

The voice of Southbank

SOUTHBANK Local NEWS

■ 'Strange' application rejected

Page 3

■ New vision for Sandridge Bridge

Page 5



■ Fishermans flurry

Page 8

■ Mass dance action

Page 10



Car theft clamp down

Police continue to urge residents and members of the public to be more vigilant, following an ever growing rate of car thefts being reported in the Southbank area.

St Kilda Rd Police Station commander Snr-Sgt Steve Bills took *Southbank Local News* through a Southbank multi-level car park this month to demonstrate just how careless people were when leaving belongings in their vehicles. One vehicle (pictured) was left so unsecured Snr-Sgt Bills was able to find an entry point to break in.

Continued on page 9.



Consultation begins on Riverside Quay

By Sean Car

The City of Melbourne, in partnership with developer, Mirvac, has started community consultation for the redevelopment of the public open space at Riverside Quay in Southbank.

Mirvac has committed about \$500,000 in developer contributions to make the Riverside Quay Place Renewal Project possible.

As part of its new 21-storey commercial building at 2 Riverside Quay, which is currently under construction, Mirvac had incorporated plans to redevelop the public square at 8-10 Riverside Quay.

A community workshop will be held at the

Hoopla Room at the Malthouse Theatre in Southbank on Wednesday, June 17 at 6pm, where residents are invited to have their say on what the new Riverside Quay should look like.

A spokesperson for the City of Melbourne encouraged the Southbank community to get involved in the consultation process.

"In recent weeks, community engagement has been undertaken in the precinct to find

out more about what is important to the local community," the spokesperson said.

"This renewal project will create a vision and a master plan for Riverside Quay and transform the existing area to meet the needs and values of people who visit, live and work in the area."

"The project will be defined by a generative design process, which will be run in consultation with the local community and

key stakeholders via a series of community activities and events."

At the Future Melbourne Committee meeting held on August 5 last year, Mirvac had put forward two schemes for consideration as part of its original ministerial planning referral for 2 Riverside Quay.

Continued on page 2.

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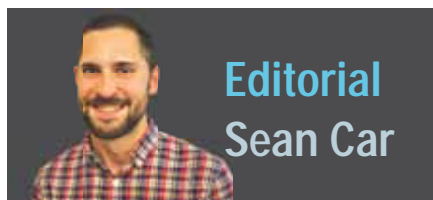
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This month, Southbank Local News is excited to announce the addition of the new "Southbanker" column to the newspaper.

With our two sister publications *Docklands News* and *CBD News* including the "Docklander" and "CBD Local" respectively as regular inclusions, we figured it was high time we followed suit.

"Southbanker" is a new monthly and community-focused column, which is aimed at providing you, the local resident or worker, with the chance to share your story of being a part of the Southbank community.

Whether you're a resident who wishes to share your perspective on Southbank, a worker with a long association with the community or just a local doing interesting or wonderful things, "Southbanker" is your chance to tell your story.

In our inaugural column this month, we met local resident and filmmaker Omrane Khuder, who shared his story of making films to inspire social change in the community.

You can read his story on page 24 of this edition.

If you'd like to have your story told, please send all enquiries to news@southbanklocalnews.com.au

As always, happy reading.

Sean Car
Editor



The currently lifeless open space at Riverside Quay in Southbank is set to receive a much-needed facelift.

Consultation begins on Riverside Quay

Continued from page 1.

"Scheme A" proposed to construct wholly within the title boundary, while "Scheme B" proposed to acquire an additional 48sqm of council-owned open space.

City of Melbourne councillors unanimously supported the application's proposal for "Scheme B", which was later approved by former planning minister Matthew Guy.

Mirvac senior development manager Guy French-Wright said the company was committed to working with the City of Melbourne and the community to revitalise what was an important piece of open space in Southbank.

"It's clearly been a very neglected part of this side of the city and, part of what we're planning to do here through the redevelopment, is to invest around half a million of our own money into rejuvenating this square," he said.

"We understand that, particularly in

Southbank, open space is something that the residents and also the workers are crying out for."

Speaking at last year's council meeting, Southbank Residents Group president Tony Penna threw his support behind the initiative.

"It is rare to see a developer offer to make contributions to public space at their expense so we commend the developer for that and we believe that those renovations will be of great benefit," he said.

"While it is difficult for Southbank residents to accept the loss of open space it really is in the best interest of this area to activate it."

Construction on the first stage of the master plan is expected to be complete in early 2017.

The community can also get involved in the consultation process online by visiting www.riversidequayplacere renewal.com



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Councillors reject 'strange' application

City of Melbourne councillors have unanimously voted to recommend against a proposal for a 45-storey tower at 57-59 Haig St in Southbank.

The planning referral went before council at the Future Melbourne Committee meeting on June 2, with Cr Stephen Mayne labeling the application as "strange".

The City of Melbourne had issued a permit to developer Meydan Group back in 2012 for a 122 metre, 39-storey development with conditions, as the building would have exceeded the area's 100 metre discretionary height limit.

Despite holding the permit to build, the developer has since submitted an amended application to the Planning Minister for a 155 metre tower seeking to add eight storeys.

However, according to the council officers' planning report, the applicant had met with planning officers and prepared plans for discussion, which reduced the height of the building back to 145 metres and 45-storeys.

The report stated that the reduction was principally achieved by reducing the height of the podium of the building to 20 metres.

Cr Mayne provided a damning assessment of the application and said he had his "fingers crossed" that the Planning Minister would reject the development.

"It's a strange one this," he said. "I'm disappointed that the applicant isn't present to explain what's gone on but obviously it's a 100 metre zone and with conditions we supported a permit of 122 metres."

"We then have an environment changing where the whole unlimited height zone scenario of the last few years is being wound back and we have an application seeking to go the other way back up from 122, already 22 metres over, to 155. Then half way through this sort of having a try at an informal attempt to cut it down to 143."

"So you've got this unusual looking report of assessments of three different applications - the original with the permit, the amended and the one we might change but we haven't quite yet."

If approved, the building would incorporate 248 one and two-bedroom apartments, 171 car parking spaces, 165 bicycle bays and a commercial ground floor area.

Council's planning report stated that despite the amended proposal having one less apartment and 1200 sqm less in gross floor area, the proposed height was still

considered to be inappropriate for the area.

Cr Mayne said had the developer stuck with its original plan, the tower could have already been built.

"If you go back and look back at when we first dwelt on this 18 months ago, obviously if they had have applied for a 30 or 31-level, 100 metre building it would have been just under 25,000 (sqm)," he said.

"It wouldn't have gone to the Minister, it would have just been a City of Melbourne permit and it probably would have been built by now."

City of Melbourne's chair of planning Cr Ken Ong said the developer needed to submit a new application.

"It's been quite extensively redesigned ... increased height, total floor change layout, central cores being shifted from the side to the middle and even the environmental layouts are different," he said.

"Basically it should be a new application asking for a 45-storey building, which is outside the objectives of the DDO, so this is a good result from (council) officers."



A visual render of the proposed tower for 57-59 Haig St.

Support for open space contributions

The City of Melbourne has endorsed a planning scheme amendment, which would require developers to pay fixed public open space contributions.

At its general council meeting on May 27, councillors threw their support behind Planning Scheme Amendment C209 which, if approved, would require developers to provide either land or money for new projects.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said council would now submit Planning Scheme Amendment C209 to Planning Minister Richard Wynne for approval.

"This amendment will help council to deliver our Open Space Strategy by securing funding and land for parks, recreation areas and

spaces across the municipality," he said.

"With more people choosing to live in apartments, the provision of high-quality public open space is more important now than ever."

The Lord Mayor said the City of Melbourne managed more than 500 hectares of open space, which represented almost 15 per cent of the municipality.

"We have a 15-year plan to create an additional 24 hectares of open space and this change to the planning scheme will help us

to bring that vision to fruition," he said.

Planning Scheme Amendment C209 would set contribution rates of 5 per cent for normal developments and 7 per cent in urban renewal areas as either a percentage of the site value, a land contribution or a combination of both.

Chair of the City of Melbourne's environment portfolio Cr Arron Wood said the change to the planning scheme and implementing the Open Space Strategy would have a range of social and environmental benefits for Southbank.

"Our Open Space Strategy aims to create a network of high quality and diverse open spaces within walking distance for residents and workers," he said.

"Open spaces promote social connectedness, improve mental health and wellbeing and encourage physical activity."

"Open space also plays an important role in mitigating the urban heat island effect by providing cooler spaces during hot summers and allowing built up areas to cool more effectively overnight."



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Two Schools meet for AGM

Members of local education lobby group Two Schools Now met for its annual general meeting (AGM) on Wednesday, May 27 in the wake of May's state budget announcement.

The meeting was attended by State Member for Albert Park Martin Foley, who provided committee members with an update on local education projects in the Port Phillip and Southbank area.

Mr Foley attended the meeting to reassure residents that all schools promised prior to the election were on track to open as scheduled.

The May 5 state budget provided \$1 million for planning for the South Melbourne Park Primary School at the Parks Victoria site on Albert Rd and \$5 million for site preparedness for the vertical South Melbourne Primary School at Ferrars St.

Despite the small allocations of funding, Mr Foley said both projects were on track for taking enrolments in 2017 in preparation for 2018 openings and that further funding would be provided in future budgets.

"We had originally planned to do both schools in a sequence one after the other, but that is not a goer," he said. "They'll now both be delivered at the same time."

"If that means the school is built and we do the rest of it at a later time that's not perfect but, given the time frame of delays since the 2012 original announcement for the Ferrars St site, we simply can't wait any longer."

