

The voice of Southbank

SOUTHBANK Local NEWS

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New tower to dwarf Eureka

A residential tower proposal is being finalised for Southbank that, if built, would become the tallest building in Melbourne.

As the name suggests Australia 108 will be 108 storeys or 388m high and is being designed by the same architects responsible for Eureka Tower, Fender Katsalidis.

That makes it 91 metres higher than Eureka, the tallest building in the Southern hemisphere and the 18th tallest building in the world.

It is planned for 70 Southbank Boulevard. In 2010 a smaller building was approved for the site but developers backed away from the plans.

Fender Katsalidis CEO Nonda Katsalidis said Australia 108 was a chance for Southbank and Melbourne to create an iconic venue, recognisable the world over.

"There has been talk and concern over the buildings on City Rd all being the same height. Tall buildings become the focus – just look at Eureka," Mr Katsalidis said.

The building is planned to have a similar number of residents to Eureka tower, with an additional 20-storey hotel at the top.

Mr Katsalidis also said that his firm were keeping in mind street level in the design of Australia 108.

"The more people that live in the area, the better the area will get at street level. It will help fill the restaurants, bars and cafes, ensuring the street level is activated. Southbank is so well located, it can certainly take more people," he said.

President of the Southbank Residents Group, Michael Smolders told *Southbank*

Local News he was wary of forming a view before seeing the detailed plan of the tower. However, he said: "Based on the images reported recently in the media, it's a building that is certainly very tall and appears to be of visual interest."

"The key impact will be on the separation distance of this tower from neighbouring towers, some of which are only now being constructed. The separation will have a direct impact on the amenity and liveability of both this tower and its immediate neighbour," Mr Smolders added.

He also stressed that residents were well aware of Southbank's status as a capital city zone and said that, as such, the building would fit into the area. But, he said, it did raise a few questions.

"Will it be adequately supported by ground floor infrastructure?" Mr Smolders asked.

"What additional traffic loads will the development place on City Rd as a result and what does this mean to average journey times?" he added.

"Are habitable rooms going to be set back 24m from neighbouring towers?"

Once the plans are finalised, because the tower is well over the 25,000 square metre threshold, it will bypass the City of Melbourne and be sent directly to Planning Minister Matthew Guy for approval.



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Tel: 8689 7980 Fax: 9602 2929
www.southbanklocalnews.com.au

Editor: Sean Rogasch

Tel: 8689 7980 Fax: 9602 2929
advertising@southbanklocalnews.com.au

Reader contributions are welcome.
Please send articles and images to
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Deadline for the January edition is Jan 10.

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UnBeelievable buzz at Fed Square

If you've been hearing a buzzing coming from somewhere, you can rest easy, it's coming from the rooftop of Federation Square.

Rooftop Honey, a project by Mat Lumalasi and Vanessa Kwiatkowski, installs and nurtures beekeeping stations and has recently set up on the roof of one of Melbourne's most iconic buildings.

The pair said they thought Fed Square was an ideal location when they decided they wanted to do something in the city.

"It is an amazing central location in the CBD, with close proximity to the Botanic Gardens," the couple told *Southbank Local News*.

Initially set up for 12 months, the plan is to provide honey to local restaurants around Fed Square, including Taxi, Riverland Café and Transport.

But that doesn't mean you won't be able to get your hands on some honey yourself, as Vanessa assured: "The excess honey will be sold to the local city community."

Depending on the success of the program, Vanessa and Mat are hopeful the installation can remain on the roof on a more permanent basis.

For more information head to the Rooftop Honey website www.rooftophoney.com.au



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Doyle returns to lead City

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle and deputy Lord Mayor Susan Riley were emphatically returned to office during last month's City of Melbourne elections.

The leadership team was re-joined by returning councillors Cr Kevin Louey, Cr Cathy Oke, Cr Ken Ong and Cr Jackie Watts.

New faces on the council are Cr Stephen Mayne, Cr Rohan Leppert, Cr Arron Wood, Cr Beverly Pinder-Mortimer and Cr Richard Foster

The Lord Mayor was returned with 40.76 per cent of the first preference vote and after preferences had 52.42 per cent of the vote, well clear of Alison Parks (25.07 per cent) and Gary Singer (22.51 per cent).

New council, new approach

As reported, the City of Melbourne has a new council and councillors have expressed their desire to provide Southbank residents with a louder voice when it comes to planning decisions.

Councillor Jackie Watts told *Southbank Local News* she was confident a greater commitment to transparency and disclosure was going to be advantageous to the Southbank community.

"More information flow from the City of Melbourne will empower Southbank residents and ratepayers, hopefully allowing them to be in a stronger position to debate issues of concern and influence decision making," Cr Watts said.

"I hope that the new council might become a more effective advocate on behalf of Southbank residents, particularly with State Government which, as a consequence of tower developments, has too much control and not enough regard for liveability."

Newly-elected councillor Rohan Leppert and his Greens counterpart, returning councillor Cathy Oke, agreed that the council needed

to lift its game when providing residents with an outlet to voice community concerns.

"Southbank residents are right to be concerned with how planning and future growth is managed and we see a need to return the right of appeal to residents by either removing the Planning Minister's veto over large developments or through a review of the appeals rights in the capital city zone," the Greens councillors told *Southbank Local News*.

"In the interim, large-scale developments without appeal rights could be automatically called into council to allow residents the opportunity to voice any concerns or support," they added.

Councillors were also keen to proclaim Southbank as a success story for urban renewal.

Cr Arron Wood said Southbank was a good news story for urban renewal and an exciting precinct.

"I support the Southbank Plan in taking a long-term view of planning for growth in this vibrant part of the city and I understand residents have concerns about growing pains in the precinct," Cr Wood said.

He also said there were issues he and the council would need to address open space in the area as well as sound traffic management.

"City Rd, in particular, is an extremely busy thoroughfare that impacts on the amenity for residents and I think an east-west public transport link could help to ease some of this congestion," Cr Wood said.

Re-elected planning chair Ken Ong said the rising population of Southbank must be

managed carefully, with open spaces and community facilities at the forefront of the council's mind.

"With the Southbank Structure Plan that has been developed by council, it is hoped that the Planning Minister (Matthew Guy) will support council's position to ensure liveability in Southbank," Cr Ong said.

Cr Kevin Louey agreed with his contemporary, saying his vision was to: "Protect the uniqueness of Southbank whilst enhancing the amenities of the area and planning for sustainable growth."

"It is important that planning decisions are made which take into consideration all of the competing needs of the area," Cr Louey added.

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90,000 Southbank population claim

A seemingly incorrect government population calculation for Southbank has clouded the release of Planning Minister Matthew Guy's 'Melbourne, Let's Talk About the Future' discussion paper.

In the paper, which was released in October, Southbank is being advised its population could reach more than 90,000 residents in the next 30 years.

Places Victoria, formally VicUrban, supplied the data, which states an increase of 80,000 residents between now and 2040.

Places Victoria says it got the number from the City of Melbourne's 2010 Southbank Structure Plan.

It also told *Southbank Local News* that the numbers are a population capacity, not a forecast.

But not only was the population prediction in the Southbank Structure Plan 74,000 (some 16,000 less than the new figure) the council has also now taken the prediction out of its Amendment C171.

Southbank residents will be hoping the discussion paper is just that and, at the meetings held during November (the final meeting was held on the day *Southbank Local News* went to print), the Planning Minister was interested in the view of locals about population.

Mr Guy said the discussion paper was for all Melburnians to comment on and he hoped the paper got us thinking about the future of the city.

"The release of the first discussion paper will

encourage Melburnians to again be a part of this process and will hopefully challenge the way we think about our state's capital city and how it will grow in the future," Mr Guy said.

"In getting on with developing a new metropolitan planning strategy, which will guide the growth of Melbourne over the next 40 years, there must be significant community consultation," he added.

