

The voice of Southbank

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Residents fight to protect the Shrine

By Sean Car

A new community group has been launched in direct protest to current, approved and proposed Southbank developments, which cast a shadow over the Shrine of Remembrance.

Freshwater Place resident and Vietnam veteran Graeme Plumridge formed "Save Our Shrine" last month after noticing a huge shadow being cast over the Shrine by the new Prima Pearl development from his apartment earlier this year.

"I think this is wrong that were shading the Shrine," he said. "I would think that all veteran communities in Victoria would be concerned about that simply because the Shrine is a revered place."

Mr Plumridge, who was conscripted in 1967, captured images of shadows cast over the Shrine, which he emailed to former Liberal Planning Minister Matthew Guy after hearing of plans for the then proposed Australia 108 tower.

The former Planning Minister had announced the adoption of permanent and mandatory planning controls back in April, which he stated would protect the Shrine from encroaching development.

After giving Mr Plumridge the same assurances in his responding email, the Planning Minister then in June approved what will now be the tallest tower in the southern hemisphere.

"I wrote to him and said that I understood that it's going to be taller than Prima Pearl and Prima Pearl was only in construction at that point," Mr Plumridge said. "I asked him how could you say this won't shade the Shrine?"

"He came back very succinctly and said 'no, it will not shade the Shrine or its precinct.'"

"A week later 108 was approved, so I wrote back to him again and said how can you say

this won't happen and I haven't heard from him. So I suppose I'm just supposed to go away."

An independent study commissioned by the Freshwater Place Owners' Corporation found that Australia 108 and the proposed Queensbridge Tower would both overshadow the Shrine during winter.

In deliberating on overshadowing of the Yarra River at a Future Melbourne Committee meeting in August, Lord Mayor Robert Doyle stated the Yarra, the Shrine and State Parliament were sacrosanct.

Mr Plumridge said he and his group would campaign vigorously to prevent any further overshadowing of the sacred memorial.

"The only thing that we've probably still got our hand on is, as everybody says, the Shrine, which is sacrosanct and shouldn't have shadows," he said.

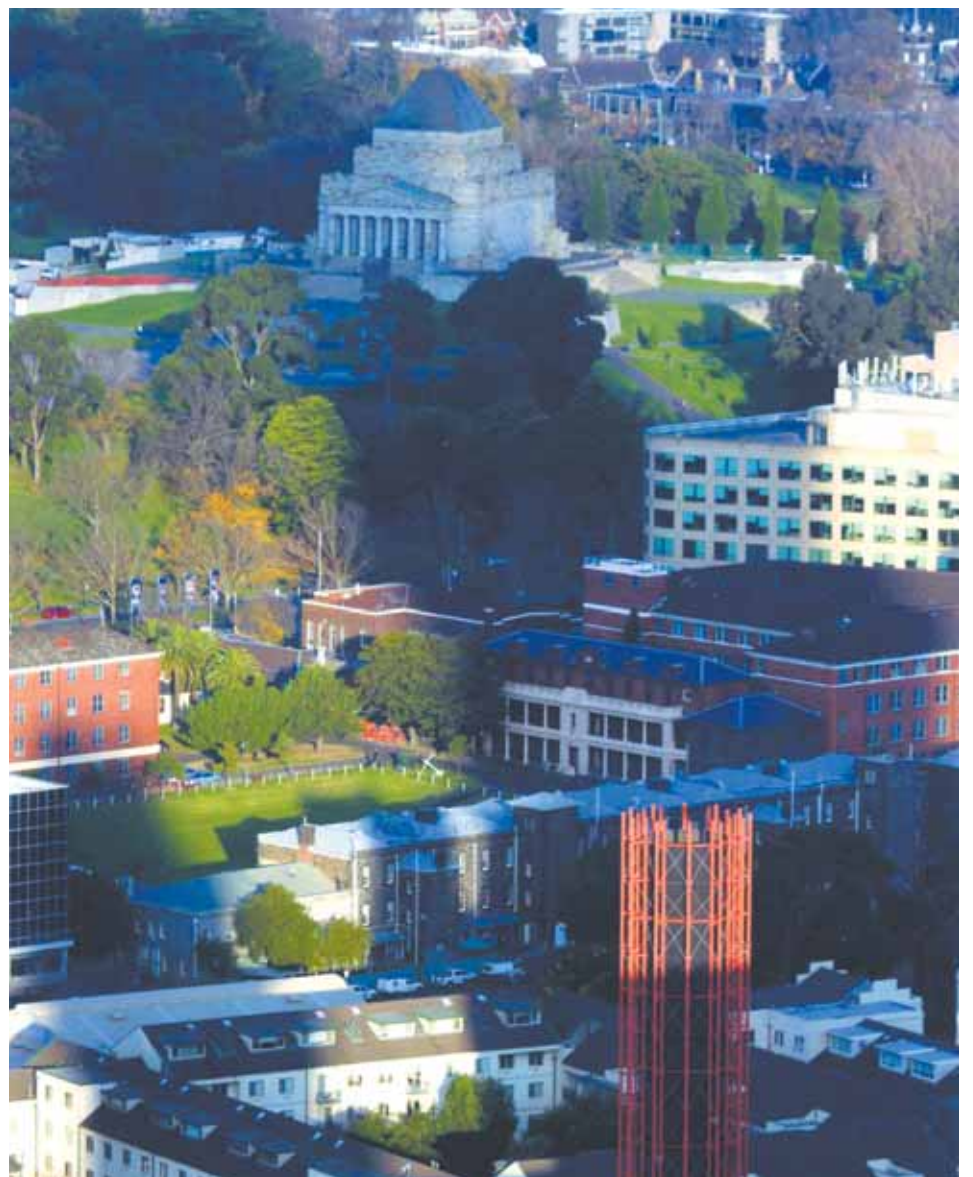
"The fact is Prima Pearl is already there so the boundary has shifted. Let's see if we can stop anymore from happening."

Southbank Residents Group president and returned serviceman Tony Penna said he has been appalled by the lack of competency shown by the former planning minister.

"It shouldn't happen," he said. "Overshadowing the shrine is off-limits, period," he said.

"We will be fighting overshadowing of the Shrine just like if it were overshadowing the Yarra."

Continued on page 2.



An image capturing Prima Pearl in Southbank overshadowing the Shrine of Remembrance. The image was taken by Southbank resident Graeme Plumridge from his apartment at Freshwater Place.

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Suite 108, 198 Harbour Esplanade
PO Box 23008 Docklands 8012
Tel: 8689 7980 Fax: 9602 2929
www.southbanklocalnews.com.au

Editor: Sean Car

Publisher: Shane Scanlan

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

Reader contributions are welcome.
Please send articles and images to
news@southbanklocalnews.com.au

Deadline for edition 38 is February 5.



Sean Car

While I have only witnessed six months of news first-hand since coming in as new editor for my predecessor Sean Rogasch in July, I can confidently say there has been anything but a shortage of content to fill our pages.

Some of the major stories the newspaper has covered this year have included the approval of Australia 108, City Rd's future development, the announcement of the

Domain and Montague underground train stations, overshadowing of the Yarra and the 2014 International AIDS Conference.

And in a bid to keep our ever-growing community up to speed with local events, I can also proudly say that 2014 marks the achievement of a new record in size and circulation of the *Southbank Local News*.

It's only due to the continued support of our valued advertisers that we are able to broaden our reach within the local area and I'd like to say a special thanks to the local stakeholders who have invested in this community asset.

I'd also like to thank our regular columnists, who each month provide the newspaper with interesting perspectives to share with

the Southbank community.

To our readers - thank you for picking up a copy of the *Southbank Local News* each month and for sharing your stories with us this year.

I'd like to wish all readers, contributors and advertisers a happy and safe festive season with friends and family.

Southbank Local News will be back with its first edition for 2015 in February and we look forward to bringing you more news from postcode 3006 next year.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Sean Car
Editor

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Southbank Local News



Residents fight to protect Shrine

Continued from page 1.

"It's sacrosanct and I am appalled at seeing the applications that have been approved and I believe the minister claimed that he was not aware, which to me says that the minister is incompetent."

Mr Penna said he was disappointed by the lack of public consultation and said he hoped the newly-elected Labor Government would adopt a renewed focus on the issue.

"The minister should be aware, the minister should be asking those questions, because this is absolutely fundamental and critical. It's part of our heritage. It's part of our community and it's just wrong."

Albert Park MLA Martin Foley said his government, featuring newly-appointed Planning Minister Richard Wynne, was committed to cleaning up the mess left by Mr Guy.

"We want to make sure that everybody has clarity on the rules rather than the current mess of a developer-driven frenzy that Matthew Guy has left behind," he said.

Mr Plumridge said "Save Our Shrine" would seek a meeting with Mr Wynne to demand the following conditions were met to protect the Shrine from overshadowing:

- Suspend any new project, which will cast a shadow;
- Reject any new or pending applications; and
- Commit the Government to enforcing planning controls, which prevent overshadowing.

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Former Melton man Rehmat Sandhu. Image: Facebook

City Rd death fall

A 21-year-old Melton man has died after falling 20-storeys from the balcony of a City Rd apartment in Southbank.

Rehmat Sandhu fell from his friend's 26th floor *City Towers* apartment shortly before 4am on December 6.

A police spokesperson said Mr Sandhu was socialising with friends before he plummeted 20-floors to his death on the sixth floor patio.

Investigators spoke to several people who were in the apartment at the time of the incident.

A police spokesperson said the death was deemed non-suspicious and that police would prepare a report for the coroner.

Council compromised by developer donations

City of Melbourne councillors were unable to consider a planning application last month because too many of them had received election campaign contributions from the developer.

On November 11, the Future Melbourne Committee was left without a quorum and was, therefore, unable to consider a Southbank planning matter relating to developer Central Equity.

Central Equity already has a planning permit for the site at 199 City Rd but has asked the Minister for Planning for permission to increase the height of the building from 105m to 148m and the number of apartments from 382 to 557. The site falls within a 100m discretionary height zone.

The Minister has asked the council for its view on the application but councillors were unable to consider the matter because four of the eight councillors present declared a conflict of interest and left the room.

Councillors declaring a conflict were Cr Ken Ong, Cr Susan Riley, Cr Kevin Louey and Cr Beverley Pinder-Mortimer.

In the absence of a direction from councillors, council officers will respond the Minister on Central Equity's application.

Of the four affected councillors, only Cr Riley responded to a question from *Southbank Local News* on whether or not, in hindsight, it was appropriate to accept developer contributions.

"I think at the time we were, I won't say misinformed, but I think we were unaware of the consequences of the team taking donations," Cr Riley said.

"I don't think any of us realised the consequences such as what happened tonight."

Cr Cathy Oke disagreed saying that, at the



The Central Equity site on the corner of City Rd and Balston St in Southbank.

last election, The Greens were fully aware that donations accepted by a team would apply to all members.

"It has always been clear," Cr Oke said.

Greens councillor Rohan Leppert said: "We were unable to conduct business today so, whether or not the current law is being adhered to, the point needs to be made that the current law can result in quorum being lost and in decisions not being made and that, in and of itself, is proof that the current system needs to be reviewed."

Cr Stephen Mayne said that, despite supporting a ban on developer contributions, he defended the affected councillors saying a "conservative opinion" had been provided as to the breadth of the conflict.