Mr Foley informed the committee that the path had been cleared for South Melbourne Park, after the Government secured a new home for Parks Victoria at the State Bank Pavilion site near Albert Park Driving Range, which is currently home to the St Kilda Table Tennis Club.

He also confirmed that the new Year 9 campus and arts and science hub at the former Circus Oz site for Albert Park College in Port Melbourne would open in January next year.



Member for Albert Park Martin Foley (third from right) along with Two Schools Now committee members at last month's annual general meeting in Port Melbourne.

The future state of education in the Fishermans Bend urban renewal area was also heavily discussed at the meeting, with all members stressing the need for further schools to address the area's expected population increase over the next decade.

The meeting was adjourned until a later date, at which time the group's office bearers will be officially confirmed for 2015-16.

The AGM followed another significant education announcement last month, with the Government moving ahead with plans for a new high school in Prahran, which would take in students from Southbank.

Minister for Education James Merlino last month announced that Swinburne University of Technology's former Prahran Campus is now the focus of planning for the new Prahran Secondary College.

The Government had been in pre-existing negotiations with Deaf Children Australia over the purchase or lease of the organisation's site on St Kilda Rd, however Mr Merlino said the project wasn't feasible.

"We've found the site would blow out in cost and fail to provide the education that kids in Prahran need," he said.

"We're on the front foot and progressing with an alternative site, with planning and feasibility studies already underway at Swinburne University's Prahran campus."

\$10 million towards Stage 1 delivery of the Elwood College master plan to refurbish and rebuild existing facilities was also included in last month's state budget.

Waterways group to make decision

The Lower Yarra River Use Future Directions Group is expected to make its recommendations on the future governance and management of the waterways this month.

Chairperson of the group Tony Kelly said the group would meet for the final time in mid-June and would then submit its recommendations to Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water Lisa Neville.

The group, which includes representatives from industry and government groups, was formed in October last year.

The group includes independent chairperson Tony Kelly and representatives from Parks Victoria, City of Melbourne, Yarra River Business Association, Melbourne Passenger Boating Association, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, the Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure and the Department of Environment and Primary Industries.

Its aims included identifying ways to improve management of strategic and operational issues within the current governance structure and considering the future management of the waterways.

Currently there are at least 15 intersecting Acts governing various parts of the Lower Yarra and Docklands waterway, resulting in bureaucratic paralysis and difficulty introducing reforms that would activate the waterways.



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Bold new vision for Sandridge Bridge

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle has backed a proposal to transform Southbank's historic Sandridge Bridge into an "aerial park".

The City of Melbourne created the design concept for a tree-lined park on the 178 metre pedestrian bridge that connects Flinders St Station to Queensbridge Square in Southbank.

Plans to refurbish the bridge as part of the Flinders St Station redevelopment were put on hold after the State Government scrapped the initial plans of the previous government.

The Lord Mayor has since put the Sandridge Bridge back on the agenda, stating that a refurbishment would help revitalise Queensbridge Square.

"The Sandridge Bridge is a really important historic link in Melbourne but it's a pretty drab bridge at the moment," he said.

"I don't think Queensbridge Square is our greatest public open space, but imagine if we gave it a treatment like the famous high line in New York."

"I would much rather see it as a pedestrian link from the north to the south of Yarra and turning Queensbridge Square into one of our great public open spaces."

The Sandridge Bridge was part of the former Port Melbourne railway line, which was closed in 1987 and converted to tram route 109, which now runs through Clarendon and Whiteman Streets in Southbank.



A visual render of the proposed concept for a green aerial park on the Sandridge Bridge in Southbank.

Image: courtesy of the City of Melbourne.

The bridge was reopened as a pedestrian and cycling bridge in 2006 and now features public artwork celebrating Victoria's migrant history.

The Lord Mayor said he was working with councillors and the State Government to support the project, but added that a feasibility study was yet to be undertaken.

While significant engineering work would have to be undertaken to widen and support the weight of the garden, the Lord Mayor said the proposal would provide a great asset to Melbourne and likened it to the High Line in New York.

"The bridge at the moment is a beautiful structure but it's not all that pleasant to walk across," he said.

"If you go to the High Line in New York, there are people who make the journey to New York just to walk along that railway bridge, which has been turned into a garden."

"It's a very beautiful and a very Melbourne-type experience, so I think it could be a great addition to our tourist attractions and to our walking plan for Melbourne."



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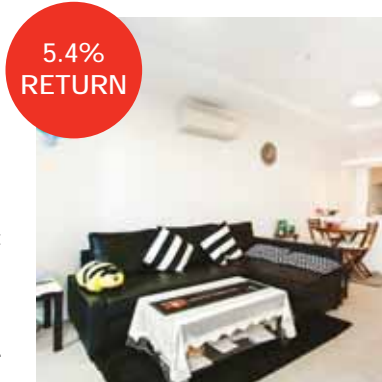
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City apartment affordability fears

Planning Minister Richard Wynne has started the long-anticipated debate on standards for apartment construction with the release last month of a discussion paper, 'Better Apartments.'

While most people agree on the need for standards relating to adequate natural light, ventilation and privacy, it is feared that mandated minimum size will adversely affect affordability.

The Property Industry Council estimates that a 50sqm apartment could cost \$90,000 more than a 40sqm inner city apartment.

Property Council Victorian executive director Jennifer Cunich said: "Disappointingly, the discussion paper barely mentions housing affordability, which should be the Government's number one priority."

"Consideration of housing affordability must remain front and centre. A five square metre increase in size can add as much as \$45,000 to the price of an apartment. Cost increases such as this can easily place home ownership beyond the reach of many aspiring home buyers."

Mr Wynne says higher standards of apartment design are needed to avoid poorly designed homes lacking space, light and ventilation.

According to the report, another 480,000 apartments will be needed in Melbourne alone to accommodate a projected population of 7.7 million by 2051.

"Melbourne is set to house almost 100,000 new residents each year and we need to plan for that growth," Mr Wynne said.

The discussion paper aims to prompt conversations with community and industry stakeholders to shape future apartment design guidelines.

Ms Cunich says the industry was grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the standards but also warned that developers would not support the outcome unless it co-authored with other stakeholders the final standard.

"History in this policy space has shown that design standards developed without industry support have failed to meet the expectations of their authors, facilitators or the broader community," she said.

Mr Wynne said: "This is more than establishing minimum standards, it's about keeping pace with how people want to live."

The *Better Apartments* discussion paper raises a number of issues relating to apartment design in Victoria, including:

- Lack of natural light;
- Apartments too small or poorly designed;
- Achieving a quality outlook for all apartments;
- Lack of natural ventilation;
- External noise;
- Access to outdoor space; and
- Long-term adaptability of apartment buildings.

Submissions on the discussion paper are due next month and community forums and industry roundtable events will also be held. Draft guidelines will be released in late 2015 and the final report will be handed to the Minister in mid 2016.

To view the discussion paper visit www.dewlp.vic.gov.au/better-apartments



Queensbridge St during last month's tram network construction works.

Tram boost for Queensbridge St

Southbank was subject to major construction works last month when Queensbridge St was torn up as part of a project to upgrade Melbourne's tram network.

The project, which was delivered by Yarra Trams on behalf of Public Transport Victoria, included track renewal and the installation of two pairs of new raised platforms on Route 55 at stop 112 near Crown Casino and another at stop 114 near City Rd.

According to a Yarra Trams spokesperson, the raised platforms offer a safer area for passengers to board and alight from trams and will provide improved passenger services such as shelters and info screens.

While causing significant congestion along City Rd and Power St between May 23 and 29, Yarra Trams CEO Clement Michel said the project was carried out in the most efficient manner possible.

"Finding a quiet time to renew tracks here is impossible," he said. "However, it is an important project to renew tracks to ensure passengers can travel as safely and comfortably as possible."

"I am proud each time we install or begin work on a new accessible tram stop because I believe passionately in creating a public transport network that is fully inclusive."

St Kilda Rd was also subject to temporary disruption between June 6 and 8, with track and overhead renewal works undertaken outside Federation Square.

Queensbridge St will undergo further upgrade works later this year after the City of Melbourne allocated \$400,000 for the project in last month's budget.



Riverside Quay Place Renewal vision workshop

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A flurry of Fishermans Bend approvals

State Planning Minister Richard Wynne approved \$570 million in new apartments for Fishermans Bend last month, prompting concerns from the community.

Mr Wynne announced three new apartment projects for 228 Normanby Rd in Southbank, 60-82 Johnson St in South Melbourne and 101 Salmon St in Port Melbourne, which will deliver a combined total of 1958 new apartments.

The approved \$400 million Johnston St development, which was the largest of the three, will include four apartment towers ranging from 21 to 46 levels, a supermarket and retail space.

The \$130 Southbank development at Normanby Rd will incorporate two towers, which are 39 and 49 storeys high, and contain a total of 525 apartments.

