

The voice of Southbank

SOUTHBANK Local NEWS

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A gift to Southbank

The State Government last month announced \$100 million in funding to repair and renovate Flinders St Station, which includes plans to restore the underpass connecting Southbank with Elizabeth St. Find out more about how the money will be spent on page 4.



Queensbridge Square under threat

Exclusive by Sean Car

The Freshwater Place owners' corporation (OC) is angry after receiving a letter from the City of Melbourne last month, alerting it of a proposal for a two-storey coffee shop in the heart of Queensbridge Square.

The proposal, which was submitted by Cafenatics to the council last July, would occupy a space of 12.4 metres in length and 6.3 metres in width of Crown Land at the western section of the square.

The owners are particularly upset because the public square was partly funded by Freshwater Place developer contributions.

According to City of Melbourne Councillor Ken Ong, plans for the project have been discussed behind closed doors with the previous State Government since 2011.

He said the council's planning department

was still assessing the matter and that all concerns would be taken into consideration.

"In terms of the location, details of this proposal were part of a confidential item of a Future Melbourne Committee meeting in 2011 and, as such, I am unable to reveal details of that meeting," he said.

"Council is aware that there are concerns and objections to its presence and planning officers will consider all issues before any recommendation is made to council."

In a letter to residents, Freshwater Place OC chairman Peter Renner said the committee

believed the proposal was "wholly unacceptable for a range of reasons" and that it intended to send a letter of objection to the City of Melbourne.

In a summary of issues attached to the letter, the committee raised concerns surrounding public space, which Freshwater Place had contributed \$300,000 to help construct in 2005, as well as a "long-pending request" for a police station at the square.

"The council and the State Government apparently had no available place in Southbank for a police booth/station - a long

pending request of the local community," the letter stated.

"This was rejected due to 'land issues.' Yet, it seems that the council and State Government have magically conjured up a premise for a proposed commercial enterprise almost right in the middle of the square?"

"This sends some very wrong and distressing messages to residents and voters about the priorities of these state bodies."

Continued on page 5.

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Hodyl's report implausible

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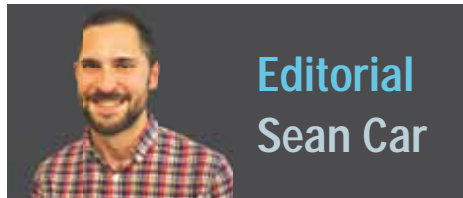
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Editorial
Sean Car

The manner in which City of Melbourne planner Leanne Hodyl chose to represent Southbank in her recent Churchill Fellowship report diminished its credibility.

The comparative study, which received a lot of coverage in the mainstream media, concluded that "hyper-dense" apartments in Melbourne were being built at a rate that would never be allowed overseas.

While the study tour took Ms Hodyl to New York, Vancouver, Tokyo, Hong Kong and Seoul to meet with a host of planning experts, it would almost appear that she had determined its findings before she left.

In terms of providing shock value for a tabloid publication it certainly delivers. But for an academic study it possesses a number of gaping holes, which would render it irrelevant in the eyes of most policy-makers.

Almost the entire study focuses on development within the CBD, which is why her decision to cast a spotlight on Southbank in a particularly critical and yet brief manner seems like a strange call.

Within the 40-page study, Southbank is mentioned on a mere three pages. And yet, while she raises legitimate issues in Southbank to overseas planners, her assessment leaves much to be desired.

The report quoted University of British Columbia urban designer Prof Scot Hein as saying that the Southbank project was a "mistake".

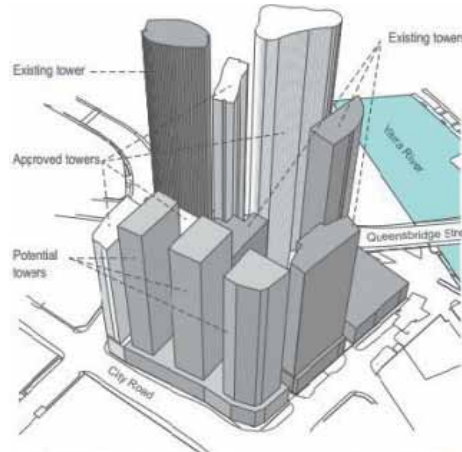


Figure 2: Example of hyper-dense, high-rise development patterns in Southbank

The diagram of a block in Southbank that features in Leanne Hodyl's Churchill Fellowship report.

"It overreaches with respect to scale, form and spacing of proposed individual buildings collectively contributing to a questionable civic image for Melbourne," he was quoted as saying.

New York chief sustainability officer Gary Lawrence, was reported as saying that the rate of development in Southbank was "crazy".

"This cluster of towers would never be built in New York," he was alleged to have said. "The idea of creating a liveable city at this density is crazy."

Few would disagree that Southbank is challenged by the current planning regime and that the nature of development is a concern, which is why Ms Hodyl's report is so disappointing.

The "cluster of towers" quoted by Mr Lawrence refers to a diagram (pictured) of a block in Southbank, which encompasses Power St, City Rd, Queensbridge St and Southbank Boulevard.

This diagram appears to be the only example Ms Hodyl elected to showcase to her overseas contemporaries and, on paper, has all the makings of a Lego-city.

In theory, this scenario might happen. However, the diagram is, in the words of Prof Hein, "questionable".

In her diagram, Ms Hodyl claims that the controversial proposal at Queensbridge Tower and the accompanying hotel are approved when, in fact, they are awaiting approval. With a change in government, there is a very real chance that this proposal could get knocked back.

Another so-called "approved" tower, located on the current site of Hanover House at the corner of City Rd and Power St is yet to be approved.

Planning Department spokesperson Kirsten Howe confirmed this, stating: "No approval has been granted, as further information has been requested from the proponents of both applications."

Ms Hodyl includes a further three imaginary City Rd towers in her diagram on the very non-specific basis of "potential towers based on existing development patterns within block".

What her overseas counterparts were left with was a false diagram, which validates her conclusion that high-rise apartments in Melbourne are being built at four times the densities allowed in Hong Kong, New York and Tokyo.

Ms Hodyl made the point that "Southbank has no density controls" and that height and separation controls are mandatory and "rarely met".

However, had she presented an accurate and in-depth analysis of the situation, it would have made a far more sustainable argument for reform.

What is left, instead, is a falsely-spun portrayal which received a lot of media coverage.

Leanne Hodyl declined to be interviewed by Southbank Local News.

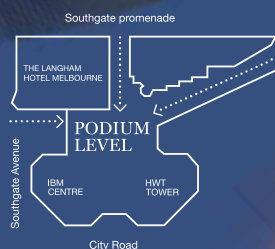


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Southbank remembers its father

By Sean Car

The Honourable Evan Walker, a visionary architect and former Labor planning minister who was responsible for shaping Southbank into what it is today, passed away last month aged 79 following a long battle with Parkinson's disease. Southbank Local News caught up with former Labor Premier Hon. John Cain to pay tribute to the man dubbed the "father of Southbank."

"His ideas and his initiative was the genesis of Southbank," Mr Cain said. "It was a convenient, industrial, commercial adjunct to the City of Melbourne on the other side of the river. He changed all of that."

"There were long-term Crown leaseholds and most of the land was occupied under those terms and conditions. When I say long term they were 99-year leases so they had to be converted or reconsolidated and the streets had to be realigned so it was a long, long job."

"But Evan had the persistence and the foresight to see what it could be, so he is the man that we should thank for Southbank."

Following a fierce sectarian divide in 1955, it wouldn't be until the election of the Whitlam government in 1972 that any Labor party in either federal or state politics held office in Australia.

Victorian Labor had played a central role in the party's overall demise during this period having lost a record number of consecutive elections.

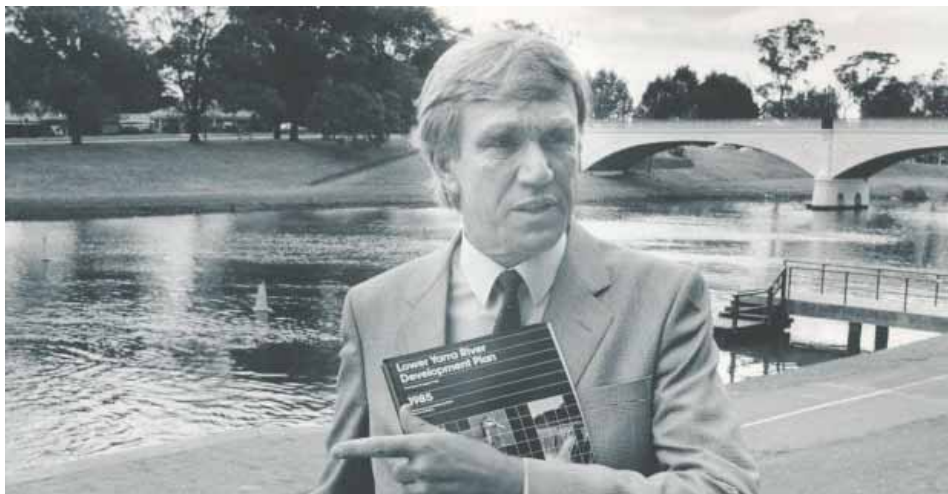
However, the success of the Whitlam government would spark major changes in Victoria as the party underwent significant reform in the lead up to its election in 1982.