He pointed out that the same discipline was not expected of state MPs.

"I don't think it's a major issue of loss of governance or loss of process in the City of Melbourne," Cr Mayne said. "I don't think it's a major problem."

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Federal Labor Opposition Leader Bill Shorten (centre back) initiated a discussion forum with representatives from across the disability sector at the Boyd Community Hub in Southbank during November.

Shorten shocked by state of disability

More than 20 experts from the disability sector gathered at the Boyd Community Hub in Southbank last month, for a forum convened by federal Labor Opposition Leader Bill Shorten.

As former disability minister in the Rudd-Gillard government, Mr Shorten arranged the meeting to discuss issues with a range of representatives from across the disability sector.

National director of Young People in Nursing Homes, Dr Bronwyn Morkham, said Mr Shorten prompted the forum to gain an insight into the current state of the sector and was saddened to hear that the situation was becoming worse.

“He wanted a conversation, a bit of a temperature take for where things were up to with disability per se in the disability sector and so on,” she said.

“He was quite shocked to hear the desperation that was out there. He hadn’t

thought it would be quite so intense because, under the previous federal government, there was such a commitment to disability issues.”

The National Disability Insurance Scheme, launched under Mr Shorten’s previous Labor government, is currently being piloted in a handful of designated trial sites across the country.

However, as Dr Morkham and other representatives proposed to Mr Shorten at the forum, for those living outside the trial sites, life is getting much worse.

Dr Morkham said the situation was due to a significant reduction in the system’s capacity to support disabled people outside of the trial sites.

“We’re seeing people asked to consider aged care more than ever,” she said. “I’ve never seen it as much as it is at the moment.”

“While people are very keen to see the NDIS come and value it, if you’re in a trial site – wonderful, but if you’re one of the 99 per cent who aren’t the situation is becoming more dire by the day.”

Among the areas represented by those attending the forum included housing, disability services, health, aged care as well as veteran and youth services.

The most vocal matters brought to Mr Shorten’s attention were a lack of social housing and disability funding, which all representatives said were issues prevalent right across the sector.

Dr Morkham said the emphasis on disability services had fallen away under the Federal Government and the previous state coalition government.

“The previous state government had cut services, reduced funding to direct money down to the trial sites. So we’re seeing fewer services now with the NDIS than ever before,” she said.

“I think while the NDIS is bipartisan and it’s continuing, there was clearly felt to be a lack of focus on disability as a vital area of policy.”


Mr Shorten told forum attendees that he was determined to see disability regain its prominence as a major policy issue, with Labor to formulate its policies next year ahead of the 2016 election.



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Foley holds on to Albert Park once more

Labor MP Martin Foley enters another term as member for Albert Park after retaining his seat at the November state election.

A final count saw Mr Foley win the seat with 53 per cent of the two-party preferred vote over Liberal candidate Shannon Eeles, who increased her party's percentage from 38 to 46 per cent from the 2010 election.

The first-time Liberal candidate also won 40 per cent of the primary vote, which was higher than Martin Foley's 34 per cent.

Despite the encouraging result for Ms Eeles, Mr Foley said the result was a reflection of the key issues that community wanted dealt with.

"Well, you're never confident but, given the amount of work that our team put in, and the issues that the community made clear that they wanted dealt with, the result was an endorsement of those issues," he said.

"Particularly in Southbank they go to planning. They go to a greater role for the City of Melbourne and the community in having a say in that planning. And they go to issues of what is the appropriate outcome of that plan."



Labor MP Martin Foley.

Greens candidate David Collis won almost 17 per cent of the primary vote, while independent Tex Perkins who solely nominated to save the Palais Theatre in St Kilda, earned 4 per cent.

Mr Perkins decision to run for the seat was vindicated, with the Labor Government pledging \$13 million to restore the dilapidated theatre, while it will also deliver \$11.5 million to open South Melbourne Park Primary School before 2018.

"We'll deliver on all of our commitments," Mr Foley said.

"Besides education and planning, there are a number of health commitments. We'll end the war on our paramedics and health professionals and we'll deliver on the community sporting infrastructure."

Not much separated the two major candidates at the Southbank polling centre with 1109 voting for Ms Eeles, which was only slightly higher than Mr Foley's count of 1049.

"I think the Southbank community, a number of owners' corporations and the Southbank Residents Group put better planning, better design and better consultation clearly on the political agenda

and both parties I think heard that message," said Mr Foley.

"It was reassuring to see that the Labor party picked up that message loud and clear in our policy contributions."

The 52-year-old was also handed the portfolios of housing, disability and ageing, mental health, equality and creative industries, while Richmond MP Richard Wynne assumes the role of planning minister in the new government.

Mr Foley said the new Daniel Andrews-led government was determined to get cracking from day one.

"The day we get back to Parliament, we won't waste a single day in delivering on our jobs outcome to make sure we tackle the looming jobs crisis that the Liberal government have left behind," he said.

"We'll also make sure that we stand up to Tony Abbott's cuts in education, health and public transport."

Developer's request the 'most arrogant'

A developer with the rights to build Australia's biggest tower at 555 Collins St and over-shadow the Yarra is not satisfied and wants conditions over its form and quality removed.

Fragrance Mel-Vic (Collins) Pty Ltd has asked the State Government for the removal of three conditions that were imposed last year in an incorporated document to the planning scheme.

In discussing the City of Melbourne's response to the planning department on the request on November 11, Cr Rohan Leppert labeled the application: "possibly the most arrogant request that we have ever looked at".

Councillors were appalled last year when the Planning Minister Matthew Guy granted permission to build a 400m tower which would over-shadow Southbank almost to City Rd.

Since then, Fragrance bought the site but

now wants the three conditions specified in the incorporated document removed.

One of the conditions was that the building had to be for commercial use but Fragrance now wants a mixed-use development to include residential.

Condition one reads: "The building must be iconic in nature and design, demonstrate a high degree of architectural merit, provide excellent public realm outcomes, and deliver high quality economic and environmentally sustainable offices."

Cr Leppert said: "The request to change the incorporated document conditions are an absolute nonsense and our officers have gone one step further to recommend,

just as we did back in early 2013, that this incorporated document be removed from the planning scheme entirely. It should never have been put there in the first place."

Councillors voted unanimously to reject the request and, taking the matter further, also requested the removal of the over-shadowing exemption.

Cr Stephen Mayne said he had some sympathy for the developer should the rules be changed after the purchase but, he said, it should not have happened in the first place.

"There are a range of parties with a lot of questions to answer and I hope that the next planning minister will release some information so we can have a serious inquiry

into how the hell this happened," he said.

"And I certainly hope that the next minister takes our advice and withdraws the incorporated document, although I flag the obvious sovereign risk issue of an international investor who suddenly has the rules of the game changed on them."

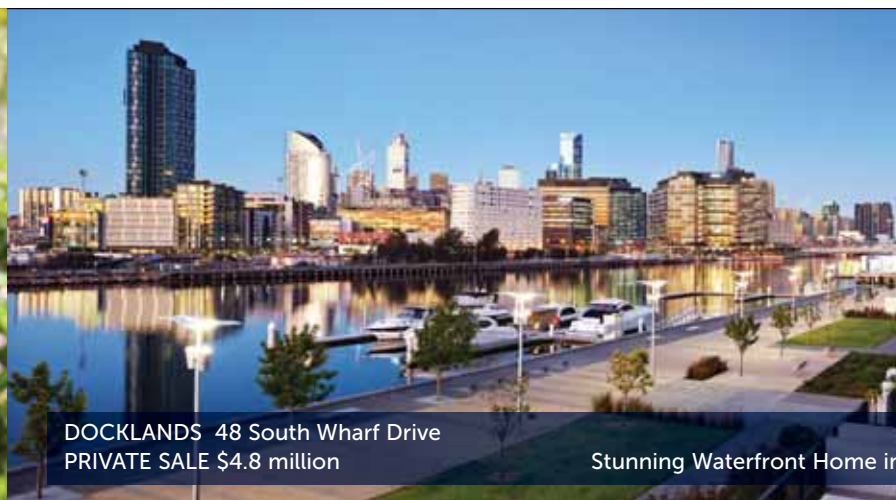
"This has been a sordid chapter the likes of which I hope we never see again," he said.

The council's planning chair, Cr Ken Ong, said the lesson for developers was to speak with the council and do their "due diligence".

He said he could understand developers be confused with agents telling them that almost anything goes in Melbourne.



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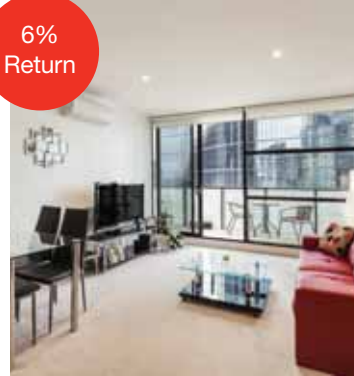
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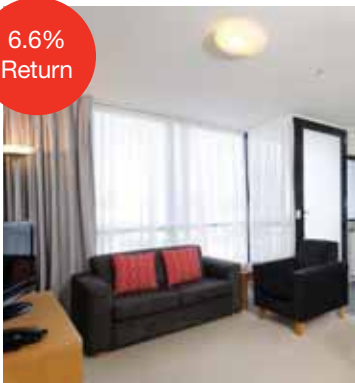
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Local MP Martin Foley (right) and TwoSchoolsNow's Marie Walters (left) and Julie Brown (centre) with children Jack Walters 7, Bryson Walters 5 and Madelyn Brown

Green light for spending

Melbourne's "people's panel" has given a green light to the City of Melbourne to increase rates, sell assets, borrow money, spend more on "green initiatives", maintain community services and cut capital works spending.

In May, the City of Melbourne determined to bring together a representative group of 43 people to help guide the development of its 10-year financial plan.

The panel's report was submitted to a special meeting of the Future Melbourne Committee on November 17.

In its report, the panel also cautioned the council on over-spending on the Queen Victoria Market redevelopment and said it wanted motorcycles off footpaths.

The panel presented a list of issues it wants the council to advocate on, including:

- Improved public transport;
- More schools;
- Higher congestion taxes on cars in the central city;
- Higher open space contributions, developers levies and more control of development for the city; and
- More state-based welfare.

The panel met six times between August 23 and November 8 to determine its position. At its fifth meeting, it engaged with councillors and presented its report to councillors at the meeting on November 11. Councillors formally responded on November 25.

At the November 17 meeting, councillors engaged with a number of panelists selected to present the elements of their reports.

The report will be embedded as a whole into the draft 10-Year Financial Plan as a key reference document, including an explanation as to the extent to which, each recommendation could be acted upon.

Start building our school

Education lobby group TwoSchoolsNow has wasted no time in putting the pressure on the newly-elected Labor Government to make good on its promise to deliver South Melbourne Park Primary by 2018.

The group's treasurer Martin Lawrence congratulated local MP Martin Foley and Labor on winning the election and said the group was looking forward to working with the new government to ensure education promises were fulfilled.

"Martin Foley is the local member and we know we can work with Martin Foley. He has been very approachable and helpful to us and now our focus is on delivery," Mr Lawrence said.