The discussion paper also covers the addition of urban renewal areas within the capital city zone, such as Fisherman's Bend and E-Gate, to add to the renewal already taking place in Southbank and Docklands.

It also wants to hear from locals about how these new residential areas will be able to create and harbour a strong community.

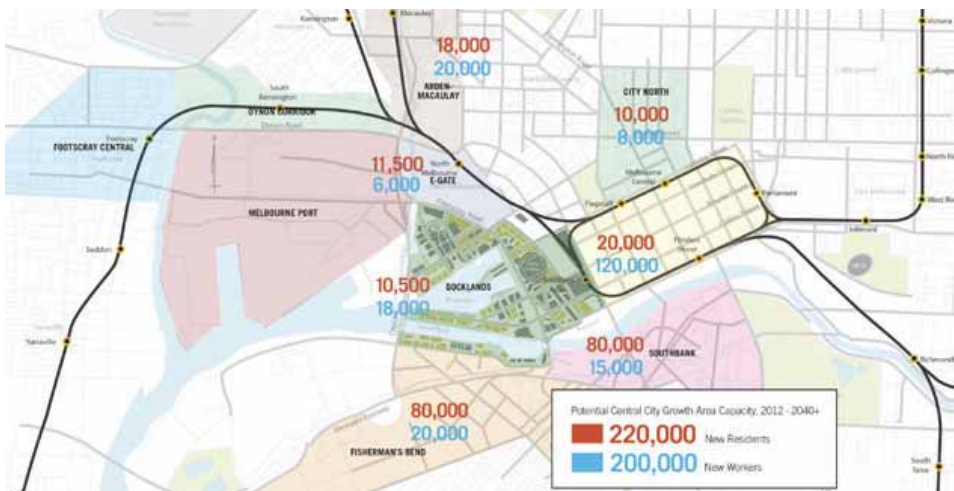
The discussion paper was put together by the expert Ministerial Advisory Committee (MAC) and its chair, Professor Roz Hansen hoped to inspire debate about the future of the city.

"It will be important that the new metropolitan planning strategy has a clear implementation plan that can be delivered by this and successive governments," Professor Hansen said.

The public is encouraged to make submissions to the discussion paper and can do so until next March.



Above: Matthew Guy. Below: Map from the report, stating Southbank's population could increase by 80,000 by 2040.



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NGV director Tony Ellwood will address the breakfast.

NBN comes to Southbank ... for some

Some Southbank residents are to be connected to the National Broadband Network (NBN) within the next year.

Residents of the yet-to-be-completed Guilfoyle, Tiara Apartments and Guild Apartments will be connected to the service years before people living in existing towers.

NBN Co is connecting all new towers approved after January 1, 2011 while there are no plans on the horizon to connect other residents.

NBN Co says it is connecting what it calls "greenfields" sites as soon as they come on stream. Existing towers, known as "brownfields" sites have to wait for the general fibre optic rollout.

This is despite a spokesperson from the NBN Co confirming to *Southbank Local News* that it is much easier to connect brownfields sites when there is a cluster of greenfields buildings among them, as there is in Southbank.

"While we appreciate the importance of broadband to the Southbank community – particularly those living in existing developments – we have a responsibility to rollout the NBN in accordance with a number of engineering and design principles to ensure it is delivered as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible," media relations advisor Edwina Hinchliffe said.

Southbank residents within brownfields areas are keen to lobby the Government and the NBN Co to get the broadband network connected sooner rather than later.

Residents in The Clarendon, on Haig St, have taken the initiative of paying for the internal communications infrastructure to be installed themselves, through owners corporation fees.

Carlos Zeccola is a resident at the forefront of the issue and wants to encourage all Southbank residents to lobby for the connection of the high-speed internet system.

He described the NBN as: "A vital piece of infrastructure, it's full potential is yet to be discovered."

"The area is going to be littered with the NBN anyway, through the greenfields, so it will be cost effective to get it fully across Southbank. Through my discussions with residents there has been a very supportive reaction from the community around lobbying for it," Mr Zeccola explained.

Mr Zeccola said some of the reasons Southbank should be connected included its high density and resulting economies of

scale and the fact that many buildings in the area had poor TV reception for which NBN would provide an alternative pathway.

He also said that, put simply, Southbank doesn't have much public space or other amenities and deserves some attention.

"The NBN would attract business to the area and help fill some of the empty frontages creating a more engaging street level," he said.

The next round of NBN rollouts will be announced in March.



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YRBA breakfast function

The Yarra River Business Association (YRBA) is holding a breakfast networking opportunity at the Arts Centre on November 28, its final function for the year.

The event is in the ANZ Pavilion and the guest speaker is National Gallery of Victoria director Tony Ellwood.

YRBA executive officer Tim Bracher said it would be great for local businesses to hear from the NGV.

"The National Gallery plays a major role in generating spin-off business for the precinct, so the gallery's plans and marketing direction should be of interest to local businesses, whether you're a major restaurant or small café," Mr Bracher said.

"The annual business breakfast is the precinct community's major get-together and networking event – sort of like a family reunion!"



Carlos Zeccola hopes to be connected to the NBN sooner rather than later

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Communication is key for new SRG

The Southbank Residents Group has officially undergone a changing of the guard, after a new president and vice-president were elected at last month's annual general meeting.

New president Michael Smolders is a relative newcomer to Southbank, but is now in love with the area, while new vice-president Barry Janes has lived here for several years.

Living in Freshwater Place has exposed Mr Smolders to the politics and protests of the controversial Queensbridge Tower and he said he had caught the bug and was passionate about ensuring Southbank residents got a fair go in all future decisions in the suburb.

He said he was well aware of Southbank capital city zoning and was certainly not against development. He said he just wanted residents to be able to have a say in the process.

“We want to see more engagement with the state, we’d like to see more consultation before the minister approves C171,” Mr Smolders said.

He said there had been times when planning decisions were made without consulting residents and knew how important it was that residents were across issues that would affect their living arrangements.

“The only aspect of the DPCD’s (Department of Planning, Community and Development) name it takes any notice of is the D –



SRG Vice-President Barry Janes (left) with President Michael Smolders (right)

Development. It seems to be to the exclusion of how anything else needs to be done,” he said.

“For me, what we want to influence comes down to two words – town planning. Whether it be developments, sites for schools, a larger supermarket or improved public transport, it’s all about town planning.”

He said the group would also endeavour to connect with owners corporations from all buildings to canvas the major issues facing Southbank, to ensure it was representing the wider Southbank community.

Mr Janes said both he and Mr Smolders brought skills to the group which would help communicate residents’ needs to the appropriate authorities.

“Our strength is having the capacity to communicate our views to the State Government, opposition and local governments,” Mr Janes said.

“We will be reactive to any resident’s concerns. We really want to build the numbers of the SRG and the best way to do that is by showing progress and that we get the job done,” he added.

Working hard for the money

Congratulations! If you’re reading this then you’re obviously having a break from work and, according to the latest round of census results, that’s a rarity for Southbank residents.

The results, released in October, reveal that Southbank is well and truly above average when it comes to our contribution to the work force.

Some 73.2 per cent of working Southbank residents are employed full time, compared with 59.2 per cent across Victoria. Somewhat peculiarly, despite this, our unemployment rate is also higher than Victoria’s, 5.8 per cent compared with 5.4 per cent.

We also work longer, with 61.8 per cent of Southbank’s workforce working 40 hours or

more per week, compared with 44.9 per cent Victoria-wide.

Further proof that we are hard workers is that of couples, 38.2 per cent are both employed full time – compared with Victoria’s 21 per cent.

In addition only 11.7 per cent of couples don’t work at all, compared to 19 per cent in Victoria.

This statistic backs up previously reported stats from the census that Southbank residents earn almost double the average

wage of the rest of the nation.

Despite our prominent arts precinct, the arts industry doesn’t feature in our most-popular industries. While computer systems design and related services (6.7 per cent) is the most popular industry it is very closely followed by cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services (6.4 per cent) and legal and accounting services (5.8 per cent).