Having returned from practicing and tutoring in architecture at the University of Toronto in 1969, Mr Cain said Evan Walker played a central role in Victorian Labor's resurgence.

"Evan Walker came back from Canada and decided that he would throw in his lot with the Labor Party and he became a political activist of significance," he said.

"And he became much more than that. He was a faction activist. He joined our faction and we were delighted that he did almost from day one."

Born in 1935 and educated at Box Hill Grammar and Melbourne High School, Evan Herbert Walker trained as an architect at RMIT and Melbourne University before



Evan Walker mapping out plans for the Yarra River in 1985 (above), and Evan (left) with former Premier John Cain (centre) and developer Frank Woodcock (right) with a model of the Yarra River project in 1984.

completing his masters at the University of Toronto in Canada.

During the 1960s, he co-founded the firm Daryl Jackson Evan Walker which, at its height, employed up to 30 architects in its Melbourne office.

Mr Cain described Evan Walker as "a natural" at politics and said, prior to his appointment, planning in Victoria had been "a mess".

"Through the policy work he'd done and the support base that he was able to bring to

the government in the form of planners and environmentalists, he was a great asset and benefit to the government," he said.

"Evan was a good all-rounder. He just related to people very well. You hear about people being natural in politics. He could go into a room and talk with anyone."

"He understood what cities can and should be and made planning the long-term goal. It was never about tomorrow's headline."

"That vision for the future was wonderful for a bunch of laymen like ourselves. I mean,

you have people like that in the department but to have someone like that in the cabinet room was pretty helpful."

Improvements to Melbourne's arts, legal and sporting precincts (including the MCG lights), the creation of state parks, enforcing height limits and implementing rules surrounding developer contributions were just some of the many visionary changes that Evan Walker introduced.

However, Mr Cain said his most significant contribution to the City of Melbourne would always be the architectural foresight he brought to rejuvenating Southbank and the Yarra River.

"Southbank was the signature," he said. "The Yarra really was seen as being a drain and as the southern boundary of the CBD prior to that."

"The great aspect of Southbank, which Evan made us appreciate, was that you had to protect the waterfront and that the key ingredient was the northerly aspect with the sun coming in there."

"We'd imposed a number of restrictions about heights to preserve that as well so the potential was enormous, I think, and he recognised that early. To connect, as the Princes Bridge does with the CBD, was a masterstroke really."

Mr Walker was planning minister from 1982. His other portfolios included rural affairs, Aboriginal affairs, industry, major projects and the arts.

Mr Cain said Mr Walker's death was a reminder that government seeking change must fight hard and that he was, in a large part, to thank for Melbourne's current status as the world's most livable city.

His wife Judith, his three children Christopher, Benjamin and Rebecca, and four grandchildren survive Mr Walker.

Southbank Local News sends its condolences to Evan Walker's family, friends and former colleagues, and wishes him peace in rest.



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Labor scraps train station for Fishermans Bend

Fishermans Bend is to miss out on a railway station as the Labor State Government has chosen not to include a Montague train station for as part of its plans for the Melbourne Metro Rail Project.

It comes after Premier Daniel Andrews announced the establishment of the Melbourne Metro Rail Authority last month, as work begins on delivering one of Australia's largest infrastructure projects.

While Southbank residents will still benefit from the delivery of a station at Domain, Labor's Melbourne Metro Rail will include new underground stations at Arden, Parkville, CBD North and CBD South.

The previous Coalition government favoured an alternative project, known as Melbourne Rail, which was to run along a different route and include a Montague Station, which would have serviced Fishermans Bend.

The Premier said it made no sense to build a railway station where nobody lived and that the government was listening to the experts.

"The Napthine Government's plan was widely considered by rail network and planning experts to be an inferior project," he said.

"It does not free up the capacity in the centre of the train network that Melbourne Metro does, nor does it deliver train services where they are needed now."

He said the project would link passengers to Melbourne's university and hospital precinct as well as major employment centres in Parkville and St Kilda Rd.

"Stations at Domain and Parkville are more desperately needed by our growing city than a station at Fishermans Bend," he said.

"The new station at Parkville will connect hundreds of thousands of students, patients and staff to Melbourne University and the hospital precinct."

Fishermans Bend Network committee



A map of the Labor Government's new Melbourne Metro Rail Project.

member Rowan Groves agreed that it was too early for a station to be constructed, but said his group was pushing for the government to implement a transport strategy for the area as soon as possible.

"We think rail needs to be considered as part of a broader transport strategy," he said. "The Montague underground station seemed to be a thought bubble policy in the lead up to the state election, and so didn't fit into a broader strategy."

"As far as Fishermans Bend and Southbank are concerned, the transport issues need to be sorted before any more population is added to the area. It's not just an issue for the local businesses and residents but for anyone trying to move through."

The Napthine government had also mapped out plans for a rail link to Melbourne Airport, which was also not included as part of the Government's new strategy.

Public Transport Minister Jacinta Allan said that there were a number of constraints that

needed to be overcome before building a rail line to the airport.

"Melbourne Metro will not only unlock more capacity in the rail network than the previous Liberal Government's disastrous Melbourne Rail Link, it will provide train services where they are needed most," she said.

"A rail line to the airport is a worthy project, but you can't build it without unlocking capacity at the centre of the rail network, which is what Melbourne Metro is all about."

The Government has fast-tracked \$40million as part of its \$300 million election commitment in order to establish the Metro Rail Authority.

The authority will oversee immediate planning works, complete development of the design framework and undertake detailed site investigations.

With major construction expected to start in 2018 it is estimated that the project would be operational by 2026.

A gift to Southbank

Continued from page 1.

The money will be spent on restoration works and upgrading station platforms, entrances, toilets and information displays.

However, the announcement comes as particularly good news to Southbank, which has been long awaiting refurbishment of the crumbling pedestrian underpass.

Yarra River Business Association (YRBA) executive officer Officer Tim Bracher congratulated the Government for addressing the issues surrounding the station.

"YRBA had written to the Premier and spoken to the Tourism Minister, congratulating the Government on prioritising the station renovation and urging them to include the pedestrian underpass as a high priority," he said.

"We spent three years trying to convince the former government about the need to upgrade the underpass and all we got out of it was a million dollar competition for architects."

"It would be useful to refurbish the pedestrian underpass as part of the City of Melbourne's plans for the southern end of Elizabeth St, so that the combined redevelopment forms an official and appealing entrance to the Yarra River Precinct from the central CBD."

The Government says platforms and entrances will be upgraded to ease the passenger crush at peak times and allow people to get through gates faster.

Toilets will be fixed and dingy, under-utilised areas will be cleaned up. New information displays will make it easier for passengers to know what platform they need to be on, and when.

The project will start this year.



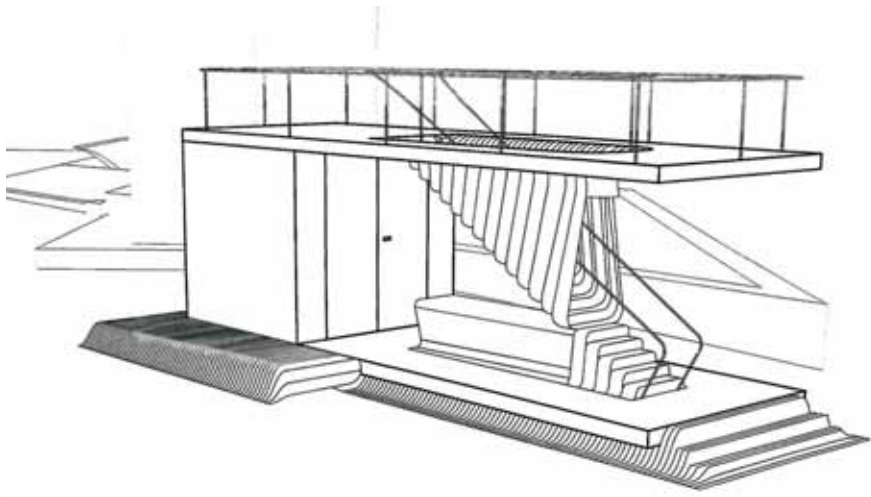
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An artist's impression of the Cafenatics Coffee Shop proposed for Queensbridge Square in Southbank.

Queensbridge Square under threat

Continued from page 1.

Cr Ong said the council had supported a push for a police pod, having set aside \$50,000 for the project in 2009.

However, he said plans had fallen through following discussions with Victoria Police, which is currently looking at relocating from its St Kilda Rd station.

He said part of the plan behind the coffee shop proposal was to provide a form of surveillance at Queensbridge Square, which operate until late at night.

"The proposed Cafenatics facility could also add to active use and surveillance of this area. Its design allows for patrons to view the area from the platform," he said.

"Since 2009, council has been looking at improving the active surveillance of this area, as a result of community requirement to improve public safety in this area, especially during the night-time."

"One of the proposals had been to build a temporary Police Pod in this area, pending a decision by Victoria Police on the permanent location of a City South Police Station after the closure of the St Kilda Road station."

Southbank Residents Group President Tony Penna objected to the proposal, stating that residents had not been consulted.

"In the past, CoM will inform and liaise with

SRG regarding usage, planning or issues surrounding the Southbank public open space," he said. "I am at a loss trying to understand why they have not consulted SRG with regard to the planning application for this space."

