

The voice of Southbank

SOUTHBANK Local NEWS

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Southbank to get its police station

By Sean Car

After many years of waiting, Southbank Local News understands that a site has been selected for a new Southbank Police Station.



Despite not being a Southbank address, *Southbank Local News* understands that the building at 66-76 Moray St, South Melbourne will operate under the name of Southbank Police Station.

While the station's site can be confirmed, specific details and plans won't be officially announced by the State Government and Victoria Police until the building's lease is formally signed by State Treasury, which is expected to occur within the coming month.

The new station will replace St Kilda Rd Police Station, which currently responds to the zone covering Southbank, South Wharf and Fishermans Bend.

In welcoming the news, Southbank Residents Group president Tony Penna said a police station had been on the community's wish list for a very long time.

"The residents of Southbank have been calling for a Southbank police station for years," he said. "Southbank Residents Group has been advocating for and lobbying government for years as well."

"The location should serve the immediate needs of the community well. We are looking forward to seeing it operational."

According to City of Melbourne Cr Ken Ong,

council had looked at ways of improving the active surveillance of Southbank, as a result of community consultation since 2009.

One of the proposals was to build a temporary police "pod" at Queensbridge Square, pending a decision by Victoria Police on the permanent location of a police station after the closure of the St Kilda Road station.

Cr Ong said it was positive that the community finally had some assurance.

"From my perspective, the decision will remove many questions about if there was going to be one (a police station) for Southbank," he said.

"I am sure that VicPol has thoroughly investigated many sites and have decided that this one will meet their operation needs and satisfy the community's expectations."

Yarra River Business Association executive officer Tim Bracher also welcomed the news and labeled the location as "excellent".

"On paper it looks an excellent location for servicing not only the promenade, but also the residential areas of Southbank and the future suburb of Fishermans Bend," he said.

"Theoretically, they will only be 60 to 90 seconds away from our main trouble spots, obviating the need for a police pod on the promenade, although the regular foot patrols Friday to Sunday are always appreciated."



Come join the conversation

The Cafe Kere Kere team at Boyd Community Hub is calling on Southbank residents to have a "Community Conversation" on Tuesday, April 21. Find out why on page 7.

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Easter Sunday siege brings Southbank to a stand-still

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Shockwaves were sent through Southbank late on Easter Sunday after a man allegedly held a woman hostage for about eight hours inside the Ludlow Bar and Restaurant at Riverside Quay.

It is alleged that 35-year-old Abijath Desikan, a former chef at the restaurant, entered the premises armed with a knife shortly before 10pm on Easter Sunday.

After entering, it is alleged he had barricaded himself in a storeroom and took a female staff member hostage.

The 27-year-old female employee was released at approximately 5.30am on Easter Monday after police negotiators spoke with Desikan.

Desikan was taken to St Vincent's Hospital under guard for precautionary assessment after being tasered by police.

Police described Desikan as a "disgruntled former employee," who had been employed by the restaurant only a week before.

"He was fairly disgruntled about some employment issues with the restaurant and I believe he was recently working at the restaurant," acting Inspector Travis McCarthy said.

"He's made his way into a storeroom at the rear of the restaurant and at that time there was a female known to him also in that room."

"At that point he was approached by another staff member who happened to see the knife and, as a result, the staff started to self-evacuate the restaurant and they've immediately called police."

Police praised staff for doing a "really good job" in evacuating patrons and alerting police so quickly.

Police said the female employee involved in the incident was not physically harmed, but had been "traumatised" by the experience.



35-year-old Abijath Desikan, the man accused with holding a female employee hostage inside the Ludlow Bar and Restaurant for eight hours, is wheeled away by paramedics after being tasered by police. Image: Courtesy of the ABC

"Obviously it's a fairly traumatic experience for her, she's in a room with a male who was in there for a while with a knife," Inspector McCarthy said.

"Although the evidence suggests at this stage that no direct threats were made to her, it's fairly traumatising over a long period of time."

Following the incident, Desikan was charged by police with armed robbery, false imprisonment and assault with a weapon and appeared in custody at a filing hearing on April 7.

He was remanded to appear at a committal mention on June 30.

Red Rock Leisure, which owns Ludlow Bar and Restaurant, released a statement on thanking police and its staff.

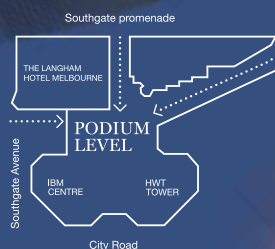
"We would like to pay tribute to our staff for their wonderful efforts and extend our gratitude to Victoria Police for their professional response and patience," the statement said.

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BC Rentals operator Lee Tambouras next to two parking spaces allocated to Green Share Car by the City of Melbourne.

Unfair car share

Car rental operator Lee Tambouras says City of Melbourne (CoM) support for car share companies is discriminatory.

The Whiteman St operator says there is no difference between his nine-year-old business and the new share car operators.

The council has allocated two car parking spaces outside Mr Tambouras's business to a car share company.

"I have tried to contact the council to find out why these businesses get parking and we don't," he said. "When I initially called I was told that some of the spaces are paid and some are allocated to the car share company as they provide a service to the apartments."

"I was told that car hire was completely different! When I asked for the definition of car share he told me it is where a customer, who is more than likely local, pays to use a car for short periods of time. But this is exactly what we do and the apartments around our business make up a huge amount of our trade."

Mr Tambouras said he was told to write to council's engineering services manager Geoff Robinson but received no reply.

"I have since called another three times, on each occasion I am told to speak to either Geoff or Andrew Cron, but they are never available. They take my number stating that I will receive a call back, I never have," he said.

"I have read their transport strategy and it states that, with the rising cost of driving, people will turn to car share."

"But what is the difference between car share and car hire? Why do they support these businesses and not mine when they are a profit making company not a charity!"

The CoM's 2012 transport strategy says: "Car sharing for residents and businesses is growing and requires dedicated car parking space, particularly in the central city where it suits the high density and mix of uses."

Mr Tambouras said: "The council states its aim is to reduce long-term parking yet these cars sit here day in day out, I rarely see them being used, and we have to pay for parking."

"My customers get parking tickets when they are only dropping a car off. It feels like they are making it harder and harder for our business to survive."

"Why not approach us and the other car hire companies and come up with a solution?"

"We could allocate cars to the apartments. We already have a membership where you can just pay online turn up and take the car."

A CoM spokesperson said: "The City of Melbourne has recently finished a three-year trial of car share."

"We are currently in the process of reviewing the trial, with a report to go to the Future Melbourne Committee in the near future which will include recommendations for the way forward," the spokesperson said.

Residents spend big

City of Melbourne residents spend four times as much as workers in Melbourne's shops, cafes and bars, new research has revealed.

SGS Economics & Planning research shows that residents each spend \$10,000 on retail and hospitality each year within the city.

Workers spend \$2500 each year on retail and hospitality, while students spend just \$1800.

Yarra River Business Association executive officer Tim Bracher said the report sent a strong reminder that local businesses which ignore the local market, do so at their peril.

"Most switched-on business operators in our precinct realise that there is potentially more revenue to be made from the thousands of people living in the high-rise behind them, than the casual visitor," he said.

"They ignore the resident at their financial peril, but those business people who go out of their way to look after the locals are usually rewarded with repeat business and strong word of mouth."

The research was commissioned by the council as part of its *Retail and Hospitality Strategy First Year Report*.

The research shows that, as a group, workers spend the most in the city on retail and hospitality - \$1.09 billion annually.

But there are about 500,000 workers and only 105,000 residents. Despite their numerical disadvantage, residents spend only slightly less - estimated by SGS at \$1.04 billion.

Students were estimated to spend \$459 million as a group on retail and hospitality within the city each year.

The Retail and Hospitality Expenditure Study, City of Melbourne/SGS Economics & Planning 2014 research also showed that visitors to Melbourne spend an estimated \$885 million.

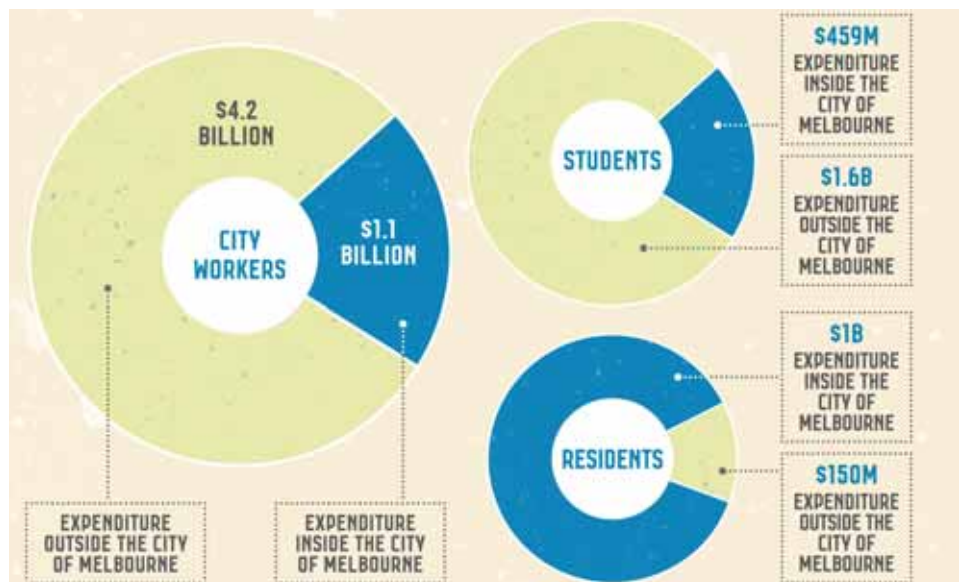
The researchers also looked at "leakage" and found that, again, residents were the most loyal group of customers within the city. Residents expend 85 per cent of their total spend within the city, and forked out only \$150 million (15 per cent of their total spend) on retail and hospitality in other places.

