

The voice of Southbank, South Wharf & Montague

SOUTHBANK Local NEWS

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More Chinese New Year action

There is plenty of Chinese New Year action to come at Southbank.

Queensbridge Square is hosting morning Tai Chi from 7.30am until February 10. The Cultural Kaleidoscope wraps up with a spectacular closing ceremony, so why not drop down on Sunday, February 12.

The Arts Precinct comes alive with themed events. Catch the Chinese Music Orchestra at the Recital Centre on February 9 and on February 11 Australia's internationally-acclaimed drumming ensemble Taikoz will leave you breathless.

And between February 15 and 18, the National Ballet of China is performing the not-to-be-missed *Red Detachment of Women*. The ballet premiered in 1964 and tells the story of all-female company of the communist Red Army from the 1930s.



Chinese New Year Melbourne Festival performers at Queensbridge Square earlier this month.

Photo: George Haig.

Government left red-faced on Ferrars St

By Sean Car

The State Government has informed the City of Port Phillip that it won't have the funds required to open the new Montague Park on Ferrars St by the beginning of 2018 as originally planned.

Streetscape works, road closures, tram stop upgrades and the new \$19 million park had all been planned to be ready in time for the opening of the new vertical primary school on Ferrars St.

However, the State Government informed council late last year that the plan would no longer be proceeding on the original time frame due to a lack of available developer contributions.

It is understood that the State Government had banked on more than \$100 million in developer contributions being available to help carry out the project under the original plan.

However, while many developments have been approved for a number of years in Montague very few have actually started.

It's also understood that the cost of funding the project is significantly higher than

initially thought, with the government stating that funds for remediation works at the Montague Park site are not yet available.

Minister for Planning Richard Wynne wouldn't comment on the government's business plan for the precinct, but said that funding for the project was not in doubt.

"Funding for the park's development has been confirmed by the Andrews Labor Government, delivered in partnership with

the City of Port Phillip, and early works are now being planned," he said. "The premises are being vacated and preparation of the site will occur over the coming months."

The matter was heard at the City of Port Phillip's council meeting on December 13 last year, where Cr Andrew Bond said he was "furious" about the news.

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Government left red faced on Ferrars St

Continued from page 1.

The significant reduction in available funding has meant that a re-scoping of the current streetscape plans for the new community precinct is now required.

Councillors unanimously voted in support of a motion to allow residents and local businesses at Surveyors Place and Meaden St in Southbank to provide further input to help reshape the streetscape plan.

It's come as welcome news to the likes of Surveyors Place Owners' Corporation (OC) chair Peter Harvey who, along with more than 30 other business owners, has been given renewed hope of survival.

Under the council's original streetscape plan, the top end of Ferrars and Gladstone streets would be permanently closed, surrounding streets narrowed and more than 180 car parks permanently removed.

Businesses have long argued that the plans would cripple them and were given some hope in September following months of negotiating with council's planning officers.

Officers had recommended implementing the plan under a transitional arrangement over five years until 2023, which would provide businesses with more time. However, councillors unexpectedly voted against the proposal.

This latest news means the transitional plan could be back on the table and Mr Harvey said that while the news was positive, most businesses would most likely use the extra time to plan their escape.

"We're using the time as possible preparation to get out of the City of Port Phillip," he said. "Most of my tenants in this building have not renewed their leases and they're on a monthly tenancy."

"A number of other members of our 30 businesses have found the same that their tenants are not renewing until they know how they can survive without access and parking and so that's putting 300 jobs at risk."

The matter is expected to come back to a council meeting again in March.



Artist Britt Salt in front of her completed public art installation, which wraps around the new look 2 Riverside Quay.

An artistic unveiling

Developer Mirvac has officially opened 2 Riverside Quay two months ahead of schedule complete with an eye catching public art installation by local artist Britt Salt.

The former car park has been transformed into a 21-storey office building, which 2200 PwC employees now call home. Fender Katsalidis architects will also move into the remaining floor from its current home at Eureka Tower in March.

The project is part of Mirvac's revitalisation of the public space at Riverside Quay, which will also feature upgraded open space, as well as dining and retail offerings.

And in a further effort to transform the precinct, the developer commissioned artist Britt Salt to create a giant transparent art installation, which wraps around the car park at the building's base.

While possessing a strong background in architectural art and design, Ms Salt told *Southbank Local News* the project was her first public installation of a major scale.

She said she had relished working within the project's unique engineering boundaries, while also having the opportunity to put her creative skills to use on such a prominent riverside building.

"Mirvac wanted something that was going to disguise the car park but somehow be three dimensional, however they only had 30cm from the edge of the building out to the boundary of the site to be able to do that within," she said.

"30cm over eight-storeys isn't a lot to play with but this was the brief: make it sculptural, work within the boundaries and it had to be functional and allow air flow through to the car park."

"It was great working with engineering boundaries like that as well as trying to deliver something that was going to be visually engaging and interesting."

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The right person for the job

Former Lara Lake Primary School principal Noel Creece has been appointed to lead Victoria's first vertical government primary school in Southbank.

Mr Creece has been charged with the responsibility of driving the new \$44 million South Melbourne Primary School on Ferrars St and, based on his wealth of experience, it seems the government has selected wisely.

Mr Creece has worked in a number of teaching and administrative roles in both metropolitan and country schools in Victoria and has even worked at a school in the United Arab Emirates.

In his most recent role at Lara Lake Primary School, where he worked as principal for seven years, he played a pivotal part in growing the school from 375 students to almost 700.

He said that he was humbled to be appointed to lead the new school, but admitted that he was in for a challenge given that the facility was still being constructed.

"There's going to be some logistical challenges as it's a piece of dirt at the moment so I need to know what is going to be involved in the build," he said.

"My passion is around the humans inside the building but I have to take a huge interest in the building itself and the surrounds because that's going to feed the kids into it."

"They're all unknowns and, having so many unknowns, it is difficult to plan for because I don't want to plan for the wrong outcome."

However, having travelled to other vertical schools around the world and helped start and grow schools in the past, Noel said he wasn't daunted by the challenge ahead.

When open for the beginning of the 2018 school year, South Melbourne Primary School will be home to 550 students from surrounding Port Phillip suburbs and Southbank.

While he is yet to meet any students or families, he said his approach to education had always been to create an environment



Inaugural principal Noel Creece at the site of Southbank's future vertical school.

that fostered passion, empathy and understanding between students, teachers and parents.

"Every kid that comes through the door is going to be precious for us and, in essence, you've got a life in your hands and you've got to treat it with so much respect and empathy," he said.

"My experience is that every kid needs a break and that every kid needs an understanding and every kid needs an adult that believes in them."

Being located in the growth area of Montague in Fishermans Bend, he said he would only use his title to play an advocacy role for community planning if it was in the best interest of the students.

Mr Creece said that the nature of a vertical school meant it was conducive to a mixed learning experience where students could be taught by a number of teachers and tap into the local community.

"You've got the Arts Precinct. You've got local businesses that have got enormous opportunities to contribute to the kids at the school and opening up our doors once we get established is really what I want to do," he said.

"I'm really confident in myself that we can bring a great model for the community but I'm also not arrogant enough to say that I've got all of the answers. I need to listen to people and then respond accordingly."



Thank you Colin

As one principal begins in Southbank, another has said farewell.

After 17 years at the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School (VCASS), Colin Simpson is starting a new chapter as principal of the new Richmond High School.

Over his long journey at VCASS, Colin's care and passion has helped cement the school's reputation as the leading institution in arts education in Victoria.

Academically, the school has also developed into one of the highest performing in the state and it is with a heavy heart that he has said farewell to Southbank.

"It is true to say I have put my heart and soul into the school, aimed to create the most wonderful opportunity for young talented people," he said.

"Our school has changed the conversation about arts in education and is now one of the most highly regarded schools in the state. We have an amazing school and programs and created a consistently high performing school with an outstanding reputation."

While VCASS is sad to see him go, he said he was proud to have been trusted with the new \$43 million Richmond High School project, which will also have a strong arts and humanities focus.

Southbank Local News thanks Colin for his long and valuable contribution to our local community and wishes him all the best for his new role.

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Councillor position saga to continue

By Shane Scanlan

Melbourne could be without an 11th and final city councillor for months, thanks to an attempt by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) to overturn a decision made by a magistrate last year

On December 5 magistrate Michael Smith ruled that the councillor vacancy be resolved by countback, which would likely have resulted in Southbank's Joe Sarraf being offered the position.

But on December 8 the VEC appealed his decision to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) and the matter is due to be heard on February 21.

VEC Commissioner Warwick Gately and Lord Mayor Robert Doyle appear to share the same view on how the matter should be resolved – a recount which would likely also see Mr Sarraf added but Cr Michael Caiafa lose his position in favour of former deputy lord mayor Susan Riley. Team Doyle would acquire a majority under this scenario.

