

The voice of Southbank

# SOUTHBANK Local NEWS

■ **A Southbank luminary**

Page 7

■ **Meet Owen Guest**

Page 8



■ **Trivia night success**

Page 10

■ **A Yarra River custodian**

Page 17



Left to right: PwC CEO Luke Sayers, Lord Mayor Robert Doyle, Mirvac CEO and managing director Susan Lloyd-Hurwitz, ISPT CEO Daryl Browning and Fender Katsalidis director Karl Fender.

## Boyd ultimatum

By Sean Car

**Southbank will soon know whether Mackie will still be the developer responsible for providing it with a new park at the Boyd Community Hub.**

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle confirmed at last month's Future Melbourne Committee meeting that council had issued a "drop-dead date" of April 30 for the developer to fulfill its end of its contract with the City of Melbourne.

The Lord Mayor told the meeting that should Mackie fail to satisfy council by the deadline, it would be putting the site back on the market.

At the time of publishing this edition, a City of Melbourne spokesperson told *Southbank Local News* that it had received documentation from Mackie on Friday, April 29, which was still being assessed.

The spokesperson said the outcome of the assessment wouldn't be confirmed until after council released its annual budget this month.

While no further information was disclosed, council's chair of planning Cr Ken Ong had earlier told *Southbank Local News* that, having met with the developer last year, he felt it wasn't in control of the situation.

"When I met with Mackie last year I felt that they didn't have it under control," he said.

"I told Mackie that we weren't going to allow this thing to drag on forever as there was a lot of community angst around the project."

Having purchased the site from the City of Melbourne in 2007, Mackie entered into a commercial agreement with council in 2012 to develop a residential building and a 2500sqm park at the site.

The 22-storey proposal will comprise 239

one, two and three-bedroom apartments (including floor plans specifically designed for people with disabilities), affordable housing and 2000sqm of retail and commercial space.

Its permit, issued by the former Minister for Planning Matthew Guy in 2013, is due to lapse in September.

Cr Ong said that, while the contract could very well be terminated should Mackie be unable to fulfill its obligations, council was "open to anything" on the open market as long it got a park.

"As long as open space is a part of the plans then anything is possible," he said. "We would still most likely go to market, as council is still very set on providing affordable housing for the site."

"As long as we get a park, and a big one, then we are open to anything."

"It's a complicated agreement. It's council-owned land but as long as it's tied up in this contract then we can't do anything with it."

The City of Melbourne started its community consultation process with the local community to develop a master plan for the future park at the end of 2014.

While council was first expected to release draft plans for the park last year, no such plans have been released as the site continues to remain undeveloped.

Mackie didn't respond to efforts by *Southbank Local News* to contact it for comment.

## Riverside Quay tops off

Southbank's future flagship office building at Riverside Quay officially topped off last month. Read more on page 4.

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# Crime wave strikes IGA

*The IGA supermarket on Sturt St, Southbank was the victim of a spate of crimes over recent months.*

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According to the store's owner Robert Tseriotis, the first of the incidents occurred on March 27 when an assailant allegedly entered the store at around 8pm armed with a knife, taking approximately \$300 in cash before fleeing.

This was followed by a series of break-ins last month, with the first occurring on Monday, April 18 at approximately 2am when two people forced their way into the premises taking about \$2500.

A second break in occurred almost a week later on Tuesday, April 26 in almost identical circumstances, however, Mr Tseriotis said those responsible only caused damage to computers, phones and cameras in the store's office.

Mr Tseriotis said, given the normally quiet nature of that area of Southbank, the crimes were very unusual.

"It's a pretty community-focused area, it's not like we get a lot of foot traffic at that time of night, unless its visitors coming to an arts show," he said.



The IGA supermarket on Sturt St has been on the receiving end of numerous crimes in recent months.

"We've had quite a few thefts during the night but an armed robbery has never happened. It's very unusual."

He said the store's cameras had captured the incidents and that police were continuing

investigations.

If anyone has any information regarding these incidents contact either the Southbank Police Station directly on 8635 0900 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000

## SLN April - correction

*Last month's Southbank Local News ran a story about the need to expand the suburb's sewerage infrastructure as the population expands.*

South East Water has pointed out some exaggerations in comments we attributed to a spokesperson.

We said: "South East Water says the current system can barely deal with projected growth, but it will be working with the City of Melbourne and other relevant planning authorities to future-proof the ageing infrastructure."

We recognise that South East Water did not say that the current system could barely deal with projected growth.

We said: "South East Water's media and issues advisor Matt Mollett said that, while the existing system had the capacity to allow for more growth, works were urgently required to cater for the huge influx of development."

We recognise that Mr Mollett did not say or imply that these works were urgently required.

Southbank Local News apologises to South East Water for any embarrassment caused.



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# No independent authority, just yet

*Despite receiving a \$2 million boost for new floating berths at Southgate Wharf, Southbank's wait for the establishment of an independent waterways authority continues.*

Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water Lisa Neville last month announced her support for a new waterways committee under Parks Victoria, rather than moving towards an independent authority.

The move is contrary to the recommendations of the Lower Yarra River Use Future Directions Group's (LYRUFDDG), which called for the establishment of a single waterways authority in the form of a local port and committee of management.

Ms Neville said she was "not ruling out" the eventual establishment of a single waterways authority but said more work needed to be done to determine a long-term solution.

She said work being done around the maritime safety review and Yarra River Protection Act would help to determine the best arrangement.

"We wanted to put in place something for the next couple of years while these works are going on," Ms Neville said. "This isn't the end of the story."

Yarra River Business Association (YRBA) executive officer Tim Bracher said the group was disappointed that the new committee wasn't independent of Parks Victoria.

"We are disappointed that the committee being formed by the Minister is not independent of Parks Victoria, but it is to be hoped that the quality of the appointees provides it with objectivity and independence to clearly see what needs to happen on the river in order for the waterway to achieve its real potential through combining the strength of the public and private sectors," he said.

"The first major task of the committee is to invigorate the commercial river tour businesses through a fair, transparent and equitable approach to licensing and fees."

"A flexible and fair business environment



*Left to right: YRBA executive officer Tim Bracher, Minister Lisa Neville and Lower Yarra Future Directions committee chair Tony Kelly following last month's funding announcement at New Quay in Docklands.*

on the river will see reinvestment and expansion."

The State Government has committed \$450,000 for Parks Victoria to establish and support the three-person committee to advise on the management of the Lower Yarra and allocation of berths over the next two years.

Parks Victoria will also engage an independent consultant to advise on strategy for commercial berth allocation and a probity officer to oversee the berth allocation process.

In response to the Lower Yarra group's

recommendations, \$2 million has also been committed for the development of floating berths at Southgate Wharf.

Mr Bracher said the YRBA appreciated Minister Neville's recognition for the long overdue need for upgrading berthing facilities at Southgate.

"It is Melbourne's premier location for commercial water tours and the lack of infrastructure during the past 20 years has made it uncomfortable and unsafe for our visitors."

"Credit is due to former YRBA president John Ahern, who fought hard for improvements to

the waterway during the past three years."

The LYRUFDDG had recommended the establishment of a local port and a management committee headed by an independent chair charged with implementing the vision for the river and working with relevant parties to oversee and co-ordinate management of river issues.

It's widely accepted that the current situation, which sees intersecting pieces of legislation and multiple authorities overseeing management of the Lower Yarra has led to paralysis and a failure to unlock the potential of the waterways.

It's also agreed by many stakeholders that the economic success of the Lower Yarra depends on a single, visionary leader.

While private sector members of the LYRUFDDG had wanted the management committee to be an independent group, the compromise position means continued involvement of Parks Victoria as an interim solution.

Ms Neville said the interim governance arrangement with Parks Victoria would be in place for around two years and, in the meantime, many of the issues relating to the waterways would be resolved.

"What I think we have put in place today with this funding is to get everyone on the same page about achieving the outcomes and the vision the community has outlined to us," Ms Neville said.

"More work will be needed to get the long-term management right, but these first steps get key groups at the table to ensure consistent and clear decision making and accountability."

"We're proud to invest in the future of the Lower Yarra so business, tourism and locals can make the most of this great waterway for years to come," she said.



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# LUCAS

# A major milestone for Riverside Quay

From page 1

*In what Lord Mayor Robert Doyle described as a future “icon of Melbourne”, Southbank’s new flagship commercial tower at 2 Riverside Quay officially topped off last month.*

Developer Mirvac and property fund manager ISPT hosted the topping off ceremony on April 27, in a project that is set to reinvigorate an important community precinct.

Esteemed guests included the Lord Mayor, Mirvac CEO and managing director Susan Lloyd-Hurwitz, ISPT CEO Daryl Browning, Fender Katsalidis director Karl Fender and PwC CEO Luke Sayers.

In what is an adaptive reuse of the existing eight-storey car park, the development has added 12 levels of world class office space that will house companies including PwC and Fender Katsalidis.

Speaking at the ceremony, Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said the development was a truly significant contribution to Melbourne.

“It’s proof that you don’t need height to be an icon,” he said. “I am privileged to get invited to a lot of these sorts of events but, unlike many others, this development truly is a significant contribution to our city.”

Ms Lloyd-Hurwitz said the unique urban renewal project was a “significant milestone” for Southbank.



Stakeholders gathered on what will be a rooftop terrace at the Riverside Quay topping off ceremony last month.

“We are proud to reach this significant milestone in the Riverside Quay project ahead of schedule,” she said.

“We have worked closely with our partners and the City of Melbourne to transform Southbank into a vibrant community space and office environment.”

Designed by Fender Katsalidis, the 21-storey

building will feature a rooftop terrace, outdoor workspace for tenants and visitors and 12,000sqm of new premium retail space.

A significant piece of public art work designed by a local artist will also wrap the car park’s exterior as part of a transformation of the public realm.

Mirvac and the City of Melbourne are

currently collaborating to reinvigorate the community space at Riverside Quay and a draft master plan is expected to be released in the coming months for public consultation.

The development is expected to be complete early next year.



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# Fair and equitable would be fine

## Comment

Shane Scanlan



**Pictured (right) is the City of Melbourne's "corporate ad".**

It's the council's prime means of communicating with you, but Southbankers have never seen it.

The council spends \$145,000 each year publishing its "corporate ad" in four publications – none of which circulate here in Southbank.

On the other hand, the council is happy to pay to have its ad seen outside the municipality in: Abbotsford, Aberfeldie, Alphington, Airport West, Ascot Vale, Avondale Heights, Brunswick, Clifton Hill, Collingwood, Essendon, Fairfield, Fitzroy, Gowanbrae, Keilor East, Keilor Park, Moonee Ponds, Niddrie, Northcote, Oak Park, Preston, Reservoir, Strathmore, Strathmore Heights, Thornbury and Travancore.

The council says the ad is to communicate "upcoming relevant council information to residents and businesses".

In the example pictured, the council talks about the opening of its new Docklands community hub. Southbankers should not be too put out. No one in Docklands saw it either.

