

The voice of Southbank

# SOUTHBANK Local NEWS

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## Councillors overrule residents

By Sean Car

**Despite receiving 67 written objections, City of Melbourne councillors have voted unanimously in favour of constructing a new coffee shop at Queensbridge Square.**

The planning application, submitted by *Cafenatics* last July, went before council at the Future Melbourne Committee meeting on May 5, where a large number of residents turned out in opposition.

With the application now approved, a two-storey coffee shop, occupying a space of 12.4 metres in length and 6.3 metres in width of Crown Land, will now be constructed at the western section of the square.

The lease of Crown Land had already been granted by the City of Melbourne back in 2011, which received no submissions from the public following a 28-day public notice.

Despite the fierce opposition from residents Cr Ken Ong said the issue was a matter of planning and that the application ticked the boxes.

“This came through as a planning application and our job is to determine whether it complies with the planning scheme. Purely on the planning perspective it ticks the boxes,” he said.

“In terms of the land use that’s a separate matter and it needs to be taken further in a separate forum and that would have to be looked at at another location.”

Cr Ong told *Southbank Local News* in March that council had supported a push for a police pod in an effort to curb nighttime crime and violence in the square back in 2008.

However, he said that those plans had fallen through, due to Victoria Police stating that it didn’t have the resources to police a permanent pod.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle claimed that, at the time, Southbank residents had continued to push council to come up with an initiative to activate the square.

“I reject the fact that we haven’t been open and transparent, that we haven’t talked to the community,” he said.

“The somewhat frustrating thing is that we’ve been trying to do what the community has been asking us to do since 2008 and this is our resolution to that.”

Freshwater Place resident Cedric Saldanha slammed council’s conduct on the application in his submission and questioned its consultation process in 2011 when a lease was issued.

“When the initial lease of this space was opened out, there was not a single objection and yet today there are 67 objections,” he said.

“Does this not beg the question - did the planners really discuss this with key stakeholders as the Melbourne Planning Scheme requires them to?”

“Plunking a commercial cafe in the middle of the square, which takes away from open space is not activation. It is encroachment on precious citizen amenity.”

*Continued on page 2.*



## Freshwater 38 approved

**The 73-storey Freshwater 38 at Power St is the latest mega-tower to be added to the Southbank skyline. Read more on page 8.**

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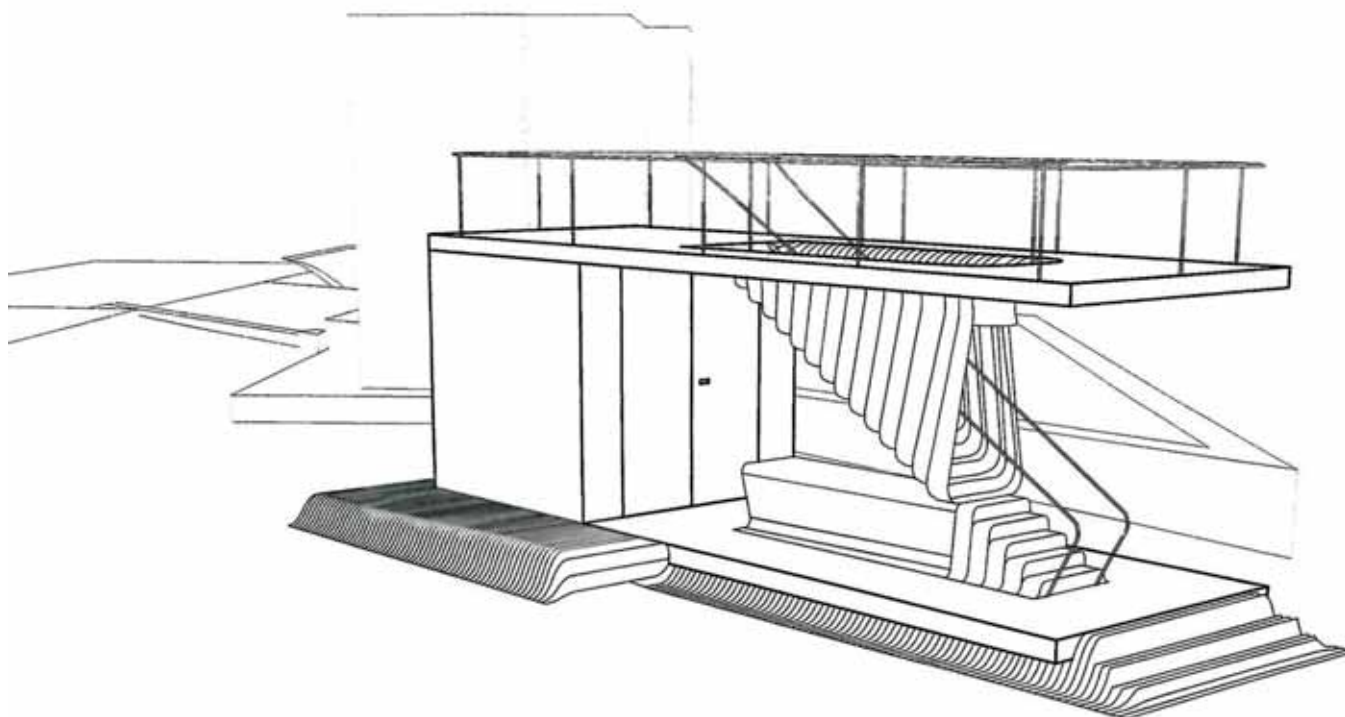
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A design of the two-storey coffee shop, which was approved for construction at Queensbridge Square by the City of Melbourne this month.

# Councillors overrule residents

Continued from page 1.

In April 2011, a confidential report prepared for the Future Melbourne Committee recommended that a lease of crown land be granted for the purpose of a coffee establishment.

Freshwater Place OC Chairman Peter Renner said the report stated consultation with Freshwater Place residents had occurred.

However, he claimed the reported consultation never took place.

"It referred to stakeholder consultation and that I quote 'feedback was supportive of moves that would increase visitation, security and create a presence in the square,'" he said.

"The top most name on the top of that consultation was Freshwater Place Residents Body Corporate. This consultation never

took place and I have signed a statutory declaration to that effect."

Owners were also particularly upset because the public square was partly funded by Freshwater Place developer contributions totaling \$300,000.

Former Southbank Residents Group President and Freshwater Place resident Michael Smolders argued that the coffee shop would detract from the open space.

"I am perplexed, as are many here today, as to why council believes that the addition of another cafe in a vibrant and active square, at the expense of public open space, is a positive outcome for us," he said.

"I have no doubt that the significant reduction in this stall and event space may put at risk the viability of holding some of the recent

cultural, national days held in the square."

The Lord Mayor dismissed Mr Smolders' argument, stating that other cafes at City Square and Bourke St Mall in the CBD only added to the vibrancy of those public spaces.

"Neither one detracts from very, very busy public spaces, in fact they add to the amenity of both of those spaces," he said.

"But you're telling me a somehow under-utilised space like Queensbridge would not benefit from the same amenity as something like City Square or the Bourke Street Mall."

"If you want to make it vibrant and active to me that's way to do it."

What do you think about the cafe at Queensbridge Square? Email your thoughts to: [news@southbanklocalnews.com.au](mailto:news@southbanklocalnews.com.au)

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A visual render of the Central Equity development proposed for 54-68 Kavanagh St, Southbank, which council was unable to provide a recommendation on to the Planning Minister due to a conflict of interest with the developer.

# Southbank let down by council once again

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

On May 5, the Future Melbourne Committee was left without a quorum and was, therefore, unable to consider a Kavanagh St planning application relating to developer Central Equity.

It is the second time in six months where council was left without a quorum, following the Future Melbourne Committee meeting on November 11 last year, when councillors walked out on a Central Equity proposal at 199 City Rd.

The Kavanagh St application had been deferred at a meeting on February 3 because the applicant had not been notified of the meeting date by the City of Melbourne.

Five of the nine sitting councillors declaring a conflict were Lord Mayor Robert Doyle, Cr Ken Ong, Cr Susan Riley, Cr Beverley Pinder-Mortimer and Cr Arron Wood.

Cr Kevin Louey, who was absent on the night, was also forced to declare a conflict at November's council meeting.

Council had been expected to vote with the recommendation of its planning officers, which was to oppose the application based on the development's height and lack of setback.