"Public open space is an extremely scarce resource in Southbank and we need to ensure any changes to such space is providing direct benefit to the community."

"I have yet to see any reports which provide any such explanation as to how the local community will benefit from sacrificing this open space to a commercial enterprise."

State Labor Minister and Member for Albert Park Martin Foley also slammed the proposal for encroaching on public space.

"If there is one thing we are not short of in Southbank it is coffee shops," he said.

"Public open space is a rare commodity in Southbank. Surprising privations like this one that eat into that open space are of dubious community benefit."

"On balance the application would seem to have little wider benefit. I hope the responsible planning authority will take this into consideration."

Don't hold your breath on short-stays

By Shane Scanlan

The State Government has been quick to put the short-stay apartment rental issue into the spotlight but, so far, has offered only a platform to talk about it.

Consumer Affairs Minister Jane Garrett last month announced a panel to look at the impact of short-stay accommodation in residential apartments and make recommendations to her and Planning Minister Richard Wynne by the end of May.

Former local member and failed Melbourne Labor candidate, Jennifer Kanis, went to the election pledging to retrospectively legislate the practice out of existence.

But Ms Garrett's current language indicates a more conciliatory approach and acknowledges the rights of property owners as well as residents affected by disruptions.

"We need to find the right balance, and the panel will take a common sense and practical approach to minimise disruption," Ms Garrett said.

The Greens also took an anti-short-stay policy to the election and even former Coalition planning minister Matthew Guy pledged but failed to regulate short-stays out of existence when in power.

The short-stay industry, buoyed by the recent entry of global giant Airbnb into the local market, remains confident of its position.

Local operators have met every challenge so far - most significantly beating the City of Melbourne last year in the Supreme Court of Appeal. The council attempted to tackle the industry via alleged breaches of the building code but, after three years and more than \$350,000 in legal costs, succeeded only in forcing operators to install extra smoke alarms and notices in affected apartments.

That test-case action centred on the Watergate building in Docklands and this building continues to offer both sides a platform for battle, with the Watergate owners' corporation (OC) taking operator

Paul Salter to the Victorian Administrative and Appeals Tribunal (VCAT) alleging breaches of the OC rules.

The case is scheduled to be heard over two days in April and the outcome will, arguably, have a far greater impact than Ms Garrett's "expert" panel's recommendations.

One of the options in the short-stay accommodation panel's terms of reference is to amend the Owner Corporation Act 2006 "to allow owners' corporations to make rules prohibiting or restricting short-stays". However, owners' corporations already have processes for changing the rules but this is rarely achieved in inner-city towers largely because of the high proportion of non-resident and off-shore ownership.

Lowering the threshold for change would be a double-edged sword and such talk is already making OCs which currently don't have a problem with short-stays nervous.

More significantly though, in the April Watergate building case before VCAT, the OC already has rules prohibiting stays of less than 30 days. Should Mr Salter win, it will open the floodgates for short-term rentals.

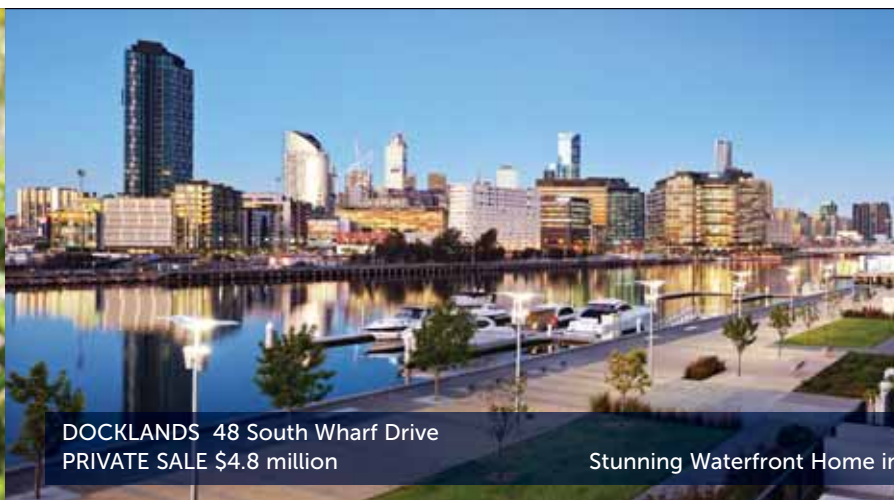
It is understood that Mr Salter's case will rely on case law supporting the right of owners to rent their properties without restriction.

Short-stay operators are similarly confident that, even if legislation was passed, it could not be made retrospective and, therefore, would not affect their businesses.

Ms Garrett's panel is being chaired by lawyer Simon Libbis, who will have his hands full reaching any consensus within the group, which contains widely polarised positions.

Mr Salter is on the panel representing the Victorian Accommodation Industry Association. At the other end of the scale is pugilistic, Docklands-based, serial-protagonist Roger Gardner representing residents.

Other members are: City of Melbourne planner Angela Meinke; Victorian Tourism Industry Council's Kristina Burke; Holiday Rental Industry Association treasurer Justin Butterworth; and Michael Nugent, representing the Strata Community Australia's Victorian division.



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Dianne takes a step closer to Mars

Southbank resident Dianne McGrath has progressed to the final 100 candidates around the world to be selected to travel to Mars.

The 45-year-old was one of more than 200,000 people from around the globe, who applied for the project known as *Mars One*, which offers a one-way ticket to the red planet.

Southbank Local News first met Dianne in July last year after she made the first cut of 705 applicants.

Having now passed the second last stage of the process, she said she was thrilled to be in the running for the final group of 24.

"It's been an incredible experience so far and I can't wait to go through the next phase which is all about the group challenges before we get down to that 24," she said.

"That involves eight years of training to be ready to be an astronaut that might potentially step on Mars, which would be incredible."

Should Dianne progress to the final 24, she will train in a team of four until the launch in 2023. From there, one of the four teams will be chosen.

Once the initial four are settled in, *Mars One* will send more astronauts every two years to the base.

For now though, she faces a series of rigorous group activities and isolation training, which will test whether candidates possess the



Southbank resident Dianne McGrath celebrates her latest achievement in her quest to travel to Mars.

mental and physical capability to survive eight months of travel in a space shuttle.

"The biggest challenges are going to be the mental, psychological and emotional challenges that we have of being so isolated and not seeing loved ones again," she said.

"I met with a prisoner who has been in solitary confinement for three years out of a decades and decades long sentence just to find out how he deals with it."

"I'm doing a lot of study to help myself get there but I've got to keep fit to make sure I stay healthy."

While many might quiver at the thought of space travel, Dianne said she would be proud to leave behind a unique legacy to future generations and was excited for the challenge ahead.

She said while those close to her were initially apprehensive towards the idea of her one way journey into space, they had all quickly adjusted and continued to provide support.

"My folks have become fantastic support and, in fact, I think mum's got a little bit of a scrap book these days!" she said.

"My partner's also been amazing. She helps me get ready for any interviews or activities I have to do, practising and testing me on aspects of Mars and the science and the technology, which is incredibly helpful."

And while Dianne doesn't anticipate running into any extraterrestrial beings, she said she believed there was the potential for life on Mars.

"I don't think there is going to be little green men!" she said. "I think there will be some sort of organic life form whether that's microbial or something of that sort of nature. I think we're quite likely to find something."

Would you travel to Mars? Have your say at www.southbanklocalnews.com.au

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www.belgianbeercafemelbourne.com.au

Welcome aboard Nadine

The Boyd Community Hub has welcomed Nadine Ford to the role of community animator.

Nadine brings a wealth of experience to Boyd, having worked in community development for the past nine years in her native New Zealand, the UK and Melbourne.

After working for the Shire of Cardinia in Melbourne's south-east for the past three years, she said she was excited about starting her role with the City of Melbourne.

"When I went to the interview I wrote a whole action plan for the centre because I really wanted the job," she said.

"What appealed to me about the job is that it's about activating the space and about being creative and innovative about the tools you can use and the City of Melbourne is so progressive so I was really excited about that."

With Southbank still establishing itself as a growing community, Nadine said she was particularly excited by the challenge of finding ways to encourage residents to leave their apartments and connect with their neighbours.

While she has been busy juggling a number of responsibilities as she settles into her new role, she said her long-term priority was addressing the needs of young families in Southbank.

"I'm particularly focusing on all the young families. So looking at ways that we can



New community animator at the Boyd Community Hub Nadine Ford.

provide opportunities for parents to connect with other parents and provide opportunities for their children to make friends to also engage and play," she said.

"That would probably be my priority. Let's get these young families out of their apartments and hanging out!"

Nadine replaces Natalie Warren, who has taken up the role of community animator at Kathleen Symes Library in Carlton having been in the role at Boyd since its establishment.

According to Nadine, her predecessor passed on plenty of valuable advice to help her settle in, particularly surrounding relationships

with the community and her colleagues.

"She really stressed the importance of building meaningful and solid relationships and getting to know people and making the effort to go kind of a bit further than just sitting there and doing your own work," she said.

As for how she's settling into her new role, she said she was thoroughly enjoying working with a great team in a great area.

"All of the staff here are a bit kooky. Maybe it's just because I've never worked in a library before but I like it!" she said.

