The voice of Southbank

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Short-stays are here to stay

Southbank short-stay apartment operators breathed a sigh of relief last month, when the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) found owners' corporation (OC) rules prohibiting the practice were invalid.

VCAT member Linda Rowland on June 29 found that the OC of the Watergate building in Docklands did not have the power to make a rule prohibiting stays of less than 30 days.

The VCAT decision paves the way for short-stay operators throughout the state as it means OCs can't make rules preventing short-term letting.

"The decision now effectively means that owners' corporations do not have the power to make rules that prohibit short-term letting in residential buildings," Strata Title Lawyers CEO and Watergate OC solicitor Tom Bacon said.

"The decision impacts on all owners' corporations throughout Victoria and affects all rules of this type made under either the 1988 or 2006 legislation," Mr Bacon said.

With the ruling set to have widespread ramifications on apartment buildings throughout Southbank, Freshwater Place OC chair Peter Renner said the committee had noted the decision with interest.

"Short-stays have been a contentious issue at Freshwater Place, but the committee recognised owners' rights in the use of their properties," he said.

"We have adopted processes, which have encouraged co-operation between our

building management and short-stay operators to ensure guests respect our amenities, and that they understand that owners and occupants are entitled to quiet enjoyment of their facilities."

"Nevertheless, we await the findings of the government appointed panel and we would welcome any changes, which more appropriately distinguish between residential and hotel accommodation."

The ruling goes against last year's landmark decision relating to 38 Wells St, Southbank when VCAT ruled that a short-stay operator had breached OC rules and must stop operating as a serviced apartment business at the building.

The Watergate OC is yet to decide whether it will appeal the decision at the Supreme Court.

OC chair Rus Littleson said the committee was disappointed by the decision and said it favoured opportunists in the short-stay industry.

"We are most concerned that apartment property values throughout the state will suffer because of this decision. It is effectively an open invitation to opportunists to exploit legal loopholes," Mr Littleson said.

Continued on page 2.



Boyd turns three

Staff at the Boyd Community Hub gathered to celebrate the centre's third birthday on Tuesday July 7.

In the three years since it opened, the centre has established itself as the heart and soul of the Southbank community – an achievement truly worth celebrating.

And the Boyd staff, including new community animator Rachael Cilauro (fifth from right at the back), did just that by providing some delicious cakes, live music and other activities for locals to enjoy.

Southbank Local News wishes the Boyd Community Hub a very happy birthday and says thank you for another wonderful year in Southbank!

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Short stays are here to stay

Continued from page 1.

"The short-stay industry is unregulated – any outfit can start up, hold an apartment building to ransom and damage its reputation. The State Government needs to make changes to look after residents and their investments."

The Building Appeals Board, the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals and VCAT, have now all tested the issue of short-term letting of apartments in the Watergate building.

Having been tested across a range of courts and tribunals, it now appears that the only other option would be the introduction of new legislation by the State Government.

In February, Consumer Affairs Minister Jane Garret appointed a panel to look at the impact of short-stay accommodation in residential buildings and make recommendations to herself and Planning Minister Richard Wynne.

The seven-member panel, which includes Watergate short-stay operator and president of the Victorian Accommodation Industry Association, Paul Salter, has now made its recommendation and the ministers are expected to announce their decision this month.

Mr Salter said he was looking forward to the decision now that the panel had completed its joint submission and applauded the decision of VCAT member Rowland.

"I would like to thank VCAT Member Ms Linda Rowland for making her decision based on the relevant laws, she indicated she would take this approach at the end of the hearing in May," Mr Salter said.

"Her decision will enhance the fabric of the Melbourne community by enabling greater accommodation choice for consumers and it will further help to secure the city as one of the most liveable in the world, attracting both local and overseas visitors."

The VCAT decision follows action taken against nine lot owners by the Watergate OC. The OC alleged owners had breached OC rules through the use of their apartments as short-stay accommodation as part of Mr Salter's Docklands Executive Apartments business.

In her written decision, published on June 29, Ms Rowlands said she proposed to dismiss the Watergate OC's application and make final orders at a hearing on July 29.

Man found dead

Police are investigating the circumstances surrounding the death of a man in Southbank on July 5.

Officers were called to a hotel room on the eight floor of the Crown Metropol Hotel on Whiteman St at about 2.40am where they found a man with a laceration to his neck

The man died at the scene and the circumstances surrounding his death are yet to be established but homicide squad detectives are treating the incident as suspicious.

The man is yet to be formally identified by police but is believed to be in his 30s.

Police said there was no evidence to suggest that the attack was a result of a domestic dispute or related to drugs or gang activity and that they were hunting several suspects as part of the investigation.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or visit www.crimestoppers.com.au



Crown Metropol on Whiteman St, Southbank.



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Southbank an economic superstar

A major report from PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) last month reinforced what we Southbankers know, but is little understood or appreciated by outsiders – that we are punching well above our weight when it comes to driving the national economy.

The *Understanding the Economy From the Ground Up* report shows that the Australian economy grew 46 per cent (\$461 billion) between 2001 and 2014 and that the best performer during that time was Melbourne CBD – which includes Southbank and Docklands.

Melbourne CBD contributed \$24.4 billion and grew 76 per cent during the 13-year period – more than Sydney CBD and more than the best Western Australian mining regions of Ashburton and East Pilbara.

The Sydney CBD economy grew 37 per cent during the same period, with the report authors pointing out that its potential growth, unlike Melbourne's, is geographically constrained.

The report shows a growing national reliance on a handful of standout local performers

such as Southbank.

PwC looked at the "granular" modelling of more than 2000 locations across Australia to uncover how fragmented and concentrated our economy is, PwC economic director Rob Tyson said on June 25.

"This information provides a huge opportunity for business and government to tailor investment strategies to local nuances," Mr Tyson said while releasing the geospatial economic modelling (GEM) on each region.

The report found that economic development is concentrated in just a few locations, with nearly one in five dollars of Australia's national income coming from just 10 locations (out of 2214 locations)

"This implies that there are a very small handful of locations that really matter to the Australian economy," the report said. "There are a very large number of locations in Australia that, from an economic perspective, matter very little."

"A key trend, masked during the recent resource booms, has been the role that CBDs and concentrations of high value add urban economic cluster have played in driving this trend."

"While the spotlight has been on the Pilbara and the phenomenal growth of economic activity generated from these resource deposits, it has actually been these urban areas which have been steadily generating a larger share of economic output."

"This has driven the bulk of this change and is also the most important factor as we move beyond the mining boom."

The report pointed out that, despite national growth, one in three locations went

backwards during the study period.

And, while this is not so important from a national perspective, it highlights a growing gap between economic winners and losers.

"Fewer key locations will be relied upon to drive an increasingly large share of economic growth. From an economic point of view, this implies we should potentially be less worried about the fact that one in three locations are contracting," the report says

"However, from a social and equity point of view this creates unique challenges and potential conflicts between economic and social policy and investment imperatives."

The regions where economic activity is going backwards include Churchill (-21 per cent) and Moe (-20 per cent) in the LaTrobe Valley.

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Sturt St 'shocker' rejected

Planning Minister Richard Wynne has rejected a controversial 46-storey application for 248 Sturt St in Southbank.

The proposal for a 123-metre tower came under fire from City of Melbourne councillors at the Future Melbourne Committee on October 7 last year, with planning chair Cr Ken Ong labeling it a "shocker".

The \$80 million proposal was designed by Elenberg-Fraser and submitted by developer Hudson Conway, which is owned by racing identity Lloyd Williams.

In what was only his second rejection as planning minister, Mr Wynne denied a building permit based on the virtue of the tower's design, excessive height and lack of appropriate setbacks.

A spokesperson for the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) described the proposal as "overwhelming" and said it failed to provide a satisfactory level of amenity for apartments.

"Overall, from a built perspective, the proposal is an overdevelopment of the site that will overwhelm the existing streetscape and impact upon the development potential of adjoining site," the spokesperson said.

"Furthermore, it will unreasonably overshadow the Sturt St reserve, provides poor internal amenity and does not respond to the preferred built form for this area as outlined by the Melbourne Planning

"On the basis of the built form, internal amenity and the detrimental impact on the public realm, the proposal is not supported."

The "saddle back" design of the building's one and two-bedroom apartments came under particular scrutiny by the planning minister's urban design officers.

They found some bedrooms only had access to natural light via a window positioned at

the end of a corridor while others only had borrowed light from a deeply inset balcony

The developer's attempt to build right up to the site's boundary was also heavily scrutinised by DEWLP officers.

City of Melbourne councillors had unanimously opposed the proposal based on a report conducted by council planning officers, which described the tower as "overwhelming dominant and intimidating."

Cr Ken Ong had described the 25,190 sqm proposal as a desperate attempt by the developer to bypass the City of Melbourne's authority to adjudicate applications up to 25,000 sqm.

"I don't know whether it's the developer or it's the architect that's been pushing this sort of boundary to squeeze in as much as possible to get it over 25,000 sqm, ignore everyone and anyone living nearby," he said.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle had also voiced his strong opposition to the proposal, stating that it was difficult to find a criterion that the building succeeded in.

"Height, massing, scale, internal configuration, sustainability, the amenity of the Arts Precinct, that the building should address the street, the overshadowing provisions and not least the aesthetic,"

"It fails miserably on all of those and I think it should be rejected vigorously."

Developer Lloyd Williams was reported to have told $\mathit{The}\,\mathit{Age}\,\mathit{via}$ text message from Europe that it was "bad luck" that the building had not been approved and stated he would "look forward elsewhere in our great city Melbourne."



The rejected proposal for 248-250 Sturt St in Southbank.

Nominations are open

Small businesses in the City of Melbourne are invited to apply for the 2015 Business 3000+ Awards, which recognise and celebrate their endeavours and achievements.

Nominations are open now, and close on August 31.