We are also making use of the close proximity to the CBD with our travelling habits. An incredible 33.8 per cent of

residents walk to work. Across Victoria that number is 3.3 per cent.

Only 25.9 per cent travel in cars as the driver, dwarfed by the 61.4 per cent who use that method around Victoria. Trams are also much more popular than trains (16.2 per cent versus 3.7 per cent).

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Fright night at La Camera

Southgate restaurant La Camera was transformed into a house of horrors last month, to celebrate Halloween.

Guests were invited to dress up as they dined in the fitted out restaurant.

Not to be outdone, manager Paul Scidone was roaming the restaurant ensuring no guest left without a fright.

He is pictured here with other staff members scaring (and serving) Amy Winehouse and a princess.

Other guests came as batman, witches, devils and skeletons.

Probably the scariest outfits of the night belonged to the bar staff!

For guests who didn't the memo on dressing up there was face-painting on site, so nobody missed out on the fun.

Thankfully the food on the evening was all treat and no trick.

La Camera continues it's theme nights every month, for more information on these, head to its website www.lacerasouthgate.com

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Southbank directory a guide to the suburb

The Southbank Local News is launching its newest venture, which will be released over summer, the Southbank Directory.

The directory is an A5 booklet, which lists every Southbank based business.

It also includes half and full page displays ads in six different categories - Where to shop, Where to eat and drink, Health, beauty and fitness, Arts and entertainment Where to stay and Community services.

Southbank Local News editor Sean Rogasch said the directory was a great chance to give your business maximum exposure to the local market.

"The directory will be distributed throughout Southbank in the same places as the paper, and additionally we will have copies in hotels in the area as well as Federation Square," Mr Rogasch said.

"We're printing 10,000 copies of the Southbank Directory so it is set to become a must-have guide to the suburb," he added.

"This booklet is going to be a great reference for the 11,500 residents, the 37,000 workers and the endless number of visitors to the region."

He also explained the different options for businesses wanting to be featured in the directory.

"On top of the free listings, businesses are able to feature in half page and full page listings, or premium display ads."

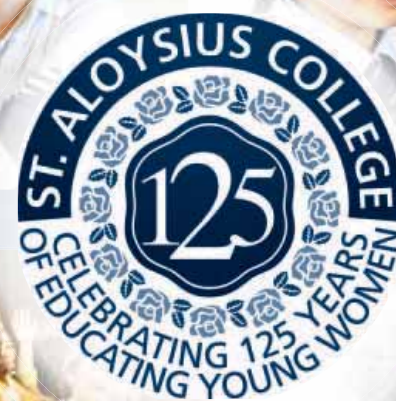
There is still time for businesses to be included in directory. If you are interested call **8689 7980** or email sean@southbanklocalnews.com.au

Southbank Directory

2013



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Southbank 32/79 Whiteman Street
SPACIOUS WITH TERRACE

1 1 1

Private Sale \$430,000

Inspect 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 1

Private Sale \$410,000

Inspect 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

2 1 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 equipped gym and spa pool.

Richard Mindraoui
0437 250 964



Melbourne 3602/288 Spencer Street
NO.1 FOR LOCATION & VIEWS

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

Private Sale \$1,200,000

Inspect 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



Southbank 1402 - 63 Whiteman Street, Southbank

2 BEDROOM WITH A VIEW

2 2 1

Private Sale \$638,000

Inspect By appointment

Ideally situated across the road from Crown this Approx 90 sqm modern apartment offers the discerning buyer the comforts of 2 generous sized bedrooms and master with ensuite and walk in robe. The living area is highlighted by the floor to ceiling windows which opens to a large balcony making it ideal for entertaining. Features: Secure car space, ducted heating, Euro laundry in main bathroom, secure intercom entry, building concierge, communal facilities including heated indoor pool, gymnasium and BBQ terrace.

Richard Mindraoui
0437 250 964



Melbourne 210/505 St Kilda Road
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2 1 1

Private sale \$820,000

Inspect By appointment

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



Melbourne 415/67 Spencer Street
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2 1 -

Private sale \$525,000

Inspect By appointment

Here is your chance to own an apartment amidst the grandeur and sophistication of Melbourne's iconic building. Centrally located and dominating in presence this distinguished heritage building has a two bedroom mezzanine on offer to the discerning buyer. Features include majestic stair case, heated pool and spa, gym, palatial gardens and two BBQ areas. You can enjoy the grand life with an east facing apartment that is approx 75-sqm in size with an open plan style living, two upstairs bedrooms, storage room, and reverse cycle heating.



Docklands 262/55 Victoria Harbour Promenade

WORTH EVERY MILLION

3 3 3

Private sale \$1.8 mil

Inspect By appointment

Imagine yourself living in this luxury two storey sub penthouse on the 26th floor at Dock 5 premier and award winning development. Boasting 3 spacious bedrooms (all with ensuite's) plus study, 2 bathrooms plus additional powder room and an expansive open plan kitchen / dining / living area, surrounded by floor to ceiling windows. This prestige apartment features white marble bench tops, butlers pantry, stone floors, and billiard bar room, storage room and wine cellar. Glenn Donnelly 0419 998 235

50 Lorimer Street, Docklands

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3-peat and record set at Eureka climb

The Eureka climb was run and won last week, with a new record time set and both men's and women's champions in the elite category defending their titles from last year.

Melbourne's Alice McNamara (pictured above with men's winner Mark Bourne) has made the women's elite category her own, winning her third straight event in nine minutes and 51 seconds.

Canberra resident Mark Bourne scaled the 89 storeys in an incredible seven minutes and 59 seconds as he went back-to-back in the elite male category.

It wasn't all serious as many entrants took the opportunity to dress up and compete, with teams from emergency services scaling in full uniform and a team of lizards wriggling up the tower.

The climbs main aim is to raise funds and awareness for charities Interplast and Whitelion.

The total raised was over \$280,000.



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Dragon Boat Victoria WTC Wharf Cup

By Melissa O'Brien

Spectators were treated to a great day of dragon boat racing for the annual WTC Wharf Cup on Sunday, November 18. 11 Victorian clubs competed with a chilly southerly along the river and a rare bend in the racecourse, making for some spectacular racing conditions.

All race events were held over the 200 metre sprint distance, which made for fast and furious action. While a curved racecourse made for some interesting challenges for sweeps who steer these two tonne dragons, it just added to the drama for the crowd that watched.

Perched on the banks of the Yarra River and located in Melbourne's most recently developed waterfront precinct, the WTC Wharf Hotel provided an impressive backdrop for team colours to be displayed along the riverbank. Hotel patrons were able to enjoy a unique style of entertainment from the outdoor deck area.

The origins of Dragon Boat racing dates back over 2000 years, when poet Qu Yuan is believed to have drowned himself in the Mei Lo river to protest against a corrupt government. Legend has it that the town's people raced to the river in their fishing boats and beat the water with paddles to ward off evil spirits and so that the fish would stay away from Qu Yuan's body.

The modern sport of dragon boat racing is the fastest growing in Australia. A dragon boat crew consists of 10-20 paddlers seated in pairs, along with a sweep who steers from the stern of the boat and a drummer who from their position perched on the bow,

beats a drum to the paddlers' strokes. A dragon boat is eight metres long, adorned with a dragon's head and tail for racing and weighs up to 2.5 tonnes when fully loaded.

Dragon Boat Victoria is the governing body for the sport in Victoria, with Melbourne based clubs predominately training from Shed 2, North Wharf Rd, Docklands. During peak season you can see dragon boats training on Victoria Harbour most days. If you're interested in joining a team, check out the website at www.dbvic.com.au

This year the WTC Wharf Hotel perpetual trophy was presented to the Melbourne Flames. Following the presentation, sponsor the Wharf Hotel treated very appreciative paddlers to complimentary drinks.

The next event at the WTC Wharf is the Annual Chinese New Year regatta on February 17, 2013.