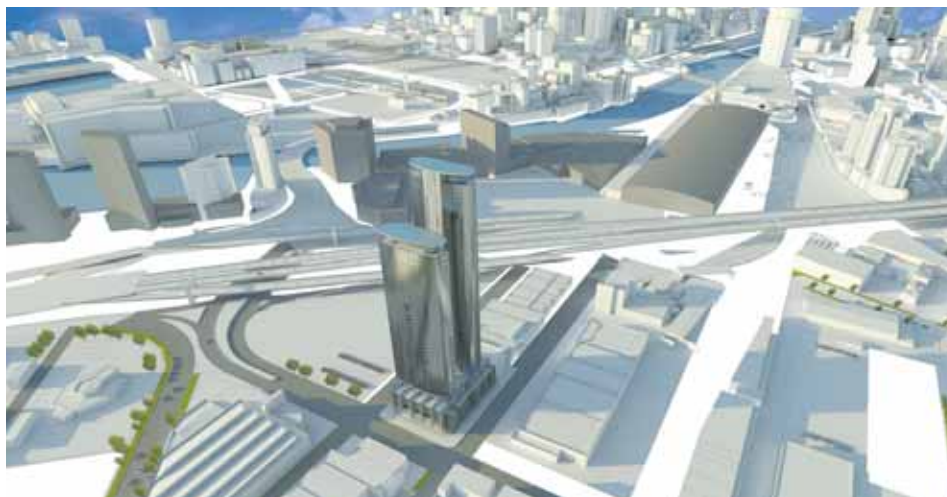
The third project on Salmon St is a \$40 million 12-storey development.

As these applications were submitted before the area's planning overhaul was announced, each was assessed under the previous rules, which applied at the time of application.

Port People Inc president Rowan Groves expressed his group's disappointment over the approvals, describing them as "another missed opportunity".

"Unfortunately, it looks to be more of the business as usual approach," he said.

"What is obvious is that these newly-



A visual render of the approved tower for Normanby Rd in Southbank. Image: courtesy of Rothelowman Architects.

approved towers will be taller than anything else that will be approved under the new interim guidelines and possibly under the recommendations of the Ministerial Advisory Committee."

"They will also be among the last approvals that won't be subject to design standards, assuming the Building Design Review results in effective changes."

"Both these factors will pose particular difficulty for the Ministerial Advisory Committee in finding the best way to fit

higher standard urban renewal around buildings that probably won't conform to those standards."

Mr Groves argued that a lack of certainty in planning for community amenities such as schools and open spaces was preventing high-end developers from investing in the urban renewal area.

Having announced a planning overhaul for Fishermans Bend in April, Mr Wynne said his department had worked with the City of Port Phillip in approving the developments.

"Every apartment across the three approved projects is bigger than 40sqm. All bedrooms have a window, none rely on borrowed light," he said.

"The three towers are within the City of Port Phillip municipality. The minister's approvals were supported by council."

"By approving more than half a billion dollars worth of new apartments, this government is allowing more people to live close to jobs, services and public transport."

"These towers are in a part of Melbourne which was once best-suited to industrial businesses. The city is evolving and this government is making sure more people can live centrally in well-designed apartments."

Managing principal of Rothelowman Architects Nigel Hobart, the practice responsible for designing the Normanby Rd and Johnson St developments, commended Mr Wynne's decision.

"As the largest urban renewal site in the country, Fishermans Bend is conducive to high density," he said.

"It is developments such as those approved for Johnson St and Normanby Rd that will take expansionary pressure off established suburbs and curb urban sprawl."

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Police clamping down on car theft

From page 1.

St Kilda Rd Police Station commander Snr-Sgt Steve Bills says police have had enough of careless people leaving valuables in their vehicles when parking in Southbank.

Snr-Sgt Bills took *Southbank Local News* through a Southbank multi-level car park this month to demonstrate just how careless people were when leaving belongings in their vehicles.

The evidence was telling, with a majority of drivers leaving either one or more items such as handbags, backpacks, gold coins, laptop cases, suitcases, tools and GPS devices completely exposed.

One car was left so unsecured that Snr-Sgt Bills was even able to find an entry point to break in, while multiple others left open handbags completely visible on the front seat.

Even during the hour-long investigation, Snr-Sgt Bills received a report via police radio that a woman's car had been broken into on another level of the very same car park.

After reaching the woman, Snr-Sgt Bills and *Southbank Local News* learned that the woman's soft-top roof on her convertible had been cut and ripped open. Fortunately for the victim, nothing had been stolen.

While the investigation was only a snapshot, Snr-Sgt Bills said it provided a telling insight into just how chronic the issue had become and that it could all be avoided if people didn't give potential thieves an excuse to break in.

"The only way we are ever going to curb this trend is if people give more thought to what



Snr-Sgt Steve Bills compiles a police report with the victim of a vehicle break-in (left), Snr-Sgt Bills inspects the damage to the woman's soft top roof on her convertible (right), and a selection of items found completely exposed in people's vehicles, which included (left to right below) handbags, gold coins, GPS devices and even an electric shaver.

they leave exposed in their cars," he said.

"In 95 per cent of the cases, if you don't leave something in your vehicle that's inviting the offender to think about breaking into your car, then invariably they won't."

"Stuff like \$10 in coins sitting in the centre console or your smelly gym bag - it may only have smelly gym clothes in it to you, but to the crook that's looking in through the window, there could be a phone or a wallet."

Police are continuing to urge residents and members of the public to be more vigilant,

following an ever growing rate of car thefts being reported in the Southbank area.

According to Snr-Sgt Bills, theft of, or theft from, motor vehicles are among the highest crimes in the Southbank area, with incidents reported everyday.

He said residents living in high-rise apartment complexes must take care when entering and exiting underground car parks, with thefts often occurring as a result of people simply sneaking in.

"A lot of these apartments are sold on this

promise of secure parking and that is a misnomer straight up," he said.

"All you need to see when you drive into the parking area is to see how slowly the gate behind you closes. There are so many people that live in these apartments, you've got no idea who's meant to be there or not."

Snr-Sgt Bills said such crimes were difficult for police and there was a lot the public could do to prevent them from occurring.

To report a theft or any suspicious behaviour contact Crime Stoppers on **1800 333 000**.



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Council denies parking quotas

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle called a special press conference in May after an anonymous City of Melbourne parking officer alleged that inspectors were being pressured to meet infringement quotas.

The unnamed parking inspector made claims to *The Herald Sun* last month that the City of Melbourne had used tally boards and *Sesame Street* symbols to pressure he and his colleagues to increase the number of fines they issued.

The claims were backed in the report by the parking inspectors' union, the Australian Services Union, which claimed its members were being forced to meet quotas of 4.5 tickets per hour.

However, the Lord Mayor firmly denied the existence of any such quotas and said the tally boards were used merely as a means of measuring performance.

"I must make the point that there are no quotas at the City of Melbourne," he said. "A quota is a number that you must reach and there is no such thing."

"The City of Melbourne is a business and you'd expect us to forecast and track our expenditure and our revenue and that's actually what we do with parking fines like anything else."

"You do look at the performance of the different teams given that they're all paid the same, they all work in the same areas over a long period of time and they're expected to perform about the same and that seems reasonable to me."

In its annual 2015-16 draft budget released last month, the City of Melbourne stated that total parking fine revenue was expected to increase again by \$1.52 million from the previous year to \$42.23 million.

The reports have raised fears that the alleged targets are pressuring inspectors to fine motorists in unfair situations when they don't deserve a penalty.

It comes after a number of Southbank residents told *Southbank Local News* in

May that they had been unfairly fined for parking out the front of their own residential buildings as a result of temporary, clipped-on signage (pictured).

Southbank resident Julie Cowley has since informed *Southbank Local News* that the City of Melbourne had ruled that it wouldn't revoke any fines issued as a result of the signage and said she and other residents would consider pursuing further action through VCAT.

The Lord Mayor said the person responsible for leaking the story hadn't done the reputation of parking inspectors, who were simply doing their job, any favours.

"Let's remember that these parking fines are issued because people have infringed and they've overstayed their time in the city," he said.

"Whoever did leak this story to the newspapers hasn't really done our parking inspectors any favours."

"These are people that cop enough abuse as it is and my concern is that this story will just mean that they cop more abuse and that is not fair given that they just go about doing their job."



Protesters get involved in a mass dance action rally at the ACCA forecourt in Southbank last month.

Mass dance action

By Kara Bertoncini

Hundreds gathered at ACCA last month to protest against the Federal Government's proposed plan to shave more than \$100 million from the budget of the Australian Council for the Arts.

Lovers of the arts around the nation engaged in a "mass dance action" in response to the Federal Arts Minister George Brandis's plan.

The collective energy at the dance rally was high with all in attendance cheering and dancing for a cause.

Protester Tai Snaith said she hoped the actions of the protest would show the Government that the proposed change was something that would directly affect future generations of artists.

"Moving the funding will directly affect some of the programs that I benefited from when I was younger, so things like the international residencies and art start grants will be directly affected and possibly lost. This will mean that a lot of younger artists will not even get the chance to start their career," Ms Snaith said.

Organiser from the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance Jake Wishart spoke confidently and reassured the arts community that the union would not let the campaign go away.

"We will be meeting and lobbying in Canberra, here in Melbourne and all

over the place to make sure these cuts don't go ahead, and to make sure that artists have control over artistic funding and not politicians," Mr Wishart said.

Under the new policy, a new program for Excellence in the Arts will be established, which means over four years, \$100 million would be diverted.

Arts activist Richard Vabre drew an interesting parallel to the Minister's decisions, hoping it would only generate community support and understanding as to what these changes really meant to the arts community.

"I believe that funding should be at arms length from the Minister's prerogative. It should be peer reviewed in the way that any kind of research and development is peer reviewed," he said.

"You wouldn't ask the Health Minister to decide which projects should be funded in health research, neither should you ask the Arts Minister to decide which projects should be funded in arts research," Mr Vabre said.

Each capital city held their own dance protest and gained top trending position on Twitter for #FreeTheArts



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BOOK ONLINE

The app for high-rise

Freshwater Place in Southbank continues to lead the way in defining apartment living in Melbourne, with the creation of a free smartphone and tablet app for its residents.