One of the council's four selected publications claims to circulate in Southbank and Docklands. This is wrong. But surely the council knows this? How hard can it be to have an understanding of local newspaper circulation within a municipality?

Are they that far out of touch?

The answer is yes – deliberately. That's why the council outsources the "research" to a multi-national, London-based agency – which is akin to using a sledge-hammer to crack a nut. I doubt that we were even considered by this agency and the council refuses to (because it can't?) provide evidence to the contrary.

Some years ago, the council distanced itself from its media buying to avoid embarrassment for its support for the then-monthly publications of Deputy Lord Mayor Susan Riley.

Readers will have worked out by now that this story is a whinge because my publications have been consistently overlooked for this council spend.

My preference would have been to meet with the relevant council officer to explain the situation. This request was rejected. Instead, an attempted justification of the present situation was provided several weeks later.

I'd heard the incorrect claim of duplication of readership in the past, but this time there was the added claim that my publications were unsuitable because of their monthly publishing schedule. This effectively closes the door on Southbankers ever seeing the council's "corporate ad".

It's worth noting that Cr Riley's council-supported monthly publications are now defunct.

I have three publications and, between them, they serve nearly half of the City of Melbourne's 128,963 residents. The ABS estimates that there are 60,496 people living in the CBD, Southbank and Docklands (33,433 in the CBD; 18,192 in Southbank and 8871 in Docklands).

To be fair, there is some duplication of readership in the CBD. But there are no other publications circulating in Southbank and Docklands.

This month in my *CBD News*, I report on an instance which shows that the City of Melbourne doesn't mind paying big money

when asked by big media players.

In December, behind closed doors, it ignored its officers' advice to refuse a charity request from a private company run out of the Herald-Sun for \$230,000 worth of sponsorship.

I mention this to illustrate that the council is happy to override officers' recommendations when it suits them.

On other occasions, it can piously find reasons why it is inappropriate to even talk about things believed to be the remit of officers.

At the February 16 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, a residential councillor wanted to talk about the value of including *CBD News*, *Southbank Local News* and *Docklands News* in the council's campaign to publicise this year's elections.

The Lord Mayor, Robert Doyle, closed him down saying: "I think we've got to be very, very careful here. Councillors have never involved themselves with decisions around how that information is to be disseminated through the media. And, the moment we do, I think that is fraught with governance danger – that we would involve ourselves in decisions about where the media spend should be," Cr Doyle said.

I am not a charity and I don't seek special treatment.

Fair and equitable would be fine.



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# New rules, new era

*The days of overdevelopment in Southbank as we know it are over, after Minister for Planning Richard Wynne announced a major overhaul to planning controls in the central city.*

The State Government released its final draft of the new planning laws for Southbank and the CBD last month, and Mr Wynne said it was hoped they would be officially legislated by September.

The new controls will now require developers to follow strict rules around areas such as setbacks, space between buildings, apartment design, podium height levels and mandatory height limits.

However, perhaps the most important measure introduced under the new system is the introduction of a new 18:1 plot ratio, which will help prevent developers from overdeveloping a site.

The news means that it's likely that we will never see a taller building in Melbourne than Australia 108, which is currently under construction.

In a letter published on the *Urban Melbourne* website Mr Wynne explained that the rules were necessary to prevent large-scale development from suffocating the inner city.

"Modelling done as part of our review showed the central city would be overdeveloped and degraded without government intervention," he said.

"The inner city needs to be shaped with a clear vision and we cannot allow projects to be rubber-stamped in isolation from their surrounds."

"We've already had encouraging feedback from the property industry and the public, pleased we are creating certainty and a vision for how we want the city to grow."

Mr Wynne said he also rejected the idea that developers would now shift their focus to other markets such as Sydney.

"In central Sydney plot ratios rarely exceed 15:1, even with bonuses, and the average project has a 12:1 ratio," he said.

"Melbourne's land is more affordable and the permit process in Victoria is considerably faster."

The government's state budget announced a \$25.5 million investment into overhauling the state's planning system, which will also see changes to the online permit application and approvals process.

Mr Wynne said the overhaul included a lot of "common sense changes".

"Whether you're a homeowner or developer, smart planning will reduce costs and make it simpler to navigate the planning process."

# Turnbull slammed on NBN

By Ellen Hill

*With a federal election looming, the NBN is set to be a contentious issue that Southbank voters will want answers to.*

The rollout of the National Broadband Network (NBN) has been a long, slow process, with many residents and businesses still not connected.

The NBN has been a hotly-debated topic, with the Liberal Party promising during the 2013 election campaign that every home and business would have high-speed access by the end of 2016.

This has not been achieved and, despite its importance for tourism, arts and retail, most of Southbank is yet to be connected. Unfortunately many residents and businesses will be waiting for some time yet, with half of Melbourne Ports only being scheduled for connection in 2018.

Out of the thousands of addresses in Southbank alone, only around 25 locations have access to the NBN.

Some experts are calling for the Liberal Government to abandon the current strategy out of fears that "the use of copper will cause the project to be outdated before it's completed".

Internet Society of Australia CEO Laurie Patton said: "Australia's internet speeds warranted a national outcry" after Akamai Technologies released its quarterly *State*

*of the Internet* report comparing global internet speeds.

Australia slipped to 60<sup>th</sup> in global rankings based on average peak speed. The current ranking is a dramatic slip from our previous 30<sup>th</sup> placed rank in the category just a few years ago.

Australia is now languishing behind places like Romania, Russia, Slovakia and Poland in Amakai's internet speed rankings.

Federal member for Melbourne Ports Michael Danby described Malcolm Turnbull's handling of the NBN rollout as "an absolute mess".

"Turnbull promised that his party's second-rate copper NBN would cost just \$29.5 billion to roll out, but it has now blown out to almost \$56 billion," Mr Danby said.

"If Malcolm Turnbull oversaw a near 100 per cent budget blowout in the private sector he would, Donald Trump style, insist the person responsible get the sack."

One of the pledges the Labor Party has made for the next election is a world-class fibre-optic network.

"Southbank residents deserve much better than Turnbull's NBN mess," Mr Danby said.

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Turnbull promised that all Australians would have access to his second rate NBN by the end of 2016 - and three years on he has failed to deliver.



**Southbank is still waiting for Malcolm Turnbull's NBN, and it's a costly failure.**

### Turnbull's NBN is just not up to speed.

In the first areas where they have switched on this second rate copper NBN, people are getting slower internet speeds than they were getting with ADSL.

**In fact Australia is now rated 60th in the world for internet speed.**

### A costly failure.

Under Turnbull's management the cost doubled from \$29.5 Billion to \$56 Billion, then his timeframe to get the NBN to all Australians was delayed to 2020.

### It's not too late, it's time for a real NBN.

Labor promises Australia a world class fibre-optic network, because residents in Southbank deserve so much better than Malcolm Turnbull's NBN mess.



**Michael Danby MP**  
Federal Member for Melbourne Ports

# A Southbank luminary

Feature by Sean Car

*When our country's tallest residential skyscraper Australia 108 tops out in 2019 across the road from Melbourne's biggest existing beacon Eureka Tower, Karl Fender says it will create the gateway to our city.*

As a founding director of Fender Katsalidis – the internationally renowned architecture firm responsible for designing both towers – the Southbank resident has certainly left a lasting mark on our suburb.

And with Australia's soon-to-be tallest building having only just begun poking its head out of the ground, his grand vision for Southbank and our city will soon be evident for all to see.

"There's a strong physical relationship between 108 and Eureka so we did take into account their neighbourliness and we certainly took into account that they'd be read as a pair," he said.

"Cities are judged by their exemplary architecture to a great extent so when we design buildings like this we try to make them interesting from many aspects."

"It's the idea of contributing to the skyline in a sculptural way and reading it in different ways to make something that's compelling."

While the nature of his work makes him a frequent flyer, Karl still calls Southbank home having lived at Eureka Tower with wife Sarah since 2007.

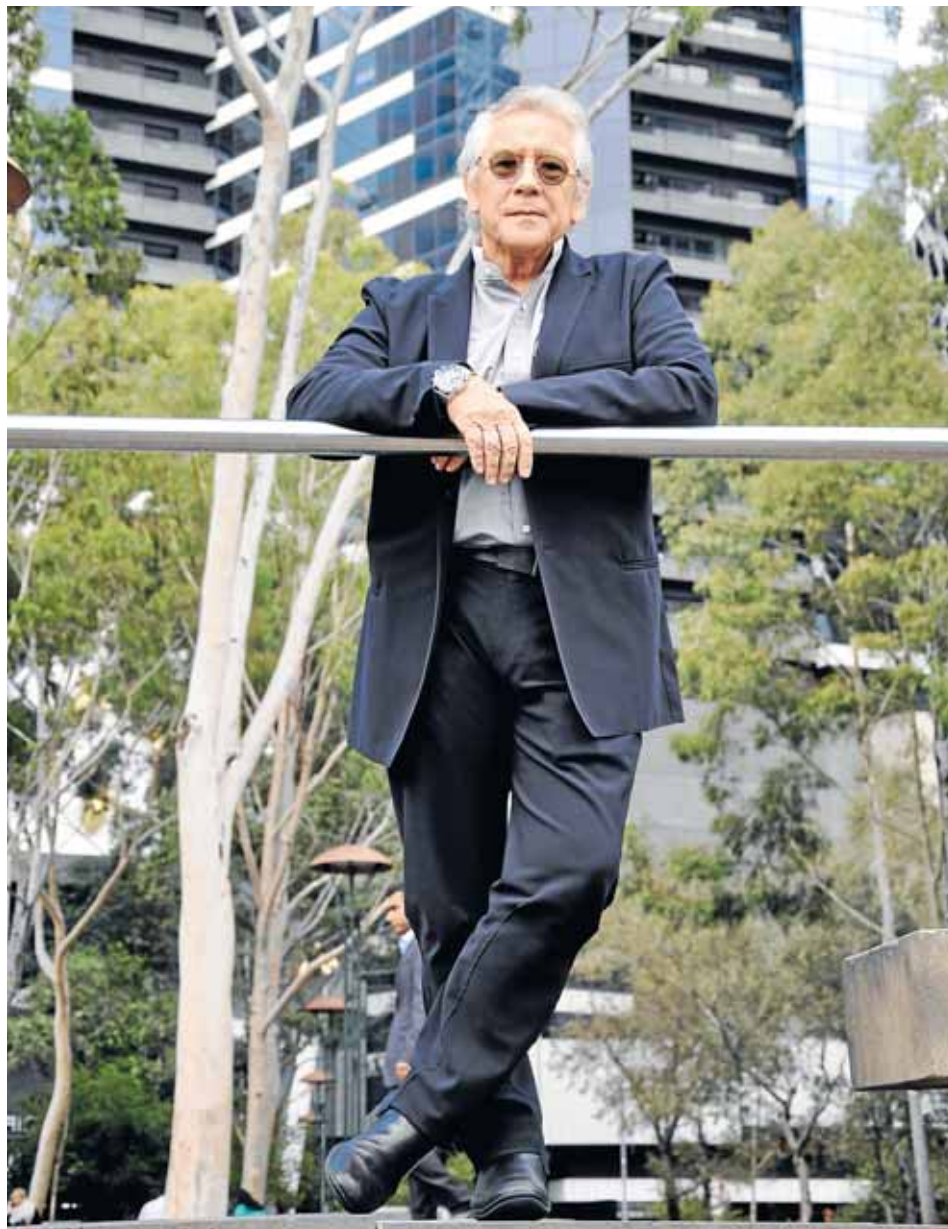
The Harvard University-educated architect established his practice along with fellow founding director Nonda Katsalidis in the early 1990s.