"It's great that we have someone elected who has a crystal clear pledge on getting South Melbourne Park Primary up and running by 2018. We expect that will be delivered and obviously one of our jobs is to hold them to that."

However, while Mr Lawrence said it was great that the area would receive a school during the next term of the current government, the passing of the election had not resolved the education crisis in the area.

The Labor Government has promised it will review the Liberal's proposed Ferrars St site and Fishermans Bend as part of its plan.

Mr Lawrence said TwoSchoolsNow would be immediately seeking a meeting with the incoming education minister James Merlino to ensure plans were carried out.

"The demographics of the area are such that we probably need more than just one school, especially if you have a look at the Fishermans Bend development and also just the number of young families with kids."

"You're going to need more schools because you're talking about 50-100,000 people and a town of about 50-100,000 people would have lots and lots of schools."

Mr Foley said his government would waste no time in making the area's education needs a top priority.

"We'll deliver on all of our commitments and the first of those will be the South Melbourne Park Primary School in Albert Rd," he said.

"It will be delivering a new campus for Albert Park College. It will be releasing the data around what are the projections and current status for the Ferrars St-Fishermans Bend site. It will be building stage one of Elwood College. And it will be finalising the planning

arrangements for the proposed Prahran College."

Mr Lawrence also acknowledged the contributions of Liberal candidate Shannon Eeles and Greens candidate David Collis.

He said he was proud of the hard work undertaken by TwoSchoolsNow and the local community in raising the volume on the issue in lead up to the election.

"It's been great," he said. "It's a small group of very committed people and all I can say is we'd love to have more on board. While the election might be done, the issues are not over."

"I think one of the things we managed to do at TwoSchoolsNow is do a great job in making sure people are very aware of where both parties stood on education issues in the electorate and that was really our focus."

"Schools take time to build and plan, so there was a lot of anger about the failure to see this coming."

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Melbourne CEO reflects on seven years at the top

By Shane Scanlan

After seven years in the top job, the city's top bureaucrat retired on December 3 frustrated that the council has not able to do more to build community in Southbank.

Dr Kathy Alexander told *Southbank Local News* that the suburb would have been on the right track had the State Government also shared the city's commitment to the Southbank Structure Plan.

"I don't think it's coming out our way," she said. "Our position on Southbank in terms of the structure plan is pretty clear. I think if we implemented that, we'd have a great community down there."

"It would not only be a great community with high amenity for the people living in Southbank, but it would also complement the rest of the capital city zone."

"I think if we could get commitment and agreement, the problems of Southbank would be solved."

Dr Alexander acknowledged the apparent disconnect between the council and the Southbank community. But, she said, the council was committed to the suburb.

"Southbank is on council's radar. The relationships are a little bit difficult, but we'll get there," she said.

"I do agree that the community infrastructure and amenity aren't that fantastic but there are plans for Southbank. We've been able to go back in and buy the school and the whole Boyd thing has become a bit of a focus."

"We've had all kinds of ideas about how we could maybe put parks under some of the freeways and stimulate some activation in ugly places and turn them into beautiful places. That requires some agreement with the State Government so we haven't been able to progress that," Dr Alexander said.

"We've got the plan for City Rd and there's absolutely no doubt that that's a priority. It will be made beautiful and useable."

"The other thing we've been centrally involved in, in partnership with the state, is the arts precinct and I reckon that's a game changer," she said. "The trouble is there are a lot of parties involved and our role is a facilitative role. We want to really get moving on it but, once again, it's getting a whole lot of parties together."



Outgoing Melbourne CEO Kathy Alexander.

Dr Alexander said her time at the helm had been simplified because of the council's consistent adherence to the "Future Melbourne" plan and principles which were first suggested by the John So council in 2008.

"I've had a pretty clear path to follow in those seven years," she said. "For the past six years the council has been working on a very solid set of directions around those major (Future Melbourne) community goals."

So, how does she rate her performance?

"I don't like to appraise my own performance, but the fact that I keep getting my contract signed is a good sign," she said.

"I can certainly see huge progress being made in the directions that council wanted."

"I've always been able to report that the plan's been implemented and always ahead

of budget and, if you look at the international recognition that the City of Melbourne has had for the projects that it has run and the programs that it implements and the directions that it has been taking, there's no doubt that our excellence in those endeavours has been recognised."

Dr Alexander said her task as CEO had also been made easier by the alignment and commitment of her staff.

"It's a great organisation. The organisation itself is fundamentally committed to the City of Melbourne," she said. "We've done culture surveys amongst the staff and the thing that gets them up in the morning to come to work is the city."

"Making Melbourne a bold, inspirational city is on everyone's mind."

And, while Dr Alexander will miss the role, she won't miss the 12-hour days and the burden of reading all the council's papers every Sunday. She also says her retirement is a good opportunity for the organisation to introduce new energy and new thinking.

She said a health scare for her daughter and grandson last year was a contributing factor to her decision to retire.

"She had a very difficult pregnancy and it was touch and go for both herself and the baby," she said. "Trying to 'fit in' my family, rather than focus on them, was an interesting time in my life."

"And also I'm 60 and things start to happen after 60 and I'm fit and healthy. Do I want to wait until I'm 70 or 65 when maybe I'm not so healthy?"

Dr Alexander said she would pursue some board positions where she would be able to continue to contribute to organisations at a strategic level rather than at the operational level.

"I've had quite a lot of calls. I'm quite comfortable about my future," she said.

"I don't think I'll be idle. It's not like I'm going home to be with my family and work in the garden. I'll still be in the workforce, but I won't be doing 12-hour days."



Melburnian of the Year Prof. Sharon Lewin.

Melburnian of the Year

Medical researcher Prof. Sharon Lewin has been named the 2014 Melburnian of the Year.

The Doherty Institute director was honoured for her contribution to Melbourne's globally-respected medical research sector and her role as co-chair of the recent AIDS 2014 conference held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre in Southbank.

On November 15, Lord Mayor Robert Doyle announced the award.

"It gives me great pleasure to bestow the honour of 2014 Melburnian of the Year to Prof. Sharon Lewin who is one of the world's most influential campaigners and researchers working towards a cure for HIV," Cr Doyle said.

In response, Prof. Lewin said: "To be singled out for this accolade is a wonderful honour and something I'm extremely proud of."

Prof. Lewin was joined by nine other individuals, corporations and community organisations, who were each recognised for their contribution to the wider-city's success as part of the Melbourne Awards program.

Judging of the Melbourne Awards involved a panel of more than 50 business and community leaders across a range of industry sectors, choosing winners and finalists through a thorough application and interview process.

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Fishermans Bend anger

More than 50 residents from Southbank and Port Phillip attended a public forum during November to have their say on the Fishermans Bend urban renewal area.

Hosted by the Fishermans Bend Network community group, the forum was held in an angry response to the now former state coalition government's strategic framework plan for Fishermans Bend.

It comes after former planning minister Matthew Guy approved the construction of 11 towers in the Montague precinct of the area situated between Southbank and South Melbourne during September.

Speaking at the forum, Trisha Avery of the Montague Community Alliance said her group was frustrated by the previous government's lack of consultation with the community.

"We have been disenfranchised by the rezoning of our suburb into a capital city zone," she said. "We have no voice in what gets built next door to us."

"There is nothing over two-storeys here, but developers have been given permits to build 11 towers more than 10 times that height and we don't even have the right to know what's been proposed."

Community members made more than 160 suggestions at the forum as to how Fishermans Bend could be improved, with immediate recommendations calling on the Government to reserve land for public



Community members at last month's Fisherman's Bend Network Forum.

infrastructure such as schools, public transport and open space.

Helen Halliday of the Fishermans Bend Network slammed Mr Guy for ignoring the needs of the community.

"We don't have enough of this basic infrastructure to serve the current community, let alone another 80,000 residents and 40,000 workers," she said.

"We totally reject the view that these crucial services will be provided by the developers. That is just nonsense."

The member for Albert Park, Martin Foley, said the newly-elected Labor Government was committed to making sure a community

and local government based review of the strategic planning framework was undertaken.

"We want to make sure that it's done properly and rigorously," he said. "It's not up to the politicians to pre-empt that."

"It has to be done with the community, with the councils and with the developers, so everyone has confidence in the rules rather than the botched mess that Matthew Guy left behind."

The group will hold a series of workshops over the next 12 months in order to create a holistic and integrated alternative plan for Fishermans Bend.

All steady at SRG

The Southbank Residents Group Committee remains unchanged following the group's annual general meeting held on Tuesday, November 18.

Tony Penna remains in the role of president and Mike Vallis continues as the group's treasurer.

However, the positions of vice-president and secretary still remain unoccupied following the departure of Dharmenda (Dave) Poobalasingam and Andrea Johnston earlier this year.

More than 20 people attended the meeting, with the group's membership numbers having risen significantly since Mr Penna took on the role of president from predecessor Michael Smolders late last year.

The chair of the Freshwater Place Owners' Corporation thanked Mr Penna at the meeting for the "superb job" he had done during his first year as president, saying the community was highly appreciative.

During his first year as a both a member of the group and an office holder on the committee Tony Penna said he had found it an interesting and rewarding experience.

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Are you having a laugh?

Laughter Yoga Australia and New Zealand CEO Merv Neal has brought the secrets of laughter health yoga to Boyd Community Hub in Southbank.

As a leading expert on how laughter impacts on human physiology, the Freshwater Place resident said he now swears by laughter as the best form of medicine having miraculously recovered from a life-threatening illness in 2002.

According to Mr Neal, doctors had told him nothing could be done to cure him, which is when he said he decided to laugh it off.

"I was working, drinking and doing all the things to constitute an illness and ended up with a very serious, life-threatening illness," he said. "When I was given the news that potentially nothing could be done about it I laughed."

"When the doctor asked, why are you laughing? I said I have no idea, I just think that this whole situation is funny. They said well it's not funny it's really, really bad. I said I just think it's funny and continued to laugh."

According to Merv, the more he continued to laugh the healthier he became and naturally he became curious as to how.