Check out the website for more information, including the dates and locations of all 2012/13 Victorian dragon boat racing regattas.



Comment on this story online:
www.southbanklocalnews.com.au



SES launch on promenade

If you saw an influx of men and woman dressed in orange suits last month, don't be alarmed, the Victorian State Emergency Service (SES) launched the National SES Week in Southbank.

The launch featured demonstrations of what the SES can do, Melbourne Tigers players, cheerleaders and a sausage sizzle.

The SES also collected signatures of thanks to its volunteers.

SES Deputy Chief Officer Operations, Tim Wiebusch, said the event was a great opportunity to remind the public of the work undertaken by the SES.

"It truly is great to see so many members of the community stopping by today to acknowledge our amazing volunteers by signing a note of appreciation onto our Convoy of Thanks," Mr Wiebusch said.

"The Road Crash Rescue demonstrations were also of particular interest to passers-by who formed large crowds each time we displayed what we hope they will never have to personally experience."

December 2012

THE ARTS PRECINCT



SMALL INSTITUTIONS WIN BIG

Phillip Adams BalletLab may be one of the smaller art facilities in Southbank, but it received a much-needed boost last month, as Premier and Minister for the Arts Ted Baillieu announced grants for arts institutions around Victoria.

BalletLab received \$50,000 from Arts Victoria and its general manager Amelia Bartak said the investment was a great chance for BalletLab to unlock its potential.

BalletLab is based in Southbank and is a niche ballet studio set up by Phillip Adams in 1998. Over the course of the last 15 years it has established itself as a vital part of Australia's dance and performance community.

"We have been incredibly fortunate to receive this annually since 2010 and it has enabled us to

employ a part-time producer and artistic director as well as pay the office rent," Ms Bartak said.

"We have worked hard to match this funding, annually raising another \$5-\$7 for every \$1 dollar to make the works we do."

The next year will be an exciting time for BalletLab including taking shows to Europe, plus further performances at Malthouse Theatre and an extension of its masterclass and schools workshops.

"All of this activity is seeded through our Arts

Victoria grant, also supported by the Federal Government through The Australia Council for the Arts, and we raise further investment through philanthropic trusts and foundations plus a wonderful group of private donors," Ms Bartak said.

BalletLab isn't the only Southbank-based group to benefit from the grants, with new Southbank resident Platform Youth Theatre receiving \$45,000. A spokesperson said the money was core funding and would greatly assist the day-to-day running of the theatre group.

FINE MUSIC AWARDS

Despite not strictly being part of the Arts Precinct, St Johns Southgate produces some of the most beautiful music that can be heard anywhere in Southbank.

In keeping with its close ties to classical music, St Johns is the location for the National Fine Music Young Performer Awards.

The Fine Music Network, whose Melbourne branch is community radio station 3MBS, hosts the awards, on November 25.

The winner of 3MBS Young Performer of the Year was Violinist Aaron Ch'ng, who now competes for the national title in his hometown.

Other finalists have been chosen by 4MBS Brisbane, Fine Music 102.5 Sydney, 5MBS Adelaide and Artsound Canberra.

3MBS General Manager Anne Frankenberg said the station was very excited to have the



competition in its home town and wished Aaron all the best.

"A capacity audience was enthralled by Aaron's performance, indeed by the performances of all Victorian participants,"

Ms Frankenberg said.

"Word around our Fine Music Radio network is that all National participants are of such a high calibre that this forthcoming afternoon should not be missed."

The awards are at 2.30 PM on Sunday, November 25. Tickets are free but need to be booked in advance and you can do so by calling 3MBS on 9416 1035 or email info@3mbs.org.au

RECITAL CENTRE GEARS UP FOR FESTIVITIES



Christmas is always a busy time of year for the Melbourne Recital Centre (MRC) and 2012 is no exception.

The spotlight this year is on family entertainment, with shows to entertain and enchant those most excited about this time of year.

The classic story of The Snowman will be retold with a screening of an animated version accompanied by the Melbourne Recital Centre Orchestra, being conducted by Ben Northey, who we featured in last month's *The Arts Precinct*.

The Centre also keeping its own traditions, featuring the The Australian Boys Choir singing carols, an event that has taken place since 1939.

Another feature will be the appearance of the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra and Brandenburg Choir, being led by Paul Dwyer.

With so much Christmas entertainment the MRC is the obvious choice for a night out during the festive season.

For more information and to book tickets call 9699 3333 or visit the website www.melbournerecital.com.au

CHRISTMAS AT MELBOURNE RECITAL CENTRE



MELBOURNE RECITAL CENTRE IS THE PERFECT SETTING TO HEAR WONDERFUL ARTISTS AND MUSIC AT THIS SPECIAL TIME OF YEAR.

TRANSACTION FEES MAY APPLY TO BOOKINGS

The Snowman
This family Christmas favourite returns.
Tickets \$18
Sat 8 December
Noël! Noël!
Celebrate with the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra and Brandenburg Choir.
Tickets from \$53
Sat 8 December

Christmas Fireworks!
The Chamber Orchestra at St Paul's presents an orchestral Christmas.
Tickets \$40 (\$20 conc)
Wed 12, Fri 14 & Sat 15 December
Sing Joyfully
Share the spirit through song with The Consort of Melbourne and Ensemble Liaison.
Tickets \$50 (\$40 conc)
Sat 15 December

Christmas with the Australian Boys Choir
A tradition since 1939 continues with this festive treat.
Sun 16 December
Tickets \$35 (\$30 conc)
A Nutcracker Christmas!
Delight in the most beloved ballet music.
Tickets \$41 (\$20 conc)
Sat 22 December

MELBOURNE
RECITAL CENTRE

MORE INFO & TICKETS:
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EVENTS

**ELLING****October 16 - December 8***Melbourne Theatre Company*

It's a scary world out there and Elling would rather have nothing to do with it. His mother used to take care of everything, until she died, leaving him middle-aged and institutionalised.

www.mtc.com.au**POMPEII, L.A.****November 16 - December 9***The Malthouse, 113 Sturt Street*

A spectacular tribute to Hollywood's highs and lows, Pompeii, L.A. plummets into the anxieties and hysteria of silver screen culture. As his life unravels after a terrible accident, Pompeii, L.A. follows his damaged young mind as it folds inwards and scrambles for an escape.

www.mtc.com.au**WAR HORSE****December 23 - February 10***Arts Centre Melbourne, 100 St Kilda Road*

War Horse is based on the celebrated novel by Michael Morpurgo.

Actors, working with magnificent, life-sized puppets, lead us on a thrilling and emotional journey through history.

www.warhorseaustralia.com**MADAMA BUTTERFLY****November 14 - December 14***State Theatre, 100 St Kilda Road*

Giacomo Puccini's Madama Butterfly is one of the world's favourite operas, and this is one of Opera Australia's most celebrated productions. Madama Butterfly returns to Arts Centre Melbourne in 2012 for a strictly limited run with celebrated Japanese soprano Hiromi Omura in the title role.

www.artscentremelbourne.com.au**WILD SURMISE****November 9 - December 2***The Malthouse, 113 Sturt Street*

Alex searches for life on a distant moon; Daniel begs an answer of the poets they cannot provide. And while attentions are elsewhere, a marriage melts into memory. Dorothy Porter's verse novel shifts from the vastness of space to the minute gaps between us.

malthousetheatre.com.au**2 ONE ANOTHER****November 21 - December 1***Arts Centre Melbourne, 100 St Kilda Road*

Returning to Melbourne for the first time since 2010, Sydney Dance Company explodes onto the stage in an acclaimed work by Artistic Director Rafael Bonachela.

www.artscentremelbourne.com.au**SALOME****December 1 - 15***Arts Centre Melbourne, 100 St Kilda Road*

Having thrilled audiences with her La bohème in 2011, Director Gale Edwards returns to Opera Australia in 2012 with a thrilling new production of Richard Strauss' Salome. This explosive one-act opera will be staged at Arts Centre Melbourne's State Theatre.