In his role as design director, he has been involved with many major projects, including, most notably, Eureka Tower, which at 88 stories was the tallest residential tower in the world when completed in 2006.

He described Eureka as a "catalyst" for Southbank's growth as a suburb, and said the ambition for Australia 108 to give back to the community in a similar way was a key influence behind its design.

"These buildings have a lot of heart and presence and, therefore, quite a strong responsibility to be interesting in the cityscape rather than just another boring extrusion," he said.

"Australia 108 very much complements the future transformation of Southbank



Fender Katsalidis director Karl Fender outside the front of the building he helped create and calls home - Eureka Tower.

Boulevard. By putting notches into the outside façade you're allowing trees to grow two stories so it's going to be a very amazing sky garden, which will help soften City Rd."

Once completed, Australia 108 will have 1105 apartments over 100 floors and will be crowned with "The Starburst", which is inspired by the Commonwealth Star on our national flag.

When we caught up with Karl, he'd only recently arrived home from helping launch his latest project KL 118 in Malaysia – a tower that, when complete, will be the height of Australia 108 and Eureka combined.

While rising density in Southbank and the CBD is the subject of growing concern for planners, Karl believes that, compared with cities like Kuala Lumpur, Melbourne has

little to panic about.

"Cities around the world have densities that we haven't achieved, so why all of a sudden is achieving density a huge problem? Because we have the divine right to get into a car and drive without anybody else on the road?" he said.

Having sat on a number of government design advisory panels in his time, Karl said that planning for growing density was something that would continue to occur gradually over time.

And as a local resident, he said he didn't buy into the argument that Southbank had a shortage of local services and community amenities.

"I actually have a very short shrift for people who say Southbank lacks amenity. I don't know what they're thinking," he said. "I very much enjoy living in Southbank."

"In one minute I'm in the botanical gardens. In one minute I can be at 50 restaurants, I can cross the bridge and I'm in the city. My doctor is literally two minutes away. My health food store is around the corner."

With other projects in Southbank including the currently under construction Riverside Quay commercial development and an approved tower at 65-71 Haig St, his company continues to have a profound impact on our suburb.

When quizzed about whether he felt a sense of pride whenever he looked back on a completed project, he said the one thing he was truly proud of was his team.

"When you were a student you thought you would be proud but it's not about pride it actually just sort of becomes part of you," he said. "It makes you feel good that you made a contribution."

"There's a lot of people that invest huge amounts of time and skill beyond mine believe me, that make these things happen so I never feel good if Nonda or I are targeted as the great causation."

"We've got a team that we're proud of. That's what we're proud of."

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# Meet Owen Guest

*While the Labor Party has held a stronghold on Melbourne Ports since 1906, new Liberal candidate Owen Guest said he's ready to take the challenge up to sitting member Michael Danby.*

With a July 2 election now imminent, Australia faces the prospect of its sixth prime ministerial change since 2007.

On the other end of the scale, Melbourne Ports faces the prospect of its first change in federal representation since 1998 and its first change in party representation in more than 100 years.

And with only 7 per cent having separated current member Michael Danby from previous Liberal candidate Kevin Ekendahl at the 2013 federal election, Owen Guest knows change is an increasing likelihood.

"For 100 years now it's been a Labor electorate and obviously I think that's 100 years too long," Mr Guest said. "The days of Melbourne Ports being dominated by manufacturing industries are fading."

"We have more white collar professionals moving into the area and one of the key factors is not only are they moving in but they're staying."

"They're bringing up families here. No longer are they saying 'right we're off to the outer burbs'. They're now choosing to stay and that's really key."

Son of former Victorian State politician

James Guest who was the member for Monash from 1976-1996, Owen has a strong political pedigree.

A long-time inner-city resident, Owen currently lives in East Melbourne with wife Annabelle and their two children.

With a doctorate in economics and finance, as well as 20 years experience running his own financial trading company Owen said he felt he was well placed to be entering politics.

"I've enjoyed giving back to my various communities and social groups for the last 15 years and I feel like I'm at that stage of life where I'm able to and I think I have something to give with my financial background," he said.

"Australia is well placed financially but we need to make some good decisions now and I think can help in that process."

With the back end of the resources boom seeing Australia's economy at a major transition point, Owen said, if elected, he would use his experience to promote small business and entrepreneurs both locally and nationally.

While he believed there was a significant role



New Liberal candidate for Melbourne Ports Owen Guest.

for the federal government to play for local planning, education and transport, he said an issue he was particularly passionate about was preserving our local environment.

"The environment is not a one-party issue. It's an issue for all of us and we're all increasingly aware that we need to act."

"We're a bayside community and, as a

bayside community, we care about our bay, we care about the quality of the air that we breath and to bring business and the environment together is important to me."

"I'm really keen to get into parliament and do what I can for Melbourne Ports."

For more information about Owen visit [www.owenguest.com.au](http://www.owenguest.com.au)



## JUNIOR YEARS INFORMATION TOUR

Friday 20 May, 9.00am – 10.30am

Join Mrs Kellie Morgan, Director of Early Learning and Junior Years Programs, as she outlines the Melbourne Girls Grammar commitment to personal development and academic challenge within our nurturing environment. Explore the Junior Years (Prep – Year 4) world class learning facilities where curiosity is promoted and a passion for learning is ignited.

This information tour will be held at Morris Hall Campus, 100 Caroline Street, South Yarra.

Register at [www.mggs.vic.edu.au](http://www.mggs.vic.edu.au)



**MELBOURNE GIRLS GRAMMAR**  
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# Council takes a lead

*In an effort to kick-start action at all levels of politics, the City of Melbourne (CoM) has taken a voluntary lead on reforming laws surrounding the disclosure of electoral donations.*

Cr Jackie Watts spearheaded a motion at last month's Future Melbourne Committee meeting on April 19, which called on councillors to commit to voluntarily disclose future donations on a new register on the council website.

However, while her fellow councillors welcomed the motion in principle, it contained a number of impracticalities, which resulted in the unanimous support of an alternative motion foreshadowed by Cr Stephen Mayne.

The alternative motion called on all candidates, not just councillors, to voluntarily disclose donations and extended the disclosure deadline beyond the council election on October 22.

"The obvious one that we missed earlier is the fact it needs to cover everyone not just councillors so my alternative will propose that we cover all candidates," Cr Mayne said.

"The motion also finishes up on October 22, which is election day and many donations will come in afterwards, so you need to have a later close date and I'm proposing a final date of November 15."

The motion also called on the adoption of an independent, third-party to host the register rather than listing councillor and candidate donations on the council's website.

Victoria's Local Government Act restricts councils from talking about candidates on its website due to the impacts it can potentially have on community attitudes towards candidates.

"We could be in breach of the state legislation under caretaker provisions if we are publishing information on our website about candidates during the caretaker period," Cr Mayne said.

Current laws in Victoria, as stated under section 62 of the Local Government Act 1989, only require councillors to declare donations 30 days after an election.

Cr Mayne said he hoped that the City of Melbourne's lead would help trigger changes to laws at all levels of government.

"The principle is absolutely right, the law is an ass. It's even a bigger ass at state and federal level. I mean donations received to the coming federal campaign on July 1 is completely unlimited and not disclosed until February 1, 2018," he said.

"It's anything goes in Canberra, which is a disgrace. Victoria largely has the same rules, which is also a disgrace."

The council's initiative comes as welcome news for Southbank, which has been on the wrong end of planning decisions as a result of electoral donations.

In May last year, council was unable to consider a proposal for Kavanagh St because too many councillors had received election campaign donations from developer Central Equity.

And again in December 2014, the quorum was lost over a Central Equity proposal for the corner of Balston St and City Rd.

Southbank Residents Association president Tony Penna commended Cr Watts for prompting action on the issue.

"Cr Watts clearly understands the affect this has on the community," he said. "This is very close to Southbank."

"So many time we have been robbed of the ability to have a say about developments that affect Southbank because this council has lost its quorum because of conflicted councillors."

Cr Watts thanked the community for its enthusiastic support of what she considered to be a "no brainer".

"We are in a position at council where the public at large, and the media I fear as well, is not confident that we're doing the right thing," she said.

"The law doesn't require that we do the right thing but we can take action ourselves. That's why I brought this motion before council"

Cr Mayne said council officers would start the process of engaging an independent third-party to host the register in time for this year's election.



Works are underway at the site of the future primary school at Ferrars St.

## Education funding boost

*Local education received a boost in the State Budget last month, with more than \$50 million announced to help deliver two new primary schools in the local area by 2018.*

As part of its record surplus, the Labor Government announced a \$1.1 billion statewide education blitz for maintenance, classroom upgrades and 11 new schools.

Most importantly for Southbank families was the announcement of \$44 million to fully fund the new South Melbourne Primary School at Ferrars St, Southbank, with construction works beginning at the site last month.

\$8.4 million was also announced for the delivery of South Melbourne Park Primary School at the Parks Victoria building in Albert Park.

Both schools are expected to be open and accepting enrolments in time for the 2018 school year.

Local MP Martin Foley said the funding was biggest investment in the future of local children to date.

"Not since the 1880s has there been this much activity in our local area," he said.

"This funding makes up for the cuts by the previous Liberal State Government and sets us on a path to meet the needs of a growing demand for our world-class education system."

This is in addition to a further \$5 million for initial works for the new Prahran College, as well as the new Albert Park College year nine campus, which was announced in last year's budget.

President of local education lobby group Two Schools Now, David Foran, said the group welcomed the funding and was continuing the push for other new projects.

"We welcome the funding commitments for South Melbourne Park and Ferrars St in the budget," he said.

"Two Schools Now looks forward to working with the State Government to ensure local demand for public secondary schools is met with quality accessible infrastructure."

While the additional funding for existing projects comes as good news to local families, calls for further schools in the inner city region continue.

At March's Fishermans Bend Community Forum, Planning Minister Richard Wynne announced that, with population expected to skyrocket in the inner city, a minimum of six additional schools would be required.

However, no funding was included in this year's budget for land acquisition or planning for new projects in the local area.

