

The voice of Southbank, South Wharf & Montague

SOUTHBANK Local NEWS

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Help shape your gardens

During August, the team at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria (RBGV) is calling on the local community to come and share its ideas on how to improve one of the city's greatest natural assets.

For the first time since 1997, the RBGV is preparing a new 20-year master plan, which includes a number of exciting projects that are set to significantly change the way locals and visitors engage with the gardens.

As Southbank's largest and closest source of public open space, RBGV is interested to hear from the local community.

Read more on page 9.



Left to right: Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria (RBGV) board chair Ken Harrison, director and chief executive Prof Tim Entwisle and Melbourne Gardens director Chris Cole in front of Guilfoyle's Volcano Garden, which was a result of RBGV's previous master plan.

Residents unite to stop high-rise

By Sean Car

Locals from Southbank's low-rise community are voicing their outrage over a proposal to build a 21-storey tower at 135 Sturt St.

Residents from neighbouring low-rise apartments on Dodds St have expressed strong opposition to architecture practice Hayball Pty Ltd's proposal to redevelop its Sturt St offices into a high-rise complex.

In what was originally a 42-level proposal, Hayball is now proposing a building at half the height, which would comprise 240 dwellings, 199 parking spaces, 177 bicycle spaces and ground floor retail space.

However, at 67-metres, the building would

comfortably exceed the area's 40-metre discretionary height limit and residents argue that the proposal is out of character in what is a low-rise community.

Southbank Local News understands that the developer has compromised height but wants to build to the boundary and would be given more leeway to do so under previous planning rules.

The land in question takes in Hayball's offices as well as the current headquarters

of Cystic Fibrosis Victoria, which fronts onto Dodds St. A mandatory requirement is in place on Dodds St, which prevents development exceeding 14-metres, within 30-metres from the street frontage.

The application was submitted prior to the introduction of Mr Wynne's C262 interim planning controls and will, therefore, be assessed under the old rules.

At 31,000 sqm, the final decision ultimately rests with Planning Minister Richard Wynne.

The City of Melbourne had scheduled to consider the application at its Future Melbourne Committee meeting on August 16, but informed residents on August 8 that it would now be deferred until November.

The deferral is welcome news to residents who are busy rallying local support to prevent the development from going ahead and now have more time to fully discuss the issue with the community.

Continued on page 2.

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Residents unite to stop high-rise

Continued from page 1.

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Dodds St resident Alan Potter said the proposal was a gross overdevelopment and visually out of character with the area.

“This is a low-rise precinct and this building is completely out of character for the area,” he said. “You only have to look at the artist impression of the building to see what an eyesore it is.”

Mr Potter said residents also held concerns about overshadowing, loss of privacy and the pressure the proposal would create for on-street car parking and traffic in the area.

Mr Potter’s neighbour Laura and her mother Eileen have initiated a Facebook page titled *Save Dodds Street* in an effort to encourage locals to object to the proposal through council and local member Martin Foley.

“The low-rise apartment buildings along Dodds St give the area a special charm and character,” Laura said. “The proposed high-rise tower of glass will overwhelm the dynamic creative arts hub and the quiet residential street.”

“We urge all local residents to reflect on the considerable effects of this development and send in objection letters to council and relevant local politicians.”

Speaking on behalf of 174 lots at Southbank Royale, owners’ corporation (OC) chair Steve Miller said residents were concerned by the lack of community consultation.

“Prior council correspondence on plans for the Arts Precinct has strongly supported low-rise development, which has the support of current owners and residents,” he said.

“A development of this scale places pressure on traffic and the proposal does not provide sufficient parking for the proposed number of apartments and on-street parking in the area has been scarce for many years.”

The City of Melbourne’s deputy chair of planning, Cr Rohan Leppert, said he was unable to formally comment on the application until it went before council.

Hayball also declined the opportunity to comment until after council had considered the proposal.

Cystic Fibrosis Victoria (CFV) CEO Karin Knoester said it had held discussions with Hayball but any firm decisions about the future relocation of its offices were still “some way off”.

In the past, the Southbank Residents Group was successful in lobbying governments to introduce a number of mandatory height controls for large parts of Southbank’s low-rise area.

However, as a main street, frontage height controls along Sturt St are discretionary and the area is still subject to “Capital City” zoning.

Southbank Residents Association (SRA) president Tony Penna said he had been corresponding directly with local residents affected by the development.

He said he hoped council had learned its lesson from its lack of communication over developer Hudson Conway’s recent VCAT victory for a 16-storey development at nearby 250 Sturt St.

“The character of this Southbank precinct needs to be preserved, particularly when it comes to height controls,” he said.

“After the sneaky dealings with 250 Sturt St, I am somewhat fearful this developer might also try to sneak a development through council without the residents knowing what is being proposed exactly.”

“As a result, we need to keep a close eye on the process with the application for 135 Sturt St and the community needs to ensure its voice is heard this time.”

“Let’s hope council has learned a valuable lesson from the bungled process for 250 Sturt St and recognises that residents need to be heard.”

To join the local campaign visit www.facebook.com/groups/savedoddsstreet



An image of the pair police wish to speak to.

Apartment theft

Southbank police have released images of two people following the theft of a mobile phone at Southbank on July 5.

Police have been told that an unknown man attended the reception area of an apartment complex on Haig St at approximately 1.30pm.

While the concierge was distracted, the man stole a mobile phone, which had been left on the counter. He quickly fled the building.

He used the stolen phone to access the victim’s Facebook page and posted his image with an unknown woman.

No one was physically injured during the incident.

The man is aged in his 20s and was wearing a camouflage cap, a black jacket, three-quarter length pants and black and white shoes.

Investigators have released images of a man and woman they believe may be able to assist with their enquiries.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on **1800 333 000**.



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Sod turned on our school

Premier Daniel Andrews and Minister for Education James Merlino helped turn the sod on Southbank's future vertical school at Ferrars St on August 8.

The pair appeared alongside Member for Albert Park Martin Foley, City of Port Phillip Mayor Bernadene Voss and students from the overflowing Port Melbourne Primary School to mark the momentous occasion.

Located in Southbank, South Melbourne Primary School will be the first ever vertical government school in Victoria, with five storeys, open space on each level and competition grade netball courts on the rooftop.

Construction is now well underway and the school is due to open in 2018. For more information visit schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au



(Back left to right) Port Phillip Mayor Bernadene Voss, Minister for Education James Merlino, Premier Daniel Andrews and Member for Albert Park Martin Foley turn the sod with local students from Port Melbourne Primary School.

Landmark Supreme Court short-stay decision

A landmark Supreme Court decision has paved the way for short-stay accommodation across the state.

Supreme Court Justice Peter Riordan last month ruled that the Watergate Owners' Corporation (OC) did not have the power to make rules banning owners from leasing apartments to short-term visitors.

The Docklands-based building has been involved in ongoing legal battles over the issues of short-stay apartments since 2012

and the case was being closely watched across Victoria and nationally.

The most recent decision followed the OC's appeal of a 2015 VCAT decision, which similarly found that the OC did not have the power to make rules prohibiting short-stays.

Watergate OC chairperson Barbara Francis said it was too early to say whether the OC would appeal the Supreme Court decision.

"We'll review the decision and canvass the support of the hotel accommodation industry before deciding," she said.

Watergate short-stay operator Paul Salter said the Supreme Court decision was "absolutely correct" and "upheld the

proprietary rights of property ownership."

In his published decision, Justice Riordan said that under the Subdivision Act 1988 and the Owners Corporation Act 2006, the Parliament did not demonstrate an intention to give OCs the power to make rules prohibiting short-term letting of apartments.

According to Justice Riordan, the legislation does not reveal any intention for OCs to be able to "substantially interfere" with lot owners' proprietary rights or to give OCs the power to overrule uses permitted under planning legislation.

Justice Riordan found that a parliamentary intention to give OCs the power to

"substantially inhibit" the conduct of owners on their own property, would need to be expressed "in clear and unambiguous language".

According to lobby group We Live Here, this finding gives clear direction to government.

Ms Francis, who is also a director of resident lobby group We Live Here, called on the government to change the laws "before it is too late".

"At last the State Government has now been provided with definitive guidance by the Supreme Court about what it needs to do in order to protect owners, residents and the hotel industry," Ms Francis said.



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Danby clinches Melbourne Ports

By Sunny Liu

Michael Danby has again retained his seat for Melbourne Ports this election, despite a 2.18 per cent swing towards the Liberal Party and a 3.62 per cent gain by the Greens.

Melbourne Ports has been a Labor-held seat since Federation. It is the fourth time that Mr Danby has been returned as the Member.

“It’s an incredible seat, Melbourne Ports. Very culturally-diverse, highly educated and politically engaged. It’s not easy to reconcile the different points of view but it’s a pleasure to represent this great community,” Mr Danby said in a media release.

There has been a decline in Mr Danby’s primary vote in the past two elections. He has been regularly engaging in fights against the Greens over their support of Palestine.

During his election campaign, Mr Danby handed out how-to-vote materials that preferred Liberal Owen Guest over the Greens’ Steph Hodgins-May. His outspoken criticism against the Greens triggered clashes between the two parties’ volunteers at voting booths.

“This was without doubt the most ugly campaign that has ever been mounted against me in my 18 years in the job, with many fly-in-fly-out campaigners from north of the Yarra,” Mr Danby said.

The Greens were contacted but did not provide comment.



Re-elected Federal Member for Melbourne Ports Michael Danby celebrates his election victory outside his campaign office in St.Kilda last month.



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Meet the voices of Montague

By Sean Car

Montague Community Alliance founders Patricia Avery and Gary Willis have been part of the driving force behind seeking proper planning for the Fishermans Bend urban renewal precinct.

Montague, which roughly borders City Rd, Whiteman St, Normanby Rd and Boundary St, was the first precinct in Fishermans Bend to see cranes rise as development gets underway on a number of projects.

Having moved to their Gladstone St home nearly four years ago, Patricia and Gary said they had no idea about the battle they were in for.

"We actually bought it and signed the contract on July 5, 2012 and on July 12 Matthew Guy zoned it as a capital city zoning, roughly five days after we bought it," Trisha said.

"We were very optimistic and didn't realise that capital city zoning meant that we wouldn't be communicated with in any way."

Former Liberal planning minister Matthew Guy's rezoning of Fishermans Bend led to a flurry of building approvals prior to the election of the Labor Government in 2014.

Unfortunately for incoming planning minister Richard Wynne and locals such as Patricia and Gary, a majority of those approvals were rushed in Montague and it has since been a game of catch up for community planning.

Trisha said alarm bells had started ringing in 2013 after learning about an eight-storey building being granted approval only a few doors from their home.

"We don't get any local papers here because we're not seen as a distribution area so I walked up Bay St and picked up the local Leader," she said.

"I read on the front page that there was going to be an eight-storey building built four doors away from us, which came as a terrible shock."