In contrast, students and workers were found to spend four times as much in places other than the City of Melbourne. Workers annually spend \$4.2 billion elsewhere, while students spend \$1.6 billion

The researchers pointed out that there was considerable overlap between these groups.

The Year One Report showed the city was home to 18,221 businesses and had a weekday population of 844,000 people and a weekend population of 579,000 people.

The report estimated that 439,000 people were employed in the municipality's retail and hospitality businesses.



Source: SGS Economics and Planning

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Minister is aiming for a positive legacy

By Shane Scanlan

New Planning Minister Richard Wynne says he's got the best job in town.

"People say I've been training for this for 20 years and maybe I have," he said. "So I want to bring all of what I've learnt to try to use this term of government to put into place longer-term strategies for our city."

"I am very passionate about the city. I was the lord mayor of this city. I know this city intimately. I know it as well as anyone knows it. I walk it. I live it. It's where I have grown up," Mr Wynne said.

"I've lost none of my enthusiasm for it and that's why you enter public life - to put in place good things, good structures."

He is talking design standards - "We have lower standards than Sydney. It's both physical size and urban amenity. They go together."

He is talking amenity: "In terms of light and overshadowing, I have a position which is very clear on this. I am looking towards amenity. What gets approved during my time as a minister will be high-quality development which addresses the street and is active on the street level, that deals with some of the impacts of wind, and overshadowing."

"I will not approve developments that rely on borrowed light. I simply will not approve them. That is just not on."

"Similarly, developments that over-shadow our parks, over-shadow the bay, over-shadow the rivers I won't approve."

"And you don't want to be looking out of your apartment into someone's kitchen or their lounge room. You want at least a civilised level of space between them."

But, just as he is very happy to talk about amenity, he is equally tightlipped about what might be in the wings regarding his



New Labor Planning Minister Richard Wynne.

relationship with the City of Melbourne.

Apart from saying that he is retaining the right to determine planning applications for buildings greater than 25,000sqm, the minister gives the impression that something significant is happening.

He warms up with: "I've met with the Lord Mayor and we see a crucial role for the City of Melbourne and the State Architect in terms of the decision-making around that."

The council has been asking for significant developer contributions to pay for the social infrastructure to support the current population boom. On this subject, Mr Wynne said: "We're looking at that all at the moment and it's probably wise that I don't go much further at the moment."

He certainly appreciates the wisdom of urban renewal close to the city centre.

"When you think about the fact that the demographics suggest we are going to have to house 100,000 people a year until

2050, that's a massive challenge for any government," he said.

"We've probably got, within 5km of the GPO, 30 year's worth of developable land. We're not short of it, but let's get it right."

Southbank finds itself as part of this remaining urban redevelopment. To the south we have Fishermans Bend and to the north and west we have E-Gate and Arden-Macaulay.

On Fishermans Bend, the minister says it is wrong to conclude that the new government has less interest in the area.

"We are more than hot about how to fix the mistakes," he said. "The previous government just overnight rezoned the land to Capital City Zone, massively lifting the value of the land and, not surprisingly, the development community has moved in seeking to take advantage of that opportunity without any proper assessment about what key infrastructure was needed

- trams, trains, public open space, schools, community health facilities, libraries - stuff that needs to be in the public realm."

On future developments on government land, he said, he is aiming for up to 15 per cent social housing.

"We will trial it and see how it goes," he said. "We're looking for somewhere between 10 and 15 per cent of social housing and it doesn't always necessarily have to be within the development but the opportunity will be there for the developer to sell into the social housing market."

"That's a developing policy and we'll be looking to develop that over this term of government. It's not a silver bullet but it's going to help a lot in terms of supply."

"We're saying to the development community 'this has already been tested in the market place' and these units sold like there was no tomorrow. So there is nothing to fear in mixed developments."




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Designer Chandelier staff member Shanan Fehrmann (left), owner Daniel Feldman (centre) capture a memorable moment with Hollywood megastar Arnold Schwarzenegger (right).

Terminator's shock visit

Southbank business owner Daniel Feldman was "surprised, delighted and more than a little star struck" last month when Hollywood megastar Arnold Schwarzenegger stopped by for a surprise visit.

Flocked by his large entourage, Mr Schwarzenegger dropped in unexpectedly to Designer Chandelier at Eureka Tower, much to the excitement of Daniel and staff member Shanan Fehrmann.

Daniel said what was even more surprising was Arnie's desire to shoot an action scene in the showroom, proposing to drive a car right through the window and continue the scene outside.

He said he gave the potential action film shoot "the green light".

Crime rate up more than 20 per cent

While it remains one of the safest suburbs in Melbourne, crime has increased by more than 20 per cent in Southbank, according to crime data released last month.

Some 2466 offences were recorded in postcode 3006 in 2014, comprising just fewer than 8 per cent of the 32,301 crimes recorded in the City of Melbourne.

Although the 2014 crime rate in Southbank is low, it had increased by 21 per cent on the previous year.

2014 marks a record spike in recorded crime in Southbank since 2010, which saw 2380 offences recorded, before declining to 2142 offences in 2011, 1993 in 2012 and 2161 in 2013.

Docklands, West Melbourne, Carlton North, East Melbourne, North Melbourne, Parkville and South Yarra all recorded less offences

than Southbank, with Kensington the only suburb in the municipality to have had higher crime rates than Southbank in 2014.

But the CBD proved to be Melbourne's major crime centre, recording 21,624 offences.

The statistics were released last month as part of the Crime Statistics Agency's first quarterly report. The Crime Statistics Agency assumed the role of reporting crime statistics from Victoria Police on January 1.

While the statistics don't provide breakdowns of the different types of crime in Southbank, they do show that the most common crime in the Melbourne Local Government Area (LGA) in 2014 was theft.

Station Commander at St Kilda Rd Police Station, Sen-Sgt Steve Bills said, while crimes against the person in Southbank had significantly declined, crimes against property continued to cause police headaches.

Sen-Sgt Bills has urged local residents to be more vigilant when it comes to leaving valuables in cars and securing their bicycles.

Despite being the most common crime in Southbank, theft offences in Melbourne are down to 9765 from 13,683 offences in 2012 and 10,284 offences in 2013.

Other common offences in the Melbourne LGA in 2014 included deception (4676

offences), disorderly and offensive conduct (3924 offences), breaches of orders (3312 offences) and assault and related offences (2308 offences).

Overall property and deception offences, which include theft, arson and bribery, dropped from 20,716 offences in 2012 to 17,569 offences in 2014.

Crimes against the person, which include homicide, sexual offences and assaults have remained stable, with 3648 offences recorded, almost the same as the 3644 offences recorded in 2012.



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Testing Grounds winter closure

Southbank's community arts space Testing Grounds has gone into hibernation for the winter months and will no longer be open daily.

The community-programmed public space, funded by Arts Victoria, has proved an overwhelming success in activating the unused site at City Rd since launching at the end of 2013.

However, the creative duo behind the initiative Joseph Norster and Millie Cattlin have made the decision to close over winter in order to revamp the space and re-open later this year.

Mr Norster said the pair wanted to learn more about how to improve on what it had already achieved.

"As autumn and winter approaches, we look towards the next stage of the project with plans to reopen to the public in early November," he said.

"The past 18 months of public engagement have taught us a great deal about the history of this little piece of land and its place in the Arts Precinct."

While it will remain closed to the public, Mr Norster said the space would still be utilised by arts students for a range of educational projects while the site was being upgraded.

"During autumn and winter you may notice people coming and going on occasion," he said. "Testing Grounds is being utilised by an artist-in-residence project and educational programs with students from local universities."

"By spring, we hope to provide more art studio and exhibition space, further enabling us to support emerging artists within the established Arts Precinct and look to improve the amenity for locals by providing better seating and more undercover areas."

The pair is calling on the community to provide feedback and comments, which it will use to help enhance the site's ongoing program of public art and amenity.

To have your say visit www.testinggrounds.com.au/feedback



Lord Mayor Robert Doyle has proposed to name the Southbank footbridge after the Hon. Evan Walker.

Footbridge to honour the father of Southbank

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle has flagged a proposal to name the footbridge connecting the Flinders St underpass to Southbank, in honour of former Labor Planning Minister Evan Walker.

