

The voice of Southbank

SOUTHBANK Local NEWS

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Council belts car share in Southbank

By Shane Scanlan

Car sharing in Southbank will suffer following a City of Melbourne decision to charge operators thousands of dollars for on-street parking spaces that have previously been free.

City of Melbourne councillors on July 28 voted to charge operators \$3000 in their second and subsequent years of occupation within the “CBD” – which includes Southbank.

Up until now, operators were only charged for on-street spaces within the Hoddle Grid.

The council has been receiving fees on 21 Hoddle Grid spaces, but wants to expand the \$3000 fee to 100 “CBD” spaces.

It currently has 29 spaces in the “non-Hoddle Grid, wider CBD area” (including Southbank) and wants to expand this number to 70 by 2021.

Asked to define “CBD”, a council spokesperson said: “The CBD is bordered by Spring, Victoria, Peel, Spencer, Flinders – so it is the Hoddle Grid, plus the Vic Market and Southbank areas.”

The fee outside the “CBD” will be only \$25 per year, as well as a one-off administrative fee of \$500.

The council expects car share operators to find off-street commercial spaces for their vehicles in the future before they will release to them an on-street space. Currently operators have only 40 off-street spaces within the “CBD” but council expects them to find another 1090 spaces there by 2021.

The new fee-charging regime is due to start next month and will be reviewed in 12 months.

Green Share Car owner Sahil Bhasin said his company would not apply for anymore CBD on-street spaces until the policy was reviewed. He said the “one-for-one” requirement to find suitable commercial off-street parking in the CBD was impractical.

He said it was currently unclear whether the council intended to charge his company for Southbank on-street spaces it currently enjoys for free.

If charged, Mr Bhasin said his company would have to “re-evaluate” some of its spaces and keep only the more popular spaces. He said another option being considered was to recover a \$4 surcharge on Southbank bookings. He said, on short trips, this could result in a 50 per cent fee hike.

He said it was most likely that car share coverage across the “CBD” would reduce.

The car share issue has been difficult for councillors, who were heavily lobbied by the industry and challenged on their environmental credentials. More than 150 items of correspondence were received by the council on the issue.

In an attempted compromise with the industry, councillors departed from the recommendations of officers who suggested even higher fees to recover lost parking meter revenue.

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Close crane call

A construction worker escaped with minor leg injuries on Friday, August 7 after a crane collapsed at a Southbank construction site. Read more on page 5.

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Waterways governance: So close, and yet . . .

Editorial comment, by Shane Scanlan

The Southbank and Docklands communities have come so close to achieving an economic “silver bullet” with waterways governance reform but, sadly, a solution remains as elusive as ever.

As reported on page 3, the working party charged with recommending reforms to the State Government has formulated a compromise position that pleases no one.

There have been some victories in the process. Agreement has been reached on the need for an independent waterways authority. And at least the governance issue was discussed.

But the regulators (Parks Victoria) remain in charge, which, most likely, means that nothing will change.

The regulators need to remain in play but, for the waterways to flourish, decision-making authority needs to pass to the innovators.

It is the innovators who look at the river see its unrealised potential. They see tourists, jobs, scheduled water transport, activity, vibrancy and a buzzing sub-set of the local economy.

It's not the fault of the regulators that they look at the same stretch of water and see only risk, rules that need enforcing and taxes that need collecting. It's also not surprising that they fail to see themselves as part of the problem.

They don't actually understand why they have been asked to hand over the reins.

The City of Melbourne is equally at fault and, again, it's not fair to blame bureaucrats for being wired differently to entrepreneurs.

The council sees the waterways as an operational matter and seems determined to ignore the economic development potential of the river.



The regulators can't see what's not there and the business representatives on the Lower Yarra River Use Future Directions Group failed to transfer the vision.

The risk is that the visionaries will give up, pack up and leave during the next (supposedly-interim) period of hybrid administration during which a committee of three will attempt to direct the regulator. Momentum will be lost and status quo will prevail.

With the right people, the right attitudes and with high-level political patronage, the proposed interim arrangement could work.

But, as an indication of what is more likely, the word “interim” does not appear in the draft report to government (despite being agreed to at the final meeting).

The business representatives on the working group did not have the bureaucratic

knowledge or experience to counter the legislative arguments put forward in support of the agreed model.

In the interests of consensus, they also accepted the outlined practical difficulties in moving too quickly to an independent authority.

It would be nice (but probably naive) to think that government representatives were genuinely on a short journey towards an independent waterways model.

The Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water, Lisa Neville, does not have to accept recommendations made by the working party.

But, without loud dissenting voices, there is no political mileage to be gained from removing the fox from its position in charge of the hen-house.

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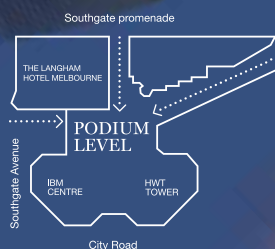


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Group compromises on water governance

By Sean Car

The Lower Yarra River Use Future Directions Group has reached a compromise, but unified, agreement on the future governance and management of local waterways.

Southbank Local News understands that a final draft of the group's report to the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water, Lisa Neville, has now been finalised by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

The report recommends the establishment of a new and independent interim advisory body consisting of three high-profile, government-appointed members, which would work with regulator Parks Victoria to manage the waterway.

The new committee would employ a CEO and would draw support staff from Parks Victoria and the City of Melbourne.

While the group was unanimous in its desire to establish a single authority to govern and activate the waterways, it has agreed that the recommendations outlined in the report are a step in the right direction.

With 15 intersecting Acts currently governing the waterways, the group conceded that achieving ultimate reform was not possible in the short-term.

According the group's independent chairperson Tony Kelly, stakeholders would be given a week to provide final comments on the report, before it is finalised and submitted to Ms Neville.

"We have come to an agreement on a plan to move forward," he said. "It's a start not the end. It was the first time every party has come to the table to have a robust conversation."

The group includes representatives from DELWP, Parks Victoria, City of Melbourne,

Yarra River Business Association, Melbourne Passenger Boating Association, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, the Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure.

Southbank Local News understands that the group has been given an assurance that the new advisory committee would have authority to instruct Parks Victoria on how to manage the waterways, which would be outlined in a side letter from the minister.

However, there are concerns from some members that the independence of the committee could be undermined, with Parks Victoria remaining the chief regulator.

Mr Kelly said that while it wasn't the perfect solution, for now, it was the right one.

"No individual is going to get what he or she wants," he said. "If we don't present a unified position on this then it will be difficult for government to act."

"I'm confident that if everyone puts their heart and souls into the plan then it will act as a stepping stone in the right direction."

"The Government will serve the needs of the committee as much as possible."

While the group is still yet to demonstrate a business case for the model, it is expected that the final report will be presented to Minister Neville before the end of August.



UpMarket launch

Following years of controversy and uncertainty, organisers from the designer UpMarket have finally secured their home at the forecourt of the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA).

After initial attempts to establish a weekly market at the site failed, the new UpMarket will officially launch on Saturday, September 5 and will run from 9am until 4pm on the first and third Saturday of every month.

The design-focused market will feature the very best of Melbourne's established and emerging designers in three themed "districts", which include *The Design District*, *The Larder* and *Heart of Dining*.

Melbourne's most talented creators will showcase their wares in *The Design District* while *The Larder* and *Heart of Dining* caters to the city's ever-growing foodie culture.

Every market will also feature creative workshops with a design, garden or produce theme to appeal to both young and old.

Hosted by ACCA and curated by a panel of some of Melbourne's most renowned designers and experts, founder, Belinda Buckley, said the market would further enliven the arts precinct in Southbank.

"Our vision to bring together the city's makers and designers as well as provide a platform for start-up creative has come to fruition," she said.

"We couldn't be happier with the combination of location, the support from ACCA and Creative Victoria and the amazing collection of traders for Melburnians to enjoy and support."

A packed City of Melbourne Committee meeting was left stunned on September 2 last year, as councillors dismissed the advice of its planning officers to vote 6-3 against the group's initial proposal for a weekly market.

Despite organisers presenting 546 letters of support, council sided with a group of residents from the Sovereign and the Melburnian apartment buildings, who had expressed concerns at having their Saturday's disturbed by the market.

While Ms Buckley would not comment on the process that had occurred since, Southbank Local News understands that the group has undertaken extensive consultation with the community and the City of Melbourne.

Southbank Residents Group President Tony Penna said the group was pleased that a regular local market had been secured.

"Southbank Residents Group has been a supporter of the UpMarket from the outset," he said. "We believe that it fits that particular space perfectly and is entirely within the vision of the arts blueprint."

"For obvious reasons, we believe that the forecourt at ACCA was in desperate need of activation and this market will only reinforce Southbank's name as the arts capital."

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Community voice to be heard in Fishermans Bend

By Alana Beitz

The Minister for Planning Richard Wynne has appointed a team of community representatives to advise him on the development of the Fishermans Bend precinct.

The Fishermans Bend Ministerial Advisory Committee comprises 11 members with a variety of expertise in areas such as architecture, transport, business and government.

Mr Wynne believes the committee will lead to a more transparent, insightful and community-focused development of the precinct.

"I've chosen a committee which brings together the best in planning experts and community members, giving locals a direct voice in the process," he said.

The Fishermans Bend precinct covers an area of 450 hectares to be divided into five distinct neighborhoods, making it the largest urban renewal project in Australia.

While approvals for residential developments have already been made, there has been resounding concern from the community that services such as schools, transport and public spaces are being sidelined.

One of the major obstacles in the development of Fishermans Bend is that most of the land is privately owned, minimising the potential for open spaces and shared community facilities.

Public administration leader Meredith Sussex has been appointed as the chair of the committee, and says the success of Fishermans Bend will come down to planning and timing.

"It is unusual for a major urban renewal project to be undertaken when most of the land is privately owned," she said. "But that provides us with the opportunity to develop new planning models."

"The timing of delivery of new infrastructure, including transport, schools and community facilities has been an issue in new neighbourhoods across the world. Fishermans Bend provides an opportunity to do a better job of this."



Image: (left to right) Janet Bolitho, Minister for Planning Richard Wynne, Meredith Sussex, Albert Park MP Martin Foley, Helen Halliday at the proposed Ferras St school site.

Ms Sussex believes any planning that involves the community is positive.

"Decisions made with community input are simply better decisions than those made without that input," she said.

Docklands resident Phil Spender is one of three community representatives elected to the committee, and he is looking forward to a more open and inclusive approach to the development of Fishermen's Bend.

Mr Spender says that there needs to be a "watering down of political power" in new urban development, after the previous government rezoned land without community consultation.

He said he hoped this Labor government would take a more transparent approach to the development of the precinct, notifying residents to changes, and opening avenues for community members to appeal decisions.

"The key to Fishermans Bend's success will be sensible and sustainable development," he said. "If this can be achieved, the area will grow into an attractive location for a diversity of people."

The other two community representatives elected to the committee are former mayor Janet Bolitho, and Fishermans Bend Network member Helen Halliday.