Some 47 Melbourne-based businesses have won the awards in the past 11 years, and this has led to increased exposure of their businesses and further recognition from Melbourne's business community. 43 of these recipients have grown their businesses since winning their awards.

Melbourne businesses are eligible for a number of other awards and recognitions, including the Melbourne Awards and the Lord Mayor's Commendations.

The Business 3000+ Awards focus on services-based small businesses including, but not limited to, finance, legal and IT.

Awards organiser John Stock says that the beauty of these awards is "the small business stories they uncover in our city".

Nominations are sought from small businesses located within the City of Melbourne that contribute to the commercial success and unique, vibrant fabric of the city.

Businesses that operate their head office, an office, branch, shop or outlet within the City of Melbourne municipal boundaries, and have no more than 30 full-time employees are eligible to enter.

There are five categories in which businesses can self-nominate, or if you know a small business that fits the bill, you can nominate them via the website www.b3000.org.au



A small town proposed for Southbank

A six-tower proposal has been submitted to Planning Minister Richard Wynne for Southbank's largest undeveloped site at 93-119 Kavanagh St.

The two-hectare MCG-sized car park, which is located in the heart of Southbank, was purchased for a record \$145 million last year by Malaysian developer PJ Development Holdings.

Designed by Cox Architecture, the \$1.5 billion proposal includes four residential towers comprising 2610 apartments, a 621-room hotel and a 37-storey strata office tower.

The buildings range from 37 to 65 levels, with the tallest being a 226-metre residential tower.

The designs also place a strong emphasis on addressing community amenity, with plans for a gym, childcare centre and 3525 sqm of public open space.

The proposal also outlines plans for a twolevel basement development beneath the main open space for a food court, shops and a supermarket, which will be partly covered by a raised amphitheatre garden bed.



A visual render of the proposed development of 93-119 Kavanagh St in Southbank.

If approved, PJ Development Holdings reportedly expects to start work as soon as building permits are issued, which could be as soon as later this year.

Southbank Residents Group (SRG) president Tony Penna said he was pleased with the developer's community-orientated proposal. "Owing to the size of this block and its central location within Southbank, there is an amazing opportunity for something really special for Southbank," he said.

"The master plan is somewhat exciting and seems to consider many needs within our lacking community – especially open space."

However, he said that while he was looking forward to seeing the site developed as soon as possible, he still held concerns regarding the proposal's apartment designs.

"I have reservations about the size of the towers and the number of apartments," he said. "The developer seems to have forgotten they are in a 100m, albeit discretionary, height limit."

"I have not seen a single three-bedroom apartment on the plans. How can we encourage families to be part of our landscape if apartments of appropriate size are not offered?"

"Overall, it great to see that this dust-bowl might actually begin development in the not too distant future, but let there be more discussion to get it right."

Neither PJ Development Holdings nor Cox Architecture provided comment when contacted by *Southbank Local News*.

Developer contributions overhauled

A new simpler, fairer development contributions system will come into operation early next year, according to the Minister for Planning, Richard Wynne.

Mr Wynne introduced the Planning and Environment Amendment (Infrastructure Contributions) Bill to parliament last month, which will replace what he described as the "inefficient" contributions system that had been in place since 2005.

He said further details around levy rates and indexation mechanisms were under discussion with councils and the property industry.

"Overhauling developer contributions is an important step in simplifying Victoria's planning system and will give more certainty to developers and councils," Mr Wynne said. "The existing contributions system had become a barrier for urban development in Victoria. The system was unclear, lacked transparency and was an unnecessary burden."

"These reforms, shaped through extensive consultation, have been long called for by local government as well as the planning and development industries."

The news comes after City of Melbourne councillors endorsed Planning Scheme Amendment C209 in May which, if approved by the planning minister, would require developers to provide either land or money for new local projects.

The new Bill is based on the recommendations of the Standard Development Contributions Advisory Committee, which was established by the previous state government in 2012.

Mr Wynne said the committee recommended that development contributions reform achieve more standardised levies to provide developers, councils and the government with greater clarity at the outset of the development process.

He said the new laws would help ensure the implementation of a more streamlined approval process. "Development contributions help to fund roads, parks, sports and community facilities," Mr Wynne said. "A more efficient system means faster development approvals and less red tape."

"As our cities grow, development contributions will help fund essential infrastructure."

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning will now work with an implementation reference group to finalise details such as levy rates, indexation mechanisms and application criteria before the new system starts next year.

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From left: Campbell Walker, Michael Ibbott, Matthew Reid and Michael Aladjem

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Council listens to its people's panel

City of Melbourne councillors unanimously endorsed the recommendations of the People's Panel at its council meeting on June 30, as it adopted its 10-year financial plan and asset management strategy.

As part of the process of developing the plan, the City of Melbourne last year engaged a People's Panel of 43 demographically selected residents and business owners from across the municipality to have their say on spending and revenue priorities for the next decade.

The panel had made recommendations in its report to the City of Melbourne to increase rates, sell assets, borrow money, spend more on "green initiatives", maintain community services and cut capital works spending.

Chair of finance and governance Cr Stephen Mayne said the 10-year financial plan had taken on board the vast majority of recommendations made by the citizen's jury.

"We spent time with the panel over six sessions in August and September last year to provide them with a solid understanding of council operations, challenges and needs," he said

"We encouraged them to think broadly about what they wanted Melbourne to look like by 2025."

"They took into consideration that a changing climate, technological advances, a growing city economy and an evolving demographic would alter the needs of our city and provide



The People's Panel meets last year to assist the City of Melbourne devise its 10 year economic strategy.

new ways of doing business."

"The panel came back to us with 11 key recommendations and I'm proud that our plan aligns with the majority of these."

While it agreed to borrow more money, council has chosen not to increase rates by CPI plus up to 2.5 per cent for the next 10 years due to State Government plans to introduce a rates capping policy for all

Victorian councils.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said the 10-year plan would deliver on council's vision for growth, prosperity and liveability.

"Melbourne is Australia's fastest growing city, with daily users of the city expected to increase by 23 per cent by 2024," he said.

"We need to be agile enough to make the most of the opportunities this growth will bring. We will need to do things smarter and more efficiently."

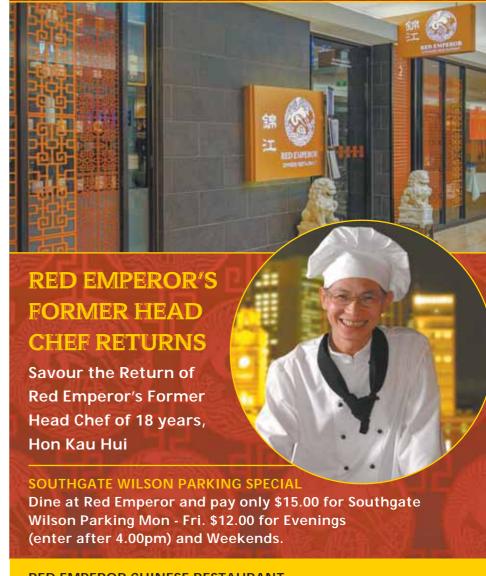
"This plan will secure our competitive advantage as a top global city and as a premier location for business and knowledge."

As well as adopting its 2015-16 budget, council also announced that consultation was now underway until July 22 for the asset management strategy.

The Lord Mayor said the strategy was developed to assess and monitor existing council assets to ensure they perform at their peak while also planning for future city assets.

The community is invited to comment on the draft asset management strategy online at **www.melbourne.vic.gov.au**





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10 years of Freshwater living

Feature by Sean Car

As Freshwater Place approaches its 10-year anniversary this month, Southbank Local News caught up with the building's first ever resident Irene Ward to reflect on her time living at one of Southbank's most prominent residential towers.

July 15 marks 10 years since Irene and her late husband Maurice moved into Freshwater Place in 2005 and she explained that, back then, things were very different.

"Of course there was nobody here," she said. "We came in and I thought I wonder if I can hear the lifts because they're just behind the wall and when I didn't hear the lifts I was

"Then I thought, silly me there's nobody else using the lifts!"

"We would go up on level 10 and sit in the little arm chairs that they used to have up there and watch people come by. As the new people came in they'd walk past and we'd get to know them and just gradually made a lot

Having moved from a large property in Forest Hill, Irene told Southbank Local News that the decision to downsize 10 years ago had not been an easy one.

"We wanted to downsize but the downsizing was a bit of an adjustment going from three or four bedrooms and a quarter acre block and housing all of the family cars and so forth, so this was a downsize and a half!" she said.

However, after exploring Melbourne for the best options, she said she and her husband immediately fell in love with Freshwater

According to Irene, Maurice, who sadly passed away in 2012, didn't waste any time in getting involved with the Freshwater Place owners' corporation.

Having made a career as an engineer, she said he had quickly developed a strong interest in understanding everything about the building, which made him a wonderful asset to the committee.

"He was on the committee from the very beginning and he loved it," she said.

"He was a hands on man and when we first moved in he would befriend the builders and



Freshwater Place's first ever resident Irene Ward in her apartment.

they would take him up to the floors before they were building and he would see all of the bits and pieces and come back and tell me all about it."

"He loved it and it gave him something to do in retirement because we'd stopped travelling by then and so this place became his baby."

Through Maurice's involvement with the building's committee, Irene said she had formed many great friendships with other residents over the years.

She said the committee had been very active in driving a sense of community within the

"There are your neighbours and then there are the people who go to the coffee afternoons or the dinner where once a month we'll go to a different restaurant somewhere."

"I didn't always go but I just found that the people were so nice and my husband was on the committee for a while so that gave me an insight into another block of people."

"You just got to know people from all walks of life and just get on neighbourly, which is

According to Irene, what set Freshwater Place apart from other residential high-rise buildings in Melbourne was its "forward thinking and dedicated" committee.