In a bid to find out what exactly was going on in their neighbourhood, the pair organised a community meeting soon after and were overwhelmed by how many of their neighbours were also seeking information.

"It was actually packed, which was a surprise to us all for such a meeting because we had



Montague Community Alliance founders Gary and Patricia Avery.

no president or anything," Gary said.

"I think it was more curiosity than anything else because everybody was in the dark a little bit about what was going on and so everybody turned out to find out about it."

As a result, the Montague Community Alliance was formed. Convened by Patricia, the group was established to advocate for proper planning, heritage preservation and, most importantly, open a dialogue between government, developers and the community.

"I think what we want is to be involved with the community of developers, funders and government so that there's a sense that we can all come together and not be in any way negative," Patricia said.

"Nobody is interested in being oppositional. We've all gone past that. But it's a question of how can we work with people?"

While the other Fishermans Bend precincts

are largely vacant brownfields sites, Patricia said the current problem was trying to shift the perception that Montague was merely a continuation of Southbank.

"In the end it is really about recognising that we're not a brownfields site. We are a vibrant, alive, day-to-day, 24-hour precinct that's already alive," she said.

"That view of the other precincts is much more accurate because they are brownfields sites. People moving and selling their buildings because they are massive footprint sites."

"Montague is absolutely different. It's part of the old Emerald Hill ward. We're the oldest part of Melbourne here really."

While the pair both agreed that communication had improved with council and under the current state government, they said Labor's latest recast vision for Fishermans Bend still fell short of the mark.

And unlike other precincts, they say lack of open space is not the biggest concern.

"Ironically, people are always leaning on me to make a fuss about open space but I can tell you that's not what people are concerned about here," Patricia said

"I think that the recast vision is fabulous given that it's 50 years in the future!" she said. "It doesn't talk about the next 12 months so I think it's fabulous but only in the future."

Having helped form the South Port Urban Responsible Renewal (SPURR) community group, Patricia also represents Montague as part of the Fishermans Bend Network (FBN).

She said, since forming the alliance, the group had made some inroads, including saving a number of historic bluestone alleyways from being destroyed and improving dialogue with council and the government.

However, she rejects the idea that residents and workers were sitting on valuable sites and could easily sell up and move on if they wished to.

"People feel that we're all holding on to valuable properties but we're not," she said. "Most of our footprints are very small."

"That's not how we see it. It's our community. It's our home and they're our businesses. So it's not like everyone's going to say 'let's get out of Montague and sell it to developers'"

And while there is still a lot of work to do, Gary said they loved their neighbourhood and were determined to ensure that poor planning didn't tarnish its character.

"We love the location," he said. "I've come to know a lot of the locals around here and it's just the detail, there's lot of infusions of detail. There's stuff that you don't know, so it's a really rich tapestry."

As a means of helping provide the Montague community with a voice, the *Southbank Local News* will now be extending its distribution into the entire precinct.

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Council opposes Southbank proposals

The City of Port Phillip resolved to oppose two Southbank planning applications for high-rise towers last month.

Both located in the Montague precinct, councillors unanimously opposed a 41-storey proposal at 179-185 Normanby Rd and an 18-storey proposal at 163-169 Ferrars St at its meeting on July 19.

Developer Peckvohartel has proposed a major redevelopment at the historic Laconia Woollen Mills building on Normanby Rd with plans to position the 150m tower at the rear of the building.

The proposal comprises 291 one, two and three-bedroom apartments, commercial office and retail space, 191 car parking spaces, communal facilities and a rooftop terrace atop the Laconia building.

However, perhaps the most contentious element of the application is a proposal to place a corten-steel sculpture in between the Laconia building and the tower.

At its July 19 meeting councillors raised concerns that both the tower and the sculpture would overwhelm the existing building, which is subject to heritage overlay.

City of Port Phillip Mayor Bernadene Voss said that, while council supported conservation works at the site, the proposal did nothing to complement the heritage value of the building.

“Council supports the proposed



A render of Peckvohartel's proposal for the historic Laconia Woollen Mills building at 179-185 Normanby Rd.

conservation works to the Laconia building. However, we believe the plan for the proposed tower and sculpture would impact adversely on the heritage significance of the site and doesn't meet the objectives of the Fishermans Bend Strategic Framework Plan," she said.

Melbourne Heritage Action (MHA) group president Tristan Davies referred to the corten-steel sculpture as a "silly hat" and said there was nothing about the proposal that was sympathetic to the heritage value.

"While this development is just outside our boundaries, MHA opposes in principle this

sort of wildly inappropriate addition to a heritage building," he said.

"We see nothing in the geometric grid form of the historic factory structure that would suggest a giant curlicue on the roof as the appropriate response."

"Where the actual tower itself is reasonably set back from the heritage building and the rooftop addition appears to serve no structural purpose, MHA does not support in principle this sort of inappropriate architectural adornment."

Councillors also knocked back an 18-storey proposal for the site adjoining the future vertical primary school at Ferrars St.

Developer Meinhardt had previously had its original proposal for the site defiantly knocked back by councillors in December last year with a lack of setbacks, excessive podium and poor internal amenity just some of the issues raised.

Council officers noted that the proposal had "not been dramatically amended" with a reduction in dwellings from 98 to 67, an increased setback on its southern boundary and increased bicycle parking provision the only notable changes.

Planning Minister Richard Wynne ultimately has the final say on both developments.

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Michael Danby MP
Federal Member for Melbourne Ports

Supporting women under One Roof

You might have noticed that there is a fresh new look to what was formerly a redundant office space at 77 City Rd.

The site is now home to One Roof – an innovative co-working space providing female entrepreneurs with access to purpose-built and affordable shared workspaces and business support networks.

One Roof co-founder Sheree Rubenstein (pictured) said the space was designed to provide women with a warm and welcoming environment to tap into business networks and build their own ideas.

“The vibe is we have boardrooms and we’ve got a lot of corporates coming in to use the space and things, but the intention is that it’s really homely, welcoming and warm,” she said.

“There’s something important in how you physically design the space but also how I foster it as a community manager and how I connect people and build the community.”

As a 28-year-old former corporate lawyer, it’s fair to say Sheree is already well ahead of the curve.

She co-founded One Roof with her American business partner Gianna Wurzl in early 2015 and the pair’s passion for empowering and supporting women has seen the initiative quickly go from strength to strength.

Gianna has since left Melbourne to establish One Roof in America and Sheree said they were committed to closing the gender gap that existed for women in business in as many parts of the world as possible.

“Even in a very developed Western world there is still a massive gender gap in everything and particularly in entrepreneurship and in business,” she said.

“Studies show that there are factors that hold women back and that we’re not reaching our fullest potential and the impact it would have on the economy, society and community if we were all reaching our fullest potential is huge.”

According to Sheree, the underlying mantra of One Roof is based on a guiding philosophy of “mind, body and business”.

The program offers everything from workshops, seminars and workspace to meditation, yoga and mindfulness activities.



One Roof co-founder Sheree Rubenstein.

The pair first successfully tested the initiative in a rented two-storey AirBnB mansion in St Kilda over the space of a week last year and received a huge response as more than 400 participants attended.

Having since moved One Roof out of a house in Malvern, developer Central Equity has helped it to secure a new home in Southbank and Sheree says she couldn’t be happier.

“It’s game changing, not only to have a space that’s really large and can accommodate for meetings for corporates, host events, have 60 to 70 people in here working, but then also the location,” Sheree said.

“People are now saying ‘One Roof; why haven’t I heard about you before?’ and it’s because we just didn’t have the space we wanted so it’s been amazing.”

With an infectious lust for life and a yearning to help others, it is clear that Sheree’s

passion has already helped to support hundreds of women realise their potential in business and entrepreneurship.

She invited any local Southbank women in need of some inspiration and support to come and visit the space and tap into the growing One Roof community.

“Quite a few women have said they would have given up their businesses if they weren’t here. They quite literally come here and say they would have just let it go and gone back to their job,” she said.

“I see my job as being someone who can connect you. And how can I support you? I just see myself as a bit of everything. I think the biggest thing for people here is just being a part of a community.”

For more information visit melbourne.oneroofwomen.com

MCEC delivers economic boost

By Rhianna Busler

For the fourth consecutive year, the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre’s (MCEC) end of financial year figures have exceeded expectations and delivered a major boost to the Victorian economy.

Having recorded substantial growth revenue of \$77 million over the past year, the South Wharf destination has contributed close to \$1 billion of economic impact to the state’s economy.

MCEC Trust chairman Bob Annells said the encouraging financial results, along with the commencement of the venue’s much-anticipated expansion, highlighted a bright and thriving future for MCEC.

“The people of Victoria should be very proud of MCEC, the financial contribution its existence makes to the Victorian economy and the wonderful community asset it continues to be,” he said.

Results from Ernst & Young show an increase of 17.4 per cent on financial year 2014-15. Some 980 events were staged at MCEC in 2015-16, including 86 national and international conventions and 78 exhibitions that drew more than 849,677 business event visitors through the venue’s doors.

MCEC chief executive Peter King said: “The professionalism, maturity and capability that we have within MCEC to innovate, adapt and create opportunities for our customers underpins this extraordinary result.”

A key driver in the future growth of MCEC will be the completion of the venue’s expansion set to be finished in early 2018.

Building works started in June 2016 and will increase MCEC’s total size to more than 70,000 sqm, creating more space for new exhibitions and entertainment, while promoting growth of existing events.

“We are building to increase our flexibility and to offer even more spaces in which events will be delivered to the same professional MCEC standards,” Mr King said.

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Melbourne City Council elections

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You must be enrolled to vote

Elections will be held for Melbourne City Council in October 2016. You must be on the voters roll by 4.00 pm on Friday 26 August 2016 to be eligible to vote.

Am I correctly enrolled to vote?

You are already enrolled if you are 18 years or older on 22 October 2016 and:

- you live in the City of Melbourne and are on the State electoral roll for your present address or
- you own or occupy property in the City of Melbourne but don't live in the council area, and you are the first or second-named person on the Council's property records or
- you were appointed as a corporation voting representative in the 2012 elections and still hold the position of company secretary or director of a corporation that owns or occupies rateable property.

You need to enrol if you are an Australian citizen aged 18 or over on Saturday 22 October 2016, living in the City of Melbourne, and you are not on the State electoral roll.

You need to update your enrolment if you are already enrolled but have changed your address.

You must enrol or update your enrolment by 4.00 pm on Friday 26 August.

How do I enrol?

Enrol online at vec.vic.gov.au, or pick up an enrolment form at any post office or Australian Electoral Commission office and return it by 4.00 pm on Friday 26 August.

You may also apply directly to Council to enrol if you are 18 years or older on 22 October 2016 and:

- you are a new owner or business occupier of a rateable property in the City of Melbourne or
- you own or occupy rateable property in the City of Melbourne and reside in the council area, but are not on the State electoral roll (includes non-Australian citizens) or
- you are a director or company secretary of a corporation (or hold an equivalent position in an Association) that owns or occupies rateable property solely or jointly within the council area*.