At 160m, the 50-storey development would exceed the area's 100m discretionary height limit.

However, due to the fact there was no quorum, City of Melbourne Planning Director Geoff Lawler stated that the recommendation that was before the committee would be enacted by administration under existing delegated powers.

Southbank Residents' Group President Tony Penna described council's conduct on the matter as "disgraceful."

"Those councillors who had to declare a conflict of interest at the Future Melbourne Committee meeting and leave the room should be ashamed of themselves," he said.

"So the quorum was lost, which means council never actually got to discuss and debate the proposal."

"Councillors are there to represent the community and not abandon us over absolutely critical decisions in the planning of our neighbourhood. Disgraceful."

Councillor Rohan Leppert, one of only four councillors left sitting at the meeting, said Southbank residents had every right to feel hard done by.

"The conflicted councillors haven't done anything wrong in law, but we've lost quorum so many times now that it's clearly the law that has to change," he said.

"With the lack of notice and objection rights in the Capital City zone, public Council meetings are often the only opportunity residents have to have their say, so Southbank residents should rightly feel ripped off that decisions aren't being made by their elected representatives in public."

"It's way past time we banned developer donations to State and Local election candidates in Victoria. If New South Wales can do it, we can too."

Of the four affected councillors from November's ruling, Cr Susan Riley had told *Southbank Local News* that councillors never anticipated the consequences of accepting donations.

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



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# Residents fight fines

*Sturt St resident Julie Cowley has criticised the City of Melbourne for failing to notify residents of parking changes out the front of her apartment.*

Ms Cowley received a \$148 fine from a City of Melbourne parking officer earlier this month as a result of clipped on signage along the front her City View apartment building.

Ms Cowley said she and other residents had written to the City of Melbourne requesting answers and that the fines be revoked.

“What I find quite appalling in this case is firstly residents were never informed conditions were changing and the number of street parking positions reducing,” she said. “The council does have all our contact details as we pay rates and purchase permits.”

“The signage they have put up does not look like the work of the City of Melbourne. It looks like someone has put it up as a joke, not something that is official at all.”

“Last time I looked at the signs it said ‘Area 12 permits accepted’ and we were then authorised to park in these car parks. Now a filthy scratched sign that is bulldog clipped on it says, ‘Authorised Vehicles Only’”

A City of Melbourne spokesperson said signage could change regularly for a number of uses and notification was only required for permit applicants who might be using the parking for an extensive period of time.

The spokesperson was unable to provide a direct explanation as to why the signage had been put up.

“Parking control signs can regularly change due to a number of reasons; some of them include requests for reserved parking permits from film crews, removalists, builders and other event organisers,” the spokesperson said.

“Therefore, drivers are required to read the parking signs and ensure their vehicles remain legally parked at all times.”

“In cases where the temporary changes

to parking control signs were to be in place for a significant period of time, the City of Melbourne may require a permit applicant to notify stakeholders from the immediate area.”

“Anyone who wishes to have a parking infringement withdrawn can write to the City of Melbourne to request an internal review of their infringement.”

Ms Cowley said she was yet to receive a response from the City of Melbourne and urged other residents to be vigilant around parking signs.



An image taken by Julie Cowley of one of the clipped on signs located along Sturt St in Southbank.



# Pedestrian bridge to receive a facelift

*The Southbank Pedestrian Bridge will close for two weeks in June for major maintenance works.*

With a sum of \$150,000 allocated towards the project in the City of Melbourne’s budget released on May 7, a council spokesperson said works would soon get underway.

“The Southbank Pedestrian Bridge will be closed for at least two weeks in June, depending on the weather, while re-decking works are undertaken,” the spokesperson said.

The bridge has been the subject of ongoing maintenance works in recent months, with many reports suggesting that the growing weight of “love-locks” was impacting on the structural integrity of the bridge.

The City of Melbourne spokesperson quashed these fears stating that only locks, which interlocked multiple wires, had been removed.

“The City of Melbourne regularly monitors

the bridge to ensure that locks do not pose a safety risk to the public, and has removed some locks that were interlocking two horizontal wires creating safety barrier issues.”

The footbridge has also been the victim of a number of vandal attacks over the past few months with locks being removed and left scattered on the walkway.

The bridge will close for maintenance works from June 1.

The City of Melbourne is now calling on public feedback for the bridge’s proposed renaming to the Evan Walker Bridge.

Evan Walker, who passed away in February, was a former Labor Planning Minister who is credited with the creation of Southbank.


For more information please refer to the City of Melbourne’s public notice on page 19.



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# A new linear park for Southbank

**Southbank Boulevard and Dodds St will undergo major upgrades later this year, with the City of Melbourne allocating \$800,000 in its annual budget for a new linear park and major street works.**

While draft designs won't be released by the City of Melbourne until July, *Southbank Local News* understands that Southbank Boulevard would be closed to a two-lane street under the plans.

The new linear park would stretch through Southbank Boulevard and Dodds St and provide alternative cycling routes through Southbank, in an attempt to lure cyclists away from riding through the congested Southbank Promenade.

In its budget released on May 7, the City of Melbourne allocated \$500,000 towards upgrading Southbank Boulevard and a further \$300,000 towards the creation of the new linear park in Dodds Street.

According to a City of Melbourne spokesperson, Southbank Boulevard no longer carries the traffic it once did and was therefore the ideal site to address an open space shortfall in Southbank.

"The Southbank Structure Plan and the City of Melbourne's Open Space Strategy both recommend the creation of new public space on Southbank Boulevard to meet increased demand and address a lack of public open space," the spokesperson said.

"Following its closure as a route to the CBD in 1996, Southbank Boulevard no longer



Southbank Boulevard received a major funding boost in the City of Melbourne's budget.

carries the volume of traffic for which it was designed."

"The City of Melbourne has started to explore the potential of Southbank Boulevard and Dodds Street as well as the south-side of Southbank Boulevard between St Kilda Road and the Yarra River to create new public open space."

"The original artistic concept suggested the centre median strip in Southbank Boulevard could be used for parkland. We now feel there

is greater potential to create more connected and accessible public open space."

"Before we start our community engagement process, we have a great deal of background work to do to understand the space and discover what is possible. This includes discussions with key public institutions and state transport authorities to inform our work."

"We hope to start the community engagement process in July, 2015."

The council budget also allocated \$400,000 to upgrade works at Queensbridge St, which will also receive two new tram stops this month following an announcement from Public Transport Victoria. \$150,000 was also allocated to maintenance works on the Southbank pedestrian bridge.

While the \$86 million Queen Victoria Market (QVM) Renewal Project is the cornerstone of this year's budget, its other main features include:

- \$384.9 million in programs and services;
- \$85.1 million in capital works program;
- 3.6 per cent rate increase generating an additional \$8.71 million for 2015-16;
- A proposed underlying surplus of \$9.3 million and;
- The underlying cost increase contained to 1.7 per cent.

Copies of the draft Annual Plan and Budget are available for inspection from May 8 until June 5 at the Boyd Community Hub in Southbank.

For more information or to make a submission visit [www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/budget](http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/budget)



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# Concerns remain despite funding boost

*Education lobby group Two Schools Now has welcomed the funding boost for new local schools in May's state budget, but said it still held some concerns.*

The Andrews Labor Government announced the biggest education budget in history on May 5, investing \$111.1 million for ten new schools and \$40 million to purchase land for new schools.

Despite the new government making good on all of its pre-election promises, Two Schools Now president Marie Walters said her group still had concerns.

"Whilst it is positive that all relevant projects that we anticipated have received funding there is most certainly concern that the total funds required for some of these projects, particularly South Melbourne Park Primary School, have not been provided for in this budget," she said.

However, Ms Walters said State Member for Albert Park Martin Foley and Deputy Premier and Education Minister James Merlino had contacted the group post-budget to reassure its commitment.

"They advised us that there are significant sums of contingency money that will be allocated in future budgets as the projects progress," she said.

The budget announcements directly affecting local education included:

- \$1m for planning for South Melbourne Park Primary School at the Parks Victoria site on Albert Road;
- \$5m for site preparedness for the

proposed South Melbourne primary school at Ferrars St;

- \$8.7m for a new Year 9 campus and arts and science hub at the former Circus Oz site for Albert Park College and;
- \$10 million towards Stage 1 delivery of the Elwood College master plan to refurbish and rebuild existing facilities.

City of Port Phillip Mayor Amanda Stevens welcomed the funding announcement by the new government.