Speaking on radio in February in the wake of Mr Walker's death, the Lord Mayor paid tribute to the visionary architect who was attributed with the creation of Southbank.

"I must say I'm a great admirer of the work of Evan Walker and he championed ideas well before their time. I mean the idea of protection and urban renewal now is uppermost in our minds as we plan for the future growth of the city," he said.

"Southbank in those days was a wasteland and Evan Walker was really the father of urban renewal in Melbourne and so I think he's deserving of commemoration."

According to the Lord Mayor, the footbridge currently has no name and he said it provided the perfect landmark to commemorate the man known as "the father of Southbank"

"How irresistible is it to make a pedestrian bridge the Walker Bridge? It doesn't have a name and it is directly connected to what Evan Walker did in rejuvenating the Yarra."

"I'm happy to follow that through. Whatever the bridge is finally called, I think that is the feature that is appropriate to commemorate Evan Walker's legacy to the city."

A spokesperson for the City of Melbourne (CoM) said the process to formally register a submission to change the name of the bridge was underway but would take some months to complete.

"The CoM sought and recently received in-principle support from the Office of Geographic Names to rename the Southbank Pedestrian Bridge the Evan Walker Bridge," the spokesperson said.

"Public consultation will be conducted in accordance with their guidelines before a submission can be made to the Office of Geographic Names to formally register the new name."

Evan Walker passed away in February aged 79, following a long battle with Parkinson's disease.



Come join the conversation

Continued from page 1.

The Cafe Kere Kere team at Boyd Community Hub is calling on Southbank residents to have a "Community Conversation."

Following the recent closure of the Southbank Farmers Market, the event is being staged to provide residents and local stakeholders with a chance to discuss ways of reactivating Southbank by establishing a new regular community event.

The initiative is the brainchild of Cafe Kere Kere's James Murphy who is calling on anyone with ideas to get along and join the conversation.

"With the recent closure of the Southbank Farmers Market, it prompted us to ask the question 'what does the Southbank community want for itself?'" he said.

"In this spirit we have decided to host a 'Community Conversation' to encourage dialogue and an exchange of ideas."

"Our objective is not an outcome but, instead, to seek permission for further exploration and development within the Southbank community."

Since opening its doors in 2012, Kere Kere Southbank has emerged as a prominent meeting place for the Southbank community having hosted and facilitated a variety of community events and initiatives.

The "Community Conversation" will start at 6pm on Tuesday, April 21. Free wine and cheese and will be provided.

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Businesses seek an activated waterway

The Yarra River Business Association (YRBA) released a position statement last month calling on the State Government to adopt an independent management authority for Melbourne's waterfront.

The document, entitled *Achieving a Sustainable and Activated Waterway*, states the position of the YRBA and the Melbourne Passenger Boating Association (MPBA).

The two organisations are represented on the Lower Yarra River Use Future Directions Group, which is charged with recommending changes to waterways governance.

The position statement provides a number of immediate recommendations for the State Government, as part of its push for the implementation of an "independent, purposed-designed waterway management authority".

The commercial vessels operating on Melbourne's waterways are currently being regulated by Parks Victoria, which has come under fierce scrutiny from industry stakeholders on a host of governance issues.

The document states that both the YRBA and MPBA "are united in their desire to see a more equitable and transparent governance regime on the Lower Yarra River, in order to revitalise the commercial boating industry and to sustainably activate the waterway."

However, according to the statement, both organisations believe in the immediate implementation of an independent advisory



body, which would work with the regulator to manage the waterway and act as "a conduit between stakeholders."

"As an interim step, a high level, resourced advisory body, comprising public and private sector interests, working in complement with the waterway regulator should be considered," the document states.


"The advisory body could oversee the marketing role and related business development opportunities. The body would need to be fully funded and professionally staffed, with its scope and roles clearly defined."

"The advisory body would create the genesis of what would evolve into the new integrated authority for Melbourne Waterfront."

The statement's summary recommends:

- A range of lease options be available to approved and accredited businesses;
- The granting of berthing and booth leases be subject to an industry determined and regulated accreditation scheme;
- An initial capping of berthing leases/operating licences;
- Installation of modern, safe berthing infrastructure to service Melbourne's main passenger boat terminus at Southgate and a water transport hub/terminus in Docklands;
- Asset maintenance key performance indicators for the regulator to be included in new berthing contracts;
- Removal of inappropriate and inequitable Tour Operator License (TOL) on Yarra River boat operators; and
- A cost-effective dispute/mediation process for river operators and the lessor/regulator.

The future directions group is expected to report to the State Government on appropriate governance structures next month.



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A visual render of Australia's highest apartment, which recently sold for a record-breaking figure.

Penthouse sale breaks records

In what will be the tallest residence in the southern hemisphere, Australia 108's 100th level penthouse sold this month for a record \$25 million.

The 750 sqm Southbank penthouse, which will be located 319 metres above street level, sold on April 8 to an undisclosed businessman based in China.

The \$25 million dollar figure marks a new record as the most expensive apartment ever sold in Australia.

Designed by Fender Katsalidis, the penthouse will boast 360-degree views of Melbourne and span the entire top floor of Australia 108, which will be the tallest tower in the southern hemisphere when completed in 2019.

CBRE residential projects managing director Andrew Leoncelli said more than 90 per cent of the 1105 apartments at the Southbank Boulevard address had already sold.

"More than 1000 apartments have been sold, representing the largest number of apartments ever sold in a single building in Australia," he said.

"The extraordinary sale of the Australia 108 penthouse sets a new benchmark for pricing. It is by far the most opulent, landmark and exciting trophy apartment ever brought to the market."

Council ire on property taxation

The City of Melbourne has warned the Federal Government to keep its fingers out of the property-based taxation pie.

The Federal Government has announced an intention to raise \$200 million annually from foreign property investors.

But the council says such a tax would be counterproductive and would lead to diminished new property supply and, therefore, higher prices.

Council's finance chair, Cr Stephen Mayne, told last month's Future Melbourne Committee the proposed tax would fail on multiple fronts.

"If you introduce a new tax which targets a particular category of buyer, you will have higher prices because you have fewer buyers and less supply," Cr Mayne said.

"This would hit supply, which is the biggest factor in making Melbourne housing more affordable."

"It sends a signal against foreign investment and Melbourne, in particular, has been

a very big beneficiary of inward foreign investment in our property sector."

"I think the strongest argument against it is the incursion of the Federal Government into the property tax game," Cr Mayne said.

"We are a property franchise and councils traditionally rely on property-based rates to collect our revenue. We've had the State Government move into this area in a big way in recent years with land tax and congestion tax and fire services levies and now we have the third level of government also getting into the property tax game."

"Melbourne currently has more than 40 per cent of all new apartments and a lot of that is inward foreign property investment."

"This is an excessive new tax targeted at one class of investor which sends signals which are negative or contrary to the 'open for business,' 'engagement with the region' support for inward investment which has

been a key part of our prosperity and success in recent years," Cr Mayne said.

All councillors, except Greens councillors Rohan Leppert and Cathy Oke, supported Cr Mayne's motion to tell the Federal Government to drop the proposed tax.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle agreed, saying: "People might ask 'why is it that a local government authority is commenting on a Federal Government taxation policy?' And for me, (the answer is because) this is primarily about us."

"Last year at the City of Melbourne, we issued building permits which were worth \$3.4 billion, the vast majority of which was in new housing stock. So we're undergoing a residential boom and there's no signs in the next few years of that abating."

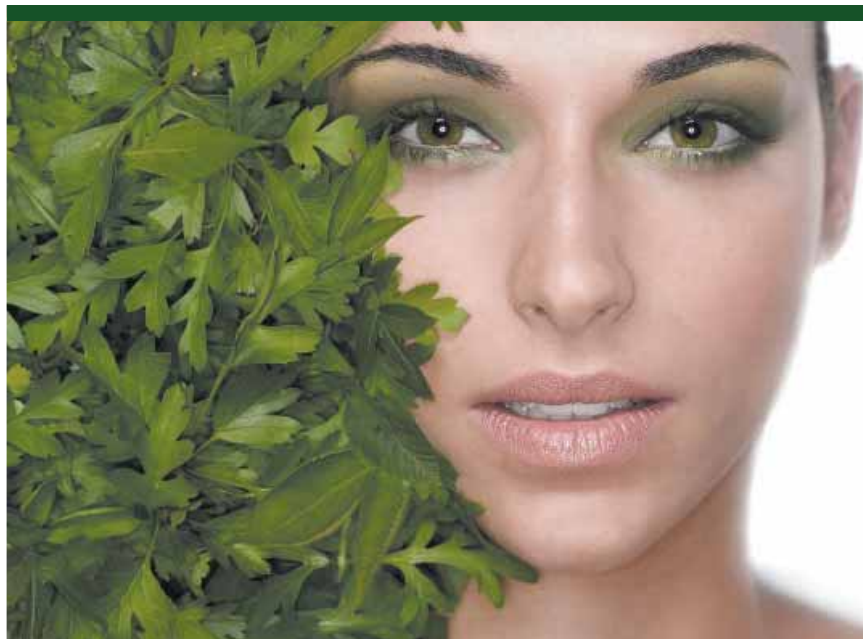
"The City of Melbourne has the lion's share of the residential boom which is about to be taxed. Leave the existing system alone. It's

working pretty well and achieving what we want."