www.artscentremelbourne.com.au**BLONDIE****December 3***Sidney Myer Music Bowl*

Get ready for the Australian return of one of music's most acclaimed bands, Blondie. Boasting one of the most compelling front women in music, Deborah Harry, Blondie have enjoyed a stream of timeless top ten hits bursting with great hooks and brilliant iconic lyrics.

www.artscentremelbourne.com.au**ON LOOP****December 6***Melbourne Recital Centre, 31 Sturt Street*

A foyer installation of old-school magnetic tape loops, paying tribute to the godfather of loops, Steve Reich. Famous for original and unexpected collaborations, Ensemble Offspring creates an evening of low and hi-fi blips, beats and loops.

www.melbournerecital.com.au**CHRISTMAS WITH THE AUSTRALIAN BOYS CHOIR****December 16***Melbourne Recital Centre, 31 Sturt Street*

Enjoy a special festive treat at Christmas with the Australian Boys Choir. This year, the ABCI presents 'Christmas with the Australian Boys Choir' in the stunning Elisabeth Murdoch Hall.

www.australianboyschoir.com.au**MAZDA OPERA IN THE BOWL****December 1***Sidney Myer Music Bowl*

Bring your family and friends along for a night of opera under the stars - for free! Be swept away by this spectacular concert showcasing the world's favourite opera, including the 'Toreador's Song' from Carmen, 'Nessun Dorma' from Turandot.

www.artscentremelbourne.com.au**DESIRE LINES****December 15 - March 3***Australian Centre For Contemporary Art Inc.*

A major survey exhibition that investigates the physical, conceptual and psychological tracks created by artists. Desire Lines refers to the wayward, improvised tracks created by walkers and others who defy the ways designed for them by urban regulators and councils.

www.accaonline.org.au**IAN BOSTRIDGE SINGS MOZART AND SCHUBERT****November 19 - December 15***Hamer Hall, 100 St Kilda Road*

Ian Bostridge and Bernard Labadie, united by their shared sensibility and deep musical intelligence, reveal the inner magic of music by Mozart and Schubert.

www.mso.com.au**LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR****November 19 - December 15***State Theatre 100 St Kilda Road*

Opera Australia presents Gaetano Donizetti's Lucia di Lammermoor in a new co-production with Teatro La Fenice and Houston Grand Opera, staged at Arts Centre Melbourne.

www.artscentremelbourne.com.au**MSO POPS – HUMAN NATURE, THIS IS CHRISTMAS****December 22 - 23***Hamer Hall, 100 St Kilda Road*

After their recent smash hit appearances with the MSO, Human Nature return to the Hamer Hall stage with the orchestra for this special yuletide treat.

www.mso.com.au**MUSIC****November 9 - December 22***Fairfax Studio, 100 St Kilda Road*

Barry Oakley's haunting and evocative 'Music' reverberates with sympathy and humour without a false note of sentimentality. Jane Menelaus and Richard Piper reunite to mark Barry Oakley's return to the theatre.

www.mtc.com.au**NUTCRACKER – THE GIFT OF A DREAM****December 7-9***Hamer Hall, 100 St Kilda Road*

Choreographed by Leigh Rowles and set to Tchaikovsky's music, this production is perfect entertainment for all the family, blending humour, romance and dance within an enchanting story of Christmas magic.

www.artscentremelbourne.com.au**CLARE BOWDITCH****December 8***Hamer Hall, 100 St Kilda Road*

Heartfelt singer songwriter Clare Bowditch will perform and talk about how an accidental discovery of a Ballet Russes photography book heavily influenced her debut album Autumn Bone and also influenced costume on her second album What Was Left.

www.artscentremelbourne.com.au**GOTYE****December 8***Sidney Myer Music Bowl*

After a mammoth world tour in 2012 Gotye will perform in Melbourne on 8 December at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl as part of a national handful of homecoming concerts.

www.artscentremelbourne.com.au**THE SLEEPING BEAUTY****December 12***Hamer Hall, 100 St Kilda Road*

Following the success of Christine Walsh's production of The Sleeping Beauty in 2008, The Australian Conservatoire of Ballet is proud to once again present this enchanting traditional ballet at the New Hamer Hall.

www.artscentremelbourne.com.au



A SOUTHBANK CHRISTMAS



Santa’s got a few tricks

An unexpected problem has arisen within Southbank, thanks to the increasing number of children living with their families in the area.

Every Christmas throughout the suburbs of Melbourne Santa has used the traditional route into homes through the chimney, but when you are living in an apartment within a high-rise tower, things aren’t so simple.

In an exclusive interview, Santa revealed to *Southbank Local News* that he has had to innovate while delivering presents to the bourgeoning area.

“I must admit the elves and I were in deep discussions for a long time as to how we were going to access Christmas trees in Southbank apartments, but we eventually came up with a workable solution,” the jolly man said.

“We simply access through the air flow vents on the roof of the apartment complexes and work our way through the building.”

“At times it’s difficult to convince the reindeer to travel all the way to the top of towers like Eureka and Freshwater Place, but they’ve had a couple years to get used to it now,” Santa revealed.

He was pleased to report that the majority of boys and girls in Southbank were on his “good” list this year and that he had a sackful of gifts ready for Christmas Eve.

“Don’t be afraid to leave plenty of biscuits and milk because I’m going to need all the energy I can get, so that I can visit all the boys and girls over the world to deliver their presents!” Santa urged.

At the end of our interview Santa asked *Southbank Local News* what we were wishing for this Christmas, to which we replied “Advertising”. He said he’d have a look at his marketing budget and get back to us.



southgate

CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS!

Southgate has a unique range of gifts for everyone this Christmas. Pick up a copy of the Celebrate Summer booklet from the mid level for more great gift ideas! Open 7 days a week, 365 days a year, Christmas has never been so easy!

While you are here, have your presents beautifully wrapped for a gold coin donation to the Starlight Children's Foundation. Available 11am to 3pm daily from 3 to 24 December.

celebratesouthgate.com.au



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Eyes on Southgate
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Mary Martin Bookshop
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cleansing cream \$35 each



Aero Plus Dino lunchies \$24



Southgate Pharmacy Natio 'Fresh Face' \$29.95

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Merry Christmas from SLN

It's that magical time of year again when people ask the question: "Is it that time of year already?" This is our final edition of the year, so it's the perfect time to celebrate and highlight all the Christmas festivities in and around Southbank.

We're celebrating with this four-page feature that includes an exclusive interview with Santa Claus, the recipe for a delicious "Adults only" Christmas treat and listings of all the events to ensure you won't miss a moment of the fun and festivities.

It is also the perfect time of year for *Southbank Local News* to take stock and reflect on what has been a fantastic year for us. We have established the paper as the voice of Southbank and need to thank you - all of our readers - for embracing the paper in the way that you have.

Of course we must also thank all of our advertisers who have helped support the paper throughout the year. Without these supporters there would be no paper, so I urge readers who love reading us to support our advertisers.

I'd also personally like to thank a couple of people, without whom this paper would simply not exist.

David and Wendy Beech, our faithful delivery elves in

Southbank Village. Thanks for your commitment to what is a difficult task.

Nicola St John, our chief graphic design artist. She may not like all the ideas I come up with, but when she's forced to say no to me, she always does it in a nice way!

Greg Hackett, who has collected and organised the advertising throughout the year, making sure the paper stays viable.

The columnists, who provide content each month, helping to keep the paper interesting to our readers.

Finally Shane Scanlan, for his guidance and wisdom, quietly ensuring the Southbank Local News gets to print every month.

So from the team here at *Southbank Local News* we wish all locals, workers and visitors a happy and most importantly safe festive season, and we look forward to seeing you in the new year with plenty of local yarns to keep our pages full!



Top tips for the perfect Christmas cocktail

Liam Watt from Chill On Ice Lounge and Ski Lodge explains how you can indulge this Christmas with a festive cocktail.