"We are delighted the Andrews Government's first budget contains funding for a range of key projects we advocated for on behalf of our community," she said.

"With a fast-growing population, our community is very concerned about overcrowding and a shortage of school places."

"We are thrilled that this budget prepares the way for two new primary schools in the South Melbourne area."

With the Fishermans Bend urban renewal area expected to experience significant population growth over the next decade, Marie Walters said her group would continue to work with Mr Foley and Mr Merlino to discuss plans for further schools.

Two Schools Now will hold its annual general meeting on May 27.

# MCEC a big winner in the state budget

*The Victorian State Government announced a \$210m funding boost for the long-awaited expansion of the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) in its 2015-16 budget.*

Stage two of the Southbank landmark's expansion will ensure MCEC remains Australia's largest convention and exhibition space.

The project will add thousands of square metres of new exhibition space, more multi-purpose space and links to the existing Melbourne Exhibition Centre and Melbourne Convention Centre.

It is estimated that the completion of stage two will result in an additional 74,000 international visitors annually, which is expected to generate a \$167m boost to the Victorian economy.

Minister for Tourism and Major Events John Eren said the investment would help ensure that Victoria maintains its status as the events capital of Australia.

"Upgrading the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre means more floor space, more conventions, more overseas visitors and more jobs for Victorians," he said.

"Major events keep our hotels full, our bars



buzzing and our economy strong. No one does events quite like Victoria, but we can't be complacent. We have to work hard to stay number one."

MCEC Chief Executive Peter King welcomed the news and said the government would

be working with Plenary and their partners to negotiate and finalise the proposed expansion master plan, with details to follow in the coming months.

Developers also received a boost in the budget, with the government allocating \$1m

of extra funding to work through the backlog of planning applications.

There are currently 26 central city permit applications under assessment within the department along with 150 planning scheme amendments, which are yet to be finalised.

The budget also provides \$1m to shield the Yarra River against inappropriate development, which will see the introduction of the Yarra River Protection Bill.

A dedicated trust will be established to set out tough planning controls to preserve the future of the river and help it recover from 180 years of misuse.

Planning Minister Richard Wynne said the Bill would play a vital role in setting out clear rules around what can and cannot be built near the river and would draw on expert advice and public input.

"Measures to protect our heritage treasures and planning rules to stop inappropriate development are essential to protecting our state's character," he said.



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# Freshwater 38 to soar over Southbank

*In what is perhaps the most significant approval under new Labor Planning Minister Richard Wynne, the 73-storey Freshwater 38 at Power St is the latest mega-tower to be added to the Southbank skyline.*

At 273m, the \$400 million tower will measure 19m taller than the adjacent Prima Pearl tower and become the tallest tower in the Freshwater precinct.

Project and development manager RCP is still expected to proceed with a 273m development, despite still working through aviation airspace requirements.

The State Government has granted an initial permit for a 224m development, with the 273m permit still subject to approval by the Civil Aviation and Safety Authority (CASA).

With the Queensbridge Tower and Hanover House site developments currently awaiting planning approval, the precinct is quickly becoming the home of high-rise in Melbourne.

The City of Melbourne had opposed the project due to its height, "lack of meaningful podium" and lack of setbacks.

However, a spokeswoman for Planning Minister Richard Wynne said the developer had worked closely with the planning department and the City of Melbourne to address every concern.

"The development approval includes conditions around the setbacks and the podium to address council's concerns," the spokeswoman said.



*A visual render showcasing Freshwater 38's revitalisation of the streetscape along Power St.*

"As often happens, the department worked with council and the developer to negotiate the best outcomes, which were detailed in their planning report."

"The approval was granted with a height reduction from 273m to 224m to meet aviation airspace requirements."

"The project is a \$400 million investment, which is estimated to create up to 200 jobs in addition to 800 construction jobs."

A report prepared by the planning department stated that the proposal fits the character of the Freshwater precinct, with the curvaceous, ball gown inspired design by

project architect Metier 3 set to become an aesthetically pleasing addition to Southbank.

Family-owned international hospitality real estate company M&L Hospitality, which is based in Singapore, owns the Power St site.

With four hotels already operating in Australia, RCP development manager Ashley Thomas said the company was committed to expanding its hotel interests in Melbourne, with the mixed-use Freshwater 38 to include more than 350 hotel rooms at the top of the tower.

As well as incorporating 450 one, two and three bedroom residential apartments, the development will also feature a "Sky Bar" on the top floor, which will be open to members of the public.

A spokesperson for RCP said it was committed to providing a "quality alternative to existing accommodation options" and helping to improve the current streetscape along Power St.

With the planning approval now issued, Mr Thomas said RCP would continue to work with project architect Metier 3 and M&L Hospitality to address planning conditions and continue with design development.

Construction on the building will commence in 2016 and is due for completion in 2019.

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Premier Daniel Andrews and Transport Minister Jacinta Allan answer questions at an April press conference.

# Work underway on Metro Rail

**The Andrews Labor Government has announced a \$1.5 billion funding injection, to commence major planning, design and surveying works for the Melbourne Metro Rail.**

The funding provided in the 2015-16 Victorian budget will allow the Melbourne Metro Rail Authority to complete the reference design and undertake the statutory planning process in order to get the project started.

Premier Daniel Andrews and Minister for Public Transport Jacinta Allan made the announcement last month at the project's first geotechnical testing site opposite the Arts Centre on St Kilda Road in Southbank.

Jacinta Allan said that geotechnical investigations would provide critical data about ground conditions and soil quality and precise information for the design of the new rail tunnels and underground stations.

"To build underground tunnels, you need to know exactly what's underground," she said. "That's what geotechnical testing will tell us."

"Over the coming months 140 boreholes will be drilled between South Kensington and South Yarra. This testing builds on previous geotechnical work undertaken for Melbourne Metro Rail."

"This will be complemented by site

surveying, underground service identification and other preparatory works."

The funding will also provide for land acquisition, preparation of expression of interest and requests for tender documents, as well as significant early works such as tram rerouting and service relocations.

With major construction to commence in 2018, Premier Daniel Andrews said the initial funding would help to get the project moving quickly.

"Melbourne Metro Rail is the biggest public transport infrastructure project in Australia, and the biggest overhaul of our public transport system since the City Loop," he said.

"The \$1.5 billion announced today is essential in allowing us to design, plan and complete significant early works."

At its Future Melbourne Committee meeting on May 12, City of Melbourne councillors gave their consent to the Melbourne Metro Rail Authority to undertake the geotechnical investigation program at various locations across the municipality.

# New plans for Fishermans Bend

**Planning Minister Richard Wynne last month announced a review of the strategic plan for Fishermans Bend, which will see the urban renewal area almost double in size.**

A new business precinct has been added, increasing the size of Fishermans Bend from 250 hectares to 455 hectares and from four precincts to five.

Minister for Planning Richard Wynne said the new plan would focus on "people and jobs," which he believed would underpin the site's development over the next 30 years.

"By getting on with our promise for five distinct neighbourhoods in Fishermans Bend, we're developing a blueprint for overhauling industrial land and creating places close to the city where people actually want to work and live," he said.

"A community can only be as tall as it is deep. We're not interested in simply rubber-stamping skyscrapers. Smart development thinks about residents and their quality of life."

The Minister for Planning will be the authority for developments bigger than 25,000 sqm and interim mandatory height controls have replaced discretionary and preferred limits while strategic planning work is completed.

The interim height limits are 40 storeys in the Montague and Lorimer precincts and 18 storeys in the Sandridge and Wirraway precincts.

The government is also putting into place a Ministerial Advisory Committee, which will include:

- Experts in statutory planning, urban economics and urban renewal;
- Transport planning and environmental planning experts;
- A representative of the City of Port Phillip,
- A representative of the City of Melbourne and;
- Three community-based representatives.

The review has been welcomed by Port People Inc (PPI) president Rowan Groves, however he said concerns remained over the government's new interim guidelines.

"The Victorian Government promised a review pre-election and we are encourage that they are honouring their commitment," he said. "We're especially pleased the review has such an emphasis on community engagement."

"PPI is not so appreciative of the interim guidelines also announced, which allows mandatory heights of between four and forty storeys for new applications."

Mr Groves said he was concerned that applications already lodged but yet to be decided would be assessed against the guidelines previously in place.