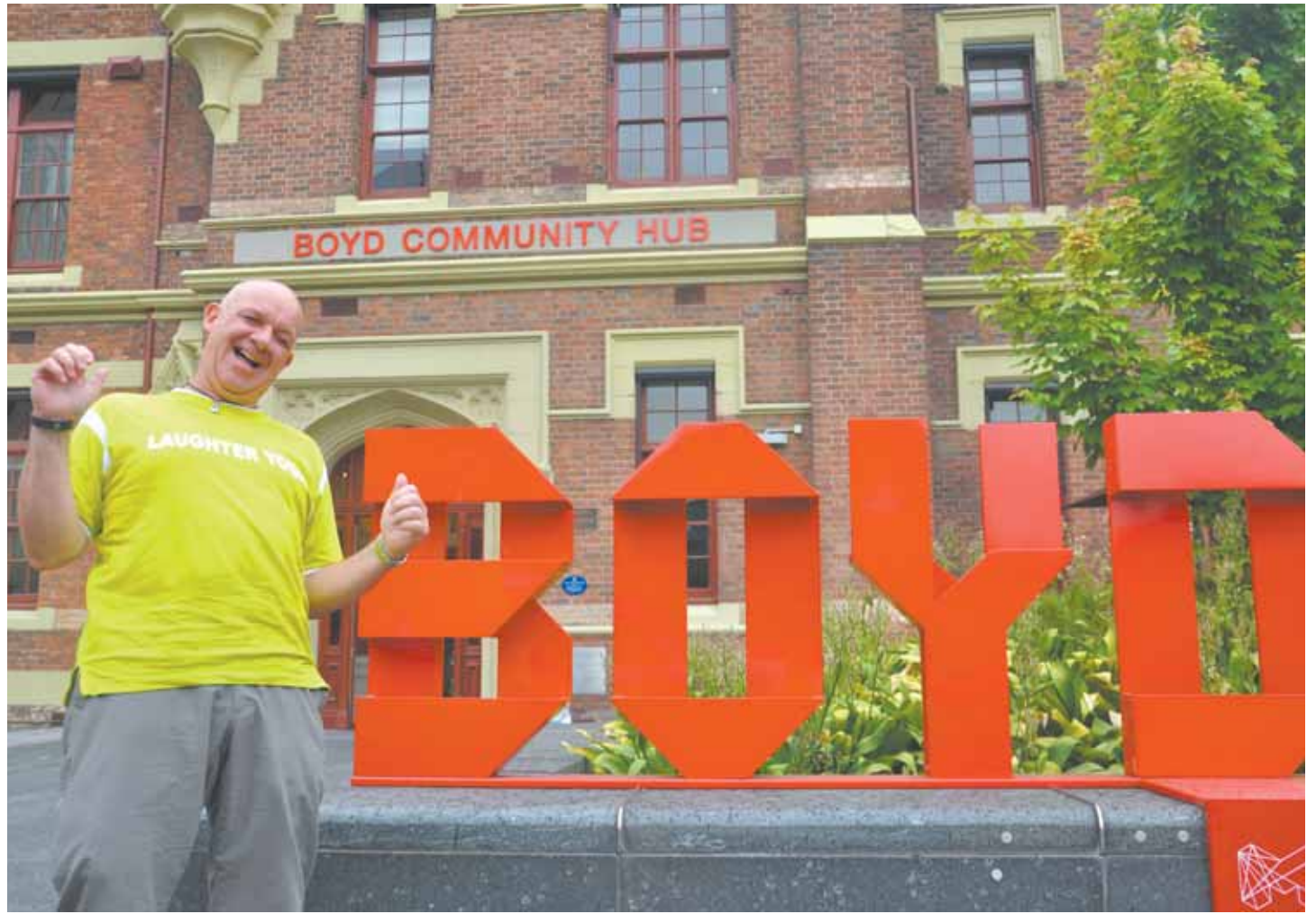
Since making his recovery, the 58-year-old has since established Laughter Yoga Australia and New Zealand, an organisation committed to establishing as many laughter yoga clubs and programs as possible.

Having conducted two research studies into the impacts of laughter on people, Mr Neal is now a qualified gelotologist (otherwise known as a laughter practitioner) and travels the world speaking about the benefits of laughter.

After conducting his research on negative measures such as stress, depression and anxiety as well as positive measures including mood-control and self-esteem, he said laughter yoga had a positive impact in all areas after just one session.

He said his second study, focusing on kidney dialysis patients, showed that laughter boosted a range of areas including the immune system and blood pressure.

"Deakin University found through that research study, that laughter has an instant impact," he said. "You don't have to do it



Laughter Yoga Australia and New Zealand CEO Merv Neal has brought his laughter yoga classes to the Boyd Community Hub in Southbank.

for six months. It has an instant impact on someone's being in a positive way."

"What laughter does, regardless of what your situation, is provide a balance. So, if something is too high, it brings it down. If something is too low, it brings it up."

"That's particularly important. If you're stressed, it will calm you. If you are lacking energy, it will energise you."

While many would assume a class practising laughter would derive from a joke book, Mr Neal said that was not the case.

According to Merv, laughter yoga instead puts the body into a simulated state of laughter through a range of techniques with

guaranteed effects.

"We have a saying in laughter yoga that says we can't cure anything, but we can help to cure everything," he said.

"So it doesn't necessarily solve a person's problems but it dissolves it to a point where they can think more clearly about maybe what it is they have to do and get unstuck from the situation that they're in."

"They are then able to make some more logical decisions about providing a better life for themselves in regard to their health and happiness."

Mr Neal said he was incredibly excited to be bringing laughter yoga to Southbank and

called on anyone to come see what it's all about.

"I have lived in Southbank just on five years now and it's outstanding. It's absolutely brilliant here," he said.

"Essentially, Boyd Community Hub could be seen as a community centre or a local gym so come down for some physical health but what about some emotional and mental health as well?"

Laughter Yoga is held every Tuesday evening at Boyd Community Hub at 6pm.

To make an enquiry contact Mr Neal at mervneal@laughteryoga.org



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Providing our Yarra with a voice

After actively standing up for Melbourne's much-loved waterway for more than a decade, Ian Penrose of the Yarra Riverkeepers Association says it is vital to give the Yarra a voice.

"It's apart of Melbourne's life, the river is under a lot of pressure from Melbourne's situation here and it needs a voice to speak up for it and protect it," he said.

"It's important to our lives as a source of water. It's the main source of our drinking water. It's the source of recreation for urban dwellers. It's a beautiful part of Melbourne."

Formed in 2004, The Yarra Riverkeepers Association is a not-for-profit organisation, which is part of an international water keeper movement of community groups caring for their local waterways.

Having only just retired in October, Mr Penrose had held the organisation's top role of riverkeeper for nine years and still continues to lobby policy-makers and campaign publicly on behalf of the river.

The 68-year-old is still as passionate as ever about the river and its history and said it was a shame that more people were not aware of its historical significance in the establishment of Melbourne.

"That history is not well known and I would love for Melburnians to understand that history of their place around the river, which adds richness to our lives and living in this place," he said.

"The Yarra is always a source of water for Melbourne and the first settlers would drink straight from the river, it was central to their lives."

However, it wasn't long before the river was too dirty to drink from or even swim in with the growth of industry causing widespread pollution.

While water quality has improved since those days, pollution from the storm water and sewerage systems continue to have a negative impact on the river environment, particularly around Southbank.



Ian Penrose at a meeting with Liberal candidate for Albert Park Shannon Eeles.



Ian taking Albert Park MLA Martin Foley out for a trip on the Yarra Riverkeeper Association patrol boat.

Recent data from the Centre for Aquatic Pollution Identification and Management revealed levels of toxic E.coli bacteria more than 21 times what is considered safe just for rowing, which Ian said was simply unacceptable.

"The major source of pollution in the lower part of the Yarra is coming from the storm water system," he said. "The river is a drain for our streets and, as a consequence, the river is highly polluted with street run off."

"There are sewerage spills and there is a lot of bacteria in the water because of it. In a modern city like Melbourne and a wealthy city, it's our view, that it's unacceptable to have human waste in the river."

While Mr Penrose and his group are actively lobbying politicians to better manage the city's drainage system, he said encroaching development and overshadowing were also concerning for wildlife and those who enjoy the river at Southbank.

"One of the benefits of having the river for people living in Southbank is having a natural space there where there is grass, trees a little bit of nature," he said.

"There's an amazing amount of wildlife down here and every time we destroy some of those natural areas, we're destroying the wildlife habitat and reducing the space for the animals and we don't think that's good."

The newly-elected Labor government has committed to implementing a Yarra River Protection Act primarily focused on reducing pollution and preventing encroaching development.

While Ian has received the news positively, he said he and his group would continue to fight for the river long and hard until further steps were taken.

"It's a very noisy world out there and you have advocates like us, who need to compete for space in this noisy world and so we advocate loudly," he said.

"We've spoken with that office and they recognise the encroaching development is taking away some of the values of the river and it (Labor) has stated an intention to put the Act in place."

To find out more information or to get involved visit www.yarrariver.org.au

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MAB Corporation directors Michael and Andrew Buxton at Monument Park during construction.

Monumental occasion for Docklands

The stunning Monument Park is being unveiled this month in NewQuay in Docklands.

The \$3 million, 2000sqm sculptural park binds together seven sculptures by award-winning artist Callum Morton. Each is based on a significant City of Melbourne monument, including the “yellow peril”

(Vault), Burke and Wills and the Marquis of Linlithgow.

A concrete facsimile of the Hoddle Grid is draped across the various monuments and forms the base of the park.

According to Mr Morton, the ground plane is imagined as a carpet – rising and falling as it covers the various monuments.

“Critically, we wanted to emphasise the idea

that Docklands should be regarded not as an isolated precinct but rather as an extension, and integral part of the city,” he said.

“The forms are broken open in sections to reveal new colourful worlds for sheltering in, exploring, playing amongst and enjoying.”

“There are abundant green areas that appear through holes created in the surface of the carpet. The plantings appear as if literally erupting from the ground below to colonise

this fantasy city.”

The project is funded by Places Victoria and MAB Corporation, the developer of Docklands’ NewQuay precinct. Docklands developers are required to spend 1 per cent of the value of their projects on public art.

Joining Mr Morton in creating the concept were landscape architecture studio, Oculus, and architects for the adjacent The Quays residential building, McBride Charles Ryan.

Art for art's sake



Michael Buxton

Monument Park is our most ambitious art project. MAB’s approach to public art is to create engaging and welcoming pieces. We always envisage people interacting with the art rather than just observing it.

Art in the community is an integral component in the creation of a sense of place and MAB is committed to delivering art and green spaces to NewQuay. By designing a unique landscape setting with great public art enables us to deliver a truly distinctive space for the NewQuay community and our thousands of visitors.

The beauty of Monument Park is its evolving nature. By integrating the sculptures with landscaping elements, it provides a new dimension. It will continue to evolve as the plants grow.

Whilst there is a strong story behind the sculptures, the beauty of art is subject to interpretation. It will create discussion; some people will love it and some won’t. The best art pieces always create debate.



Elma Crosbie thinks Monument Park is great for Docklands.

Park is simply ‘fantastic’

Docklands resident Elma Crosbie thinks Monument Park is ‘fantastic.’

“It’s fantastic because there’s been nothing in this area like it,” Elma said.

“I don’t know too much about it, but as far as I can see, it also honours people who helped Australia develop in the first place.”

Ms Crosbie lives in the neighbouring Conder tower. She said NewQuay had needed additional features to draw visitors.

“I’ve been watching it being built downstairs there for months now. It’s great to see it finally coming together and all the various colours being added,” she said.

“I’ve been pleasantly surprised by how it’s shaping up. It’s great for the area.”

Ms Crosbie has watched NewQuay develop since moving to Docklands six years ago. The views and proximity to public transport are what first attracted her to the area.

Commitment to Docklands



Andrew Buxton

Monument Park is the next key step in the revitalisation of NewQuay. What was once a concrete plaza is being transformed into a space for people to relax, grab a coffee and enjoy life on the water.

MAB’s vision is to set a new benchmark for art and public spaces in Melbourne. Each member of our design team is a multi-award winner in their field.

NewQuay has evolved significantly in recent months, from welcoming new residents to The Quays through to the creation of Monument Park as well as introducing exciting new businesses. In 2015, NewQuay will continue to progress with the completion of the Ron Barassi Senior Park - Melbourne’s newest park and sporting facility in Docklands.

The start of construction of MAB’s Aquil Promenade apartments early next year will provide another opportunity for people to enjoy living at NewQuay.