The Gentleman's egg nog

15mls Laphroaig
15mls chateau yaldara 1962 rich old port
(or any rich port)
30mls Makers Mark bourbon
1 whole egg
15mls homemade vanilla gomme
30mls cream
Freshly grated nutmeg (for garnish)

Shake all ingredients, besides the grated nutmeg (EXTRA HARD!), double strain into brandy balloon, then freshly grate nutmeg over the top.

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Everything is made of ice including the walls, tables, chairs and even the glasses you drink from. For your arctic adventure you are provided with custom made snow gear.
 At negative 10 degrees you will be as cold as ice.

CHRISTMAS ICE CARVINGS

On show 20th November onwards.
Daily from 10am.

GIFT VOUCHER AVAILABLE

For an experience that will be remembered long after the giving.



It's almost Christmas and things are singing at St Johns Southgate. What's more, you can join in.

Locals and visitors from near and far are always welcome at St Johns but at Christmas there is even more on offer to send spirits soaring with words and music.

Just two days before Christmas, on Sunday, December 23, St Johns Bach Choir and Orchestra will present J.S. Bach's big festive cantata, *Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ* (BWV 91), which features four soloists, strings, three oboes, two horns, timpani and continuo.

The cantata is based on an old German chorale (*Blessed art thou, Jesus Christ*), which

the congregation will sing as part of the Eucharist service that day.

The work was significant for Bach. It was composed for his first Christmas at Leipzig after his appointment as Thomaskantor there in 1723 and the records suggest he was pleased with what he had done, showing he performed the cantata himself four more times.

Next evening, of course, is Christmas Eve, which will also be alive with music. Before the service, at 7.10pm, there will be carols on the concourse outside St Johns. Be there to

add your voice.

In the service itself will be readings, poems and more singing, led by a four-part choir and including music from Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*. The choice of carols by Britten is timely because next year is the 100th anniversary of the British composer's birth.

Also included will be a special activity for children and St Johns hopes many local children will attend and participate.

And then, of course, the feast of joyous

music continues on Christmas Day, with Dr Graham Lieschke at the keyboard of St Johns' treasured Smenge pipe organ.

Above and through all of the great words and music at St Johns is threaded the magnificent Christmas message.

Neither the message nor the music stop. For more details on the program, service times or other activities at the church in the heart of Southbank, you can contact St Johns on **9682 4995**.

CHRISTMAS WRAPPING

Christmas is a hectic time of year and any time saving is appreciated. That's why Southgates Christmas Wrapping station is the perfect solution for shoppers short on time.



As an added bonus, the gold coin donation it costs for the wrapping is donated to Starlight Children's Foundation.

The gift wrapping station will be available between Monday, December 3 and Christmas eve. The station is open from 11am to 3pm every day.

You will be able to select from a wide range

colours and ribbons, to ensure your presents will be the most impressive looking under the tree.

Obviously gifts must be purchased at Southgate to take advantage of the gift wrapping, but given the extensive range of quality gift ideas, there's no reason why you can't complete your whole Christmas list at Southgate.

CHRISTMAS QUICK QUIZ

How many reindeer pull Santa's sleigh?

Who is rumoured to have stolen Christmas?

What is the highest selling Christmas Song of all time?

Christmas Services 2012

Sunday December 23rd
9am Advent/Christmas Cantata Worship with Communion
11am Informal Worship with Communion

Christmas Eve, December 24th
7:15pm Carols on the Concourse (Southgate Podium level)
7:30pm Service of Poetry and Carols, including Benjamin Britten's 'Ceremony of Carols'

Christmas Day, December 25th
10am Traditional Lutheran Liturgy with Communion

St John's Southgate

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

YULETIDE EVENTS

CROWN'S CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR

Monday, November 19 – Tuesday, January 1

Crown Entertainment Complex, 8 Whiteman St, Southbank

Crown will again amaze guests and light up the grand Atrium for Christmas this December. The six-storey high Christmas tree will be accompanied by cheek animatronic characters, thrilling and enchanting both the young and the young at heart.

For event details go to

www.crownmelbourne.com.au/events

LANGHAM CHRISTMAS LIGHT SHOW

Friday, December 7 – Friday, December 28

The Langham Melbourne, 1 Southgate Ave, Southbank

Be enthralled with 'A Christmas Tale' set against the backdrop of The Langham's elegant fountain. Children and adults alike will be captivated by the visual installation portraying the classic Winter Wonderland of Christmas.

For more information go to

www.melbourne.langhamhotels.com.au/langham-lightshow

CAROLS ON THE CONCOURSE

Monday, December 24

St Johns Southgate, 20 City Road, Southbank

This Christmas Eve, enjoy carols on the concourse outside St Johns Southgate, followed inside with a Christmas Eve service of poetry, readings and carols, including excerpts from Benjamin Britten's 'A Ceremony of Carols' for high voices and harp.

For more information go to

www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au

CHRISTMAS GALA CONCERT

Saturday, September 1

St Johns Southgate, 20 City Road, Southbank

A Christmas Gala Concert featuring Andrew Day on Flute and Favid Laughton on piano performing the complete Grand Opera Fantasies

For more information and to book tickets go to

www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au

BACH CANTATA SERVICE

Sunday, December 23

St Johns Southgate, 20 City Road, Southbank

St Johns Southgate runs an ongoing series presenting the cantatas of JS Bach in the context for which they were written – liturgical Lutheran Church Services.

For more information

www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

Tuesday, December 25

World Restaurant & Bar, 4/2 Riverside Quay, Southbank

Let someone else cook the turkey this year! Lap up the Yarra views and relax this Christmas with a festive three-course lunch and Christmas cocktail at World Restaurant and Bar

For more or to book go to

www.worldrestaurantbar.com.au

CHRISTMAS ICE CARVINGS

Sunday, November 25 – Sunday, December 30

Chill On Ice Lounge, 3 Southgate Ave, Southbank

Visit the Ice Lounge during December to view a selection of interactive Christmas Carvings. Everything is made of ice – the walls, the chairs and this year, even Santa and his elves!

For more information go to

www.chillon.com.au

BIG CHRISTMAS PARTY FUNDRAISER FOR GRIEFLINE

Saturday, December 8

Crown Entertainment Complex, 8 Whiteman St, Southbank

Hosted by Corinne Grant, the night is going to be an extravaganza of cocktails, live music, dinner, entertainment – and a visit from Santa of course.

For tickets go to

www.crownmelbourne.com.au/events

THE POLAR EXPRESS

Tuesday, December 11

Southgate Cinema Christmas screenings

On Christmas eve, a doubting boy boards a magical train headed to the North Pole and Santa Claus's home.

To book tickets go to

www.celebratesouthgate.com.au

LOVE ACTUALLY

Wednesday, December 12

Southgate Cinema Christmas screenings

Follows the lives of eight very different couples in dealing with their love lives in various loosely and interrelated tales all set during a frantic month before Christmas in London, England.

To book tickets go to

www.celebratesouthgate.com.au

MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET

Tuesday, December 18

Southgate Cinema Christmas screenings

A little girl discovers dreams do come true if you really believe. Six-Year-Old Susan has doubts about childhood's most enduring miracle - Santa Claus.

To book tickets go to

www.celebratesouthgate.com.au

YOU BETTER WATCH OUT! CHRISTMAS STORYTIME SOUTHBANK AT BOYD

Wednesday, December 19

Boyd Library, 207 City Road, Southbank

Come on out to Southbank Library at Boyd for a fun Christmas storytime! You Better Watch Out! Also features a visit from the 'big guy in red.'

To book go to

www.melbournelibraryservice.com.au

NEW YEAR'S EVE CARNIVAL

MONDAY 31ST DECEMBER 2012

ROLL UP! ROLL UP!

enjoy the best show in town this new year's eve!