"There is a real danger that permits could be issued for towers of 20, 52 and 72 storeys in areas the interim guidelines reserves for 4, 12 and 40 storeys respectively," he said.

"We are concerned such permits could undermine or pre-empt the outcomes of the review."

Expressions of interest for positions on the Ministerial Advisory Committee will be advertised this month.

It's anticipated that the Fishermans Bend review will take up to 18 months to complete.

Meanwhile, a consortium of local and offshore builders has reportedly paid \$42m for an industrial Fishermans Bend property in the Montague precinct.

The sale of the former Carlins Automotive Auctioneers site at 6-78 Buckhurst St is believed to be the biggest Fishermans Bend site sale to date.

The deal comes six months after another developer paid more than \$30m for a collection of factories covering 1.9 hectares in the Wirraway precinct.





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# OCs band together

**Southbank Residents' Group (SRG) president Tony Penna hosted the inaugural Southbank Owners' Corporation (OC) meeting at the Boyd Community Hub on Monday, May 4.**

While there are currently 11 Southbank OCs signed as SRG members, OC chairs from only five Southbank apartment towers attended the inaugural meeting.

The meeting was attended by Peter Renner (Freshwater Place), Arji Fry (The Summit), David Jones (Yarra Condos), Steve Shoup (Gallery Tower) and David Gluck (Southside Tower).

The evening also featured a guest presentation from Strata Community Australia's Victorian general manager Robert Beck, who provided a detailed insight into all

aspects of policy and legislation relating to apartment living.

Mr Penna launched the initiative in an effort to establish a regular opportunity for Southbank OCs to network, raise concerns and exchange ideas.

Members at the inaugural meeting agreed that the meetings would be staged bi-monthly, host a different guest speaker and consist of a "loose and informal" agenda.

Some of the main issues the meeting will aim to address include crime, local and residential initiatives and council matters



Attendees at the inaugural Southbank OC meeting (left to right) Strata Community Australia's Rob Beck, Peter Renner, Arji Fry, Tony Penna, David Jones, David Gluck and Steve Shoup.

affecting Southbank.

The group's long-term objective is to form as a registered community group, which would lobby the City of Melbourne and State Government on issues affecting Southbank.

The next meeting will be held at 6pm on Monday, July 6 at the Boyd Community Hub.

For more information, or to become a member of the Southbank Residents' Group, visit [www.southbankresidents.com.au](http://www.southbankresidents.com.au)



YRBA members Emma Cullen (Eureka Skydeck), Michael Potter (B1 Veloway) and Morgan Brown (Federation Square).

# YRBA goes sky-high

**The Yarra River Business Association was given a delightful backdrop for its member's April cocktail function at Eureka 89.**

Members of Southbank's business community were treated to a magnificent view of Melbourne from the top of Southbank's Eureka tower for the association's first cocktail function for the year.

The YRBA's next networking event will be its

second luncheon for the year, which will be held in July.

For more information on the Yarra River Business Association visit [www.yarrariver.info](http://www.yarrariver.info)

# A great conversation

**The Cafe Kere Kere Team at Boyd Community Hub welcomed a larger than expected turnout for its inaugural "Community Conversation" on Tuesday, April 21.**

More than 50 local residents gathered inside the Boyd Assembly Hall, to discuss ways of activating Southbank by establishing a new regular community event.

The evening was the brainchild of Kere Kere's James Murphy and was hosted by Time and Space founding director Bill Jennings, who launched a number of activities on the night.

Participants were asked to get together in groups of three and answer a series of community-related questions.

Following the conversation, people were asked to summarise their discussion in one word, with responses ranging from opportunity, home and belonging to diversity, trust and cohesion, and write them down on a poster.

The evening concluded with a whole group conversation, where people were asked to come together, network and provide feedback and ideas.

Mr Murphy said the response to the forum was "overwhelming," with 42 feedback

forms received.

He said the Kere Kere team would use the information to continue to work with the Boyd Community Hub, the City of Melbourne and local stakeholders to formulate ideas for new community projects.



A packed Assembly Hall gathers for the conversation.



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# Melbourne International Jazz Festival

BY LOUIS BLAKE



*Dee Dee Bridgewater*



*Joe Chindamo*

---

THROUGHOUT MAY AND JUNE, THE SOUTHBANK ARTS PRECINCT WILL WELCOME PREMIER JAZZ TALENT FROM AROUND THE WORLD AS THE MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL COMES ROARING INTO TOWN.

---

The festival is designed to appeal to long-time jazz aficionados as well as to the relatively uninitiated.

As a part of the festival's Modern Masters series, Hamer Hall will play host to a historic performance by legendary jazz pioneers Herbie Hancock and Chick Corea. Both men found fame whilst playing with musical luminary Miles Davis.

For those who are looking for a musical challenge the festival has created the Explorations in Jazz series. According to

organisers, this line up of artists features some of the "world's leading sonic innovators and genre-bending jazz revolutionaries."

Other festival highlights include a series of intimate club sessions by Joe Lovano, Paul Grabowsky, Phil Rex and Dave Beck.

The festival will offer a broad range of entertainment with club gigs, late night art parties, film screenings, workshops, and even events for families.

To cap off the festivities, musicians of the

15-piece New Orleans Jazz Orchestra will combine their musical talents with vocalist Dee Dee Bridgewater in early June.

According to festival artistic director Michael Tortoni, "Jazz continues to be a vital contemporary art form that is constantly evolving - which is strongly reflected in this year's program featuring a stunning array of artists from across the globe."

For more information, full schedule and tickets please visit [www.melbournejazz.com](http://www.melbournejazz.com)



# Southbank welcomes Neil Finn

**NEIL FINN'S INTIMATE SOLO AUSTRALIAN TOUR BECOMES EVEN MORE SPECIAL ON MAY 27, WHEN THE MUSIC LEGEND'S SHOW FALLS ON THE SAME DAY AS HIS BIRTHDAY.**

With another show booked for May 29, these two nights are sure to be one to remember.

With only three individual east-coast performances in the last 10 years, these shows at the Elizabeth Murdoch Hall are an incredibly rare treat for Melbourne music lovers. Mr Finn said he loved playing solo.

"I find playing solo to be a very free

environment where I'm able to explore strange tangents, reinvent old songs, reminisce with friends and lampoon at will. I love it," he said.

The set list for the night will feature the length and breadth of Finn's extensive career, with samples from his work with Split Endz, Crowded House and The Finn Brothers, as well as his solo career.



Tickets are available from [www.livenation.com.au](http://www.livenation.com.au)



# Soaring Butterfly scales the heights

BY ELEANOR LAUD

**I HAD ALWAYS ASSUMED THAT OPERA PROBABLY WASN'T FOR ME, WITH ITS SENSE OF OVERWHELMING DRAMA AND COSTUMES BELONGING TO A DIFFERENT WORLD.**

No, folk music was more my style and would remain so. Opera was for others. But then I came across Moffat Oxenbould's production

of Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* and my thinking changed.

*Butterfly's* story is tragic, dramatic and intensely moving and thanks to the subtitles in this production I understood more than I had expected.

I was moved by both the beauty and the sorrow in a profound way to the point where, days later, I was still haunted by the plight of Hiromi Omura's Cio-Cio-San – and you don't get that in folk music.

The doomed and hopeless love story of an American naval officer (Pinkerton) and a former Japanese geisha (Cio-Cio-San) nicknamed *Butterfly* is told in epic, sweeping melodies. The heartbreaking *Un Bel Di Vedremo* (*One Beautiful Day*) soars with an optimism underpinned by a deep melancholy.

While traditionalists might not be totally at ease with giving a new-look and a new treatment to well-loved operas I thought the costumes were both appropriate and impressive. A restrained simplicity afforded

elegance to the simple set, and included elements of Kabuki Theatre, as well as wood, water and fire. Even the billowing draped silks seemed to have a voice of their own, which added to the emotion of the story.

Puccini, it is said, succeeded in creating "great griefs in small souls". That may be so but this *Butterfly* went a long way in converting this once dyed-in-the wool folk lover to opera.

Opera Australia's *Madama Butterfly* plays at the Arts Centre until May 30.

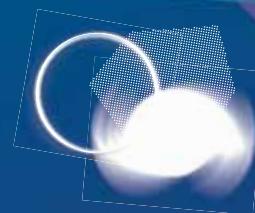


## EDDIE PERFECT SONGS FROM THE MIDDLE

Star of TV and cabaret Eddie Perfect presents *Songs from the Middle* – a reflective journey on his home-town of Mentone expressed through heart-breaking and hilarious songs about coming of age, drinking, romance and normalcy.