"While I would support the Foreign Investment Review Board having the resources to do its job, I'm not sure that the way to do that is by imposing another federal tax," Cr Doyle said.

Cr Ken Ong said: "There is a lot of talk about auctions being won by foreigners because they see a lot on non-white faces. I'm going to be blunt here. I think this is pretty much along the lines of xenophobia."

"If there was a problem with foreigners buying existing properties, we would have seen thousands picked up for breaking the rules but, so far, there has only been one," Cr Ong said.



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Council stalls on Fishermans Bend

The City of Port Phillip has voted to stall on approving any further applications for Fishermans Bend.

It comes after council received a joint letter last month, representing the Fishermans Bend Network (FBN), Montague Community Alliance, Port People Inc. and Beacon Cove Neighbourhood Association, which requested that council not approve applications until the Fishermans Bend Strategic Framework Plan had been reviewed.

"We understand that City of Port Phillip does not support the Strategic Framework Plan in its current form and considers it to be a work-in-progress," the letter stated.

"We are also aware the Metropolitan Planning Authority (MPA) has announced a review of the SFP and claims its review will be in conjunction with the City of Melbourne and Port Phillip."

The letter was presented to council at its ordinary meeting on March 24.

Councillors voted four to three to carry the motion, stating that council would no longer delegate decision-making to council officers for planning applications.

Under the motion moved, councillors will now assess and determine planning applications within the urban renewal area through open consultation with the community.

The letter's four signatories had expressed particular concerns to council on a seven-storey application at 179 Gladstone St, South Melbourne and another eight-storey application at 165-167 Gladstone St.

Former Liberal planning minister Matthew Guy had already issued a permit for 179 Gladstone St in what was a "transitional" zone limited to four-storeys, according to the Strategic Framework Plan.

The property is now the subject of an amended planning application for an eight-storey development, while the eight-storey application at 165-167 Gladstone St has also been sent to the City of Port Phillip.



Calls to protect Yarra

A report released last month has called for the adoption of a new governance structure to protect the Yarra River.

The *Let's Act for the Yarra* report released by Yarra Riverkeepers and Environmental Justice Australia last month calls on the State Government to enact the Yarra River Protection Act it promised pre-election.

The report seeks a new governance model for the whole of the Yarra River, differing from the approach of stakeholders in Southbank and Docklands, who continue to advocate for a single port authority to govern local waterways.

Before last year's election the Labor Party promised to introduce a Yarra River Protection Act to protect the river corridor from inappropriate development. It has also promised to establish a trust that would develop standardised planning controls for the Yarra and work with agencies to promote the river's amenity.

According to the *Let's Act for the Yarra* report, the biggest challenges currently facing the Yarra River are overdevelopment, environmental stress and poor water quality.

In addition, the report outlines how the number of municipalities and agencies with jurisdiction over parts over the river, alongside a complex mix of laws and regulations, make it harder to address the river's problems.

The report advocates for the introduction of a Yarra River Protection Act and independent trust in order to "cut through the complexity of the current regulatory situation, making it easy to ensure good decisions are made to protect the river".

"We congratulate the Government for committing to enact a Yarra River Protection Act with its own independent body to better

manage the river from source to mouth," Yarra riverkeeper Andrew Kelly said.

"The Government has recognised there are problems with the Yarra, but one plan after another had failed to fix them. The Yarra is facing so many development pressures and its management is so fragmented that efforts to clean it up are at risk. With Melbourne's population set to soar, the river will be squeezed."

"The Yarra is at the crossroads right now and we need to take advantage of the opportunity to enact a Yarra River Protection Act if we're going to ensure a truly world class river for the world's most liveable city," Mr Kelly said.

The report has called for the Yarra River Protection Act to include:

- A greater ambition for appropriate planning, river health and sympathetic catchment management;
- A coherent regulatory structure for the Yarra as a whole;
- An independent agency to care for the Yarra; and
- The right for the community to step in to have good environmental rules enforced and pathways to improved environmental outcomes considered.

Director of advocacy and research at Environmental Justice Australia, Nicola Rivers, says the Government needed to start working on the legislation.

"The Yarra is such an important, iconic river, its deserving of its own legislation and it needs its own independent agency to be a champion for the river," Ms Rivers said.

Planning vision revamped

The Andrews Labor Government is giving Plan Melbourne a reboot to ensure it delivers the kind of city the community needs.

Minister for Planning Richard Wynne will reconvene the expert Ministerial Advisory Committee that developed the original plan.

According to the state planning authority, the first release of the draft version of Plan Melbourne had attracted 450 submissions and had benefited from the involvement of 10,000 Victorians.

However, the Planning Minister said that the final plan included political elements aimed at last year's election rather than 2050.

Mr Wynne said the rebooted plan would bring the community's voice back to the process with the aim of devising a long-term strategy.

"Planning is about people, and the community was largely ignored in the first version of Plan Melbourne," he said.

"A renewed Plan Melbourne will give a long-term vision for housing Victoria's growing population, increasing jobs and liveability, integrating public transport and infrastructure and deal with climate change."

"I want to bring the community voice back to the process. We need to have the Plan Melbourne that the community and stakeholders intended; the one we were meant to have."

Mr Wynne said the Government would release the public submissions on the draft and get new advice that reflects the weight of submissions, the right priorities and key long-term projects.

New community consultation on a refreshed Plan Melbourne will be completed by the second half of this year.

The new plan is expected to be incorporated into the planning scheme by early 2016.

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**PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIES
COLLEGE TEACHER HODA
AFSHAR'S STIRRING IMAGE
OF A YOUNG IRANIAN
BOY WAS JUDGED BEST
ENTRY AT THIS YEAR'S
NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC
PORTRAIT PRIZE**



Hoda captures national prize

SPECIAL FEATURE BY SEAN CAR



HODA AFSHAR

The 31-year-old took the image during a recent journey home to her native Iran, which beat 43 other finalists chosen from a record 2500 entries across Australia.

Having migrated to Australia eight years ago, Hoda said she had returned to Iran with the intention of recapturing her own nostalgic and romanticised vision of her homeland in order to showcase the true essence of the country.

"My intention was to travel as much as I can and capture the Iran that to me has always been hidden behind a curtain or misrepresented in most cases not always, but often," she said.

"I was focused on individuals' narratives and showing the heterogeneous nature of Iranian people and their life by capturing things which haven't been captured before."

Born, raised and educated in the Iranian capital of Tehran, Hoda can still remember the moment when she produced her first photograph of a "little fountain" in a dark room at school.

From that very moment, she said photography immediately became a passion that she knew she wanted to pursue for the rest of her life.

With a background in documentary photography, Hoda's recent journey took her deep into Iran, which included a trip to the north Iranian village of Soobatan - the location where she captured her prize-winning image.

Describing it as a "forgotten place," Hoda said the journey to Soobatan took her two and a half hours up a mountain to an unknown village above the clouds.

"No electricity, no technology, nothing - it was a simple life," she said.

"I used to wake up in the morning and see the clouds coming towards me and touching my face and I'd have little drips of water on my eyelashes. It was like living in a dream."

Providing the ideal landscape for her to realise her vision, she said it was during one of her many days wandering the mountain with her camera when she stumbled upon a young boy named Ali.

"I heard the sound of a flock of sheep and I started walking towards the sound and I saw little Ali standing on the road right in that pose with his hands in his pocket," she said.

"I was shocked when I saw him, especially because of the way that he was staring at me he had that mysterious look on his face and from a distance he looked like an old man because of the clothing that he's wearing."

"I asked him if I could take his picture and he didn't reply and I realised it was because he spoke a different dialect but he didn't move."

After taking a couple of shots, Ali instead responded to Hoda by holding out his hand with berries.

"He kept saying 'Alooche! Alooche!' which means little berries and that's all he said."

"Then he started jumping and swinging off the trees and picking more berries."

Hoda later discovered through a local guide that in the village, the cleverest children were sent to the city to attend school, while those such as Ali were made to stay and become shepherds.

She said it was this fact, which added another dimension to the boy's mysterious gaze.

"That really broke my heart when I heard this story because then suddenly that heavy look on his face and in his eyes made so much sense. It's about stories and now his story is travelling."

Hoda said she was looking forward to using her prestigious award to begin her next chapter and accredited much of her success on the support of her "second family" at the Photography Studies College in Southbank.

"I'm still flying up high and trying to digest the excitement but it feels really beautiful I have to say," she said.

"I feel a little bit embarrassed I see my photos up everywhere and everyone's really excited for me, which is great because at PSC I feel that we're all like family and there's this really friendly environment that you enjoying working in."

To view more of Hoda's work visit www.hodaafsharart.com

THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PALACE MUSEUM IN BEIJING, IS CURRENTLY PLAYING HOST TO AN EXHIBITION FEATURING RARE AND VALUABLE WORKS FROM ONE OF THE CULTURAL HIGH POINTS OF ANTIQUITY.