Southbank Local News wishes Nadine all the best in her new role.

A 'beautiful set of numbers'

At the end of 2014 the City of Melbourne was doing \$10 million better than expected.

Outlining the second quarter financial report to the February 10 Future Melbourne Committee, CFO Phu Nguyen told councillors the organisation was tracking towards a \$23.36 million surplus against a budgeted surplus of \$13 million.

However, Mr Nguyen told councillors the end of year surplus was expected to be just \$6.4 million.

He said the council had also just received record "open space" contributions.

"For the first six months we've received \$9.8 million against a budget of \$900,000. That is significantly higher than historical averages and the six month figure is higher than any annual amount we have received."

He said the council currently had \$14 million in its open space reserve account.

Mr Nguyen said Crown Casino had successfully managed to save \$636,000 in rates over two years after taking the council to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT). Council-owned business, Citywide had under-performed in the first six months of the year by a similar amount.

Cr Stephen Mayne described the six-month result as a "beautiful set of numbers".

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Sandridge School to service Southbank

An independent secondary school, which would service the growing area of Fishermans Bend, could open in Port Melbourne next year after reaching an agreement with a property developer.

The start-up secular school is the brainchild of academic Dr Jeanne Shaw and former Australian Teacher of the Year Sophie Fenton, who would be principal and vice-principal respectively.

The Stamoulis Property Group, which currently owns the Ingles St site, recently signed a generous agreement with the pair allowing it to utilise the heritage, art deco building at the old Symex soap factory.

The pair launched a Pozible campaign last month, which aims to raise \$2.15 million in order to make the project happen.

Aiming to open in 2016 with an initial intake of year seven students, Dr Shaw said the school would grow each year.

"The capacity of the building is just over 300 but our long-term aim is that it will be a VCE campus and we'll get a second campus to grow the school on the same site," she said.

"Hopefully, via negotiations with some of the developers, we'd love to again have a sort of New York high-rise kind of junior school nearby."

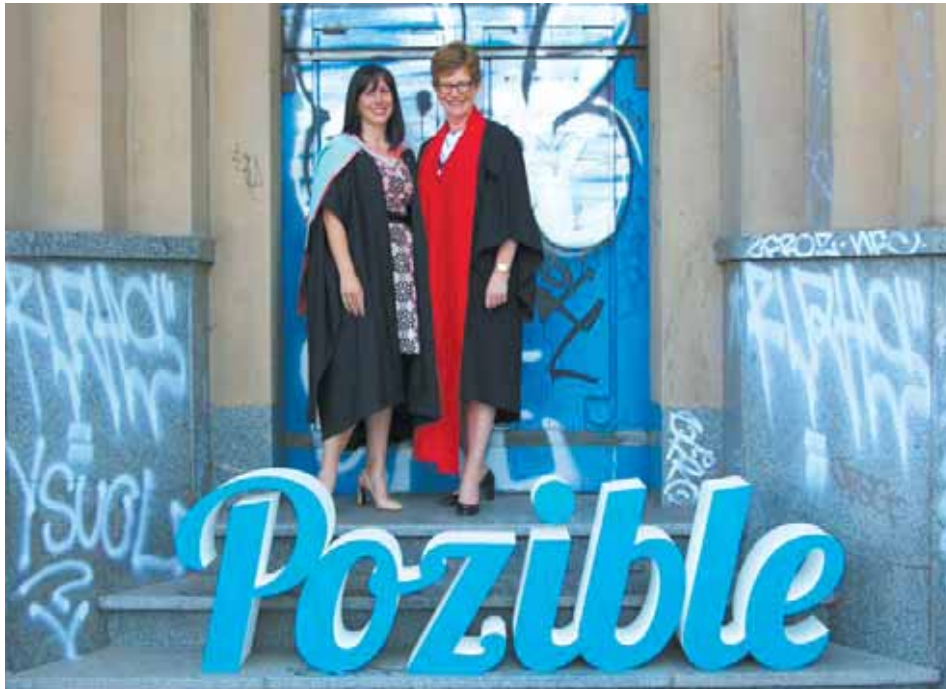
By 2021 it is estimated the Sandridge School would have capacity for 1000 students from prep through to Year 12.

Dr Shaw said the Stamoulis Property Group, who will develop more than 250 townhouses at the site, would refurbish the building in a "pay-off" to the school, which would create a sense of community and attract families to Fishermans Bend.

Having both worked in and studied teaching their whole working lives, she said the project was their way of celebrating the profession.

"It's not just another school nor just another business because this is a not-for-profit," she said.

"Sophie and I have given our lives to the profession and it's almost like the very best thing that we can do now is to use our gifts, skills, knowledge and energy to give back."



Vice-principal Sophie Fenton (left) and Principal Dr Jeannie Shaw (right) are aiming to raise \$2.15 million to open a new independent school in 2016 at the old Symex soap factory in Port Melbourne.

The pair has gathered a range of seasoned teachers and professionals who are working on the project free of charge.

Ms Fenton said teachers, who were truly passionate and understanding about education, would run the school.

"Experts in the field set up their practices and yet, in education, governments do or churches do. But we're the experts," she said.

"We absolutely believe and know and the people who understand education - from parents, past students and educators - have all said that this is the best thing that they've ever heard of in education."

Situated directly in the centre of Southbank, Docklands, South Melbourne and Port Melbourne, Ms Fenton said the location was perfect for the pair to carry out their educational philosophy.

She said the school would utilise community facilities in an effort to promote citizenship,

with organisations such as Oxfam, Oaktree and UN Youth to run programs within the curriculum.

"Our philosophy around schooling is very much on developing and growing community and so we wanted a school that allowed us to have that conversation with students around what it is to be a good citizen. How, in being a community-minded person, your life is enriched by enriching the life of others," she said.

"So it's a community-based urban school where the kids use local facilities, understand the value of local facilities and understand the value of growing the community that you live in."

The school is currently in the process of obtaining school registration in preparation for opening next year.

For more information and to contribute to fundraising efforts visit www.sandridgeschool.org.au

Recognition for small businesses

With the 10th anniversary of the Lord Mayor's Commendation Awards, this year is a special year for recognition of small business owners in the CBD.

The awards recognise the contribution that small businesses make to the prosperity and fabric of the city and the search is on for nominees.

Bronze award nominations are sought from small business owners who have been conducting business in the City of Melbourne for 10 years or more.

Businesses with 25 years under their belt qualify for a silver award, gold is awarded after 40 years and platinum after 50. Families with more than three generations in the same business are recognised with the highest award.

The chair of the advisory group, and founding member, Kay Craddock, said the award was unique in the world and had gone from strength to strength because it was not a competition.

"It's recognition for a job well done - a pat on the back from your contemporaries," Ms Craddock said.

"We know how hard it is to survive in small business. So it's saying 'congratulations' coupled with a civic recognition for making it."

Ms Craddock called on *Southbank Local News* readers to encourage proprietors to put themselves forward for the award.

She said, at the very least, it would be a useful marketing tool but, more significantly, it was an opportunity to join a growing group of surviving small businesses in the city.

Nominations officially open on March 18 and close on May 22. See www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/enterprisemelbourne for further information.



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Pastor Tom arrives at St John's

Apart from being a devout fan of the Melbourne Demons, new pastor at St John's Church of Southgate Tom Hoffmann said he is a pretty laid-back guy.

"I'm a huge fan of the Demons so I'm on pretty touchy ground because Richmond is a very strong team in this congregation," he said.

"So you'd see me at the MCG. My wife and I also love Pearl Jam so you might see us in the front row at their concert."

Having grown up in the eastern suburb of Donvale, Tom returns to Melbourne after previously working at a parish in South Australia.

And he is certainly no stranger to the area. In 2009, Tom undertook an internship at St John's Southgate under the guidance of former pastor Ian Vainikka.

After forming a great relationship with his predecessor and the local community, he said he jumped at the opportunity to return.

"I got to know the congregation and felt I was forging a very positive and lasting relationship with the people here," he said.

"As it happened, they then called me to come and serve as their pastor and I was very pleased to be able to accept and venture over this way to be a part of this community and serve here."

During his time under Ian Vainikka, he said he learnt an immense amount about the growing community in Southbank.

He said he was excited about the journey ahead and wanted St John's to be a place where community was built, regardless of religion.

"I want it to be a place where you can come, regardless of your faith or whatever it might be, and get to know people and you can form relationships hopefully that blossom into friendships," he said.

"The people here are lovely, there are people here who will care for you. There's myself and others also who offer pastoral care and conversation. So even if you're just having a bad day in the office and you need someone to talk to I'm here."

While his new role is a significant contrast to his previous one in regional South Australia, he said he was relishing the opportunity to work in Southbank and described the area as "vibrant, exciting and busy".

"Coming from country South Australia



New pastor at St John's Southgate Tom Hoffmann.

where there is less than 1000 people, it's been an overwhelming but really joyful experience," he said.

"There is great transience in Southbank, which makes it a challenge but we're going to work with that and see what we can do."

"There's been such light and colour and excitement and I really look forward to getting to know the place and hopefully the people."

Southbank Local News wishes Tom all the best in his new role.

Visionary Stan shares his passion with the YRBA

Members of Southbank's business community were treated to a passionate address at the Yarra River Business Association's first networking luncheon of the year on Friday, March 6.