6.30pm start • spot prizes • dj from 10.30 'til late

\$75 INCLUDES:

- cocktail on arrival
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1920's party

MONDAY DECEMBER 31ST

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The happiest dog in Southbank

Mini loves life. She lives at the Melburnian in Southbank and embraces every aspect of inner city living, according to owner Jan.

“She loves it here because there are so many places to walk and play. This little park in Sturt St and the Botanical Gardens are her two favourites, plenty of room to chase a ball around,” Jan said.

Mini, a pomeranian, is clearly full of energy and, at four, is in the prime of her life! Jan said she also loves heading down for walks to the Boyd library, where there are activities for both Mini and her big sister (Jan’s grand-daughter), 17-month-old Scarlett.

Mini’s enthusiasm for life rubs off on everyone she meets and Jan said: “She should be called smiley, because everyone smiles when they see her!”

Perhaps the only creature who doesn’t greet Mini with a smile is the cat she lives with, Shiney.

“Mini loves Shiney, but Shiney is not so keen on her,” Jan said, adding: “That might be because, along with chicken necks and dog

bones, cat food is one of Mini’s favourite foods!”

While she enjoys the lifestyle of Southbank, Mini also has a great balance in life, as she heads down to Torquay most weekends to get away from the stress of the city.

Mini loves the open space and, of course, the beach down at Torquay, but Jan said she doesn’t play favourites between her two home towns.

Jan said it all added up to Mini being one of the happiest dogs in Southbank.

“She’s got a pretty good life,” Jan said.

Comment on this story online:
www.southbanklocalnews.com.au



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Where to Shop



ON THE BOX

with Korey Fernando

X Factor has X Factor

These days reality programs make up the majority of the prime-time slot and it's no secret that ever since Popstars screened in the early 2000s, that Australian audiences are captivated by the reality-singing-competition-vehicle.

X Factor is one such program, however until recently I had largely ignored it. For me, *X Factor* was always put into the same basket as the horrid *Australia's Got Talent* – a cheap-looking time-filler featuring physically bizarre people who attempt to sing, dance or sometimes make music with vegetables.

It's also worth noting that *X Factor* Australia is now in its fourth season and is very different from the *Idol* clone that launched in 2005 on Ten. While sticking largely to the same format, the show is still relevant to audiences, with this year's crop of would-be lounge singers and JB Hi Fi bargain-bin-fillers as beige as ever.

X Factor ticks all the boxes from a format perspective – passionate mentors, a

forgettable host and a bunch of starry-eyed young hopefuls duking it out to be declared the winner. Each mentor has a category of contestants to guide and shape, and this also further cements the mentors' investment in the outcome of the competition – which unfortunately still comes down to public vote in most cases.

The appeal for this program isn't its format, which is a tried and true system that hasn't really changed all that much since 7's *Popstars* back in 2000. *X Factor*'s biggest drawcard isn't even the acts (some are so terrible that threats of physical violence have at times been made unless the channel is changed), in fact the best part about *X Factor* is the judges.

Featuring a bunch of professionals who have been at the top, the contestants are guided by: ex-boy-band member turned producer Ronan Keating, *Australian Idol* debutant winner Guy Sebastian, *Neighbours* and *Happy Days Arena Spectacular* star Natalie Bassingthwaite and most excitingly ex-*Spice Girl* Mel B.

The judges dominate the program and their talent and technical skill is showcased in their criticism. *X Factor* brings back the barbs, with judges at times rather nasty towards contestants (and at times each other) which definitely sets itself apart from the inclusive, "everyone is your best friend" approach seen on *The Voice*.

The judges can all sing themselves, and have

had good experience in the music industry. Mostly.

That said, the most interesting part of the formula from a viewing perspective lies in how the other judges criticise and critique each other – this opens up the entire show to a whole new level of judgement and occasionally the mentors themselves are the subject of ridicule from their own peers (this is easily the most entertaining part of the program).

X Factor does suffer from the classic case of having far too many celebrated "final" programs, but with the ratings still in 7's favour and a new season green light for 2013, it appears that this program is still maintaining the traction it needs to stay on the air.



Fellow Southbank residents,

You may have recently heard that Minister for Planning, Matthew Guy, released the draft discussion paper regarding the Metropolitan Planning Strategy (MPS) for Melbourne.

The MPS is being prepared to provide a blueprint to guide Melbourne's planning and development future over the next 30-40 years (replacing the previous Government's paper "Melbourne 2030"). It covers all matters related to planning that will ultimately impact us, from property development through to transport, open spaces and infrastructure. The strategy will include links with the Regional Growth Plans and, together, these plans will provide a long-term planning vision for Victoria.

Now more than ever, it is important for us as residents to have our say and share our views on the holistic planning outcomes for Melbourne. Living in the rapidly growing suburb of Southbank, we know all too well the importance of prudent planning practices and the benefits that can be derived from positive planning outcomes. Conversely, we also know first-hand the consequences of poor planning policy and the negative outcomes and impacts this has on our community.

This is why Barry Janes and I are proud to be actively involved in the Southbank Residents Group as your new president and vice-president. We have a real opportunity to shape the planning vision for Southbank and Melbourne – but we can only do it together as united residents of our great suburb.

In the early new year we will arrange a public meeting to discuss the draft paper in more detail before public submissions close on March 1, 2013. If you'd like to be informed of when this meeting will take place, please email me at srgi2000@gmail.com or "like" us on Twitter and Facebook (search for "Southbank Residents Group").

You can download the MPS discussion paper by visiting <http://www.planmelbourne.vic.gov.au/discussion-paper> - where you can also lodge your public submission in response to this draft plan. If you can't download the paper, please email me with your address details at srgi2000@gmail.com and I can arrange for a hard copy of the paper to be mailed to you.

Let's work together to shape our community's future and that of greater Melbourne.

Michael Smolders
President
Southbank Residents Group

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SOUTHBANK FASHION



Fashion on the streets of Southbank

Rachel

LOCATION?

South Wharf

WEARS?

Lee jeans, boots from a little store in London, an Asos knit, vintage leather jacket and an Alexander Wang bag.

DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE?

Streamlined.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO SOUTHBANK?

Shopping with my Australian friends.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

I'm originally from England but I live in St Kilda.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF CLOTHING?

A classic leather jacket.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT?

A good handbag!

Simon

LOCATION?

South Wharf

WEARS?

A vintage scarf, Jacket from General Pants and Topman jeans.

DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE?

Contemporary dapper.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO SOUTHBANK?

Just shopping with a few mates.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

South Yarra.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF CLOTHING?

Good shoes.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT?

Interesting choices.

Matias

LOCATION?

South Wharf

WEARS?

Jeans from Ksubi, a sweater from Ebay and a Comme De Garcon cap.

DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE?

Totes fashion!

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO SOUTHBANK?

I am shopping with my friends.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

Collingwood

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF CLOTHING?

My clear PVC raincoat.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT?

Amazing heels!

Summer style is not easy

By Sam Goss

Whilst summer's approach has brought along a number of contrasting things (mosquitoes, daytime cocktails and backyard cricket), it has also imploded on us a myriad of style queries.

Australians are lauded for their easy-going approach to life and the same goes for their style philosophy. However, living in a city with a climate about as stable as an elephant on a tightrope, summer dressing needs to be a well thought-out task.

A cheat's approach is the stock-standard denim cut-off shorts and an old pair of thongs. However, this laid-back method can quite easily cross over into "white-trash" territory depending on the length of your shorts and the amount of skin showing.

A safe (and classy) rule for ladies is to purchase your shorts a size too big to avoid anything "hanging-out" the back. If they're too loose up-top, belt it. A belt will always be chicer than having half (or all) of your lady-behind on display.

Instead of donning a pair of havianas, leave the "havs" behind and get your toes into a flat sandal in a fun bright colour or a leopard print if you are of the daring-animal variety.

Man-style oversized tee's are always a sexy option for women. Hit up Bassiske in Hawksburn for classic cuts and colours or Ksubi on Chapel St for edgier options with tongue-in-cheek slogans like "Boys Who Skate Are Better at Grindin".