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 Qing dynasty, Qianlong period
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 The Palace Museum, Beijing



Golden Age of China

REVIEW BY LOUIS BLAKE

Several years in the making, the exhibition is entitled *A Golden Age of China: Qianlong Emperor (1736-1795)*.

Over its run from March 27 until June 21 the exhibition aims to offer patrons a rare insight into the cultural world of pre-revolutionary China. *A Golden Age of China* opens a window into the life of one of China's most revered leaders, Prince Hongli (1711-1799). Hongli ruled over China as the Qianlong Emperor from 1736 until 1795.

During his personal rein, the Qianlong Emperor presided over a cultural golden age in a nation that was, at the time, the most wealthy and powerful country in the world.

The emperor himself was a renowned art collector, curator and even creator. The Qianlong Emperor was a dedicated painter, calligrapher and wrote more than 40,000 poems.

More than 1100 sqm of gallery space has been given over to the exhibition that

recreates a world of extravagant wealth that was typical of the Chinese ruling class.

Over 120 different works are in the exhibition that includes extravagant silk robes, paintings depicting imperial life, as well as ornate swords and bows. Among the collection are a number of paintings and calligraphy pieces that were done by the emperor's own hand.

The exhibition layout features five distinct thematic sections that are based on the

layout of the original home of the Qianlong Emperor, Beijing's Forbidden City.

NGV director Tony Ellwood calls the exhibition "a once in a lifetime opportunity" as many of the pieces on display are rarely shown in their home nation.

Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews says that the exhibition is an "incredible opportunity" and highlights that "our state is Australia's art and cultural capital".

For more information and to purchase tickets please visit: www.ngv.vic.gov.au



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Shaun Tan's book *The Arrival* comes to the stage in a live sound-scape and Australia's finest artists including Speak Percussion, Melbourne Piano Trio, Syzygy Ensemble, Lisa Moore and Zubin Kanga contribute to this two-week festival of music written and inspired by the moving image.

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LISA MOORE

CROUCHING TIGER

CONCERTO

FOREST COLLECTIVE

ZUBIN KANGA

THERE WILL BE BLOOD

Thanks Kylie

REVIEW BY LOUIS BLAKE

ONE OF MELBOURNE'S FAVOURITE DAUGHTERS, KYLIE MINOGUE, HAS MADE AN EXTREMELY GENEROUS DONATION TO OUR ALREADY INCREDIBLE ARTS AND CULTURE LANDSCAPE.

The singer met with Premier Daniel Andrews and the Minister for Creative Industries Martin Foley last month to hand over a selection of 20 costumes from her stage shows and music video clips.

This collection features outfits designed by the great Jean Claude Gaultier for Minogue's X2008 tour as well as the jacket that she wore in her debut music video for the song that launched her career, 1988's *Locomotion*.

The pieces have been given to the to the Arts Centre Melbourne's Australian Performing Arts Collection and will join close to 1000 other pieces that Minogue has already gifted to the Arts Centre.

The Arts Centre Melbourne's Australian Performing Arts Collection is the largest collection of performing arts memorabilia in Australia. Founded in 1975, the collection encompasses the history of circus, dance, music, opera, and theatre.

Tom Harley, president of the Victorian Arts Centre Trust, said he was "absolutely thrilled" by the generous gift and that the "next step is to share this extraordinary collection of treasures with the wider community".



Kylie Minogue with one of her donated outfits.

Studio puts VCA at the cutting edge

The life and legacy of Australian jazz musician Brian Brown OAM has been honoured with the launch of a newly-upgraded recording studio at the Victorian College of the Arts in Southbank.

Mr Brown, who died in 2013, was a musician and educator who established the jazz and improvisation course at the VCA in 1980.

Minister for Creative Industries and member for Albert Park Martin Foley visited the campus last month to launch the studio as it hosted its first performance – a rendition of Brian Brown's 1984 composition of *Wildflowers*.

Mr Foley said the new facility would enhance teaching, research and community engagement opportunities at the campus.

"For well over 40 years, the VCA has nurtured and grown our creative sector – attracting, training and retaining outstanding talent for Victoria," he said.

"World class training needs world-class facilities, and this studio will help foster the next generation of musical talent and create projects that will be shared with the wider community."

The new facility replaces a 35-year-old sound studio, which was regarded as one of the foremost state-of-the-art recording studios in Australia at the time.

As well as providing career development opportunities for countless students for more than three decades, the former studio hosted commercial recording sessions, including a recording by former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam.

The upgrade, supported by the State Government through Creative Victoria, has expanded the live recording space and incorporated a range of 21st century technologies.

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Image by PSC student Justin Whitelock

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AN EVENING WITH NOEL FIELDING

April 15 - May 4 - *Hamer Hall*

Noel Fielding, one half of the award-winning comedy duo The Mighty Boosh, Team Captain of Never Mind the Buzzcocks and the star behind Luxury Comedy, is heading to Australia in 2015. This promises to be anything but a normal evening. Don't miss out, come along, bring your friends. Fancy dress optional. Be quick as this will sell out!

www.artscentremelbourne.com.au



ISANG ENDERS

April 27 & 28 - *Salon*

An exciting musician who spans the Baroque through to the rich Classical-Romantic repertoire and the newest music by emerging composers, Isang Enders is causing a stir on the international scene.

www.melbournerecital.com.au



CALL MY BROTHERS

April 16 - May 1 - *Southbank Theatre*

A masterful, non-naturalistic ensemble piece, *Call My Brothers* is Khemiri's personal response to a notorious suicide bombing in Stockholm. This acclaimed Swedish play for young adult audiences will enjoy its Australian premiere at MTC before touring throughout regional Victoria schools.

www.mtc.com.au

AS YOU LIKE IT

April 23 - May 10 - *Fairfax Studio*

Passionate and disarming, *As You Like It* - one of Shakespeare's most beloved romantic comedies - will be directed by Bell Shakespeare's Artistic director, Peter Evans. Featuring an inspiring cast, including John Bell as the melancholic Jaques, in his final role with Bell Shakespeare as an artistic director, and Zahra Newman as Rosalind.

www.artscentremelbourne.com.au

THE GRAND TOUR - CITIES SHAPED BY ART

May 18 - *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.

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SPEAK PERCUSSION

May 4 - *Elisabeth Murdoch Hall*

Moving between two performance spaces, *Speak Percussion* heralds the opening of the Metropolis New Music Festival with a program of world premieres. Video projections, suspended objects and electronics are combined with shifting instrumentations and audience orientations for each work.

www.melbournerecital.com.au



BEETHOVEN'S NINTH

April 23 & 24 - *Hamer Hall*

On the eve of the 100th anniversary of Gallipoli, Diego Matheuz conducts Beethoven's music to Goethe's *Egmont*, a score that positively crackles with the play's rich themes of love and heroic defiance. The composer's Ninth Symphony, with its message of brotherhood and unity, makes a fitting concert companion.

www.mso.com.au



TIMESHARE

April 23 - May 17 - *Malthouse Theatre*

Timeshare takes *Fast Forward's* comic icon Marg Downey on a trip to Paradise; a things-are-not-what-they-seem resort from the hilarious mind of writer Lally Katz (*Stories I Want to Tell You in Person*). At this curious resort straddling the International dateline, guests can claim a bonus day for free - just step back in time to the other side of the island.

www.malthousetheatre.com.au



DELICACIES OF MOLTEN HORROR

May 5 - *Salon*

One of Australia's most dynamic chamber music groups, Melbourne Piano Trio showcases two world premieres by two of Australia's leading composers: Paul Dean and Christopher de Groot in-between the incredible work of Japan's leading film composer, Grammy, Academy and Golden Globe award-winner Ryuichi Sakamoto as part of Metropolis Music Festival.

www.melbournerecital.com.au



MEME GIRLS

April 8 - May 2 - *Malthouse Theatre*

Meme Girls construct their identities in real time - and demand an audience. Experience the sort of post-gender, tongue-in-cheek spectacle that has made Ash Flanders a counter-culture hit. In *Meme Girls*, this pop-culture addict points his satirical sense of humour squarely at the desperate voices crying out for attention in our online neighbourhood.

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Abbey Road comes to Southbank

The world-famous Abbey Road Studios in London has announced its first international foray, with its educational institute set to launch in Southbank in August.

Australian students with a passion for audio, music production and music business, will now have the opportunity to study under the world's most recognised recording studio banner in the heart of the arts precinct on Sturt St.

Spanning more than 80 years, the prestigious Abbey Road Studios has been home to countless landmark recordings and pioneering advances in recording technology, encompassing work by many of the world's most famous artists including The Beatles, Pink Floyd, Elton John and Kanye West.

The Melbourne campus will be the first to open outside of London, with additional campuses planned for other locations including Sydney, Paris, Berlin and Munich.

The institute will offer a full-time advanced diploma in music production and sound engineering course, which will be taught over 46 weeks by recognised music industry experts, producers and label executives alongside qualified lecturers.