They will work with committee members Lord Mayor Robert Doyle, Port Phillip Mayor Amanda Stevens and a number of experts in design and planning including: Lucinda Hartley (urban renewal); Michelle Howard (social infrastructure); Eric Keys (integrated transport); Rob McGauran (architecture and housing); and Tania Quick (business and local industry).

The committee was expected to have its first meeting in early August and it is expected the first stage of strategic planning will be finished by early 2016.

Council belts car share in Southbank

Continued from page 1.

But operators in Southbank would have paid less under the original management proposal.

Under the successful motion, they will also be paying \$1500 in their first year, and not the \$1000 originally recommended by management. And they will be paying the full \$3000 in their second year of operation, rather than their third.

At the July 28 meeting, Cr Richard Foster said: "It is entirely outrageous to suggest that Melbourne, one of the world's most forward thinking, progressive, environmentally sustainable cities on the planet, isn't green enough because we won't make ratepayers spend their hard-earned on commercial enterprises."

"If people were serious about running car share businesses, maybe they'd be running electric cars and installing car charging points," he said.

Only Cr Stephen Mayne voted against the motion, primarily because of the impediment of finding a commercial space before council will release an on-street space to operators.

It is unclear whether councillors fully understood that they were imposing fees in Southbank for the first time.

During the July 28 debate, Cr Arron Wood said: "I think the fee structure is right - no increase in the CBD."

He also called on car share operators to work collaboratively with the council in the future.



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The crane at the construction site on Balston and Kavanagh Streets in Southbank, which was left resting on a lift shaft.

Close crane call

A construction worker escaped with minor leg injuries on Friday, August 7 after a crane collapsed at a Southbank construction site.

Paramedics raced to the Crema Constructions site at the corner of Kavanagh and Balston streets shortly before 4pm, following reports of an incident involving a crane and falling concrete.

A spokesperson for the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) was reported as saying that the crane was in the process of jacking up when a hydraulic support gave way, collapsing in on itself and onto the lift shaft inside the building.

A spokesperson for Ambulance Victoria confirmed that it had treated one person at the scene for minor leg injuries, but that no one was taken to hospital.

The incident caused major traffic delays along CityLink's Kings Way inbound exit, the Burnley Tunnel entry ramps and throughout Southbank following the incident, after WorkSafe established an exclusion zone around the site.

The Kings Way exit and Burnley Tunnel entry ramps were reopened to traffic on Tuesday, August 11, according to a CityLink spokesperson.

However, the sections of Balston and Kavanagh streets in Southbank surrounding the site would remain closed until further notice while the crane was dismantled, according to WorkSafe.

WorkSafe's executive director of health

and safety Marnie Williams said it would continue to investigate the incident.

"WorkSafe continues to investigate the circumstances surrounding the crane collapse at Southbank," she said.

"Officers were on site over the weekend following the incident and we continue to hold discussions with the builder, engineers and employee representatives to ensure the site is safe."

"The builder must demonstrate to WorkSafe that plans to remove the crane are appropriate before work can begin."

Ms Williams said, while the traffic delays weren't ideal, drivers had to remain patient while the site was secured.

"We will advise the police and VicRoads when it is safe to open the roads," she said.

"While the disruption to traffic is unfortunate, the safety of workers and the public are our number one priority."

Developed by Golden Sunrise Developments, the Southbank site is the future home of the dual-tower apartment complex Marco Melbourne, which will comprise a 32 and a 37-storey tower.

The development's builder Crema Constructions declined to comment when contacted by *Southbank Local News*.

Tourism magnet

Southbank, and Southgate in particular, is the most popular destination for interstate visitors, according to a new City of Melbourne report.

The 2015 update of the council's *Daily Population Estimates and Forecasts* shows that nearly a third of interstate tourists reported visiting Southbank.

Federation Square and Docklands follow as popular places for interstate visitors.

While still high, the trend does not continue as strongly with international visitors, however, with overseas visitors more likely to visit Federation Square and the Queen Victoria Market.

Southbank's Crown Casino figures strongly with both interstate and international visitors – scoring a healthy 29 per cent with interstate visitors and 25 per cent with international tourists.

The last report, conducted in 2013, shows that Southgate went up 0.5 per cent among interstate visitors as well as 0.3 per cent among international visitors, which puts it in fourth spot ahead of Crown and St Kilda.

Southgate marketing manager Jo Gartner said the figures were a reflection of the precinct's broad range of attractions.

"We are proud to see Southgate has reaffirmed its position as a landmark city destination in Melbourne, increasing our margin in attracting both interstate and international visitors," she said.

"While over two-thirds of Southgate's annual visitors are local Melburnians, our diverse range of riverside restaurants and bars showcasing one of the best views of Melbourne's city skyline continues to attract this important segment to the precinct."

The council updates its research every two years on who works in, studies in, visits and lives within the boundaries of the City of Melbourne.

The Future Melbourne Committee accepted the latest version of the research on August 4.

On Southbank's popularity with interstate visitors, the report says of 2014 visitations:

"Southbank/Southgate was the most popular destination for interstate visitors. Nearly one third (30.5 per cent) of interstate visitors visited the place."



Southgate has ranked highly as an attractive place in the City of Melbourne for interstate and overseas tourists to visit.

Other popular places include:

- Crown Casino/Entertainment Complex (29.0 per cent);
- Federation Square (28.3 per cent);
- Docklands/Etihad Stadium (21.2 per cent);
- Queen Victoria Market (20.8 per cent); and
- Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) (10.2 per cent).

International visitors reportedly preferred the Queen Victoria Market.

The report says: "With its charm and historical value, Queen Victoria Market tops the list as the most popular destination for international visitors."

"More than one in two (51.8 per cent) of international travellers to Melbourne reported to visit the market during their trips to during their trips to Melbourne."

The other favourites include:

- Federation Square (50.4 per cent);
- Bourke Street Mall (30.9 per cent);
- Southbank/Southgate (29.4 per cent);
- St Kilda (28.1 per cent); and
- Crown Casino (25.2 per cent).

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

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Business fears eased on metro rail

The news was not as grim as many members of the Yarra River Business Association (YRBA) had expected at its Melbourne Metro Rail information session at St Johns Southgate on Friday, July 10.

While the YRBA had been of the understanding that the project would force the closure of Princes Bridge during its construction, Melbourne Metro Rail Authority CEO Evan Tattersall assured members that this would not be the case.

However, Mr Tattersall said proposed works to route Melbourne's main north-south tram service along Flinders and Elizabeth streets would see likely disruption to pedestrian flow to north bank via the Flinders St underpass.

In welcoming the early consultation by the Melbourne Metro Rail Authority, YRBA executive officer Tim Bracher said while the disruption wasn't ideal, it did present an opportunity to upgrade the underpass.

"It would appear that the only disruption may be the works to the section of Flinders St, between Swanston and Elizabeth streets, where the main north-south tram line for the CBD is going to be located for the duration of construction," he said.

"This could make it more difficult for pedestrians to access Southbank via the railway underpass."

"On the other hand, we're hoping that Metro will take the opportunity to completely upgrade the Flinders Street Station-Elizabeth Street pedestrian underpass, which



Melbourne Metro Rail Authority CEO Evan Tattersall briefs YRBA members at last month's forum.

has become a major embarrassment to Melbourne."

The State Government announced a \$100 million plan to repair and renovate Flinders St Station in April, which included restoration of the underpass.

The Melbourne Metro Rail's nine-kilometre rail tunnels will travel from South Kensington, through Swanston St, under the

Yarra River and onto South Yarra.

Mr Tattersall informed members that the tunnels would be an entirely separate section of the rail network and would include a state of the art system comprised of advanced rolling stock and signalling.

Premier Daniel Andrews and Public Transport Minister Jacinta Allen announced in August that the government had chosen

tunneling as its preferred method for the crossing underneath the Yarra River.

Minister Allen said tunnel-boring machines would be used to excavate the two rail tunnels between the new CBD South station near St Paul's Cathedral and Domain Station on St Kilda Rd.

She reassured local businesses that other techniques, such as damming or dredging, would have caused significant disruption to the river and its surrounds.

"Tunnelling under the Yarra will reduce disruption to the environment and local businesses," she said.

"The use of tunnel boring machines will reduce the environmental impact on the river and limit inconvenience to business, pedestrians and commuters."

While the government is yet to finalise its business case for the Melbourne Metro Rail Project, Premier Andrews said construction was still on schedule to commence in 2018.

Community consultation is now underway, with the government inviting members of the public to take part in an online survey until August 28.

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Government releases short-stay panel report

By Bethany Williams

The State Government has released recommendations made by an independent panel examining short-stay residential apartment letting, but is yet to announce any reforms.

Under the panel's recommendations, short-stay operators would be held responsible for parties held in apartments they let.

The majority of the seven-person panel agreed that the appropriate regulatory approach would be to:

- Make providers of short-stay accommodation responsible, to a limited extent, for such parties in the apartments they let; and
- Empower owners' corporations (OC) to deal with the problem using existing powers, prescriptions and processes under the OC Act.
- According to the report prepared by the panel, the five members who supported this approach recommended that:
- OCs be empowered to serve a "notice to rectify breach" on providers of short-stay accommodation regarding breaches of the OC rules by occupants; and
- In determining disputes based on such breach notices, VCAT be given the power to prohibit the use of apartments for short-stay accommodation for a specified period or until the apartment is sold.

The panel also recommended that this regulatory action be complemented by self-regulation through the implementation of the Holiday Rental Industry Association's Holiday Rental Code of Conduct.

The short-stay ministerial advisory committee was formed in February

by Consumer Affairs Minister Jane Garrett and was asked to make recommendations to herself and Planning Minister Richard Wynne.

The group comprised various stakeholders from the City of Melbourne, the Victorian Tourism Industry Council, the Holiday Rental Industry Association and Strata Community Australia's Victorian division.

Docklands Community Association president Roger Gardner was also on the panel, along with Docklands short-stay operator and president of the Victorian Accommodation Industry Association, Paul Salter.

Under its terms of reference, the panel was required to examine the short-stay accommodation issue in residential apartment buildings and recommend ways to improve regulation to protect properties from "unruly" parties.

Meeting six times between March and May, the group considered 13 options for reform.

It was required to identify and examine options for addressing the issues that maximised the amenity of apartment buildings but minimised divisiveness within OCs, interference with property rights and negative impacts of Victoria's tourism industry and the Victorian economy.

Research included in the panel's report revealed that a January 2014 report prepared by BIS Shrapnel estimated there were 169,073 short-stay properties in Victoria

(27.12 per cent of the national total) and the industry supported \$31.4 billion in economic activity and 238,000 jobs nationally.

Accordingly, the panel estimated the short-stay accommodation industry in Victoria represented a multi-billion industry and supported over 500,000 jobs.