MONUMENT PARK
Opening December 2014



Bitcoin arrives in Southbank

The international digital currency phenomenon Bitcoin has come to Southbank, with the group establishing Australia's first Bitcoin 'Embassy' on City Rd.

The concept, which has taken off in countries across the globe including the United States, France and Germany, was officially launched at 91 City Rd on Monday, November 22.

The Melbourne Bitcoin Technology Centre is a not-for-profit workshop offering free corporate working space to the local community, which can be utilised for any purpose.

A second Australian embassy has since opened in Perth with a number of other embassies currently proposed in other cities around the country.

Embassy "ambassador" Bruno Timpano called on the Southbank community to come and utilise the public space and learn more about Bitcoin.

"Bitcoin adoption and community awareness has been difficult due to it being a new and emerging technology, but also because it lives 'in the cloud,'" he said.

"Staying true to Bitcoin being global, the Bitcoin Embassy networks are global community hubs united in their independence and are open for the people."

"They are, in effect, and ironically, the first non-nation-based embassies."

Bitcoin is a form of digital money, which is often defined as "crypto currency" and was established five years ago in response to the global financial crisis.

It is the first truly "country-less" monetary denomination and is the only currency not printed from a central reserve bank, meaning it is not subject to inflation, bailouts, austerity measures or quantitative easing.

Currency can be sent at the speed of an

email anywhere in the world devoid of bank fees and, while the technology hasn't been widely rolled out yet, it can be used in retail stores via QR code scanning.

The City Rd embassy was donated by Bitcoin Group, which will soon be the first company in the world to launch an entirely Bitcoin focused and orientated company on a stock exchange with the intention to list on the ASX via an IPO in early 2015.

The embassy is located at L1/91 City Rd in Southbank.



Members of the media gather at the Bitcoin Embassy launch on Monday, November 22.



One of the multi-purpose spaces available for public use in the Bitcoin technology centre.

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Yarra River Business Association Luncheon

Members of Southbank's business community were treated to another spectacular day for the Yarra River Business Association's networking luncheon on Friday, November 21.

Up to 50 guests gathered at the Amarak Bar and Restaurant at Southgate Promenade for the last quarterly luncheon for 2014.

All were treated to an afternoon of magnificent hospitality as well as a guest presentation from the director of the new "SummerSalt" festival Kirsten Siddle, who provided an insight into what would be in store come January 23.

Practice manager at the new Medidock Health Centre Dr Sid Vohra also addressed members briefly on his new health service on City Rd in Southbank.

The Yarra River Business Association will hold its first quarterly luncheon for 2015 in February.



Guest speaker Kirsten Siddle addresses members.



Former MasterChef contestants Emma Dean (right) and Sam Gant (left) square off at the Southbank Farmers Market.

Farmers Market cooks off

Curious crowds gathered at the Southbank Farmers Market on Saturday December 6, to witness a cook-off between two former MasterChef contestants.

2013 MasterChef winner Emma Dean and 2014 participant Sam Gant squared off against each other in a fight for gourmet glory.

Each of the chefs were provided with \$50 and 30 minutes to shop the market and a further 30 minutes to create a dish based around seasonal produce purchased at the market.

The contest was refereed and judged by Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre's executive chef Tony Panetta, who

did a good job in keeping the fierce showdown under control.

The former champion Emma Dean whipped up a chocolate moose using fresh avocados and berries, while Sam utilised some fresh Portarlington muscels in her dish as crowds flocked to get a taste.

In fitting fashion the contest ended in a stalemate, with Mr Panetta declaring Victorian local produce to be the winner.

Lions call to arms

The director of the newly-launched Lions Club of Southbank, Graeme Lukey, has called on the community to get behind the initiative.

The group set up a stall at the Southbank Farmers Market on Saturday, December 6, as it began its push to recruit more members from the local community.

"The Lions Club is still in formation," Mr Lukey said. "We've been meeting now for maybe about 10 months and gradually establishing interest but we are still looking for members to get our formation."

The Lions Club movement is an international humanitarian organisation, which was established with the purpose to serve the local community.

Mr Lukey said the group was already formulating ideas on how to help the Southbank community grow.

"One thing that we're considering at the moment is, in fact, English training for those who are obviously migrants to the area, which we believe there is a lot and who need some help and assistance in establishing their communication skills," he said.

To make a membership enquiry contact Graeme: gramelukey@bigpond.com



Southbank Lions (left to right) Collin Wang, Sue Zhou, Graeme Lukey and Allen Cui at Southbank Farmers Market.

THE ARTS PRECINCT

Sugar Mountain



Rat & Co



Ghostpatrol

VISITORS TO SOUTHBANK HAVE ALREADY BEEN ENJOYING THE MANY EVENTS OF THE OUTDOOR SUMMERSALT FESTIVAL WHICH LAUNCHED ITS PROGRAM IN OCTOBER.

By Chloe Strahan

As January approaches, so does the lead up to one of the biggest events, the Sugar Mountain Festival.

Held on January 24, Sugar Mountain is a one-day event at the Victorian College of the Arts and will showcase the best of contemporary music, visual arts and new media.

Curators of the event aim to inspire and amaze visitors with interactive arts spaces and a stellar line up of local and well-known musicians such as hip-hop artist Nas.

Artist Ghostpatrol is one of many visual artists that will be creating a display for the festival, and says he hopes for something untraditional.

"This work that we will be doing with Sugar Mountain will be quite new and different. It is always a risk trying to do something different but that's the fun of it as well," he said.

Ghostpatrol will be collaborating with artist Sean Morris to create a 3D installation, hoping to have movement as a main element.

Originating in Hobart and travelling for months at a time throughout the year,

Ghostpatrol resides in Melbourne.

"I knew so many great artists here and it was inevitable that I would come back to Melbourne. I haven't found anywhere else that I would rather be based. It is a good spot to travel from as well," he said.

Drawing every day as a kid, Ghostpatrol's illustrations are influenced by his travels to Japan, early-80s cartoons and nature.

"It's a good thing for me to roll it all up together and dig into my imagination, and I like that it is a really positive thing to share with other people. I like it when other people tell me a story about what they think an image is all about; it is really amazing," he said.

"My designs are an evolution of just doodling and meditating on your own thoughts. It's kind of the way that I almost keep a diary, you know some people are better with words I am better with drawing."

As well as creating his artistic space for the event, Ghostpatrol is looking forward to the festivities in his hometown with friends, particularly excited to see a personal favourite Nas perform his *Illimatic* set.

"It is a bit of an honour to be a part of Sugar Mountain Festival this year. It is really nice to be alongside some really big name artists," he said.

Amongst the decorated line up of musical talent on show at Sugar Mountain will be one of Melbourne's best new exports Rat & Co, who have made a name for their unique electronic sounds.

The group's main songwriter and producer Josh Delaney described their style as being based less on music and more on sound.

"Most of the time we will just be making weird sounds in the studio and working it into a melodic instrument basically," he said.

Fresh off their second album *Binary* and a nationwide tour supporting Chet Faker, Josh the group couldn't be more excited to feature at Sugar Mountain.

"I've always wanted to play it for so long but was just never right for the line up but this time I think we suit it perfectly so I'm really excited for it."

www.sugarmountainfestival.com

21-YEAR OLD JOHN ALLENGAME'S PASSION FOR PHOTOGRAPHY STEMS FROM A VERY POWERFUL INFLUENCE.



John's quirky take on life



PROFILE PICTURE

JOHN ALLENGAME



Having grown up in his hometown of Bendigo, John said his decision to move to Melbourne to study at the Photography Studies College was prompted by another influential photographer – his father.

“Dad was definitely a powerful influence,” he said. “It (photography) was something that I always enjoyed doing, just going out on weekends, heading out into the bush and taking photos,” he said.

“I thought I still want to do this, I want to continue doing this because it's quite relaxing and quite fun.”

Raised as a photographer's assistant for the majority of his life, John said he first picked up a camera during his final years at high school.

However, it was around this same time when John learnt that his father had contracted cancer which, he said, provided all the more motivation to pursue photography.

With his father now well and truly on the road to recovery, John said the passion for his chosen art was increasing everyday.

“Dad's got over cancer now and I'm still

asking him for more equipment and stuff like that everyday, which is pretty good,” he said.

“The passion is definitely growing with my dad getting better everyday.”

Since starting at the Photography Studies College in 2012, John has now completed his final year of a commercial major in the full-time Advanced Diploma of Photography.

His final body of work has been widely recognised for a combination of imagery, which showcases not only John's creative brilliance but also his slightly left-of-centre style humour.

While his images capturing everyday life are breathtaking in their own right, it is his pieces portraying other childhood influences such as rubber ducks and miniature figurines acting in an obscure manner, which stand out the most.

“It was very evident in some of my pictures there that I like to incorporate a little bit of humour,” he said.

“It's very dry sometimes, but it can be very fun to play around with and try and actually

emulate that out to other people through my work.”

While still young, John said he was already looking to his next challenge as he weighed up a number of career options, ranging from crime scene photographer through to a job opportunity with PSC.

In the mean time, he said his credentials as a photographer's assistant continued to go from strength to strength thanks to his time networking and learning at the Photography Studies College.

“It feels really satisfying to have completed three years now and more and more people ring me up everyday now,” he said.

“I'm getting more phone calls, like I got a phone call as I was walking in this morning asking whether I can assist them in the next couple of days and I can't because I'm already booked out with somebody else.”

To see more of John's work visit www.facebook.com/JohnAllengamePhotographic

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Summersalt is coming

SUMMERSALT OUTDOOR ARTS FESTIVAL IS FAST APPROACHING, AND IT IS GOING TO TURN SOUTHBANK'S ARTS AND THEATRE PRECINCT INSIDE OUT AND BRING THE FUN ONTO THE STREETS.

By Chloe Strahan

Running over five weeks from January 23 to the immensely popular White Night on February 21, Melbourne's art precinct will entertain the public with music, arts, circus, theatre, dance, film and even aerial acrobatics.

Summersalt Festival director Kirsten Siddle says that the key motivation for the festival is to utilise the summer season and show off more of Southbank's fantastic concentration of arts and theatre organisations.

"Traditionally, they are focused on our theatre halls and concert halls. We wanted to turn ourselves inside out and bring all that creativity onto the streets so that people can

enjoy themselves outside in summer," Ms Siddle said.

The Summersalt 2015 program is jam-packed with events, many of which encourage participation from kids and families.

The Giant Opera Dress Up Box allows kids to have a go at creating their own theatrical plays by pulling out old costumes, props, a small stage and backdrops that were used in professional productions. Kids will be able to use their imagination to make-believe their own theatre or opera productions.

Gong Garden is an interactive musical journey that will be located on Dodds St between the VCA and Southbank Theatre. A

garden oasis filled with gongs from around the world invites visitors to wander through and get involved in the beautiful music of gongs and singing bowls.

"As you follow the path you will discover that we are curating an incredible collection of gongs from all over the world, and you have the chance to play them and learn about them," Ms Siddle said. "It is lots of fun to join in and create beautiful music together."

Home will unite the community when they have the chance to depict their idea of home on one of 7000 little houses. Based on the idea that everyone has a different idea of what "home" means to them, participants

will paint and create their own little house, which they can then distribute throughout the city.