In what is the first of its kind in Victoria, the Freshwater Place Owners' Corporation (OC) established the service last year in response to the growing needs of its residents and issues with short-stay tenants disrespecting the building's common areas.

The building's OC chair Peter Renner said the app was just another example showcasing Freshwater Place's determination to keep up to speed with the constantly evolving nature of apartment living.

"We're constantly trying to stay ahead of the game with technology and provide our residents with the best services possible," he said.

"For us, it is all about the amenity of our residents. The app has been beneficial in improving residents' experience and access to services, enhancing security and fixing issues surrounding short-stay tenants disrespecting our common areas."

The all-you-need-to-know app provides owners and tenants with information on everything from the building's history, management and OC rules to car parking, waste management and even its artwork.

Developed by Facility Management Victoria (FMV) and managed by Freshwater Place building manager Mike Zverina and his team of eight staff, the app's most important and innovative feature is its video induction program for common areas.

In order to gain access to the pool or gym in the building's level 10 common areas, all owners and tenants must watch separate induction videos before completing online forms to acknowledge their understanding of the rules of use.

The forms also require short-stay tenants to provide their length of stay, with all information automatically transferred to the building's management for approval.

Once approved, all residents are issued with entry tags, which are validated for short-stay residents to access the shared facilities only for their length of stay.

While issues concerning individual apartments remain a separate issue, Mr Renner said the initiative had helped eradicate problems relating to short-stay tenants disrespecting any common areas in the building.

He said that, while the app was probably best suited to high-end residential apartments with staff to manage it, he encouraged other apartment buildings to look into adopting the technology.

The Freshwater Place OC has also partnered with an internet provider to offer residents the option to connect to new dedicated high speed fibre-optic internet.

It is currently looking at entering into a similar scheme with an energy provider, which like the internet service would be available to purchase directly through the app.

Mr Renner said by residents purchasing such services directly from building management they could participate in more efficient services at very competitive prices, contributing to the overall living experience.



The Freshwater Place app.



Kevin Neville's two daughters after placing their love locks on the Southbank footbridge in 2013.

Love lock campaign

Southbank resident Kevin Neville has initiated an online campaign in response to the City of Melbourne's decision to remove more than 20,000 locks from the Southbank footbridge.

The 45-year-old father of two launched a Facebook page last month entitled "Love Locks on Southbank Bridge - Save Them, Return Them" to provide an opportunity for the public to share stories and ideas for how the removed locks can be put to use.

It follows a letter Mr Neville sent to Lord Mayor Robert Doyle questioning the City of Melbourne's decision to remove the locks without giving sufficient notice to the public.

He and his two daughters had attached locks to the bridge in September 2013 with engraved messages on them and said he would have appreciated the opportunity to retrieve them.

"Look, in the whole scheme of world affairs it's not a major issue but people put them there and they would have been sentimental to them," he said.

"For someone it might be a memory of a lost one or something like that and not everyone would have had in that two days an opportunity to retrieve them and I thought that just two days notice was pretty rough."

After announcing its decision on Monday, May 18, the City of Melbourne ordered workers to start removing the locks on the following Wednesday.

A spokesperson for the City of Melbourne said the wires were sagging under the weight and causing a safety issue with the barrier rather than any sort of structural problem.

Speaking on radio last month, Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said he was open to ideas on

how the removed locks could be used.

"If anyone has any idea what I can do with 20,000 locks I'd love to hear it - that and the 40,000 keys now at the bottom of the Yarra River," he said.

In his letter to the Lord Mayor, Mr Neville wrote: "When I see my little girls' locks it reminds me to never give up trying to be a part of their lives."

He admitted that, while the locks couldn't go on being attached forever, he said the council could have been more "transparent" for those who wished to retrieve them.

Mr Neville encouraged members of the public to share their personal stories on the Facebook page as well as suggestions for how the locks could be used in creating a new tourist attraction for Melbourne.

"I thought, with there being 20,000 locks removed, which is basically 40,000 people, the council did it pretty swiftly and I guess you could say the love locks didn't have a voice," he said.

"I just created the Facebook page for people to hopefully "like" it and, if they do, we could get enough support and could maybe go to the Lord Mayor with a recommendation."

The City of Melbourne is yet to confirm what it will do with the locks.

To share your thoughts or like the page visit:

www.facebook.com/pages/Love-Locks-on-Southbank-Bridge-Save-Them-Return-Them

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Mama Alto

THE MELBOURNE RECITAL CENTRE'S ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF EXCEPTIONAL 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN SONG WRITING AND ARTISTRY RETURNS TO SOUTHBANK ON JUNE 12 IN WHAT IS SET TO BE ANOTHER SPECIAL OCCASION.

This year's lineup features another brilliant array of local and international artists who will pay homage to the glorious musical standards from Broadway, jazz, soul, cabaret and pop icons of 20th century America.

The festival will open with a bang on June 12 as Johanna Allen takes the stage to celebrate the music of Harold Arlen, before former member of legendary soul outfit The Supremes, Mary Wilson, takes centre stage on June 13.

The festival offers a rare opportunity to get up close and personal with Mary, as the cultural ambassador and iconic entertainer shares stories and songs from the breadth of her celebrated work.

The festival will also feature the subversive and sublime Storm Large, Australian musical theatre stars Michael Falzon and Bobby Fox, jazz master from the Roger Young Collective and more.

However, perhaps one of the most exciting names to feature this year will be closing the festival July 4, as countertenor diva Mama

Alto performs at the Melbourne Recital Centre's Salon Theatre.

Mama Alto is a local transgender and mixed-race singer who has been both captivating and inspiring Australian audiences since bursting onto the scene in 2012.

Drawing on the legacies of many other Songbook legends and from her own identity as a queer person of colour, she said her vocal and visual aesthetic aimed to inspire social change by transcending perceptions of gender and race.

"Hearing a voice that is expected to be or assigned to be feminine coming out of a person or a body that is expected to or assigned to be masculine confronts some people," she said.

"I think that where all of the power in my performances comes from is that I'm unsettling those gender roles that we have to perform in society and it's just by being myself."

This year marks 100 years since the birth of one of Mama Alto's greatest inspirations, Billie Holiday, who was one of the most

influential vocalists to ever interpret the American Songbook.

In what will be Mama Alto's debut at the Melbourne Recital Centre, she said she felt honoured to be able to pay tribute to one of her true heroes.

"When Billie Holiday was singing in the 40s and 50s it was often the first positive and perception altering experience of a black queer woman for a white, middle-class, heterosexual American."

"She wrote songs about the disenfranchised and gender, race and sexuality and those songs were made in the only way that she could find to speak out in a society where she was not very powerful but those songs made her powerful."

"For me now singing those songs that they sung is not just about the pretty songs or about the musical genres or the glamour, glitter or the gowns and fur but it's actually also about that legacy of social agents of change or social storytellers."

For more information and to purchase tickets visit www.melbournerecital.com.au

Richard Bona mesmerises the Malthouse

REVIEW BY SEAN CAR

RARELY CAN ONE LEAVE A MUSICAL PERFORMANCE AND SAY THAT THEY WERE LEFT TRULY ENTERTAINED, SPELLBOUND AND CAPTIVATED BY WHAT THEY SAW.

However, I would like to confidently speak on behalf of every audience member at Southbank's Malthouse Theatre on the second night of the Melbourne International Jazz Festival and say the Richard Bona Quintet achieved just that.

The Cameroonian virtuoso bassist and singer's international quintet served up an exquisite, fun and engaging showcase of jazz-fusion, Afro-Latin and scintillating solo acapella.

And that's not to take anything away from the evening's opening act, Alex and Nilusha, which provided the audience with a more than satisfying musical entrée.

Sri Lankan-born Nilusha Dassenaiké's voice was like nothing you've ever heard come out of a human being.

Her virtuosic vocal abilities were more reminiscent of something one might hear from an instrument, ranging from the most delicate to the most deep and enigmatic tones, which transported the listener to another place.

All of this in tandem with Alex Pertout's intricate percussion and interlaced by spells of impressive jazz instrumental.

What followed was a Richard Bona Quintet performance packed full of surprises and a fixating experience from start to end.

The performance was the ultimate showpiece for crowd engagement, as Bona got the audience involved at every opportunity for sing-alongs and even showed off his musical masterstroke by allowing the audience to provide harmonies.

The result was both atmospheric and moving and one would have been fooled for thinking that the crowd's contribution was a rehearsed part of the show.

While not a performance for the typical jazz purist, it was display that any lover of



Richard Bona entertains the Malthouse audience.

music could appreciate, featuring touches of classical jazz sounds splashed against some crazy bass and rich instrumental and tonal elements.

Having collaborated with the likes of Paul Simon, Harry Belafonte and Richard Benson over the years, moments from all three were also very evident throughout the show.

And even without instruments, Richard Bona was just as entertaining.

As well as wowing the audience by using his voice as an instrument through a loop machine to chant, harmonise and even beat-box, the virtuoso was hilariously funny in his own right.

In between and even during songs, his charismatic and joking demeanor had the audience wrapped around his little finger.

Nothing could reflect this more than when the audience stood united at the end of the set, which led to an encore and individuals



Nilusha Dassenaiké's voice was simply magnificent.



Tatum Greenblatt's stirring trumpet electrified the crowd.

dancing in the aisles.

After the opening night of the Jazz Festival legendary duo Herbie Hancock and Chick Corea blew the audience away at the Melbourne Recital Centre in Southbank and the Richard Bona Quintet ensured the momentum continued.