Options for reform considered by the panel included:

- Prohibiting short-stay accommodation (stays of less than 30 days) in apartment buildings under the Building Act 1993 or the Planning and Environment Act 1987;
- Self-regulation by the industry through implementation of the Holiday Rental Industry Association's Hotel Rental Code of Conduct;
- Alternative dispute resolution and mediation options to manage tensions between residents and short-stay apartment owners;
- Strengthening the powers of OCs under the OC Act 2006 to deal with the conduct of short-stay occupants;
- Amending the OC Act 2006 to allow OCs to make rules prohibiting or restricting short-stays; and
- Amending the OC Act 2006 to make apartment owners liable for the conduct of their short-stay occupants.

Not all panel members agreed with the final recommendation.

According to the panel's report, Mr Gardner considered banning short-stay accommodation in residential apartment buildings to be the best approach.

In contrast, the director of the Holiday Rental Industry Association, Justin Butterworth, believed that a regulatory approach was unnecessary and recommended industry self-regulation.

The panel's report noted the difficulty in forming a recommendation that met all criteria in the terms of reference. It recommended further consultation with industry and residents before any regulatory change occurs.

According to a spokesperson for Ms Garret, both ministers are currently considering the recommendations made by the panel and will be consulting further with the industry before announcing changes.

Ms Garrett said the Government was working to introduce a common-sense, long-term solution to the problem, that fostered tourism but also protected neighbouring residents.

"We have to find the right balance," Ms Garrett said. "Short-stay accommodation is a popular option for travellers coming to Melbourne, but it shouldn't impact on people's quiet enjoyment of their homes."

Mr Wynne said: "Our thriving apartment market means we have to make sure policy and legislation keeps pace with the changing ways people live and use their homes."



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Council treads softly on apartment standards

The City of Melbourne has made a high-level response to the State Government's Better Apartments discussion paper, without making any specific recommendations.

The council's response, which was endorsed by its Future Melbourne Committee on July 7, outlines a number of principles it considers important but couches its ideas in neutral language.

The strongest recommendation is that the standards which apply in NSW could be "considered" as a starting point for Victoria.

In NSW one-bedroom apartments are mandated to be at least 50sqm but in Melbourne, some 40 per cent of apartments are said to be smaller than this.

"We recommend consideration be given to the performance criteria in the NSW Apartment Design Guide as a starting point to develop relevant performance criteria/objectives for the Melbourne context," the council's submission says.

The council's submission suggests responses "could include" separation distances between buildings, communal space requirements, minimum apartment sizes, maximum building/apartment depths, ceiling heights and required levels of sunlight.

But the submission fails to quantify its claims. Rather, it talks about "appropriate" residential densities, "adequate" separation between buildings, "well designed" common areas, "appropriate" sunlight, "efficient" environmental design and "functional" outdoor space.

The council also calls for flexibility in the application of any apartment standards. It recommends that, in "limited circumstances" the Government could provide "deemed-to-comply standards".

The council notes that Victoria has no density controls and suggests that each apartment be considered in a wider context.

"In light of the lack of density controls,

consideration should be given to provisions which directly relate to the amenity of each apartment and contextual factors which significantly impact the amenity of apartments such as site layout and building orientation, separation and built form," the submission says.

On the question of affordability, the council argues that bigger does not necessarily mean more costly. And, in any event, it says standards should not be compromised.

"The quality of new residential development, however, should not be reduced to the lowest common denominator in pursuit of affordability," it says.

It admits some very small apartments are good but are rare in the current market.

"Very small apartments which offer good levels of amenity can and do exist, but they rely on clever, integrated and often bespoke design and tend to be the exception in the current market," the submission says.

"Affordability is not necessarily improved by building smaller homes. The conjunction of increasing sale prices with decreasing apartment sizes is now evident within the municipality with the price of the apartments remaining the same or even increasing despite size."

And it cites a Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) decision for a 36-storey housing development at 58-66 LaTrobe St to justify its position.

It says VCAT "did not accept the applicant's contention that a trade-off for the availability of the attributes of the cultural city is an apartment with a poor level of amenity and specifically stated 'using affordability as an argument does not justify reducing amenity to a bare minimum.'"



Members of the Fishermans Bend advisory committee out the front of the future home of the South Melbourne school.

Ferrars St vision

Port Phillip Council has proposed a \$40 million investment into the early delivery of community facilities for Fishermans Bend at Ferrars St in Southbank.

The plan will deliver integrated community facilities including a kindergarten, streetscape infrastructure, two multi-use netball courts and public open space, in an effort to fast track the development of the Montague Precinct.

The plan will include a "one-stop-drop-off" early learning hub as part of the new vertical South Melbourne Primary School at Ferrars St, which is due to open in January 2018.

With council to finance and deliver the project, the infrastructure is in advance of a finalised developer contribution plan. Mayor Amanda Stevens described this as unique.

"This proposal is based on some of the best models around the world for integrating community facilities into an inner city multi-story school," she said.

"It will allow council and the State Government to maximise the potential uses offered by this substantial range of facilities and result in substantial savings by not having to provide stand-alone infrastructure down the track."

Cr Stevens said council would also deliver a "safe and attractive" streetscape and a park within the Montague Precinct to set the tone for the development of Australia's biggest urban renewal project.

With the proposal now before the State

Government, Education Minister James Merlino said the Government was working closely with council to shape a shared vision for the new primary school.

"It is fantastic to see Port Phillip Council taking this important step and we look forward to working through the details of the council's proposals," he said.

"The Victorian Government has committed to making Victoria the education state. Central to this is ensuring that families have access to high-quality schools, especially in areas with growing populations."

Port Phillip Council's proposal is based on a strategic business case, which was adopted at its council meeting on July 28.

The case sets out the early investment rationale and involves a mixture of council rates and borrowings as well as State Government funding and future developer contributions.

The news follows Member for Albert Park Martin Foley and Planning Minister Richard Wynne's visit to the Ferrars St site as part of the announcement of the new Fishermans Bend Ministerial Advisory Committee.

Mr Foley reaffirmed the Government's pledge of delivering both South Melbourne Primary and South Melbourne Park Primary Schools by the beginning of 2018.

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Melbourne councillors consistently compromised by developer donations

City of Melbourne councillors were unable to assess a planning application at Northbank last month because too many of them had received election campaign donations from the developer.

The Asset 1 WTC and HANZ proposal for the former Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre site was listed for consideration at the July 7 Future Melbourne Committee Meeting.

However, the quorum was lost when five councillors declared an indirect conflict of interest, having received election campaign donations from Asset 1.

The matter was just one of three planning applications that Councillors were unable to consider at the meeting due to conflicts of interest over election campaign donations.

It's not the first time councillors have been unable to reach quorum due to conflicts of interest relating to election donations.

The council was unable to consider two different Central Equity proposals for Balston St and Kavanagh St in Southbank in December 2014 and May this year.

And in May, Minister for Local Government, Natalie Hutchins gave six councillors an exemption to vote on its Melbourne Open Space Strategy, after they were unable to vote due to conflicts of interest over campaign donations.

Cr Rohan Leppert estimated there had been at least 10 incidents of failing to reach quorum on planning matters due to conflicts of interest.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle, Deputy Lord Mayor Susan Riley, Cr Arron Wood, Cr Kevin Louey and Cr Ken Ong all declared indirect conflicts of interest over the Northbank application.

As a result council officers will now provide a recommendation on the application to Planning Minister Richard Wynne under delegation.

Council officer's report to the Future Melbourne Committee recommended supporting the proposal, subject to almost 11 pages of conditions.

Councillor Kevin Louey said by declaring



An artist's impression of the ASset 1 and HANZ proposal councillors were unable to consider at the July 7 meeting.

conflicts councillors avoided any issues of bias. "It (accepting donations) is allowable and it was declared as per the legislation," Cr Louey said.

Cr Louey said the failure to reach quorum didn't stifle public debate around planning matters because written submissions were still accepted and taken into account by planning officers who would make the recommendation under delegation.

The quorum was also lost at the July 7 meeting in relation to two CBD planning applications due to indirect conflicts of interest.

Cr Doyle, Cr Riley, Cr Wood and Cr Louey declared indirect conflicts of interests because a company employed by the owner

of the subject properties had made election campaign donations to Team Doyle.

Cr Rohan Leppert said he felt frustrated every time the council was unable to reach quorum due to conflicts of interest over donations.

"It stops us from being able to express an opinion, even as councillors without a conflict," he said.

"We're unable to fulfil the duties we were elected to fulfil."

Cr Leppert said none of the conflicted councillors had done anything wrong and, in his opinion, it was the Act itself that needed to change.

According to Cr Leppert, Victoria should

follow NSW's lead and ban developer donations altogether.

"If the State Government needs proof of why the Act needs to change then this is the perfect example," he said.

However, Cr Stephen Mayne said it was "not the end of the world" when quorum wasn't reached on planning matters where council isn't the responsible authority, as was the case at the July 7 meeting.

"It's far better to have a good conflict of interest regime than to have councillors voting on donor matters," Cr Mayne said.

According to Cr Mayne, the fact a quorum wasn't achieved at the July 7 meeting "hasn't stopped the wheels of government or stopped the process of council".

He said the outcome would have been the same in terms of the recommendation made to the planning minister whether a quorum had been reached or not, as 99 per cent of the time councillors agree with officer recommendations.

Cr Stephen Mayne said while he agreed it would be better if developer donations were banned, criminalising donations from one category would be difficult and had caused issues in NSW.

Cr Mayne noted that quorum would have been achieved for the two CBD applications had Cr Foster not been overseas at the time.

The Northbank planning application related to plans to construct a residential precinct at the corner of Spencer and Flinders streets at North Wharf.

Asset 1 WTC and Hanz's application proposes two 20-storey residential towers joined by a podium and a 26-storey tower. The shorter of the towers would be situated closer to the river, while the taller tower would be closer to Flinders St.

The towers would accommodate 1076 apartments, 1278sqm of ground floor retail space and 447 car parks.





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High wage earners in Southbank

Southbank workers are some of the highest paid in the state, according to a new Federal Government report.

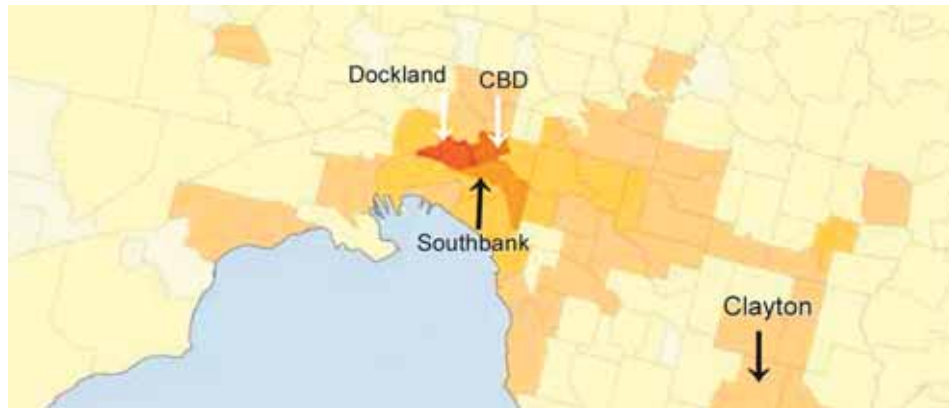
The *State of Australian Cities 2014-2014* report, which was published in July and includes a map showing the highest hourly rates in the state are being paid in postcodes 3008, 3000 and 3006 (Southbank).