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# Trivia night a huge success

*In what was an overwhelming success, 61 local residents packed out the Boyd Community Hub on Wednesday, April 6 for the inaugural Southbank Community Trivia Night.*

Host by community animator Nadine Ford and the Boyd team, the first event of its kind in Southbank saw several tables of local residents battle it out for a range of prizes donated by local businesses.

Its success has prompted community stakeholders to initiate more local events in the future and the Southbank Residents Association is already forming a working group to organise the next trivia night.

Community animator Nadine Ford said the evening was a strong reflection that the

Southbank community was calling out for more events of its kind.

“This event was a stark reminder to myself that this community is really wanting these types of events, opportunities to meet local residents, connect in a fun way and feel part of the Southbank community,” she said.

“I was truly humbled to be a part of it and it really brings home the purpose of a community animator in these types of venues particularly in a community such as Southbank. We are there to facilitate these

types of opportunities.”

The next Southbank Trivia Night will be held on Wednesday, October 5.

In the meantime, Boyd, together with Southbank Rotary, will host a community barbecue on Thursday, May 19 from 5pm to 7pm.

For more information visit [www.eventbrite.com.au/e/southbank-residents-bbq-tickets-24798503993](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/southbank-residents-bbq-tickets-24798503993)



## South Wharf to host malaria congress

By Nicholas Li

*The Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) will hold an inaugural congress in a bid to jumpstart the global fight against malaria.*

Eradicate Malaria 2018 will be held from February 18 to 22 in 2018. A number of international experts will contribute at the event, including scientists, government representatives, policy makers and those directly affected by the disease.

Congress co-chair Prof Alan Cowman said that, despite a decline in the malaria's global impact, greater attention was required.

“Whilst there has been tremendous progress, there are many obstacles that have slowed down the progress of eradicating malaria,” he said. “This inaugural conference is essential to strengthen the efforts required to eliminate this terrible disease.”

The other co-chair, Prof Brendan Crabb, said the congress would fill a void in international efforts.

“There are currently no conferences around the world that address malaria holistically from research at the molecular level, to transitional drug discoveries and the implementation in the field, to policy development, funding and advocacy. Ambitious as it is, we hope to achieve all that with Eradicate Malaria 2018,” he said.



Local residents brainstorm last month at the inaugural Southbank Community Trivia Night at Boyd Community Hub.

Image: Nadine Ford.

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# Passing the buck on short-stay issue

By Shane Scanlan

**Residents seeking relief from sharing their apartment buildings with short-term tenants will be disappointed that Consumer Affairs Minister Jane Garrett appears ready to divest herself of the problem.**

The recently-released *Consumer Property Acts Review Issues Paper No. 2*, which includes a review of the Owners Corporations Act 2006, recommends that decisions about how apartments can be used be taken away from owners' corporations.

The review suggests that local planning schemes might be a better way to deal with how property can be used.

"... the question of whether a particular land use is appropriate is a matter to be addressed in the planning scheme and not through rules made by an owners' corporation," the review states.

Prominent strata lawyer Tom Bacon says it would be a "cop-out" to pass the responsibility for short-stays to local councils and would result in a piecemeal and unwieldy response.

"Councils have finite resources to change

their plans and do not have big budgets for legal fees to battle Air BnB and others in the courts from building to building, all over the city," Mr Bacon said. "This is not a local issue. The issue is state-wide, national even."

Mr Bacon said Planning Minister Richard Wynne could choose to legislate that short-term letting become a controlled activity that requires a town planning permit.

"The simplest way around this is for the Minister to simply insert an amendment into the Victoria Planning Provisions by gazette, pursuant to Part 1A of the Planning and Environment Act 1987," he said.

Mr Wynne told *Southbank Local News* he was yet to read the paper, but cautioned against any statewide approach that might deliver unintended consequences.

He said he reserved his response to the paper until he had learned more about it.

Also in the Consumer Property Acts Review Issues Paper No. 2, its authors support the introduction of the short-stay status of a building into an owners' corporation statement for prospective buyers.

"The Act does not require owners' corporation certificates to include information for prospective buyers about whether the relevant planning instrument allows the apartments in the building to be let for short-stay accommodation, and if so,

how many are available for short-stays."

"This information may be relevant to investor-buyers intending to let the apartment for short-stay accommodation, and to other buyers who do not wish to live in a building in which short-stay accommodation is permitted."

And while Consumers Affairs gears up to pass the issue to Planning, the Grattan Institute takes the opposite view and has called for increased powers for owners' corporations to control the issue.

In its new report *Peer-to-Peer Pressure, Policy for the Sharing Economy*, it says: "State governments should give owners' corporations more powers to control short-stay rentals, possibly even the power to ban continuous, whole-premise short-stay rentals if agreed to by members."

"Short-stay rentals can affect neighbourhood amenity, divide owners' corporations and displace longer-term renters. They can make it easy to circumvent zoning and other regulations," the Grattan Institute says.

However, it recommends that governments be taken out of any decision-making to ban them and that local government be empowered to control breaches of amenity.

"Local governments should focus on controlling disruptions and protecting amenity, not primarily on limiting short-stay

rentals," the institute says.

"Local governments should respond where disruption from a specific property is troubling neighbours. They should allow occasional or single-room short-stay rentals, and only restrict continuous whole-premise short-stay rentals if there is strong evidence they are damaging neighbourhood amenity."

"State governments can also play a role by allowing owners' corporations to be more effective in managing short-stay rentals."

"They could enable owners' corporations to hold owners liable for disruptions caused by their guests, and consider allowing owners' corporations to control continuous, whole-premise short-stay rentals as they see fit."

The president of the Victorian Accommodation Industry Association (VicAIA), Paul Salter, backed the Consumer Affairs approach, saying OCs had no skills or expertise in legal matters.

"It is not the role of an owners' corporation to police the common property or interfere with any tenant or owner in regard to use. They have no legal standing to dictate how an owner or tenant should use their property," Mr Salter said.

"That responsibility rests with the Victorian Government and the Planning Minister who has the resources and legal expertise to make the appropriate choices regarding land use."

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The Coastal Risk Australia website shows how Southbank would be affected by low, medium and high sea level rises.

# Rising sea-levels could see Southbank underwater

Parts of Southbank could be underwater by 2100 according to new climate change modelling released last month.

The Coastal Risk Australia website allows users to see how rising sea levels could affect different parts of Australia by 2100, based on findings from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

The website looks at three different scenarios ranging from sea level rise of 0.44 metres (low), 0.54 metres (medium) and 0.74 metres (high).

According to the website, if the sea rises by 0.74 metres by 2100, at high tide we would see much of Southbank inundated.

Areas affected would include the entire Crown Casino precinct, the Freshwater Precinct, Queensbridge St, South Wharf, Whiteman St, City Rd, The Boyd Community Hub and Kings Way as far down as Sturt St.

The forecasts show that virtually all of the Crown Casino precinct from Whiteman and Clarendon streets would be engulfed in water right through Southbank as far as

Moray St and Kings Way.

Much of the future Fishermans Bend precinct of Montague nearest to the light rail line would also be under water, while interestingly, the Power St loop entrance to CityLink would also be affected.

Surprisingly, the forecast suggests that Queensbridge Square and much of Southbank Promenade will be relatively unaffected by rising sea levels.

It's anticipated only limited sections of the river precinct will be affected, including sections of South Wharf Promenade and the immediate area along the river's banks.

While the launch of the Coastal Risk Australia website last month has drawn attention to the issue of rising sea levels in waterfront areas such as Southbank, steps are being taken to lessen the impact.

It's clearly evident from this projection that

the issue rest with Southbank's drainage capacity and, as recently as March, the City of Melbourne in partnership with Melbourne Water endorsed its latest flood management strategy.

The strategy includes actions, which are expected to be implemented between now and 2021.

Such actions include upgrades to flood and drainage infrastructure and managing new developments.

Since 2008, the State Government has required authorities to plan for sea level rise of no less than 0.8 metres.

However, given many of Southbank's buildings were constructed prior to 2008, we could see some buildings affected by rising sea levels, while their neighbours remain dry.

## Loop facelift underway

Work has begun to transform the unused Power St Loop site next to the Domain Tunnel entrance near Sturt St.

A two-metre high fence with a banner was erected at the end of March, marking the beginning of earth and foundation works, which kicked off last month.

Following last year's ideas competition, which called on the community to come up with creative ideas to transform the vacant site, the works are in preparation for the winning design entitled *Habitat Filter* (pictured).

The judging panel included representatives from the City of Melbourne, Landcare Australia, Victorian College of the Arts and Creative Victoria.

The team of Melbourne-based designers, which won the competition, described its winning design as a "working sculpture within a landscape" that aimed to be both self-functioning and complementary to the nearby Arts Precinct.

A CityLink spokesperson said works would be carried out during normal construction hours, between 7am and 4pm. If required, some work may also occur on weekends.

The project is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

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



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# THEARTS PRECINCT



## LUCID to open at Chunky Move

By Nicholas Li

LUCID, a dance performance by Dutch choreographer Anouk van Dijk, is set to open at Chunky Move running from May 26 until June 12.

LUCID follows the experience of two performers as they break free from the shackles of today's social world and embrace their desires. The performance also incorporates multiple cameras and a screen.

Ms Van Dijk said LUCID would play on the audience's senses.

"LUCID is highly energetic, charged with mood swings and extreme visuals in an

amazing set by Ben Cobham," she said. "Two eclectic performers, Lauren Langlois and Steve Phillips, are shape shifting in and out of other people's skins, digging into their physical makeup from wood chopping to ballet, movie stars and rock icons, often with hilarious results."

"Heightened and magnified by a multiple camera system, you can follow every move they make, literally up close and personal as they reveal and surprise," she said.

The performance focuses on the dynamics of contemporary human interaction. Ms Van Dijk said socialisation was an interesting

topic for dance.

"Interaction is innate in humans and, as such, we are heavily reliant on others. We live and operate in herds, love company and - especially in today's technologically plugged in and connected society - are in endless conversations with one another," she said.

"It is an intricate web which we have spun, and easy to get lost in. Yet such interactions provide us with endless inspiration, creativity and amusement, offering an exciting and changeable terrain to explore."

The themes of the play are explored in the movements of the performers. Ms Van Dijk said dance was the ideal medium for conveying such ideas.

"The body is an encyclopedia of impressions that are gathered and projected daily. As such, we embody plethoric ways of being that are revealed in our movements, gestures and motions. Our bodies store and expose a myriad of internal thoughts, opinions, fears and desires, revealing who we are, who we aspire to be or what we are trying to hide. This rich inner world is great terrain to be explored in movement," she said.



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New York City jazz legend Eddie Palmieri is just one of many huge drawcards playing at this year's Jazz Festival.

## Jazz cats skip into Southbank

By Nicholas Li

*The Melbourne International Jazz Festival will bop, skip and bounce into Southbank running from June 3-12.*

Featuring local acts as well international artists from countries such as Ethiopia, Israel, Italy, Poland the USA, the festival's program will be feature late night art events as well as a number of free events.