Abbey Road Institute Australia CEO Paul Ledingham said Melbourne had been



The team behind Southbank's Abbey Road Institute (left to right) Giani Michelini, Paul Ledingham and Deke Miskin.

specifically targeted as the first overseas location to offer the course due to its thriving and "globally recognised" music scene.

"This is an unprecedented initiative from

Abbey Road, the world's most recognisable recording industry success story," he said.

"We will now have the ability to bring the biggest names, brightest minds and most

promising talent together for a world class educational experience that is wholly designed to meet industry needs for Australian students."

"We hope that by offering significant opportunities for skill and career development, we will help further strengthen the city's reputation as a globally-recognised music and cultural hub."

The curriculum has been developed by audio educational specialists in conjunction with Abbey Road Studio engineers and offers a unique mix of theoretical and practical modules.

The course will also cover other areas of the music industry, including music business administration, artist, studio and label management.

The Abbey Road Institute is now accepting pre-registrations for a limited number of places in the August 2015 intake in Southbank, with an open day scheduled in July.

For more information visit www.abbeyroadinstitute.com.au



Southbank's Olivia Sadler was one of many local children who enjoyed Boyd's inaugural Play Day last month.

Play Day at Boyd

50 local families flocked to the Boyd Community Hub on March 18 for the inaugural Boyd Play Day.

The free event, which was developed off the "Pop-Up Park and Play" model that had been trialed earlier this year in Docklands and North Melbourne, was aimed at providing families with a fun opportunity to connect with each other.

It featured everything from book making, story time and arts and crafts through to outdoor activities, pot planting workshops

and a visit from the local toy library.

Organisers labeled the day as an "overwhelming success" thanks to a collaborative effort.

The next Boyd Play Day will be held on Thursday, July 2 from 10am until 12 noon.

The Boyd team is planning its program of activities and events for July 2015 through to July 2016 and is interested in hearing about your ideas.

If you have any bright ideas or thoughts on what the team could be providing the Southbank community at Boyd please email community animator Nadine Ford at nadine.ford@melbourne.vic.gov.au

MCEC's record Friday

Almost 80,000 visited the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre for the Good Friday Appeal, producing a record-breaking total of \$17,109,063 for the Royal Children's Hospital.

In its second year at MCEC, the Good Friday Appeal is the largest community event hosted at the venue.

The appeal's executive director Anne Randall praised the efforts of Victorians and MCEC.

"We were overwhelmed by the generosity of Victorians," she said. "This is a wonderful result and we owe a huge thank you to the communities across the state who have rallied together to help achieve this."

"MCEC was an exceptional host of the 2015

GFA, including the Channel 7 Telethon, the Kids Day Out and the Charity Gala."

MCEC chief executive Peter King said his team was proud to support such an iconic event and help raise much-needed funds.

"MCEC is a valuable community asset owned by the people of Melbourne, so it was our pleasure to open our doors to the public for such an important event and deliver another record breaking year," he said.

The event caps off a successful few months for MCEC, after it was announced winners in all three categories entered at the 2014 Victorian Meetings and Events Australia Industry Awards last month.

The centre was awarded Meeting Venue 500 delegates or more, Banqueting and Catering and In-house AV Services.

MCEC is now a finalist in the 2014 MEA National Awards where winners will be revealed at the MEA National Conference in Hamilton Island on May 26.



Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews (centre) is surrounded by (left-right) GFA director Anne Randall, Royal Children's Hospital CEO Prof. Christine Kilpatrick, Herald and Weekly Times chair Peny Fowler and MCEC CEO Peter King.



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SOUTHBANK RESIDENTS GROUP WITH TONY PENNA

Well our Easter break seemed to have just come and gone in a blink - where did it go? I hope all our residents had a restful break.

I have confirmed a rumour from the horse's mouth - Southbank is set to finally get its own police station. What tremendous news this is after all the lobbying by residents and council over the last many years.

I have been informed that it is going to be located on Moray St, just off City Rd. I think that is a great location with close access to Crown Casino and the "night dwellers" who hang around the area because of the McDonalds restaurant. While a location has been found, it may not be operational until early 2016, but nevertheless welcome indeed.

April is going to be a big month with council as the draft budget for 2015/16 will be released. I will be watching that space closely and hoping that Southbank open space will see a mention and maybe even the start of the City Rd upgrade. Watch this space and I will

see what good news I can report next month.

Southbank Residents Group will be holding its inaugural Southbank Owners' Corporation Network meeting for the chairs of our towers on May 4.

This initiative will be a great opportunity for all towers to get together and collaborate about issues that are affecting them and share ideas and solutions.

If you feel this would be a worthwhile group for your tower to be a part of then please contact your chairperson and ask them to contact me to find out what benefits this small but effective network can offer.

Finally, Anzac Day this year will be most poignant owing to the 100th anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli.

Please make an effort to attend one of the many dawn services and embrace this day. I personally will be at Lone Pine, Gallipoli this year. As a returned serviceman, being at Gallipoli to remember our fallen past and recent, will not only be an honour but an absolute privilege.

On my return if you see me around the neighbourhood and would like to know more about my experience please don't be shy with saying hello. It would be my pleasure.

Remember to like our Facebook page - **SouthbankResidents** and if you're not a member please consider joining and show your support for the efforts of YOUR community lobbying group - **southbankresidents.com.au**

Tony Penna - President



OWNERS CORPORATION LAW With Tom Bacon

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

How to obtain records from your owners' corporation

In any given month, I will be contacted by several lot owners requesting assistance in 'getting answers' from a committee or owners' corporation about certain decisions made.

The most common question that owners want to ask are the "why" questions. Why did the committee make this decision? Why did it not seek alternative quotes? Why were other owners not consulted?

Inevitably, the advice that I give to these owners is always the same: by all means, ask the questions, but don't expect any answers. There is nothing in the Owners' Corporation Act to compel the manager, the chairperson, the secretary or the committee to answer the "why" questions?

However, what the owners' corporation must do when requested, is supply certain documents and records for the inspection of owners, and within a reasonable time.

Again, the legislation makes it clear that the owners' corporation does not have to send the documents to owners. An owner or their agent must make an appointment and

physically attend the manager's office. There, they will be entitled to review the documents and records of the owners' corporation and, if they pay a fee for photocopying, they can take copies of the records for their own purposes.

There are certain practical considerations to take into account here. Firstly, many owners' corporation managers will only keep certain records on-site, with the remainder stored in archives and in storage.

Therefore, a request to review "all financial records of the owners' corporation over the last three years" may not be able to be accommodated without at least 7-14 days prior notice.

To avoid disappointment at the appointment, owners should always specify the class and category of documents, with the date range when making the appointment. This will give the OC manager sufficient time to retrieve the

records for the owner.

On this topic, I'm always asked to determine what is a reasonable time period for inspection of the documents, as the OC Act states that an owners' corporation must make records available within a reasonable time.

The answer is that it depends on the nature of the request and the type of documents requested. For instance, if an owner only wishes to see the accounts for the last six months, then that information should be at the fingertips of the OC manager, and it would be reasonable to provide access at reasonably short notice, perhaps a few days.

However, if an owner is requesting a range of documents dating back two or three years, then as mentioned earlier, it could take 14 days to retrieve the archive boxes, with a further two days for sorting through the documents to find what is requested.

Another point to be raised is the issue of whether an owner's corporation can provide private information, such as the telephone numbers and email addresses of owners and residents.

The answer is that an owners' corporation must provide the roll or register of owners upon request. The roll is to contain the "names and addresses" of owners.

A number of computer programs will also include telephone numbers and email addresses in the same document, however owners' corporations need to be aware that this information must be redacted before the roll is handed over.

Otherwise, there may be a breach of privacy under the Privacy Act, and an owner that suffers a breach of privacy may seek to hold the owners' corporation responsible for handing over their private information.

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**ST JOHNS
SOUTHGATE**
with Tom Hoffmann

We might change, but some things remain the same.

Ron Robertson-Swann's sculpture *Vault* has had a number of homes. This famous work of public art – also known as the Yellow Peril – was first installed in Melbourne's City Square in May 1980.

But by the end of the year it was dismantled and reassembled in 1981 at Batman Park on the north bank of the Yarra. Then in 2002, *Vault* found another resting place, being moved to Southbank's own Australian Centre for Contemporary Art.

Vault is considered by many to be one of Melbourne's most important public artworks, but the journey of this sculpture has been more than geographical. Its move from the prestigious location of the City Square came on the heels of public outcry over what many thought was a ghastly eyesore.

It had been the talk of the town and not in a good way.

Vault's home in Batman Park was a humble one. It was used for shelter by the homeless and was a favourite mark for graffiti artists to tag. But, over the decades, Melbournians seem to have warmed to *Vault*.

It's no longer thought of as a joke or blight on our public space but is seen as having genuine artistic value and the ACCA is incredibly proud to host it. In recent years, some have even called for *Vault* to be returned to the City Square where it all began.

Over the past three and a half decades, we as a people have changed. Our attitudes have changed, our aesthetic has changed, but *Vault* has remained the same – it's the same collection of prefabricated steel stabs painted that bright yellow – but now most appreciate it, and many have affection and even love for it.