It reports that between 2011 and 2012 Docklands' workers are paid more than \$90 per hour, while the figure in the CBD was between \$80 and \$90 per hour. Southbank workers earned between \$70 and \$80 per hour.

The report concludes that these small but high-performing areas need to be protected because they are so important to the national economy.

"Ensuring that Australia's most productive regions - the inner areas of its cities - remain unconstrained, efficient and productive is critical," it concluded. "With such dense economic activity occurring within these relatively small areas, even minor inefficiencies can have a major impact on Australia's national economy and remedying those inefficiencies can reap large economic benefits."

Population growth in inner Melbourne is also occurring at a faster rate than in other capital cities. The report says: "Between 2012 and 2013, the two inner city areas in Australia with the largest population increases were both in inner Melbourne:



The above map of Melbourne shows economic activity per capita by suburb between 2011 and 2012. It uses different shades to identify dollar wages per hour and shows Docklands, the CBD and Southbank having the highest earners.

the SA2 areas of Melbourne and Southbank grew by 5400 and 2100 additional people respectively over the year."

But inner city growth and wealth has a flipside - a growing social divide between the inner and the outer metropolitan areas.

As the local economy evolves from a largely manufacturing base to business and other service industries, the inner city is thriving at the expense of the suburbs.

Housing affordability is another measure of growing social inequality, with the report publishing a telling map charting the affordability of housing across Melbourne between 1981 and 2006.

In 1981, most housing across Melbourne was affordable to low to moderate income earners. By 2006, this phenomenon had been turned on its head with only the outer extremities remaining affordable.

"In terms of the built form of cities, this price premium is having ramifications for the type of urban development that is occurring," the report says. "Marked increases in density are occurring where price premiums are highest. This price premium is also facilitating substantial changes in the type of dwellings that are being provided."

"Australia's cities are now increasingly characterised by the significant spatial divide between areas of highly productive jobs

and the areas of population based services, reflected through the price premiums associated with houses that have better access to the city centre."

The same inequities show up in a study of distance between home and work, with the outer suburban dwellers facing significantly longer times in traffic.

While not advocating any suggested solutions, the report notes growing concern of the consequences of the growing social divide.

"There are concerns held by researchers, state governments and local councils that while land release on the urban fringe may have once been a valid strategy for boosting the supply of affordable housing, this approach may be increasingly problematic," the report says.

"Research undertaken by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) concluded for those cities under study, Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne, that clusters of social disadvantage were increasingly being pushed further towards city peripheries over the period 2001-11. The report notes that the outward movement of social disadvantage is driven by housing affordability factors and it poses new challenges, because these areas are already poorly resourced in terms of accessible jobs, transport, facilities and services."



MELBOURNE PASSENGER BOATING ASSOCIATION



CITY OF MELBOURNE



Premier Daniel Andrews (centre left), James Packer (centre right) and Crown employees at last month's launch.

Crown takes a lead

Crown Resorts chairman James Packer appeared alongside Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews on Friday, July 31 to announce the second phase of the company's indigenous employment program.

With more than 450 indigenous workers, many of who reside in Southbank, the company has been long recognised nationally as an industry leader in providing employment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

Announcing the plans in front of a packed River Room at Crown, the company launched its second Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), which has been classified at the "Elevate Level" (the highest category) by Reconciliation Australia.

The plan outlines the company's strategy for increasing opportunity for indigenous Australians by providing education, training and leadership programs to help them develop their careers with the company and beyond.

The action plan also extends beyond employment and training with a \$200 million philanthropic fund to support indigenous community organisations across the country.

Having launched its first RAP in 2013, Mr Packer said the company had worked hard to create a culture of change both within the organisation and the broader community.

However, he said the company still had a

long way to go in its quest to help close the employment gap.

"Crown believes meaningful employment is the best way for our company to help close the gap on indigenous disadvantage," he said.

"I am proud to say that our indigenous employment program is widely considered a best practice model and that, in July this year, we employed our 450th indigenous employee."

"We recognise there is a lot more to do and we are committed to giving our fine indigenous employees the opportunity to move into significant management roles as our second RAP progresses."

Reconciliation Australia CEO Justin Mohamed said the company had set the tone nationally for helping boost indigenous employment.

"Crown Resorts has proved itself a game changer in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment and its broader reconciliation initiatives," he said.

"With its Elevate RAP, it has set the bar high to benefit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and is determined to succeed in its endeavour."

Bridge honours Evan Walker

Southbank's main pedestrian bridge officially has a name, with City of Melbourne councillors last month ruling in favour of naming it honour of former planning minister Evan Walker.

Dubbed the "father of Southbank," Evan Walker was a visionary architect and former Labor planning minister who was responsible for shaping Southbank into what is today.

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

The matter went before councillors at its regular meeting on Tuesday, July 28 and was passed unanimously.

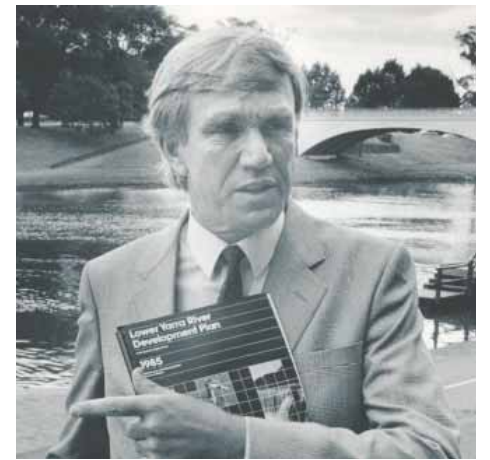
Cr Richard Foster said renaming the bridge in honour of Mr Walker was a fitting tribute.

"It's always good to see someone like Evan Walker being acknowledged in this way," he said.

"When people have made such a contribution, as Evan Walker did, it's important that we have a lasting monument to that and a way to acknowledge that contribution."

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle, who first raised the idea on public radio in the wake of Mr Walker's death in February, said he was delighted with the support for his initiative.

"I would just like to say he was a very urbane, sophisticated and charming person," he said. "I think we all suffered



Former Labor planning minister Evan Walker.

such a sense of loss when he died in February of this year."

"Evan, along with people here at the City of Melbourne, Rob Adams and Geoff Lawler and others was the father of Southbank turning it from an industrial precinct into a thriving precinct of today."

"He was a person that connected people and therefore a bridge I think is a remarkable thing to be named after Evan Walker."

"I also note the fact that his family is very supportive and grateful for this gesture by the City of Melbourne and I'm delighted to second it."



The Southbank Footbridge has officially been renamed the Evan Walker Bridge.

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Mayne addresses the YRBA

More than 30 local business people enjoyed an engaging address from City of Melbourne councillor Stephen Mayne at the Yarra River Business Association's (YRBA) quarterly luncheon on July 17.

The Bohemian Bar and Restaurant at Dukes Walk, South Wharf, provided the ideal location for the business group's second luncheon of the year as Cr Mayne entertained and informed members with his speech.

Cr Mayne's background in journalism, share holder advocacy and local government provided him with a wealth of informative and witty stories, as he focused predominantly on public communication in a cyber age.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle will address the YRBA's next luncheon at the Arts Centre on November 30 in Southbank, in what will be a Q&A style forum.

For more information visit www.yarrariver.info

Enjoy some photos from last month's lunch.



Cr Stephen Mayne speaks at the YRBA Luncheon.



Tiana stars in web series

Southbank resident and actress Tiana Hogben stars in her first TV-web series "I Can't Even".

The 23-year-old co-stars as Lex alongside Louise Cox as Em in the new six episode sketch comedy series, which explores the dynamics of two polar opposite best friends.

Launched on YouTube on August 3, *I Can't Even* is a debut web series from Southbank's Victorian College of the Arts graduates Hayley and Alyce Adams.

The story follows the two self-proclaimed pop culture nerds who live vicariously through their favourite cult fandoms, which range from *Harry Potter* and *The Hunger Games* to *Star Wars* and *Twilight*.

While used to acting in more the traditional feature and short film style, Tiana said she was excited to be breaking into the new online format.

"It's definitely exciting," she said. "I've never been part of a project like this but I've really enjoyed it."

"I think with so many people engaging with nearly everything online now this style is definitely the future in many ways."

A Quay West resident of seven years, Tiana said she had always loved living in Southbank, as it was "central to everything."

I Can't Even is now available to watch on YouTube: www.youtube.com/channel/UC06F8cZYGpYoOct3Xe0Mpng



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HISTORIC ART LEGACY IN MELBOURNE

AS PART OF THE MELBOURNE WINTER MASTERPIECES SERIES, THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA (NGV) IS SHOWCASING SPECTACULAR WORKS IN ITS LATEST EXHIBITION "MASTERPIECES FROM THE HERMITAGE: THE LEGACY OF CATHERINE THE GREAT".



Peter Paul RUBENS and workshop
Flemish 1577-1640
The Adoration of the Magi
(c. 1620)
oil on canvas
235.0 x 277.5 cm
The State Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg
(Inv. № 494)
Acquired from the collection of Dufresne, Amsterdam, 1770

This exhibition is one of the world's greatest art collections, as it features more than 450 works by artists such as Rembrandt, Rubens, Velázquez and Van Dyck.

The Australian-exclusive exhibition holds personal treasures from Catherine the Great's own collection that now reside in The Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg.

Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews says this is an incredible opportunity for visitors from all over the world to experience a world treasure.

"*Masterpieces from the Hermitage: The Legacy of Catherine the Great* showcases treasures from one of the largest, oldest and most-visited museums in the world," he said.

"Another major event for Melbourne, this exhibition provides visitors with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see first-hand the extraordinary personal collection of Catherine the

Great, drawn from the State Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg."

The Minister for Creative Industries Martin Foley added that this was another success for Melbourne's renowned cultural empire, and was a triumph for all Victorians.

"*Masterpieces from the Hermitage* brings together two of the world's most acclaimed cultural institutions – the Hermitage and our NGV. It's a major win for Victoria," he said.

The exhibition itself is a transformative experience for visitors as it unveils the architectural details, interior furnishings and colours inspired by the Hermitage's gallery spaces.

NGV Director Tony Ellwood said *Masterpieces from the Hermitage* was a celebration of fine art aimed at educating generations of art lovers.

"This exhibition celebrates the tenacity and vision of a true innovator

in the arts. Catherine the Great's inexhaustible passion for the arts, education and culture heralded a renaissance, leading to the formation of one of the world's greatest museums," he said.