Perfect explores what it means not to belong, to leave, and how it hurts to go back.

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Anthony Basheer.



An image from Anthony's 'Vase' collection. View more of his work at [www.anthonymbasheer.com](http://www.anthonymbasheer.com)

# Anthony's bold switch pays off

BY LOUIS BLAKE

**AFTER 20 YEARS WORKING IN DATABASE ANALYTICS, ANTHONY BASHEER MADE THE INCREDIBLY BRAVE STEP TO THROW AWAY HIS COMFORTABLE OFFICE JOB AND FINANCIAL SECURITY IN PURSUIT OF AN OCCUPATION THAT HE HAD PRACTICALLY NO EXPERIENCE IN.**

"I always wanted to do something creative and technical," he said. "I did like the logical and intellectual side but I just needed that adrenalin rush. I didn't want to go into an office everyday."

A series of coincidences led Anthony to sign up for the Advanced Diploma of

Photography at Southbank's Photography Studies College (PSC).

"My base level of knowledge was extremely low," he recalled. "I didn't even own an SLR camera until I started."

Anthony said he almost immediately fell in love with the "perfect blend of creativity and technicality" that he found while learning the ropes of photography.

He told *Southbank Local News* just how much he enjoyed the process of learning.

"Every time I did something I thought it was really good. Then you realise how bad it was a few months later".

As well as the educational side, Anthony's time at PSC also presented a fantastic

opportunity to make friends.

"Yeah I loved it, I made some really close friends and the teachers were all wonderful. I liked it because of the people," he said. Since enrolling at PSC, Anthony has discovered his own particular photographic style.

Anthony said that a lot of his work is heavily influenced by the period of "style and morality" between the 1950's and 1970's.

In addition much of his work is highly "organised and structured" as well as being surprisingly devoid of people.

"Deep down I think I'd like to (capture more people)," he said. "I know when I have done portraits that it's extremely satisfying to capture the essence of a person."

In terms of photographic highlights, Anthony

told *Southbank Local News* about stumbling across a shoot almost by chance.

"I wanted an old dilapidated building. I noticed one day while reading the paper that the Bendigo City Council was selling a building very similar. So I rang up the council and managed to gain access," he said.

"It's surprising how you can access things you'd never normally be able to get to when you have a camera."

Ultimately, Anthony's brave career transition is one that a lot of people think about but never make the plunge themselves.

Reflecting on his own personal journey, he said it hadn't been easy. "People think you're absolutely crazy!" However, he said it's one, which he is glad he started.

# Photography

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Image by PSC student Dulce Temporal



# EVENTS MAY



## STONEFLOWER TRIO

May 30 - Salon

Australian trio Stoneflower steal the hearts of audiences around the country with their evocative journeys through vocal jazz, Brazilian bossa nova and sublime pop adaptations. After sell-out shows around the country, Stoneflower bring their enchanting brand of elegant pop and contemporary sounds to the Salon for an evening of exquisite music making.

[www.melbournerecital.com.au](http://www.melbournerecital.com.au)



## THE WAITING ROOM

May 15 - June 27 - Fairfax Studio

The story that divided society. The science that changed the world. Belinda McClory, William McInnes, and Greg Stone lead a talented cast in this powerful tale about the incredible breakthroughs in fertility research that happened right here in Melbourne.

[www.mtc.com.au](http://www.mtc.com.au)



## PHAROAH SANDERS QUARTET

June 4 - Elisabeth Murdoch Hall

Since coming to prominence in John Coltrane's free-jazz groups of the mid-'60s, Sanders has gone on to establish himself as a pioneer of Eastern-influenced, spiritually-charged free jazz. Possessing one of the most distinctive sounds in the genre, his music is by turns fierce, majestic, lyrical and raw, incorporating musical influences from around the globe.

[www.melbournerecital.com.au](http://www.melbournerecital.com.au)



## DON GIOVANNI - MOZART

May 11 - May 30 - State Theatre

The serial seducer is on the loose again, in a new production from one of the most provocative minds in opera today, David McVicar. Teddy Tahu Rhodes' Don is mad, he's bad, he's dangerous but, damn him to hell, his serenades are just divine.

[www.opera.org.au](http://www.opera.org.au)

## BEETHOVEN'S SYMPHONY NO.7

May 22 - May 25 - Hamer Hall

The concert will conclude with Beethoven's majestic Seventh Symphony, which was called 'The Apotheosis of Dance' by Richard Wagner. The whole symphony is based on rhythmical figures that have a dance-like quality. It has been described as one of Beethoven's most successful concerts.

[www.mso.com.au](http://www.mso.com.au)

## LENNON THROUGH A GLASS ONION

May 13 - May 16 - Playhouse

Celebrating the genius, music and phenomenon of John Lennon, this iconic show returns following its sold-out, 122 show season in New York. Part concert and part biography, the show reveals the essence of the life and astonishing talent of one of the most admired icons of the past century.

[www.artscentremelbourne.com.au](http://www.artscentremelbourne.com.au)

## MEDIEVAL MODERNS

Running until July 12 - NGV International

NGV's holdings of works by the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood and their close associates are world renowned. The collection reflects the role of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood in the Arts and Crafts movement in Britain, their place in the development of the illustrated book and their profound influence on later generations of artists.

[www.ngv.vic.gov.au](http://www.ngv.vic.gov.au)

## THINGS SHE SAID

June 6 - Salon

Australia's finest contemporary jazz and improvising musicians celebrate Australian artist Barbara Hanrahan. Things She Said is a captivating blend of song, spoken word and still imagery. Singer and composer Nilusha Dassenaik has crafted eight new works.

[www.melbournerecital.com.au](http://www.melbournerecital.com.au)



## OPEN HOUSE: TROMARAMA FOR KIDS

May 23 - Oct 18 - NGV International

The children's galleries at the NGV are going to be turned into an entire house where furniture hangs from the ceiling, pink flamingos and tree stumps talk and cheeky garden gnomes chat back at Open House: Tromarama for Kids.

[www.ngv.vic.gov.au](http://www.ngv.vic.gov.au)



## LOVE AND INFORMATION

June 12 - July 4 - Malthouse Theatre

With the inventiveness and currency of her signature works *Top Girls* and *Cloud Nine*, the latest hit from legendary dramatist Caryl Churchill creates an ingeniously recognisable portrait of the modern era. In this quick-fire play, eight chameleonic actors will embody more than 100 roles, through a series of tantalising vignettes.

[www.malthousetheatre.com.au](http://www.malthousetheatre.com.au)



## THE DREAM

June 4 - June 13 - State Theatre

Experience the physicality and musicality of ballet in three works by the great 20th century English choreographer Frederick Ashton. Step into faraway woodlands in Ashton's charming take on Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, guaranteed to bring the house down with a hilarious tangled romance, dazzling dancing and the playful music of Felix Mendelssohn.

[www.artscentremelbourne.com.au](http://www.artscentremelbourne.com.au)



## DON CARLOS - VERDI

May 20 - May 29 - State Theatre

Elijah Moshinsky returns to Australia with his lavish production of *Don Carlos*, a sumptuous affair, rich in detail like a Velázquez painting. Verdi's music masterfully controls the twisting and turning story. Vivid orchestral colours and affecting melodies manipulate his audience to devastating effect.

[www.opera.org.au](http://www.opera.org.au)

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# New vision for Power St

By Louis Blake

**Citylink has run a creative competition to garner ideas to transform the Power St loop.**

Over 50 concepts were entered in the competition for the revitalisation of the unused urban island that is surrounded by the exit ramp from the Domain Tunnel.

The winning idea (pictured) is entitled *Habitat Filter* by Matt Drysdale, Matt Myers and Tim Dow.

The sculpture would be fitted with an array of solar panels with the design also including a series of rainwater storage tanks.

The designers said that their entry was an attempt to “create a sustainable urban sculpture and land care project on the site.”

Four other designs were awarded prizes while 11 received honourable mentions. A feasibility assessment will now be carried out on the four ideas that were awarded prizes.

The project will be undertaken by Landcare Australia with construction to commence in the first half of next year.

The Power St restoration is the first in series of roadside projects planned by Citylink.



The winning design for the Power St Loop in Southbank.