Mr Gately says Cr Doyle phoned him twice – the first time, on November 9, to gain an understanding of the implications of the vacancy and the second time on December 6, commenting on the outcome of Magistrate Smith's decision.

A spokesperson for Mr Gately said: "The Electoral Commissioner listened to the Lord Mayor and explained that he was considering his options, had not reached a position and would comment no further."

Cr Doyle acknowledges the conversations but says their content is confidential.

When ruling on the matter on December 5, Magistrate Smith said what the VEC was asking for was "simply not tenable".

The final councillor position remains unfilled following the discovery that elected candidate Brooke Wandin was ineligible to stand because she was not correctly enrolled.

Ms Wandin and former councillor Richard Foster are facing court charged with the unlawful nomination and false declaration by Ms Wandin during the October elections. Mr Foster's next appearance is February 22 and Ms Wandin is due back in court on March 15.

On August 24, Ms Wandin enrolled herself at Mr Foster's Kensington address. The VEC



Cr Michael Caiafa.

was alerted to the matter on October 22 via a complaint from Mr Foster.

Documents released via Freedom of Information reveal that Mr Foster told the VEC: "Ms Wandin has never resided at the address in question, nor is it likely that she would ever reside at the address in question. I believe this to be the case as this is my residential address which I have occupied for approximately three and a half years."

Ms Wandin was supposed to enroll in the Lord Mayoral section of the election as part of Mr Foster's team but ended up running against Mr Foster by mistake.

On December 5 Magistrate Smith formally declared Ms Wandin "not duly elected". Another part of his Municipal Electoral Tribunal (MET) ruling was that the vacancy should be filled using procedures associated with an extraordinary vacancy.

Under this method, voters who chose Ms Wandin would have their next preference counted, with running mate Nic Frances Gilley expected to be offered the position.

Southbank Local News understands that Mr Frances Gilley has removed himself from the roll and is no longer eligible or interested. The most likely next in line is Mr Sarraf (who polled 805 votes between himself and his team mate Miroslav Zverina).

Commissioner Gately wants VCAT to endorse a counting method which has been



Former councillor Susan Riley.

predicted to disenfranchise Cr Caiafa and reinstate Ms Riley as a councillor.

Mr Gately has asked: "that a 'special count' of the votes cast in the election be undertaken as if Ms Wandin was a retired or deceased candidate within the meaning of clause 8 and 9 or Schedule 2 of the Local Government Act 1989."

In his December 5 decision, Magistrate Smith specifically rejected this method: "At no time did Ms Wandin retire. Once the poll has been declared the relevant provisions concerning the powers of a returning office upon the retirement of a candidate no longer apply. That candidate, eligible or otherwise has been declared elected. ... There is, moreover, a legislative basis in the Act for proceeding in accordance with sections 46(1)(a) and 46(3). Of the alternatives discussed I am clearly of the view that this is the better of them."

Neither Magistrate Smith, nor anyone else from the MET, will be attending VCAT to defend his decision.

Cr Caiafa will be represented and has flagged that, should the VEC win and he loses his councillor position, he will be appealing to the Supreme Court. If this happens, it will be months before the 11th councillor position is determined.

Former councillor Stephen Mayne is also involved. Mr Mayne has a chance to be offered the position should VCAT take the

view that the whole Indigenous Voice team be disqualified. Commissioner Gately says a recount without Ms Wandin's votes included is the best way to determine the outcome.

A spokesperson told *Southbank Local News*: "That (method) suggested by Magistrate Smith removes Ms Wandin's first preferences only. The other preferences of those who voted for her would follow Ms Wandin's how-to-vote card would still be in play and could thus be considered tainted."

"Mr Gately's suggestion removes all of the votes for Ms Wandin entirely as if she had never stood (given she was not entitled to stand), thereby removing any potential tainted votes."

In his public comments, Mr Gately said: "Although the tribunal addressed Ms Wandin's declaration, its decision neither addressed, nor resolved, broader matters associated with the election."

On the same day he spoke with Mr Gately (December 6), Cr Doyle told *Southbank Local News*: "I don't think this matter is at a close. I think the Electoral Commissioner indicated that the process was tainted."

"I am not sure that the Electoral Tribunal has resolved that issue by simply saying 'please proceed' and I will await to see whether the Electoral Commissioner himself, or indeed any of the 44 candidates who missed out on election, chooses to appeal that decision to VCAT, which in fact is possible within seven days of the tribunal's decision and I will await those developments."

"I think the comment by the tribunal that this may affect councillors who have already been elected is irrelevant, to be honest. That is my personal view. The result should be beyond reproach."

"I have no doubt that the result, at the moment, is not beyond reproach and I would wish to see that all councillors were elected with the full confidence of the community, that due process has been followed and that the electoral process has not been deliberately perverted."



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Locals wade and paddle through floodwaters in Whiteman St in December.

Photo: Tony Penna.

Boulevard in focus

The Yarra River Business Association will be briefed on the City of Melbourne's project to transform Southbank Boulevard at its next member's luncheon.

The City of Melbourne's urban design gurus professor Rob Adams and Steven Perumal will present to businesses on the highly-anticipated project at Eureka 89 on Thursday, February 23.

The City of Melbourne's innovative project seeks to shut down half of Southbank Boulevard and Dodds St (VCA section) between St Kilda Rd and the Yarra River to make way for a giant linear park.

Having undertaken numerous rounds of public consultation on the project over recent years, the presentation is sure to provide some exciting updates.

To book your place at the lunch visit:

yarrariver.melbourne/events/view/752/yarra-river-business-luncheon

Fancy a boat ride?

Whiteman and Clarendon streets were the envy of the Yarra River in late December as one local took to the floodwaters in his inflatable kayak.

The picture was taken following heavy rainfall on Thursday, December 29, which caused significant flooding and havoc for local residents, who were once again forced to wade through knee deep waters to access their homes.

The deluge was yet another illustration of the drainage issues facing the area, which the City of Melbourne last year labeled as its council's number one drainage priority.

However, former Cr Stephen Mayne estimated that the cost of completely fixing

flooding issues in the area at \$130 million, which he said would have to be funded over a number of years.

Hence, it appears as though residents might have to get used to this frustrating sight for the foreseeable future.



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NEW to SOUTHBANK

Apartment standards have been relaxed

By Shane Scanlan

Victoria's new apartment standards to become law next month are significantly more relaxed than the draft that was circulated in the middle of last year.

The Property Council of Australia has taken the credit for securing "big wins" following the release by Planning Minister Richard Wynne of the new rules before Christmas.

Property Council of Australia CEO, Ken Morrison, in an email to members, said: "In Victoria we carved out the most harmful impacts of foreign investment taxes (for a second time), influenced the revamp of CBD planning controls and secured big wins in new apartment standards."

A comparison between the draft and final document illustrates Mr Morrison's point.

Gone are minimum defined building setbacks which featured in the draft document. Now a "reasonable distance" needs to be determined to ensure similarly-non-defined outcomes such as "adequate" daylight and "reasonable" views (called in the final document "visual connection to the external environment").



There are still no minimum apartment sizes. But, new to the discussion, is the introduction of minimum room sizes. Bedrooms must be at least 3x3 metres (with master bedrooms needing an extra 400cm to accommodate a wardrobe) and living areas (excluding dining and kitchen areas) must be at least 10sqm for studios and one-bedders and 12sqm if the apartment has more than two bedrooms.

Minimum dimensions for lightwells have also disappeared and standards around

windows have been softened.

In the draft document, windows needed to be visible from any point in a habitable room, but this requirement has been dropped.

Standards protecting from external noise have also been relaxed and now only apply to new apartments built within certain distances of industrial zones, roads and railways. Whereas the draft standards applied a blanket ban on external noise in all new bedrooms above 35dB at night, the final document only mandates these limits near so-called (and very limited) "noise influence areas".

Standards have been relaxed regarding how much communal open space should receive sunlight too. The draft standards stipulated that 50 per cent needed to receive at least two hours between 9am and 3pm on June 1. The final document relaxes the 50 per cent stipulation for areas greater than 250sqm – introducing a 125sqm alternative.

The government has also chosen a different approach to ensuring adequate natural ventilation. The draft document stipulated opening windows in all habitable rooms less than 80m above the ground. It suggested that 60 per cent of apartments less than 35m from the ground be naturally cross ventilated. These formulas have been replaced with a rule that 40 per cent of apartments in a development "achieve

effective cross ventilation".

Minimum balcony sizes (private open space) have been tinkered with too, with a slight increase in minimum area for two-bedroom apartments (from 8 to 10sqm), also a slight increase in minimum dimension for three-bedroom apartments (from 2m to 2.4m) but a decrease of dimension for studio and one-bedroom balconies (from 2m to 1.8m).