Following record-breaking attendance in the 2014-15 financial year, the NGV will now be open seven days a week from October 2015 for the first time since 2005.

Mr Foley says this is a testament to the NGV's ability to attract and inspire audiences of all ages.

"This means more Victorians and visitors from elsewhere will have a chance to experience its exquisite collection, exhibition program and extensive free program," he said.

Masterpieces from the Hermitage: The Legacy of Catherine the Great is now showing daily until November 8 with a variety of associated programs for visitors of all ages.

Marshall arrives at MRC

MARSHALL MCGUIRE HAS MADE THE SWITCH TO HEAD OF ARTISTIC PLANNING AT MELBOURNE RECITAL CENTRE (MRC) IN SOUTHBANK.

With a wealth of experience as both a musical curator and performer, Mr McGuire arrives at MRC having managed all classical music programming at the Arts Centre since 2012.

Having also performed at the venue as a guest harpist and with his own ensemble *Ludovico's Band*, he said he was looking forward to bringing a unique perspective to his new role.

"From a performer's point of view I know how the rooms react and how the acoustics work having performed here, which is an absolute joy," he said.

"I really do think that it's the best place to play music in the country and I know it's easy to say that now because I'm working here but everyone that comes here is just rapturous about it and that's very special."

Prior to his role with the Arts Centre, Mr McGuire held a number of prestigious planning and curating positions, which included roles with the Sydney Opera House, Orchestra Victoria and the West Australian Symphony Orchestra.

Mr McGuire possesses a long association with Southbank having also studied at The Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) and said that, in many ways, he felt like he was returning home.

"I remember when this area that we're sitting in right now was just a car park when I was studying," he said.

"There is a different energy here because, at the Arts Centre you feel adjacent to the city, whereas here you feel it is one step removed a little bit, and yet sitting here the Arts Centre is right on our doorstep."

"What I find is that I'm exploring different parts of Southbank that I wouldn't have before. It's a different neighbourhood as it's connected to the city in a different way."

And he said it's the community-orientated aspect of his new role that he is looking forward to taking advantage of most in his quest to help reinforce the venue's status as Melbourne's home of music.

Working with a passionate and experienced team spearheaded by CEO Mary Valentine, Mr McGuire said he and his colleagues were focused on engaging with audiences to provide the best experience possible.

"I love meeting audiences and I love talking to them," he said. "I like trying to find out why they come to concerts and I think the performer in me helps with that a little bit too, to engage with those audiences."

"It's a matter of reaching out to promoters and presenters and individual artists and small groups to ask them what they want to do and how can it work best here?"

While he is still busy settling into his new role, he said he was quickly adapting to life at the Melbourne Recital Centre.

He said he hoped to build on the venue's diverse range of musical offerings and invited anyone with a love for music to come and experience something different.

"I'd like to think that the foundation and platform of what we do is really broad and there are always things that we haven't thought of that we can present here," he said.

"It's a place for audiences and performers to come to just have a conversation about music and I do hope what we are providing is that opportunity to travel between genres and to try something that you don't know."

Southbank Local News wishes Marshall all the best in his new role at the Melbourne Recital Centre.



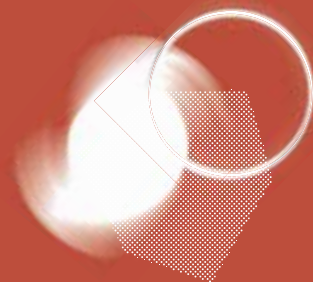
GARRICK OHLSSON PIANO

'Remarkable assurance in executing wicked pyrotechnics...with extraordinary power and demonic furore.'
The New York Times

View from the Summit

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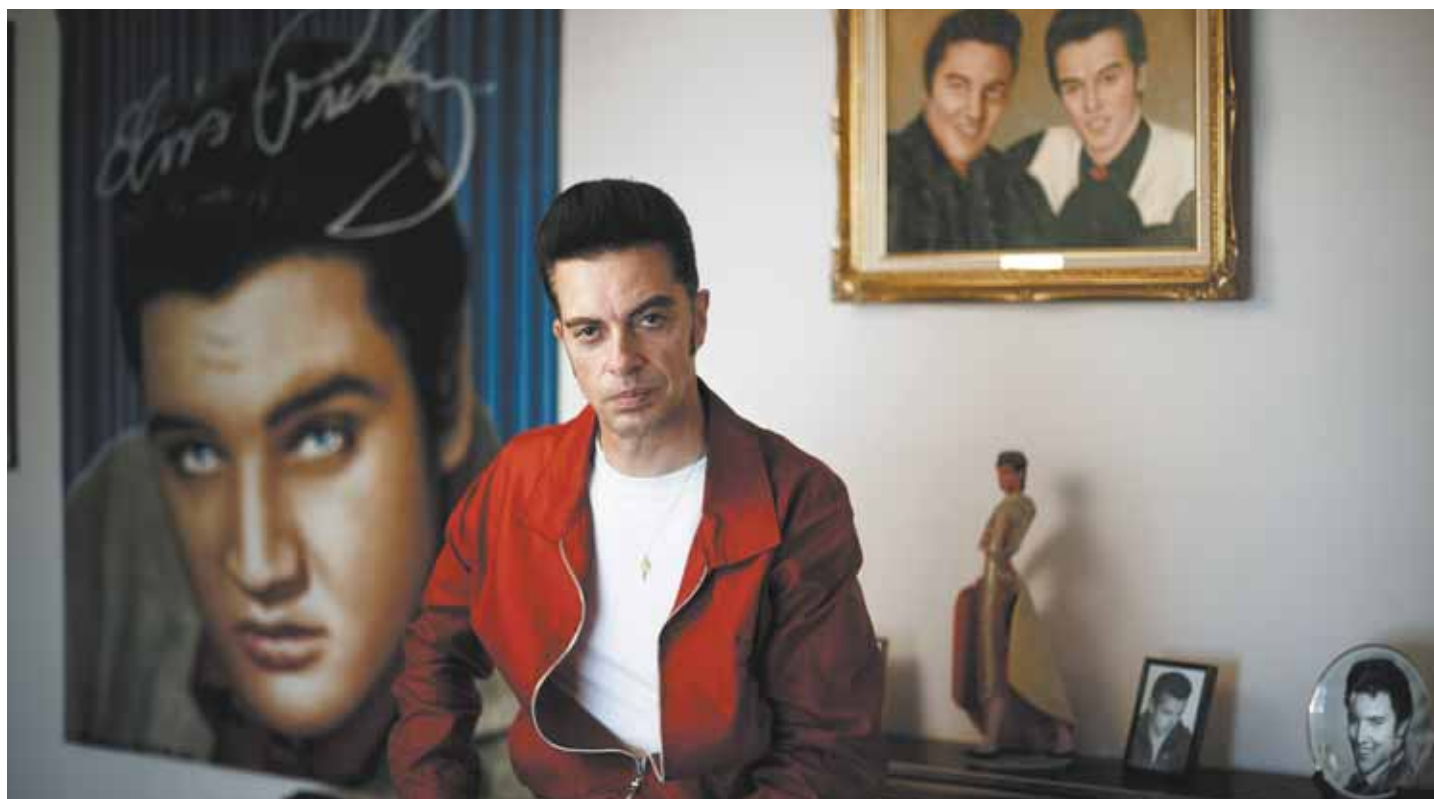
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AMBER MCCAIG



A deeper look beyond the image

BY SEAN CAR

FORMER PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIES COLLEGE (PSC) STUDENT AMBER MCCAIG HAS CRAFTED HER STYLE ON CAPTURING NOT JUST PEOPLE BUT THEIR WHOLE STORY.

Since graduating from her second degree (Bachelor of Photography) from PSC in 2013, this creative approach has been central to her work and was first truly recognised in her main body of work *Imagined Histories*.

The exhibition, held at Melbourne's Edmund Pearce Gallery in 2013, featured portraits of ordinary people who re-enact and embody moments in history as part of everyday life.

And the theme continues in her current project *Americana Now* - another portrait series exploring modern day individuals who are attached to the nostalgia of the 1950s and 60s.

With a love for history and storytelling, Amber said she had always made a habit of

using photography as a vehicle for exploring and understanding people.

"I just love people and photographing people, but especially just real people and getting to know them by delving a bit deeper and trying to explore their environment and their life," she said.

"It's the nostalgia as well. Why do people cling on to it? I'm trying to work through that because I love history and I want to find out what it is about these eras and why some people embody it physically and mentally."

From rock and roll dancers and pin-ups to collectors and classic car enthusiasts, Amber said she had discovered a "massive scene" of everyday people devoting themselves to the 50s and 60s through the making of *Americana Now*.

She said there was no more poignant example of this than a local insurance worker (pictured) she had recently encountered, who was the complete modern day version of rock and roll icon Elvis Presley.

"I came across him at a dancing event where he had this little market stall. I noticed that his hair was quite quiffed!" she said.

"I ended up making contact with him later and he is a real character. Walking into his house you would never know but inside it was like an absolute memorial to Elvis and to the 1950s."

"There is one painting in his house where he actually got himself painted next to Elvis in a portrait together. He just felt a real connection to that time and he's just lived with it ever since."

While she only made the switch from managing pubs in Scotland to photography at the age of 30, it is a career move that has truly paid off for Amber.

Almost immediately since first graduating from PSC in 2009 with an advanced diploma, she has been working as a producer for Andrew Ritchie Photography and studio manager at Ripe Studios in South Yarra.

With much of her work receiving local and

international recognition, her talent and success has been something her former college has been keen to make an example of for its current and future students.

She said undertaking study at the Photography Studies College was one of the best decisions she's ever made.

"They (PSC) sometimes send students here and I talk to them about what I've done and they just come and look at the studio," she said.

"A big dream of mine was always to get a degree and so to be able to do it in something I loved as a mature aged student at PSC was just fabulous."

"To go there was the best choice and I got my degree so I'm absolutely rapped! They're now printing this exhibition for me and they're always interested to find out what I'm doing. I miss all the guys there!"

Americana Now will be held at the Ballarat International Foto Biennale from August 22 to September 20.

www.ambermccaig.com

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Boite Millennium Chorus celebrates African music

FROM ANCIENT SONGS TO CONTEMPORARY FUSION, THE BOITE MILLENNIUM CHORUS WILL PERFORM ITS CONCERT ONE AFRICA AT HAMER HALL IN SOUTHBANK ON AUGUST 30, IN WHAT WILL BE A CELEBRATION OF AFRICA.



Boite Millennium Chorus.

More than 350 voices will fill Hamer Hall with songs, stories, music and dance featuring the renowned chorus and a brilliant line-up of supporting artists.

Special guests will include the Emmy Award-winning director of the Soweto Gospel Choir Jimmy Mulovhedzi (South Africa) along with Ajak Kwai (Sudan), Bouly Sonko (Senegal),

Oumy Sene Sonko (Senegal), the Burundi Drummers Group of Victoria and many more.