Artistic director Michael Tortoni said Melbourne's jazz scene attracted fans worldwide.

"Reminiscent of New York, Melbourne has its own unique pool of high quality talent that resides here. Melbourne continually attracts musicians from other states and internationally," he said.

Mr Tortoni said festival-goers could expect a wide array of music.

"Everything from high quality new, challenging and adventurous music to the easily digestible and highly accessible," he said.

Now entering its 18th year, Mr Tortoni said the festival's evolution was based on a number of key principles.

"Fundamentally, understanding that jazz is constantly changing, that improvisation is the most important element of this art form and pushing and challenging the boundaries of what is called jazz," he said.

One of the festivals main international drawcards is "modern master" Eddie Palmieri, featuring with his Latin jazz septet. A 10-time Grammy winner, Palmieri fuses Latin styles with jazz and is one of New York's most famous pianists.

In the 70s Palmieri came to prominence as one of the first to merge black and Latin sounds into music that featured elements of salsa, funk, soul and jazz.

Eddie Palmieri plays Hamer Hall on Friday, June 10.



Adrian Tamburini (Alcindoro) and Lorina Gore (Musetta) in Opera Australia's La Bohème. Image: Branco Gaica.

## Opera Australia celebrates 60th anniversary with La Bohème

By Nicholas Li

*Opera Australia will be running 10 shows of Giacomo Puccini's 'La Bohème' at the State Theatre to celebrate its 60th birthday.*

Directed by Gale Edwards, a cast of international and local talent will perform the opera - a tale of love and sacrifice involving a poet, painter, musician and philosopher. Costume and sets have been designed to act as a window into the harsh world of the artists during the period.

Australian singer Andrew Jones reprises his role as Marcello from the 2011 production.

Mr Jones said Australian opera was developing in new ways. "I think it's pretty vibrant and colourful, and especially with productions like La Bohème," he said.

"It's an art form which is becoming more and more modern with its narration in the story. It's becoming closer to the performance of movies where the characters are far more realistic."

"People are being cast for the way they

appear and the way that they sing. The stories that are in opera, I believe, are still relevant today, it just depends on how directors approach them."

Whilst the scene of the production is 1918 Weimar Republic Berlin, the opera is originally set 100 years earlier in Paris.

Mr Jones said the production's relocation to Berlin provides a darker element to the story.

"Berlin was completely bankrupt from WWI. People were doing whatever they could to survive. Lots of brothels were set up and people were selling their souls. It's quite relevant to the bohemian lifestyle. The students are living in their apartment and basically trying to get by," he said.

La Bohème appears alongside productions The Pearlfishers and Luisa Miller at the State Theatre as part of Opera Australia's May program.

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ROBERT PALMER

By Sean Car

# Capturing the moment

A yearning for creative exploration drove final year, and now award-winning Photography Studies College (PSC) student Robert Palmer, to pursue further study.

The former air force engineer admits that the technical side of photography came easily to him when he first enrolled.

He said his passion for photography originally manifested when he was 18, when a slot machine gifted him the money for his first camera.

"I just happened to put 20 cents in the poker machine and I came out with \$500 so that bought my first SLR camera," he said.

"While I took photos, I didn't really sort of see. I took a lot of general stuff and what I wanted to do after a while was delve more into it."

While his work with the air force has seen him travel extensively around the world with his camera, he said his pre-existing creative ability was generally limited to "literal and logical" thinking.

"I wanted to get that motivation and that perspective on things so that, rather than actually taking a photo of something, you actually look at it in more detail and capture the moment rather than just capturing an image," Robert said.

"Making it more interpretive and getting the right side of your brain thinking a bit more is why I came here and PSC is definitely good for that."

Since entering the collaborative and inspiring learning environment at PSC, Robert said the experience had opened his mind to new possibilities and "forced him out of his comfort zone".

While initially enrolling with a landscape-centric focus, he said the course had forced him to explore people more deeply and their relationship to landscape.

His talent for the art form was truly realised this year when he was awarded the Australian Institute of Professional Photography's Gold Award for Landscape Photography for an image he captured in his hometown of Newcastle (pictured).

Robert said the black and white nature of the image, which captures a moment reflecting Newcastle's rich maritime history, helped express emotions that colour often couldn't.

"I love this quote that says photographs in colour take pictures of people while photographs in black and white tell pictures of the soul," he said.

"I've found that I really loved light and dark and I love that sort of imagery because it's dark and it has high contrast and it's abstract but it also shows some of the nature of the psychology of people."

As for his next chapter, Robert said he had dreams of opening up his own studio, exploring photo-journalism further and to even start delving into films.



Robert Palmer's award winning image he captured in his hometown Newcastle, New South Wales.

He said the lessons he had learnt from PSC had taught him that conveying a message and engaging people through photography was all about understanding the medium.

"There's always two people in an image," he said. "There's the person in the image and the person looking at the image and there might be no one in the image but there's

always someone behind the image."

"The whole point is to try and get as many people as possible to relate to that image and you do by having different perspectives."

To find out more about Robert and view more of his work visit [www.wisplight.com.au](http://www.wisplight.com.au)



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### CRAMPED SPACE

**May 12 - Melbourne Recital Centre**  
This concert is a study in small numbers of people acting in close quarters - John Adams' 'Road Movies' views the wide-open plains of America from the cramped confines of a car, while in Scelsi's 'Kho Lho' a flute and clarinet need to be musically tethered in order to create a single, combined sound.

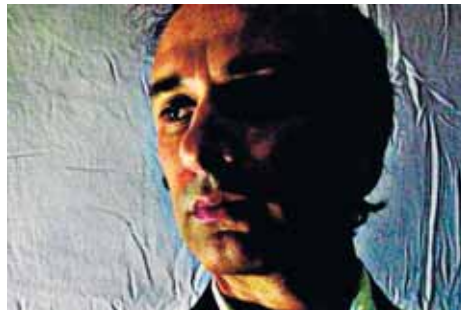
[www.melbournerecital.com.au](http://www.melbournerecital.com.au)



### ROBERT GLASPER TRIO

**June 4 - Elisabeth Murdoch Hall**  
In a long-awaited return to an acoustic trio format, Glasper has reunited with long-term collaborators Vicente Archer and Damion Reid to reconfigure the music of John Legend, Radiohead, Harry Belafonte and Joni Mitchell - alongside jazz standards and a number of Glasper originals.

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



### CAM BUTLER

**May 20 - Melbourne Recital Centre**  
Guitarist and composer Cam Butler performs special one-off concert at Melbourne Recital Centre as part of the Metropolis New Music Festival. Cam's dark, lush and rich guitar sound will perfectly evoke an all encompassing atmosphere of lost cities and dark urban journeys.

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



### THE EVENTS

**June 21 - July 10 - Merlyn Theatre**  
The Events tackles the most difficult question to answer in the aftermath of a massacre: why? When a gun-toting teenager, consumed by thoughts of cultural purity, targets a vicar's choir, she becomes obsessed with trying to understand him and his actions. Could he have been stopped?

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

### NEW 16

**Running until May 8 - ACCA**  
NEW16 brings together eight newly commissioned projects by emerging artists around Australia. Curated by Annika Kristensen, the artists display a common interest in navigating and negotiating various tensions and thresholds

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

### MISS JULIE

**April 16 - May 21 - Southbank Theatre**  
Director Kip Williams brings to life a thrilling revival of Strindberg's enduring classic featuring the mesmerising Robin McLeavy, Mark Leonard Winter and Zahra Newman for a tale of passion and power that no one can afford to miss.

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

### HENRY TALBOT

**May 7 - August 21 - NGV Australia**  
Melbourne and 1960s fashion are the starring subjects of more than eighty striking never-seen-before photographs by fashion photographer Henry Talbot which feature in this exhibition from the NGV Collection.

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

### RAVEL'S LE TOMBEAU DE COUPERIN

**May 10 - Melbourne Recital Centre**  
Conductor Richard Gill guides his audience through Maurice Ravel's Le Tombeau de Couperin (The Tomb of Couperin). Ravel's suite of piano pieces was composed in 1917 and later orchestrated. It pays tribute not only to an age of French grandeur, but to Ravel's friends who died in the Great War.

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



### DOUBLE INDEMNITY

**May 30 - July 2 - Playhouse**  
One of the greatest crime novels of our times is given a brilliant stage adaptation by Tom Holloway with direction by Sam Strong. The LA sunshine throws plenty of dark shadows in James M Cain's sensational thriller novels of the thirties and forties, of which this steamy tale of murder and desire is the undoubted masterpiece.

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



### COUNTERMOVE

**May 25 - June 4 - Southbank Theatre**  
Sydney Dance Company's CounterMove explores luminescence and life in a double bill that will enchant, compel and amuse with exhilarating physical dance by some of Australia's finest dancers.

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



### THE GLASS MENAGERIE

**May 18 - June 5 - Merlyn Theatre**  
Canzoni Di Mio Padre is set to dazzle Melbourne, orchestrated by the ever talented Daniele Ciarleo, the concert will showcase a 55 piece symphonic orchestra. Guests to the event will be treated to a collection of Neapolitan and popular Italian music inspired by the legends of Enrico Caruso and Luciano Pavarotti and sung by tenor soloists.

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



### LA BOHÈME

**May 13 - May 28 - State Theatre**  
La Bohème is a celebration of first loves. Cafe Momus is beckoning, with its glittering lights, bohemian spirit and fishnet stocking-clad ladies. Rodolfo is mooning over Mimì, Marcello is fuming over Musetta and the stage is set for first loves, first heartbreaks and a grief that's all too real.

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# Richard Wynne – Yarra River custodian

By Shane Scanlan

*Planning Minister Richard Wynne is a friend of the Yarra River.*

He recently weathered a storm of outrage when he knocked six storeys off the so-called Cbus “pantscraper” at 447 Collins St because of overshadowing.

The City of Melbourne led the protest against him. The council has been consistently prepared to sacrifice Southbank overshadowing in return for CBD open space.

Former planning minister Matthew Guy too earlier knocked back a taller Cbus proposal for the site, which would have significantly overshadowed Southbank. When Cbus returned with a proposal that just touched the south bank, everyone was rejoicing. Everyone, it seems, except Mr Wynne.

In a recent interview with *Southbank Local News*, Mr Wynne revealed why he is so passionate about protecting the river.

“We use the Yarra River,” he said. “My boys and I have got a boat and we tootle up there. We get up as far as we can, depending on how the tide is going. So, we enjoy the Yarra. It’s a beautiful asset for our city. It’s a fundamental part of our city and you’ve got to protect it.”

“That’s also why we’re putting in these built-form controls – to protect the river.



The river’s a really important part of our city and for too long we turned our back on it.”

“Now that we acknowledge the Yarra River and its importance, it’s my job to be a bit of a custodian for it.”

“When you’re on your boat, going up the Yarra River, you get a complete perspective on the city. It’s quite extraordinary. It’s

amazing. You get this different view of how a city works and, particularly, how the built form of the city interacts with the river.”