* If a corporation that solely owns or occupies rateable property in the City of Melbourne does not validly appoint two voting representatives by 4.00 pm on Friday 26 August, the Council is required by law to enrol the first two of the following (to be taken in alphabetical order):

- the company secretaries of the corporation
- the directors of the corporation.

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:

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If you meet any of these Council enrolment criteria and wish to enrol, contact Melbourne City Council on 1300 735 427 (+61 3 9658 9318 from overseas) or visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/elections for a council enrolment form.

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Voting is compulsory

Voting is compulsory for everyone under the age of 70 who is enrolled in the Melbourne City Council elections, including non-Australian citizens and corporation voting representatives.

This notice is published by the Victorian Electoral Commission on behalf of the Registrar for the Melbourne City Council voters roll.

Enrol before 4.00 pm Friday 26 August 2016

Register for SMS and email alerts at vec.vic.gov.au



Help shape your gardens

By Sean Car

From page 1

In an exclusive interview with Southbank Local News last month, director and chief executive Professor Tim Entwisle and chairman Ken Harrison provided an exciting insight of what's to come at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria (RBGV).

While the City of Melbourne is currently conducting its own master plan for the Domain Parklands, the RBGV master plan will focus on ways of improving life inside the fence.

Prof Entwisle said that the public consultation would help inform the final master plan for its Melbourne gardens.

"We know people come in because they're attracted to the beautiful landscape and this is one of the most stunning botanical garden landscapes in the world. It sits up there in the top half dozen," he said.

"We're hoping people will come up with ideas that we've never thought of. We want more people to get to the gardens. We want people to get more out of their visit and we want to be more influential."

The RBGV already has some big projects in mind. As part of a multi-million dollar campaign, RBGV is looking to create its own science precinct for Melbourne at the site of the Old Melbourne Observatory, which will include the construction of a new herbarium.

Elsewhere, there are plans for a new glasshouse and more welcoming entrances by the river.

Having conducted a revised corporate vision in 2014 titled *Life is Sustained and Enriched by Plants*, Prof Entwisle said RBGV was focused on not only being a place for tourism but also science and education.

"In the new science precinct we'd like to have more interpretation of the site stretching it out from astronomy right through to botany - what I like to call observational science, where you're looking at nature," he said.

"As a botanic garden, we can't just rest on our laurels. We need to be engaging both as a tourist attraction and on important messages such as climate change, health and conservation."

One of the biggest projects, the construction



A glasshouse in the South China Botanical Garden in Guangzhou, which gives locals an idea of how a new iconic glasshouse could appear for the Melbourne Gardens. Picture: Tim Entwisle.

of an iconic glasshouse, will provide the gardens with the ability to showcase some of the most spectacular plants of the world.

Prof Entwisle explained that its current glasshouse was unable to cope with an increased demand for larger public displays such as the flowering of its renowned titan arum, which attracts thousands of visitors every few years.

"We had 16,000 people lined up to see the titan arum last time so it was in our back-of-house glasshouse here, which is not that attractive and we want something that shows it off," he said.

"This will be a glasshouse that becomes a destination for Melburnians and tourists so it will be of a size, design and content that will attract people to it."

"It's adding to this fantastic garden that we have, but also allowing us to show off a whole range of new plants that we can't grow here now, creating spaces where you can see them more easily and putting on temporary displays."

Another exciting project is the planned return of the Great Melbourne Telescope to the Old Melbourne Observatory in the gardens, to become part of the new science precinct.

Once the biggest in the southern hemisphere, the historical telescope will return to the gardens in 2019 having been relocated to the national observatory in Canberra in 1945.

To round off its new science precinct, the RBGV is also planning for the construction of a new herbarium, with the current historic building on Birdwood Ave to be reused for other purposes.

Prof Entwisle said a new herbarium would allow the public to access thousands of rare plant collections, which had never previously been possible.

"There are 1.5 million preserved pressed plants going back to Joseph Banks and Captain Cook coming out to Australia, as well as 400,000 from South America, India and all around the world so it's an incredible

collection of material," he said.

"Most people don't know what's in that building. We'd like the new herbarium to have the storage vault underground and above ground a place where everyone can see some of those historic collections and understand why the herbarium, and plants, are important."

Prof Entwisle said the master plan would look beyond these major building projects to improving gate entrances and transport links as well as engagement with the Yarra River and indigenous culture.

While past and present government ministers have been responsive to all of its proposals, chairman Ken Harrison said that RBGV would still be calling on funding support from philanthropy, corporate sponsors and the local community.

Being located on the other side of St Kilda Rd, Mr Harrison said that the gardens could in many ways be considered Southbank's space and that much of its support came from local residents.

"Some of our really good supporters are in the Southbank-South Yarra area and I think they see this as their garden and their space," he said.

"You can come across here and you've got one of the biggest open spaces in Melbourne to enjoy. What an amazing thing to have on your doorstep."

The RBGV is calling on the local community to share their ideas by completing a short online survey or by attending a special drop-in session with the project team on Saturday, August 20 at the visitor's centre from 11am to 3pm.

The public consultation process will run until August 31.

For more information and to take the online questionnaire visit www.rbgv.vic.gov.au/melbournemasterplan

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Office building to double in size

A proposal to add 10-storeys to an existing office building on the corner of Southbank Boulevard and City Rd was endorsed by City of Melbourne councillors last month.

Developer Taverners Property Pty Ltd will now seek an approval from Planning Minister Richard Wynne to increase the established commercial building's overall height to 74-metres.

Councillors unanimously supported the \$50 million project at the Future Melbourne Committee meeting on July 19.

If approved, the development would see an additional 10-storeys of serviced apartments added to what is currently a seven-storey office building (which will be retained for commercial use).

Designed by Bates Smart, the development would comprise 220 serviced apartments and refurbishment of the existing office levels, including the installation of lifts and service facilities, a mezzanine level and a new hotel lobby at ground level.

While the application was submitted shortly after Mr Wynne's C262 interim planning rules were enforced in September last year, Cr Rohan Leppert said the application had been at an advanced stage.

The debate on the application was ultimately short-lived as Cr Leppert said council had no choice but to go with its planning officers recommendation and give the all clear.

"The application was very well advanced. Given that the department and the Minister is at a disposition to allow applications in that category to be assessed under the old rules, and given that the council to date has not opposed that, it is only fair therefore that it is being assessed under the old rules," Cr Leppert said.

"Normally I'm loath to do so but due to the reasons just stated I do believe that the procedural fairness issues are made so it is fair to assess the application under the old rules."

"There is an existing building there of course and it's quite a unique site given that it's just building on top of the existing building but, for the urban design reasons that have been thoroughly teased out in this report, I'm happy to land where the recommendation is."



A render of the proposal for the corner of Southbank Boulevard and City Rd office building.



Dylan Coe (middle) and his friends Richard Oldfield (left) and Nathan Leech (right) catch Pokemon in Southbank.

Southbank a main Pokemon attraction

By Sunny Liu

Pokemon Go enthusiasts are flocking to Southbank from suburbs as far as Pakenham to catch the virtual monsters.

At least a dozen Pokemon players can be found along the Yarra River and in front of Crown Casino, all busy swiping their phone screens to "catch 'em all".

Southbank is a hotspot for Pokemon, where players can catch more than 100 Pokemon in just two hours.

"I can catch about one or two Pokemon a minute in Southbank," Pakenham resident and Pokemon Go player Ariel Riley said.

Ariel and Josh Riley travel for two hours to Southbank every week, in a bid to expand their PokeDex at this popular Pokemon nest.

"There's a whole lot of lures around here, and there's heaps of Pokemon," Ms Riley said. "Especially on the weekend. Everyone's playing Pokemon on the weekend."

Dylan Coe and his friends come to Southbank everyday and pocket hundreds of Poke-monsters each visit.

"We come here from South Morang and Diamond Creek and go home with 200

more Pokemon," Mr Coe said. "We've been here for an hour, and we are going to spend a couple of more hours here."

The group of friends have been playing the game since it was first released in July.

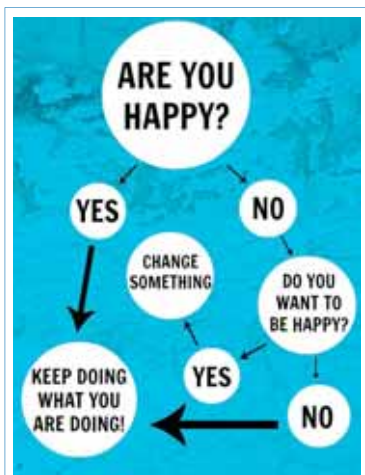
The number and type of Pokemon is often determined by the population and the surroundings of an area. People are more likely to find water-type Pokemon in Southbank due to its riverside location.

Many lure-modules can be found at the PokeStops along Southbank, attracting more Pokemon to this already Pokemon-saturated area.

Pokemon Go uses location-based services and augmented reality that combines real-time location with virtual characters. The game has been hailed as revolutionary due to its innovative technology.

The game is well received by fans of the '90s Japanese anime Pokemon, and it also appeals to the younger generation.

"It's just addictive," Mr Coe said.



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Sculptural dance

New artist-in-residence at the Boyd Community Hub Deanne Butterworth says she is focused on dance, public sculptures and space.

Having received a six-month residency as part of the City of Melbourne's (CoM) Creative Spaces program, the career dancer says she wants to explore how people's connection with sculptures and space can be expressed through dance.

Deanne will aim to develop a choreographed response to sculptures within the Hoddle Grid and she encouraged locals to engage with the project to assist her research.

"I'm interested in why a sculpture comes into being and what affect the sculpture has on the city on a day-to-day basis," she said. "There's quite a lot of sculptures in the CBD but what is the relationship that people have to that?"

"What is it about the space or what is it that people desire from this time that they might have - whether it's five minutes on a break at work or whether they are a tourist."

Occupying a former classroom in the JH Boyd Girls School, Deanne is the second artist to be given free use to test her work in the studio after the Creative Spaces program was established at the start of 2016.

CoM arts and culture portfolio chair Cr Rohan Leppert said the Creative Spaces

arts residencies gave artists the freedom to use their talents to explore new ways of producing unique creative work.

"The program gives artists an opportunity to develop and expand their practice, which is vital for our city's continued growth as a vibrant and diverse arts capital," he said.

"Deanne has a new, unique and creative concept and I look forward to seeing what she produces during her residency."

The initiative consists of six residencies each year for both individual artists and arts organisations. Each residency receives a stipend of between \$7000 and \$10,000 and free use of the space at either LAB-14 studio in Carlton or at Boyd.

Deanne said she was looking forward to utilising the unique Boyd studio as well as testing her ideas in its outdoor spaces.

"It's a very calm space in here even though I'm surrounded by high-rises and freeways. I'm kind of interested in doing something in the space out the back of Boyd as well with some experiments," she said

"How can I use this time? But, also the fact that it's in Boyd, how can I engage with people that come to this space as well?"