Disabled access rules will now apply to only 50 per cent of dwellings. The draft standards were to apply to all apartments, with the exception of 25 per cent of two-bedroom units.

On the other side of the coin, the standards have also been strengthened in a few areas.

The rules are firmer about protecting privacy stating that designs must: "Avoid direct views into habitable room windows and private open space of new and existing dwellings."

The final standards have also increased the minimum storage space in new units. A studio apartment will require at least five cubic metres inside and a further three cubic metres elsewhere. For three-bedroom units or larger, the required minimum storage space rises to 12 cubic metres inside and a further six cubic metres elsewhere.

The final document mandates more communal open space for large apartment complexes. While the draft set a minimum of 100sqm, the new standard is a minimum of 250sqm.

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Southbankers honoured

Both hailing from Queensland and both residents of The Melburnian – Paul Wheelton OAM and Anne O'Donovan AO were both acknowledged on Australia Day for a lifetime of contribution to our country.

While Paul and Anne share a few things in common and both reside in the same building, Southbank's only two 2017 Australia Day honours recipients had never met before catching up with *Southbank Local News!*

Paul was awarded with a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for his significant philanthropic service, while Anne was acknowledged as an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for her distinguished service to the publishing industry.

Paul's list of local, national and international charitable contributions is seemingly endless having played integral roles with a number of organisations over many years.

Some of his key roles have included chairing the Bali Children Foundation, sitting on the boards of The Marsh Foundation and the PanCare Foundation, and a number of leading roles with Life Education Australia.

As director of the Wheelton Group, which most notably operates 10 Budget Rent a Car franchises, he said his philosophy to business had always been about giving back.

"I'm an old fashioned Christian Anglican so I was brought up going to church and putting money in a plate and being told that this would do some good and basically I made giving back a goal in my life," he said.

"Our companies and everything we do give 20 per cent away to different causes so that's been a fundamental that has allowed us to do quite a few things."

Paul has also been the deputy chairperson of the Victorian branch of the Order of Australia Association since 2010 and is an Australia Day ambassador.

While he was honoured to receive his OAM, a principle he has carried all through his life in business and philanthropy is gender equity and he said this year's awards once again fell short on recognising women.

"One of my major pushes is on the gender imbalance within the awards," he said.

"In this Australia Day series there was only 32 per cent who are women and while we've come from 24 per cent five years ago we still



Southbankers Anne O'Donovan AO and Paul Wheelton OAM.

have a major imbalance."

One woman to be duly recognised was fellow Southbanker Anne O'Donovan, who said she felt honoured to receive an AO.

"I'm enormously touched and surprised I suppose but it does mean a lot," she said. "I think, since these awards have come in, people have really understood the value of them and they're much sought after."

Anne has forged a long career in publishing since the 1960s where she began working with Jacaranda Press in Brisbane, before moving to Lansdowne Press in London.

In the 1970s she returned to Australia to take over as managing editor of Penguin Books until launching her own company, Anne O'Donovan Publishing, which she has directed since 1978.

Some of her biggest achievements have included launching *The Age Good Food Guide*, publishing a series of books for the Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria with French Chef Gabriel Gaté and supporting the Lighthouse Foundation for more than 20 years.

"I had a contrarian view of how I wanted to do publishing," Anne said. "Instead of

publishing 80 books a year or something I just wanted to do four or six books a year and sell a lot of copies of those."

"I published things that interested me. I guess that was the rationale of the whole thing."

Like Paul, Anne is also passionate about interests concerning women and has published titles relating to women's health and finance and co-founded a feminist literary book club.

Paul and Anne now both play active mentoring roles to others in their respective areas of interest and continue to give back to the community in a multitude of ways.

And they were both in defiant agreement that their home at The Melburnian was the best place to live in Melbourne.

"The intangible is the feeling of community," Anne said. "I notice it especially in this building people are very courteous and always keen to connect and much more neighbourly than anywhere else I've ever lived."

"My wife and I absolutely love it," Paul said. "It's a great community and probably the best location in Melbourne."

Heritage protected

Montague precinct houses and shops are among some of the historical sites to be protected following changes to the City of Port Phillip's planning scheme.

Councillors unanimously endorsed planning scheme amendment C117 in December in order to better protect historically significant sites in what is now Australia's largest urban renewal area.

Federation houses and shops at 496-510 City Rd and 157-163 Montague St are among some of the sites identified for permanent protection, which Minister for Planning Richard Wynne will now consider for a heritage overlay.

Port Phillip Mayor Bernadene Voss said the new protections highlighted council's focus on preserving the community's built heritage while Fishermans Bend was transformed into a large inner-city precinct.

"Council has acted to ensure the heritage significance of these important sites is taken into account for any potential development applications in the future," she said.

According to council's review, 157-163 Montague St is home to Federation shops and houses, which are of local significance having formed part of the renewal of the commercial frontages in the Montague Precinct.

496-498 City Rd is also home to two Federation shops/houses, which were part of the rejuvenation of Montague in the early 20th century.

The building at 508-510 City Rd is said to be of no significance but has been proposed for permanent protection due to its adjoining significance graded heritage buildings.

Council has requested the Minister for Planning extend interim controls, which apply to the sites to ensure they are protected until, or should, the permanent controls be approved.

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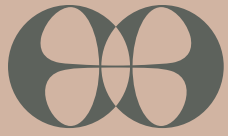
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South Wharf thefts

Police continue to appeal to witnesses regarding two thefts at South Wharf late last year.

The first incident occurred on Wednesday, November 9 when a man stole a worker's handbag from a teeth-whitening kiosk at around 10.30am while the attendant had briefly left the stand.

The man then walked away a short distance before leaving on a black bicycle.

He is perceived to be Caucasian, of slim build, with dark hair and medium complexion. He wore a black leather-type jacket over a red or pink top with brown pants and black and white shoes.

The second incident occurred on Friday, December 23 when a man and woman are alleged to have entered a store on Convention Centre Place between 3pm and 3.45pm.

It's believed the man kicked the victim's bag under a bench seat where the woman collected it. The pair then left the area in an unknown direction. The man is believed to be aged in his 30s with tanned skin, a thin



CCTV images of three police wish to speak to.

build and dark hair.

At the time of the incident he was wearing a dark cap, black t-shirt, denim jeans, white runners and white headphones around his neck.

The woman is believed to be of Caucasian appearance and was wearing a khaki long-sleeved top, denim jeans, tan handbag and grey wide brimmed hat at the time of the incident.

Southbank assault

Police are searching for three men who allegedly sexually and physically assaulted another man in Southbank on Friday, October 30 last year.

At approximately 10am, the victim befriended a group of men before one of the men inappropriately touched the victim, which proceeded to turn into a fist fight between the man and the victim.

Police have released CCTV images of three men whom they believe may be able to assist in their inquiries.



The three men are perceived to be Caucasian in appearance.

The first man was wearing an open pink shirt. The second man was wearing a light brown V-neck shirt. And the third man was wearing a light coloured shirt. All three men are believed to be in their 20s.

Empowering business

Southbank's Holmesglen City Campus will play host to a summer skills series this month as part of the launch of its new professional workforce solutions (PWS) education program for businesses.

Located on the corner of St Kilda Rd and Dorcas St, the institution is reaching out to the local business community offering corporate clients a program of relevant, contemporary and innovative learning solutions.

The programs have been designed along the three core themes of business foundations, professional essentials and leadership and this month a summer skills series will offer participants the chance to build on these areas over two days.

On February 21, the campus will host a business foundations program, which will be followed by a professional essentials program on February 23.

With classrooms overlooking the Shrine of Remembrance and surrounding parklands, head of PWS Simon Bruce said participants would be provided with inspiration to achieve their best utilising the latest technologies.

"A big focus of PWS's activities are designed to bring positive change to organisations, both large and small," he said.

"We achieve this collaboratively as a clear and identifiable pathway, by delivering a range of strategic advice, consulting services and contemporary programs."

For more information about the program visit holmesglen.edu.au or refer to the advertisement on page 6 of this edition for further details.

Marco Melbourne opens

The latest addition to Southbank's skyline Marco Melbourne has been officially unveiled on Balston St.

The completion of the twin towers - 32 and 37 storeys respectively - comes as welcome news to the local community adding another important puzzle piece to the Boyd precinct.

The buildings comprise a mixture of more than 400 spacious one and two-bedroom residential dwellings and hotel rooms, which are operated by Sunshine Coast-based company Imagine Hotels and Resorts.

The new development comes complete with a range of luxurious residential amenities, while a new lobby cafe, which will be open to the public, will also be unveiled in June.



Marco Melbourne captured at night from Balston St.






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Hall of secrets

Comment

Shane Scanlan



The level of secrecy adopted by the City of Melbourne has been brought into sharp focus by recent inquiries about its approach to filling the 11th councillor vacancy.

