taking walks along Southbank during his breaks. To Ranjit, the area along the waterfront is his favourite part of Southbank.



**BONNIE CHIVERS, 21**  
Retail assistant, Sunglasses Hut Crown Complex

After working one and a half years at Sunglasses Hut, Bonnie is still not sick of the Southbank scenery. Bonnie said she still enjoyed taking photos of the scenery. She loves to sit by the waterfront and enjoy her packed lunches. To Bonnie, lunch hour is never dull because of all the buskers along Southbank.



**ASNOL ALWI, 37**  
Visitor from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Only visiting for a week, Asnol's plan for his third day in Melbourne was visiting the Eureka Skydeck. To Asnol, Southbank is everything he has expected and more. He said he loved the idea of having a meal in one of the many cafés along the river. According to Asnol, the presence of street performers and buskers livens up the place, and he enjoys the atmosphere by the river.



**HANIF JAMIL, 35**  
Hairdresser at Rare Earth Hair in Prahran

Hanif comes down to Southbank on his day off to take his friend, who is visiting, around the city. He has been living in Melbourne since 1998. To Hanif, the promenade and restaurants are his favourite part of Southbank. Hanif said Southbank had a beautiful nightlight and he enjoyed hanging with his friends in one of the bars after work.



**NATASHA GROVER, 22**  
Front of House, The Meat & Wine Co.

Natasha started at the Meat & Wine Co two and a half years ago after her friend's recommendation. To Natasha, the people, city and atmosphere is what she loves most about working in Southbank. Having come to Melbourne from north India in 2008, landing her first job in Southbank is what she considers a blessing.

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