Southbank residents at the City of Melbourne's Urban Forest Forum at Federation Square in April.

# A greener Southbank

**More than 90 Southbank residents took part in the City of Melbourne's Greening Southbank community workshop at Federation Square last month.**

The free three-hour workshop and breakfast covered planting priorities and allowed residents to share their vision about how the future urban forest in Southbank might look at a street level.

As part of the City of Melbourne's Urban Forest Strategy to help tackle climate change, urban heating and population growth, the workshop was aimed at working with communities to develop tree-planting plans for local areas.

The recommendations and findings from the workshop will help form the *Southbank Urban Forest Precinct Plan*, which will assist council to increase the canopy over Southbank from 16 per cent to 40 per cent by 2040.

Some of the main recommendations made by residents on the day included more rooftop gardens, communal gardens and green median strips on City Rd and Power St.

Chair of the City of Melbourne's

environment portfolio, Cr Arron Wood, said it was great to see such a large turnout.

“The large turnout for the Southbank workshop really shows that the Southbank community is passionate and wants to be involved in a greener future for the area,” he said.

“We have some world leading experts at the City of Melbourne, but collaborating with residents and businesses has been vital for the success of the Urban Forest Strategy. We simply can't do it without the commitment shown by the Southbank community.”

A summary report on the outputs from the community participation will be available on the Participate Melbourne website this month.

A draft version of the *Southbank Urban Forest Precinct Plan* will be available for community comment in the new financial year, also on the Participate Melbourne website. For more information visit [www.participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://www.participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

# Business club launch

**The new Melbourne Business Club will officially launch at the Langham Hotel in Southbank on May 16.**

The new organisation has been established in an effort to provide support for and cater to the needs of business owners in Melbourne.

The club's executive president and Melbourne Legal Group founding solicitor Abdullah Altintop said local businesses could greatly benefit from becoming a member of the club.

“Networking is essential to many small and medium enterprises, meeting new potential clients, stakeholders, people who can inject you with new ideas to develop your business,” he said.

“By being in a positive, diverse and focused environment, business leaders, managers and developers can maintain focus in relation to their business and exchange experiences, goals and ambition.”

Mr Altintop said he looked forward to engaging further with the Southbank community and encouraged business owners to get involved.

“The Southbank business community is located in a very central location, businesses in this location can be attractive to a lot of our members,” he said.

“I would encourage business owners in Southbank to contact us to discuss how the business club can be of benefit to them.”

The Melbourne Business Club launch will be held at 5:00pm on May 16 at the Langham Hotel.

For more information visit [www.thebusinessclub.com.au](http://www.thebusinessclub.com.au)



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**ST JOHNS  
SOUTHGATE**  
with Tom Hoffmann

***On September 21, 2001, 27-year-old Rais Bhuiyan was working behind the counter of a petrol station somewhere in America.***

He was standing at the cash register when a man wearing a bandana, sunglasses and a baseball cap walked in.

Rais soon noticed that he was carrying a gun and was sure that the petrol station was about to be robbed.

But the man didn't go for the cash register. Instead, he asked Rais a question. "Where are you from?" "Excuse me?" Rais replied. He then felt a sensation like a million bees stinging him in the face as he heard a loud noise. Rais had been shot in the face.

He survived, but only just and he

permanently lost the vision in his right eye. The gunman's name was Mark Stroman, a 31-year-old American who, in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon, had taken it upon himself to seek revenge.

He sought out people who looked like the perpetrators pictured on the 24/7 news channels and gunned them down.

Stroman was convicted of his crimes and sentenced to death. But after his recovery, Rais Bhuiyan called for the state to have compassion on Stroman and spare his life.

Despite Rais' act of mercy and forgiveness, Mark Stroman was put to death on Wednesday, July 20, 2011.

Stories like this tend to fascinate us because people like Rais are the exception rather than the rule.

Anyone who has been seriously wounded by another person - physically, emotionally or spiritually - knows that forgiveness can be incredibly hard to give. But responding to wrongdoing with justice *and* mercy need not be mutually exclusive.

Mahatma Gandhi is said to have made the

point that an eye for an eye leaves the whole world blind. Keeping our eyes and keeping them open and focused on merciful justice and even forgiveness and reconciliation can put us on a path of growth as a people.

If the whole world goes blind we will find ourselves living through a dark age in more ways than one. But if we look through the eyes of Jesus Christ we can see a new vision.

We can have our hearts and minds renewed to be people of forgiveness and mercy while still seeking restorative justice. This is the way of Jesus.



**OWNERS  
CORPORATION LAW** With Tom Bacon

Tom Bacon is the principal lawyer of Strata Title Lawyers.  
[Tom@stratatitlelawyers.com.au](mailto:Tom@stratatitlelawyers.com.au)

***Owners' corporations are a powerful democratic force - if only they knew.***

I've said this before, and I'll say it again - it is well worthwhile and overdue for an in-depth analysis of owners' corporations from policy analysts in the government sector on the affordability, sustainability, amenity, privacy and livability of persons and communities living together in high-rise towers.

We have all seen the cranes around town, and the real estate advertisements in the papers - Melbourne has a glut of residential apartment buildings, with many more on the way.

For too long, the government policy in this area went too far in favour of developers, leading to the creation of those shoebox 30sqm apartments with little or no natural light. In some extreme circumstances, developers would assign long-term management rights agreements to themselves, their friends or subsidiary

companies they control and for un-commercial terms and remuneration.

We saw in the latest round of state elections late last year, that the City of Melbourne seat became a closely-run contest between Labor and the Greens. In the lead-up to that election, both candidates pledged sweeping reforms in key areas of concern for owners' corporations.

However, as is often the case, once governments are formed and agendas are set, things move fairly slowly. It is time for owners' corporations throughout Melbourne to form a cohesive, committed and effective lobbying group, and to open the lines of communication with the political sphere.

Take for example - the short-term letting issue in Victoria. There has been much media attention about an owner's right to let or license their apartment for short-term

stays. However, any reform in this area will take years - despite the recommendations that will come out of the working party formed for this inquiry.

In 2014, Airbnb, the giant accommodation service provider, raised \$800 million US in venture capital, the majority of which it has pledged to spend on securing and shoring up their business model. Airbnb will spend hundreds of millions this year on lobbyists, public relations firms, and on teams of lawyers whose sole aim will be to ensure that Airbnb is neither legislated against nor otherwise outlawed. In addition, the business giant will bombard the public with soft advertising campaigns, sponsorship deals, fundraising initiatives and other types of marketing in the UK, Europe, South America and Australia.

Any owner or resident living in a tower that struggles with the effects of short-term letting will shortly not have an effective and audible voice in this campaign, and will not be able to raise their voice above the cacophony of the lobbyists and slick PR machines that Airbnb and others employ to scream at the policymakers and politicians.

The question is - can the owners' corporations of Victoria band together as a unified voice on this topic and others, and in time to make a difference?

As a single block of voters comprising may thousand residents, the owners' corporation 'vote' can and would make a difference to the outcome of any election in this state.

It is a pity there is not another election anytime soon.

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 Ihr Tore zu Zion (BWV 193)

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# Regular exercise – It all starts with behavior change

## HEALTH & WELLBEING

with Justin Moran

Just In Time Personal Training

*Most magazines, writers, fitness instructors and personal trainers work from the top down, and use “ideal world” ideology and that is, to get results you need to join a gym (preferably get a personal trainer) and exercise three to four times a week for 30 to 45 minutes.*

Whilst that is all well and good and may also be the ideal end result, I hope to guide you through behavior change to get to that ultimate scenario.

Put simply, 20 per cent of the community is active and generally only five to ten per cent of the entire population attend gyms. What happens to the 80 to 95 per cent that do neither?

This regular column will focus on giving you strategies and teaching you skills to evolve behavior change from the very raw and simple level.

Simply buy yourself a 12 month calendar and make a note over the next week to do just five minutes a day of either walking, exercise biking, jogging, cross-training, swimming, bike riding or any other form of relevant exercise for your situation.

Simply give yourself a tick on the days that

you achieve a minimum of five minutes (or whatever you have set as your minimum).

Then on the days that you didn’t achieve your selected minimum, place an X. On a weekly and monthly basis add up your ticks and if you get seven out of seven and 30 out of 30 then score yourself 100 per cent.