Its culture of non-disclosure has long been disturbing, but has not really been measurable because there has been nothing to compare it with.

But in this instance, *Southbank Local News* had cause to ask the same questions of another government agency – the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) – and the responses could not have been more different.

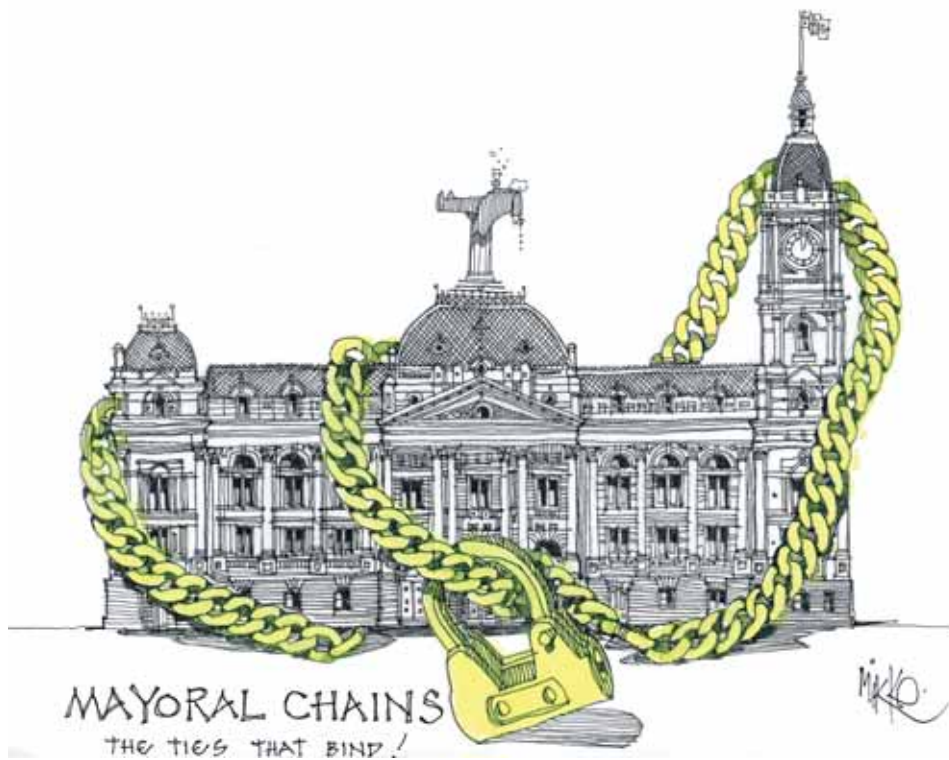
The question was, essentially, “what have the two agencies said to each other about how to resolve this matter?”

The public interest in this matter is extreme. If the VEC wins its appeal against a magistrate’s ruling then Lord Mayor Robert Doyle looks like winning a majority number of councillors. It is most reasonable to ask how and why the VEC and Cr Doyle have come to the same conclusion about the best way to resolve it.

Freedom of Information (FoI) requests were lodged with both agencies on December 6 seeking relevant documents (people might well ask why FoI was necessary!).

The VEC responded with copies of 20 documents in the mail before Christmas. There was no hesitation, no obstruction, no fuss. It did, however, delete the mobile phone numbers of officers. Fair enough.

In contrast, the council took the view that the public servants involved have the right to decide whether or not they want their names included. They interpret this as “personal affairs information” and, therefore, potentially exempt. Should the council



decide to release any documents including their names, the relevant council officers will be given 60 days to appeal this decision. On January 23, the council sent an invoice for the time it took to search the documents.

A further question was asked of both agencies on January 16 – what conversations had taken place between Cr Doyle and VEC Commissioner Warwick Gately.

The VEC responded promptly with dates and details of two conversations. The council, on the other hand, said Cr Doyle was on leave and would not be back until after Australia Day. It later confirmed the two conversations but said Cr Doyle considered them confidential.

This example is not extraordinary in itself, but it well illustrates the town hall’s culture. The rot starts at the top and permeates every level of the organisation.

Far from celebrating transparency as one of the basics of local democracy, it resents public interest as an intrusion of its apparent right to run the council as an exclusive club.

Rank and file councillors are briefed on a needs-to-know basis and, should they lose the trust of officers, are punished via an information freeze.

Sadly, extreme secrecy has become normal. It’s old reporters who can remember different norms who are out of step.

The council employs a small army of former journalists who are collectively paid about \$1 million per year to carefully craft meaningless responses to media inquiries.

Recent examples that have yielded refusals have included: the specifics of the Lord Mayor’s declared conflict of interest from November 22’s Future Melbourne Committee; whether or not CEO Ben Rimmer is still being paid by the council after being on sick leave since the middle of last year; and the specific events nominated by the company which won a council tender.

It is customary to seek a response from all parties when writing a news story but, when it comes to the City of Melbourne, it is almost pointless.

The council has long lost its way and feels little obligation or accountability to the people it is supposed to represent and who pay them.

This decay in democratic standards is not confined to the council. It’s a global phenomenon against which citizens feel affronted but largely powerless to influence.



Robin Grow presents at Boyd last month.

A look back at our suburb

President of the Australian Art Deco Society, Robin Grow, last month provided locals with an insightful look back in time at how our suburb once appeared in the early 20th century.

As part of the Boyd Community Hub library’s Night School series, Mr Grow gave a presentation on Southbank’s industrial and historical past titled *Southbank Between the Wars*.

Many still remember Southbank as “the armpit of Melbourne” during the days when the Yarra River was a dumping ground and the area was home to a variety of industry and manufacturing.


However, beyond that, Robin took guests on a detailed journey through the suburb, which showed there was much more to the “armpit” that was Southbank.

Some of the many interesting former sites that were discussed included an artificial limb factory (cnr of Sturt and Miles streets), a German department store (City Rd), a dressmaking school (Sturt St) and an ice skating rink (City Rd).

Boyd’s next Night School, *Yesterday Once More – The Changing Face of Melbourne*, will be held on Wednesday, February 15 from 6pm until 7pm.

Photographer David Collopy will explain how the city’s streetscapes have changed over the years through his exhibition of imagery taken recapturing some of the scenes.

To book your place visit: eventbrite.com.au or contact the library on 9658 8300.



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And in fake news ...



Melbourne President Donald Doyle reveals his new 2017 look.

Mass exodus by community staff

The City of Melbourne's placemaking and engagement branch, which focuses on strengthening our local community, has recently been the subject of major staff losses.

The upheaval resulted from a council review of the branch in early 2016. Placemaking and engagement staff were informed of the findings in September.

Southbank Local News understands that out of the branch's 15 staff, 11 were offered redundancies or redeployment. Of these, 10 accepted redundancy, while one took on another role within the branch. However, a council spokesperson said the number of affected staff was eight and not 11.

Southbank Local News also understands that other staff members have since left the City of Melbourne or relocated to other branches.

The Placemaking and Engagement branch was changed from Community Strengthening in July 2015. This was the result of an amalgamation of three teams within the branch.

Council's spokesperson said the review was undertaken in consultation with staff to determine a new purpose and focus for the branch.

"We took a closer look at the way they (staff) operated to determine a new purpose and focus that would increase council's capacity for city-wide and neighbourhood engagement on a broader range of matters," the spokesperson said.

"This process benchmarked the branch against placemaking and community engagement in other government jurisdictions."

According to the spokesperson, the new branch will comprise 15 positions, with the majority of staff already appointed and due to start work in February.

The spokesperson said the council would also employ five community engagement partners, with one of the five to be appointed to the CBD and Docklands area next month.

"We will employ five community engagement partners, whose roles include understanding community needs and expectations, and empowering the community to influence council decisions," the spokesperson said.

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Local DJ a national hit

Southbank resident and music DJ Ahmet Atasever has been officially recognised as one of the country's best in a highly regarded online music poll.

Music website *In The Mix* recently named Ahmet as the 17th best DJ in Australia in its annual poll of Australia's top 50 DJs, which featured international names including the likes of Flume and Alison Wonderland.

To add to that achievement, the website named Ahmet as the country's second best DJ in his favoured musical genre – trance, which he described as more progressive and melodic compared with most other sounds.

"To people from the outside it's techno or 'doof doof' but there are different elements and genres and mine is probably a slower 'doof doof' if you were to call it that," he said.

"It's not the go really hard sort of stuff so I try to keep it more melodic and groovy and that's the stuff I've been known for I guess."

Ahmet said his passion for the music began in the late 90s when he started playing house parties. As he played more gigs and connected with other DJs, he would eventually start producing his own music and rapidly grew a following.

He has since featured at some of the country's biggest music festivals including Future Music Festival, Summerdayze and Stereosonic and his music has been supported by some of the biggest DJs from around the world.