A guaranteed crowd pleaser for the musical enthusiast - if you haven't experienced the Melbourne International Jazz Festival yet, make sure you're front and centre next year.



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Julia Italian - From the collection Migrant 'Mothers of Australia.'



An image from the collection 'Little People.'



Sevim Ozkan

BY LOUIS BLAKE

SEVIM OZKAN MOVED TO AUSTRALIA IN 2002 AND, AFTER MANY YEARS WORKING IN THE HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM INDUSTRY, WAS DESPERATE FOR A CREATIVE CHANGE.



"I had always been a writer back in Turkey," says Sevim. "But the language was different so my skills didn't really translate." Despite having very little experience of cameras and photography Sevim enrolled at Photography Studies College (PSC) in 2006.

"I wasn't comfortable with the technical side. I just didn't think I had the ability to learn all of that," she said.

Despite these initial reservations, after a tour of PSC's Southbank studio Sevim decided to take the plunge and sign up for the Advanced Diploma in Photography. Sevim remembers that after "two weeks into it I was just fascinated".

Sevim describes her photographic style as "sensitive, sympathetic, beautiful, natural portraiture". When asked what her secret

was to capturing incredible snapshots of human beings, Sevim said it was her ability to connect with people rather than any incredible skill with the camera. "I'm good with people, I'm very interested in them, genuinely interested," she said.

In 2014 Sevim started a project called *Migrant Mothers of Australia*. This is a series of stunning, honest portraits involving over 80 women from diverse ethnic backgrounds. According to Sevim, she "wanted to build this photographic study of a long-forgotten generation."

Her skills have not gone unnoticed. In 2015, Sevim was lucky enough to place second in the portrait category of The Australian Commercial and Media Photographers student photography competition. "It was pretty amazing," she said. "It puts everything

into perspective when you get that formal appreciation from professionals."

Sevim has managed to accomplish all this even while working and looking after two young children.

After providing the tools to turn her from someone with the most basic knowledge of photography to an award winner, Sevim thinks extremely highly of PSC.

"It has been a very special place and provided a lot of support to many so I'm incredibly grateful," she says.

The *Migrant Mothers of Australia* will be exhibited at Queen Victoria Women's Centre in September 2015.

More examples of Sevim's work can be found at www.sevimdogan.com.au

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MSO celebrates Babe's 20th anniversary

BY ALANA BEITZ

THE MELBOURNE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (MSO) IS HOLDING A SPECIAL LIVE CONCERT TO CELEBRATE THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF AUSTRALIA'S FAVORITE SHEEP-PIG BABE.



While the beloved film plays on the big screen, its soundtrack will come alive on stage in a collaborative effort between the MSO and the film's original soundtrack composer Nigel Westlake.

The world premiere screening of Babe: The 20th Anniversary Concert will have just two shows at Hamer Hall on July 11 and 12. Westlake will conduct the MSO in an adaption of the film's original score written especially for the concert hall.

Mr Westlake said he was looking forward to revisiting the film's soundtrack and breathing a new life into the film with the help of the orchestra.

"Having recorded the score all those years ago with members of the MSO, I am delighted to be conducting it live in concert," he said.

"The score has been re-worked especially for this occasion and I honestly can't wait to be joining my friends from the orchestra

on stage to present what we hope to be a thrilling concert event for the whole family."

And even after two decades, Mr Westlake said he thought the story of Babe was still as relevant today as when it was released.

"20 years on, and this tale of an unprejudiced heart looks as fresh as the day it was made. I had forgotten just how quirky, heart-warming, gentle and beautifully crafted this movie is," he said.

The performance will give Babe fans the chance to re-watch the family favourite film in a unique atmosphere and hear the soundtrack recreated by some of the finest musicians in the country.

Westlake and the MSO will also release their first ever recording of the Babe soundtrack, which will be available on CD through ABC Classics.

For more information or to make a booking visit www.mso.com.au

A beginner's guide to ballet

BY BETHANY WILLIAMS

I DON'T REALLY KNOW ALL THAT MUCH ABOUT BALLET.

If you asked me to tell you the difference between a jeté and a plié it's highly likely you'd be met with a blank stare.

And, if I'm completely honest, my minimal ballet knowledge is based on repeated adolescent viewings of the movie *Centre Stage*.

So you might think it a little strange that I'm writing this review of The Australian Ballet's *The Dream*.

But the thing is, *The Dream* proved to be the perfect ballet for a first-timer like me – beautiful music, gorgeous costumes, elegant choreography and a bit of humour – what more could you want?

Opening on June 4 at the Arts Centre, the Australian Ballet presented a triple bill of works by choreographer Frederick Ashton.

The performance opened with two works by Ashton, *Monotones II*, last performed by The Australian Ballet in 1979 and, for the first time, *Symphonic Variations*.

Audiences were then transported into an enchanted forest in the headline performance, *The Dream*, Ashton's take on Shakespeare's comedy *A Midsummer's Night Dream*.

The ballet sees the romantic fates of humans become intertwined with the world of fairies and sprites.

Chengwu Guo shines as Puck, whose mischief at the bidding of the fairy king, Oberon, wreaks havoc on the love lives of the mortals.

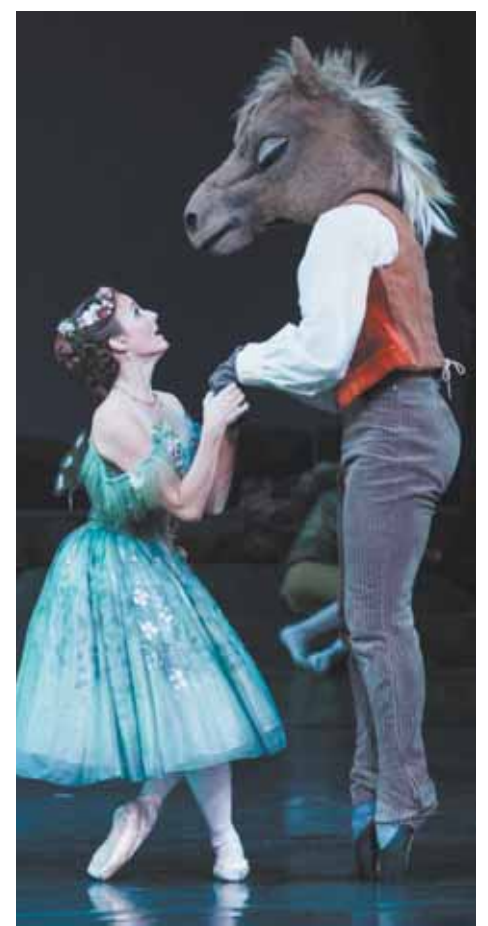
Likewise, Joseph Chapman's Bottom provides comic relief, when his head is replaced with that of a donkey.

While I can't say too much for the technical precision of the cast, I can attest that there were plenty of "ooohs" and "aaahs" from audience members sitting near me, suggesting there was plenty to be impressed with from a technical point of view.

And I can certainly say that it all looked pretty damn amazing to me.

The Dream, a triple-bill of works by choreographer Frederick Ashton is playing at the Arts Centre until June 13.

See www.australianballet.com.au



Fairy Queen Titania dances with Bottom in *The Dream*.

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www.melbournerecital.com.au



NORTH BY NORTHWEST

June 1 - June 20 - Playhouse
 Every twist, every thrill, every hairbreadth escape from Alfred Hitchcock's supreme comedy of suspense is retained for this stunning new stage adaptation from director Simon Phillips and writer Carolyn Burns, starring Matt Day (Muriel's Wedding, Spooks, Rake) in the title role made famous by Cary Grant.
www.mtc.com.au



DAVID HELFGOTT

June 21 - Elisabeth Murdoch Hall
 One of Australia's most-loved musicians, pianist David Helfgott, returns to perform the work which earned him worldwide fame in the Academy Award winning film Shine - Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No.3 in D minor. Helfgott is one of Australia's most prolific and treasured musicians.
www.melbournerecital.com.au



MORE FEMALE PARTS

June 30 - July 4 - Fairfax Studio
 A virtuoso one-woman theatre piece full of humour, heart and wit. Evelyn Krape explodes onto the stage in a highly physical, comic and utterly engaging performance. With director Lois Ellis, she revisits the characters from her headline-making 1980s play Female Parts, now thirty years on.
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GRUG AND THE RAINBOW

July 1 - July 5 - Fairfax Studio
 Based on the much-loved picture book character created by Ted Prior. Grug began his life as the grassy top of a Burrawang tree. Fascinated by the world around him and never short of an adventure, now he's back by popular demand!
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

ROGER YOUNG COLLECTIVE

July 3 - Salon
 As part of the American Songbook Festival, violinist and arranger, Roger Young takes the listener on a voyage which plots the line between jazz and classical chamber music. The program pays tribute to the pioneers of jazz string playing and celebrates some of the great vocal standards.
www.melbournerecital.com.au



MAHLER 4

June 20 and June 22 - Hamer Hall
 Sir Andrew Davis returns for a soulful introspection from one of music's world-weary travellers, Mahler's Symphony No.4. Tempestuous instrumentation and sly wit abound in Prokofiev's Sinfonia Concertante, considered a high point of the composer's last creative years.
www.mso.com.au



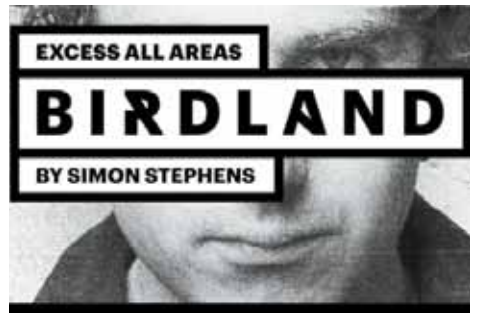
LOVE AND INFORMATION

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



CINDERELLA

June 19 - June 27 - State Theatre
 Witty, vibrant, glamorous and romantic, Alexei Ratmansky's Cinderella will sweep you off your feet. By popular demand, and after sell-out seasons in Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide, this smash-hit crowd-pleaser returns to bewitch us again in an exclusive encore season.
www.australianballet.com.au



BIRDLAND

June 6 - June 27 - Southbank Theatre
 A sexy and revealing exploration of fame, celebrity and stardom in the 21st Century from Simon Stephens, the Olivier Award-winner author of West End hit The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time.
www.mtc.com.au



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Members at the launch on May 16.