Boyd Studio-1 resident artist Deanne Butterworth.

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Love-locks become works of art

Couples who fixed a padlock along Evan Walker Bridge some years ago as a tribute to their love can rest assured that, since removed, the locks are being transformed into extraordinary art.

After leaving Southbankers in suspense for more than a year, the City of Melbourne commissioned Craft Victoria to take ownership of the locks and create a public exhibition.

When the City of Melbourne removed the padlocks due to safety concerns it was left with the conundrum of what to do and Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said he didn't want to see them just thrown away.

"The Love Lock phenomenon has spread through many cities around the world and we have had a lot of interest in this process as a result," he said.

"I knew we would come up with a solution that was uniquely Melbourne and that's what the Love Locks project is."

The project's co-ordinator Ramona Barry said Craft Victoria bid to take ownership of the locks and won the tender.

"We're a small organisation that's light on its feet and our members are in the business of dealing with objects," she said.

"Because they meant so much to people there was a bit of an outcry. In the face of 20,000 people expressing their love, it's hard to be cynical about it."

Holding an open day for those people who

wanted to reclaim their cherished memento, many flocked to Craft Victoria's viewing space.

The locks that weren't reclaimed have been transformed into individual art pieces by six artists and will be on display for the general public throughout the Craft Cube Festival in August.

Artists have explored themes of memory, devotion, love and loss to commemorate this aspect of Melbourne's history.

Photographer and sculptor Kirsty MacAfee has immersed some of the locks in snow-white porcelain. Over the course of the exhibition, these coatings will be dissolved within the Perspex bath with water – revealing the underlying Love Lock.

The remaining locks will be on display along with a short film by Arie Glorie entitled *Forever, You Are Mine*. This will be available for viewing at the Love Locks Exhibition at Melbourne Town Hall from August 8 to 20.

The locks can be snapped up as part of an open lottery and tickets are available for \$10 from Craft Victoria's website with all money being donated to the Lord Mayors' Charitable Foundation.

For more information visit www.craft.org.au



Benoy's entry for the redevelopment of Kavanagh Park.

High-rise heaven

A Singaporean architecture practice has released its competition entry for the approved redevelopment of Kavanagh Park.

While Cox Architecture won the competition, architect Benoy has released designs for what might have been at the 20,000 sqm Kavanagh St site.

Developer PJ Development Holdings won approval from the State Government in February to construct six towers on the site, which has long been a car park.

Benoy's entry for the site had proposed a "family of five towers", one of which was designed at 300m.

While its entry wasn't victorious, it's an interesting look at the proposed extraordinary looking cluster of towers.

In what was its first competition entry

in Melbourne, Benoy divisional director Terence Seah said his practice had enjoyed the opportunity to enter a pitch for such a major development.

"This was a fantastic opportunity for our team to demonstrate our creative force in Australia. We wanted to use this competition to show our ability in designing integrated environments and sustainable communities," he said.

The winning \$1.5 billion project that won approval from Planning Minister Richard Wynne will consist of four apartment towers, one commercial tower and one hotel and serviced apartment tower.

The six towers will range from 145m to 226m in height and will carry rooftop gardens.



Outpouring by Kirsty Macafee (left) and Love Lock Mementos by Kristian & Dr Louiseann King (right).

Pictures: Chris Sanders.

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THEARTS PRECINCT



AUGUST JAZZ AT THE SALON

By Mindy Gill

For her upcoming debut, critically acclaimed jazz singer Sarah McKenzie plans to captivate her audience with her unique twist on music from the timeless Great American Songbook.

With a seven-piece entourage in tow, Ms McKenzie will be performing this month in the intimate space of the Salon at the Melbourne Recital Centre.

"Jazz for me was always happy music and we want to fill people with joy," Ms McKenzie said. "I want to give this to them perhaps in a style that they don't know. And I really want them to come away and feel intrigued."

A melange of blues, jazz and pop songs along with her own jazz compositions, Ms McKenzie credits much of her music influence to Cole Porter.

"I love Cole Porter and I just think he's so funny and so witty

and the melodies and the music is so good that, as a result, I've become really passionate about it and I write so many songs in this style," Ms McKenzie said.

Based in Paris, she originally hails from Melbourne where she recorded two albums, earning her the Best Jazz Album ARIA award.

A review by notable jazz musician James Morrison includes the following praise: "Sarah McKenzie is a musical marvel. She sings with the kind of phrasing that only a true jazz singer can come up with while the groove of her piano is the stuff that makes people want to play jazz. Don't miss a chance to hear this lady perform live."

While she draws inspiration for her song writing from many of the places she travels to, Ms McKenzie fell in love with Paris.

"I just wrote a song called *Paris in The Rain*," Ms McKenzie said. "When it rains it's so beautiful and you want to be outside where all the lights blur on the road and it's so romantic. And I would not have written it had I not been there and felt the magic and felt inspired to write for Paris."

With performances at Melbourne's Bennett's Lane, The Paris Cat and other major festivals, together with iconic jazz locations like Dizzy's and Minton's in New York, her rise through the ranks of the Australian music scene has been spectacular.

To book tickets, please visit www.melbournerecital.com.au

Saturday, August 27, 7pm

Salon (one hour no interval)

Tickets \$30 (\$25 concession)



Vic Simms (left) and Luke Peacock (right) of The Painted Ladies.

Future secured for music comps

Australia's most prestigious chamber music competitions are set for an exciting future, backed by a new consortium of leading music organisations and the State Government.

The Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition and its sister event for the Asia Pacific region will be delivered by Sturt St institution Musica Viva in partnership with the Melbourne Recital Centre (MRC) and the Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM).

Held every four years, the competition is regarded as one of the most prestigious competitions of its kind and attracts international audiences.

The Minister for Creative Industries, Martin Foley, said it was a great example of our local creative organisations working together to achieve a fantastic result for artists and the city.

"Bringing together Australia's national chamber music organisation, the best in the country, and our elite training academy for classical musicians will give the competitions a leading edge," he said.

Musica Viva CEO Mary Jo Capps said she was honoured to be working with MRC and ANAM to take the competitions to the next level.

The Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition will be held in 2018 and the Asia Pacific Chamber Music Competition will be held in 2020.

Show time at the NGV

By Rhianna Busler

"Friday Nights at NGV" is in full swing at Southbank and there's plenty of action yet to see.

With six more weeks of after-hours art, live music and entertainment, this uniquely Melbourne event has put on an outstanding line-up of headline acts.

Performing next on August 12, The Painted Ladies is a proudly-raggy band, driven by love, creativity and a sense that race relations in this country still have a way to go.

The Painted Ladies project started as a tribute album to Vic Simms and his legendary lost 1973 classic *The Loner*.

Luke Peacock, the brainchild of The Painted Ladies project came across the album when working at a radio station and later began recording his own versions of Uncle Simms' songs.

"As soon as I played the album (*The Loner*), I loved the sound. It just struck a chord with me," Luke said.

It will be the first time The Painted Ladies is set to take on the NGV stage, but Luke has played there already this season with his band Halfway.

"The atmosphere is excellent. We all came away so happy. I'm excited to be back playing this Friday," he said.

Vic Simms and Luke Peacock re-recorded the album, *The Loner*, which Simms initially wrote and recorded in prison in the 1970s.

As a contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artist, Luke said, "I think our

band gets to represent a voice in our culture, through knowledge passed down, and that's really important."

Though the band is yet to take on Simms' home town Sydney, Southbank will receive an exciting performance, featuring Peacock's favourite song *Stranger In My Country*.

"Melbourne has proven itself as a city of strong arts and I think Friday Nights at NGV is an important event. It draws people in and positively impacts the economy," Luke said.

"It's a combination of classic art work and good bands on a Friday night. What more could you ask for?" he said.

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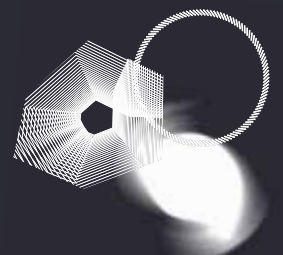
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CRAIG WETJEN

Connecting with people

As the Photography Studies College (PSC) prepares for its open day on August 14, it has no greater ambassador for aspiring photographers than teacher Craig Wetjen.

Having previously run his own commercial photo business and worked in almost every medium there is, the American knows what it takes to make a living out of photography.

However, having successfully spent the best part of the last five years creating his first ever published photo book, he said his advice to any incoming photographers was to find your passion.

“If you’re going to be a commercial photographer, you need to find something that really separates you from the rest of the world and that’s not shooting what everybody else has shot before,” he said.

“Even though it’s been done before you need to shoot it again but shoot it with your own twist. You need to be extra creative.”

While he has made a living out of photography, Craig knows about the highs and lows of the industry.

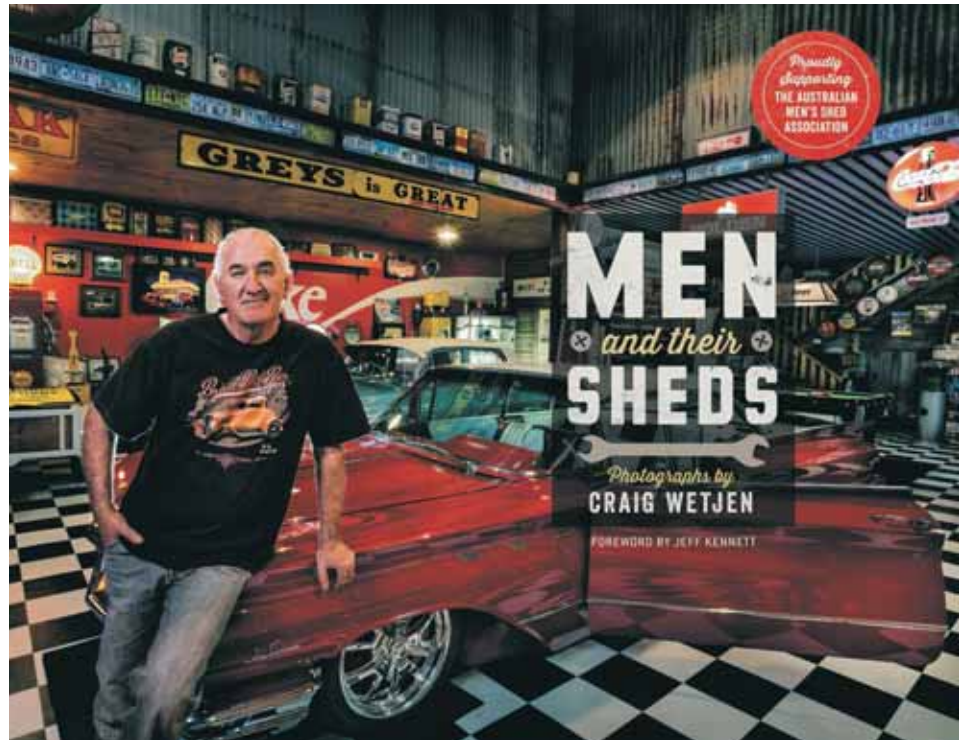
Having previously run his own wedding portraits business for 15 years, he said that the constant stress of figuring out where his next dollar was coming from had been gradually taking its toll on his health.