"These houses will all come together and people will be invited to take them and distribute them randomly through the city wherever they like. They can appear anywhere - trams, cafes, the library."

Other festival highlights will be the Sugar Mountain Festival, the Sour Times smart-phone adventure, the Human Chess Board, and the jaw-dropping 10,000 square foot Exxopolis installation.

For the full program and more information visit: www.summersaltfestival.com.au

EVENTS DEC/JAN



PSC END OF YEAR EXHIBITION

Dec 16 - Feb 20 - Photography Studies College
Featuring a range of graduate and undergraduate photography from students at Photography Studies College in Southbank.
The exhibition continues from 16 December to 20 February.
www.psc.edu.au



I, MALVOLIO

Jan 6 - Jan 11 - Fairfax Studio
Think Monty Python and Blackadder as Tim Crouch shoves Shakespeare's pent-up steward Malvolio into the spotlight to hilarious effect, turning the entire story of Twelfth Night on its head.
www.artscentremelbourne.com.au



KID CONGO & THE PINK MONKEY BIRDS

Jan 23 - Testing Grounds
A cocktail of fuzz guitars, New Orleans drum beats and more. Kid Congo Powers & The Pink Monkey Birds ride a geisterbahn into the hypnagogic, a place between sleep and consciousness.
www.melbournerecital.com.au



JUMPY

Jan 31 - March 14 - Southbank Theatre
Jane Turner (Kath & Kim) comes to MTC, taking centre-stage in April De Angelis' West End hit, a hilarious domestic comedy of frazzled hopes and parental anxiety.
www.mtc.com.au

BEN FOLDS

Dec 19 - Dec 20 - Hamer Hall
American singer-songwriter Ben Folds brings his pop-rock flair to the classical stage in a unique performance with the MSO, transforming the traditional orchestra into a stellar back-up band.
www.mso.com.au

SIMON TEDESCHI: PIANIST & PRANKSTER

Jan 15 - Salon
Join one of Australia's most inspiring musicians, Simon Tedeschi, as he takes the audience on a journey through his musical life from his first public performance at the age of 8 at the Sydney Opera House to the heights of Carnegie Hall.
www.melbournerecital.com.au

SATURDAY WORKSHOPS - ART EXPERIENCE

Saturdays - NGV International
For children and families - over six sessions under the guidance of experienced art educators, children discover treasures of the NGV through visiting select original works.
www.ngv.vic.gov.au

STAR TREK LIVE IN CONCERT

Jan 31 & Feb 1 - Plenary
The recent rebooting of the legendary Star Trek film franchise, launched to widespread critical acclaim and box office success, brought forth an extraordinary collaboration between film and the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra
www.mso.com.au



THE MUDCAKES

Jan 17 - Salon
Featuring lots of cool instruments, flying monkeys and the world famous family team dance competition, The Mudcakes is perfect for young ones between 2 and 6 years of age and their music-loving folks
www.melbournerecital.com.au



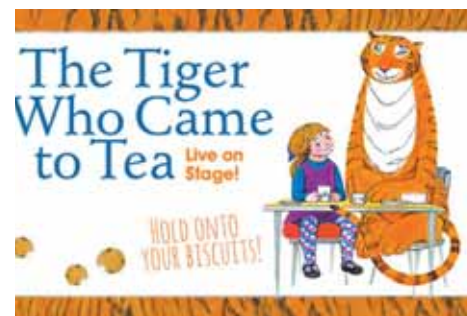
BLAK CABARET

Feb 10 - Feb 22 - Malthouse Forecourt
Flipping Australia's history on its head, the unstoppable diva Constantina Bush (Kamahi Djordon King, The Shadow King) blazes onto the stage as a forgotten queen from a distant land, taking no prisoners and claiming this terra nullius as her own.
www.malthousetheatre.com.au



MENAGERIE

Dec 13 - March - ACCA main gallery
Menagerie explores the human tendency to anthropomorphise through animals and their behaviours as a process of metaphoric discovery of the self. Curated by ACCA artistic director Juliana Engberg, the exhibition features works by international and national artists.
www.accaonline.org.au



THE TIGER WHO CAME TO TEA

Jan 2 - Jan 18 - Playhouse
This stunning stage adaptation of the classic tale is adapted for the stage by David Wood, deemed the UK's 'national children's dramatist' and the undisputed leading writer and director of plays and musicals for children.
www.artscentremelbourne.com.au

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If you love it, it's not a chore

By Shane Scanlan

If Cathy Oke was an elite athlete, and not a politician, you'd want her drug-tested.

She's half-way through her second term as a Melbourne city councillor with an impossible work-load, including being a new mum, but shows no sign of burn-out or disinterest.

Everyone knows town hall politics is a bruising environment but there is not a hint of cynicism about her. It's all surprisingly positive, up-lifting, genuine.

She is certainly idealistic. But the "looney" label that can come with being a Green doesn't stick.

Cr Oke remains unaffected because she is doing something that she loves.

"I feel we are making a difference," she said. "Especially in the sustainability space."

What makes Cr Oke different from what you might expect of an inner-city Greens councillor is the grounding in grass-roots community politics she got at her kitchen table growing up in a staunch ALP family in North Melbourne.

The electoral rules have changed now but, "back in the day", town hall politics was largely decided around similar kitchen tables in West Melbourne, Flemington and Carlton.

Her fanaticism for the North Melbourne Football Club also sets her apart from her peers.

"I'm not your usual greenie in that sense," she said. Adding that she really enjoyed the three years she spent with deep-sea fishermen while she researched a PhD thesis on the genetics of orange roughy.

Cr Oke's parents remain actively involved in local community life. The family allegiance has shifted to the Greens, one suspects, because of the purity of its ideals, particularly in relation to social justice issues.

It's easy to imagine Cr Oke as an absolute joy to her parents - high achieving at school, respectful and well-behaved ("Goody two-shoes" is the term she uses). She studied marine biology which led on to activism around marine national parks and voluntary work with the Surfrider Foundation.

Sun, sand and surf. Does it get more wholesome? Cr Oke carries a bit of that golden sunset idealism with her into the council chamber.

Party politics came much later than community activism for Cr Oke.

She said she was very careful in choosing the Greens but had first voted for the party over its stance on asylum seekers during the "children overboard" controversies of the Howard Government years.



She's now a seasoned councillor and points to achievements in sustainability and transport. She points out that, on some routes, bicycle use is now almost at the council's stretch target of 16 per cent of "mode use".

She says the next bicycle plan will turn its attention to short trips within the municipality with safer infrastructure and lower speed limits.

The council is due to release its final "walking plan" later this year and Cr Oke is keen to get some outcomes.

"We all know that a plan is just a plan and that you actually have to do it," she said. "I'll be concentrating on getting some of the actions enacted over the next two years."

She's also excited by an urban ecology strategy, which she hopes will draw solid connections between nature and the economy of a functioning, liveable city.

She says she hasn't decided what her political future will be. She needs to see what happens in her private life, career and political life during the remaining two years

of her term.

At the moment, though, she shows no signs of slowing down.

"I've found you can actually make a lot of difference being in the political process," she said. "It's a big commitment and there are a lot of hours and you don't get recompensed as you perhaps should but you actually get to make a difference."

She said she mostly loved working with residents and would like to think that she was connected with residents from all around the municipality.

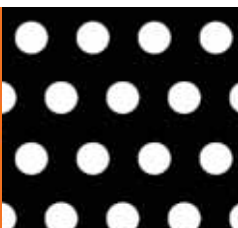
"Sometimes its tough and you don't always provide the answers they want to hear," she said. "You have to decide whether you want to be inside the tent or outside the tent. Do you want to make political change from within or from the outside?"

COUNCILLOR PROFILE



The next Councillor Profile looks at **Cr Ken Ong**

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What *With* Women *Abby* Want *Crawford*

One scorching hot day, my son and I were heading out on our crunchy grass to fill water bowls for the dog (who, sensibly, had stayed inside out of the heat) when, before I had even thought it through, the words “what is that!?” escaped my mouth. Now, it’s not unusual for words to escape my mouth faster than my mind can keep up, but this was one time that I really wanted to take them back urgently.

I had thought that it was a raw chicken wing (disgusting image, huh) on the grass, but with horror realised I had alerted my animal-loving 11-year-old son to the disastrous consequences of our hot summer winds and baby birds nesting in the leaves. It was a blind, featherless and very-close-to-death baby bird. It wasn’t moving. Just as he realised what it was, he squealed “Mumma there’s more!”. Oh no. There was. Three pink, blind, featherless chicken wings – I mean birds – in the garden.

I tried to cuddle him, and explain that wind was nature’s way of controlling the bird population and there was nothing that could be done to save them. He gave me a withering look, and said “Mum, all of God’s creatures deserve a second chance”.

Right. I popped inside to look for a box whilst, in my head, cursing myself for mentioning it. You see, I had absolutely nothing against trying to save the baby birds, but I had everything against my baby being heart broken when they not only died, which was

surely inevitable, but would die in his care.

So we placed these weird little creatures (I said that with love) into a box on the verandah, and I soaked bread in milk to try to drip into their little beaks. There wasn’t much movement, but my son made tissue blankets and patted them for hours, dripping milk towards these three inert creatures.

They started moving. Just gently shuffling together. Then, they started opening their beaks when they heard his voice. He took them out, one by one, and held them against his chest. He went outside, on the rare times he left the box, searching the skies in vain for the parent birds – I’m not exactly sure what the plan was if he sited them, but he seemed determined to reunite them none-the-less.

That night I told him that God would have seen every effort he had made. I told him that they would most likely “pass on” (how else do you put it to an 11year old?) in the night but the most important thing was they would go having felt love and that was the best possible send off to heaven that a bird could get – much better than being baked by the sun and eaten by ants.

Anyway, he won the argument that baby birds do belong inside and into the hallway they came, to surely die in the cool of the night.

I snuggled down with him and prepared myself for the tears in the morning. Up he got at 5am, looked in the box, touched them and the tears flowed. “They’re not moving,

they’ve died”. And I went into my well-rehearsed speech of reassurance. About 20 minutes later, I heard something, something we hadn’t heard before – and he rushed back to the box – they were alive and giving little “tweats”! They’d been asleep. He took great joy in pointing out how wrong I was.

The first few days, I fed them a little of my protein powder mixed in with the milk, just to give them a boost – but then they started growing so much I thought we might inadvertently create pterodactyl birds!

So I looked up what we should feed them – bread and milk were the worst things. It didn’t mention protein powder. Who on earth would take such an expensive product and feed it to birds? But, in fairness, I did still believe we were on a palliative care program, not a serious nutrition program! We learned that soggy dog food was good. At least that’s cheaper than protein powder.

Now we also have a crazy boxer dog called Daisy, who was meant to be an outside dog, but is the most loved-up, sook with a pink blanket who lives inside, and believes she is human. However, her instincts are to hunt (more specifically, to hunt you down and then sit on you) and she was bursting to get to these birds. She has felled several of the neighbours chickens (they were in our yard. It’s really not my fault, right?) in a single swoop but the funniest thing in the world was watching her stick her head into this box of baby birds to have them peck her nose!

She stepped back most indignantly. I felt sorry for her, she had a look on her face that said “but they’re birds! Birds stuffed with dog food – I gotta get some!”