Spearheaded by the likes of chair Peter Renner and former Southbank Residents Group president Michael Smolders, she said the progressive approach of the committee had always helped to make high-rise living

"I think we have a very good committee and I think that they have looked ahead and made sure that we had funds we could use to put back into improving the building," she said.

"The committee is all for the people in the building. You don't get 100 per cent of people interested. Those who don't want to be interested don't need to be and I don't think we have any complaints at all."

While she now lives alone, Irene said she was still enjoying the clean and peaceful nature of living in her apartment.

10 years on, she said she didn't have a single regret about moving to Freshwater Place and whole-heartedly recommended her lifestyle

"I can't believe it's 10 years! I'm still enjoying living here," she said. "It's allowed me to experience more of the city without being too close to traffic."

"My apartment is easy to clean, air conditioned, sound proof and safe. My family allow me my independence and I visit them regularly."

"I would recommend my city lifestyle to like-minded retirees who wish to mix with all ages and backgrounds who are proud to be a part of the high-rise culture."

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New footbridge decking 'too loud'

The City of Melbourne has received noise complaints about the new decking on the Southbank pedestrian bridge.

It comes after the bridge was reopened to the public on June 15 following a two-week period of upgrade works, with a sum of \$150,000 allocated to the project in the council's 2015-16 budget.

Ponyfish Island bar manager Thomas Auer said patrons had commented to his staff daily on the noisy new decking and said he was surprised the City of Melbourne hadn't addressed the problem sooner.

"When we came in we didn't expect it to be this loud because they had done a lot of planning prior to it so we figured they would have planned ahead for that," he said.

"We have had a lot of comments from customers asking about the noise especially previous customers that have noticed the difference."

While the bridge's closure meant two weeks without business for Ponyfish Island, Mr Auer said management was continuing to work with the City of Melbourne to resolve the issue.

"We were closed for that period but we were okay being closed over winter because it gave us time to get everything ready for summer."

"Our project co-ordinator has been dealing with it because customers have been

commenting and even people who use the bridge everyday have commented."

Southbank Residents Group President Tony Penna said many residents had raised the issue with him and that he would address the matter at council.

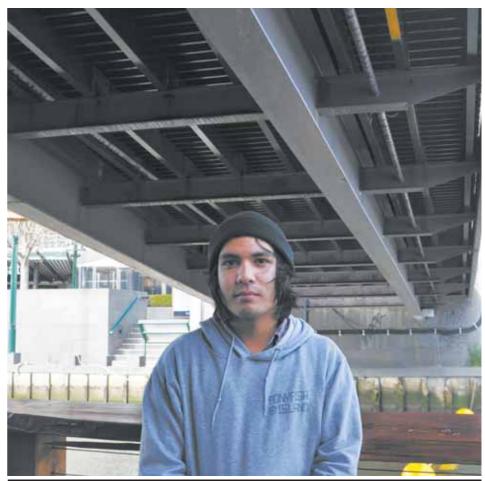
"I appreciate that the bridge needed to be renovated because it was creating trip hazards, however the noise is deafening,"

"It is an unfortunate situation as the vibrations from the new decking would have been hard to envisage but I do think a bit more thought and planning could have gone into it."

"I look forward to inviting the Lord Mayor to come walk across the bridge and hear the noise for himself."

A spokesperson for the City of Melbourne said council was aware of the problem and that it would be addressed accordingly.

"The re-decking work on Southbank Pedestrian Bridge is now complete. We are aware the new decking is louder than previously and, as with any major installation or infrastructure some minor adjustments will be made," the spokesperson said.



Ponyfish Island bar manager Thomas Auer said the noise from the bridge's new decking was upsetting his customers.



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Forum a success

More than 50 local residents and workers attended the Riverside Quay Place renewal forum at the Malthouse Theatre on Wednesday, June 17.

The City of Melbourne in conjunction with developer Mirvac, hosted the event in order to work with locals to form a vision for the public open space.

Yarra River Business Association executive officer Tim Bracher attended the forum and said the project provided a great opportunity for Southbank.

"The redevelopment of Riverside Quay provides a great opportunity to create a more intimate, softer and potentially greener public space in the heart of the precinct, which can be enjoyed by workers and residents," he said.

"Activation of the ground levels of the buildings facing the park and the laneways in between will enliven it and provide greater security. What we don't want is a repeat of Queensbridge Square."

Southbank Residents Group president Tony Penna praised organisers for engaging with the local community.

"It was good to see a good number of residents from the immediate vicinity of the development provide feedback and ideas in the public consultation," he said.

"This project is a great opportunity for a functional space to enhance the area and bring together the broad diaspora of people who are likely to utilise this space."

"We will continue to work with all stakeholders to try to get the best outcome for Southbank and its residents."

The findings and feedback from the consultation and initial research will help form the Riverside Quay draft master plan.

Both the City of Melbourne and Mirvac declined to comment on the public consultation when contacted by *Southbank Local News*.

For more information visit www.riversidequayplacerenewal.com



Outgoing president Wendy Bennett hands over the reigns to new president Stuart McArthur.

Stuart to lead Southbank Rotary

Long-time member Stuart McArthur has been elected as Southbank Rotary's new president.

More than 50 members and distinguished guests attended the president-elect's inauguration ceremony at Feddish restaurant at Federation Square on June 30.

Having served the club for 12 years, Stuart takes over the role from outgoing president Wendy Bennett.

However, he explained that, while this would be his first time officially serving as president, he had already gained some experience in the top job having stepped in temporarily last year.

"We had a situation last year where our president-elect decided that he was moving to London so I actually stepped up to be president last year but it was only temporary," he said.

"So I didn't become president but I had a taste of it. I'm finally ready to go this time!"

As president, Stuart said one of his biggest challenges would be completing a project,

which was established in the wake of the Bali bombings in 2002.

He said the club would also continue to address community activation in Southbank and work with partners Hanover and Steps Outreach Service to address homelessness and social inequality in Melbourne.

He said he was also looking forward to engaging further with the local community and encouraged any like-minded Southbank residents to get involved.

"It's really important to get the community together," he said. "Our club consists of people from all over the place. Most us aren't directly from Southbank and so that in itself presents a challenge."

"We have had quite a number of Southbank residents come along and look at joining so would love to attract more local residents to the club to build the relationship between Southbank and the rest of the world."

We say, 'yes' to that idea

The City of Melbourne has allocated \$50,000 to assist small, local publishers like Southbank Local News.

The council currently spends hundreds of thousands of dollars on corporate advertising with large media conglomerates, despite these publications having limited local reach.

When adopting its 2015/15 budget at a special Future Melbourne Committee meeting on June 18, councillors accepted the recommendation that:

"An additional \$50,000 to be spent on advertising in line with Council's small business grants program, with the funds to be directed to smaller innovative start-up or digital publications which are distributed or consumed in the City of Melbourne or align with specific council goals (such as sustainability)."

Cr Jackie Watts wanted to know whether this included print publications, to which City of Melbourne finance chair, Cr Stephen Mayne, replied:

"The idea is that it covers all small startups in the City of Melbourne. So it's meant to be broad, boutique and newishtype publications."

Cr Watts said: "As long as print media is considered as well."

Cr Mayne replied: "Yes, that's the idea."

Southbank Local News says: "Yes, Stephen, that's a great idea!"



'Actions speak louder than words' at MTC

By Sarah Price

The Melbourne Theatre Company (MTC) Board has released a statement regarding small to medium theatre in its annual 2014 report.

The report was released after Arts Minister George Brandis announced a \$105 million bust on the Australia Council some weeks ago.

Despite the absence of reply to the Brandis cuts, MTC reaffirms its history of "ongoing extraordinary and unstinting support for the small to medium theatre sector".

MTC claims to have invested around \$1 million dollars and \$500,000 in contrasupport in more than 17 well-known companies.

MTC says artistic partnerships with companies such as Arena Theatre Company and La Boite and extensive investments have resulted in local productions touring interstate and internationally, while others are currently on-stage as part of MTC's 2015 Neon Festival.

The company presented a total of 676 performances in 2014 with a total paid attendance of 236,835 and 42 per cent of the audience new to MTC.

MTC says the future of artists and companies are enhanced and sharpened by productive relationships between major theatre companies, individual artists and smaller companies.

This is achieved by maintaining the small and medium theatre to host the acts.

The board also says it is important to maintain support for artists and companies to ensure Victoria remains a powerhouse of theatre.

For more information visit **www.mtc.com.au**



Southbank resident Tamika McNaughton will perform as a principal vocalist at this year's State Schools Spectacular.

Spectacular Southbanker

17-year-old Southbank resident Tamika McNaughton is one of 20 secondary students from across Victoria to be selected as a principal vocalist for this year's State Schools Spectacular.

The Year 12 Elwood Secondary College student was one of 600 to audition for an exclusive position and will now perform in the televised event in front of a live audience at Hisense Arena on September 12.

Tamika told *Southbank Local News* she was thrilled to be featuring in the renowned event, having kept her talents a secret for most of her childhood.

"I'd been singing in secret for a really long time," she said. "I first told my mum that I was going to sing at a school talent show in front of everyone and she was like 'I hope she can sing' and then I could!"

Since letting her vocal abilities be known, she said singing had rapidly become a passion having been busking and performing in gigs and competitions for a number of years now.

However, she is now looking forward to performing in her biggest event to date after

being encouraged to do so by her music teacher.

"My teacher at my school asked why don't you audition for 'Spec'? It's a great platform in an arena and a good experience. So I just went for it and I made the top 20!"

"I am so excited just to be a part of it I've never done a production anywhere near this scale so it's really exciting," she said.

This year's State Schools Spectacular will take on extra significance as it celebrates its 20th anniversary and Tamika said she hoped to use it as a platform for greater things.

"After school I hope to move to Los Angeles and try the music scene over there so hopefully this will give me a good insight into how the industry works," she said.