The closer your figure is to 100 per cent, the more successful your behavior change is and you have done it all on your own for the cost of less than \$15 for your calendar and without the need of a personal trainer.

What you are doing is setting yourself up for success! If you cannot manage five minutes of exercise a day for seven days then what hope have you got of achieving an “ideal world” of three to four times a week for 30 to 45 minutes? Very little and definitely not long-term.

If you do succeed and can achieve five

minutes of exercise for seven days a week then it is scalable and you can use this as a template and accountability tool to evolve.

This way you are well on your way to achieving successful behavior change. You have set up some accountability and you can become your own personal trainer, tailoring your program 100 per cent to you, your goals and in a way that works for you.

You must remember that your brain controls what your muscles and your body do, so it makes sense that you need to get your brain to change for your body, your fitness and your health to improve.

One last thing – it generally takes six months of repeated habit (hence the calendar) to achieve successful behavior change.

For a more information or if you have any questions feel free to contact me – [www.justintimept.com](http://www.justintimept.com)



## Relaxed pups

*Chocolate Labradors Hudson and Otis, collectively known as the “Brown Bears,” are some of the most relaxed dogs that you will ever meet.*

Devoted owner Caroline Daniel told *Southbank Local News* that they were both couch potatoes.

“They’re both sofa boys, they love nothing more than the pure pleasure of just sitting on the couch at night. They’re also obsessed with food. They both sit at the fridge drooling at the thought of the food inside,” she said.

According to Caroline, both 10-year-old Hudson and 2-year-old Otis had been in the

family since they were puppies.

“We were talked into getting another puppy by our daughter,” she said. “It’s funny how she’s not really walking them.”

Being so naturally docile and food obsessed you would imagine that the two pups aren’t very fit.

However, Caroline said that they were taken for an 8km walk everyday and that they’re favourite treats were, in fact, carrots!



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# Businesses in Southbank

SOUTHBANK-BASED BUSINESSES WISHING TO BE PROFILED IN THIS SECTION SHOULD EMAIL: [ADVERTISING@SOUTHBANKLOCALNEWS.COM.AU](mailto:ADVERTISING@SOUTHBANKLOCALNEWS.COM.AU)

## CONNECTING SOUTHBANK

*With the rollout of the National Broadband Network (NBN) gaining momentum everyday, Harbour ISP founding director Charles Tym said it was exciting to be at the forefront of the high-speed revolution.*

"For me personally I think the NBN is the most exciting project that I've been involved in," he said.

"It's great technology and everywhere you go people are just happy to have the extra speed, the extra data, the extra downloads and the extra telephony features that you can get over the NBN."

Having been the first company to participate in the NBN trials back in 2012, Harbour ISP's network today covers the whole of Australia and is one of the largest NBN partners by customer numbers.

The company had previously worked under the old ADSL network for several years, which according to Charles, was facing critical problems with speed and capacity before the introduction of the NBN.

With the preexisting infrastructure now replaced and the rollout constantly gaining momentum, Charles said it wouldn't be long until every inner-city apartment building could experience higher speeds via fibre-to-the-basement.

"There are some parts of inner-city Melbourne that have been connected and there are other parts where there is none yet and to say the least it has been very limited or spotty because we're at the beginning of

the rollout," he said.

"Over the next couple of years you'll see very much a quickened pace of the NBN rollout in areas such as Southbank, Docklands and the CBD and that's going to be a huge game changer."

For the areas of Southbank and metropolitan Melbourne that are already able to experience the NBN, Harbour ISP continues to play a leading role in helping to bring local residents up to speed.

With much ambiguity still surrounding the NBN and its rollout, Harbour ISP's National Development Manager Jane Kinsey said the company had played a crucial part in providing education and support for the community.

"Not many people are sort of across how it works, what to do and what to expect so that's where we've not only been able to provide a service but also an educational side to it as well," she said.

"We've been able to become sort of a conduit between NBN and the developer or building manager. We're able to liaise with NBN and come up with a resolution for our customers and that's happened so many times."

Jane said she and her team enjoyed working directly with local residents to provide a



Harbour ISP National Development Manager Jane Kinsey.

fully comprehensive service, in what she described as a "nice, neat little package."

"Yeah it's fantastic, it's a lot of fun," she said. "I really enjoy going out and meeting my customers," she said.

"If we say we're going to be there at 12

o'clock we will be there at 12 o'clock, come in set up your Wi-Fi, set up your smart TV and just have everything done for you and you don't have to take a day off work."

For more information visit [www.harbourisp.com.au](http://www.harbourisp.com.au)

## THE SPECIAL SKILLS OF BUSINESS BROKING

*It takes a special combination of skills to sell a business and it would appear that Ahmet Ali, Director of AA Business Brokers has them all.*



Ahmet Ali and wife Vesna of AA Business Brokers.

He brings diplomacy and discretion to business deals from his long and successful career as an Australian Diplomat.

He understands small business because he's owned and run a Tattsлото agency, a newsagency and a licensed post office.

Today, AA Business Brokers dominates the Victorian marketplace in the sale of high quality franchises and business and is the preferred selling agent for dozens of franchised brands and hundred of private sellers.

"I put our success down to our attention to

detail, rigorous systems and our integrity," he said.

"We are passionate about the work we do and strive to achieve the best results possible for both our vendors and buyers. Our clients just keep coming back to us because they know we offer total commitment to achieve their commercial and business goals."

Ahmet and his wife Vesna started the business in June 2007 and quickly moved it to their current location in Lorimer St, Docklands (Yarra's Edge). They are also very happy residents at Yarra's Edge. "We wouldn't live anywhere else," Vesna said. "We just love it here."

Vesna too has had an interesting career in retail and distribution as well as some senior public service positions.

The business now employs a team of business sales consultants with a wide variety of specialties and strengths.

"While our bread and butter is franchised businesses across all sectors, we do sell all types of businesses, from under 50k to over \$10 million," Ahmet said.

"The businesses may differ, but the fundamental principles remain the same."

"It's about being committed, accountable,

professional and honest," Ahmet said. "If you get those things right, everything else falls into the place and the sales continue to grow."

AA Business Brokers thrived in the aftermath of the global financial crisis - a time which was particularly tough on small hospitality businesses.

"I'm not saying it was easy, but we kept focused on the customer and the customer's needs," Ahmet said. "In the end, the dedication has paid off and we have a very dedicated following to show for it."

Ahmet said his firm was equally qualified to help both potential business buyers or vendors looking to sell.

"We are very happy to meet and advise anyone in the strictest confidence on a no-obligation basis," he said.

"It's far better to get a realistic appraisal from us before you start than to go down a long and difficult path only to be disappointed at the other end."

Ahmet and his team of specialists can be contacted at their Docklands office at Suite 88b/ 90 Lorimer St on **9645 2988** or **0400 650 770** or email [sales@aabusinessbrokers.com.au](mailto:sales@aabusinessbrokers.com.au)





# FACES OF SOUTHBANK

**If you could travel to any historical period where would you go and why?**



**MARGIE GILLETT**

Having done a little bit of personal family history research, I'd love to go back to that medieval time of rich velvets, tapestries, and people riding everywhere on horse back. I'd have to be from a strong and powerful family though. I would be interested in the social issues that they faced back then. I am a direct descendant through the female line to people like Lady Jane Grey who was the Queen for nine days before being beheaded.



**CHARLOTTE BRUNDRETT**

That's a toughie! I think it would have been really cool to be in America during the American Revolutionary War. Because so much was happening, to witness America's rebellion against the British would be amazing. Scary as well though! The Boston Tea party as well. That was such a pivotal moment in modern day history.



**VICTOR MACHADO FRANCA**

Where would I go? Maybe back to when I was 17 or 16 years old. That time was good. I was doing everything I wanted, I was young and youth is good.



**DIEGO RODRIGUES**

Any time in history? I'd still probably change something personal. I'd probably go back and change my course at university. I study computer engineering; I'd probably go back and study something that has more human contact. It's all just numbers at the moment and that gets boring.




**MARTIN BLAKE**

I would go back to see Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream Speech". He is one of history's great orators. It gives me chills whenever I see it. It was such a powerful message that was a watershed moment in race relations worldwide. Although, we still have a long way to go.




**LUCY ALBINSSON**

I would probably just stay here to be honest. We're already living in the best time in history to be alive. I like having a doctor that doesn't use leeches.