Melbourne Business Club launch

More than 50 local business people turned out for the launch of the Melbourne Business Club on Saturday, May 16 at the Langham Hotel in Southbank.

Members were treated to an evening of food, entertainment and presentations from a number of key members and stakeholders in what was an exciting taste of things to come.

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

Members were addressed by a host of key speakers, including Australian aid and parliament project manager at Save the Children Australia and former mayor of Maribyrnong City Council, Sarah Carter.

In his official speech to launch the initiative, the club's executive president Abdullah Altintop said the new multicultural business network would provide exciting opportunities for Melbourne's business community.

For more information or to become a member visit:

www.thebusinessclub.com.au

MCEC serves up another fundraising success

By Alana Beitz

The annual Starlight Five Chefs Dinner was held for a fourth consecutive year at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) on May 21 to raise funds and awareness for Australia's seriously ill children and their families.

More than 550 guests enjoyed an evening of fine food and wine created by some of Melbourne's best chefs, and contributed to the \$393,000 raised to support the Starlight Children's Foundation.

The five featured chefs for the night included George Calombaris (The Press Club), Guy Grossi (Grossi Florentino), Scott Pickett (Estelle and Saint Crispin) Shaun Presland (Saké Restaurant) and Adriano Zumbo (Adriano Zumbo Patisserie).

The guest chefs were hosted and supported by the MCEC's executive chef Tony Panetta, who welcomed them into his kitchen.

"The night's success is the result of a fantastic team effort by everyone involved, both in the kitchen and front of house, and it just gets better every year," Mr Panetta said.

Guy Grossi has been plating up his culinary creations at the Starlight Five Chefs Dinner for the past four years at MCEC, and said he always enjoyed working at the venue with host chef Panetta and his staff.

"I am honoured to play a role in this major fundraiser for Starlight and thoroughly enjoy being part of the team," he said.

Between each course of the five-course meal, the guests heard inspirational stories from Starlight families and took part in a charity auction to raise further funds.

This year's theme for the dinner was "colour their world", to reflect Starlight's efforts to bring colour and happiness into sick children's lives.

Starlight CEO Louise Baxter thanked MCEC for its support during the fundraising effort.

"We are fortunate to have the support of such an amazing venue and a dedicated team at MCEC who help Starlight and our five headline chefs deliver a first-class, fantastic experience for our guests," she said.

The funds raised on the night will go towards the Starlight Foundation's various programs, such as Captain Starlight and the Starlight Express Room.



Captain Starlights with (left to right) Tony Panetta, Scott Pickett, George Calombaris, Shaun Presland, Adriano Zumbo and Guy Grossi.



Southgate Cinema will close over winter.

Southgate cinema to hibernate

Following last month's final screening of "A Most Wanted Man", Southgate Cinema has gone into hibernation over winter.

While its cinema will remain closed until its return in September, Southgate is still serving up plenty of great offers for residents and visitors over the colder months.

Beginning on June 13, Southgate's winter dining adventure *Moveable Feasts* is back for another season, following a well-received launch last year.

The diverse program of Sunday lunches and Monday dinners provides an opportunity to sample unique and world-class cuisines from 13 participating restaurants.

For more information or to book a ticket visit www.southgatemelbourne.com.au



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HEALTH & WELLBEING

with Justin Moran
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Increasing your activity - both body and mind. Use your Southbank community!

As a predominantly Southbank-based business and servicing mainly Southbank apartment gyms and residents, it is very clear to me that many of our clientele don't experience that sense of community belonging that the suburbs can provide.

Some of our clientele feel socially isolated and removed from the openness and friendliness that our suburban counterparts have by residing in streets and having "outdoor neighbours", wide open spaces and community offerings.

In Southbank, a great way to help get you more active with both body and mind is by using the fantastic Boyd Community Hub (located at 207 City Rd).

Boyd offers many opportunities if you are either inactive, feeling isolated, would like to meet new people, expand your friendship group or participate in free classes, which all-in-all stimulate you in ways that you may not have known you could within this wonderful community. And it's only a stone's throw from your apartment door.

We all know the importance of regular exercise, movement, healthy initiatives for the body, mind and soul and by heading out and checking out what is on offer, it could be the catalyst to driving you into other more positive pursuits and, like I outlined in this column last month, assist you with behaviour change and kick-starting a more positive mind in respect to attaining a regular exercise lifestyle.



Some of the opportunities that are available to you at Boyd and many that are free include: Yoga, playgroup, laughter yoga, mums and bubs dance class, boot camp, tai chi, hatha yoga, get fit with physios, zumba and more! There is a library located within and how could I forget the wonderful Kere Kere cafe!

Up until a couple of weeks ago we had been running a free personal training session (pictured) and if we can generate enough interest we soon hope to kick-start a weekly free walking group one morning a week (more if it proves successful and we can get a local business to sponsor it).

These are all ways that can and will have your body, mind and soul stimulated and keeping active rather than feeling isolated within the

confines of our apartment complexes that we reside in.

In these winter months especially, motivation can be low and the cold can keep us feeling confined but getting out and away from home, communicating, smiling, laughing and keeping active has so many positive mental and physical benefits, so I urge you to go and introduce yourself to Boyd, check out their Facebook page for upcoming events and immerse yourself in our wonderful community.

For more information or to express interest in a regular walking group led by one of our fully tertiary/university degree-trained and qualified staff, go to www.justintimept.com or call me directly on 0411 798 934.

PET'S CORNER



Hugo and Roger are all smiles

Hugo and Roger were all smiles during their walk to the Botanic Gardens.

Margie adopted Hugo (left) from the RSPCA as a puppy. When he first came home with Margie he was very shy, but now at four years old he is a very happy and confident dog.

Hugo's favourite thing to do is go for a walk with his best friend Roger (right). Roger belongs to Margie's nephew, but whenever Margie and Hugo go for a walk to the park, they pick up Roger on the way.

Both Hugo and Roger are Maltese-Shih Tzu crosses. Margie thinks that Roger is more Shih Tzu than Maltese because of the black spots on his coat. Roger might be bigger than

Hugo, but he is actually the baby of the pair at 19 months old.

Margie said the two boys were always very excited to go for a walk together, but she had to be careful to keep an eye on them because they were also very cheeky.

"I have to keep a hold of their leads, because otherwise they will try to run away in every direction," she said.

Hugo and Roger make sure they check out all their favourite spots at the Botanic Gardens before they head home again.

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Purposefully mysterious

A few weeks ago I found myself in a dark room dancing with complete strangers and I thought to myself: This is just like Christian worship.

I'm sure stranger things have been thought, but I'm fairly sure I was the only one having that thought in that place at that moment.

I was in East Melbourne for a session of No Lights No Lycra. NLNL is an opportunity for people to come together for about an hour to dance in an environment that is distinct in its mystery.

It's mysterious because there is little to no lighting - meaning you can't really see the people you're dancing with - and talking is to be kept to an absolute minimum. On top of all of that, NLNL gatherings are drug and alcohol free.

That evening in East Melbourne was

absolutely thrilling. Along with everyone else I was able to shed my self-consciousness and strangely and wonderfully revel in dancing in the dark. When the hour was up the music stopped and the crowd of dancers dispersed. We all went on our way, mostly in silence, back to the normality of our lives.

On the face of it there is no obvious connection with Christian worship. But I found myself making the link in the profound mystery of the experience. It was awe-inspiring to be gathered with others participating in something that cast aside my everyday sensibilities. What we were doing was somewhat unnatural, counter-cultural but at the same time incredibly uplifting.

Christian worship dwells in that sphere also. It's a coming together of people in a way that isn't part of your average person's Sunday morning routine anymore. But like a room full of people dancing in the dark, we participate in something that is bigger than ourselves and which can't be done on our own.

We join together in a common understanding that we can put our self-consciousness, our flaws, our failings aside as we allow the divine to work on us, in us and through us. We trust that Jesus is somehow, inexplicably meeting with us to love us, fix us, bless us and grow us closer together as a community.

In a splash of water or a sip of mid-priced fortified wine - things that on the face of it look as dull as a dark room - we believe we are encountering God. It's not something I can explain, nor would I wish to. The mysteries of God have a purpose - they inspire awe because you can't explain them.

These mysteries are available to all. Feel free to pop your head in at St Johns. If you rush off anonymously afterwards, that's okay. But feel free to keep coming back to dance with us, and the divine, in the mystery of Christian worship.

Pastor Tom



OWNERS CORPORATION LAW *With Tom Bacon*

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

Time is important

Owners' Corporations (OCs) need to observe time limitation periods for bringing a building defect claim.