“So, yes, I guess that drives me a bit,” he said.

Apart from a personal connection, the minister points out the planning scheme recommends against overshadowing.

“The planning scheme speaks to this question,” he said. “The Melbourne Planning Scheme is really clear about overshadowing of the river. And it ought to be avoided.”

“Whilst it is a discretionary control, it’s not mandatory, I take that seriously and, obviously, with the Cbus development, which, you will recall, a previous Cbus application was knocked off by Matthew Guy on the grounds of really significant overshadowing, and the proposal they put to me did substantially touch the south bank of the river.”

“And it actually overshadowed the bit of Enterprize Park there during lunch and, admittedly only during the winter solstice, but if you want to sit out there and eat your sanger by the river, you were going to be overshadowed by this thing.”

“And you go ‘well that’s not good enough! So we pulled it down by six levels and we’ve got a good outcome.”

“It now just touches. And that’s a good thing,” Mr Wynne said.

“I’ve said on any number of occasions that the Yarra River is a really important asset for the city and we ought not overshadow it.”



# Coffee Concerts





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## SOUTHBANK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION WITH TONY PENNA

### What a busy month April shaped up to be, but in many ways a very productive month.

A big congratulations to the Southbank Residents Association committee members and the Boyd staff who managed to pull off one of the most enjoyable community evenings with the trivia night initiative. I would particularly like to thank Nadine Ford from Boyd for her efforts.

Further to this event, mark Thursday, May 19 in your diary and head over to Boyd for a residents' barbecue from 5pm-7pm. There will be food, music and games. But you will need to RSVP so head to the Boyd website to register.

Firstly, we have received official notice of the widening of the Swan St bridge. This is an exciting project and will help ease some of the City Rd congestion. It is most certainly a welcome development. I have been invited to attend a special information session where the detail will be outlined. I will keep you posted on this.

Something our members and readers know very well that I have been vocal about is Southbank's voice being deprived in development applications through council losing its quorum from councillors being conflicted owing to developer donations. Yes, the very councillors who claim they are representing the people when they were asking for our votes to get elected.

I have questioned the Lord Mayor on a number of occasions about this, only to be informed the law is not being broken. Regardless of what the law says, I say it is wrong!

This council should be leading by example. About two weeks ago this council started to make in-roads on this through a motion by Cr Jackie Watts for all donations to be declared before and after the election. Cr Watts motion was not passed, however an alternative and more detailed motion by Cr Stephen Mayne was passed unanimously – yes that's correct our Lord Mayor supported it. While much more needs to be done on this issue, it is certainly a great start.

The Southbank Owners' Corporation Network, convened and run by Southbank Residents Association, was also extremely busy with having to hold an extraordinary sitting to work through the 50-odd pages and some 60-odd questions of the Consumer Affairs Owners' Corporation Act Review discussion paper.

It has been 10 years since the last review and since owner's corporations have a massive role in our Southbank livelihood it was imperative that we use this opportunity to have our say. After many long hours of discussion and many more hours to write the

submission I can proudly say that Southbank has had a say. I would like to thank all those building OC chair people that contributed to this most important submission.

And just when I felt the pressure wane from meeting the deadline of that submission, another submission hits my email inbox. But this one is most important for all who live in the capital city zone, which includes Southbank.

Last month the Minister has made further amendments to the planning scheme with his proposed C207 amendment, which is now out for industry and community feedback until the end of May.

This amendment will have a massive impact on Southbank for the better. The Minister had previously made C207 an interim amendment creating a plot-ratio height limit. This amendment takes it a step further and addresses street wall height of buildings, setbacks, overshadowing, wind and a number of other important issues. If you are interested to know more please make contact and we can point you in the right direction. Any member of the Southbank community can make a submission and we encourage this.

Lastly, I have met with the designers of the

Kavanagh Park development to discuss the stages of their development and what can be offered to the community in the temporary open spaces.

The developers are committed to working with the community to provide amenity right from the onset. I am sure this will be the first of many more meetings to come. As I have said previously, I am very happy with the Kavanagh Park development as this has the potential to not only transform Kavanagh St but also provide the "village feel" that Southbank is lacking.

Our committee is committed to doing all it can to better represent the residents of Southbank. Since the committees' growth at our last AGM you may have noticed our social media has been more active than ever.

If you want to keep abreast of what is happening in Southbank then please connect with us on our Facebook page - **SouthbankResidents**. If however you would like to take it one step further and assist our committee or join Southbank Residents Association then please visit our website and complete membership there - **southbankresidents.com.au**

*Tony Penna*

President



### Accounts receivable help needed

Mediation Communications, the publisher of Southbank Local News, is looking for some part-time regular help following up overdue invoices. MYOB experience is required.

We're thinking half a day @ \$25 per hour per week would work. If this sounds good to you, contact Shane Scanlan on 0419 542 625 or email [shane@mediacomms.com.au](mailto:shane@mediacomms.com.au)



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**ST JOHNS  
SOUTHGATE**  
with Tom Hoffmann

# Tuning out or in?

*It happened with Kevin Rudd, it happened with Julia Gillard, it happened with Kevin Rudd (no, this is not a typo), it happened with Tony Abbott, and it already seems to be happening with Malcolm Turnbull. I can't seem to listen to our political leaders. Of course, I hear them – I hear noise when they're speaking on the TV or the radio – but I just can't seem to truly listen to what they have to say.*

It's not for lack of political interest, but in a media-saturated world where the pretested 10-second grabs that stay on-message are broadcast and re-broadcast then tweeted and repeated, it's all become white noise to me.

There was a time when if the Prime Minister was addressing the nation, I would stop and listen intently to every word, considering possible motives and consequences. But now, with endless doorstep interviews, press conferences and policy announcements, the saturation seems to have clogged my ears.

It may sound like an oxymoron, but I believe that a little silence makes for the most effective communication. Giving time for gravity to be calculated, for the state of affairs

to sink in and then opening one's mouth can have a much greater impact than the quickest of pre-emptive strikes.

We've all known someone – perhaps an old sage – who sits quietly, patiently and listens more than they speak. But when they do open their mouth, gold pours forth. When people like that speak, you sit up and pay attention.

Jesus of Nazareth was one such sage who took his time, even when people desperately wanted to hear what he had to say. Jesus allowed dreams to be dreamed, thoughts to be crystallised and then he delivered the story. No spin. No public relations team. Jesus offered clarity, insight and most of all, startling and confronting truth that didn't

always bow to popular opinion.

One day, Jesus and a few of his followers went up onto a mountain to pray and the most extraordinary thing happened. His appearance changed and his clothes shone like lightning. The voice of God the Father then spoke from the clouds, saying, "This is my son, whom I have chosen, listen to him!"

Straight after those words were spoken Jesus returned to his normal-looking self. This was certainly worthy of an impromptu press conference. But even though he had an audience ready to listen, Jesus didn't say much of anything at that point.

Jesus broke with convention, he dispensed with the predictable and still managed to

reveal his gracious nature and divine love with impeccable timing. Jesus was able to do it this way because he wasn't trying to raise his own stock.

He didn't need a bump in the polls or a spike in his approval rating. Jesus didn't compromise, or go against his better judgement, he just told the truth plainly and let it be – even though it cost him his life.

If you're struggling to hear anything meaningful and seeking some truth, try listening to Jesus. You might just find the distortion clears and you can tune in to a message that resonates – one of hope, joy, peace and community.



## Letters to the Editor

Send your letters to [news@southbanklocalnews.com.au](mailto:news@southbanklocalnews.com.au)

### Hoping for help

*I am in Kavanagh St and on the back of Fawkner St. At the moment a 37-storey, very ugly building has been finished in City Rd which, of course, backs onto Fawkner St very close to my apartment.*

Fawkner St is a lane and is not very wide at all. Talking about a shadow, this building has taken about 50 per cent of my light.

I find this so bad (where are the architects!).

But the worst thing is the building on City

Rd has been sold and apartments will be built all along that stretch from Fanning St to Southbank Boulevard. How can this go on without any protest as we will be living in constant shade, not to mention the extra traffic from residents in those buildings.

How come in Southbank has all these ugly buildings which have been just placed anywhere without planning.

Most people who purchase here pay large amounts and it is disgusting that the

planning department just let us down.

I do know what I will be doing this council election time.

Jan Smith

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**Sunday May 15**  
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O ewiges Feuer, O Ursprung der Liebe (BWV 34)  
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We Live Here

*The We Live Here movement continues to gain support and we thank you all for your feedback. Please continue to encourage your neighbours, friends and co-workers to sign up on our website and let us know the issues that are important to you.*

**Petition**

By the time you read this, our petition should have been launched as it is currently in the very final stages. We have already had some amazing support and assistance in preparing it and we are excited to get all of our voices heard on a large scale. The petition will be in circulation for several weeks so ensure you're signed up through our website for the link.

**Consumer Affairs cop out**

In our last column we told you that Consumer Affairs Victoria had released an issues paper on the Owners Corporation Act 2006 and are seeking submissions by April 29. We strongly recommend that you take a look and tell them your opinions.

[www.consumer.vic.gov.au/resources-and-education/legislation/public-consultations-and-reviews/consumer-property-law-review/issues-paper-2-owners-corporations](http://www.consumer.vic.gov.au/resources-and-education/legislation/public-consultations-and-reviews/consumer-property-law-review/issues-paper-2-owners-corporations)

We are still working on our submission, which will be placed on our website and available for you to download, review, amend or resubmit yourselves.

Sadly we feel that Consumer Affairs is turning a blind eye to the real issues faced by

inner city residential communities and are missing the perfect opportunity to fix these issues.

Under Section 8 Consumer Affairs clearly supports owners' corporations making enforceable and fair rules yet notes that making rules about use of a lot is beyond its scope and refer back to local planning schemes.

Consumer Affairs also notes that lot owners should be responsible for compliance with OC rules, with ignorance no defence, yet it then claims that short stay accommodation is also beyond its scope.

It refers to the "independent panel" on short-stays report that was submitted to the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation and the Minister for Planning, more than 12 months ago.

We are still awaiting a response. It appears the "independent panel" couldn't agree on a solution to protect residential communities, which is perhaps not surprising as the panel included the short-stay operator who is involved in the legal test cases. Hardly "independent" in our opinion!

If Consumer Affairs is copping out of properly empowering owners' corporations

to make rules and regulate short-stay accommodation, how is it representing or supporting the residential communities that its Acts are meant to be protecting?

**Upcoming forum**

On Monday, May 9 we will be holding our first "event" since the launch of the We Live Here movement last December.

As this is an election year, we thought it would be timely to invite representatives from the City of Melbourne to discuss what the council is doing for residents. It is intended to be a fact-finding meeting rather than a political meeting and will take the form of a panel discussion with a moderator. Lord Mayor Robert Doyle has already agreed to attend.

There will be an opportunity for questions to be asked on the night but we're also inviting questions to be submitted beforehand. Check our website for contact details.