“I did a mental health assessment. I was depressed about the whole business side of things. No one was buying anything anymore. I was trying to keep the roof over my family’s head, suffering severe anxiety and panic attacks,” he said. “I had some blood tests and found out I had chronic lymphatic leukemia.”

“By finding that out and as well as dealing with the depression and the anxiety, I was like – hang on a second. I knew exactly what I had to do. I had to flip the entire project on its head.”

After photographing his father-in-law working in his shed in 2010, Craig eventually came up with the idea to create a book photographing men in their sheds.

In a bid to reinvent himself, inside and out,



The front cover of Craig Wetjen's 'Men and their Sheds.'

Craig travelled around the country and met 101 men in the making of Men and Their Sheds where he photographed and explored the stories behind them and their sheds.

Featuring a foreword by Beyond Blue chairman Jeff Kennett, a percentage of each book sale is donated to the Australian Men’s Shed Association and Craig has now become an ambassador for Beyond Blue.

He said that the experience of giving back to causes that were close to his heart and connecting with people had not only been rewarding for his career but, importantly, his own health.

“I just ditched the whole business idea and went back to why I loved photography and that is for the enjoyment of creating something for me and that’s where my men and their sheds book project came from,” he said.

“I was getting out to the backyard shed. What was even more poignant was that so many of them were almost their own satellite men’s

sheds because their mates would always come over and have a chinwag in their backyard.”

“Just to bring that extra added awareness of the importance of mental and physical health and all those sorts of things and getting involved and giving back that really drove home with a lot of the fellas.”

The experience has now given Craig a number of new project ideas and he said rejuvenating his passion for photography had all manifested from his ability to connect with people.

“By showing genuine interest in someone’s activities in something that they love to do they open up and that’s what I try to convey to the students when I teach them,” he said.

“When you want to photograph people just get into a conversation. Forget the camera. The camera becomes secondary.”

Men and Their Sheds is now available at all good book stores. For more information visit www.mensshedphotography.com.au

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EVENTS



AN EVENING WITH THE PUNCH BROTHERS

Aug 13 - Melbourne Recital Centre
 During their sold-out debut Melbourne Recital Centre performance, Punch Brothers moved beyond the stage mic to take full advantage of Elisabeth Murdoch Hall's superb acoustics. Now the critically-acclaimed group returns with their brilliant musicianship and a brand new album *The Phosphorescent Blues*.
www.melbournerecital.com.au



JASPER JONES

Runs until Sept 9 - The Sumner
 Hailed as an Australian *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Craig Silvey's acclaimed, best-selling novel is lovingly adapted for the stage by Kate Mulvany, directed by Sam Strong (*Private Lives*, *The Weir*). A heart-warming coming-of-age story wrapped in a mystery, Jasper Jones recalls a long, simmering summer in which friendships are tested and illusions are lost.
www.mtc.com.au



THE FIERY MAZE

Aug 18 - Sept 4 - Malthouse Theatre
 The Fiery Maze was conceived by Dorothy Porter and Tim Finn in 1995 as a 'rock concert album'. The talents of these two extraordinary artists will combine to produce raw, intimate songs about love, sex and obsession, as Finn is joined on stage by the mesmerising Abi Tucker.
www.malthousetheatre.com.au



ALAN CARR - YAP, YAP, YAP!

Aug 31 - Hamer Hall
 No stranger to yap, Alan Carr, will be yapping his way around Australia for the very first time with his stand up show, *Yap, Yap, Yap!* The BAFTA and British Comedy Award winning comedian, author and chat show supremo returns to his stand up roots with his hilarious take on life.
www.artscentremelbourne.com.au

PAINTING. MORE PAINTING

Runs until Aug 28 - ACCA
 Presented in two chapters across ACCA's four exhibition galleries, *Painting. More Painting* is a big-picture focus on contemporary Australian painting, featuring the work of over seventy living Australian artists. The work of 14 influential painters will be presented in a series of solo studies offering focused insights into their practices.
www.accaonline.org.au

EDWARD II

Runs until Aug 21 - Malthouse Theatre
 Edward II is a leader who fails to lead - a king who loses everything because of his addiction to another man. Newly crowned and convinced he's invincible, he flaunts his affair and in doing so, affronts the nation.
www.malthousetheatre.com.au

HENRY TALBOT

Running until August 21 - NGV Australia
 Melbourne and 1960s fashion are the starring subjects of more than 80 striking never-seen-before photographs by fashion photographer Henry Talbot which feature in this exhibition from the NGV Collection.
www.ngv.vic.gov.au

STAGE PRESENCE

Running until Sep 4 - Gallery 1
 This collection is home to the nation's largest and most comprehensive performance design corpus. The creative process is brought to life through concept sketches, research files, set models, finished designs and carefully annotated technical drawings, which illuminate the story of performance design in Australia.
www.artscentremelbourne.com.au



NEXT MOVE

Starts Sept 9 - Chunky Move
 This September, Chunky Move is excited to present its ninth Next Move performance season, an initiative unique in scale in Australia that commissions new work, supporting and nurturing the next generation of leading dance makers.
www.chunkymove.com.au



FRIDAY NIGHTS AT NGV

Running until Sept 16 - NGV
 Complementing the Melbourne Winter Masterpieces exhibition *Degas: A New Vision*, Friday Nights at NGV offer after-hours access to the exhibition, live jazz, short talks, Degas-inspired French food, bars, and live music performances by outstanding local and international acts. To see the full list of artists visit:
www.ngv.vic.gov.au



PAM ANN: TOUCH TROLLEY RUN TO GALLEY

Sept 3 - Melbourne Recital Centre
 She's back! The world's favourite International Air Hostess, Pam Ann is back and flying into Melbourne with a new show celebrating her 20th anniversary. Pam Ann's caustic wit knows no boundaries so fasten your seat belts and prepare for take-off, she's the Queen of the Sky and it's guaranteed to be a turbulent flight.
www.melbournerecital.com.au



DISGRACED

Starts Aug 19 - Fairfax Studio
 Kat Stewart (*Offspring*) and Mitchell Butel (*A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*) star in Ayad Akhtar's Pulitzer Prize-winning drama that proves politics and dinner parties are never a good mix. Intense and absorbing with the arc of classic tragedy, Ayad Akhtar's gripping modern drama has a hero who believes he has flown too high to ever fall to earth.
www.mtc.com.au

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Parks boss addresses businesses

Parks Victoria's new CEO Bradley Fauteux provided an optimistic outlook for local businesses and the waterways at last month's Yarra River Business Association (YRBA) luncheon on Friday, July 15.

More than 50 local stakeholders attended the lunch at Crown Metropol Hotel and enjoyed an open and detailed insight into Mr Fauteux's vision for Melbourne's waterways.

Mr Fauteux spoke of a more collaborative future with the private sector and expressed an open view towards further activation of the river.

However, as published in the July edition of *Southbank Local News*, he reiterated that he had not been briefed on establishing an independent authority to govern the lower Yarra and said, therefore, it was not a priority.

"I'm not saying that it's not a possible outcome but it's not on the radar at this moment in time," Mr Fauteux told guests.

The YRBA was represented on the Lower Yarra River Use Future Directions Group (LYRUFDDG), which last year recommended a new governance model.

The State Government rejected the governance recommendations but some local stakeholders understood that an interim committee was being established to transition to an independent authority.

It was understood that this committee would consist of three independent business people and many YRBA members were surprised to learn from Mr Fauteux that this would not be the case.

Mr Fauteux informed members that the committee would instead consist of a



representative from Parks Victoria, another from the City of Melbourne and only one from the business community.

As part of the State Government's announcement on the lower Yarra in April, Southgate Wharf received \$2 million for the construction of new floating berths.

Parks Victoria's regional director Chris Hardman, who fielded a number of questions from the floor, informed members that construction would be completed by mid-2017.

The YRBA will host its next networking luncheon in November. For more information visit:

yarrariver.melbourne



(Top left) Parks Victoria CEO Bradley Fauteux addresses members (top right), and with YRBA president John Forman (bottom).



Guests and Oaks staff at last month's launch party.

Hotel opens on City Rd


Oaks Hotels and Resorts helped celebrate the grand opening of the 37-storey Opus Tower on City Rd last month.

Guests and visitors attended a launch party on July 26, as Oaks celebrated the beginning of its operations at the new mixed-use development.

With an increasing demand for both short-stay and long-term accommodation in

Southbank, the four-star hotel comes as a welcome addition to the area.

Now open, Oaks offers one and two-bedroom apartments which include full kitchen and laundry facilities. On site car parking is also available to guests.



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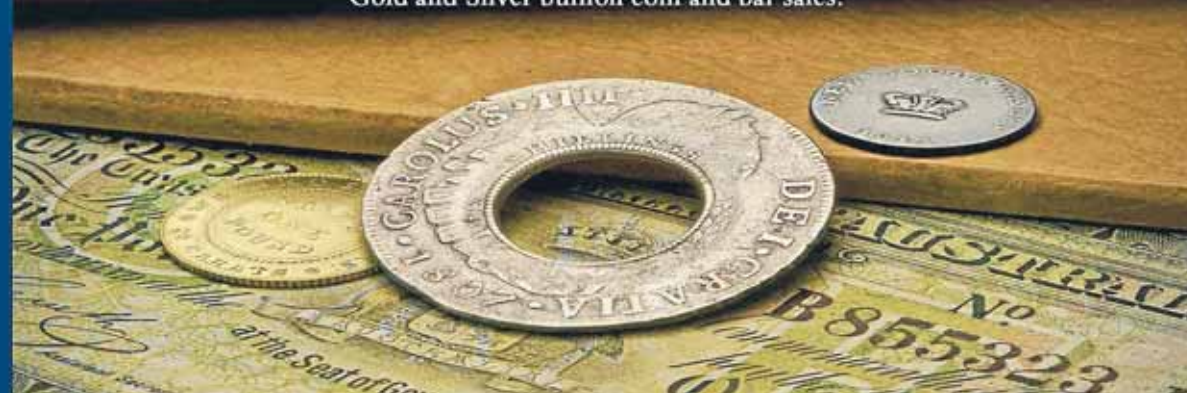
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Industrial action at council looming

City of Melbourne (CoM) employees are gearing up for industrial action following the breakdown in enterprise agreement negotiations.

Unions are organising a ballot and are encouraging council employees to vote in support of a smorgasbord of possible bans and stoppages to put pressure on council management.

There are 40 possible disruptive activities proposed – ranging from not “reading or responding to emails from managers, directors, the CEO or councillors” to 12-hour work stoppages.