An OC owes a strict duty to repair and maintain its common property, and this duty can be enforced by any member of the relevant OC.

The duty to do so arises whether or not the damage to the common property is brought about from fair wear and tear, defect, storm event or from any other cause.

If an OC suspects that there is damage to common property (or accelerated deterioration) from either:

- Defective workmanship or building practice; or
- Defective design by the builder / developer/ architect

Then the OC should immediately engage an expert engineer to inspect the common property and commission an expert report on the exact cause of the defect and an explanation as to how it should be fixed.

It is well known that an OC has only 10 years from the date of the occupancy certificate to bring a claim for defects of the common property.

What is not as well known is that the time limitation period is reduced to six years in circumstances where the OC becomes aware of the existence of the defect (or is "reasonably" taken to be on notice of the existence of the defect).

If the OC has missed the time period in which to file a claim, then it will have no choice but to fund any repairs itself by raising special levies.

It is not compulsory for a builder to have insurance to cover his workmanship faults if the building was constructed after 2003 and if the building is in excess of three storeys.

Care should also be taken to find out whether the builder's company is still in business. If it has been de-registered, then there will be no utility in bringing a claim. An OC should also investigate whether the builder sub-contracted to an alternative company to complete a particular part of the building, as this will have a bearing on who the OC can chase for rectification.

Earlier this year, the Supreme Court further confirmed a long-held view that an OC

may sue a developer for defects under the Domestic Building Contracts Act, although only in circumstances where the particular contract between the developer and builder makes explicit reference to the nature of the building work to be performed.

This is a complex area of the law and great care should be taken in engaging any expert or in taking any steps to bring a claim. However, it is recommended that an OC ought to be commissioning building-wide reports from around the five-year mark after completion with a view to bringing a claim for any defects against all relevant wrongdoers.

It is very rare that a builder's company would still be registered 10 years after the project is completed, limiting the window of opportunity for an OC to seek redress.

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Sunday Service Times
 9am Traditional worship with communion
 11am Informal worship with communion
 6pm Sunday Night at St Johns
 Informal contemporary worship hosted by Lutheran Students and Friends

11am Sunday School (during school terms)

The chapel is open daily for private prayer and reflection

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EXPERT PROPERTY ADVICE A STONE'S THROW FROM SOUTHBANK

Owner of Residential Property (RP) and Conveyancing Specialists Andrina Hamer is your local property expert.

With more than 10 years experience in conveyancing and 16 in the legal profession, Ms Hamer has operated the licensed South Melbourne-based conveyancing company for the past two years.

While mainly a solo operation, RP Conveyancing continues to grow, which she said was a reflection of providing a friendly, comprehensive and local service for its clients.

"It's been really good and they're all happy and they like to have somebody local, which can be difficult," she said. "The CBD is full of solicitors but it's very saturated so it's always good to have someone local."

"I do have a solicitor who backs me if something does go wrong and we do need that legal advice, I do have a solicitor that we can turn to so we offer that as well as a peace of mind for our clients."

RP Conveyancing specialises in a range of services including purchase and sale of residential and commercial property, subdivisions, off-the-plan purchases and sales, transfers between spouses/domestic

partners, free pre-purchase contract perusals and title insurance.

Located down the road from Southbank at 171 Moray St, Ms Hamer said the business was committed to offering competitive rates while maintaining a personal approach with all of its clients.

"I love this area, it's really vibrant," she said. "You get all different walks of life so it's great you never know who's going to walk through the door or what type of person you're going to get or what they're buying."

"You get your first homeowners down to your most experienced investors and it's great."

Beyond conveyancing, the company's range of recommended partners can assist clients with expert service and advice in everything from property investment, pre-purchase inspections and mortgages, through to refinancing, financial planning, wills and more.

Ms Hamer said it was important to always stay ahead of the game in order to cater for all her client's diverse range of needs.

"The Government is constantly changing its mind so you've got to keep up with the laws changing and first home owners grants," she said.

"With some clients they want you to hold their hand and step their way through it, which we're happy to do. Others just say



Owner of Residential Property (RP) and Conveyancing Specialists Andrina Hamer.

we'll just leave it all to you and call us when it's done so everyone's different, which is great."

"So it's just a matter of understanding everyone's needs and dealing with them as they come up."

As for working just seconds from Southbank, Ms Hamer said it was exciting to be within touching distance to Melbourne's vibrant home of high-rise.

"The shops, the casino, the restaurants, the big buildings! It's close to the CBD without being right in the hustle and bustle of it and it's beautiful along the water," she said.

"And as for all the new buildings it's obviously a popular place to live and it's just out from the city, which is perfect."

For more information visit www.rpconveyancing.com.au



SOUTHBANK RESIDENTS GROUP WITH TONY PENNA

Are you an owner of the apartment where you reside? Or maybe even an investor in Southbank?

Have you ever attended an annual general meeting (AGM), or wondered who makes the decisions for your building?

Well, each development has its own owners' corporation (OC) committee which is made up of owners from the development. These owners help to formulate the building policies and rules, set the budgets and authorise expenditure, amongst many other things. They generally meet about every quarter.

So if you ever wondered who decided the barbecue was no longer necessary, I would start there.

Sadly these committees are often lacking volunteers and, likewise, even attendance at AGMs. There is often not a lot of time required on these committees but, to have a good representation of owners ensures due consideration is given by a number of fellow owners and not just a select few.

Do your building, and in many cases yourself, a favour and become active with how it is operated.

At minimum, at least attend the AGM and voice your thoughts and concerns there but, hey, since you're there, put your hand up

and nominate to be on the committee too.

All owners should be taking a more active role in their buildings. It is easy to identify a building with a good committee! An astute buyer can also see this. So these committees are also contributing to preserving and improving the values of our investments.

On another note, the council budget for 2015/16 will be finalised this month. I will be watching closely to see the benefit/impact it will have on Southbank.

Until next month, enjoy winter!
Tony Penna - President

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Making access to our precinct easier

It's an exciting milestone for marketing of the Yarra River Precinct.

We're all well aware that the digital marketing space is where you have to be these days to really capture attention. In fact, it is often quoted that 60-70 per cent of people seeking information about a destination are doing so through a hand held device, usually a smart phone or iPad. This is probably as high as 80-90% for certain businesses.

The official Yarra River website (www.yarrariver.info) has just been thoroughly revamped to make its information easier to obtain via smartphones. The look of the new website is fresh and vibrant, reflecting the look and vibe of the Yarra River precinct itself. There's interactive mapping to assist

people find businesses and attractions once they are on the ground in our area.

The business association has also recently launched the inaugural Discover Melbourne's Waterfront mini-mag, which is being distributed through Avant Card racks in nearly 500 cafes, bars and restaurants throughout Melbourne's CBD and suburbs.

The 12-page, pocket size publication is chock-full of great mapping and it focuses on some of the most engaging things to do and see in the Yarra River precinct during the cooler weather.

Our user research shows that Southbank has high awareness and conversion-to-sale

among the middle age to older demographic, but its appeal is not nearly as strong among the younger generations. The mini mag is designed to hit a new target market in the places where they are likely to be over the next couple of months.

If you are a member of the business association, you are prominently listed on the website and you are also eligible to tap into our prolific social media campaigning. Members feed through their information about events, special offers, deals, and new products and that message can then be on its way to the many thousands of people following Melbourne's Yarra River Precinct on Facebook and Instagram.

Our March business luncheon at Federation Square was another excellent way to mix with fellow business people and stakeholders of the precinct. The next YRBA business luncheon will be held during July and promises to be another two hours of great networking and information.

If you're not a member of the Yarra River Business Association, you can probably see what you are missing out on, so email exoff@yarrariver.info for an information pack now.

Tim Bracher
Executive Officer of the YRBA

If you could be anywhere in the world right now, where would you rather be and why?



ALEX

I would love to be in Queensland or northern NSW right now, because it would be so much warmer! I love Melbourne, I've been here since 2001, but it's so windy. I am from Columbia originally so I prefer the warmer weather.



ANDREW & KELLY

Andrew: I would go to America and travel Route 66. I've got an old Mustang, so I would love the chance to take it out on that road.

Kelly: I've always wanted to see the pyramids in Egypt ever since I was a little girl, so without question that's where I'd rather be.



MAX

I want to go somewhere with lots of pine trees, I think Seattle has a lot of pine trees. Or somewhere in Scandinavia, like Sweden or Finland.



CAITLIN

I would love to go to Europe. Maybe France or Italy. I've never been before, but I've studied European history and love the culture. Plus, their summer is just starting!



AMY

I would go to Rio de Janeiro, because the beaches are beautiful, the food is great and the people are so much fun. I've been once before and I loved it. I miss the beautiful weather there too.



JOSH

I'd like to be sitting in a park in Japan. This is the time of year that the cherry blossoms are starting to come out. I travelled all over Japan at about this time last year, and I would love to go back and do it again.



Behind every great lord mayor, there's . . .

By Shane Scanlan

Susan Riley's remarkable career as deputy lord mayor is a by-product of being driven to succeed.

Cr Riley says she never asked for the role but successive lord mayors John So and Robert Doyle have both enlisted her services.

She says she never imagined herself in the role nor aspired towards it. These qualities make her an ideal lieutenant. Loyal, trusted, down to earth and capable, she manages the internal relationships, which allows the Lord Mayor to shine.

"I've never considered myself to be ambitious, but I'm definitely a driven woman," she said.

Cr Riley is the eldest of five children, born into an inner city working class family. Leaving school at 15, she had already had a grounding in small-business accounting through working in a family cake shop.