The forum will be held at Library at the Dock from 6pm to 8pm. Registrations from 5.30pm.

**Newsletter**

Listening to your feedback, we will now be providing a brief fortnightly newsletter to

keep you updated on what we've been doing. To receive the newsletter you need to register as a supporter on our website.

**Support the cause**

The We Live Here movement is a grassroots organisation evolving from trying to get our voices heard for the issues we face with inner city residential living.

Our time is gladly given supporting the causes you tell us are important to you, but we still face costs fighting the cause including marketing, external support staff, running functions, web design and upgrades.

If you are able, donations would be gratefully accepted. Please check our website for details and thank you for your consideration.

Please contact us at [campaign@welivehere.net](mailto:campaign@welivehere.net) if you have issues you would like to have addressed or we can publicise in this column.



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## OWNERS CORPORATION LAW

With Tom Bacon

# Rules, rules and more rules

*An owner installs an air conditioner unit on the common property roof.*

A tenant stores their bicycle and some boxes of rags and domestic cleaning equipment in their car parking space. A tenant installs a barbecue and some garden furniture on the common property courtyard to create an enclosed space. An owner decides to place some potted plants near the entrance to the complex.

For each of these situations detailed above, an owners' corporation (OC) has to consider the issue from the point of view of managing and regulating the use of and access to the common property. The legislation requires the owners' corporation to control the common property and to ensure that common property is not misused.

Some OCs might turn a blind eye to these situations, citing a desire to either avoid drama or conflict, or maybe even due to apathy or tacit and silent approval.

But consider for a moment the implications of that air conditioner unit failing due to lack of maintenance over a period of years, catching fire one warm evening and engulfing the common property roof in flames. Assuming everyone in the complex escaped unharmed, would an insurer void coverage under its policy of insurance on the grounds the air conditioner unit was an unapproved installation?

The owner who installed the air conditioner unit might be required under the common law to compensate the OC. But if the damage to the roof is extensive, and if the owner concerned is not particularly wealthy, then the liability to cop the cost of the repairs falls back to the members of the OC.

Ditto the situation in the car parking space. If a car catches fire in the basement, would the presence of the rags and toxic cleaning equipment exacerbate and accelerate the spread of fire? How would liability be apportioned in this case?

What about the tenant who took over

common property to create their own private outdoor space? Does the OC have the power to remove the furniture if the tenant ignores requests to remove it? If they did, where would they store it? What if the furniture got damaged during the time it was in storage?

All of these situations have occurred in Australia, and each time, the particular OC has found they didn't have the powers under their existing rules to properly cater for the situation. The majority of OCs consider that the rules put in place for their scheme (either the model rules under the legislation, or the original rules put in place by the developer) are the start and end point for compliance.

However, the model rules and the "developer" rules are usually very basic, generic and are not tailored to the individual characteristics of the different types and layouts of buildings that we live in.

I recommend that every three years, the committee should review the rules, and consider whether new situations have arisen that necessitate the passing of new additional rules.

The current legislation empowers OCs to make the types of rules it wants, subject to the legal doctrines of ultra vires, unreasonableness, inconsistency and of course, discrimination.

As always, a special resolution would be required to change or introduce new rules. However the cost of not taking these steps would far outweigh the costs of convening a ballot or special general meeting.

In my view, OCs should take a proactive view towards regulation of their communities. After all, and to quote one of the other columnists - we live here.



# Diesel lives life in first gear

By Nicholas Li

*Despite a high-octane name, Diesel the 5-year-old moodle prefers a cruisy existence in Southbank.*

After moving into the area 12 months ago from Thornbury, settling into the neighbourhood has been no problem.

Despite having the luxury of a spacious backyard at his former abode, inner city living has its perks for this canine.

Enjoying casual strolls along the Yarra, the pooch keeps a low profile as he traverses the grass along Queensbridge Square.

Occasionally stand-offish (although you wouldn't know it from his beaming smile), Diesel is a favourite with the kids.

His hobbies include going for a coffee and long walks to South Wharf. Owner Janet Hickey, a nurse at St Vincent's hospital, said the move to the area had facilitated a more convenient lifestyle for both her, her husband and young Diesel (no relation to Vin Diesel).



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# FACES OF SOUTHBANK



ISABELLA STRANGERS, DIGITAL EXECUTIVE

*A Rush of Blood to the Head by Coldplay because it calms me.*



BRENDON BARRON, CAFE WORKER

*The Dark Side of the Moon by Pink Floyd because it reminds me of my childhood.*



FASIAJ FAIZI, STUDENT

*Home by Gabrielle Aplin because it's really lovely.*



NATHAN COOPER, STUDENT

*Deadmau5's While(1<2) because it's an emotional album and you can hear the different inspirations as to why he made it.*



GREG HICKEY, SPORT PHYSICIAN

*The Dark Side of the Moon by Pink Floyd because I've loved it for 25 years. It has stood the test of time.*



REBEKAH KLIEVE, STUDENT

*Once by Nightwish because it's the first opera metal album I ever heard and started my love for the genre.*

## Question:

**What is your favourite album?**

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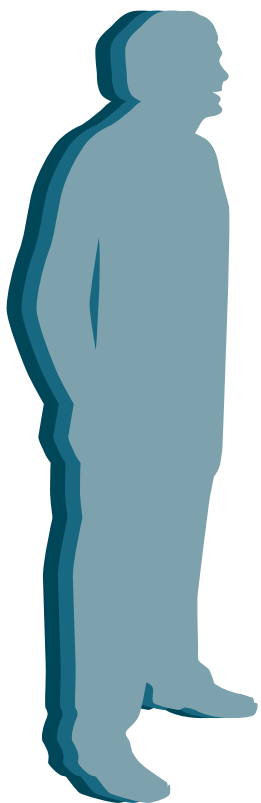
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New Southbank resident and president of the Australian Art-Deco Modernism Society Robin Grow.

## A different take on history

*While having only recently moved to Southbank, new Southside Towers resident Robin Grow said he and his wife had quickly settled into their new inner-city lifestyle.*



## SOUTHBANKER

Profile by Sean Car

"We'd just had enough of East Hawthorn we wanted a change and we wanted a place that had a pretty good life attached to it where people are coming in and going all the time," he said.

"We like the building that we're in. Most of the people are very friendly and I like the sense of community. We didn't get a lot of that before and we certainly get a lot of it down here. The building has its own little community feel."

Having retired as an IT manager for the State Government's land titles division some time ago, he said it was time for a new chapter and Southbank's proximity to the city and the arts made it the ideal location.

However, unlike many other retirees, life has only become busier for Robin who, for the past 17 years, has been president of the Australian Art Deco Modernism Society, which has 700 members nationwide.

With a passion for history and architecture, Robin continues to spearhead the organisation by hosting a number of regular events and publishing a quarterly magazine.

"I really enjoy history of areas and what's changed and what's driven those areas and whom the forces were winning and losing out of places like that and I find it fascinating," Robin said.

"Parts of the publication are online and I

know people say print media is dying but it hasn't been our experience."

"We've obviously developed that into full colour and it's a bit of that old thing how success breeds success. We've now got people that want to write for us quite regularly, which is good because it means I don't have to do so much anymore!"

The heritage-inspired publication aims to cover a spectrum of subjects from architecture and restoration to furniture and fine arts in an effort to promote the value of preservation in Australia and internationally.

His role as president of the society has seen him travel far and wide, networking with other organisations around the world and attending a number of international conferences.

He said, with Melbourne's property market booming, it was an important function of his organisation to help preserve what little heritage we have left.

"There's often really good economic reasons for preserving old buildings particularly as far as the environmental credentials are concerned you've got all of that embedded in buildings that you lose as soon as you knock them over."

"We're not anti-development but the solution that we favour most is reuse of existing buildings because then everyone

wins I think."

Southbank itself has few remaining art-deco buildings, with some rare traces of its history having been kept intact by developers through the preservation of facades.

Robin said another important part of his role as president was spending time advocating at VCAT, and while he said he was often fighting a losing battle it was always important to give heritage a voice.

"The thing is you're up against incredibly well-resourced forces when you take these people on and they've got deep pockets and we've been through this many times at heritage hearings."

"We're a not-for-profit local heritage group that does the best it can but sometimes it's not a fight because we haven't got any chance of winning."

"Nevertheless, you've always got to try and get your point of view out there so we watch all of the heritage battles going on with a great deal of interest."

Robin and the Art-Deco Modernism Society will be hosting a local heritage walk on June 5, which will journey through South Melbourne.

For more information visit [www.artdeco.org.au](http://www.artdeco.org.au)

## Businesses in Southbank

# Greek haven arrives at Southgate

*As the latest addition to Southgate's diverse variety of culinary venues, ENA Greek Street Food brings a fresh spin on Greek dining to Southbank.*

Translating to number one in Greek, ENA will serve up innovative, rustic offerings that are inspired by the streets and beaches of Greece.

Passionate foodie and TV show star Chris Stavropoulos (*Reno Rumble* and *House Rules*) joined forces with Sean Cheshire and Funky Food Group (*Lavezzi Gelati*, *Billy's Kitchen*, *Billy Barista*) to open the business last month.

Boasting a long family history in the production of olive oil and wine over hundreds of years, Mr Stavropoulos said ENA was new take on classic Greek cuisine.

"I was fortunate enough to grow up on food straight from our garden and local farms – that is how Greeks cook!" he said. "Greek street food is simple while still being full of texture and flavour."

"There is something magical about the way Greek street vendors cook their food. We've done our best to recreate this as much as we can with ENA, and my yiayia (grandmother) has even had a look at some of the recipes to ensure they're authentic!"

After the success of its modern paddock to plate offering with Billy's Kitchen, Mr Cheshire said the idea of expanding on the Greek street food concept at Southgate's wonderful riverside restaurant felt like a natural fit.

"We wanted to create something authentic and credible that people would be comfortable with," he said.

"Melbourne is very multicultural and Southgate's mix of restaurants is a great example of that. It's also a great spot to relax and take in the city overlooking the Yarra."

ENA offers quality dining with a relaxed atmosphere and provides take away for the fast-paced lunchtime traders. The use of communal dining spaces and a focus on share plates nods to the venue's strong roots in Greece.

ENA utilises authentic Greek cooking techniques, their meats cooked over a coal fire pit, the same tradition used in Greek homes and street stalls.

Their slow rotisserie over coals gives their lamb, chicken and pork a smokier, crispier and more succulent flavour than the traditional gyros vertical spits.

Having honed his craft in Melbourne for 23 years at some of the city's finest restaurants, co-owner and executive chef Mathew English had a strong focus on sourcing the freshest seasonal produce from local suppliers.

"There is a unique commitment to the freshest homegrown produce and using locally sourced ingredients, as well as some



ENA's Chris Stavropoulos (left) and Sean Cheshire of Funky Food Group (right)

Image: Southgate Melbourne.

of the most enticing flavour combinations I've experienced in the world.