At the end of June staff voted two to one against accepting an offer from management of a new enterprise agreement.

Complicating the situation since then has been the death of council HR manager Mark Greenberg and serious illness to CEO Ben Rimmer, who is on indefinite leave.

Council’s business director Martin Cutter is acting in the CEO position, but he wouldn’t talk to *CBD News* about the state of the enterprise agreement negotiations.

The Australian Services Union (ASU) says Mr Cutter is not talking to them either.

In an update for members on July 14, ASU organiser Ty Lockwood said: “We’ve not yet been formally advised when council wish to resume the bargaining process. So, where to from here? The ball is in CoM’s court at the

moment. We can’t initiate the bargaining process until they are ready.”

Mr Lockwood said the ASU had lodged a Protected Action Ballot Order with the Fair Work Commission, which the City of Melbourne had not opposed.

“The next step once the Fair Work Commission grants the order is that the Australian Electoral Commission will mail a ballot paper to all ASU members,” Mr Lockwood said.

“Once the protected industrial action commences it will be up to CoM to resolve this industrial mess they created, all the while councillor campaigns will be building some steam towards the elections in October.”

Council finance chair, Cr Stephen Mayne, says the city can’t afford what the unions are asking for.

“Councillors have nothing to do with the enterprise agreement but it is noteworthy that spending on employees will finish ahead of budget in 2015-16 and is budgeted to jump by 8 per cent in 2016-17, despite the new rate-capping regime,” Cr Mayne said.

“City of Melbourne staff have arguably the best pay and conditions of any council

workers in Australia, as reflected by the fact that 167 employees were paid more than \$130,000 in 2015-16, many of whom are covered by the enterprise agreement.”

“This high-pay environment has been partly achieved through the so-called ‘increments’ system where staff are effectively guaranteed certain promotion payments on top of the agreed annual rises of more than 3 per cent.”

“Management is seeking to reform the increments system so it is more performance-based, but this has been met with some resistance from staff who perhaps don’t realise quite how good they have had it for so long, relative to what happens at other workplaces.”

“This excessive spend on staff is increasingly reducing council’s ability to deliver some long overdue capital projects such as the renewal of Queen Victoria Market, without going into debt.”

The previous enterprise agreement expired on June 30. The council’s recently-published 10-year financial plan budgeted for an average 4.5 per cent increase in staff costs per annum.

The plan warned that: “A 1 per cent

difference per annum from the assumption equates to approximately \$80 - \$85 million over the life of the plan.”

Mr Lockwood said council management had been “playing a game of cat and mouse” with the three involved unions since March.

“They withheld information for about six weeks in relation to the ASU’s family violence clause, extra parental leave and the extra superannuation payment for women,” Mr Lockwood said.

“Two of three clauses were very ‘ify’ so, basically, CoM was asking the vast majority of employees to vote on entitlements that they were unlikely to access. Members felt this was deceptive by CoM promoting this.”

“On top of these so-called positive entitlements CoM were attacking redundancies, the employee classification structure, and offering the \$1000 ‘transition payment’ to try and get this EA over the line.”

“Members and employees saw the \$1000 as CoM trying to entice them with a pre-tax incentive, into voting favourably for conditions and entitlements that were less than they currently have,” Mr Lockwood said.



‘Why?’ - a portrait of Rosie Battie by Fiona Bilbrough.

Hidden Faces returns

The popular Hidden Faces Exhibition has returned to the Hilton South Wharf lobby to showcase an encapsulating display of portraits by Victorian artists.

Running until October 6, the free exhibition unveils a broad spectrum of entertaining, challenging and insightful paintings of well-known sports icons, performers, artists, doctors and other public figures.

Now well established in Melbourne’s arts calendar, the artworks were originally submitted for a number of national portrait

prizes, which were never previously hung in exhibitions or displays around Melbourne.

Some of the more notable works featured in this year’s exhibition include portraits of actor Gary Sweet, former Australian of the Year Rosie Battie (pictured) and surfing legend Layne Beachly.

Community group recasts vision

The South Port Urban Responsible Renewal (SPURR) group has urged the State Government to include public consultation, governance and funding principles in its recast vision for Fishermans Bend.

While the community group has welcomed the vision and the potential opportunities it offers, its recent submission to the recast vision has raised serious concerns about how the government plans to fund and implement the vision.

With the renewal of Fishermans Bend not expected to be completed before 2050, SPURR has called on the government to deliver the vision through the provision of “three C’s” – certainty, confidence and credibility.

The submission states that the recast vision must provide certainty by clearly stipulating planning controls, its decision-making processes and an enforcement and compliance regime.

With Fishermans Bend having been rezoned as Capital City by former Liberal Planning Minister Matthew Guy, the group says it holds serious concerns about how the government intends to

implement its plan across what is mainly privately owned land.

SPURR convenor Rowan Groves said the government’s vision needed to clearly identify locations for community infrastructure and establish a plan for multi-node public transport.

The submission also considers concerns to Southbank residents around a lack of commercial activity surrounding the approval of more than 5000 apartments in the Montague precinct.

With traffic along Montague St and City Rd set to increase, SPURR argues that increased traffic congestion will create more demand for public transport and create a barrier for a liveable and connected neighbourhood.

Mr Groves said that while he welcomed the increase in public dialogue by the current government, the recast vision provided an opportunity to make community consultation a cornerstone of the Fishermans Bend planning process.

St Johns Southgate

We need to talk about Kevin

I couldn't help but feel for our 26th prime minister when I heard the news that the government wouldn't be endorsing his candidacy for Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Regardless of whether Mr Rudd is suited for the role - which Prime Minister Turnbull clearly feels he isn't - it's a tough spot for him to be in. Being so definitely and so publicly not chosen for something has got to hurt.

We've all been there to a certain degree. We've all felt rejection. Whether it's being passed over for a promotion, not being selected at the netball tryouts or being knocked back by your crush when you finally worked up the nerve to ask them out; being unwanted, not needed, deemed unsuitable leaves you feeling like rubbish.

I've always wondered how Joseph (called Barsabbas) felt after his very public rejection.

Joseph was one of two guys put forward as possible candidates to replace Judas, who had betrayed Jesus, as an apostle. Judas was gone and they needed to top up their numbers to hit that magic number of twelve again. So, two names were put forward - Matthias, who eventually got the job and poor old Joseph Barsabbas.

Even though Joseph is never mentioned in the bible again, he's still named, and not just as "the other guy". We're told why he was rejected for good reason. Just because Joseph wasn't chosen to be an apostle doesn't mean he didn't have a role to play.

The same goes for us. Just because we didn't get our preferred job or didn't have a certain spark that captured his or her imagination, or couldn't shoot straight at crunch time during the tryouts, doesn't mean that we don't have something to offer. Just because Kevin Rudd won't be the next Secretary-General of the United Nations doesn't mean he has no future in public life.

If there is one thing that the Christian faith makes clear, it's that rejection need not be the end. Jesus himself was the one not chosen. He knows what it's like. He was rejected and was even sent to a cross to die. But he made a glorious comeback and still impacts the lives of people today.

The great thing about Jesus and the Christian faith is that Jesus promises to never leave us, pass us over, or give us the arm around the shoulder treatment as we're shown the door. Jesus says, I choose you!

Being in the club with Jesus doesn't rely on a right time, right place or who you know. Being in with Jesus doesn't even rely on suitability. Jesus loves and values all people even before they know or decide that they value him. Jesus makes you the offer, gives you the endorsement and welcomes you onto the team. With Jesus there are no hidden agendas, no invisible men to keep happy, no conditions - for Jesus, you simply are, and always were, the one.



Tom Hoffmann
Tom Hoffmann is the pastor at St Johns Southgate Church.
www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au



Southbank Residents Association

Action packed August

Census night has been and gone and I hope everyone in Southbank participated.

I'm looking forward to seeing the statistics for Southbank when the ABS releases the data but there's one thing we already know for certain. The population of Southbank has exploded since the last census in 2011 and I'll be interested to see what else has changed. How do you think the demographics in Southbank might have changed in the last five years?

In other news, we are pleased to report that the decision on the Boyd space is still yet to be finalised. As the saying goes, no news is good news and we can still hope for a positive outcome for the community on this one. From my understanding our cause has reached the heart of some councillors and there has been some lively debate about where to from here.

I don't know where it will end up but I have a feeling the community will have a win of some sort here, so please continue to support our change.org petition (search Boyd park). We have almost reached the magical milestone of 1000 signatures which will attract a trigger to remind council of the community sentiments with this space before final deliberations, which I feel will happen this month.

Later this month Southbank Residents Association and Southbank Owners Corporation Network will be presenting to the Planning Minister's C270 built-form amendment panel hearing. This will be our opportunity to really tell the Minister just how his new amendment will impact the liveability of Southbank from a resident's perspective.

Our invitation was a result of the detailed and thorough submission we made on behalf of Southbank and, after reviewing the list of other invitees, it appears we are the only residents' group to be invited.

Get your diary out because we have confirmed the AGM date for Monday, October 17. Please mark this on your calendar and come along to hear what your local community group has achieved over

the past year.

I think you'll agree, we've tackled quite a few topics this year important to Southbank and continue to make a difference any way we can. If you've been impressed by the scope of our achievements, I wonder if you've ever considered volunteering yourself?

Volunteering your time for a not-for-profit group such as ours can be very rewarding and we are always in need of a few extra hands and minds. Those looking to boost their resume or gain some experience would do well to consider it (students welcome) as well as those with a few hours a month to spare (retirees also welcome).

As you can imagine, planning for the future of Southbank never stops and without a dedicated committee there is no one to hold the powers-that-be to account.

We've managed to tick some pretty major boxes this year but with more volunteers we could be achieving much more. If you're a little unsure, our secretary and I are at your disposal and happy to chat to you one-on-one so you can find out more before making a decision.

Our committee is a friendly and easy-going group of people and we will do everything we can to make you feel welcome. Just remember though, you must be a member before you can nominate to join our committee, so please make sure your membership is up-to-date.

Have a great month and I hope to bring you some good news in the September column.



Tony Penna
Tony Penna is the president of Southbank Residents Association.
southbankresidents.com.au



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Pets Corner

Beware of the danger

By Sunny Liu

“He’s very dangerous at times,” owner Gianpaolo Lacopino describes his two-month-old English staffie Ares.

Little Ares is dangerously cute.

Mr Lacopino has only had Ares for two weeks, but it seems he will not catch a break for at least a while.

“He chews on everything. Everything,” he said, while Ares was working his way through a wooden stick.

For Mr Lacopino’s girlfriend, it was “love at first sight” with Ares.

“We picked Ares among three other puppies because he and my girlfriend just bonded immediately. She wanted him and he wanted her,” Mr Lacopino said.

Mr Lacopino used to own a Pit Bull in Italy, and decided to get a Staffordshire Bull Terrier because the breed “can be trained with many skills”.

“I’m currently in the process of training Ares to do everything outside. He still pees and makes a mess inside the house,” he said.