More than 50 guests gathered at Beer Deluxe at Federation Square and received a spectacular presentation from guest speaker and visionary town planner Stan Liacos.

As a former senior director of planning at Federation Square, Mr Liacos returned to the precinct that he helped create.

While he has worked as executive director for the City of Greater Bendigo over the past nine years, he has also held top roles in planning projects at the Docklands Authority and the Geelong waterfront development.

The enigmatic Liacos left a lasting impression on guests as he shared his fascinating story of helping build one of Australia's most controversial developments right through to his current role in developing one of Australia's fastest growing regional cities.

To make an enquiry or a booking for the Yarra River Business Association's next quarterly luncheon visit www.yarrariver.info

Enjoy some photos from the March luncheon.



Stan Liacos addresses members at the YRBA Networking Luncheon at Federation Square.

Beth Hart



BY LOUIS BLAKE

IN JUST HER SECOND TOUR OF AUSTRALIA, POWERFUL BLUES VOCALIST BETH HART BRINGS HER EARTHY SOUND TO THE STAGE AT THE MELBOURNE RECITAL CENTRE ON THURSDAY, APRIL 2.

After wowing the crowds at her debut Australian performance at Byron Bay's Bluesfest in 2013, Beth was labelled by festival director Peter Noble as one of the standout acts.

Already a genuine star in Europe, the Californian native is back in the country for another round at Bluesfest and a series of hotly-anticipated sideshows around the country.

Things weren't always so rosy for the supremely talented musician. Beth battled with substance abuse that at one stage threatened to put an end to her promising career. Thankfully, Beth has managed to defeat her personal demons and get her incredible musical career back on track.

However, the resonance of her difficult past can still be heard in her deep lyrics and raw vocals. Her history gives her vocal and

performance style a uniquely authentic flavour.

It is almost impossible to find a genuine artist like Beth in today's modern music industry obsessed with image and glitz. A Beth Hart show is a no frills affair. It's just her and her incredible talent.

For someone with such astounding vocal talent it is interesting that Beth never considered herself much of a singer. Originally classically trained, she envisioned herself more as a pianist or cellist rather than the incredible vocalist she is today.

Luckily for us, Beth soon made the transition from classical music and became enamoured with the genres of rock, jazz, grunge, blues and gospel.

Her musical style is influenced by everything from the driving, powerful vocals of greats like Robert Plant and Chris Cornell to the more angelic tones of artists like Riki Lee and

James Taylor.

Beth's musical intensity and supreme vocal talent has earned her collaborations with musical luminaries such as Jeff Beck, Slash and blues legend Joe Bonamassa. Following the success of Bonamassa and Hart's first collaboration on the 2011 album *Don't Explain*, the duo reached the top of the Billboard Blues Charts with the release of their follow up *Seesaw* early last year.

Beth's work with Bonamassa has earned her Grammy and Blues Award nominations.

Beth's performance at the Melbourne Recital Centre is her one and only performance in Melbourne and caps off a short tour of Australia. Hart is a must see for fans of blues, rock and those with a love of incredible vocal talent.

Tickets can be purchased at melbournerecital.com.au/hart

Take a bow Summersalt

REVIEW BY LOUIS BLAKE

TAKE A BOW SUMMERSALT FESTIVAL, COLLECT YOUR ROSES AND SOAK IN THE APPLAUSE.



Melbourne based circus company 'Games.'

There were no opening night nerves for the debut performance of Melbourne's latest cultural extravaganza. Over its run from January 23 to its grand finale during last month's White Night festivities on February 21, the outdoor arts festival wowed tourists and locals alike.

Anybody lucky enough to stroll around the Arts Precinct over Summersalt's five-week run would have been amazed by the astounding number of music, art, theatre, dance and circus performances available for our entertainment.

Summersalt Festival often left one feeling dazzled and disorientated at the sheer numbers of artistic talents and activities on offer.

With over 135,000 attendees entertained by an array of acts and installations, the bold summer initiative easily demolished its original target of 80,000 visitors.

Despite a very tight time frame to put Summersalt together, festival director Kirstin Siddle said she was "delighted" at how the

ambitious arts celebration turned out. "The feedback has been great," Ms Siddle said. "Everybody really has seen Summersalt as a great positive for the local community." Ms Siddle extended her most sincere thanks to Southbank residents and businesses.

"Our neighbour's support has been incredible" she said. "It really has made us feel fantastic about what we're trying to do."

The goal of the Summersalt festivities was to turn the Southbank Arts Precinct inside out and get art and artists that would normally be hidden away inside one of the many world-class venues that call Southbank home and onto the sun soaked streets.

In addition to getting world-class creative talent onto the bustling thoroughfares of Southbank, Ms Siddle wanted to ensure that a great majority of the acts and installations were free or very cheap so that people who normally wouldn't engage with the arts could have the opportunity to do so without having to spend much money. Amidst her busy schedule Ms Siddle did

have time to take in much of the festivities that she was organising. Personal highlights for the festival director included the raucous music and dance of the acrobatic troupe Scotch + Soda, as well as the Giant Opera Dress Up Box that was set up on Dodds St. Most of all Ms Siddle was extremely impressed at how open and engaged the general public was to the pieces on display.

"There was one dance piece in particular that was very challenging," she said. "I was delighted to see that people were still engaging with it regardless." Summersalt Festival currently has an application before the State Government for continued support. With plans already in the works for another round of art and arts entertainment that will not only be bigger and better, but Ms Siddle promised that a second festival would take even greater advantage of the fantastic spaces that the Arts Precinct has to offer.

After this year's rousing debut performance I, for one, am standing in the aisle clapping for an encore.



Large scale puppet company 'Everybody.'

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Behind the lens

BY LOUIS BLAKE

BY HER OWN ADMISSION, TALENTED SOUTHBANK LOCAL AND PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIES COLLEGE (PSC) GRADUATE TAYLOR MORRIS SAYS SHE NEVER SAW HERSELF AS BEING THE ONE BEHIND THE LENS.



A stunning image captured by Taylor Morris of dancer Olivia Paine on the salt Lake Tyrell in the Mallee Region, north-west Victoria.



Having dreamed of being a professional ballerina from the day she started ballet classes at the age of 8, it seemed to her that her life was heading in only one direction.

Seemingly destined for the stage, Taylor hit a rather hard bump in the road. The year she was supposed to graduate from the prestigious Australian Ballet School she suffered a cracked hip.

“Although I could have kept going,” she remembered. “I thought this was clearly a sign that I was supposed to do something else”.

Unlike many artists who have a long-standing love for their chosen medium,

Taylor fell into photography more by chance than anything else.

“I live just across the road,” she said. “I walked past PSC everyday on my way to ballet and I’d just received a camera a few months before for my 18th birthday.” With only two weeks left to put in her university preferences, Taylor went out on a limb and started the application process for PSC.

This last-minute, almost random entry to the photography profession does not reflect at all in Taylor’s work. The striking colour, powerful lines and fantastical themes that are signatures of many of Taylor’s photographs appear to be the hallmarks of someone who has been working with a camera for a much longer time.

Since her graduation from PSC in early 2013, Taylor’s burgeoning career has gone from strength to strength. Highlights for Taylor

include interning with dance magazine *Pointe* in New York and a trip with digital artist and fine art photographer Alexia Sinclair, who happens to be a major influence on Taylor’s own photographic style.

“In 2013 I saw on Facebook that she was going to Sweden,” Taylor said. “I thought that I would just ask if she wanted an assistant.”

While not really expecting a response, after sending Alexia her portfolio Taylor soon found herself on a plane to Europe bound for six days of shooting with one of her professional heroes.

Taylor may have left the world of elite dance behind, but her years of training continue to influence her work in more ways than just the obvious aesthetic composition of her pieces.

“For me dance is my point of difference,” Taylor said. “My background helps me understand how a body works, I understand what the body can, and can’t do. I also

understand the angles it looks good and how to set someone up in a frame. It’s also really helped me with the discipline required and it taught me how to take constructive criticism in the right way.”

Having come to PSC without prior experience, Taylor is a shining example of the skills that one can learn there. “It’s amazing, I love it here,” she said. “It’s all photography based, so you can really immerse yourself in it.”

For Taylor the best part about studying at PSC is that “the tutors are extremely supportive, they know you by name rather than a number, and they’re there for you every step of the way.”

For aspiring photographers Taylor has these simple words of advice: “If you ever get overwhelmed just leave it all behind and go back to why you enjoy photography, always keep shooting.”