The restaurant offers a diverse and mouth-watering Greek menu, in-house blended coffee and a wine list incorporating both Australian drops and an inspired variety of Greek wines.

Open seven days for lunch and dinner,

ENA also offers a full takeaway menu. Bookings can be made via email [eat@enagreekstreetfood.com.au](mailto:eat@enagreekstreetfood.com.au) or by phoning 9690 6205.

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

# No job too big or too small

*For our local "Mr Fix It" Richard Jeney, otherwise known by his business name as Clever Dick The Handyman, it's often the smallest jobs that are the most satisfying.*

While his business specialises in everything from repairs to bathroom renovations, he said it was the little jobs that often caused people the most frustration.

"When a customer rings and says that it's only a couple of small jobs we say no they're actually the ones that we love because it's the little things that actually make the biggest difference in people's lives," he said.

"Coming to hang a picture up, fix a cupboard because it's not closing properly is what we love because that's actually the annoying stuff."

Having started the business four years ago in Port Melbourne, Richard's service team has since grown to three additional workers and two vehicles.

An engineer with over 15 years experience, he said the steady growth was largely attributed to a strong focus on customer engagement and willingness to take on any job, big or small.

"When I started the business my philosophy was do what you say you're going to do. It's pretty simple," he said "The biggest complaint I've heard from most people is that tradies never turn up and they're just terrible at communication."

"Given my background in engineering, communication is not a problem for me. All they want to do is hear your voice and that's the main thing."

The Clever Dick name is now widely recognised around the Port Melbourne, South Melbourne and Albert Park area and Richard said the business's presence was increasingly growing in Southbank.

"I would like to at some point I always have one ute dedicated to Southbank. It's a nice area to work in. It's close, we know it reasonably well and, like with anything, you get to know it more and more," he said.

"Residents are time poor and the other big factor is affordability. It's a case of 'sure, I could do it' but I'd prefer to get someone in who's actually going to do it properly."

While smaller jobs are a large part of what has made the business what it is, it also specialises in renovations and larger project work including decks, bathroom renovations and flooring – to name a few.

Richard said the exceptionally high standards, which underpinned his and his team's philosophy for its work, meant they always attracted repeat business based on building strong relationships with its



Left to right: Clever Dick handyman Tommy Pitsas, Adam Connell and Richard Jeney.

customers.

"I heard a line once, which was 'always be cautious about asking a question if you don't always know what the answer is going to be' but I do like that because there is going to have to be an element of truth that's going to come out," he said.

"When you stand back and ask a customer

are you happy with the work we've done, I know I'm happy with it because as far as I'm concerned if we've met our standards then I know that's going to be at a customer's standards."

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



## Businesses in Southbank

# A decade of quality

*Having operated out of its massive showroom and service centre for almost 10 years, the team at Mercedes-Benz Melbourne is highly experienced when it comes to providing quality service to its customers.*

As part of its ongoing effort to constantly enhance customer experience, Marketing Manager, Laura Giordano, revealed that the showroom would soon be the subject of major renovations.

“There will be huge changes to the showroom as well as our customer lounge. We’re working towards enhancing the customer experience further,” she said.

“We have a great opportunity to revise the layout of our dealership to accommodate our customer’s needs and our broad line up of models.”

Originally known as Lanes Motors, which was first established in 1916 selling new and used vehicles, it wasn’t until 1961 that the business sold its first Mercedes-Benz vehicle.

The business boasts a long history in Melbourne having relocated to Sturt St, Southbank in 1985, before undergoing a name change in 1998 and taking on sole ownership in 2005 as Mercedes-Benz Melbourne.

After relocating to its current home on Kings Way in 2006, Ms Giordano said the business had constantly sought ways to build a diverse team of caring staff members to respond to

Melbourne’s rapid population growth and interest in the Mercedes-Benz line up.

“Like Melbourne, our team is multilingual and speak languages such as Mandarin, Cantonese, Italian, German and Greek,” she said.

While the centre is based only five minutes from Docklands, Ms Giordano said every single one of Mercedes-Benz Melbourne’s 170 staff members held the needs of local residents as a very high priority.

“Many locals are busy professionals and are very time poor,” she said. “As we are close to the city, we are able to cater to their busy lifestyle needs. Whether it is providing transportation or meeting clients for a test drives at their workplace, we strive to deliver the best experience for our diverse customer base.

With renovations set to commence later this year, Ms Giordano said customers could also expect huge changes to its new AMG showroom.

She said the expansion and the forthcoming 10 year milestone was a strong reflection of the success of Mercedes-Benz in Melbourne.



The team at Mercedes-Benz Melbourne.

“There has never been a better time to be part of the Mercedes-Benz family and the best is yet to come,” she said.

Mercedes Benz Melbourne is located at 135 Kings Way, South Melbourne. LMCT 6776.

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

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



## HEALTH & WELLBEING

with Justin Moran

Just In Time Personal Training

### Group exercise, 12-week transformations and a great calf exercise for runners!

#### Group exercise classes – be careful!

It is possible to severely injure yourself in a boot camp, if the instructors are not qualified.

Sure, there are some better ones but I urge you to do your research if electing to go down this path because an injury is not fun for anyone and in saying that, some injuries may not happen straight-away but as you get older (and you will), you are placing many loads, jolts and impact on your bones, joints, ligaments, muscles and tendons and they will uncover themselves later on in life.

Please don’t get me wrong as I used to love group boxercise classes and played VFL football. In that time I was exposed to much poor training methods and luckily, due to my knowledge opted out for many given exercises, stretches or movements as I knew what was safe and risky and I made adjustments accordingly.

Please ensure that at a very minimum you are asked to complete a pre-exercise questionnaire before participation in any form of group fitness class, check the credentials of the instructor and/or establishment and remember – it’s your body, your health and injuries take time to recover from, are an inconvenience and are very demotivating.

#### 12-week body transformations?

I am sure you will have come across all sorts of six, eight, 10 and 12-week body transformations and challenges through social media. Michelle Bridges holds probably the most notable 12-week transformation (12WBT). Are they a good thing and should you sign up for one?

I believe that anything that promotes getting more people active and healthy is a good thing. But I must stress that, with these sorts of programs, many of the tips, programs and follow up is of a generic nature and doesn’t allow much for individual differences, injuries and abilities.

The biggest problem though is that their nature doesn’t lead to any level of behavioral focus on evoking behavior change after completion. I have recently been asked to be the “fitness expert” behind a 12-week program and initially baulked at the idea but have since seen the approach offers many varied programs and has a focus on “real people, real results” and an emphasis on seeking change on-going and with some very simplistic methods of ensuring you will continue on after the 12 weeks.

Do your research and see if these sorts of programs suit you and your needs, or the people running them.

Single leg, calf-raises to minimise injury for runners

If you are a runner or participate in individual or team sports that require running, I heavily suggest that you do this simple test to ensure your calf muscles are acting as shock absorbers and minimising impact to your ankles, knees, hips and back.

Simply stand on the ball of your foot on the edge of a step on one leg and completely lower your heel to the floor slowly and then raise it as high as you can for as many repetitions as possible until you essentially grimace and cramp up.

If you can do 20 or more on each leg then your calves are strong enough to withstand the constant pounding that running evokes. If not, work on this exercise for one or two sets every second day until you can break the 20 barrier!

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

# 2016 WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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



### INNER MELBOURNE LIFE ACTIVITIES CLUB

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



### 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](mailto: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](http://www.chunkymove.com)**



### WEDNESDAYS

#### FITNESS FUSION @ BOYD

If you're looking for a great way to start the day, come along to Fitness Fusion at Boyd for a series of fun and challenging exercises. Starts at 6.45am and finishes at 7.45am.

### 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.



### 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.



### FRIDAYS @ RIVERSIDE QUAY

#### TAI CHI ON SOUTHBANK

Every Friday 8am-9am. Excellent for stress management, strength, balance, flexibility and wellbeing. Beginners most welcome.  
**Contact Lyn for more information [icarrodus@masmanne.com](mailto:icarrodus@masmanne.com)**

### THURSDAY MAY 19

#### COMMUNITY BBQ

Hosted by the Boyd Community Hub in partnership with Southbank Rotary Club, come along, enjoy a snag and meet your neighbours from 5pm until 7pm.

**Tickets: [www.eventbrite.com.au](http://www.eventbrite.com.au)**

### JUNE 5 THROUGH SOUTH MELBOURNE

#### ART-DECO HERITAGE WALK

Meeting at Mac Rob Girls' High School, the Art-Deco Modernism Society will lead a walk through South Melbourne to uncover the area's most historic sites.

**More info: [www.artdeco.org.au](http://www.artdeco.org.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](http://www.artscentremelbourne.com.au)**

### TUESDAYS @ BOYD

#### HULA HOOPING & BOOTY CAMP

Incorporating 80's Dance, 90's Hip-Hop Dance, Booty Dance, Hoop-Aerobics, Hoop-Hop, striking your tree pose with Voga, Hula-Hooping tricks, and LOTS of Hilarity.



### WEDNESDAYS @ BOYD

#### FREE WALKING GROUP

Join local fitness experts JustInTime as they lead a 'not just walking group' for Boyd walkers. The program runs on Wednesdays from 9.30am to 10.30am.



### 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](http://www.clubrunner.ca/mspc)**

### SECOND TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

#### LIONS CLUB

The new Melbourne City Southbank Lions Club hosts its monthly meetings at Boyd from 7pm until 8pm. All welcome.  
**Email [chengji1214@gmail.com](mailto:chengji1214@gmail.com) for more information**

### MONDAY NIGHTS IN MAY AND JUNE

#### FREE ZUMBA @ BOYD

Shimmy those hips at free Zumba fitness classes at Boyd. It's fun, effective and made for everyone. Classes run on Monday evenings in May and June from 7pm to 8pm.

### SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

#### READING CIRCLE

A free and informal chat about whatever it is we've been reading. Fiction, non-fiction, plays, poems, travel writing, biography – anything at all!

**6pm - 7pm @ Boyd Library**

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING?

SEND AN EMAIL TO [ADVERTISING@SOUTHBANKLOCALNEWS.COM.AU](mailto:ADVERTISING@SOUTHBANKLOCALNEWS.COM.AU)  
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## MAY, 2016

If you are thinking of buying or selling and do not know where to start, I am here to help!

I will be conducting open inspections every Saturday. If you would like to know more about the market, in particular Southbank, please feel free to visit me at the open inspection or contact me directly at 0401 906 629.

To assist with your property purchase, I have an in-depth buyers guide available for your reference. Please email me to obtain a copy.

I look forward to speaking to you. Thank you. 谢谢。

*"Jen was absolutely fantastic throughout the whole process of the sale of my property. She went above and beyond my expectations, putting in many hours with potential buyers and kept me up to date on a regular basis. For what was a hard to sell property, I was very happy with the end result. I found Jen very knowledgeable, friendly, courteous, and very easy to deal with."* (Steve Bowden- Vendor)

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