"I've never sung in front of this many people before so I'm really excited."

To listen to some of Tamika's work visit: www.facebook.com/finetuningduo

Mindful movement at Boyd

Southbank locals are invited to explore the art of mindful movement at the Boyd Community Hub.

Instructor Nicole Betts will this month introduce the ancient Chinese practice of Qigong to the hub.

Dating back 4000 years, Qigong is a self-healing and exercise therapy used in traditional Chinese medicine.

Combining body awareness, breath, movement and mindfulness, Qigong classes consist of acupressure, slow stretches and gently flowing movements.

Ms Betts discovered the practice of Qigong after closing the door on her 15-year real estate career in search of something more.

"I left my unintentional career behind in search of what it was I really wanted to do, something I would feel excited to wake up to each day," she said.

Over the next few years Ms Betts said she experienced many different jobs and voluntary roles, which eventually led her to discover Qigong.

"At first I brought this practice into my daily life for my own personal benefit, but quickly I found myself sharing it with others," Ms Betts said.

"My personal practice led me to training to become an accredited Qigong and mindfulness meditation teacher."

This month Ms Betts will launch a sixweek term of integrative Qigong at the Boyd Community Hub.

Classes will be held on Tuesday nights from 7pm until 8pm starting July 21.

The six-week term is \$110 and readers who sign-up can bring a friend for free.

For more information vist **www.pursuitofwellness.com.au**





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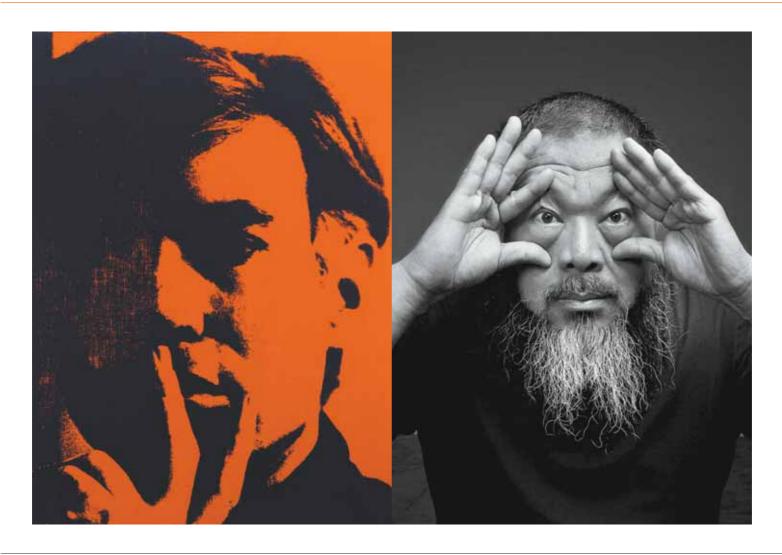
www.southbankmedicalclinic.com.au

BOOK ONLINE

Masters of contemporary art come together at NGV

BY ALANA BEITZ

THE WORKS OF ANDY WARHOL AND AI WEIWEI WILL BE PRESENTED SIDE BY SIDE AT THE NGV THIS SUMMER, IN AN EXCITING COLLABORATION WITH THE ANDY WARHOL MUSEUM IN PITTSBURGH, USA.



The two artists are celebrated for their ability to capture and critique contemporary society through their art, and both have had a major influence in redefining the idea of the "artist" in the modern era.

The collective exhibition will display more than 300 works, spanning the entire careers of both artists. Due to their experimental and diverse natures, a wide range of mediums will be presented at the NGV, including painting, sculpture, film, architecture, publishing and social media.

Some of Warhol's most iconic creations will be on display, such as *Campbell's Soup, Mao, Three Marilyns*, and *Elvis*. These icons of pop art will be shown alongside a selection of previously unseen work.

Ai Weiwei will contribute new installations from his *Forever Bicycles* and *Chandelier* series. An element of activism and cultural criticism is embedded into his work, making him one of China's most provocative and daring artists.

Weiwei creates conceptual responses to the global issues of the 21st century, such as human rights, freedom of speech and modernity.

Weiwei believes the upcoming exhibition is an interesting and important one, and is very excited to have his work displayed beside Warhol's.

"I personally appreciate his art very much and he has had a great influence on me, so it is an honor to have the opportunity to be exhibited alongside him. This is a great privilege for me as an artist." Weiwei said.

The exhibition will focus on the parallels and intersections of the two artists, of which there are many.

Weiwei encountered Warhol's work when he moved to the United States in 1980. The first book he purchased in New York was The Philosophy of Andy Warhol (From A to B and Back again). Photographs from Warhol's trip to Weiwei's native China will also be exhibited as part of the exhibition.

Each artist is recognised for his approach to studio production and collaboration. Warhol's Factory in 1960s New York was a hotbed of artists, filmmakers, intellectuals and socialites.

Likewise, Weiwei's studio is teaming with

assistants and collaborators, who experiment with communication technologies and social media to create contemporary works of art.

Weiwei says the exhibition will let the public see the place of contemporary art in life today.

"It lets the public see some similarities between two artists from extremely different backgrounds in extremely different societies, as well as discover what uses art can have in our lives and perhaps bring about more interesting associations," he said.

Perhaps the greatest similarity between the two artists is their love of cats. Warhol lived with a herd of Siamese cats, and all except one, were named Sam. Likewise, Weiwei's studio is home to over 30 cats that frequently appear in his social media posts.

To celebrate this shared love, NGV Kids will present Warhol's drawings and portraits with his pets alongside an interactive installation designed by Weiwei for young visitors to create a Warhol-inspired image to share via social media.

NGV, Melbourne December 11, 2015 - April 24, 2016.

Ballet Revolución at The Arts Centre



BY KARA BERTONCINI

An evening at the theatre in Melbourne is always something to look forward to, especially when an international touring show comes to town.

Ballet Revolución is a dance show exploring the athleticism and finesse of classical and contemporary movement, juxtaposed with a modern-day soundtrack.

The 19 incredibly gifted dancers on stage demonstrated great versatility as their meticulous footwork, exquisite lines and extension never ceased to amaze.

The Cuban culture and infectious rhythms were brought to life and fused with number one hits from artists like Sia, Jessie J, Usher, Lorde, Beyonce, Bruno Mars, Jennifer Lopez and Rihanna.

As the dancers transitioned between duo, trio and ensemble combinations, it was evident that what they can do with their bodies defies gravity.

The balance between classical technique and jazz-funk choreography meant the Afro-Cuban rhythms allowed the dancers to express themselves sensually, all the while creating that street-carnival atmosphere.

The sheer stamina and lack of physical limitations is what makes this show one-of-a-kind, and really challenges the audience's understanding of traditional ballet.

Ballet Revolución will reinvigorate your passion for dance and have you on your feet by the end of the show. It is without a doubt a must-see the next time it comes to Melbourne.



ARTISTIC ASSOCIATE SOPHIA BROUS HAS CURATED AN ARTS FESTIVAL THAT IS SET TO TRANSCEND GENERATIONS.

Supersense is a new festival that will explore the various forms of performance and visual arts in a very spiritual and secular way.

"It's a festival of ecstatic performance, which means it's something that explores the many different ways, in performance, we seek out ecstatic and transformative experiences," Ms Brous said.

"I was interested in what it is we look for in ecstatic and transformative settings, what is it that we are trying to experience in our own ways, and what is the cumulative impact when you bring those things together."

What makes Supersense unlike other arts festivals is its cross-generational appeal and incredibly rare scope of artists.

"It's the first year, so I think the line-up itself is unique. We're bringing together things that transcend generation, time, genre, style and medium. So it's a cross-disciplinary festival that brings together a lot of different works that are sacred, traditional and ritual based, but also contemporary and current," she said.

"I wanted to do something that, in the long-term, would have a profound impact on people's lives and allow for tremendous experiences, but also learn things about each other through what we see as those spiritual, sacred and unique experiences."

Supersense will take place over the second weekend in August at the Arts Centre, which Ms Brous considers to be the perfect venue.

"I wanted to do something that had a sense of containment and create an altar; like a precious, contained, metamorphosis base that could be contained and we could have a sense of being encased in an experience," she said.

Ms Brous has big aspirations for Supersense in the years to come and aims to include families in this one-of-a-kind arts experience.

"In the long-term, I want it to be more participative and have more activities for kids and families. I really believe in inclusion because ecstatic experience is universal and it should be something that is experienced by all," she said.

Kristian Chong and Friends



BY SARAH PRICE

World renowned pianist Kristian Chong is performing once again for the second concert of 'Kristian Chong and Friends' at the Melbourne Recital Centre.

The concert is part of the 2015 Local Heroes project and is specifically a tribute to ANZAC Lieutenant Robert Grieve VC.

The program is a collaboration of some of Australia's finest musicians, including internationally acclaimed cellist Li-Wei Qin and violinist Adam Chalabi.

The musicians will be presenting the rarely heard La Foila for solo cello by Giovanni Sollima, Beethoven's inspired sonata for piano and cello Opus 69 and Brahms' Piano Trio Opus 8.

Australian-born and raised Chong, who has performed on a global scale in countries such as UK, USA, Taiwan and Africa, says La Foila is played "with a personal take" but "also respecting the composer". Mr Chong also says that he is happy to be playing the piece in Melbourne.

"The Melbourne Recital Centre is a new building that was put up around seven or eight years ago and has one of the best acoustics in the world," he said.

Mr Chong, who currently teaches piano and chamber music at the University of Melbourne, said he was inspired by "communicating a story" to the audience and performing the well-written pieces to the best of his ability.

"Music is like a movie or a film, or a story your grandmother tells you. It's got to have a logical start, a drama," he said.