If you're keeping in mind the most imperative aspect of summer dressing, take note of this: SUN SMART IS SEXY. Write that down!

Men can walk into General Pants or any skate shop and choose from a bucket load of trendy baseball caps or snap backs. And the ladies can throw on a 70s style felt wide-brim or a sexy fedora and make even the simplest of outfits more interesting.

Finish the look with a pair of tortoise shell Karen Walker sunglasses and you have yourself an effortless and sun-safe ensemble to carry you all through summer.



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SOUTHBANK SUDOKU

A variation of Sudoku, but with the letters S O U T H B A N K replacing the numbers.

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

This Sudoku is extra difficult, because you’ve got two months to finish it!

Good Luck!

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



What Women Want *With Abby Crawford*

It’s “that time of year”.

That time of year when, generally, excitement rises, when pulses quicken, when invitations are sent (and it would seem, as you get older, less frequently received) and plans are made.

Taxis are considered, a nominated driver is appointed – and then dismissed as a ridiculous notion – and the sad realisation hits that all hire cars are well and truly booked out.

Still, ignoring the inner voice that tells you you’ll probably end up walking further in the next few weeks than you have all year, you decide this year is the year to top all previous records of high heel-height. After all, they make your legs look great!

That’s right, it’s the start of the Silly Season. Most years, this brings a bucket-load of hope for singles – what an endless list of fabulous events and excuses to start drinking champagne before lunch. Coupled with the crippling high heels, you just couldn’t be in a better position to meet someone. Well meet them you might, but with a bottle of champagne under your belt before 11, it’s always a bit tricky making the right impression – and the truth be told, generally by that stage, you’re not fussed! At least this year, you’ve got your “flats” in your handbag so you don’t have to do the walk home in stilettos – again. See, you are learning!

In fact, the Silly Season brings hope for all – for most of my gorgeously married friends, it generally means they hope their husband never sees the credit card bill for the ridiculously high heels (and the handbag, sunglasses and hat that match) they purchased for this season (to make their

husbands look good, you understand). I generally agree with them on this philosophy, as it is usually these ones that got in early and booked the hire car – and I don’t fancy walking home in my heels (or flats!) again!

For the men, it’s hope that this year’s tips will actually come off, and they’ll back a winner. And hope they can pass it off as being a result of their own scrupulous studying of the form guide. I have found they also kind of hope you’re not paying attention to the fact they are wearing last year’s suit, or last season’s shirt, and just let them be to get on with the betting and the fun without the fuss. They even seem relatively happy to walk home, particularly if it happens to be past a food stop on the way back. (Great news, that’s more room in the hire car!)

And the kids. Well, the kids actually just start to hope that Santa is noticing how good they were on those one or two days this year and hoping he didn’t notice all the times they shoved the clothes under their bed rather than clean up properly ... For them it is the countdown for the biggest day, the highlight of the Silly Season – Christmas.

Whatever you are hoping for as the year rushes headlong into the craziness of celebrations and parties, I hope you find it. I hope your hat sits well. I hope you bet successfully, hail taxis safely and I hope you find joy. This is a time of year to celebrate – because no matter what you’re hoping for, we already have so much.

Have a fabulous racing season ladies and gentlemen! And careful of those high heels in the grass!

Lots of love.

Abby

STREET SMARTS

Balston Street

Running alongside the Boyd Library, Balston St was named after former councillor John Balston.

During his time as councillor between 1862 and 1863 Mr Balston lived on Bank St, which was then known as South Melbourne.

Mr Balston was born in Devon in 1829 and died in 1868.

The street wasn’t named until 1885, some 17 years after his death.

In our new column, each month Southbank Local News will look at a Southbank street and discover the origin of its name.

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Every Sunday
St Johns Southgate, 20 City Road
9am - Traditional liturgical worship.
11am - Informal liturgical worship.
7pm - Informal contemporary worship.
www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au

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

FIRST FRIDAY DANCE CLUB
May 4 - December 7, 6.00pm - 8.00pm
Queensbridge Square, 1A Queens Bridge Street Southbank
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.



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.pennykouloulas.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

MELBOURNE SUNRISE PROBUS CLUB
First Thursday of the month, 10.00am
Wharf Hotel, Siddeley St
Probus clubs cater for the needs of men and women over 50. Keep your mind active and meet new friends while enjoying a range of activities.
9600 1628 or carolbergcb@gmail.com

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



FREE TAI CHI IN SOUTHBANK
Every Friday, 8am - 9am
Queensbridge Square
Because of the lack of open and recreation space in Southbank, the Melbourne City Council has funded weekly Tai Chi classes in Southbank. The instructor, provided by Tai Chi Australia, structures a class that is suitable for beginners and all ages.

INTERNET OF THINGS WORKSHOP – ENABLING FUTURES
December 1, 11am-1pm
Boyd, 207-227 City Road
This event explores how the 'Internet of Things (IoT)' connects physical and digital spaces and how emerging technologies integrate into a smart city.
enablingfutures.org/

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.
www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au

SOUTHGATE CINEMA
Every Tuesday and Wednesday night
3 Southgate Avenue
Southgate hosts free films on Tuesday and Wednesday nights at Melbourne's only silent deckchair cinema. Patrons are provided with individual headphones and audio kits to watch films, or you can bring your own headphones.

GIANT POP-UP PLAY PIT
November 30 - December 2
Queensbridge Square
As part of the LEGO Festival of Play, a giant, red pop-up LEGO brick is set to be installed in the heart of Melbourne. The whole family will be able to build both inside and outside the brick.
www.LEGOfestival.com.au



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday at 10:30am
Southbank Library at Boyd, 207 City Road
Come and share the wonder of books with us! Enjoy approximately 40 - 50 minutes of fun stories, songs, rhymes and activities.
Phone: 9658 8300
www.melbournelibraryservice.com.au

THE RENEWABLE EDGE EXPO
November 30
Crown Conference Centre, Promenade Room, 8 Whiteman Street
This free morning expo is aimed at electro-technology, electricity supply and renewable energy apprentices from regional and metropolitan TAFEs.
www.epicitb.com/convention2012



CHUNKY MOVE DANCE CLASSES
Mondays to Thursdays 6.30pm-8pm, Saturdays 10am-1.15pm
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B	N	S	A	K	T	H	O	U
H	T	K	S	A	O	U	N	B
A	B	N	K	H	U	T	S	O
S	U	O	B	T	N	K	A	H
U	O	T	H	S	B	A	K	N
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210/480 Collins Street	38.5m2	\$169,000	\$11,000 net	Apr 2014 X 2
406/530 Little Collins Street	30m2	\$125,000	\$10,188 net	3 Years from Jan 2012
608/530 Little Collins Street	45m2	\$205,000	VACANT	N/A
706/530 Little Collins Street	44.9m2	\$170,000	VACANT	N/A
908/530 Little Collins Street	57.15m2	POA	VACANT	N/A
1013/530 Little Collins Street	46m2	\$199,000	\$14,650 net	Vacating May 2013
1114/530 Little Collins Street	17m2	\$75,000	\$6,720 net	3 Years from 18/06/12
1213/530 Little Collins Street	45m2	\$230,000	\$16,000p.a.	Periodic



Gary Cakir
Principal
M 0413 522 533
gary@evolverealestate.com.au



Rebecca Murray
Licensed Estate Agent
Senior Property Executive
M 0410 319 109
rebecca@evolverealestate.com.au



Harvey Tukul
Commercial & Industrial
M 0411 638 949
harvey@evolverealestate.com.au



Jeremy Hu 胡杰闻
Senior Property Executive
M 0426 508 006
jeramy@evolverealestate.com.au



Angela Mesiti
Property Manager
P 9690 8855
rentals@evolverealestate.com.au



Sibel Sahin
Administration
M 0458 386 583
admin@evolverealestate.com.au

CONNECT: evolvesouthbank evolvesouthbank www.evolverealestate.com.au