Letters to the Editor

Whiteman St issues

Thank you for your coverage of the problems caused by the works to Tram Stop 125 on Whiteman St.

Like all Whiteman St residents, I am fed up to my back teeth with the problems caused by the removal of 25 car parks and subsequent worsening of the floods on our street.

The failure to install the promised green space (until your paper championed it) also rankles, as do third-rate engineering non-solutions, the financial wastage and utter disregard shown to local residents.

We didn’t ask for these changes and we didn’t need or want them. It’s great for the restaurant trams, not so good for the thousands of locals who have to wade through water to get to our homes.

The results of removing car parks, drains and banking-up half the road in an already problematic area could have been foreseen by an eight year old. And it beggars belief that the council would wait until the winter rains hit before attempting to rectify

problem – particularly since residents alerted them to the flooding in February.

The most recent drainage works cover less than half the newly-created banked-up area, are clearly inadequate and have done nothing to remove the semi-permanent pool of water created at the southern end of the tram stop caused by blocking access to functioning drains.

Inexplicably, last week’s garden installation forced more than 200 residents to walk 100 metres around/through this morass of stagnant water rather than use the tram-stop entryway located directly opposite our building doors. Yet another example of their inability to consider the needs of locals ... or successfully plant a nature strip.

To top it off, it’s painfully obvious that the new drainage works with their tiny run of narrow-circumference plastic tubing will not halt the flooding, or even restore the situation to the pre-works status.

Anyway, thank-you for reporting on the flooding and continuing to assist residents in our efforts to rectify the problems worsened by Yarra Trams and Melbourne City Council. It’s great to have a paper that champions local issues. Please keep up the good work.

Michael Ratcliff

Send your letters to news@southbanklocalnews.com.au



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Southbanker

Crying out for community

Having purchased his home more than five years ago, Bank Apartments resident Jack Tan says he loves living in Southbank.

However, while he loves the location, he said his one concern was that it was still too heavily focused on development instead of community.

"I think Southbank is in the best location. It's next to everything. The city, Albert Park, the river, South Melbourne Market, the gardens ... but it just lacks that community element," he said.

Having moved to Australia from China more than 10 years ago, Jack attended high school in Watsonia before completing an arts degree majoring in political science and history at the Australian National University in Canberra.

You might call him a "jack of all trades" given he has since worked in real estate, journalism, finance, translating, advertising and now as a freelance IT consultant.

"I like keeping my options open and always being occupied," Jack said. "I worked in real estate companies here in Melbourne and I also worked as a journalist at a radio station in a combined role of promoting advertising and reporting."

"I wanted to pick up something more technical with my skills in English language, financial knowledge and my IT knowledge because those are the most important languages you should have."

It's that open interest that has led him to becoming very involved with his building's owners' corporation (OC) committee, as he said being a part of the community was something he valued highly.

He said since joining his OC more than two years ago, he had built some great relationships with fellow residents by helping tackle shared problems such as neighbouring development and short-stays.

"Our members are very close knit and we communicate a lot in depth," he said. "Short-stays have been a big issue in our building. It's been a constant struggle of give and take and constant compromise."

"We understand that it's hard for them to



The Bank Apartments resident Jack Tan.

control because they are guests who are having holidays and parties. They don't give a damn about residents and I think it's a problem for all buildings in this area."

The western end of City Rd continues to be an epicentre for construction as new apartments make their way into the sky while other sites lie idle in preparation for future towers.

With neighbouring Clarke St already subject to one approval and another application for 200-metre plus towers, residents at Bank Apartments continue to fight to preserve their amenity.

Jack said he believed Planning Minister Richard Wynne "was doing a good job" in regulating density of new developments and that he hoped he would knock back the latest

application for a 73-storey tower.

"We understand that this is an area for development and we don't want to stand in the way, but they need to be developed wisely with preliminary and ongoing consultation with the community," he said.

"We're not happy about the one that has just been submitted. It hasn't got a permit yet and we're hoping that it will never get approved. According to the new regulations it shouldn't."

The approved 74-storey Elysium development, which would block Jack's view if constructed, has recently been put on the market by its developer and looks unlikely to proceed.

Nevertheless, he said he believed that development in Melbourne was heading in

the direction of cities like Hong Kong and that the focus needed to shift towards the community before it was too late.

He said he was determined to continue working with his OC and the local community to make Southbank an even better place to live for current and future residents.

"Future development should focus more on the community and we can make the area greener because at the moment it's all concrete and it has a look more like Hong Kong now, which is suffocating."

"Even though the area is being entirely redeveloped into residential buildings it doesn't have to always be high-rise it can be medium or even low-rise. We need lots of green areas and open space."

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VICTORIA State Government

We Live Here

We Live Here policy on short-stays

The We Live Here movement has developed a draft policy on short-stays that will be presented to all forms of government.

We want to help legislators by providing solutions.

Our policy document addresses, in the context of the “sharing economy”, the ongoing issues of unregulated short-stay, hotel-style accommodation in residential apartment buildings that have not been, and are not being, adequately addressed by the Victorian Government.

For example, Airbnb was established as an online booking platform for home owners wishing to rent out a room in their own home. No thought has been given to how it would operate and be regulated in apartment buildings.

Draft legislation to amend the Owners Corporation Act, introduced into Parliament on May 24 fails to address a range of issues.

The previous Minister for Consumer Affairs based the draft legislation on the findings of the “Independent” Panel on short-stays, which was compromised by the conflict of interest of some panel members. The draft legislation has the very limited scope of giving powers to owners’ corporations to deal with unruly short-term guests but allows the unregulated industry to continue unchecked. A level playing field is needed.

The We Live Here draft policy on regulating the short-stay industry including Airbnb and other ‘sharing economy’ business practices in residential buildings is:

- Non-resident letting out an entire apartment: Minimum of 30 days in line with standard-form residential tenancy agreements and Commonwealth tax legislation
- Occupier letting out an entire apartment while they travel elsewhere: Minimum of 30 days in line with residential tenancy agreements
- Occupier letting out part of an apartment that they occupy: Provided that the occupier is living in the property throughout the guest stay – no minimum length of stay.
- Registration and advertising: All short-



Compared with NONE

An operator with 40 short-stay units in an apartment building of 400 units can increase maintenance plan costs by millions of dollars, a burden on all long-term residents, not the operator.



100 times the wear and tear



Twice the wear and tear

Short-stay units in residential apartment buildings increase maintenance costs. It's a burden on all long term residents and not the short-stay operators. Source: Watergate apartments

stay properties must be registered with the local council and a registration number obtained. Fines should apply to any person letting an apartment for short-stays without a valid registration. Fines must also apply to online platforms that advertise properties for short-stay accommodation without a valid registration. Online listings must display a valid registration number that applies to the listing.

We welcome your feed-back.

Minister must consult with the community

We are hoping that the new Minister for Consumer Affairs will be more aware of the issues and problems facing residents dealing with short-stays in residential buildings. We want the minister to consult with the We Live Here movement. The issues go far beyond that of noisy guests. Currently the short-stay industry is totally unregulated. We want the minister to meet to discuss all the issues affecting our buildings with the view to, not only rethinking the Bill, but introducing legislation to regulate the industry in line with the hotel and accommodation industry.

Residents are concerned that safety and security of their buildings is being

compromised by unregulated short-stays.

Maintenance costs are ballooning due to the increased wear and tear on buildings. Movement of laundry, cleaning gear and suitcases accelerate wear and tear to the floors, walls, doors and lifts. Short-stay operators do not pay anything extra towards maintenance – other owners foot the bill.

Western Distributor

In our column last month we raised concerns of residents in regards to the Western Distributor project and the impact it could have on inner city communities in respect of increased traffic volume through local streets. We invited and welcomed your input with specific details about how it will affect your community.

Concerns raised by residents emailing us include:

- The project is at odds with City of Melbourne’s plans for transport in the city;
- The new road will encourage more drivers and direct more cars into the inner suburbs and the CBD;
- Large increase in traffic noise;
- Public amenity and safety concerns due to increased numbers of cars; and

- Demand for more car parking and storage.

We will be reporting developments on the issue in forthcoming columns. Please keep emailing in your concerns.

City of Melbourne elections

The Melbourne City council elections are coming up in October. The elections are conducted by postal vote. All residents living in the City of Melbourne are entitled to vote even if you’re not an Australian citizen.

At present voting rules are heavily weighted towards the business community with a business vote worth two to residents one. We encourage all residents who are not on the roll to register and have your say.

We will provide more information about pro-resident candidates closer to the time. We also hope some of you might consider standing for council.

For further information please telephone the Elections Helpline on 1300 735 427 or visit the City of Melbourne website at www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/elections



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Owners Corporation Law

Strata law goes to the movies

I'll stick to what I'm good at, being a lawyer that is. However, a recent movie that came to the cinemas piqued my attention, and I'm compelled to write about it. If you live in an apartment, it could be right up your alley or, ahem, garbage chute.

The 2015 film *High-rise*, directed by Ben Wheatley and starring Jeremy Irons, Tom Hiddleston and Sienna Miller is an atmospheric thriller that details life and society within a high-rise building in London during the 1970s.

The film follows the main protagonist, Dr. Robert Laing (Hiddleston) as he moves into a new 40-storey high-rise tower built by a renowned architect (Jeremy Irons) who also lives in a top-storey penthouse. The building is the epitome of chic, the upper class families live in the top floors, while the more common families live in the lower ones. The high-rise provides its tenants with a swimming pool, gym, spa, sauna, supermarket and even a school. Gradually, the building occupants feel little need to go outside the building (aside from working hours) and gradually become isolated from the outside world.

The euphoria of residing in the swish new building fades as power fails routinely in the building, along with water being shut off and rubbish chutes becoming blocked, mainly on the lower floors.

Needless to say, law and order begins to disintegrate in the building due to the failing infrastructure and increasing tensions between floors. Violence increases, food from the supermarket becomes scarce, and the building devolves into class warfare between floors.

Let's be clear - this movie (and the book written in 1975 that preceded it) is not a story about high-rise strata living. It's a social commentary about consumerism, class divide, the scarcity of resources and the frustration of the everyday man. But interestingly enough, the high-rise building has been chosen as the vehicle to make this social commentary. And I'm interested in that commentary, and I can see, in a far less extreme and in a non-literal sense, that art might imitate life after all.

Separate entrances and plushy amenities for wealthy apartment owners are becoming more and more common in Melbourne's towers. The two-tier trend of a separate foyer and set of amenities for the priciest penthouses, and another for the 'rest of us' is symbolic of an emerging ultra prestige trend in the Melbourne apartment market. Eureka tower, completed nearly 10 years ago, is an



example. The Capitol Grand and Australia 108 also have split lobbies and facilities, including dining rooms, gyms and pools, for different sections of the skyscraper.