The person of Jesus Christ lives in a similar space in the public consciousness. During his



Vault ... still the same, despite what people think.

earthly life and in the millennia that followed, he has sometimes been hailed as the next best thing and at other times been run out of town. But, like *Vault*, Jesus has remained the same throughout its various incarnations.

Jesus has remained the same gracious and loving God through the boom-times of the Christian church and the current age in which the church is considered by many to have lost its relevance.

Jesus might not always be the flavour of the month but, put simply, he remains. Hebrews chapter 13, verse 8 states: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

In the public consciousness, Jesus may be tucked away in the corner of Batman Park covered with graffiti and smelling of urine – so to speak – but he is still there.

And whether he is perceived as magnificently beautiful or the ugliest of creatures, he remains.

And as he remains, he will continue to touch people's lives and reshape imaginations, because the human being will always cry out for someone to understand, someone to give them shelter, someone to make sense of the senseless. And that person is Jesus.

Pastor Tom



An on-line dog

Gracing the pages of Southbank Local News isn't this Jack Russell's only brush with fame.

Seven-year-old Basil is the star of his own Instagram account, which owners Mel and Georgie Philip say has, unfortunately, become dormant after its password was mentally misplaced.

"Basil loves fame and attention," Mel said. "He loves that – and climbing trees."

Despite having the inverse markings for a classic pure-bred Jack Russell, this adventurous little buddy is as excitable and energetic as any other member of his breed.

The sisters adopted Basil when their father – his original owner – passed away.

"He's a pretty special family member," Mel said. "He's just a great dog. He's pretty much my shadow. He follows me everywhere."

Mel said Basil did have a bit of an attitude however. "He's a little bit of a snob when it comes to making friends at the dog park," she said.

According to his owners, Basil's attitude does not extend to his two-legged friends.

"He's great with people, especially kids. He just lets them climb all over him."

For more pictures of this perfect pooch, Basil can be found under the Instagram name [_basil_brush_](#)





St John's
Southgate

Sunday 19th April

9am Bach Cantata Service
Easter Festival Eucharist
Ein Herz, das seinen Jesum lebend weiß (BWV 134)
for 2 soloists, chorus, strings, 2 oboes and continuo
Christopher Roache (countertenor)
Dan Thomson (tenor)
St Johns Bach Choir and Orchestra
directed by Graham Lieschke

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11am Informal worship with communion
6pm Sunday Night at St Johns
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11am Sunday School (during school terms)

Businesses in Southbank

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A SOUTHBANKER FROM THE START



St John Estate Agents managing director Simon Saint-John has been a Southbank man from the very beginning.

Having been a tenant, owner-occupier and landlord in the area over more than two decades, he said he had enjoyed watching the suburb grow.

"We first moved into Southbank into 106 Southbank Boulevard in 1993 when it had just opened," he said. "It was one of the first developments in Southbank and at the time

we couldn't believe the luxury."

"Southbank has really matured and the new buildings that have come in have got a much more community-orientated feel because the suburb has matured since it first started."

Having built a strong reputation as both a salesman and sales manager in the area over

many years, Simon launched St John Estate Agents in 2002 with the intention of doing something "above the norm".

Beyond simply buying, renting and selling, St John Estate Agents takes pride in providing a full-service property management.

Simon said the business's property management model was based on the unwavering principle of treating every property like a second home.

"The idea was that as an investor myself, I hated that mentality that property management was the second priority," he said.

"Most agents are sales agents and do property management with a couple of young staff that don't really care or certainly have no understanding."

"I'd decided that I would do some property management but treat every property as if it was my own, things that I'd want done."

Claiming to be the highest ranking real estate agent in the area on Google and boasting several customer service and residential marketing awards, Simon's passion for his trade speaks for itself.

That same passion, as well as a good sense of fun, continues to rub off on both clients and staff, with some of his team members having worked for the business for more than a decade.

"We have a very stable staff that has a sense of fun as well as a sense of just trying to do

something and be proud of it," he said.

"I also have a healthy sense of humour and I want to talk to my landlords and enjoy their company and enjoy seeing them succeed as well," he said.

"There are properties that we have sold and managed and sold and managed. I can think of several where we've sold them on three occasions only for them to always come back to our management."

Having only recently moved into its new home at the corner of Montague St and City Rd in South Melbourne, Simon said he and his team loved the new location.

Being based right in the thick of the future growth of Fishermans Bend on the busy City Rd thoroughfare, he said the opportunities that lay ahead were endless and that he and his team were looking forward to many happy years in the area.

"We're loving the location. There's two and half thousand apartments being built along City Rd between us and the casino so it sort of makes for a very central spot for us because we're also the only agent that's located in Montague," he said.

"Feeling very fortunate, incredibly fortunate quite frankly! We've spent a lot on this historic building and we intend to be here for a long time."

To find out more about St John Estate Agents visit www.sjea.com.au

PROVIDING THE BEST FOR SOUTHBANK

Just In Time PT owner Justin Moran is fast becoming the face of fitness and wellbeing in Southbank.

Having developed a strong presence within a number of Southbank apartment gyms, including Freshwater Place and Eureka Tower, his passion for health, fitness and wellbeing has seen his reputation grow.

By providing effective programs, which incorporate education, science and technology, he said his model continued to enhance the environment of residential gyms in Southbank.

"Gym inductions in Southbank and essentially any apartment complex are done poorly," he said.

"They're generally done by a company that will send someone in and it just basically falls short in what they provide and how to use the gym equipment properly."

"Instead of people doing it with one person and just quickly skimming over things that a more effective and obviously future-proof way was to video induct people into how to use a gym on both safety and rules."

While his mobile and personalised approach to fitness is the key strength of his business model, his ability to innovate is what sets Just In Time PT apart from any other personal training service.

In an Australian first, Justin recently rolled out a groundbreaking initiative at the Freshwater Place gym by attaching QR-codes to every machine, which show users how to operate and perform every exercise through instructional videos.

Already through word of mouth, Justin said he was now in talks with owner's committees at a number of other Southbank apartment towers in hope of spreading the concept to other residential gyms.

"We've rolled it out in stages in regards to showing people how to use the pool, the gym and the facilities on level 10," he said.

"That's now progressed into second stage, which was how to use the weights equipment and the fitness equipment and they were two separate videos and as of literally this afternoon the QR stickers will go on each and every machine."

In addition to improving fitness of people at their homes, Justin and his trainers were also committed to implementing ground-level initiatives through group fitness programs.

He said there was a shortfall in the provision of group exercise and that he was determined to help positively change people's mindsets.



"You've got this myriad of people doing things wrong, poor technique, max reps, max speed, fastest time rather than understanding how to do things properly," he said.

"It's about science, education, teaching people how to do things properly and basically you do it until you do it to a level that you start fatiguing and about to perform poorly."

For a limited time only, Justin has launched his free weekly "Personal Best" fitness sessions at the Boyd Community Hub.

He said the aim of the initiative was to help educate the community on how to achieve

their "personal best" and encourage people to get active.

"By being free and giving people the opportunity who either don't have the ability to be able to afford a personal trainer or they're looking for some sense of community to get out and get active," he said.

"They're doing it under the watchful eye of someone who's tertiary trained and taking that vested interest in doing it properly."

Justin will be hosting his free "Personal Best" sessions at the Boyd Community Hub every Wednesday from 12pm until May 20.

For more information visit www.justintimept.com



FACES OF SOUTHBANK



CASSANDRA SULLIVAN, 16

I guess it would be pretty cool to be able to read peoples minds. If it's people you know and you need to know something that they're not telling you, it could be pretty handy then. It would also be really useful during exams. I could just get all the answers.



JULIA SZABLEWSKA, 30

No I certainly wouldn't want that. I think it's just too personal. My thoughts are far too personal. Nobody has the right to be so deep in your mind.



JORDAN DEFFINS, 22

Yeah, for sure. I'd use it especially for girls. Just to see what they're thinking. Yep that's about it. Just for the girls.



ELINA KULTEAeva, 24

No I wouldn't want that. It would be way too much of a headache to constantly hear what other people are thinking; you'd never get any peace. Plus, I don't really want to know what people think.



DENNIS KULTEAeva, 29

Same opinion here. I agree with my wife. It would just be too difficult. My own thoughts are complex enough without constantly hearing things from other people. If you could turn it off sometimes it would be great. Having it all the time would just be too much.