My son later took the birds onto the verandah and taught them to fly. They flew around the house, sat on our heads and constantly demanded food. And he loved them (Wilson, Gerry and Bulldust – he could even tell which was which). We had them all for another few days before they took off one morning when he’d gone to school. He was heart broken, but he knew they were ready.

A day later, as my son got off the bus, one of the birds landed on his shoulder. He came inside with it and the bird fell asleep in his hands. The bird slept in its box and in the morning took off to the skies. It just needed one more night of his love. I’m grateful that this experience was so incredibly different to what I feared it would be. I’m moved beyond words by my son’s compassion and dedication to vulnerable animals.

And I’ve learnt, that maybe I need to see that my son is learning to “fly” on his own, and I just need to trust that his wings will take care of him through life’s inevitable journeys.

All mothers must let their babies grow up and leave the nest one day. But I’ll never stop wanting to protect my baby, no matter how big he gets.

With love,

Abby x



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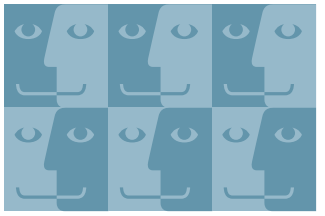
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FACES OF SOUTHBANK

What do you love most about the Southbank Farmers Market?



MARIA D'ANGELO, 48
Benny's Berries

I love the fact that you can come here and get fresh produce that is picked the day before and it lasts and always has heaps of flavour. The diversity of people in Southbank is great, there's a great mixture of everybody here.



JOHN PILEGGI, 48
Villa Pileggi Olive Oil

I've been doing this for 18 years and I love the amount of people who pass through here. I'm from Gisborne so I love coming down to meet all of the wonderful city folk!



ANNABELLE KATE, 47
Lions Club Southbank

I think it's really good for the area, because around this area on a Saturday every month people have something interesting to look forward to. I think the products available here, as opposed to your average markets, are quite unique.



MICHAEL HOUGHTON, 57
Portarlington Shellfish Direct

I've been at the market since it started and I love the area and always have. I love the market on a nice, warm, sunny day when there are hundreds of people here. It's just buzzing. The food's good. Everybody loves the mussels. I enjoy chatting to people and it's a great chance to promote the mussel industry.



JOAN ALLEN, 48
Peninsula Wildflowers

I think the different people and the diversity is really good and the other stallholders are fabulous too. We've been operating in the area for over four years now and being from Boneo, we just love coming to the big smoke!



TERRY GRIFFITHS, 40
Doron Talmi Citrus & Juice

We love that we can provide people with the products as fresh as possible, without chemicals and most of it is generally organic. This is my first visit to Southbank and I'm really enjoying the atmosphere.

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OWNERS CORPORATION LAW *With Tom Bacon*

'Tis the season for AGMs

For a large number of owners' corporations at this time of the year and as the holiday season fast approaches, it also signals that it's time for the end of-year annual general meeting (AGM).

The AGM is a compulsory meeting, and must be held every 15 months at maximum.

All the usual motions must be put and resolved at the AGM – the existing committee must present their reports, a budget must be set and new levies struck. A new committee must be elected, and the owners' corporation must decide on its level of insurance and whether an audit should be done on their accounts.

However, contrary to what most think, the AGM is not the venue for airing grievances and raising complaints about the day-to-day management of the building or the structure of the affairs of the owners' corporation.

Of course, the chairperson has the power to invite owners to table "general business from the floor" but, unless there is a specific motion on the agenda to discuss and decide on a specific issue, then it otherwise cannot be raised nor resolved.

The key point for owners who wish to raise a particular issue for discussion and debate is to seek to formally put that motion on the agenda for the AGM. This involves either requesting the secretary, chairperson or the committee to include the motion on the agenda, or by requisitioning the motion by petitioning other owners to sign a form to support the motion being included on the agenda.

If neither of these options are viable, the lot owner may have to raise the issue via the complaints process under the model rules or under the dispute resolution section of the Owners' Corporation Act 2006.

Remember also that proxy votes for the AGM will only be valid if: (i) the correct and prescribed form is used; (ii) the form is submitted on time; (iii) that the owner or owners of the lot do not owe any levies or fees at the date of the meeting; and (iv) only if the form is signed by all owners shown on the roll of owners and the certificate of title.

If the lot is owned by a company, trust or self-managed super fund, then extra documentation may need to be submitted with the proxy form to prove the execution of the proxy is valid and that appropriate delegations have been made by the company or trust.

Postscript:

Participation on the committee by resident owners in particular, is going to be of critical importance for the future of Docklands.

It is well-documented that the number of owner-residents in the community are falling, as local and overseas investors continue to acquire these apartments in large numbers. Only the resident owners in these buildings will have the knowledge and context to keep oversight of the smooth running of the building on a day-to-day basis and to ensure that the costs of running the owners' corporation are kept in check.

Good luck with the meeting season, and may your upcoming holiday be restful and peaceful. Happy holidays.

Tom Bacon is the principal lawyer of Strata Title Lawyers.

Tom@stratatitlelawyers.com.au



MARKET UPDATE

with Sarah Robins

Hip hip, hooray for summer and holidays!

December heralds the official start to the season of heat, stonefruit, holidays, an abundance of berries and, of course, the silly season.

While the Southbank Farmers' Market takes a break in January with the first Saturday falling just three days into the new year, there's plenty to celebrate about local food in and around Melbourne.

Cherries and apricots are now available. Susceptible to damage from inclement weather, birds and bugs, these are among our most savoured stonefruit, perhaps because its so hard to get nature to co-operate, but when they are, these fruit are the stuff memories are made of.

Plums are also starting to appear in their myriad varieties on the tart-sweet spectrum and berries are similarly coming into their time to shine: strawberries lead the way with

raspberries and blueberries, boysenberries, silvans and others following.

Gather together family and friends to visit one of the numerous pick-your-own farms in areas like Red Hill and the Yarra Valley to get a taste of farming life and the best-tasting fruit of all – the hard-won kind.

Its not just our fruit bowls that are benefiting. Snowpeas, asparagus, fresh peas, avocados and zucchini flowers add delight to salads, sides, frittatas, pastas and more – corn, tomatoes, new potatoes and beans are next in line.

Of course, the barbie is getting a work out again and chops and sausages of all varieties

take their turn: goat, pork, beef, venison ... they're all good when they're local and bought direct from the person who raised those animals.

Charcuterie is also high on our list as a light option and easy to serve, especially for unexpected guests, as are the dips, chutneys, cheeses and other platter items available.

Our sister market at Gasworks Arts Park in Albert Park takes place Saturday, December 20 and, if you're looking for that last minute fresh produce fix, we recommend the Slow Food Melbourne twilight market at Abbotsford Convent, Tuesday, December 23 from 3 until 8pm. Happy holidays!



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ANYTIME FITNESS SOUTH MELBOURNE

A global gym with a local focus

With more than 40 years of experience in the industry, club manager Rob Ward said it was the Anytime Fitness model that drew him into the role.

Consisting of up to 2700 clubs worldwide, of which nearly 400 are located in Australia, he put the global franchise's growing success down to its wide reach and flexible approach to fitness.

"It's definitely the 24-hour model," he said. "It's really been growing rapidly for the past six years in particular. It's just the flexibility for customers, particularly in this area."

"But also just the size of this organisation, because if you move or travel there's always one on the corner (so to speak). So that's a huge benefit. People always say they like the number of clubs and the 24-hour access, 365 days a year."

Despite being an international franchise, Rob said each club placed a strong emphasis on community.

Having established the club back in February, the team at Anytime Fitness South Melbourne has made it its business to create a comfortable environment for its members while offering affordable rates.

"We really work to ensure we provide the right atmosphere and culture in the club," he said. "We know every member that walks in the door, so we can call them by their first names."

"It becomes a bit of a second home for a lot of them and, once the results start kicking in, they really enjoy that atmosphere of being greeted rather than just being another number that walks in the door."

Anytime Fitness provides a state-of-the-art fitness facility, which includes an upstairs studio for personal training, boot camp and circuit-style classes.

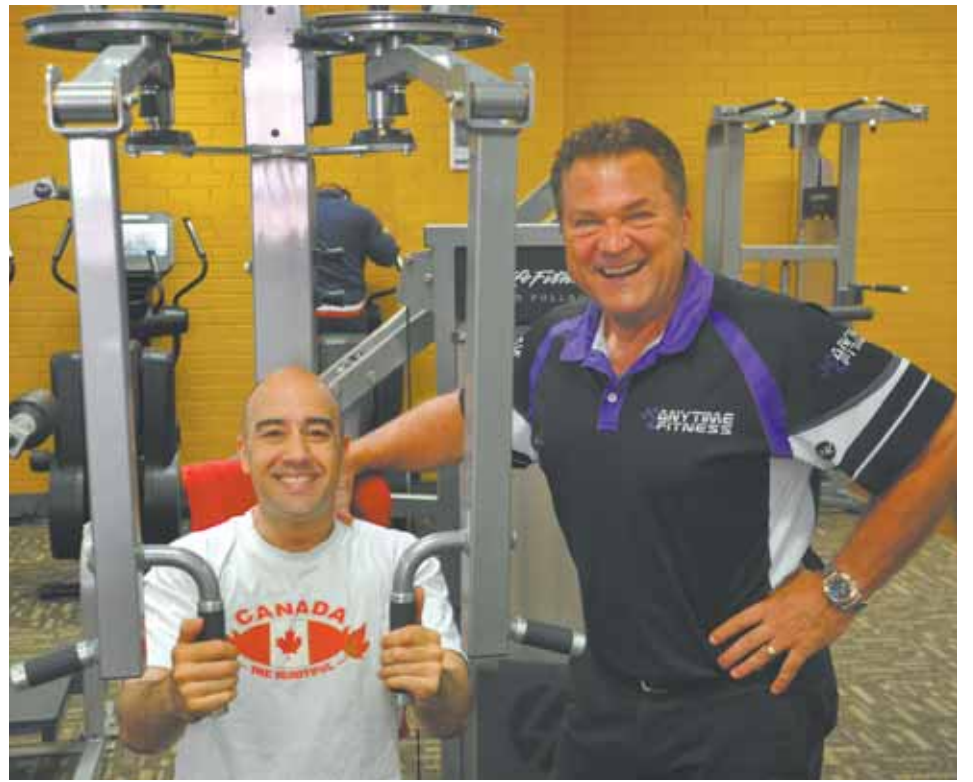
The gym also boasts a team of three highly-qualified personal trainers, including an international body-sculpting champion.

"It's an unbelievable team that we've got with the amount of years of experience," Mr Ward said.

"They enjoyed walking into a clean and organised environment and, with the culture that we had, it was more professional so they certainly enjoy working in this environment and it's a joy for them to come to work."

Situated a stone's-throw away from Southbank on Market St, Mr Ward said he and his team could think of no better area to ply their trade and have been quick to embrace the community as their own.

"South Melbourne and Southbank is a great



Anytime Fitness Club Manager Rob Ward (right) with member Vince Villani (left).

demographic. It's an area that is always growing with all the apartments, and there's a good mix of business and residential," he said.

"It's important for us to become involved in the community. It's a great community

to be based in and we are really focused on developing our reach."