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Image by PSC student Dulce Temporal

EVENTS MARCH



PAUL KELLY: THE MERRI SOUL SESSIONS

April 9 - Hamer Hall

In celebration of his 20th studio album, Paul Kelly is set to take the stage at Hamer Hall along with such icons as Clairy Browne, Vika and Linda Bull, Dan Sultan and Kira Puru. He has become an Australian icon over his 30 year career and this is an exciting opportunity to experience him live in concert with an array of Australian talent.

www.artscentremelbourne.com.au



TRIPOD: THIS GAMING LIFE

April 17 - April 18 - Hamer Hall

ARIA winning comedy musicians Tripod have written and performed masterfully for TV, radio, cartoons, stage musicals and countless hit live shows over almost two decades. Now it's time to reveal the secret that kept them together for so long. Videogames. Lots and lots of videogames.

www.mso.com.au



AN EVENING WITH THE WATERBOYS

March 27 - Elisabeth Murdoch Hall

Now with the Modern Blues album and tour The Waterboys crash thrillingly back into the present with a new sound, a new line-up and, as always, the promise of the unexpected.

www.melbournerecital.com.au



ENDGAME

March 21 - April 25 - Southbank Theatre

Waiting for death in a world without hope has never been more hilarious than in Beckett's renowned modern masterpiece, starring multi-award winners Colin Friels and Luke Mullins.

www.mtc.com.au

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING MIRIAM

March 19 - March 22 - Playhouse

On this world premiere Australian tour, internationally renowned actress Miriam Margolyes brings to the stage some of literature's best known characters. Lady Bracknell, Mrs Malaprop and Jane Austen's Lady Catherine de Bourgh are amongst the unforgettable figures brought vividly to life.

www.artscentremelbourne.com.au

THE GRAND TOUR - CITIES SHAPED BY ART

April 20 - ACCA Main Exhibition Gallery

It's art history but not as you know it. ACCA's intrepid team will explore the best and most interesting galleries, art events, cafés, architecture and visit the writers, philosophers, filmmakers and artists that have shaped the unique culture of each city.

www.accaonline.org.au

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www.ngv.vic.gov.au

DO YOU SPEAK CHINESE?

March 17 - March 21 - Malthouse Theatre

It's a question many Australians are asked every day. Choreographer and dancer Victoria Chiu is a Melbourne girl. She doesn't speak a Chinese language and the closest thing she has to a Chinese cultural ritual is the odd weekend yum cha session. Nonetheless, people often see her as Chinese.

www.malthousetheatre.com.au



CARNIVAL OF SOULS

March 20 - Elisabeth Murdoch Hall

Carnival of Souls begins with the vivacious Mary Henry improbably surviving a car wreck. She moves to a small town in Utah to begin a new job as a church organist, but then the nightmare begins...

www.melbournerecital.com.au



NOTHING TO LOSE

March 11 - March 21 - Malthouse Theatre

'Fat' is a powerful little word, full of baggage and judgement. This undaunted dance production makes use of real-life experiences and stories to challenge aesthetic norms and reclaim a performative space for people with large bodies.

www.malthousetheatre.com.au



LITTLE PROMISES

April 9 - Salon

Alex & Nilusha presents music from their new, critically acclaimed album Tales to Tell. Recorded in Melbourne, Cuba, Argentina, England and the US, Tales to Tell takes listeners on an alluring journey with sounds gathered from around the globe.

www.melbournerecital.com.au



BROADWAY CLASSICS

March 14 - March 15 - Hamer Hall

International superstar bass-baritone Bryn Terfel joins Lisa McCune, Australia's sweetheart of the stage, for this thrilling night of Broadway classics.

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ACCA playground a doggy delight

By Kara Bertoncini

As part of this year's SummerSalt Festival, Melbourne artist Anastasia Klose created a one-of-a-kind dog park at the ACCA forecourt in Southbank.

This doggy free-for-all playground had outdoor installations designed by Ms Klose so pets and their owners could have a fun day out.

Klose's muse was none other than her own basset hound Farnsworth who was appropriately appointed official head-of-state at the Republic for Dogs. "Farnsworth's Republic for Dogs is a dog park with a unique Melbourne flavour, a place where dogs and their owners can come and enjoy an outdoors installation specifically made for dogs," Ms Klose said.

The republic had kennels shaped like some of Melbourne's iconic arts buildings, canine paw-sports, doggy-style obstacles, luxury dog-beds and plenty of room for doggy business.

Ms Klose was always looking at a way to utilise the ACCA forecourt space and was

interested in finding a way to translate the experience of her everyday life into art.

"I've always looked at this space outside of ACCA and thought about how it could be used. It just seems like it's waiting for something to happen on it and so I thought a dog park would be a really good idea.

"It just brings in a whole other demographic to contemporary art. It's not threatening, it makes people feel welcome and it's something that people can relate to," she said.

Ms Klose is unsure if the doggy playground will make a comeback in the near future but the prospects excite her.

"It will be really interesting to see what happens to the kennels and see whether I get asked to do this anywhere else because you could take this idea anywhere around the world," she said.



An energetic dog plays catch with its owner at the Farnsworth Republic for Dogs at the ACCA forecourt in Southbank.



The Melbourne Food and Wine Festival pop-up hub at Queensbridge Square in Southbank.

Food and wine frenzy

By Kara Bertoncini

Now into its 23rd year, this month's Melbourne Food and Wine Festival offerings along Southbank Promenade continued to delight Melbourne's foodies.

For the fourth year in a row, Queensbridge Square hosted the pop-up hub, Festival Artisan Bakery and Bar.

The transformation of Queensbridge Square is always a highlight for Southbank as the aromas of freshly-baked breads and brewed coffee fill the air.

While festival-goers were encouraged to indulge, there was also a slew of workshops and cooking demonstrations.

International bakers Justin Gellatly and Eric Kayser shared their culinary skills. Melbourne's vibrant and culinary soul is

celebrated year after year and brings family and friends together.

The festival runs until March 15, so why not get down to Queensbridge Square – the perfect setting to share a continental food board, tasty desserts or a glass of wine.

As you stroll along the Yarra you will discover and share ideas with other food and wine fanatics as you celebrate Victoria's food and wine industry.

The Melbourne Food and Wine festival is now recognised as Australia's leading food and wine event and welcomes food connoisseurs from all over the world.

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SOUTHBANK RESIDENTS GROUP WITH TONY PENNA

I can feel the year is starting to get some momentum, well at least with regard to our community.

There are a few items of concern this month. The first is a permit request for a cafe on the public open space in Queensbridge Square. As we residents are acutely aware, open space is so scarce in Southbank that we need to ensure that it is not only preserved, but if it is used, it is used in such a way that is beneficial to the community.

I have yet to be informed of any benefits which may flow to the community from this cafe. The proposed location currently has a number of bench seats which I have personally observed being used, particularly during lunch times.

I also have it on good word from local residents that the seats are essentially used daily and throughout the day. If this cafe does go ahead, I certainly hope it will provide some benefit to the community and not just line the pockets of a business owner, whom no doubt probably doesn't even reside in Southbank.

I will be speaking with Council to find out

why Southbank Residents Group was not even informed about this permit.

On a more concerning note is the recently-released Planning Panels Victoria Report regarding their consideration of Melbourne Planning Scheme Amendment C208 Development Contributions Plan (DCP).

They have recommended the amendment be abandoned, citing differing opinions on the proposed methodology for calculating the level of development contribution.

As you may or may not be aware, the C208 DCP simply forced a figure per dwelling of all new developments to go into an infrastructure fund to fund infrastructure projects in the applicable precinct of the development.

While their recommendation is not positive, it may in fact be beneficial. In my submission to council on this amendment, just over 12 months ago, I also questioned the methodology of the council's calculations.

To me they appeared to be very optimistic, yet I advised I accepted the figures in good faith without any data to back up my concerns. So, if Planning Panels Victoria is correct then of course there is no benefit proceeding with an amendment which may be flawed.

But having said that, it is concerning as to where this leaves council, but more importantly Southbank with the much needed funds for our future infrastructure needs.

It is still early days with where this may go, but rest assured I am following it closely.

Remember to like us on Facebook (Southbank Residents) and maybe even consider membership - southbankresidents.com.au. We are also in need of committee members, so if you have a passion for Southbank and the time to join our committee and participate please make contact.

Tony Penna
President



OWNERS CORPORATION LAW

With Tom Bacon

Tom Bacon is the principal lawyer of Strata Title Lawyers.
Tom@stratatitlelawyers.com.au

'Extra' policies buy peace of mind for owners

At every annual general meeting, there will be a standard motion on the agenda to renew the policy of insurance for the owners' corporation (OC).

An owners' corporation is required by the legislation to hold a minimum of \$10 million coverage for acts that involve public liability, as well as replacement and reinstatement insurance for the value of all buildings and structures on the common property.

However, there are many other types of insurance that can be taken out by OCs, and owners should carefully review the policies and decide whether any of these extra types of insurance ought to be added to the policy.

Factors such as the age of the building and whether there are any legal disputes on the horizon ought to influence the type of insurance coverage that an OC should

elect to add to its policy. I should point out, however, that OCs are required to comply with the utmost duty of good faith in disclosing any actual and potential issues to an insurer prior to entering into any policy.

In addition, owners ought to instruct their managers to obtain at least two quotes from different insurance providers, or otherwise use a broker. There are rumours that a large foreign-owned insurer will enter the market soon, offering competitive rates which may lead to lower insurance premiums in the coming 12 months or so. Watch this space.

By ordinary resolution at an AGM, the OC can decide to take out additional policies to

cover things such as:

- ☐ Office bearers' (committee) legal liability;
- ☐ Workers compensation;
- ☐ Fidelity guarantee;
- ☐ Machinery Breakdown;
- ☐ Catastrophes;
- ☐ Legal defence expenses;
- ☐ Government audit costs;
- ☐ Appeal expenses; and
- ☐ Common property contents (for items such as art, floor coverings and furniture in the lobby areas).

Recent events such as the fire in the Lacrosse

building in Docklands should serve as a sobering reminder to all that the operation of these types of policies ought to be of paramount importance to the OC.