For more, visit ${\bf melbournerecital.com.au}$



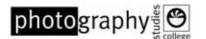
It's about the message

BY ALANA BFIT7



I Live Near That Strip Of Sunlight







FOR EMMA-JANE JOHNSTON, A RECENT GRADUATE FROM SOUTHBANK'S PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDIES COLLEGE (PSC), PHOTOGRAPHY IS ALL ABOUT THE MESSAGE BEHIND AN IMAGE.

This idea was central to her latest photographic project and PSC final year exhibition *I Live Near That Strip of Sunlight,* which was a digital reworking of her mum's working holiday photos from the 60s that she took to send home to Emma-Jane's grandfather.

"I wanted to look at the power of taking a picture with the purpose of giving that picture to someone else, and giving them a message," Emma-Jane said.

Emma-Jane took her mum's old slides and superimposed her handwritten messages written on the borders of the slide frames into the image. She then layered her own photography of places close to her family across the original images. Emma-Jane says this reinvention of her mum's photography is like a communication between generations, where the original photographs can take on new meanings. The final images were displayed via transparencies in light boxes

accompanied by a video piece exhibited as an installation. Emma-Jane received the PSC Art Major Graduate Award for the work.

Now Emma-Jane is working on a continuation of the *I Live Near That Strip of Sunlight* project. She is exploring the idea that when a photograph's intended message is lost, it actually dies. To represent this, she wants to present her work on decomposable materials, so that her images will expire alongside their stories.

"The work explores the life and death of images as physical objects," she explained. "I want to print images on different mediums, natural mediums, and let them expire. So the printed image wont actually live on forever. It will be a temporary exhibition."

There is a strong sense of nostalgia throughout *I Live Near That Strip of Sunlight,* and this theme continues in her other work. During her second and third years at PSC, Emma-Jane created a photographic

documentary series titled *Sharehouse*. She visited a number of share-houses in Melbourne's inner north, and photographed the people who lived there. Her subjects ranged from four-year-olds to people in their '60s. Emma-Jane says there is something powerful about capturing people in a moment of time that won't be repeated.

"Interestingly, none of those households exist in their current state anymore. All but one household has dissolved, the housemates have gone their separate ways, and one of my subjects actually passed away." She said. "I guess through the gentrification of Melbourne's inner north people can't afford to live in these houses anymore, and they move out further and further. So these images already feel really nostalgic, even though they were only taken four years ago."

Emma-Jane says one of the most valuable lessons she has taken from PSC is to be self-disciplined about her art.

"What we were taught in the art major course has really helped with self discipline, like keeping a visual diary, remaining inspired, going to shows, making work no matter now you feel, and then developing that work and trying to figure out what it means."

Emma-Jane has found work doing commission photography for bands and bars, and has had some great opportunities to go to many live gigs, which she loves. Incidentally, this is where Emma-Jane's love of photography started.

"I had a sort of life changing moment at a festival when Nick Cave was on stage. I took this amazing picture of him and I knew straight away, it was like the thunderbolt you get when you meet someone you fall in love with," she said.

Soon after that, Emma-Jane bought an SLR camera and enrolled in a course at PSC.

"And of course two months on I was completely into it and signed up to four years," she said. "I loved coming to school, loved the class, and became very close with my classmates."

www.emma-janejohnston.com



EVENTS JULY



TRIPLE BAROQUE

Aug 2 - Elisabeth Murdoch Hall

Melbourne Chamber Orchestra brings to life the vivacious spirit of the Baroque in a spectacular kaleidoscope of musical colour crossing five centuries. In a program that takes you from the most dazzling highs to the most intimate depths, MCO features Bach chorales, Scarlatti's piano sonatas and a showstopping Baroque-style concerto by Finnish composer Olli Mustonen.

www.melbournerecital.com.au

OPEN HOUSE: TROMARAMA FOR KIDS

Running until Oct 18 - NGV International

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

www.ngv.vic.gov.au



DEATH AND THE MAIDEN

July 18 - Aug 22 - The Sumner

Ariel Dorfman's explosively provocative, awardwinning play is a heart-stopping psychological thriller. Written in the wake of the Pinochet regime in Chile, today it resonates even more chillingly as the world watches dictatorships crumble and retribution reign.

www.mtc.com.au



SPIRIT OF INDIA

Aug 4 - Elisabeth Murdoch Hall

This Spirit of India double-bill welcomes to Australia for the first time eminent Carnatic veena player Dr Jayanthi Kumaresh and admired classical singer Pandit Kaivalya Kumar. The veena is India's most ancient and revered musical instrument and closest to the human voice.

www.melbournerecital.com.au



A SOCIAL SERVICE

Aug 11 - Aug 29- Beckett Theatre

A Social Service should help people, shouldn't it? Featuring Nicola Gunn and David Woods, this smart performance sticks its nose into the gap between rich and poor, and smells something funny. Prepare yourself for an in-your-face look at systems that claim to help the needy, but only help themselves..

www.malthousetheatre.com.au

at Open House: Tromarama for Kids.

SUZANNE JOHNSTON

July 20 - Hamer Hall

Opera diva Suzanne Johnston is joined by young singers from her teaching studio and the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, Melbourne University. Together they will take you on a musical journey.

www.artscentremelbourne.com.au

RYAN GANDER: READ ONLY

Running until Aug 2 - ACCA

One of Britain's most prolific artists, Gander is known for creating playful, engaging works in a range of mediums, from installation, sculptures and photographs to performative lectures, publications, inventions and interventions.

www.accaonline.org.au

STORIES: 2015 CONCERT GALA

July 30 - Elisabeth Murdoch Hall

St Catherine's School returns to the Melbourne Recital Centre for their 2015 Gala Concert. The concert will showcase a diverse repertoire, from Camille Saint-Saëns' Danse Macabre to selected movements from Carl Orff's Carmina Burana. Join us to celebrate our passionate and dedicated musicians and the stories within the music.

www.melbournerecital.com.au



BEETHOVEN, MOZART AND COPLAND

July 31 - Melbourne Town Hall

Join Mattew Coorey (pictured) and pianist Ian Munro for Copland's Appalachian Spring - a defining work of the twentieth century, evocatively capturing the wide-open spaces of frontier America. Mozart's Piano Concerto in D minor is complemented by the latter composer's majestic Seventh Symphony.

www.mso.com.au

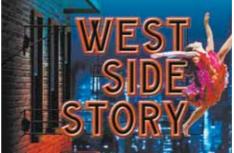


I AM A MIRACLE

July 18 - Aug 9 - Malthouse Theatre

After 18 years on death row, Marvin Lee Wilson was executed by lethal injection. But after a 2002 Supreme Court ruling, his sub-normal IQ should have disqualified him from the death sentence. Strapped to a gurney, his final statement was a plea for recognition: 'I am a miracle.'

www.malthousetheatre.com.au



July 11 - July 19 - State Theatre

Inspired by Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, West Side Story is set on New York's Upper West Side in the mid-1950s where racial and social tensions run high. A poignant, provocative and emotionally powerful piece of theatre, its score features many of legendary composer Leonard Bernstein's most famous compositions - Maria, America, Somewhere and Tonight.

www.artscentremelbourne.com.au



NEON FESTIVAL OF INDEPENDENT THEATRE

Running until July 25 - Southbank Theatre

NEON has returned for its third year, celebrating Melbourne's dynamic independent theatre scene as five companies present their work, their way. There a number of events still running until July 25. For more information and to purchase tickets to remaining events visit:

www.mtc.com.au/neon

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COUNCILLOR PROFILE By Shane Scanlan

The making of a lord mayor

Robert Doyle's six years as Lord Mayor of Melbourne has benefitted both the city and the man himself.

Melbourne has had a highly articulate, hard working and talented champion. And Cr Doyle has experienced a rehabilitation of sorts and has emerged a better person.

This is largely because of the nature of local government. Although still robust and potentially poisonous, it is not institutionally adversarial.

The attack dog who was dumped by his own as leader of the state opposition in 2006 is today a master of collaboration, consensus and compromise.

"I supposed if you've got the numbers, it's winner takes all. But I don't find that a very attractive or satisfying way of operating," he

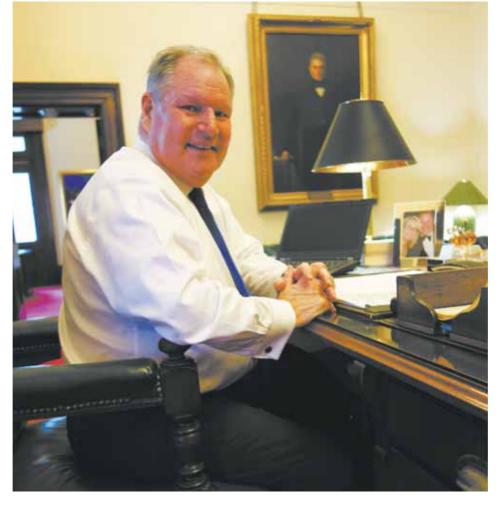
"Part of that collaboration is knowing where people are coming from and what's important to them and being able to deliver for everyone without compromising yourself."

"This is a town of conversations and of networks. There is something deeply satisfying about putting together coalitions of people in order to work on a problem of mutual interest and get a great resolution. I think that I have that skill."

Cr Doyle is proud of the way a politicallydiverse group of councillors keep their squabbles behind closed doors and, by and large, present a united front. Gone are the public brawls and the "clown hall" headlines.

No doubt, tactical regrets remain from his state political career. But he doesn't miss the politics.

"State politics is so partisan and I look at it now I think it is so much more bitter," he said. "I think there is a rancour there which I don't think serves the public well."



It would be wrong to characterise Cr Doyle as "gone soft". He runs a tight ship, often displays a short fuse and can be savage when his buttons are pushed.

He says his mother attributed his selfassuredness and independent thought to leaving home at 10 for boarding school and never really coming back.