Ahmet said he felt fortunate to have mastered his craft during a time before the rise of the internet, when music was harder to come by.

"The internet was starting to boom back then with dial up internet! You had Napster and you couldn't get this music anywhere else," he said.

"It's just so much easier to get music now and there's a lot more out there, which in my opinion has caused the quality to drop a bit."

When he's not playing gigs and producing new music, Ahmet works as an IT network administrator for Sacred Heart College in Geelong.

While he had initially held reservations about moving from Geelong, he said he and his partner now happily called Southbank home.

"I was a bit hesitant moving from Geelong to the big city at first but it's been great for both my partner and I," he said.

My partner works up here and it's easier for her to stay up here rather than catch the train and for me it's easy because I go against traffic."

For more information visit ahmetatasever.com



Southbank resident and DJ Ahmet Atasever.

New to Southbank?



Have you recently moved to Southbank?

Find out how to get the most from Southbank's fantastic community (including services and public facilities) at our free information session.



FREE information sessions for new residents

Southbank Residents Association is a not-for-profit community organisation that advocates for residents and aims to bring together and support the interests of everyone who lives or works in Southbank.

To register for the next information session, go to our website: www.southbankresidents.org.au

Next Session Date: 6.30pm-7.30pm 1 March
Location: Boyd Community Hub, 207 City Rd, Southbank VIC 3006



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THE ARTS PRECINCT

The sweetest sugar yet

Review by Sean Car
Photos by Danny Casey
and Jayden Oswald

Sugar Mountain well and truly reinforced its reputation as one of Melbourne's best music festivals following another phenomenal day of music and art on January 21.

With a slightly reconfigured setup to previous festivals, the streets, paths and alleys of the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) yet again provided the perfect platform for the festival's alternative offerings.

Perhaps the only other major metropolitan music festival one could compare VCA's street-party-like setup to would be Laneway Festival in Footscray, but even still, Sugar Mountain is wonderfully unique.

It offers weaving directions one can take to explore different stages, art installations, hangouts and unique culinary offerings - all making an experience that never grows stale.

Festival-goers could be forgiven for not discovering all that is on offer - such is the fun and mystery of the whole day.

One of this year's major successes was the relocation of the Boiler Room stage from the courtyard to the Sturt St car park. The bigger location is gifted with plenty of sunshine that coincided perfectly with the beats of Kornel Kovacs,

Mood II Swing and many more.

Highlights from the Dodds St stage included Methyl Ethyl, Big Scary and German deep house legend Pantha Du Prince, who put on an incredible display despite losing some crowd numbers to Tornado Wallace who was playing at the Boiler Room at the same time.

Vibes throughout the day at the Movement Stage in the courtyard were at a usual high, capped off by an incredible set by local band Slum Sociable at dusk.

While the late withdrawal of headliner Blood Orange due to family illness was a major blow to the festival, The Avalanches stepped in and provided an absolutely perfect replacement to finish the day on Dodds St.

Following the release of their long-awaited second album *Wildflower* in 2016, the iconic experimental dance act provided the ideal sounds fit for the street party that is Sugar Mountain and listeners loved it.

Complete with an improved *Sensory Café* and spread of art throughout the venue, this year was undeniably the festival's sweetest to date.



Inspiring young voices

Indian theatre director Roysten Abel is returning to Melbourne on March 7 to bring audiences of Melbourne Recital Centre more magic from Manganiyar, India.

Famous for *The Manganiyar Seduction*, which brought this Indian community's largely unknown folk and classical music to the world stage, Abel returns with a production showcasing a much more youthful narrative.

The Manganiyar Classroom is a one-hour performance featuring 35 young Manganiyar boys who will stun audiences with their talent – each of them a repository of song, dance and rhythm.

However, this performance is moving not only for its musical brilliance but also for its sense of activism as Abel brings to centre stage an India that is not shining but is left far behind.

He told *Southbank Local News* the children of Manganiyar came from a community of musicians and sadly their elders had never

been educated or even been to school.

"I created the choir with the Manganiyar children three years ago," Abel said. "What touched me was that these children could sing even though they had lost their confidence."

"What I wanted to do was to instead of forming a choir, form the Manganiyar Classroom where we talk about issues, address the issues of the education system, the present day homogenised education system and the petered down version of it by the time it reached the religious teachings of Rajasthan."

However, in spite of all the hardship they faced, Abel said what stood out the most about the performance was the exuberance of innocence and joy that came out of the young boys.



For tickets and more information visit melbournerecital.com.au



For more information and tickets visit mtc.com.au

An exploration into the everyday

Melbourne Theatre Company (MTC) returns in 2017 with the intriguing play 'John' - the latest highly acclaimed work from Pulitzer Prize-winning American playwright Annie Baker.

Opening on February 16 at the Fairfax Studio and running through until March 25, *John* is a captivating play starring Helen Morse, Ursula Mills, Johnny Carr and Melita Jurisic and directed by MTC associate director Sarah Goodes.

Over the past decade, Ms Baker has found poetry in extraordinary dialogue and extraordinary situations. In *John* she splashes in a liberal measure of Gothic eeriness.

A young couple, Jenny and Elias, arrive late one evening at Mertis Graven's bed and breakfast in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania – the

historic site of a terrible Civil War battle. They are trying to get over some history of their own. Each is prickly and easily feels the other's stings.

"*John* explores and celebrates the unique quality of immediacy and intimacy of theatre. It activates the extraordinary inside the everyday and burrows towards the human need for connection and empathy," Ms Goodes said. "The opportunity to see this astonishing new piece of writing brought to life by some of the country's most experienced and talented actors, is a remarkable opportunity not to be missed."

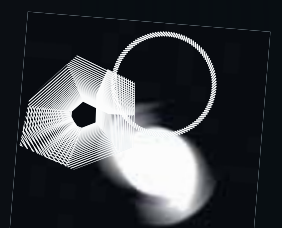
THE MANGANIYAR CLASSROOM

School of Rock, Indian folk style.

From the creator of *The Manganiyar Seduction* comes another exuberant and uplifting music-theatre experience. With sublime voices and onstage attitude, the children of *The Manganiyar Classroom* rebel against their teacher, creating beautiful music before your eyes. A joyous theatrical experience that captivates and delights.

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JULIE WAJS

A look into Cambodia

Photography Studies College (PSC) teacher Julie Wajs describes Cambodian people as some of the most beautiful she's ever encountered.

Julie recently travelled to the South East Asian country to photograph and document the work of Cambodian non-government organisation (NGO) World of Difference to help raise awareness for its projects.

She said trauma suffered under the dictatorship of communist leader Pol Pot, who was responsible for ordering the executions of millions of Cambodians during



An image of a Cambodian girl, which features in Julie's photobook in benefit of Cambodian NGO World of Difference.

the 1970s, was still very evident. Yet despite this, Julie said that the warmth and resilience of the Cambodian people was like nothing she had ever experienced.

"The amazing thing for me with the Cambodians is that there is not a lot of anger or bitterness like there is in Germany or Japan with Hiroshima. These people witnessed the most brutally awful things and yet they just get on with it," she said.

World of Difference was started in 2012 when local Cambodian Rithy Ann led South Melbourne Rotarian Bronwyn Stephens to the town of Bosala south west of capital Phnom Penh.

After witnessing some shocking health and education issues Ms Stephens engaged her local Rotary club in the community, which would ultimately lead to the establishment of World of Difference.

The organisation has provided the

community with urgent medical assistance and built a school in the region amongst a host of other projects. It has since extended its outreach to other parts of Cambodia.

Julie travelled with a team of doctors and an engineer last year with the mission to document the NGO's efforts through photography, which would ultimately manifest in the form of a photobook.

With images stemming from life in the local hospital, schools and around the villages, the photobook provides a stunningly, breathtaking and intricate insight into life in Cambodia.

Julie launched the photobook at an exhibition this month and all the proceeds from sales will be going straight towards the NGO's current efforts to provide teacher training.

"In terms of putting the book together I've tried to make it about the different aspects

of the project and keeping it a bit more universal," Julie said.

"Bronwyn has been taking teachers there to train teachers, so the main thing is improving education because Pol Pot wiped them all out and they're still recovering."

With a background in commercial photography, Julie admitted that, while the experience was initially a shock to her system, she would go back tomorrow if given the chance.

"I'm not used to running around and shooting from the hip like that but it was a pretty amazing experience," she said.

"They're beautiful people. I would go back tomorrow. I think these experiences are always really grounding because we can take so much for granted."