It wasn't long before she had learned everything there was to know about publishing via myriad roles at Syme Community Newspapers in the 1980s. It wasn't too much longer before she started publishing for herself, starting her own commuter magazine as well as successful mastheads in St Kilda Rd and the CBD.

The business had taken a hit around the time that lord mayoral hopeful John So approached her to run as his deputy in 2001.

"At the time I didn't think it possible that Melbourne would elect a Chinese lord mayor and an unknown publisher," Cr Riley said.

When John So first approached her, Cr Riley saw an opportunity to sell magazine advertising to him.

"He said, you can have as much advertising as you want, but that's not why you are here," she recalled. "He said do you want to think about it? I was walking back to the car park and I thought 'what an opportunity'. I didn't even ring my husband. I rang him back and said John if you think that you and I can do this, then I will say yes."

She freely admits that she had no idea about council when she was first elected and had to learn "on the job".

"There was no job description for a deputy lord mayor we literally made it up as we went along," she said.

Cr Riley said her business suffered though, and she decided not to contest a second term.

Four years later, she was approached again to run as deputy - this time by Robert Doyle, whom she had never met.

"It was the 11th hour when Robert rang up one day and said 'I'm looking for a deputy, are you interested?' So I said: 'can we meet? I know who you are, but can we meet?'" she said.

"So we met and at the end of the discussion he said 'I think we'll be fine.'"

He said 'who do you barrack for in the football' and I said Geelong. He said 'high five, we'll be fine.' So, we're both Geelong people and that was the start of the relationship," she said.



Melbourne has now had four terms of popularly-elected lord mayor and deputy and Cr Riley has been in office for three of them. Drawing on the lessons she learned during her first stint, she says she was able to help Robert Doyle make the transition from state politics to local government.

"In local government there's no power as such. There are 11 councillors and that power has to come as a united force," she said.

She says one of her major roles as deputy lord mayor has been to make sure the councillors stay together. She rings them all every week to sound them out on issues and policies and then reports to the Lord Mayor.

"These are their thoughts. We need to go around them or we need to go with them," she said.

Cr Riley says she complements the lord mayor because she reads everything, meets everyone and is across the issues and potential issues.

"I could never, ever do what he does as the lord mayor. I think he has been a remarkable lord mayor. But he could never do what I do either," she said.

"That's why we work so well as a team. I can alert him to an issue that is growing and he can advise me on how to handle it. The trust that comes with that is something that you have to build and earn, remembering that six years ago we were total strangers."

Cr Riley says the current council is the best she's been associated with. She says its diversity and balance is the envy of surrounding municipalities.

"I think the way we work as a team is incredible. I know we're admired by other councils around us because they have a lot of in-house fighting, but we just don't have it. And I put it down to the fact that my door is always open and the councillors come in. I'm a good listener and you do need to listen," she said.

Her passions are small business and involving women in what happens at the town hall.

"My thought was how do I bring women into council? How do I bring the business women into this building and make them feel welcome?"

Since then, she says she has built a women's business network of 500 and has helped build Melbourne Spring Fashion, the Lord Mayor's Commendation Awards and the Melbourne Awards.

"The things that were really small acorns back in that first term have become a really big part of what council can offer. It's nice to make a small difference," she said.

"There is a job satisfaction here that I have had with publishing but you get to a level and think what more could I achieve? Being in council has given me that extra goal."

"I can't get out of bed in the morning without writing myself a mental list about what I want to achieve in the day."



In next month's Councillor Profile we look at:
Cr Robert Doyle

Inspiring change through storytelling

Local Southbank filmmaker Omrane Khuder said he had always aimed to tell stories, which inspire regular people to do exceptional things.

And the Dorcas St resident has made a habit out of doing just that, with an extraordinary catalogue of short-films, which focus on stories about ordinary people facing extremely extraordinary situations.

He said for as long as he could remember he had always wanted to combine his passion for making films and helping people.

“I didn’t know which career to decide on, whether to go with the philanthropy or film so I decided to just combine them both especially with my short films,” he said.

“Feature films are going to have that aspect as well, more so short films because they’re short and sweet and they can basically tie into any kind of event.”

Omrane’s passion for helping shed light on a range of important issues has certainly snowballed, as he revealed to *Southbank Local News* that he was currently working on a staggering 18 projects.

Some of his most recent work has included *Heed*, a short film dedicated to Cancer Council Victoria, which is currently being transformed into a TV show by an Australian broadcaster and *I Used To Exist*, a short film dedicated to Angel’s Hope Global Kids and their mission to create awareness of the effects of bullying.

Perhaps his most major project to date, *Antiquated Kilter*, another short film dedicated to Victorian Aged Care Services and caring for the elderly, received a letter of acknowledgment from the Victorian Premier and positive reviews in the United States.

He said his success in providing inspiration through storytelling was something everyone could relate to and benefit from.

“I think that’s where the gold is,” he said. “I think people like having their story told.”

“I think when people watch a film and look at the characters to identify with a particular character, for me they either want to be the character or they are that character.”

“I aim to entertain and inspire, personally I find it a better thought for someone to come up to me and tap me on the shoulder and say hey I watched your film – it gave me real options, good options, tangible options.”



The issues he is looking to tackle next in his huge workload include both short and feature films about same-sex marriage and equality, dementia, youth empowerment, children of divorce, homelessness, depression and bullying.

Working with many admired Australian independent film notables, he said he and his collaborators were constantly striving to shed light on the important issues.

“These are real issues that we read about everyday that we see everyday that affect our family members and our community,” he said.

“These are things that I want to bring to light because things like family values or caring for the elderly are things we should be talking about.”

With all money raised from event screenings going back to the relevant cause, Omrane is changing the world one movie at a time.

He said he loved working with the organisations and people who dedicate their lives to these causes.

“I love working with these guys because I love them and what they do,” he said. “In fact I find myself quite jealous of them

sometimes because I wish I could do that – they’re all volunteers out there.”

“If I could afford to be a volunteer I would. I do this film stuff in my spare time and I fund it all myself all through crowd funding campaigns so a lot of what I do is community driven and is backed by the community.”

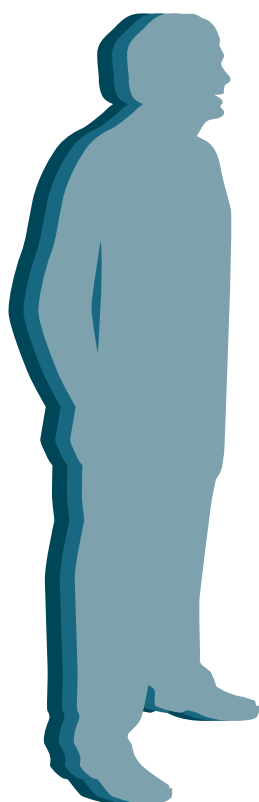
Despite being born and raised in Sydney, the now two-year Southbank resident said he could never imagine leaving.

He said being able to ply his trade in the home of art and culture and in amongst a community that has embraced his passion was simply too good to ever leave behind.

“I absolutely love it and I wouldn’t want to live anywhere else to tell you the truth,” he said.

“I always thought that where I grew up in Sydney was great and I’m a rugby league boy and I can only talk to a few people here about rugby league and it breaks my heart!”

“But I don’t think I could ever leave, I love Southbank and South Melbourne. The people here are just so creative and open minded and welcoming of any and all types of ideas and feelings and art.”



SOUTHBANKER

Profile by
Sean Car





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WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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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



WEDNESDAY JULY 2 @ BOYD

BOYD PLAY DAY

Dress up in your favourite costume and come along for a free morning of art, craft, songs, play and talk! The event will also feature a recycled arts and crafts workshop.

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



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

WEDNESDAYS JUNE 10 AND JULY 8

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



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.

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



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.

THIRD SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH DADS PLAYGROUP @ BOYD

Are you a dad living within the bounds of the City of Melbourne? Here's something just for you. Dads are invited to bring their preschool child(ren) along. Bookings:
kirsty.bates-webb@melbourne.vic.gov.au

SATURDAY JULY 4

PLAYGROUP @ BOYD

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

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Contact Chad Tawhi on 0456 222 456 or chad@evolverealestate.com.au



April 2015- A commercial review

A Commercial Market Update report for April 2015 looks at the level of offshore investment during Q1 2015. The report revealed that the total value of offshore investment into commercial property surpassed \$1 billion during the quarter, a 58% increase on Q1 2014.

The two key drivers attracting foreign buyers to Australian commercial property are;

1. The highly attractive yields on offer across all property sectors.
2. The low sovereign risk, transparent market and steady economy that Australia provides.

Key Findings

- Commercial property sales to offshore buyers were worth more than \$1 billion in Q1 2015.
- Office assets accounted for just over \$900 million.
- Chinese developers continue to ramp up acquisition activity.
- Chinese buyers made up 44% of offshore sales transactions in Q1 2015.

Welcome Matthew!

Matthew Townsend is a new member of the Evolve Real Estate team, predominantly focusing his energy in and around Southbank.

He's a Melbourne native, with a competitive sporting, sales and business background, having made the transition from property management into the residential sales arena.

The advantages of being able to think strategically and having a sharp eye for detail makes it easy for Matt to plan, develop and execute a campaign for your property that will deliver you the very best result, in any market.

His experience in negotiation makes him a great man to have on your team when securing a deal. Matt will deliver you a streamlined approach and keep you fully informed whilst ensuring you a stress free experience from start to finish.



Contact Matthew today for any sales enquiries on: 0400 877 948 or matt@evolverealestate.com.au

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