His parents divorced when he was very young, with mum taking the three kids and scratching out a living as a hairdresser in multiple Victorian country towns.

He speaks of cold Myrtleford mornings in a small flat with a tin bath, no indoor plumbing and an outside toilet.

"I remember when there was a hole in that

bath, mum would drip candle wax to seal the hole," he said.

"I don't want to overplay this. I didn't have any sense that we were destitute or anything like that. I didn't have a sense that we were terribly poor but, then again, there were quite a lot of poor kids in Myrtleford."

The obviously brilliant young Robert was encouraged to sit scholarship exams and successfully won a valuable, classical education at Geelong College.

He blossomed in this environment and went on to study law but opted for teaching without ever finishing his law degree.

Teaching at some of the finest schools brought him in contact with top-level Liberal

Party luminaries and his activism against ALP education reforms kick-started his political career.

The conservative and strict school master is still evident as chair of the city's Future Melbourne Committee and council meetings.

"Rules are very important to me - following the right process is important to me," he said.

And woe betide anyone taking advantage of public submissions or questions who crosses

"In public meetings, there should be respect, but I don't think it should be looselywrapped," he said. "It's not a coconut shy either. We're not sitting back there so people can chuck rocks at us. That's not appropriate either. I expect respect to be both ways."

It's hard to say what drives Robert Doyle to do what he does. For someone so outwardly self confident, he is very sensitive to criticism. He has a fine record of public service - both as a teacher and politician. But he also takes enormous joy and satisfaction from the lord mayoral role.

"I feel it a very deep honour and a privilege to walk into this building every day," he said.

He is at the top of his game. In his personal life too, he has recovered from divorce, has experienced new love and has a young child.

With two years left in the current term, will he again contest the lord mayoralty?

"I'm going to try to make a decision by Christmas this year," he said.

"For me, it would have to do two things. I would have to have a sense that I had unfinished business that I need to see through and, secondly, that the challenge and my energy for the challenges remained."

And how would be like to be perceived?

"If I reflect on what is said of me the most, I hope that people observe that I am very passionate about the city, that I am committed to it, that I see the promotion of it and its wellbeing as a really worthy enterprise," he said.



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'If you could have dinner with a famous person, who would it be and why?'



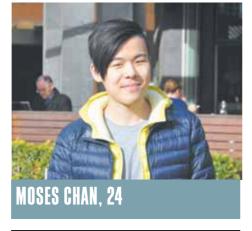
I would have to say Vladimir Putin because I think he is the most powerful man in the world. I would discuss politics with him and I just think it would be interesting to get his perspective of the world. I find politics really interesting and he is an important political figure so that's why I would choose him!



I would love to meet the CEO of Facebook, Mark Zuckerberg. He dropped out of school and became a multi-billionaire. I would like to ask him how he did that and why. He also lives really simply too which I would want to ask him about.



I know this sounds clichéd but I would love to meet Nelson Mandela. I think he made so much change not only in South Africa but also inspired the world. I think he was a great figure for darker skinned people in those times. I would ask him about his experience in prison and how that didn't stop him from achieving his goals. His determination is inspirational.



Definitely James Franco, because he is an amazing actor and I love his movies. He seems like a really chill guy.



I would quite like to meet Cadel Evans, the famous cyclist. I would want to talk to him about his career as he is a personal inspiration of mine. He is quite political too, which I find interesting.



I would like to meet Hugh Jackman, because he is Australian. I am from Taiwan and this is my second day in Melbourne, and I was saying to my sister how handsome he is! I love his movies and have watched all of them. I would also like to meet Cate Blanchett, the actress.

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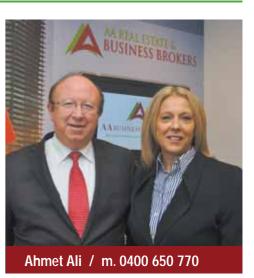
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Love locked

Over the last few years, around 40,000 Melburnians and tourists took part in the modern day ritual of fastening padlocks to the Southbank footbridge then throwing the keys into the Yarra River below.

The act is said to symbolise the undying love and commitment shared between two people. It's no surprise then, that the decision by the City of Melbourne to remove the love locks from the bridge caused a bit of a stir.

In last month's edition of Southbank Local News it was reported that a Facebook page was being established to call for the saving and returning of the love locks.

While some might think of the fastening of a love lock as trivial sentimentality, for others there is a real sense of meaning attached to it, and so a genuine sadness is being felt.

But while the love locks might have been taken away, it doesn't mean that the love between two people has to disappear.

The locks themselves would have eventually faded and rusted and fallen apart, but what they represented can live on. In other circumstances, many a love lock may have out lived the love of the lovers!

And yet there is one kind of love that never rusts, fades or dies - the love of God!

In the tradition of the sacramental Christian churches, the act of baptism is like Jesus locking himself to us in a loving embrace and throwing away the key. Thankfully, baptism is an outward sign of love that can't be taken

Even though the water of one's christening may have dried many decades ago, the unconditional love of God that it expresses remains. Even if you have forgotten about Jesus, he hasn't forgotten about you.



You remain locked in God's love through the tangible signs, such as baptism, that Jesus has left his church. Perhaps the lock of God's love appears to have vanished from your life, but the key to reclaim it, and unlock the freedom of it, remains waiting for you at the bottom of baptism's river.

Pastor Tom



Not good enough



Does the new Planning Minister, Richard Wynne, have Southbank's interests at heart?

Well, in general from my observations from his recent public comments and rejection of some Southbank and non-Southbank developments I was quietly confident Southbank might finally be gaining some traction.

However, this perception came to an abrupt halt when earlier last month an application to amend an alreadyapproved development on the corner of Balston St and City Rd, adding an additional 14 floors, was approved.

So I ask the question, if the City of Melbourne councillors may have contributed to this approval through the application not being considered at a Future Melbourne Committee meeting in November last year owing to a number of councillors being conflicted by developer donations and subsequently the quorum being lost.

I was scathing of council in my column back then and this approval only raises more questions. I intend to address this approval with the Minister personally in my next meeting.

Have you walked across the "renovated" Southbank footbridge lately? Well take your hearing protection as you will need it!

While I understand there was a pressing need for maintenance as the pins holding the planks in were popping out and creating trip hazards, I certainly didn't expect the user experience to worsen.

While it might be safer, it certainly isn't a pleasant walk anymore. I am a farming boy and the sound that comes from the bridge when a large number of people are walking across reminds me of the hoof sound from herding cattle up a loading ramp.

There is a horrible echo in the material which was chosen to replace the planks. It seems to be some carbon-fibre/metal mix, maybe even hollow.

Well if you haven't walked along the footbridge yet, you will certainly know what I mean when you do.

I feel for those patrons in Ponyfish Island, I am not sure how anyone could have a conversation under the bridge now. I think this will be a good item for me to raise with the Lord Mayor at this month's Future Melbourne Committee meeting. I will certainly be recommending he takes a walk across it himself to understand.

Did you know Southbank Residents Group's legitimacy relies on having a membership

Our advocacy is only taken seriously when we have numbers backing us up.

If you are a resident or investor in Southbank please consider joining, it is only \$10. Details can be found at www.southbankresidents. com.au

Tony Penna

President



Made-to-measure will suit you just fine



Why buy a suit off the rack when you can have a better one made to exactly fit you?

According to Oscar Hunt tailors' founder and general manager Chris Edwards, a made-to-measure suit ticks all the boxes: fabric quality; style; construction; timelessness and

fit. In short, it's about value for money.

"Why would you buy a high-end brand suit off the rack when you can pay less for a better one made just for you?" Mr Edwards asks. "These days, it is a myth that tailor-made suits are unaffordable," he said. "If you need a suit to really perform for you, you are very unlikely to find it hanging on a rack, no matter who's name is on the inside."

"If you put a premium on performance, that's when you need made-to-measure."

Operating from elegant show and fitting rooms in Hardware Lane, shopping for a suit at Oscar Hunt is a pleasure.

The business qualifies as one of Melbourne's hidden secrets and Hardware Lane is an appropriate home to the fascinating craft that is made-to-measure suiting.

From long-forgotten markets of the 18th Century, to cloth suppliers to the city's famed rag trade, the lane has been integral to Melbourne's development through the decades.

It forms a classical backdrop to Mr Edwards' dream to make premium suiting available to the average Australian male.

"I wanted to offer that wonderfully old-world service of made-to-measure tailoring at an accessible price point," Mr Edwards said. "It's our aim to make every suit purchasing experience a truly remarkable one."

Mr Edwards typifies the Oscar Hunt male: Nine-to-five, three-piece suit during the week; a relaxed silhouette at weekends. Head tailor, Oscar Lake, learned the craft as a bespoke tailor at Hemden Shirtmakers & Tailors and transitioned to made-to-measure area in response to the current suiting trend.

"I noticed the difficulties in operating as a bespoke tailor in Australia and realised the future of suiting is in the high quality and more affordable made-to-measure," he said.

And it wasn't just this that inspired him. Mr Lake said: "You can't replicate the confidence of a client wearing a garment that's tailored to every aspect of their body and to their style. Not often does anyone get exactly want they want, so it's a special feeling."

Oscar Hunt has a broad appeal: From older gentlemen who have a long-founded appreciation for quality tailoring to younger men who wish to step up their style and gain access to the custom-made experience.

From initial appointment to the final product, a tailored suit takes six weeks to produce, and starts from a \$845, depending on the fabric used and the desired construction.

Oscar Hunt is located at Level 3, 43 Hardware Lane, Melbourne; for appointments call the showroom on 0499 000 011 and discover the fascinating craft that is made-to-measure suiting. Or visit the website www.oscarhunt.com.au

Not just a night out

The small team at Temple Brewing thought they were just going for a night out when they attended the Australian International Beer Awards in Docklands in May.