To find out more information or to purchase the photobook visit wod.org.au



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Image by Michael Foxington



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TAMARA KULDIN

Feb 10 - *Salon*

Melbourne-based melody maker Tamara Kuldin is all about bringing back the sass and sophistication of that vintage era of music with her own modern, sultry yet playful twist. Her vocal prowess is captivating audiences from as far as New York and Paris as she infuses her stage with warmth, charisma and musicality.

www.melbournerecital.com.au



LITTLE EMPERORS

Feb 9 - 26 - *Malthouse Theatre*

In 2016 China's One Child Policy officially ended, and to mark the close of an era, the Malthouse has teamed up with award-winning Australian writer Lachlan Philpott and one of Beijing's most innovative directors, Wang Chong, to explore the stories, secrets and aspirations of the children of a radical political experiment.

www.malthousetheatre.com.au



JEPPE HEIN - SEMICIRCULAR SPACE

Until Feb 26 - *NGV*

The NGV presents a spectacular new installation by renowned Berlin-based, Danish contemporary artist Jeppe Hein. Constructed from evenly spaced upright forms made of highly reflective stainless steel, Semicircular space 2016, invites visitors to become immersed in a nautilus-like labyrinthine form.

www.ngv.vic.gov.au



EXPLOSIONS IN THE SKY

Feb 20 & 21 - *Elisabeth Murdoch Hall*

With a reputation for all-consuming and intense live performances, this moody and dynamic instrumental indie rock outfit has become one of the genre's most commercially successful bands, scoring several motion pictures and featured in countless other films, television series and video games.

www.melbournerecital.com.au

COFFEE CONCERTS 2017

March 28 - *Melbourne Recital Centre*

Musica Viva's Coffee Concerts return in 2017 as virtuoso violinist Alexandre Da Costa teams up with leading local pianist Kristian Chong in a program of classic beauty and flair on March 28.

musicaviva.com.au/coffee2017

JURASSIC PARK IN CONCERT

March 3 & 4 - *Hamer Hall*

Experience the most thrilling prehistoric adventure film ever made when the MSO performs John Williams' iconic score to Steven Spielberg's blockbuster *Jurassic Park*.

www.mso.com.au

FASTER

March 17 - 27 - *Arts Centre Melbourne*

Faster is contemporary ballet at its visceral best: a heart-pumping triple program from some of the world's best contemporary choreographers. Inspired by the Olympic motto of "Faster, Higher, Stronger", *Faster* explores the super-charged world of elite sports.

www.australianballet.com.au

FRIDAY NIGHTS AT NGV

Until March 10 - *NGV*

Start the weekend early at NGV Friday Nights with after-hours access to our major summer exhibitions, David Hockney: Current and Viktor&Rolf: Fashion Artists. Listen to live music in the Great Hall, DJ sets in the garden, pop-up talks and enjoy access to food and bars.

www.ngv.vic.gov.au



FAITH HEALER

March 4 - April 8 - *The Sumner*

With its mythic resonance and drama of Gaelic folklore, *Faith Healer* is considered to be Irish playwright Brian Friel's masterpiece, where characters take turns wrestling with the past, proving that memory can be as unreliable, and as contradictory, as faith.

www.mtc.com.au



CITIES OF ARCHITECTURE 2017

Free launch Feb 16 - *MPavilion*

ACCA presents a new series of talks exploring the recent architectural, urban and cultural history of some of the world's most inspiring destinations. Enjoy a complimentary cocktail created for each city by the Melbourne Gin Company and Starward Whisky.

www.accaonline.org.au



POLITICAL ACTS

Feb 11 to May 21 - *Gallery 1*

Performance art is an art form that acknowledges the cultural traditions of performance within Southeast Asia, while also providing avant-garde artists with a creative means to critically explore social, political and environmental issues. The exhibition will present a selection of artists' films, photographs and installations by some of the innovative pioneers of performance art in Southeast Asia.

www.ngv.vic.gov.au



THE HOMOSEXUALS, OR 'FAGGOTS'

Feb 17 - March 12 - *Malthouse Theatre*

Playwright Declan Greene (*I Am A Miracle*, *Calpurnia Descending*) has made his name toying with the subversive. With *The Homosexuals*, he takes the comedy of errors and lets it swerve across the road like a drunken driver, creating a howlingly funny hour of blistering satire that deals equally vicious blows to left and right wing hypocrisy.

www.malthousetheatre.com.au

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Southbank Residents Association

A big year for Southbank

A big welcome to everyone for 2017.

I am optimistic that 2017 will see the start of some great projects for Southbank, albeit probably in the latter part of 2017.

City Rd upgrade and the transformation of Southbank Boulevard have all had their community consultation and even considered within the council's budget, so hopefully these will start this year.

While we are not sure of the progress with Boyd Park, we would like to hope that 2017 will bring some certainty there and maybe even the start of the long-awaited park, albeit on part of the block.

It seems like it was only yesterday that we were celebrating the Boyd Christmas family day. Thank you to all those who popped by our stand and bought a raffle ticket. A big thank you goes to Carpe Librum and Winehouse for their wonderful prizes that they so kindly donated.

As you may recall, the big item for 2016 was the Planning Minister's C270 built form review. SRA hired the services of a consultant to assist us with making a significant submission to this review which subsequently got SRA a panel hearing - the

only community group that was invited.

One of the significant concerns we identified in the proposed C270 review was the plot ratio formula for determining height. A ratio of 18:1 was chosen by the Minister, which was a reduction on the 24:1 in the C262 interim controls, which is still one of the most generous throughout the world.

Sydney has 8:1, New York 10:1, Hong Kong 12:1 and Chicago 16:1. While the minister allowed Melbourne to be one of the most liberal in the world he also allowed this to be increased should a developer provide some "public benefit".

In principle, public benefit should already be included to allow a developer to max out at 18:1 but this is not the case. I am therefore somewhat sceptical with how the public benefit will be evaluated.

For example, commercial space is considered to be a public benefit offset. In our submission to the minister and, as explained to the panel, we felt that the public benefit should be pre-determined and developers should contribute financially to that benefit pool.

When a piecemeal approach is adopted then the public are destined to probably never receive any real tangible public benefit for the broader community.

SRA felt that commercial space provided little, if no public benefit and was just an easy solution for developers to justify a bigger development.

And, sure enough, we have now seen exactly this. This week's Future Melbourne Committee will be considering an application to develop the site at 51-65 Clarke St. The plot ratio the developer is asking for is 30:1, or 233 metres which is 70 levels.

This is being assessed under the interim controls of C262 which have a ratio of 24:1 which were in play at the time the developer submitted the application.

The developer has proposed 653sqm of commercial space. While there are other "public benefits" included with this proposal, my point is that in my opinion commercial space is hardly providing any tangible public benefit.

It was our concern to the panel that

commercial space will become the norm at the expense of tangible public space benefits for the whole community.

This is the first application to be assessed in Southbank since the interim planning control, C262, and subsequent C270 controls, were introduced.

In principle, there is no reason why this application will not proceed and the community will receive 653sqm of public benefit by way of commercial space.

Let's hope this does not become the norm as we predicted.

Tony Penna



Tony Penna

Tony Penna is the president of Southbank Residents' Association.

southbankresidents.com.au



Southbank
Residents' Association

迎新春墨尔本 CHINESE NEW YEAR FESTIVAL • MELBOURNE 27 Jan – 12 Feb 2017

Queen Victoria Market Lantern Festival

Lunar New Year ignites at Queen Victoria Market from 27 January to 12 February 2017.

The celebration continues with a two-day Lantern Festival on Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 February on Queen Street with a variety of traditional Asian food stalls, performers and free family activities.

Delight in traditional performances from local and international acts and marvel at the mythical creatures lighting the way for a prosperous New Year.

Bring your family and friends to enjoy the amazing food experiences and activities to come together and celebrate the year of Rooster.

Lantern Festival Times

- Saturday 11 February
9am to 3pm
- Sunday 12 February
9am to 4pm



cnymelbourne.com.au

Planning scheme looseness

I am a resident of Southside Gardens, 106 Southbank Blvd (behind ABC).

We have run foul of the looseness of this planning scheme where south of City Rd was supposed to be limited to 100m and the south east of Moore St 40m. When 70 Southbank Blvd, now called Australia 108, was approved, it clearly breached this and will shadow us through summer where we currently are only shadowed in the cooler months.

We supported the council's opposition to this at VCAT only to be told that the planning scheme only required them to have a planning permit if exceeding the 100m.

They had this and so there was no argument considered. It could be as high as they liked. Subsequently they added to the height significantly.

We would all oppose any breaking down of the 40m limit for the Arts Precinct as well as any further erosion of the 100m limit south of City Rd.

One caution you need to make to affected neighbours is the weakness of the requirements re shadowing. The developer needs only to provide shadowing at the equinox – March and September.

The problem we found is that between September and March is when one would expect your garden and pool, etc., to be used most.

A proposed building can shadow over you during this summer period where you were not previously (as Australia 108 will shadow us).