It will be directed by Senegalese musician Lamine Sonko in collaboration with choir director Andrea Khoza. Mr Sonko said One Africa was an adventurous vocal journey traversing the ancient African traditions of the Griots and the colourful fusion of the contemporary African diaspora.

“Growing up in Senegal and in a family of Griots, I was surrounded by music and dance and that’s why I have an obligation to pass on my music and stories to future generations,” he said.

“Following the success of last year’s concert I am excited to be able to share the meaning of my music with the Melbourne audience once again.”

Each year the Boite Millennium Chorus encourages up to 400 singers from across

Victoria to become part of the massive participatory project.

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www.artscentremelbourne.com.au



Lamine Sonko.

Latin is in the air

AS PART OF THE MELBOURNE RECITAL CENTRE’S LOCAL SERIES, INTERNATIONALLY-ACCLAIMED BARITONE JOSÉ CARBÓ WILL JOIN AWARD-WINNING CLASSICAL GUITAR DUO THE GRIGORYAN BROTHERS FOR AN EVENING OF LATIN MUSIC.

Carbó will take to the Elizabeth Murdoch Hall stage alongside Slava and Leonard Grigoryan to perform much-loved Latin-American songs from his 2012 album *My Latin Heart*.

The album shot straight to number one on the *Limelight Classical Music Charts* and was even nominated for an ARIA award for “Classical Record of the Year”.

With a familial connection to tango music, Carbó believes it was his destiny to produce

this style of music.

“It is as if fate ordained that I sing as a baritone – so I could record grandpa’s tango one day,” he said.

The year-long festival presents a diverse range of chamber music featuring the best in local musicians.

My Latin Heart will take place on Thursday, August 27 and tickets are on sale now via the Melbourne Recital Centre website.



Jose Carbo, Slava & Leonard Grigoryan.

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EVENTS



NATURALLY 7

Sept 4 - Hamer Hall

After receiving rave reviews and playing to enthusiastic crowds in 2014, the phenomenal Naturally 7 return for one night only. In the footsteps of legendary artists Take 6, Bobby McFerrin and OutKast, Naturally 7 move one step further by introducing the tantalising sounds of what they call 'Vocal Play'.

www.artscentremelbourne.com.au



DEATH AND THE MAIDEN

Runs until Aug 22 - The Sumner

Ariel Dorfman's explosively provocative, award-winning 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



CREATIONS

Sept 10 - Elisabeth Murdoch Hall

Young soloists and ensembles from the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School present selections from Haydn's masterpiece The Creation, based on the Book of Genesis, and sung in English.

www.melbournerecital.com.au



A SOCIAL SERVICE

Runs until 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

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 at Open House: Tromarama for Kids.

www.ngv.vic.gov.au

THE DIVINE

Aug 25 - Salon

Kegelstatt Ensemble explores the music of composers who have yearned to break free of formal boundaries, turning to the natural and the mystical for inspiration. The fantastical soundscapes of Debussy's landmark sonata for flute, viola and harp invoke a higher plane, free of such earthly horrors as the impending World War.

www.melbournerecital.com.au

RACHMANINOV'S THIRD

Aug 20 - Aug 22 - Hamer Hall

Sir Andrew Davis conducts a thrilling night of virtuosic composition, beginning with Rimsky-Korsakov's Dubinushka, an evocation of the revolutionary spirit ignited through Russian folk song.

www.mso.com.au

BETRAYAL

Aug 26 - Sept 19 - The Sumner

Emma is married to Robert. But for seven years, she's been having an affair with Jerry, Robert's best friend. Betrayal begins at the end of the affair, and pursues an enthralling journey to its very beginnings. As memory reels backwards towards the moment the affair started, the lies tangle into a web of deception, and betrayal begets betrayal.

www.mtc.com.au



AMERICANA

Sep 7 - Salon

This concert features the many talents of Joe Chindamo, a remarkable wizard of the piano. A moveable chamber music feast showcasing different performers and instrumentation. The only constant is curator and violinist, Wilma Smith, who puts together a guest roster of some of the finest musicians.

www.melbournerecital.com.au



ANTIGONE

Aug 21 - Sept 13 - Merlyn Theatre

Antigone has always been a respected member of her community but in civil war all bets are off. She suddenly finds herself on the outside looking in. Starring Emily Milledge, Adena Jacobs' intoxicating re-interpretation of Sophocles' timeless tragedy isn't afraid to get its hands dirty as it unearths the power of ritual in a shattered community.

www.malthousetheatre.com.au



LORE

Aug 28 - Sept 5 - Playhouse

From the enigmatic waters of the Torres Strait Islands to the deeply rooted inland trees in Australia, the trio draw a realistic portrayal of life for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In these heartfelt dance works, they explore themes of identity, inequality, climate change and sustainability with a hopeful and positive outlook for the future.

www.artscentremelbourne.com.au



THE WEIR

Aug 14 - Sept 26 - Fairfax Studio

Theatre's power as an arena for storytelling meets the great Irish tradition of the bar room tale in Conor McPherson's brilliant gem of a play about loss and the consolations of connection. Beautifully understated and emotionally elegant, McPherson's multi-award winning play sees the reunion of Nadine Garner with Private Lives director Sam Strong.

www.mtc.com.au

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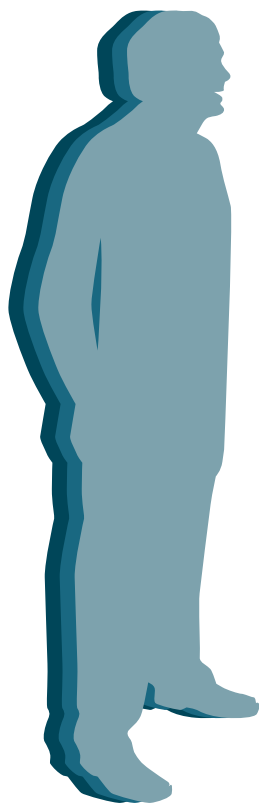
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A selfless Southbanker

Emma Donaldson has made a career out of caring for other people.



SOUTHBANKER

Profile by
Sean Car

Currently studying a PhD on self-regulated learning for disaffected youth at the University of Melbourne and lecturing on special-needs education and psychology at Swinburne, Emma is today one of the leading experts in her field.

Having grown up in country Victoria, the Guild resident initially made the move to Melbourne at the age of 17 to pursue a degree in dance and drama.

However, after making a switch to education and becoming increasingly exposed to the issues facing children with special-needs, she said it didn't take her long to find her true calling.

"There was one child that I was working with when I was going through my teacher training and I just thought this system is just not supporting you and it was so hard for me as his integration aide," she said.

"I quickly realised that there was a gap in support for kids with special-needs and so, after I realised that I couldn't do a lot at a school level, I moved to a not-for-profit called Autism Victoria."

"I became a leader of a program where anyone up to the age of six that was diagnosed with autism received \$12,000 from the Federal Government to go towards therapy."

"It was really good to be part of leading that program because it helped so many families."

From that point on, she has never looked back on pursuing her passion of helping provide a better life for children living with a disability.

However, her career pathway has taken its fair share of unexpected turns along the way, having taken on roles in special needs

education in both the Cayman Islands and British Virgin Islands.

After initially travelling to Cayman Islands in 2010 to take a job with the government, she soon realised there was to be no job, and rather than return home, she stayed on the island and helped to establish a grassroots foundation.

"I came back to Australia and packed up everything and about nine months later I went back to Cayman to a job that was meant to be in their government and when I got there, there was no job!" she said.

"I thought well I can't go back to Australia, I've just packed up my life! So there was a special-needs foundation that was very grassroots, which really wasn't doing anything and there was this huge need for providing services to families but also to raise awareness around disability in the community."

"Then the special-needs foundation kicked off, we had a board of eight and started to give out sponsorships and scholarships to families so that they could access more of the services because there was just such a dire need."

During her time as director of the foundation on the remote Caribbean islands, she also worked as a part-time teacher and established a program at her school, which provided sponsorship to students who weren't able to access education.

In 2012, she moved to the British Virgin Islands for two years to work alongside an international school to establish the "Solution Studio" – a learning hub for students with special needs.

Having intended to stay on and continue strengthening special-needs education and

services in the region, she told *Southbank Local News* that her career took yet another unexpected turn, which would see her return to Southbank.

"I'd been asked to stay on and do that full-time but they had trouble getting a work permit for me so I ended up being deported three times in total," she said.

"I came back to Australia and I couldn't get back on the island so I had to stay here, which wasn't a bad thing to be stuck in Southbank I'm very happy with the place!"

"I continued to consult online and then realised that my time in the Caribbean was probably done and I needed to settle down here," she said.

While frustrated not to be able to continue her work on the island, the setback failed to dampen her enthusiasm.

Since returning home in 2014, she has helped to establish the world's first free massive online open course (MOOC) to assist students, families and carers living and working with autism.

As well as studying a PhD, Emma continues to work with a number of organisations and presents publicly on special-needs education and said she was determined to continue providing a better life for those she cared about.

"It's exciting to be able to pass on my experience to future generations as it's an area that is constantly growing in Australia," she said.

"What's exciting is that there is a real inclusion in special-needs and wanting to make sure that the system doesn't do what it's always done to make a difference."



FACES OF SOUTHBANK

What is on the top of your bucket list and why?



ROSA ZAPPIA, 23

Just to enjoy life really, because that's how life should be.



LUKE CULLINAN, 23

I'm from Mildura so this weekend trip to Melbourne and going to the footy is the top. I've never been to the footy before.



WHITNEY SMITH, 22

To travel more. We've flown in from Brisbane and we're here for two days.



SIAOSI SAULA, 24

To travel overseas more and explore because I've only been to New Zealand.



STEPHANIE DWINE, 29

To go to Thailand, do a yoga retreat and become a yoga instructor.



JOEL DWINE, 24

To live overseas for a reasonable amount of time, particularly Switzerland.



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OWNERS CORPORATION LAW *With Tom Bacon*

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

Off-the-plan is fraught with potential issues

There are still a large number of multi-storey high rise developments being marketed and sold “off-the-plan” in the Melbourne metropolitan area.

As compared with buying an existing property, there are many potential benefits such as good pricing offered by developers needing to satisfy finance requirements, a potential capital gain during the period between signing the contract and settlement, the flexibility and choice regarding layout and floor plan size, and more time to arrange your financial affairs before moving.

However, it is well-reported that a large number of these newer developments are being financed and project-managed by cashed-up Chinese and Malaysian property syndicates (with Australian developers acting as the fronts) and with less and less reliance on the major Australian banks.

As a result, the developers are benefitting from the less-restrictive requirements imposed by the lending conditions of the traditional financiers and this can, in and of itself, lead to more risks for the eventual owners of these apartments.