SALLY GRAHAM, 29

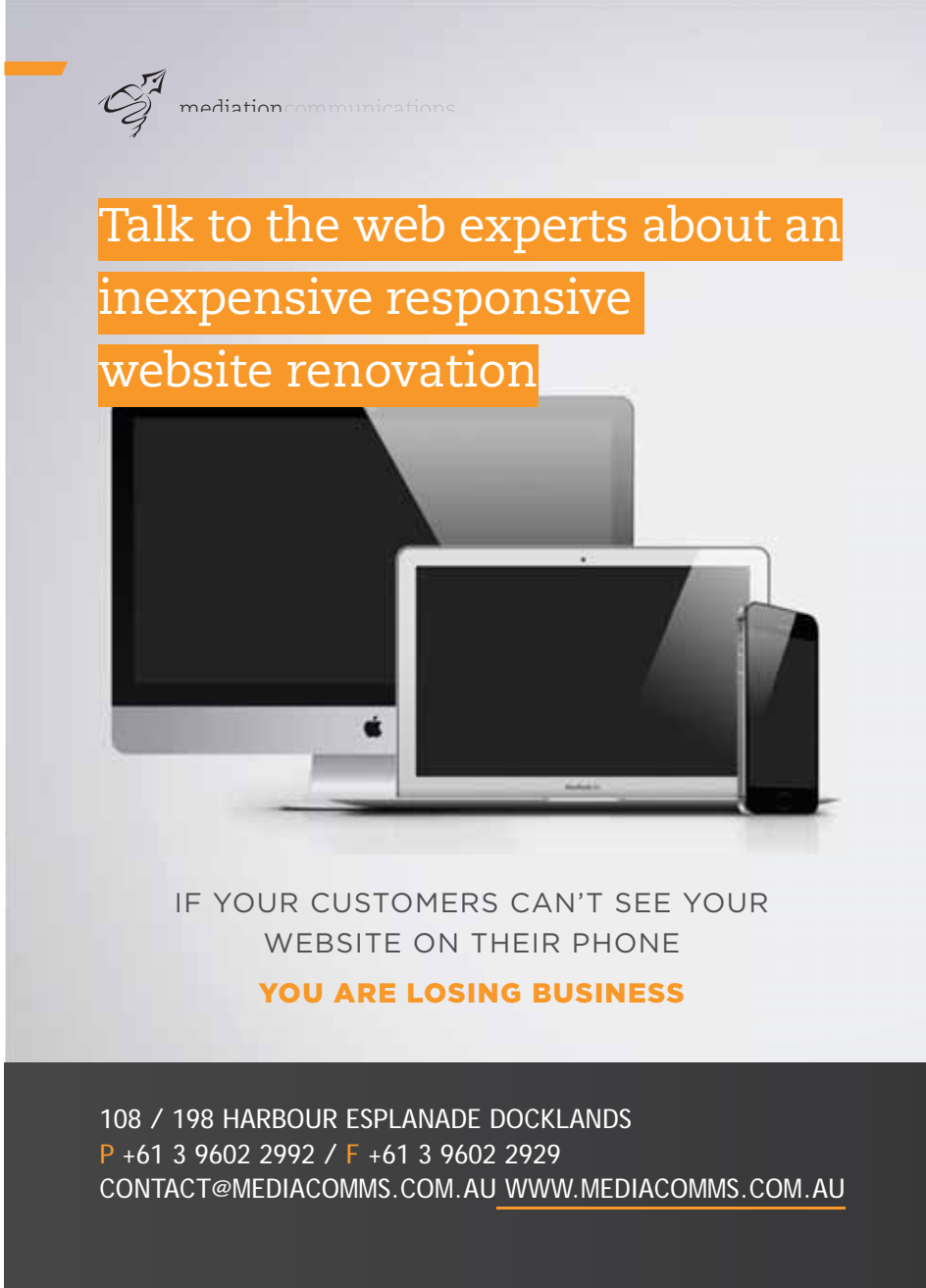
That's really scary. Yeah? Actually no. Probably not. I don't think I really want to know what other people are thinking about. What if it's mean things?

Would you like to be able to read other peoples minds, even if you could never turn it off?



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COUNCILLOR PROFILE

By Shane Scanlan

Cr Kevin Louey has made a career out of being connected.

He has been around the town hall for longer than any of his contemporaries but has very little to say on most things.

He is in his second term as a councillor, but has another two terms under his belt as chief of staff to former lord mayor John So.

After 13 years, he says his achievements are in helping individuals with their City of Melbourne issues.

“I believe my achievements are all the small things, the non-sexy stuff. I don’t jump up and down and I’m not a grandstander. But I’m happy to go out and get my hands dirty,” he said.

Cr Louey was the first councillor to be elected in 2012, having negotiated the top spot on the successful Team Doyle ticket. In local politics, the terms of trade are measured in connections.

Cr Louey’s “day job” also comes on the back of long-term connections. He says his major source of income is derived from being on “a couple” of advisory boards of booming, high-tech Chinese manufacturers.

The owners or senior executives of these companies are friends he made in the late 1980s and 90s when he went to China to explore opportunities.

At the time, his own business interests had collapsed due to failed family restaurant ventures. It was also a period which coincided with a China-liaison position he held with the New South Wales Business Chamber (formerly called Australian Business Limited).

Cr Louey said the board positions involved travelling to China for “a couple of board meetings and a couple of dinners” each year.

“They like my feel for it and, because I’ve known them for so long I’m honest with them so they like my ideas about which is the correct direction to go,” Cr Louey said.

“I put it down to luck and I also believe in karma as well,” he said.

Cr Louey said he befriended his current benefactors when they were recent graduates, doing their required service in state-run enterprises.

He happened to be at these state enterprises at the same time because of his English skills and thanks to connections via his former Chinese wife’s networks.

“This friend of mine, for whom I sit on his advisory board, started in an old farm stables. He developed new technology there and has done wonders in this business,” Cr Louey said.

Cr Louey came to Australia from Hong Kong when he was seven years old. His dad had a restaurant in Box Hill “for decades and decades” and the family first settled in East Burwood.

But the family knew a lot about this country. Cr Louey’s grandfather was Australian, having been born in Bendigo and later “reverse-migrating” to China.

Cr Louey’s father also spent time in both countries, as well as migrating to Hong Kong. During his early years in Melbourne, Cr Louey’s father helped his dad run a restaurant in Smith St, Collingwood.

Having being educated in state primary and high schools, Cr Louey attended Monash University where he promptly dropped out. “I was a terrible uni student,” he said. “I couldn’t concentrate.”

This led to his “rise” through the real estate world – starting in rentals with suburban agents, and then sales and ending up in city development – industrial, commercial and shopping centres.

“That’s why I can work out on the back of a matchbox where the opportunity is,” he said.

The good times didn’t last though and his family “lost more than just a packet” on Chinatown restaurant ventures.

“We failed miserably. We lost everything and had to rebuild. But you learn from that for the next phase and you learn how to trust people,” Cr Louey said.

It was during this period that he connected with Cr So, who later invited him to run his lord mayoral office. It was also this experience which generated his empathy for



struggling small businesses.

As Cr So’s chief of staff, he experienced the full breadth of what local government in Melbourne had to offer. It has given him a positive perspective on the current council.

“Council was not so harmonious in those days,” he said.

By contrast, he says the current council is well balanced which, he says, is evidence that the electoral system is working.

“You just have to look at the individuals who have been elected. We haven’t gone one end or the other,” he said.

“There’s no harm in having diverse views as long as you are all able to work harmoniously. And there’s no shouting or swearing and there has been in the past.”

“It’s very collegiate because I think Robert (Lord Mayor, Cr Doyle) has got that knack of bringing people into the camp.”

Cr Louey enjoys being a councillor but says he hasn’t decided whether or not to stand for re-election next year.

“It gets into your blood,” he said. “I like to give people a voice. The interactions with people are tangible. You can’t always get a result, but you can always get an answer from management.”

“I’ve enjoyed it. It’s rewarding. I’ve got extensive networks and some made some great friendships.”

In next month’s Councillor Profile we look at: Cr Stephen Mayne

SOUTHBANK SUDOKU



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!

Last month’s Sudoku solution

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

						T		
		O	B	A		S		
T	H			O			N	
			K	T	A		B	
	O	B	N		U	K	T	
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WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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



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



SATURDAY APRIL 18

SHAPE YOUR SOUTHBANK

Southbank Urban Forest Precinct Plan consultation at Federation Square. Info board currently up at Boyd asking for the community's feedback. For more info: **www.thatsmelbourne.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

LAUNCHING WEDNESDAY MAY 13

SOUTHBANK READING CIRCLE

Unlike a book club, this free reading circle does not set a specific book. Instead, you can share your thoughts on what you are currently reading. Email Natalie Mason: **natmas@melbourne.vic.gov.au**



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

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 EACH MONTH MELBOURNE SUNRISE PROBUS CLUB

For over 50s living in Southbank. Join for fun, activities, events and friendship. First Thursday of the month at Library at the Dock 10am. Contact Sue 0425 831 954.

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**



TUESDAY, MAY 7 AND MONDAY, MAY 13

YEAR-TO-LEARN @ BOYD

Starting at Boyd in May, Southbank's Mandy Ross is launching her weekly WORK and WORD shops, starting with photography on May 7 and Origami on May 13. **www.yearntolearn.com.au**

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.

FIRST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH

PLAYGROUP @ BOYD

Launching Saturday May 2 from 10-12noon at the Boyd Community Hub. Contact playgroup field officer for more info: **playgroups@melbourne.vic.gov.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**



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.pennykouloulas.com

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183 CITY ROAD, SOUTHBANK

2 1 1

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Convenient and central! This apartment is close to Crown Casino, trams, shops, restaurants, cafes, city-link and the city.

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1 1 1



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