If your shadowing from existing buildings was in place over winter, and they can also show shadowing at March and September, then they can say you are already shadowed and have no claim.

The fact we are deprived by it over the summer period cannot be considered.

Regards

Mick

Opposed to more high rise

As owners in Dodds St, Southbank, we are totally opposed to development of high rise structures in the Arts Precinct.

We support Tony Penna of Southbank Residents Association and are members of this group.

We voted for Tony in the recent council elections, but to no avail.

We also support the Facebook site opposing this development which will signal the end to low rise in our region. Unfortunately.

Regards

John Bainbridge

Not Docklands

I find it appalling that the Planning Officers are even considering tall buildings for Sturt St.

I cannot see that the precinct will be improved with more apartments, but they would rather contribute to already existing problems such as parking and noise. Surely Council is aware of the problems in Docklands – why would they want the same here?

Val Holzer

Habitat Filter I

I refer to your recent article in the *Southbank Local News* regarding the public art *Habitat Filter*, and wish to provide the following opinion:

Whilst the art may mean something to Transurban (i.e. their three pillars) the sculpture looks meaningless to the public. It also looks rather ugly and out of the arts character of the Arts Precinct. Just my humble opinion (JMHO).

I guess it is too late to do anything about it, but I thought it is worth providing some feedback for future reference.

Cheers, Paul S

Habitat Filter II

This is an exciting new addition to the city. Well done. Regarding vacant land along our roads and particularly freeways, I would like to see some exciting wind turbines installed to make use of such available land.

Regards,

Mark Johnston

Habitat Filter III

Unfortunately this installation has been taken over by Indian Mynahs.

They have chased off the other gentler native birds, much to our dismay. It tries to be "artsy" but demonstrates a complete lack of knowledge of local bird life.

Val Holzer

Habitat Filter IV

I wake up to this monolithic structure every morning. It is as if the video game, *Minecraft*, jumped out of the screen and landed in Southbank (That's what my friend's 10-year-old son said).

The design is hard in an already hard space. The original "unused" space was a soft green island amidst high rise buildings, circulating and criss-cross traffic, asphalted concrete bridges in all directions and echoing air brakes of semi-trailers as they enter the mouth of the Burnley Tunnel.

That "unused" oasis of greenery was a refuge precisely because it was left unused – it acted as an interlude that broke up the otherwise hard surface of buildings and hard sounds of traffic that bounced from them.

It is called *Habitat Filter* but in its current hardness what does it filter? A filter, by definition, removes impurities or, in photography, diminishes the intensity of light. How does it "filter" the habitat that surrounds it?

Moreover, as I observe from my window, a harsh security fence encircles the site, clearly communicating to us that it is zoned-off, off-limits and hardly conducive for community engagement.

In addition, where is the landscaping?



Transurban's new public artwork display 'Habitat Filter' has been the subject of much discussion.

Where are the 18,000 native plants? All that is visible to the eye is a barren desert of wood chips carpeted over a lifeless ground.

It is said above that "the true measure of this site will be how well the natural elements will thrive within the hostile setting that surrounds the site".

"Hostile" is the operative word, and if the natural elements do not emerge then the hardness of the design will only add to the hostility of the urban space.

Matt Drysdale says that the full aesthetic of the design will unfold in the course of time, "five, 10 or 15 years down the track".

So, what do we residents do in the meantime? Turn the other way to avoid the glaring hardness of a real *Minecraft* park that beckons to be overgrown by nature's vines?

But, won't it then "slightly" resemble a post-apocalyptic world of *Minecraft* towers in ruins?

Saluti,

Jeremias La Barbera

Engaging with the community

In the last edition of *Southbank Local News* I was interested to read about one of Port Phillip's new Greens councillors and his plans to "re-engage" the community with its local council.

While this is a commendable ambition, community engagement is a two-way street and it would appear to be a street not on the Greens councillors' road map.

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Letters to the Editor

Port Phillip has three new Greens councillors, Tim Baxter, Katherine Copsy and Ogy Simic.

All blew into town in the 12 months prior to the local election, bringing with them a level of local knowledge that could be described as vague. They won one seat in each of the new three wards at the that had the lowest voter participation rate in the state, with less than half the community casting a vote.

At the end of last year the three Greens councillors uploaded a video to say thank you for the support throughout the year. In the video one of the Greens officials talks of the busy year that they have had in the local community and the work they have done. However, when she lists the events that have kept them busy locally all year she can name only two, the federal election campaign and the council election campaign. Two events that were driven by self-interest. Not a single genuine community event was mentioned.

Since these three recent arrivals were elected to represent the community they have been noticeably absent at large attendance events (where you might run into a majority of non-Greens voters)

At local events I have attended I've been amazed the Greens councillors have seemingly decided not to engage with the community. For example: -The Theofania - Blessing of the Waters on Sunday January 8 at Station Pier in Port Melbourne; Albert Jacka Memorial Service on January 15 at St Kilda Cemetery; and a community forum on November 16 at the St Kilda Bowling Club to

discuss the problems on and around Fitzroy St and public safety.

Even when the CCTV was being launched on December 16 and an update was being given to the previous safety forum by local area commander Jason Kelly, the Greens councillors were only noticeable in their absence. Liberals, independents and Labor were there. No Greens

Perhaps most alarmingly the new Greens councillors boycotted the Australia Day citizenship ceremony welcoming new citizens of all backgrounds into the country and Port Phillip. Some of these new citizens entered Australia as refugees and some came to our country escaping hardship.

Actions speak louder than words and for all the talk of support for immigration and refugees, January 26 showed that the only action from these Greens was absenteeism and the only words on the subject have been hollow.

Greens councillor Ogy Simic told Sean Car in the last *Southbank Local News*: "I think for too long people have been disengaged with what council does and I hope to be able to work towards restoring some of that ..."

Just showing up would be a nice start.

Michael Danby MHR



Send your letters to news@southbanklocalnews.com.au

Pet's Corner

Alfred the bilingual dog

After living in a household that uses two languages, Alfred has become somewhat bilingual and responds to both Spanish and English.

Alfred, a mix-breed of cavalier and miniature poodle, was purchased by his owners almost three years ago from a breeder.

His owner, who preferred not to be named, says he is not a typical dog and is able to understand both English and Spanish.

"My step-mum is Colombian and she speaks Spanish to him. He probably speaks more Spanish than me! She'll say things like 'let's go for a walk' in Spanish and he understands what she's saying," his companion said.

As his family lives at Prima Pearl and his owner works nearby at 101 Collins St, it is extremely convenient to take Alfred on frequent walks.

"We moved here a year ago almost. So he's been here and adjusted to the lifestyle and everything. He's very relaxed and he loves doing thing on his own terms. He's very chilled and fits in well with our lifestyle."

Despite being a miniature poodle, his owner remarks that Alfred is "super cavalier dominant" explaining her dog's appearance.

She says that Alfred's personality also



includes traits that are associated with the cavalier breed.

"He's really sociable especially with other dogs. With people, he loves a pat, but it's more with other dogs. He gets really excited! But he's super submissive. If another dog comes up to him he'll never bark," she said.

She described him as a very low maintenance dog, who's favourite past time is sleeping and states that he is well behaved - at least most of the time!

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Michael Danby MP
Federal Member for Melbourne Ports

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Authorised by M Danby 117 Fitzroy Street St KILDA WEST
Cartoon courtesy of Mark Knight | Herald Sun

St Johns Southgate

But why?

I swore I'd never do it again, but I did. I was standing around at a summer barbecue and when the conversation died down I turned to the closest person and asked that most predictable of questions, "So ... what do you do?"

Despite my intention to ask new acquaintances more interesting questions, I kept reverting to that staple barbecue conversation piece.

It got me wondering why what we do for a living is such a natural avenue of interpersonal discovery. But to be truthful, my ponderings didn't take long.

It's pretty obvious. In adulthood, one's vocation - whether it be a daily grind or a series of pleasant potterings - is central to our developed sense of identity and belonging.

What we do to pay the bills is more than reward received for effort expended. It can determine where we live, what we wear, how we carry ourselves and who we associate with.

It can explain the spring in one's step or the furrow in one's brow. It can bring pats on the back or be the author of nightmares about unrealised potential and opportunities missed.

But to sustain us through career lows and widen our smiles at career highs we all need to be able to answer the question, "why?" Why do you do what you do? Do you get up at five o'clock to provide for your family? Do you do it to make a difference? Do you do it to climb the social ladder - to accelerate mobility of the upward kind?

There are countless reasons why people might do what they do. But when a spiritual element is introduced into the reasoning it has a marvellous levelling effect.

C.S. Lewis wrote, "The work of a Beethoven, and the work of a charwoman, become spiritual on precisely the same condition - that of being offered to God, of

being done humbly as to the Lord."