Some of the most important things for intending buyers to consider are:

(1) The profile and track record of the builder and developer. For instance, do they have a history of doing good work in Australia and around the world? Do they stand behind their developments? Do they return to their developments to fix any defects? Are they financially solvent? These matters can be checked via online enquiries. If the developer runs into trouble during the intervening period between the sales contract being entered into and settlement, then there is the risk of the deposit being lost, or the project being cancelled or at least substantially delayed;

(2) Has the developer provided sufficient information to understand what is being purchased? For instance, are the architectural plans of the building and common areas no more than generic images? Have the internal furnishings been specified?

(3) Have the running costs of the building been properly specified? Some owners’ corporations have had nasty surprises after settlement when it has been discovered that the budget and levies had been overwhelmingly under-estimated;

(4) Will the building be completed in stages and which stage will the unit be completed within? There can be instances of disruption and loss of amenity for owners that settle early, as they have to move in while the upper levels of the towers are still being built, with workmen and construction noise continuing for several months after settlement;

(5) Will the building be independently managed by reputable owners’ corporation management companies and caretaking companies or does the sales contract provide the developer with the discretion to appoint whomever they like and lock the owners’ corporation into contracts of varying lengths?

(6) Do the proposed rules suit your needs in terms of your personal attitude towards subject matters such as pets, smoking, the ability to short-term let and the ability to carry out your own renovations? and

(7) Do you know whether the apartment will have an obstructed or unobstructed view when completed?

There are always risks implicit with any investment, but with a large choice of apartments currently on the market, potential purchasers can afford to shop around and be picky about whom they choose to invest their money with. Reputable developers with a good track record will do well out of the Melbourne market, while those developers who do not have a good reputation or are new to the market may struggle to get their developments sold quickly, unless they market the building overseas and sell to overseas owners.

SOUTHBANK SUDOKU

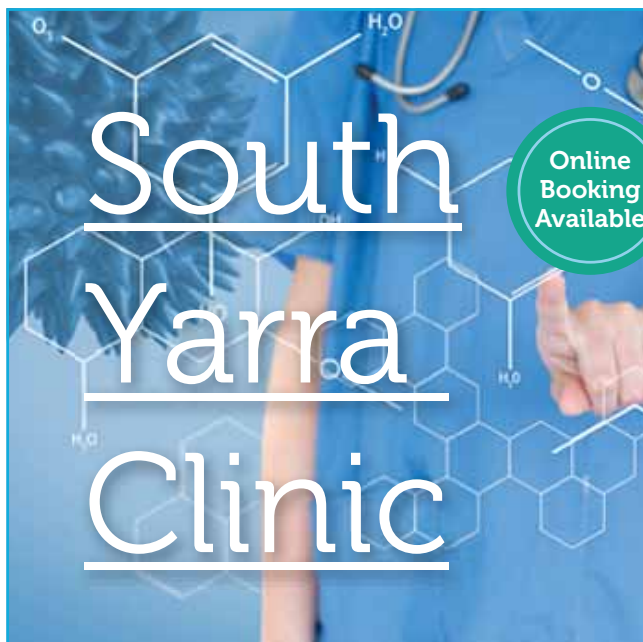
Sudoku solution: Edition 43

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

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 medium! Good Luck!

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



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with Tom Hoffmann

When was the last time you lent someone a book?

I lent out two books recently, so I know that it still happens, but I have a feeling it's becoming less common. Why lend a book when you can send someone a link to the e-copy or a super-cheap online outlet?

If it's true that we're reading other people's books less frequently, we're missing out on something. There is great insight, joy and even sadness to be shared in the reading of other people's hard copy books.

A physical book can unite two readers in a thought or feeling that transcends time and space. For instance, the other day I opened my copy of *Hamlet* - a second hand copy - and flicked through the pages looking for my favourite bits. As I did, I stopped to read a stanza that had been underlined by the previous owner: "When sorrows come, they come not single spies, but in battalions."

A famous line to be sure, but as I thumbed my way through the classic tragedy I paused at the other underlined parts, all of which were sorrowful. While *Hamlet* is undeniably dark, the more lofty and hopeful language such as, "Doubt thou the stars are fire, doubt that the sun doth move, doubt truth to be a liar, but never doubt I love" remained unmarked.

In reading through that copy of *Hamlet* I felt an affinity with the reader that had gone before me and sympathised not

with humanity in general, but with a real companion reading the text with me. I don't know if they are alive or dead and I can only guess how Shakespeare's words moved or challenged them, but in the reading of that book I had company and was thankful for it.

I've had a similar experience with my pocket bible, which is also second hand. I picked it up at a book sale because it was just the right size for taking with me on pastoral visits - small enough to carry comfortably in one hand while looking for a hospital room or some such place.

I've often wondered if the previous owner was also a minister or chaplain, because the marked verses stand out to me as having a caring, compassionate and even pastoral emphasis to them.

Perhaps God has worked through the previous owner's experience of the Bible and is now mysteriously helping me find the right words to say as I encounter different people of a different time, with different hopes, dreams and nightmares.

Whatever the case may be, the written word is a powerful thing and sharing in it with others brings it to life in ways we can't make happen alone.

That's why Shakespeare is most powerful on the stage and God's word most powerful when read or heard with an understanding that it puts you in the company of billions of individuals who are experiencing, or once did experience, very familiar fears, tears and half-hearted smiles - including Jesus, the man of sorrows himself.

Pastor Tom



Month of car share

This month car share has kept my focus. The City of Melbourne proposed to significantly increase the costs to the car share operators for the on-street parking spots provided by CoM.

This took the operators by surprise and hence they lobbied hard to keep the cost down as any increase would invariably need to be passed onto the users, you and I.

I am an avid fan and user of car share. In many ways car share was a godsend for me as I have not personally owned a vehicle since 1997 which was when I made an active decision to rid myself of the, at the time, unnecessary expense. I have not looked back!

I took up the fight with the operators and also lobbied on behalf of all us residents who do not wish to see the costs of this service increase.

I was bamboozled with the position of council on this one. It was the last thing I would have expected considering their environmental push and an earlier statement from the Lord Mayor that "no great city in the world is trying to bring more cars into the city centre".

It just seemed counter-intuitive, especially when car share was adopted by the City of Sydney and Melbourne at almost the same time yet Sydney has been able to achieve 20 per cent membership from its resident population while Melbourne has managed just 4 per cent.

It didn't take long for me to learn this was driven by an apparent need to offset the loss of parking revenue these car parking spots were using, an estimated \$600,000.

Yet we have just learnt for 2014-15 financial year there is a \$2.89 million surplus from parking fees. I also noted that council receives no revenue for all the car parks allocated as taxi ranks, yet taxi operators are also a for-profit venture.

It just didn't make any sense to me.

The end result was increased costs to the operators which no doubt will flow back to us, the users. After all, car share should be seen as an extension of public transport.

As mentioned last month, I was going to ask the Lord Mayor about the horrendous noise from the renovated Southbank footbridge (now aptly called the Evan Walker footbridge).

I put this question to him in the Future Melbourne Committee public question time and the response was "first world problem", although he did refer the question to the head of engineering who advised they were aware of the problem and were in discussions with the manufacturer to find a solution.

I have not had any updates as yet but I sincerely hope a solution is found.

We are not too many months away from Southbank Residents Group holding its AGM.

Can I please call upon the community to consider becoming involved. As in past years, we are always in need of committee members to assist with running this fabulous community group. If you have a desire to learn the workings of a committee and take up an active role in support of your community then please don't hesitate to make contact, you would be most welcome.

As usual, if you are not a member and would like to support us, please visit our website www.southbankresidents.com.au and don't forget to like us on Facebook - [southbankresidents](https://www.facebook.com/southbankresidents)

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Extremism - it's only for the select few and definitely not for all!

We are living in a very interesting time at present and one that seems increasingly exacerbated by image, narcissism and the compulsion to let anyone and everyone know about what we are eating, what we are doing for exercise and what we are wearing to exercise.

The issue with this is that many are doing things to seek to satisfy others and seek recognition and satisfaction from anyone else but the person that matters the most – ourselves.

Ultimately what should drive us is our own happiness and not to be judged or viewed by others and our exercise, food and clothing choices. We all need to take a step back and find out who we are, what we are searching for, what our actual goals are and then find and explore the best ways to get there but at the same time trying to make ourselves happy and not worry about what others think of us.

Choosing any level of extremism in exercise (such as cross-fit or boot camps), diet (such as paleo or individual food items such as

kale, chia seeds, activated almonds) or wearing the latest colorful, branded runners, leopard-skin crop tops with matching leggings and feeling the need to take selfies or pictures of our paleo and gluten-free delicacies is unnecessary on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Herein lies the issue. Any extreme diet or exercise regime, no matter what it is, will not be sustainable and, therefore, why bother? In saying that, it may be the catalyst to get you changing poor behaviour to start with but remember why it is that you are starting and keep a close check on that in regard to whom it is you started your level of extremism for as you embark on your transformation and always get back to that or you will at some point revert back to past behaviours.

We all need to step back and educate ourselves about sustainable food choices, seek specific guidance from a dietitian and ideally seek the services of a personal trainer (preferably tertiary/university degree trained and/or with many years of experience) that can sit down with you and design an exercise

program suitable to you and your “exact” needs.

This may mean you only see them for one to four sessions but they will work through with you (if they are good and highly regarded – check testimonials and references) something that is going to drive you towards your exact goals, working around any injuries and health conditions and make YOU happy in the long-term – not anyone else.

We all need to remember that is us that looks in the mirror every day. We are the ones that have to get up for work and lead our lives and we are the ones that ultimately matter the most. If we can feel better about ourselves and do so from within, others will notice and comment along the journey and you will not have to force it down other people’s throats with pictures and status updates on social media.

For a more information or if you have any questions feel free to contact me www.justintimept.com

Devoted to Bhakti



Bhakti is only 12 weeks old, but keen to explore the big world around her.

The German shorthaired pointer was out on a walk with her owner Hannah Campos in Alexandra Gardens.

“She’s still a baby and she’s super inquisitive,” Hannah said. “She’s been really good with meeting new dogs and new people.”

Bhakti has already mastered her basic training, learning how to sit and drop.

“She’s a really calm and happy dog, so training has been easy,” Hannah said. “She also sleeps all through the night now. She’s a perfect puppy.”

Bhakti’s tranquil demeanor could be credited to her name, which means “devotion” in the ancient Hindu and Buddhist language of Sanskrit.

Bhakti, her mother, and the eight other puppies of her litter were rescued from a puppy breeder by an organisation called Homeless Hounds, where Hannah then adopted her.

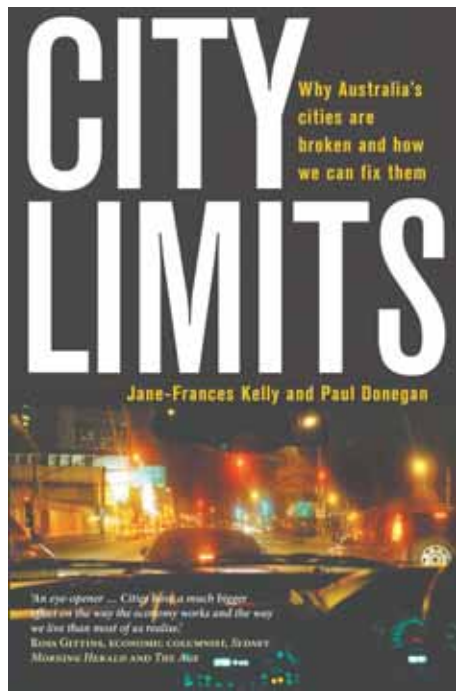
Hannah and Bhakti.