Managing director Nick Pang said the expectation of being awarded was low, so when their "Anytime IPA" pale ale was announced as a gold medalist (out of 180 worldwide beers), the team was ecstatic.

After all, they'd only been making beer for 18 months, so being awarded gold was like a dream coming true.

"There were only two gold medals awarded in the pale ale category, so we were well placed to win the Best International Pale Ale award," Mr Pang said.

"When the MC called our name, we just went ballistic," he said. "To take out this award against the best brewers in the world was a truly humbling experience."

Mr Pang bought the East Brunswick-based brewery from a liquidator 18 months ago.

Recruiting top brewer Glenn Harrison and applying strict business principles has turned the company around in a rags-to-riches story. New beers have been added to the repertoire and production has been cranked up to get the best out of the small, state-of-the-art brewery in Weston St.

Temple entered six beers in the Australian International Beer Awards and five of them

were awarded medals.

"Apart from our pale ale triumph, we brought home three silvers and a bronze," Mr Pang said.

Temple's signature Bicycle Beer took bronze for the Best English Style Summer Ale, with silver medals going to its Powerstance pilsner, New World Order stout and the Rye Hard IPA for the Best German Style Pilsner, Best Stout and Best IPA (other), respectively. This year, the worldwide awards attracted a record number of applicants from 35 countries.

"It is a real credit to our team and the hard work everyone has put in. For a small brewery in Brunswick to receive this recognition only one and a half years after launching is amazing," Mr Pang said.

"We are all about brewing great quality Australian beer that's fresh and balanced. I'm so proud of Glenn and the team."

Temple Brewing beers are available in the CBD at Thousand Pound Bend, Sister Bella, Mesa Verde, Cookie Bar, Spice Temple and Three Below – City Square.

Temple Brewing has a bar and restaurant at 122 Weston St, Brunswick East and is open on Thursdays between 5pm and 11pm; on



Brewer Glenn Harrison and managing director Nick Pang show their delight at winning the international award for their Anytime pale ale.

Fridays and Saturdays between 12 noon and 11pm; and on Sundays between 12 noon and 9pm. The business is closed to the public on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

For further information, see www.templebrewing.com.au

Southbank-based businesses wishing to be profiled in this section should email: advertising@southbanklocalnews.com.au

Serving Southbank for more than two decades

As one of only two remaining Southgate tenants to have operated since the centre's opening in 1992, Christine Yong and the team at Red Emperor know a thing or two about Southbank.

While the restaurant was originally established on level three at Southgate, it relocated to level two three years ago and is still the community's staple choice for authentic Chinese cuisine.

Having been at Red Emperor since the very beginning, general manager Christine said she and the team still loved what they did just as much as when they first opened.

"I've been here for 23 years but I still love it and sometimes when we sit down when all the guests have gone we have dinner and we don't want to go home," she said.

"Everyone has been with us for a long, long time. All of the supervisors and all of the old staff have been with us for a long time."

"The synergy is just so good, the feeling is beautiful. We see each other more than we see our own families so essentially we are like a family!"



Yum cha chef Kam Tai Ho, general manager Christine Yong and head chef Hon Kau Hui

Red Emperor's authentic Chinese flavours can be attributed to its long-serving head chef Hon Kau Hui who has been with the restaurant for 18 years.

Christine explained that, following the restaurant's move to level two, Kau had initially left the business as it underwent a managerial reshuffle, which was much to the disappointment of many Red Emperor regulars.

However, since recently returning to his post, Christine said the regulars and the rest of the team couldn't be happier to have him back.

"A lot of our regulars are coming back because they've been missing Kau's cooking," she said. "He's got his own technique that no one else seems to know but he has always managed to bring more flavours and aromas."

"We've worked with him for so long so it's just like a family member coming back after being away on a vacation so everyone's really excited. The staff are really happy, the front of house is happy. Everyone's happy!"

Along with long-serving yum cha chef Kam Tai Ho, the Red Emperor kitchen has become renowned for its authentic Chinese menu, with every ingredient on its menu made freshly in-house everyday.

Some of its classics include its Peking duck and all you can eat yum cha specials, which have long been a popular choice for many residents and workers in the precinct.

Located along the scenic banks of the Yarra within "touching" distance to the arts precinct, Christine said she and her team couldn't imagine working anywhere else.

"It's a nice position being here in Southgate right in front of the Yarra. You don't find a Chinese restaurant that has got a terrace like us right next to the Yarra." "It's a beautiful community," she said. "I think being Chinese next to the Arts Centre, which is a bit more western we like the mix of cultures. It's a great because we get a lot of people coming in and then going off to the theatre, the Arts Centre, Hamer Hall and the National Gallery as well."

For more information visit www.redemperor.com.au

Southbank's local financial institution

Many local residents and workers would be pleasantly surprised to discover that Southbank does, in fact, possess its very own bank!

The InTech Credit Union is a mutual notfor-profit banking service, which has been operating in Southbank for more than 20 years at the ground floor of the IBM building on City Rd.

Consisting of a modest team of four experienced staff members, business development manager Michelle Mantas said the Southbank branch had always been committed to servicing the local community.

"In terms of the banking on this side of the river, I think there's a lot of people moving in around Southbank and everybody has to walk over the river and the closest bank would be on Elizabeth St." she said.

"We've got a very experienced and small team and that provides a lot of benefits that people don't see until they experience the credit union. So it's a one-stop shop. We do everything in-house and we do everything

Possessing more than 10,000 members across the country, InTech Credit Union has been operating for more than 50 years in Australia and is the first-choice banking provider to the ICT sector.

The business provides its members with everything from home, investment and personal loans to term deposits and low rate credit cards and is part of Australia's second largest ATM network.

Ms Mantas said the credit union offered a more personalised, secure and fairer banking alternative to that of the commercial

"We're a mutual. We're not for profit so we don't have shareholders to pay and I guess that's very attractive for people these days,"

"Any profits that we make we return it back to the members in the form of cheaper fees and charges."

"If you come to me for a home loan or a personal loan you can lodge it today and you'll have it usually within three business days and it's all done here out of this branch.

While the branch is open from Monday to Friday from 8.30am until 4.30pm, Ms Mantas explained that the service wasn't restricted by its standard operating hours.

"Even for people that work around here, if you're at work and in your lunch break you want to see us we'll come out to you if you don't want to come here," she said.

"Otherwise we do night appointments as well so we're not limited to the branch hours. It doesn't matter where you live. We've got cars and we will go out to people."

Ms Mantas said she and her team loved



The team at InTech Credit Union (left to right): business development managers Liz Pearson and Michelle Mantas, senior lender Jenny Porter and customer service specialist Linda Dean.

everything about Southbank and that it was important to spread awareness about the great service that was available at the community's doorstep.

"I think Southbank is a great suburb. It's very hip and happening," she said. "I think it's a great location."

"Our service has been very well received and supported from those who know about us. I suppose it's just more about getting the word out so it's awareness because people just don't know that we're here."

For more information about the credit union visit www.intechcu.com.au

Trek to help find a cure

Kavanagh St resident Gary McKitterick-Gillett is preparing to embark on a mammoth 16-day trek across Nepal in order to raise funds and awareness for Parkinson's disease later this year.

While he prepares for his big challenge, the former Gippsland and Queensland resident is also getting used to the city lifestyle having only moved to Southbank with his wife in September last year.

"The move from country house to apartment took some getting used to," he said.

"After moving from a four-bedroom house into a two bedroom apartment you learn to just sleep in your apartment and get outside and experience the environment a bit more."

"Queensland is a little warmer than the suburbs of Melbourne especially at this time of year, but it's fine. You get used to it."

The 54-year-old said he had settled into life in Southbank easily after deciding to downsize in order to be closer to his elderly parents, who still reside in Gippsland.

And in what was both a surprising and refreshing revelation, Gary told *Southbank Local News* that he could draw plenty of similarities between living in Southbank and living in the country.

"It's like a little town," he said. "It's a bit like growing up in the country everyone sort of knows each other, big wide streets and it's quite friendly and welcoming so it's relaxed."

And it's that strong sense of community that Gary is hoping to harness in order to support his efforts to raise funds and awareness for two causes, which are very close to his heart.

After finishing his primary services role with Mission Australia last year, Gary told *Southbank Local News* that he had picked up a passion for trekking, having since embarked on the Kokoda trail on six occasions.

In November, Gary's next trek will take him to the Annapurna Circuit in Nepal to raise funds for Parkinson's disease and directly assist victims of the recent earthquake, which devastated the country.

He said he had experienced some nervous moments in wake of the disaster after losing contact with a friend in Nepal who thankfully, along with his family, were eventually confirmed as being safe.

While the impacts of the earthquake will



continue to require a huge international effort, he said local efforts were just as important to help stimulate the local economy.

"The trip will inject some money directly into the local community over there, which I feel is better than just sending money," he said.

"We're spending money there through accommodation and employing people, guides, buying souvenirs while we're over there and that's probably a better way to help their economy to grow back rather than just by making a donation."

However, the biggest of objective behind Gary's trek will be to raise funds to help find a cure for what he described as a "blight of our generation".

Parkinson's disease is Australia's second most common neurological disease and affects more than 100,000 Australians and more than seven million worldwide, according to Parkinson's Australia.

Gary said he was determined to help find a cure having long witnessed the impacts of the disease firsthand through a close family friend.

Beauty, Health & Fitness

Docklands Services

"We have a family friend who suffers from Parkinson's. He's 60 years old and just to see how bravely he goes about his daily life while obviously suffering but persevering. You never hear a word of complaint," he said.

"You can be as young as 18 and develop it and I suspect as our population rapidly ages we'll see a greater increase, which is unfortunate. Hopefully we'll find a cure nice and quickly."

Gary called on the Southbank community to rally around his efforts, as he looks to raise as much money as possible.

"I think as we get closer to the travel date that will pick up," he said. "I've got a goal of raising \$5000, which I think we'll achieve and we'll exceed."