Having good legal advice to translate the general and specific exclusions of each policy will also assist owners to understand exactly what level of coverage might be expected.

A comprehensive policy will provide ease of mind for both residents and owners alike. If owners are unsure about what policies will be right for them, a number of managers and brokers can organise a meeting and personal briefing with committees to discuss their options.

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**ST JOHNS
SOUTHGATE**
with Tom Hoffmann

Some of my favourite things

The character Maria in The Sound of Music, famously sang of her favourite things.

I don't recall all the words of the song, but I know that there's something about raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens. As someone who suffers from hay fever and is allergic to cats, my list of favourite things would be somewhat different.

Near the top of my list would have to be two things: food and wine.

As such, upon my arrival as the new pastor of St Johns Southgate, it was a delight to discover that the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival was in full swing.

Taking a peek at the various events on in Southbank, I couldn't help but reflect on the wonderful contrast between times of self-denial and times of joyous celebration in the Christian tradition.

While it may be festival season here in Melbourne, the church is in the season of Lent, a time of minimising the ego and focussing on the things that really matter – such as the place of the divine in our lives and the wellbeing of others.

It can be a time when people choose to go without certain foods or drinks – such as wine – or choose to make an extra effort in serving others.

While Lent does afford opportunities for spiritual disciplines like fasting, it's not a time of fasting for its own sake.

When we are hungry and thirsty, food and drink taste their finest. It's the same spiritually speaking.

When we follow Jesus by walking the road of suffering, the celebration of the Easter feast is all the sweeter. Jesus of Nazareth may have called his disciples to walk through the lowest of valleys, but he also took them to the mountain tops.

It's the same for us now. The spiritual life of a Christian fluctuates between periods of hunger and times of overwhelming and joyful abundance.

After all, the same Jesus who told his disciples to deny themselves and take up the cross turned water into wine so that the people of a wedding feast might party on late into the night!

Food and wine might be two of my favourite things, but top of the list is the spiritual heartbeat of the Christian life that keeps its rhythm through every high and every low of human experience.



Plenary springs into life during February for Open Space 2015.

New identity for Plenary

By Kara Bertoncini

Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre's (MCEC) chief executive Peter King unveiled new branding for its Plenary amphitheatre last month.

The 5500-seat Plenary has achieved a worldwide reputation in the corporate sector and is now aiming to become a major player in the music industry.

Mr King said this new direction would enable Melburnians to discover and enjoy a new space.

"Our Plenary is internationally-renowned within the business event industry and now Melburnians are beginning to discover this spectacular space," he said.

"Many people may not know what Plenary is truly capable of, its hidden potential, and the diversity of performances held on this stage every week."

Since its establishment, Plenary has

attracted world-class musicians, entertainers and sporting legends.

Mr King said Plenary had become a leading venue, amidst the likes of Festival Hall and Rod Laver Arena.

"It's good to be open – open to change, to possibility, to new experiences and that's why we've created a whole new identity for Plenary, because it deserves its own unique personality," he said.

With exceptional design, acoustics and adjustable walls, he said Plenary was the perfect venue for large performances.

"It's a space that the people of Melbourne should be proud of and a place they can consider their own," he said.



Palm Sunday March 29
9:00am Worship Service with communion
11:00am Worship Service with communion

Maunder Thursday April 2
7:30pm Worship Service with communion

Good Friday April 3
9:00am Worship Service with communion
6:00pm Worship Service with music and poetry

Easter Sunday April 5
7:00am Dawn service
9:00am Worship Service with communion
11:00am Worship Service with communion

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Businesses in Southbank

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KEEPING THE NOISE OUT OF SOUTHBANK

With noise providing a constant issue for residents living in high-rise apartments in inner Melbourne, Stop Noise director Ron Adams said his company had tapped into a niche market.

"It was an idea I had 20 years ago so I started it up and we just started from a small factory and just worked our way up," he said. "We wanted to target people who have noise problems as we felt there was a need for that."

"There wasn't really any noise products out there because when I started it was just double-glazing. So my research was basically the price of the product, what they could get and the result that they get."

Established in 1995, Stop Noise's add-on double-glazing is a family-owned business, which operates out of its showroom and warehouse at Carrum Downs in Melbourne's south east.

Rather than double-glazing windows, which only reduces noise by an average of 25 to 30 per cent, the Stop Noise product reduces noise by up to 50 to 70 per cent and, according to Ron, for half the price!

He said the product had proven a sweeping success in high-rise apartments where, mostly, it was against body corporate rules to change existing windows.



Stop Noise director Ron Adams.

"There's noise everywhere but we try to target the city and the high-density apartments," he said.

"Obviously we're not a supplier of replacement double-glazing. If their windows are faulty, well then they'll need a whole new window. We just do the add on system."

"So they can still open their windows, they can still get fresh air, they can still lift the panels out and clean them. So it's just a more cost effective solution to the problem that they've got."

The key to the system involves having a large airspace between the two windows, which works as a cushioning effect.

Using a strong and effective 6.38mm laminated safety glass, the use of the two

different thickness of glass helps change the frequency of sound.

The add-on system also acts as an effective form of insulation with the capability to stop up to 60 per cent of heat-loss.

According to Ron, while the average window takes only an hour to put in, installation was never carried out unless a worthwhile result could be delivered for the customer.

"We won't do a job unless we think we can get a good result out of it," he said. "If they've got problems with the building for example, unless you fix those there is no point in doing the windows," he said.

"We give people an idea of what level of reduction we can get them, whether it be for noise reduction or insulation, and then we

give them some idea of what we think we can cut it down by."

Having established a strong connection with businesses and residents in the area for the past 20 years, Ron said he and his team always enjoyed working in what was a "constantly evolving area."

"It's just a very fast-growing area and I think there are so many opportunities to make the place better," he said.

"The road infrastructure is fairly good and, again, there are a lot of the problems in Southbank with apartments being built right next to the busy roads or freeways, which is a good thing for us!"

For more information visit www.stopnoise.com.au

SOUTHBANK'S LOCAL PUB

According to venue manager EJ Lizier, Belgian Beer Cafe Melbourne is focused on providing a venue for the whole community.

Located in the heart of Southbank at the doorstep to Eureka Tower, the new pub's warm and welcoming atmosphere has seen it quickly become a place for locals and "regulars".

Since opening its doors last year, Mr Lizier said owner Michael Burke and his team had revitalised the venue by placing a strong emphasis on community.

"The business that was here before was struggling (shall we say) because they weren't focused enough on what the market really wanted," he said.

"Southbank is growing so much and we really want to particularly focus on the residents in the area."

The Belgian Beer Cafe's cozy environment is characterised by its classic European-style bar, which opens out on to an expansive restaurant floor and outdoor terrace.

While appealing strongly to local residents, Mr Lizier said the bar's extensive beer menu,



Belgian Beer Cafe Melbourne's venue manager EJ Lizier (right) and functions manager Nick Ryan (left).

featuring Belgian and international beers as well as local craft beers, had attracted visitors from everywhere.

"We get a lot of different customers in here - not only local residents but a lot of beer

nerds as well," he said.

"We've got one of the largest selections of tap beers and bottled beer in Melbourne if not in the country I would say."

"We've got a set of rotating taps there in the

middle where we only get a keg or two of anything at any given time and we just rotate them through so people can try everything."

Marrying up to its wide range of amber fluids, the Belgian Beer Cafe also offers a delicious modern Australian menu integrated with a number of Belgian specialties, including its renowned mussels in four flavours.

The venue also boasts a large upstairs function room, which according to Mr Lizier is constantly being booked out for everything from business functions to Christmas parties.

With the business continuing to go from strength to strength in the area, he said the success was partly due to the constantly-evolving nature of Southbank.

"It's just so vibrant around here at the moment. I was born and bred in Melbourne and thinking about what Southbank was before - going from absolutely nothing - is just incredible," he said.

"Going across the river from the CBD meant nothing before, and now they've got this whole area here where you can do your shopping, where you can eat, stroll around and enjoy the sun and work and live as well."

Belgian Beer Cafe Melbourne is located at 5 Riverside Quay, Southbank.

For more information visit www.belgianbeercafemelbourne.com.au



FACES OF SOUTHBANK



GRACE ORCHARD, 26

I would rather be wealthy but not famous. Who wants somebody prying into their business all the time? But really I'd probably choose not to be either, because they generally go hand in hand.



JAMES COQUILLAT, 20

So I can't make myself famous through my wealth? Well then probably famous, but not rich. I think you can get more happiness without money and more satisfaction from fame then you would be able to from the carnal pleasures of wealth.



LEE BARKER, 31

I would be wealthy but not famous. I've had a touch of stardom in a way. It's annoying. I dated someone who was a C-grade celebrity. We were never left alone. People were constantly in your face.



PETE TORRINGTON, 23

I would rather have fame without wealth. Ultimately all we have is our legacy. It's the only thing that will live on after we die. Nobody is going to remember you if you're just rich. But if you're talented enough to become famous in your particular field then you've reached an immortality of sorts. I guess I just want to be remembered.



MOLLY KADARAUCH, 39

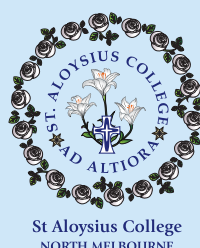
I would rather be famous. Maybe because I sort of already am. Not really though, I'm just a classical musician. I just prefer playing music to earning a lot of money and you don't earn a lot of money playing music.