Book Review

'City Limits', a missed opportunity

Book review by Shane Scanlan

As residents of inner-city urban renewal areas, we are generally ahead in our understanding of how big cities like Melbourne work and how they don't work.



City Limits

Why Australia's Cities Are Broken and How We Can Fix Them

By Jane-Frances Kelly & Paul Donegan

RRP Print: \$32.99

Melbourne University Publishing

After all, we have already made the decision to locate ourselves in the centre, ditch the car, and generally leverage the other available benefits.

So looking for greater wisdom as promised in a new book by Grattan Institute academics Jane-Frances Kelly and Paul Donegan is a disappointing experience.

City Limits holds out the promise on its cover: "Why Australia's cities are broken and how we can fix them".

Kelly and Donegan are good at describing the dysfunction but not so good at suggesting solutions.

They rightly point out the fragmented decision-making, political resistance to change and a resulting public failure to see and engage in the wider context.

They do offer some piecemeal solutions such as central changes to negative gearing, capital gains taxation and the introduction of congestion taxes.

And they correctly resist calling for wholesale organisational restructure, saying: "There is no single kind of structural change that would work for all Australian cities".

Instead, they call for genuine, widespread and serious community engagement as our best chance of fixing our dysfunctional cities. They point to some North American examples where proper public consultation has achieved outcomes.

And, given the democratic political structures (restrictions) we are working within in this country, perhaps this suggestion is the best we can hope for?

But you would have to have an extremely optimistic (naïve?) faith in society to expect this is going to happen.

In somewhat of a contradiction, the authors point out the flaws of letting communities preserve their self-interest in planning and transport matters. But they then go on to recommend an extension of community involvement as the solution to political paralysis.

"All of the overseas cities in the study had a

different story to tell. But a recurring theme was early, sophisticated, sustained and deep engagement with the community. This was especially the case in cities that seem to make hard decisions and did so successfully. Engagement seems to make tough decisions possible and to make them stick," the book says.

The authors go on to acknowledge that: "Too often in Australia, governments 'consult' residents to provide a veneer of respectability to a pre-determined outcome, rather than genuinely respond to residents' priorities."

In my view, this is certainly the case here in the City of Melbourne where council officers have become more and more sophisticated at claiming public support for their pre-determined outcomes (and, sadly, being recognised as leaders in their field for such manipulation!).

The authors say engagement has to happen early, before decision-makers' minds are made up. Further, they advocate that such engagement needs to be conducted by an "organisation" which operates at arm's length from government itself.

"The organisation need not be completely outside government, but should at least be at arm's length from the political process, not subject to direction from a government minister," they say.

They say government should be happy to accept "results they wouldn't have favoured".

As I said earlier, this is a very optimistic position to be taking.

In my view, the book misses an opportunity to put forward a more realistic way forward.

It dances around the fact that our cities are our new national economic engine-rooms but never quite nails the argument. It even points out how lucky we are to be so urbanised compared with other countries.

"The future of our cities will shape everything from national prosperity to the quality of everyday life. Yet, there is little appreciation of the hard choices we face. The fate of cities barely registers on the agendas of our politicians. This books seeks to change that,

in order to give cities their rightful place in the Australian story," the authors say in their opening chapter.

But it fails to go and suggest how to get the debate onto the national agenda. It fails to suggest how the politicians can be educated.

And it fails to point out the reality of our global competition with the other cities of the world and how they are operating to their advantage.

As Melburnians we are acutely aware of the Chinese money flooding into our property market. We see its affects all too clearly, but we fail to reflect on how this wealth was generated in the first place.

If we stopped and reflected, we would see how the cities of Asia have become the engine-rooms of the world economy. The Chinese understand the purpose of urbanisation. But, by and large, we don't.

The publication of *City Limits* helps us understand cities better. But this greater understanding has happened almost by accident. It fails to capitalise on the opportunity to suggest ways of educating our political classes and the wider community about the new economic forces.

The Emirate of Dubai has generated eye-watering wealth for its citizens in the blink of an eye simply by building a city. It is obvious more complicated than this, but they had no oil reserves and no exports to start with. They had a barren desert to work with but had a strategic location.

They have created wealth simply via political policy settings and an unrestricted ability to make those policy settings.

Would I prefer to live in Melbourne rather than Beijing or Dubai? Absolutely. And is our flawed democracy better than the alternative? Of course.

Even if Kelly and Donegan are right in saying that community engagement is the way forward, let's get to the heart of the matter and start talking about how cities work and why we need them rather than tinkering with planning codes and taxation settings.

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Businesses in Southbank

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ONE STOP COLLECTABLES SHOP

Having operated in Melbourne since the 1930s, Downies Coins is Australia's longest-running numismatic collectables business.

While the business opened its first standalone retail store in the CBD in 1994, it has recently moved to its new home at level three of the Southgate shopping precinct in Southbank.

Stocking a wide range of modern and historical numismatic issues, marketing manager Luke Templeton said the store had something for everyone.

"We're a business that sells coins, banknotes, militaria, stamps, jewellery and generally whatever interests peoples collecting habits!" he said.

"We sell via a number of other channels including mail order, online, wholesale, and through auction."

"Each channel really complements the other but we see our retail stores as a fantastic opportunity to be face-to-face with our clients and the resulting dialogue is very powerful."

In 1932, at barely 16 years of age, founder

Phil Downie established the Palmerston North Stamp Company in New Zealand before moving to Australia in 1937.

Since then, Downies has expanded into all fields of collectables and notably numismatic coins and banknotes to become an industry leader in Australia.

Open six days a week and just a five-minute walk from Flinders St, Mr Templeton said the spacious new venue at Southgate offered a professional, educational and highly personalised experience for its customers.

"We try to draw on our knowledge and experience and I think that is appreciated by the customer."

"Coin collecting is one of the oldest known hobbies and there is a rich history in Australian numismatics – which is something that our customers really connect with," he said.

"I think when someone can come into your store and actually learn something, it's fantastic. That sense of learning and connection to history is probably the foundation of collecting for most people."

Led by store manager Neil Luxton and assistants Sally McTaggart and Julie Pickering, Luke said the whole team at Southgate held a strong passion for the trade.

"I collected modern coin issues as a kid



Downies marketing manager Luke Templeton, store manager Neil Luxton and assistant Sally McTaggart.

myself so when an opportunity became available it was something that sort of piqued my interest and I think that's actually how a lot of our staff come to find us," he said.

"Working with something you're passionate about and assisting others in their passion is highly rewarding, so we're very lucky."

After many years operating in Melbourne's CBD, Mr Templeton said his team and

customers alike were enjoying the relaxed nature of its new location at Southgate.

"It's a great location and the centre here at Southgate is fantastic," he said.

"We're in what is now probably the central tourist, entertainment, shopping, and cultural hub of Melbourne so it complements our business well."

For further information visit www.downies.com/retail

A PERSONAL APPROACH TO FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT



Morgans Financial Southbank's senior advisers Campbell Walker, Michael Ibbott, Matthew Reid and Michael Aladjem.

The team at the newly-established Morgans Southbank branch understands the importance of building personal relationships with all of its clients.

As part of Australia's largest retail broking company, the new Southbank office is one of more than 60 Morgans branches in Australia, which specialises in servicing retail investors.

Owned and operated by an experienced team of four, senior adviser Michael Ibbott said the Southbank branch offered customised advice to its clients across a range of asset classes.

"The business is actually owned by us, so I suppose you could argue because we've got the skin in the game we benefit and suffer if we don't perform well or look after our clients," he said.

"It's about working as a team with our clients. We're not just here to be investment managers, we are also looking to educate and help them make decisions and work towards their goals."

"That's unique as opposed to putting your money with a fund manager and that's the end of your involvement. This is about taking control of your own destiny and working with someone to do so."

Consisting of other senior advisers Campbell Walker, Matthew Reid and Michael Aladjem, each member of the Southbank team possesses more than 15 years experience in advising private clients in the financial services industry.

The branch provides comprehensive advice across a range of areas including stockbroking (domestic and international equities), financial and retirement planning, superannuation, managed funds, cash and fixed interest and derivatives.

It specialises in giving direct share investment advice within self-managed super funds (SMSFs).

As Campbell Walker explained, the team's relationship with all of its clients was built on a long-term foundation of trust and experience.

"We've all been through the tech wreck in the year 2000, the resource boom from 2002 to 2011 and bust since 2011, the GFC, and also the European/Greek debt crisis," he said.

"We've had a loyal and happy client base for a long time because the key is recognising that we're not going to get everything right (and our clients know that) but it's how we manage it when we get it wrong."

According to Michael, the team's main focus is on ensuring wealth security by tailoring every individual portfolio to the risk profile and future needs of each and every one of its clients.

"Part of getting to know the client is getting to know you and it's completely personal. If you don't have a personal relationship with a client you become a commodity. It's as simple as that," he said.

"A lot of it is just regular contact. Some of my clients I speak to at least once a day, others a few times a week, some monthly or just quarterly – it's just what suits. Our work is all about personal relationships."

Situated at Riverside Quay in Southbank, Campbell said the team and all of its clients alike loved doing business at its new vibrant and relaxed location.

"All of our clients are enjoying it down here – it's very accessible and it feels like you're away from the city and the hustle and bustle. There's an enthusiastic and much more relaxed feel," he said.

"People love it because it's so close to Flinders St Station and we are situated in amongst all of the cafes and restaurants – it has a great feel to it down here."

For more information visit www.morgans.com.au/southbank

Morgans Financial Limited AFSL 235410

WHAT'S ON

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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



INNER MELBOURNE LIFE ACTIVITIES CLUB

Meeting on selected dates and various locations, IMLAC takes in the city's parks, its culture, fabulous eating options as well as festivals, galleries and concerts.
website www.life.org.au/imlac or call Carolyn on 9696 1090



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

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.



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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



SUNDAYS

ARTS CENTRE MARKET

Meet over 80 of Victoria's finest artisans first hand. Discover how these unique artworks are made, chat directly about the products, inspirations and techniques.
www.artscentremelbourne.com.au

TUESDAYS @ BOYD

QIGONG MEDITATION CLASS

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



FIRST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH SUNRISE PROBUS CLUB

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

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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**



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READING CIRCLE

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1012/35-47 Coventry Street SOUTHBANK



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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-ceiling windows makes everyday living a genuine pleasure, while the Caesarstone kitchen showcases a long breakfast bar.

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3807/1 Freshwater Place SOUTHBANK



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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.

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