Anytime Fitness is located at 63-69 Market St, South Melbourne.

www.anytimefitness.com.au

SOUTHBANK MEDICAL CLINIC



Dr Mansi Patel and Dr Peter Bennett of the new Southbank Medical Clinic at Sturt St.

Committed to providing healthcare to Southbank.

As former residents of Southbank, Dr Peter Bennett and Dr Mansi Patel knew exactly just how much the area was crying out for quality medical services.

When initially scouting a location for their first clinic, Dr Bennett said the pair could think of no better place to set up shop.

"We knew it was really hard to find a doctor and there was no medical services around, so that's when we picked this spot," he said.

"We'd both lived here before so it was perfect for us because we knew what sort of people would be coming to our clinic and the population we'd be catering to."

Since graduating from Monash University in 2007, Dr Bennett made the switch to general practice having undertaken surgical specialties at hospitals in both Melbourne and Gippsland.

Having also worked in ICU at both metropolitan and rural hospitals, Dr Patel moved to Melbourne from New Zealand in 2007 after graduating from Otago University in 2006.

Dr Bennett said he and Dr Patel were committed to providing Southbank with the highest level of care and range of services possible.

"We're running the clinic ourselves. We're owner operated," he said. "And we're the

ones that are here. We're not getting anyone else to do it. We're just here Monday to Friday and Saturday mornings."

"Plus a lot of patients will prefer either a male or a female doctor so it's worked out quite well when people come in they can ask for either one and we're able to offer both."

On top of providing both specialised men and women's health services, Southbank Medical Clinic offers all general health services from preventative medicine and mental health to weight-loss medicine and skin cancer checks.

Within its brand new state-of-the-art Sturt St facilities, the clinic consists of six spacious consultation rooms, with the intention of expanding its services to house multiples GPs and allied-health professionals in the future.

While the clinic is still in its very early stages, Dr Patel said the response from the community has been overwhelmingly supportive.

"They're really supportive. The community has been really nice," she said. "Even yesterday, the last patient that left said 'I'm so glad you guys opened here.'"

"We don't live in the area anymore but it feels like we are living here, because we're here everyday so it's like a second home."

Southbank Medical Clinic is a private billing clinic located 151 Sturt St, Southbank.

www.southbankmedicalclinic.com.au



**SOUTHBANK
RESIDENTS GROUP
WITH TONY PENNA**

Shame on councillors

We vote for councillors to manage the municipality, produce policy and make sensible planning decisions among many other tasks but, overall, to represent the interests of the community through those tasks.

At last month's Future Melbourne Committee meeting I witnessed something that made me question the values and integrity of some of our councillors and left me flabbergasted and angry.

As an agenda item for a planning application for the corner of Balston St and City Rd was about to commence, a number of councillors excused themselves from the agenda item and left the room citing conflicts of interest.

Apparently the developer had made donations to their party/ticket! What this meant is the agenda item could not be heard, as there was no quorum. Coincidentally, this planning application was in contravention of a number of planning considerations. So the planning application was sent to the Minister's office with no comment or direction from the Future Melbourne Committee for the minister's consideration.

While none of the councillors have broken any laws (from what I am aware), I question how any councillor could allow themselves to be compromised to such an extent

that they are not able to execute their responsibilities (although this does raise questions regarding donation rules).

This is our community and we expect council to make decisions and representation on our behalf.

Shame on those councillors/tickets that allowed themselves to be in this predicament. This was probably a deliberate strategy of the developer to avoid a negative recommendation from the Future Melbourne Committee. I am disgusted!

On a happier note, the election is finally over.

I can hopefully get some normality back into my schedule (what is that?). I would like to extend our congratulations to Martin Foley for his successful retention of the Albert Park seat, but also to his party for their win.

Martin has been allocated the portfolios of Housing, Disability and Ageing, Mental Health and Creative Industries. Wow, what a workload! We are very fortunate our local member is the Minister for Creative

Industries (aka arts) since the arts play a critical role across the Southbank landscape. I am looking forward to working closely with Martin on all the issues affecting Southbank.

I would like to thank all those who attended our AGM and offered their support and feedback. Obviously I was re-elected as president and our executive committee has remained unchanged.

Having said this, we still have vacancies for other office bearer roles so don't hold back and consider helping us out. Remember to like us on Facebook ([SouthbankResidentsGroup](#)).

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and safe New Year. May 2015 be an exciting, safe and prosperous year for all our community.

Tony Penna
President



The best dog in Southbank

While other pet owners might not agree with Southbank resident Arji Fry, she said her dog Coco was simply the best.

According to Ms Fry, her and the 10-year-old cho poodle do everything together and she described her as a best friend.

"She makes me laugh, she gives people a smile everyday and she's just a joy to have around," she said.

"She started off being chocolate brown but she has faded like her mother!"

As well as being an incredibly active dog, when it comes to protecting her owner Ms Fry said she was very bossy to other dogs.

"She's very protective, she likes to look after her owner," she said. "She is just the best dog."

"She's got the best nature of any dog you've ever met. I can take a bone out of her mouth while she's eating and she'll look at me and say 'oh, you want that?'"

Having lived in Southbank all of her life, Ms Fry said Coco simply loved everything about the area.

"We've lived here for 10 years. We went from a high-rise apartment to a ground floor apartment so she's really happy now."



Southbank resident Arji Fry with her wonderdog Coco.

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Worth believing

'Do you Hear What I Hear?' 'O Come all ye Faithful!' 'It's Christmas time in the city!' From radio to department stores, the sounds of Christmas music fill the air.



with Pastor Ian Vainikka

Most people have one of two responses: joyful smiles or roll-the-eyes in annoyance. Some embrace the season with enthusiasm, others exhaustion. But once we get through the bulk of preparations, most of us are glad to participate in celebrations, large and small, warmed with friends, family, food, and good cheer.

Christmas in our culture has two particularly prominent characters: Jesus and Santa. Despite their own jovial and peace-making personalities, we sometimes position them as adversaries. If you have children, perhaps you and your family have had to discuss the roles of Santa and Jesus in your household. To believe in Santa, or not? That is the question, it would seem.

Of course, as Christians, our faith is placed in the Christ-child, the true gift of Christmas, but that does not automatically prevent us from learning of the saints who have gone before us.

The story of Santa is best understood in its entirety, dating back to fourth-century Turkey. A bishop of the church by the name of Nicholas was a man of deep prayer and great generosity. He particularly had compassion for the poor. Bishop Nicholas was known to give secret gifts to families in need, always directing all gratitude to God alone.

In one story about Nicholas, he knew a man who could not afford the financial arrangement for his three daughters to marry. So Nicholas threw three purses filled with gold through the chimney of their home during the night. His gift enabled the girls to marry and avoid unemployment and poverty.

Nicholas, who became known as St Nicholas, has since inspired people to give anonymously to the poor. This seems like something worth believing, and the church celebrates his legacy on December 6.

The greatest gift we celebrate at Christmas

is Jesus, who comes to us all year round and lives among us. Jesus comes to all people, of every socio-economic class, rich and poor; of every age, young and old; and of every height, short and tall.

Jesus gives the same generous and abundant gift — himself — to all people. He gives us life, love, and salvation because of and in spite of our worst behaviour. Jesus knows we mess up and he meets us there and loves us still. Jesus is not only the focus of the season, but of our lives.

This is the message of Christmas that has been proclaimed by many over the centuries, but perhaps none other to the extent, than St Nicholas, who demonstrated Christ's love to the world around him in a very practical way.

In this Christmas season, may you experience the all surpassing generosity and love of God in Jesus, the baby born at Bethlehem.

Pastor Ian

SOUTHBANK SUDOKU

A variation of Sudoku, with the letters SOUTHBANK 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 medium!

Good Luck!

Last month's Sudoku solution

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

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

The Community of St Johns Southgate wishes you every blessing and peace at the birth of Christ

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve, 24th December

7:15pm Carols on the Concourse

7:30pm Service with poetry and carols

Christmas Day, 25th December

10am Service with communion

Sunday 4th January 2015

9am Epiphany Festival Eucharist

Bach Cantata (BWV248/VI)

Every Sunday

9am Traditional worship

11am Informal worship



WHAT'S ON

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | **DEC/JAN**



INNER MELBOURNE LIFE ACTIVITIES CLUB

Meeting on selected dates and various locations, IMLAC takes in the city's parks, its culture, fabulous eating options as well as festivals, galleries and concerts.
Visit our website www.life.org.au/imlac or call Carolyn on 9696 1090



JANUARY 22

SOUTHBANK HISTORY GROUP

Travel back in time with local historians, collectors, guest speakers and meet other likeminded people at our monthly Southbank History Group.
www.melbournelibraryservice.com.au

MONDAY - THURSDAYS & SATURDAYS
CHUNKY MOVE DANCE CLASS
Mondays to Thursdays and Saturdays at 111 Sturt St. Chunky Move dance classes are the perfect way to unwind, get fit and improve flexibility and strength.
www.chunkymove.com



WEDNESDAYS
BOOT CAMP @ BOYD
If you're looking for a great way to start the day, come along to Boot Camp at Boyd. Active Melbourne instructors will take you through a series of fun and challenging exercises. Starts at 6.45am



TUESDAYS

SOUTHBANK ROTARY

Rotary Club of Southbank meets weekly for dinner on most Tuesday evenings throughout the year at various locations. Visitors are always welcome.
www.southbank.org.au



TUESDAYS
LAUGHTER YOGA @ BOYD
Laughter Yoga is a unique concept that allows you to laugh even when you least feel like it and is ideal for all ages. Sessions are at Boyd Community Hub, Assembly Hall each Tuesday at 6pm.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

CHRISTMAS @ BOYD

Santa will be paying a special visit to Boyd next week. Meet in the playroom for Santa's arrival in a big firetruck, followed by a special storytime hosted by Santa, Christmas carols and face painting.



SUNDAYS

ARTS CENTRE MARKET

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.
www.artscentremelbourne.com.au



FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH, 10AM MELBOURNE SUNRISE PROBUS CLUB

The Docklands Library, Dock Square Probus Clubs are for anyone over 50. Keep your mind active, meet new friends, share interests and enjoy activities. **Contact Joan on rksalesaustptyltd@bigpond.com**

MONDAYS & SATURDAYS
YOGA WITH ALISON @ BOYD
Looking to improve both your physical and mental well-being? Instructor Alison Corsie hosts classes at Boyd every Monday at 6:15pm and Saturdays at 9am.
alison@inner-rhythms.com.au



COMING TO SOUTHBANK

SOUTHBANK LIONS CLUB

Do you want to be part of something that matters? Join the Southbank Lion's Club and use your time to make an impact locally and around the world. To enquire email **southbank@lions201v1-4.org.au**



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

FARMERS MARKET

On the first Saturday of every month, the market will be setting up the stalls at Boyd Community Hub. Buy direct from the farmers, enjoy live music and experience a little bit of country right here in the city.

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

This night photography class runs in Melbourne's city centre and has all the night photography tips you'll ever need. At 3 Southbank Promenade.
www.pennykoulas.com

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SOUTHBANK Local NEWS

Happy Holidays- Best wishes for your 2015!

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Contact **Chad Tawhi** for any enquiries regarding the above properties:
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