"Hopefully the more people we can get talking about it then it will happen. We'll just make it happen."

To contribute to Gary's fundraising efforts go to https://give.everydayhero.com/au/trek-for-parkinsons

Where to Shop



What to do



Where to Eat/Drink



HEALTH & WELLBEING

with Justin Moran Just In Time Personal Training

Repetitions

How many should I be performing when doing weights or resistance training?

This is a very common question I am asked and it is often one poorly answered (in my opinion) by many personal trainers, online programs or gyms offering generic advice.

Granted that there are "textbook" answers to different repetition ranges for specific goals such as 1-6 reps for strength, 8-12 for muscular hypertrophy and 12-15/20 for general muscular conditioning (often termed "toning").

But, in reality for the majority of the population, this is all very relative to the weights or resistance training experience you have. How long are you resting for inbetween sets? Are you performing drop-sets or supersets? Are you circuit training or moving from one muscle group to another in quick succession?

The key ingredient that is often lacking is that one must have a general guideline of a repetition range to strive for but the focus must simply be on 100 per cent perfect technique and execution of the movement.

What I mean by this is that I may know my client's previous best weight when performing the lat pull-down was 35kgs and that he could manage around about 12 repetitions.

Our aim is to use the same weight but then set off performing the absolute best technique that he is capable of whilst I ensure this remains the same all the way through towards 12 and, if he is capable of doing 14 reps perfectly, why would I stop him at 12 because his range and goal suggests 8-12 reps?

If you were very capable of counting to 100, would I continually ask you to count up to only 20? Why would I when you are capable of so much more? How bored would you get and would there be any challenge for you?

The same could be said for when doing your weights or gym-related exercises. If you are capable of more repetitions than the number your PT sets you or that your program says to do, push it and go the maximum number you can perform BUT (and herein lies the key!) any repetitions must be performed to the best of your ability and with close to 100 per cent control, form and technique.

If it is not, then you are either recruiting the wrong musculature and, therefore, being ineffective, potentially setting yourself up for injury or fast-tracking yourself towards poor posture and/or muscular imbalances.

Do not just do numbers for the sake of it because a program card tells you to or a whiteboard in your boot camp class says it wants you to.

The Melburnian canine



Proud dog owner Belinda Batty told 'Southbank Local News' her seven-year-old Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Harry is an especially sociable dog who loves trotting around Southbank.

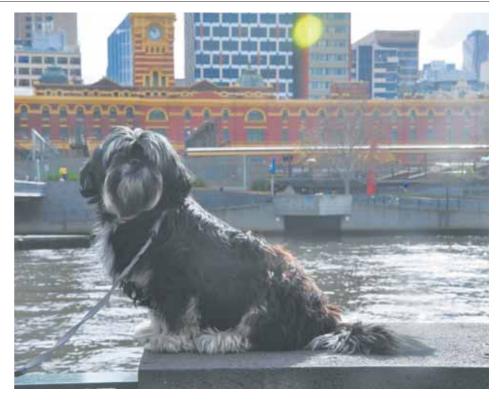
According to Belinda, Harry came home with her when she went to the Victoria Market to pick up a pumpkin to make soup but instead ended up with a puppy. She couldn't be happier she ended up with Harry instead of the pumpkin.

"He's been everywhere with me. I went overseas for a year and he moved to a farm while I was away. When I came back, he preferred living in the city to the farm," she said.

Being a bubbly and energetic dog, Harry enjoys walking everyday and being around people. However, Belinda said she wishes there were more parks to allow dogs off-lead and let them wander around.

"He loves the city because there's more action. We live in an apartment with a balcony so he can see everything that's going on," she said.

Belinda also said Harry loved having his photograph taken and even poses for the camera!



A variation of Sudoku, with the letters SOUTH BANK replacing the numbers.

The rules are the same as regular Sudoku, each line of the must contain the letters 'SOUTHBANK' as must each 9-square box. This Sudoku is VERY hard! Good Luck!

Sudoku solution: Edition 41

Н	T	U	0	S	K	N	A	В
N	S	0	В	U	A	K	Н	T
В	K	A	Н	T	N	S	U	0
S	В	N	A	Н	0	U	Т	K
K	U	Н	N	В	T	0	S	A
A	0	T	S	K	U	Н	В	N
T	Н	S	K	0	В	A	N	U
0	N	В	U	A	Н	T	K	S
U	A	K	Т	N	S	В	0	Н

		N	K	Н	A		S	
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WHAT'S ON **COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

MAY I JUN I JUD I SEP OCT NOV | DEC



INNER MELBOURNE LIFE ACTIVITIES CLUB

Meeting on selected dates and various locations, IMLAC takes in the city's parks, its culture, fabulous eating options as well as festivals, galleries and concerts.

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



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

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

THURSDAYS FROM JULY 16

MELBOURNE'S GOT SOUL

A fun and friendly group who meet at BOYD to sing and socialise. There are no auditions, and you don't even have to have an amazing voice.

Thursdays 6pm @ BOYD

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

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







TUESDAYS

SOUNDS OF SOUTHGATE

Run by voice teacher, choral director and composer Kate Sadler, Sounds of Southgate is a community choir open to anyone to join. 6.15pm - 8pm every Tuesday at St Johns Church Southgate.



MONDAYS & SATURDAYS

YOGA WITH ALISON @ BOYD

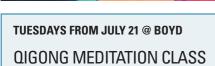
Looking to improve both your physical and mental well-being? Instructor Alison Corsie hosts classes at Boyd every Monday at 6.15pm and Saturdays at 9am. alison@inner-rhythms.com.au



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Instructor Nicole Betts introduces the ancient Chinese practice of Qigong to the Boyd Community Hub. For more information or to book a six-week term:

www.pursuitofwellness.com.au



WEDNESDAYS @ BOYD

MUMS & BUBS DANCE CLASS

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



NEW TO SOUTHBANK

SOUTHBANK LIONS CLUB

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

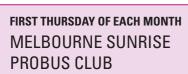


TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

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

www.pennykoukoulas.com



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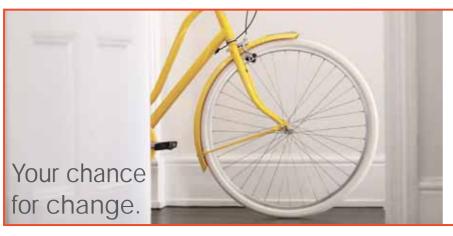
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Located just moments to the Crown Entertainment complex, brilliant cafes and restaurants of Southbank Promenade, South Melbourne Market, and Clarendon Street shopping, this 16th floor retreat is bursting with natural light and offers up sleek contemporary touches which include Caesarstone benchtops, floor-to-ceiling windows, and premium fittings and fixtures throughout. Iva Norris 0431 099 100

3/8 Manchester Lane PARKVILLE



DON'T MISS THIS STYLISH HERITAGE **STUNNER**

- Offers from \$420,000

- Apartment

Gorgeous high ceilings, quality timber floors, picture windows, timber veneer cabinetry, and bright natural light are just a few of the standout highlights. The central living zone features designer lighting and has enough space for both dedicated lounge and meals zone, while the adjoining kitchen boasts Caesarstone benchtops, stainless steel appliances, and terrific storage.

Michael Pastrikos on 0404 282 864

2205/50 Haig Street SOUTHBANK



MODERN CITY LIVING OFFERING COSMOPOLITAN CONVENIENCE

- - Offers From 450,000
 - Apartment

Ideally positioned in the heart of Southbank, steps from Crown Cassino is this light-filled and perfectly proportioned one bedroom residence. Offering an impressive full-length East facing balcony that enjoys views across to the bay, providing generous space to entertain. The apartment comes with security parking space for one car, making this apartment a most desirable city pad. Iva Norris 0431 099 100

B105/601 Victoria Street ABBOTSFORD



INCREDIBLE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY!

- Submit All Offers - Apartment

Situated in the heart of Abbottsford's most exciting new precinct, this stunning apartment is located just 4km from the Melbourne CBD. With a tram stop on the door step, and the Yarra River as your backyard, a leisurely walk or ride along the tracks behind the river is the perfect to way to wind down after a long day at work. This apartment is a short stroll to Victoria Gardens, IKEA shopping Centre.

Jen Lin Lau 0401 906 629

2901/46-50 Haig Street SOUTHBANK



BE TANTALISED BY THIS TERRIFIC TIARA OASIS



- \$570k plus Buyers

- Apartment

It'll be easy to picture yourself surrounded by the captivating contemporary class and stunning Port Phillip Bay views offered up by this two bedroom corner apartment positioned on the 29th floor.

A generous and light-filled central lounge and meals zone with floor-to-ceilings windows makes everyday living a genuine pleasure, while the Caesarstone kitchen showcases a long breakfast bar. Jen Lin Lau 0401 906 629

3807/1 Freshwater Place SOUTHBANK



THE ESSENCE OF CITY LIVING



- Contact Agent

- Apartment

This stunning one bedroom apartment is perched 38 floors above one of Southbank's most prominent addresses in the sought after Freshwater Place. North facing with floor to ceiling windows allowing the natural light to flow through and accentuates the magnificent views of Melbourne City, Yarra River and the Southbank Promenade. The intelligently designed layout provides you with a full size and separate kitchen, spacious living and dining.

Michael Pastrikos on 0404 282 864

ARE YOU LOOKING TO SELL?

Contact us personally to arrange for an appraisal on your property. We deal with a large number of buyers and can help you achieve a sale quickly.



Michael Pastrikos SALES MANAGER 0404 282 864



Jen Lin Lau **SALES** CONSULTANT 0401 906 629

MANDARIN SPEAKING



Iva Norris SALES CONSULTANT 0431 099 100



Matthew Wallace PROPERTY MANAGEMENT 0404 565 050