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**Proposed renaming of Southbank Pedestrian Bridge**

Melbourne City Council is proposing to rename Southbank Pedestrian Bridge to Evan Walker Bridge and is inviting public feedback on the proposal. Evan Walker is best known for his role in initiating the transformation of Southbank as the Victorian State Government Minister for Planning and Environment in 1982. Mr Walker passed away on 16 February 2015 and Council seeks to honour the role he played by renaming this significant public feature. Southbank Pedestrian Bridge is the pedestrian bridge connecting Southbank to Flinders Street Station. The closing date for expressions of support or objection is Tuesday 16 June 2015. For more information and to provide feedback, visit [www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/evanwalkerbridge](http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/evanwalkerbridge)



S3176





**SOUTHBANK  
RESIDENTS GROUP  
WITH TONY PENNA**

# A crazy week in Southbank

*What a week last week was! Literally the day I return from Gallipoli (which I must add was an awesome experience) I get hit with three significant agenda items for the Future Melbourne Committee meeting the following night, while needing to keep my focus on the inaugural Southbank Owners' Corporation meeting, which was the night I arrived back.*

But, like a good soldier, I pushed forward and we got there, although the electricity outage certainly didn't help me and couldn't have come at a more inconvenient time. So yes, there is a lot to discuss this month.

Let me start by once again saying how appalled I am with some councillors. A significant Southbank development proposal was submitted for council's consideration but once again too many councillors had conflicted themselves (having received donations from the developer) and the quorum was lost, so the item was not heard and will subsequently pass through council without any comments from the Future Melbourne Committee.

Councillors are elected to represent the interests of the community, and not who donates to their election campaign. While it may be legal, that is no justification. Where are the values and integrity in accepting donations from a developer, and worse, one who is a significant player in the municipality? Just absolutely disgraceful!

Southbank has also lost some of its public open space in Queensbridge Square to a coffee shop. Unfortunately there wasn't

much argument to be considered as it appeared Council had already signed off on this back in 2011.

I asked the question as to who or what process was used to determine that a cafe was the answer to 'activating' this space. Cr Ong took it on notice. I would hazard a guess that no public consultation determined a cafe was the answer. Nevertheless it is a loss to Southbank to see community space being approved for such purposes.

I made a submission to the draft budget for FY15/16. Although to be limited to speak for three minutes on a 10-page document of such significant importance makes a mockery of council's desire for community comment.

Of course the top items I made comment on were community infrastructure and open space. I advised council that at times we feel like the forgotten cousins of the municipality.

While we are the second largest financial contributor to the municipality we certainly don't notice the spending in our neighbourhood, yet we see significant

investment in Docklands, which is future-proofing their community, but we only see band-aid solutions for Southbank.

Cr Wood responded advising Southbank is going to be getting significant open space through the transformation of Southbank Boulevard.

This is the first I have heard of such a plan, sounds interesting but until the plans are made public I reserve my comment. So watch this newspaper as more detail is released.

Finally, the inaugural meeting for Southbank Owners' Corporation Network (SOCN) was a resounding success with all contributors confirming this is a network that Southbank needs and it will be beneficial to all OCs with carrying out their duties and making our complexes and community a better place to invest and live.

Ask your complex committee if your complex is a member of Southbank Residents' Group, if not recommend them to join to also benefit from this great community initiative.

**Tony Penna**  
President

## SOUTHBANK SUDOKU

### Last month's Sudoku solution

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

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 'SOUTH BANK' as must each 9-square box.

This Sudoku is hard!

Good Luck!

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

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# COUNCILLOR PROFILE

By Shane Scanlan

## Rabble-rouser finds his niche

*Cr Stephen Mayne had outgrown the City of Melbourne almost before he got there.*

With peerless credentials in media, business and politics he has effortlessly grasped the role of capital city councillor and has already left an indelible mark by making the council more publicly accountable.

And while there are plenty of good political performers in all spheres of government, very few of them are as independent as Cr Mayne.

Independence can't be bought. In fact, it comes at personal cost and must be crafted and honed over many, many years.

Now in his mid-40s, Cr Mayne draws on many life lessons to acutely understand the wider political process and, most importantly, his role within it.

"I've come to realise that my core strength is as that independent person on the site, not being the chairman. I'm a good contradictor, a good contrarian - constructive, but also prepared to take them on if necessary," he said explaining that the Senate might be his next contest.

"If there was any more ambition, it would be a Xenophon-style independent senator," he said. "I don't think I'd ever run for lord mayor because I don't think I could do the job."

"I'd love Xenophon to set up his party and I'd love to run for Xenophon. He is the Don Chip of today. He's in the middle. He's sensible. He's a known quantity."

Cr Mayne has spent most his career questioning and holding the authorities to account - both as a journalist and as a shareholders advocate.

As a journalist, his independent streak eventually made him unemployable and led to the establishment of the nation's premier alternative online news site Crikey.

"I was a natural rabble-rouser and I had high energy levels so I could keep it up.

I basically had no other option because I couldn't get a job back in the mainstream," he said.

Three trips to the Supreme Court to defend defamation writs, losing his house, starting a family, renting, moving house five times in 30 months and 100-hour working weeks were eventually rewarded with a \$1 million sale price for Crikey.

Shareholder advocacy and activism followed a similar path.

Cr Mayne was a councillor at Manningham before contesting a seat at the City of Melbourne. Again, the experience was heightened by the intensity of the engagement and so the learning came quicker.

"It was brutal. It was the Somme and I took



them on. I admit that I provoked them and probably went in a bit too hard myself," he said.

The experience has led to extremely harmonious relations with fellow councillors at Melbourne.

"I am probably the only councillor who hasn't had an ongoing dispute with another councillor. I get along well with everyone and I treat every issue on its merits and I'm not doing deals," he said.

"The council gig is the perfect gig for me at the moment," he said. "You are in

government. But you're not in charge. You're working with others to get a better outcome for the city."

"It's better being on council than being in opposition (as a party politician), because I think you just get sucked in with political point scoring and negativity."

Cr Mayne likens his role as a councillor to the work he used to do as a shareholder advocate.

"Being not afraid to speak truth to power - that's probably at the core of it," he

said. "Being fearlessly independent and outspoken but, fundamentally, you're not like a green group trying to send a mining company broke."

"You're not there as a shareholder to destroy. You want the company to succeed. You want there to be profits but you also want good governance, fair treatment of minorities, inclusion of all stakeholders, good transparency and accountability. When you have all these things, you get better performance anyway."

"If you do that, any institution, from your kindergarten to your federal government, will perform well."

Cr Mayne is attracted to politics by what he calls a "psychic wage" - an enjoyment that falls outside financial remuneration.

"I think I'm good at it and there's a lot of intellectual stimulation from the diversity of council," he said. "No two days are the same, and I like politics."

"Being a councillor allows you to bring together that knowledge of politics, business and media and, hopefully, contribute positively to the city."

"And I am really enjoying it the most because of the stuff I've managed to achieve on the transparency and accountability front."

"When people look back I hope they will see a series of practical, real transparency measures that will set the standard for the sector," he said.

Cr Mayne said he has been so successful in getting council to adopt transparency measures that he had almost run out of new ideas.

Such transparency and governance measures include: Audio recording of council meetings; public questions at council meetings; banning meetings between councillors and developers without an officer present; an extra member on the audit committee; the people's panel; disclosing the lease register; disclosing more valuable buildings; putting all registers online; recording executive pay in annual reports; and slashed discretionary spending for councillors.

Cr Mayne summarises his position as: "Don't be afraid to lift the skirt and tell people what is going on. Be as open and transparent as you possibly can."



**In next month's  
Councillor Profile  
we look at:**  
Cr Susan Riley



# 2015 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](http://www.life.org.au/imlac) or call Carolyn on 9696 1090**



WEDNESDAY MAY 27 @ BOYD

### RECONCILIATION WEEK

Join the team at Boyd for workshops on traditional Aboriginal games, aimed at young children as part of Reconciliation Week. Workshops will run from 10.30am to 11.30am in the Assembly Hall.

TUESDAYS - 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](http://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

WEDNESDAY JUNE 10

### 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:alison@inner-rhythms.com.au)**



WEDNESDAYS @ BOYD

### MUMS & BUBS DANCE CLASS

Dance 4 Life is a mums and bubs dance class, which blends salsa, samba, merengue, cha cha (and even the Wiggles) in a fun session for you and your child. Held in the Assembly Hall from 10am.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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.  
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