Legally, this is made possible by creating multiple limited owners' corporations within the same development, so that each part of the building pays levies to its own funds, and to the unlimited owners' corporation (known as Owners' Corporation 1 which usually levies for expenses such as concierge, security, insurance and the like).

But to coin a new phrase, those who pay together, stay together. Or more accurately, those who sweat together stay together.

I'm not sure that today's fast-paced society is in need of such extreme segregation. Certainly not in the strata world. That's not to say that a market doesn't exist for these facilities, because clearly there is one. And of course, business class and first class on airplane flights has been around for 30 years, together with separate queues, check-in and lounge facilities.

Let's all hope that the ultimate unraveling of the building and its occupants in *High-rise* does not come to pass, metaphorically in society or literally in the case of an actual building, but it is worth heeding the movie's message in parodying the evolving exclusionary, segregated and separate direction that society is taking. Perhaps developers, town planners and councils ought to consult more with sociologists and psychologists about what type of common facilities are going to work best for vertical high rise communities. Separates aren't always better.



Tom Bacon

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

Health & Wellbeing

Posture, metabolism and when did you last visit your GP?

Posture and exercise programming

I see so many people needing to repair damage done through previous exercise modalities or wanting to improve their posture and function.

The problem is that when we are 20, 30 and even sometimes 40, we think we are invincible. We can jump, skip, deadlift and basically thrash our bodies any way we can in the pursuit of that elusive "perfect body".

The problem is that our bones, ligaments, joints, tendons and muscles do a great job but they can't withstand excessive weight and often un-controlled rapid movement. Sure we can get away with it for a number of years but, rest assured, it catches up with you and I see this often.

The three of the most popular forms of group exercise (in no particular order) - F45, cross-fit and boot camps - do not in any way factor in your posture and all exercises are of a generic nature with little or no attention given to the curvature of your spine and your resulting posture. So be warned!

When did you last see your GP?

Life is hectic let's be honest! Work, social-life, kids, exercise and the rest! One thing that is often over-looked is seeing our GP regularly and having our blood checked, amongst other things. I cannot stress the importance of taking the time to look after oneself.

Using me as an example, I had retired from playing and coaching footy and assumed my weight gain and feeling sluggish and tired was a result of that, in

addition to my work and let a visit to my GP get pushed to the side for close to a year.

Terrible, I know! I eventually found I had an underactive thyroid (an auto-immune deficiency) and for the rest of my life will require a daily dose of Thyroxine.

So a great message to me is to get more regular check-ups and I hope that encourages you to get onto one now if you haven't in a while and try to make it a yearly visit. It is worth it!

How to increase your metabolism

Many of us believe that to lose weight and burn calories, we need to watch what we eat and get out and walk, run, cycle, swim or participate in any other cardio exercise and whilst that remains very true, many are unaware of the benefits of weights or resistance training in improving your metabolism and burning more calories longer-term.

Put simply, muscle is metabolically active tissue (whilst fat is not) and the more you can develop, the more you will raise your metabolism and burn calories long-after your exercise session!

For a more information, exercise guidance or if you have any questions feel free to contact me.



Justin Moran

Justin Moran is the Owner of Just In Time Personal Training.
www.justintimept.com



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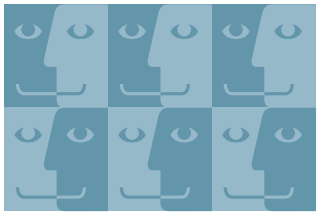


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SOUTHBANK FACES OF

Question:

What was your dream job when you were younger and why? What are you doing now?

By: Rhianna Busler



JASON LIGHT, 40

When I was younger I wanted to be a motorcycle racer. I've always thought it would be an exhilarating job. Now I'm a shipment manager.



VICTORIA RUDIAK, 30

I really wanted to be a flight attendant when I was younger. It always looked like such a romantic job – getting to travel around the world and the women always dressed so beautifully. I now work as a general manager for an online retail business.



CRAIG MARNELL, 43

I wanted to be a carpenter because I liked the idea of working outdoors and being hands on. I'm a shipment manager now too.



ASH ADMIRAL, 44

My dream job was to be an airline pilot. I used to fly when I was younger and I thought it would be intriguing. Now I'm a boring consultant.



ELENA ALFAGEME, 45

Growing up, I wanted to follow in my uncle's footsteps. He was a very good doctor so he was my inspiration. Now I work as an economist.



MARK KLOSE, 48

I always wanted to be an accountant growing up, mostly because I liked money! I now work as a CFO and a CIO.

Southbank Directory 2017

Bookings are now open!



The annual printed directory is the pre-eminent guide to Southbank and features listings of every business as well as useful information and maps about Southbank.

With a shelf-life of 12 months, there is no better way to position your business in front of Southbank residents, workers and visitors.

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SEAN@SOUTHBANKLOCALNEWS.COM.AU

What to do

Where to stay

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Beauty, Health & Fitness

Where to Shop



Business



Lindt's master chocolatier Thomas Schnetzler.

Warm up this winter at Lindt

With Melbourne's colder days setting in for the foreseeable future, there is no better way to warm up than by visiting your local Lindt Chocolate Café for some wintery indulgence!

With a variety of offerings ranging from cakes, waffles and sandwiches to hot chocolates, coffee and authentic Swiss chocolate, Lindt's master chocolatier Thomas Schnetzler invites locals to come in and treat themselves.

"Winter is a time where people can get comfortable – when it's really cold outside so you can enjoy something decadent or rich," he said.

"The Lindt difference is that we start the whole process from scratch and make chocolate from bean to bar. There aren't many chocolate manufacturers who make the product from the cocoa bean up and turn it into chocolate and then cakes or a waffle."

Born and trained in Switzerland, Mr Schnetzler has worked as master chocolatier for Lindt Australia for more than 12 years and has specialised in developing its recipes and sharing his passion for all things chocolate.

He told Southbank Local News that Australians really embraced Lindt products and, with its popularity, is constantly able to update its product offering to adapt to the unique taste of the Australian market.

Whether it's incorporating coconut into chocolate or hazelnut into a hot chocolate, he said he always loved being able to innovate Lindt's authentic flavours.

"It's great because it's creative," he said. "I've always liked working on new things, seeing what people like and adore as well as keep up with what trends are happening in the culinary world and translating that into

chocolate, that's always fantastic."

Having established its first ever cafe in Sydney more than 10 years ago, Lindt's Chocolate cafes are an Australian initiative that have been a huge success.

Mr Schnetzler said the cafes were a fantastic means of enhancing the Lindt customer experience.

"The cafes help promote that luxury feel and European ambience. Everyone can experience Lindt chocolate as it is now found in shops all around the country but it's still truly unique, decadent and luxurious" he said.

And according to Mr Schnetzler, Melbourne is where cafe-culture truly thrives and he said Lindt's experience operating in Southbank had been incredibly positive.

"The city evolves around the river so that's why it's great to have such a presence where people just come over the bridge and can feel right in the middle of everything. It's absolutely fantastic. You've got it all here," he said.

"The cafe culture is especially prominent in Melbourne. It's such a food-savvy city. We find that in Sydney and Brisbane and so on there is a different level of food culture and Melbourne is very much where it all happens food wise."

Lindt Chocolate Café Southbank is located at ground floor level of Southgate Melbourne.

For more information visit www.lindt.com.au



Daniel Zapata.

Driving entrepreneurship

Weighing up your performance levels? Want to start something new? Still waiting for that big idea?

Well if you're wondering where to go or whom to seek support from in taking that next step, there is no need to look further than new local business coaching foundation Zapata.

The new foundation has been established with a passion for supporting new entrepreneurs in their quest for success and making a difference in the lives of others.

Founder and Southbank resident Daniel Zapata said the initiative was based on a vision of making a positive impact on the market where all different kinds of entrepreneurs received recognition for their abilities, skills and talents.

"Everything starts when dream and will meets experience and vision," he said. "We start small, step by step and keep growing and developing our initiatives to the point where we make our purpose a living reality."

Zapata was established when a group of industry professionals teamed up to mentor and coach aspiring entrepreneurs and professionals to help them reach their goals.

Mr Zapata said he believed that everyone's ultimate goal lay within reach

and that his foundation's message was about helping people realise their own individual greatness.

"Yes, it is possible to create anything you want. It is happening here, right now and you don't need to look somewhere else," he said. "I believe that entrepreneurship is a great path for people to become better versions of themselves."

"Zapata is meant for everyone. We support you and work with you united as a community to create your own experience and live your own journey."

Zapata runs a series of regular events and workshops, which feature a range of different business lessons, exercises and discussions with presentations from a host of different industry experts.

Mr Zapata invited anyone in need of some inspiration or motivation to find that "big idea" to join the Zapata experience.

To find out more information about workshops and events visit www.zapata.org.au or search Zapata on Facebook and Instagram.

For more information email info@zapata.org.au

WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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



INNER MELBOURNE LIFE ACTIVITIES CLUB

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



THIRD SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH

DADS PLAYGROUP @ BOYD

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

TUESDAYS - THURSDAYS & SATURDAYS

CHUNKY MOVE DANCE CLASS

Mondays to Thursdays and Saturdays at 111 Sturt St. Chunky Move dance classes are the perfect way to unwind, get fit and improve flexibility and strength.
www.chunkymove.com



WEDNESDAYS

FREE FITNESS @ BOYD

Run by Just In Time PT, the free "Posture, stretch, strength & balance" sessions will run every Wednesday from 7.15-8.15am at the Boyd Community Hub.

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.

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 lcarrodus@masmanne.com



THURSDAYS @ BOYD

BOOKS AND BITES

Enjoy a free afternoon tea and meet members from the School of Hard Knocks while you read along or listen to stories. Free, no bookings required. Thursdays from 2.30pm to 3.30pm.

Register: www.eventbrite.com.au

TUESDAYS

LAUGHTER YOGA @ BOYD

Laughter Yoga is a unique concept that allows you to laugh even when you least feel like it and is ideal for all ages. Sessions are at Boyd Community Hub, Assembly Hall each Tuesday at 6pm.



AUGUST 24 @ BOYD

NIGHT SCHOOL - ST KILDA RD

Over the past 150 years, St Kilda Road has evolved from a rough track to an impressive tree-lined street. Historian Judith Buckrich will bring to life its story.

Free event - book via Eventbrite



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SATURDAYS @ BOYD

COMMUNITY YOGA

The class is gentle yet dynamic in synchronising active movements with active breath. A perfect start for beginners and older people alike. Free, no bookings required. Saturdays from 9am to 10am.



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

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 for more information

RETURNING IN AUGUST TO BOYD

ZUMBA

Zumba returns to Boyd for another 10 sessions starting in August. Zumba will run on selected dates from August to November. No bookings necessary, 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!

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With another interest rate drop, the Australian election out of the way and a new financial year kicking off, now is a fantastic time to start looking for an investment property. For free advice on local rental returns, information on our property management services or advice on a specific property you are looking at, please give me a call on 0404 565 050.

Matthew Wallace - Rental Expert
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