ARNIE MACKNAMARA, 68

I think I would rather be rich and not famous. I would like a nice life style and I don't think I could cope with the fame. I'd hate people gawking at me.

Would you rather be famous without wealth or wealthy without fame?



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COUNCILLOR PROFILE

By Shane Scanlan

From community activist to councillor

It's been interesting to watch Jackie Watts' transition from community activist to councillor.

She clearly struggled during her first term, coming in mid-way through to fill a casual vacancy on a count-back of votes. This period was marred by a bitter personal dispute with Lord Mayor Robert Doyle and resulted in Cr Doyle being exonerated over accusations of harassment and bullying.

It would have been entirely understandable had Cr Watts not sought re-election in 2012.

But contest the election she did – and was the seventh of nine councillors elected.

The ALP member raised a few eyebrows in the process though – having aligned herself on the ticket of pollster Gary Morgan and larger-than-life conservative figure John Elliot.

Cr Watts prefers not to talk about the issues that dogged her first term, pointing instead to a victory in successfully lobbying for two extra councillors to help shoulder the burden of elected office.

“Having two extra councillors has ameliorated the situation,” she said.

However, she is far from satisfied with the electoral system, which sees businesses in Melbourne granted two votes, while individuals have only one.

“I am agitating constantly for reform and I am very keen that the new Labor Government pick up the recommendations of Petro Georgiou’s review of electoral reforms,” she said.

The former Coalition government commissioned a review of the state local government system and released its findings last September.

Recommendation four of Mr Georgiou’s first stage report is: “A corporation may nominate only one representative, who may be enrolled only once in a municipality.”

However, when releasing the report, former local government minister Tim Bull said the Coalition would: “retain the existing electoral structure and franchise for the City of Melbourne.” It is yet to be determined what the new Labor Government makes of the recommendations.

Cr Watts said: “The overarching problem remains and it will remain while the gerrymander remains. I’m hoping that some of the Petro Georgiou recommendations will



be adopted before the next council election.”

When she became a councillor, Cr Watts was the convenor of the Coalition of Resident and Business Association (CoRBA), an umbrella group of 17 groups throughout the City of Melbourne.

Her own particular area is Carlton where she has held various executive roles with the Carlton Residents Group.

CoRBA, she explained, was created to give the smaller disparate groups a louder voice with the City of Melbourne. These groups favour a return to dividing the city into wards, each represented by a councillor.

“There was a shared view among community

associations in relation to the city,” she said. “The general view was that they were not being heard. How do you get heard? You create a group and you tackle things collectively.”

So, if the electoral system is broken, how come Cr Watts managed to get elected?

“It’s been thrown up a lot over the years that, because I was elected under the current system, it must work. It doesn’t. It’s dreadful. And it’s ludicrous that Sydney should be considering a shift towards what is occurring in Melbourne,” she said.

Cr Watts could count on support for her views on the electoral system from ALP

councillor Richard Foster and the two Greens councillors would agree that businesses should not be favoured, but the other seven councillors certainly wouldn’t agree.

And the loose alliance on electoral matters with the Greens doesn’t necessarily extend beyond a few broad principles. After all, in the inner-city environment, the battle for political dominance is not between conservative and progressive, it’s between the Labor Party and the Greens.

Cr Watts distances herself from party politics, saying she believes it has no place in the council chamber. Her alignment with John Elliott at the last election is evidence of this. But it makes her harder to read in council, particularly as she is not the most vocal contributor.

Essentially a private person, it’s easy to form a view that Cr Watts became a councillor out of obligation for a cause and doesn’t really enjoy it.

She has been suffering illness of recent times, which also doesn’t help her confidence or how she performs in the council chamber.

Cr Watts is the daughter of English “economic migrants” who came to Melbourne in 1951 and essentially grew up in the eastern suburbs during a time when Doncaster and Blackburn were as much rural as urban.

Her father was a retailer and small business man and her parents twice returned to live in England (resulting in Cr Watts attending five different primary schools).

She travelled extensively as a young woman, including overland from London to Kathmandu and around Africa in a converted bus. She has two children and four grandchildren.

Cr Watts is also defined by her academic career, which saw her start a part-time arts degree at LaTrobe University when her children were young in 1977 and culminate with a doctorate in vocational training from RMIT.



In next month's Councillor Profile we look at:
Cr Kevin Louey



WANTED: DELIVERY PERSON



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PET'S CORNER

Lots of love from Bruno

Look out Southbank! The boisterous boxer Bruno is here to smother you in kisses.

According to his owner, Southbank local and Canadian ex-pat Heather Sirett, this 21-week-old pup loves nothing more than showing his affection with a big lick on the face.

"He loves people, as soon as he sees them he just wants to attack them with kisses," she said.

We don't doubt the truth behind her assertion either. All the way through our talk, Heather was fending off the energetic affections of her four-legged friend.

Despite the somewhat forceful advances of her little companion, Heather couldn't stop smiling. It's obvious the two share a special bond.

Bruno is a puppy through and through. "He has a lot of energy," Heather said. "He sometimes goes crazy doing laps around the entire house."

Even with his seemingly boundless amounts of puppy energy, Heather said Bruno was still a very intelligent and good dog.

"He listens very well and knows all his toys," she said. "So I'll say, go get your pig, or go get your baby and he'll bring it to me," she said.

The naturally-talented Bruno isn't even in puppy school yet. He's just waiting on his last immunisations before becoming top of his class.



SOUTHBANK SUDOKU

Last month's Sudoku solution

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

A variation of Sudoku, with the letters **SOUTH BANK** 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 hard!
Good Luck!

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

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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.
website www.life.org.au/imlac or call Carolyn on 9696 1090



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SOUTHBANK HISTORY GROUP

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

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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 Federation Square. Visitors are always welcome.
www.southbank.org.au



WEDNESDAYS
FREE PT SESSIONS @ BOYD
Local personal training company Just In Time PT will host free sessions at the Boyd Community Hub up until May 20. To find out more about this wonderful offer:
www.justintimept.com

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.



SUNDAYS
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www.artscentremelbourne.com.au



WEDNESDAY MARCH 18
BOYD PLAY DAY
The Boyd Play Day will be a happening hive of activity, come along with your family and explore this fun and informative event! Bring a picnic lunch and meet other Southbank families! No bookings required.



TUESDAYS
SOUNDS OF SOUTHGATE
Run by voice teacher, choral director and composer Kate Sadler, Sounds of Southgate is a community choir open to anyone to join. 6:15pm - 8pm every Tuesday at St Johns Church Southgate.

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

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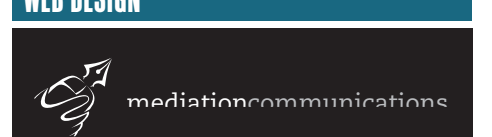


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RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY FOR LEASE

1603/152 STURT STREET, SOUTHBANK 3006

2 2 1

\$555 per week

The Guild Apartments!

Enjoy the city views from the 16th floor! Brand new modern design offers comfortable living with everything you could possibly need.

Comprising of 2 spacious bedrooms with built in robes and carpet floors, kitchen fitted with modern European fixtures which features a dishwasher, open plan meals and lounge which allows you access to your private balcony overlooking sensational city views. Two modern bathrooms, hidden laundry, inbuilt work station area, intercom security system, 1 car space and access to indoor heated swimming pool, steam room and gymnasium, bike room and communal roof top terrace.



1707/ 83 QUEENSBIDGE STREET, SOUTHBANK 3006

2 1 1

\$645 per week

Spacious living in Southbank!

This fully furnished 2 bedroom apartment is to a very high standard. The kitchen is equipped with brand new Bosch gas appliances. The property also features a large breakfast bar, spacious open plan living /dining area with dining table and chairs, new carpets and tiles throughout to compliment modern furnishings. Balcony boasts city views and the master bedroom features walk-in robes, both bedrooms have queen sized beds for comfort. Split system heating and cooling and an internal laundry.

The property also has security intercom system and full access to all facilities: Tennis court, Indoor heated swimming pool, Barbecue areas and Gymnasium, 1 car spaces and 24 hour concierge.



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RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY FOR SALE

3010/1 FRESHWATER PLACE, SOUTHBANK 3006

1 1 1

\$625,000+

Luxury living!

Embrace a luxurious lifestyle in this sensational apartment perched high on level 30 of Southbank's iconic Freshwater Place. Offering one of the most spacious of 1 bedroom properties at a sizable 73.8 m2, this contemporary modern apartment showcases a generous lounge, floor to ceiling windows, study nook and world-class facilities on level 10.

Interior is very well maintained and features an open lounge area with gorgeous views of the city surrounds. Apartment comes with reverse air-conditioning, 24 hour concierge, security access and intercom. On Level 10 are the included facilities of: Pool, sauna, conference room, fully equipped gym and spacious outdoor BBQ areas.



Call Gary Cakir on 0413 522 533 or email: gary@evolverealestate.com.au, for your next inspection.

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1 1 -

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Photos are for indicative purposes only



Call Michael Fitzgerald on 0418 101 286 or email: michael@evolverealestate.com.au, for any enquiries.

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