Lewis is commenting here on vocation as seen from a Christian perspective - which, as one whose vocation is ministering in religious affairs, I can appreciate. But we can take it even further and broaden its scope.

When we see our work, along with the honest work of every person as being a brushstroke in the painting of a bigger picture, we can see our daily tasks as being done hand in hand with those of every cleaner, doctor, cashier, cook and lawyer.

We can see ourselves as a single, but vital thread in the global tapestry that makes humanity what it is and what it can be.

I have a feeling that if the answer to the "why" question about what we do was more often focussed on how we contribute to something bigger than our personal glorification that the world would be a better place.

The next time I'm at a barbecue and find myself asking that age old question, I'll make sure I follow up with, "Why do you do it?"



Tom Hoffmann

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



Montague Community Alliance

Focus locally and respectfully

Happy New Year and welcome to the year of the fire rooster.

What is the saying - "I hope you live in interesting times", well 2017 is certainly firming up to be one of those interesting times.

In my holiday reveries, I was contemplating the utopian ideal of how we could bring the urban renewal areas residential and business communities, developers and governments closer together in purpose and mission.

These thoughts came out of my work in the field of business psychology, which is to create opportunities for common growth and cohesiveness in large global corporations. So ... I am curious how could those principles be applied to Montague Precinct.

I can hear you all guffaw with cynicism but wait, why can't we all have agreed and negotiated objectives, why do commercial imperatives exclude good community amenity and why can't existing and future residents support developers and developers support the quality of life of the existing communities?

Has anyone ever asked? Is it that we are so narrow in our own world view that we do not notice the "other"? Or is it that it is deemed too hard to engage with communities of residents and small businesses because the belief is that they are NIMBYs or will inevitably be oppositional.

Hmmm ... for the most part here in Montague we are very supportive of development. Why? Because it is happening and needed, we get that. But are the developers and government planners and strategists supportive of us?

I'm not so sure. We get no communication at all and any consultation is transactional rather than about building a long-term

vision of cohesion in the area that includes the existing communities within Montague.

I wonder if we could start a dialogue with all the stakeholders about a voluntary agreement that would support the developers, residents, businesses and provide valuable feedback to the governing bodies that are writing the planning amendments and legal frameworks.

The challenges that were presented by the issues with Surveyors Place could easily have been diminished if we were thinking clearly about each other with respect and transparency. And now of course, the creation of Montague Park has been put on hold due to financial restrictions.

So, dear readers, whilst we are diverted by the shenanigans of the global players, let's all learn the lessons of diplomacy and courtesy, focus locally and respectfully and communicate with others so that we might come to more creative agreements that will embed and sustain behaviours that provide a quality of life and amenity for all.



Trisha Avery

Trisha Avery is the convener of the Montague Community Alliance. trishavery@bpca.com.au



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St Johns
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Southbanker

Promoting a more sustainable world

When they're not based in their City Rd apartment, Angelo Indovino and Amy Barrientos are working tirelessly in Colombia to teach future generations about the importance of preserving the environment.

The now retired Southbank couple established the Soñor + Verde Foundation in Amy's home city of Cartagena on Colombia's northern coast in 2011, which is currently home to more than one million people.

Having specialised in chemical engineering for much of his career, Italian-born, Australian-raised Angelo was working for Shell in Colombia when he first met Amy who was his translator at the time.

With a shared passion for the environment, since they both retired Angelo said the pair had been determined to find a way to minimise the country's impact on human-induced climate change.

"Amy remembers 50 years ago, when the waters in Cartagena were cleaner, her father used to fish in the local creeks and canals and you can't do that anymore. It used to be cooler and now it's very hot," he said.

"We started a foundation because there were a lot of environmental groups in Cartagena but none that were doing it properly. There was a lot of talk but no change."

With a combination of personal funding and support from the private sector in Colombia, the organisation originally began



Southbank residents Angelo Indovino and Amy Barrientos.

running reforestation, water, energy and litter programs in 12 primary and secondary schools.

With the support of the Colombian Environment Protection Authority (EPA), that number has now grown to 30 and the pair hopes to extend its outreach to 50 schools in 2017.

As a former teacher herself, Amy said the projects were focused on changing wasteful habits in schools by measuring and monitoring results with students and teachers.

"We've made it evident and schools realise it has been a big wake up call for them. Some schools have responded really well," she said.

"Some headmasters are getting very keen to take it over themselves. We are encouraging everyone in the institution to move forward so we can meet our targets."

Under the foundation's five-star system, schools are annually rewarded for excellent results in each of the four project areas. The fifth star rewards leadership in an effort to encourage schools to eventually manage the programs independently.

Angelo and Amy now divide their year into six-month blocks, one of which is based in Colombia and the other here in Southbank, which they both described as a "very convenient" place to live.

When in Melbourne they also volunteer their time to a number of environmental organisations and Angelo also sits on the City of Melbourne's parks and gardens committee. However, most of their energy is devoted to their work in Colombia and Angelo said the foundation had high ambitions for the future.

"The objective is quite ambitious and the idea is that every school in Colombia is included and they need to be able to show that they've got good standards just by the measurements," he said.

"We want the idea to be recognised at a national level and that we get asked to help. If it works really well we might even go to other countries but we'll take it one step at a time."

While mainly written in Spanish you can follow the foundation's progress via Facebook by searching Sonar + Verde. You can also visit sonarmasverde.com

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We Live Here

A big year for We Live Here

We Live Here recently celebrated its first birthday and what a year it has been!

As readers of this column will know, the We Live Here movement arose from the long-running but ultimately unsuccessful case against short-stays involving Watergate Apartments in Docklands.

Since its genesis at a very well attended launch in December 2015, We Live Here has tapped into widespread community frustration about issues of high-density living that are not being adequately addressed by politicians and law makers, and has become a recognised voice for owners and residents in strata communities throughout the greater Melbourne area affected by these issues.

In our first We Live Here column in February 2016 we identified some of the issues as being related to town planning, health and safety, fire safety, disability access, parking, equitable levies, insurance, serious building defects, shortage of schools etc.

However the need for regulation of short-stay apartments in residential buildings, the reason for We Live Here coming into being in the first place, was the issue identified from our rapidly-growing supporter base of 180 buildings and 400 individuals as causing the most wide-spread concern, and where we directed most of our energy and resources.

So what has We Live Here achieved in the first 12 months?

- The defeat of the Owners Corporation Amendment (Short-stay Accommodation) Bill 2016 in the Legislative Council in November, that would have only benefited the short-stay operators at the expense of residents. The parliamentary debate focused on the submission presented by We Live Here and is now recorded in Hansard;
- The Bill has now been referred to the Environment and Planning Committee for an open and wide-ranging enquiry, which is what we had been lobbying for;
- Through this process close relationships have been developed with Liberal shadow ministers, the Greens and other cross-benchers;
- Tentative first meetings with government ministers, previously impossible before We Live Here was formed;
- Getting to know our councillors through individual meetings and inviting their participation in a number of forums;
- 86 per cent of candidates standing for council at the October election responded to a We Live Here survey on short-stays, with all but one team in support of regulation (i.e. a minimum of 30-day stays). The high profile candidate who did not support regulation and was not elected to council later commented that he had learned his lesson ... "don't annoy residents groups";
- We contribute a monthly column to the *CBD News*, *Southbank Local News* and *Docklands News* – this one is the 12th – which has enabled us to regularly report

on issues affecting residents, and readers of the column are a valuable source of new supporters; and

- Provided active support for the City Schools for City Kids Campaign and the Docklands residents who have been campaigning long and hard about the lack of consultation in the development of Harbour Esplanade Master Plan.

What lies ahead in the second year of We Live Here?

The major focus for the first few months of 2017 will be to:

- Carry out an extensive review of We Live Here, its aims and objectives, and to set goals for the year ahead; and
- To participate in the wide-ranging enquiry into short-stays to be chaired by the Shadow Minister for Planning, David Davis. We will be inviting supporters of We Live Here to make submissions to the enquiry – to tell their story.

Short stays are here to stay. However, there needs to be good legislation that can guide us along the right path so as not to be detrimental to owners and residents who choose to make apartments their home.

Legislation should also provide owners' corporations with the powers to take appropriate action on those who abuse the facilities.

Amendments to the planning laws to protect owners and residents rights are required.

It's not a case of saying "not in my back yard", apartment owners are more concerned with "not at my front door, in my lift lobby, swimming pool or car park, unless I get to choose when and how often". After all we do live in a democracy and should not be overruled by a minority.

The Bill proposed was clearly written by people who have never had to pursue a strata by-law breach, even when you know who has done what and which law they were breaking.

Currently the short operators are not responsible or accountable for their guests. Trying to chase down party animals and their elusive guests who don't confirm to OC rules leaving us all to pick up the costs of repairs and damage, etc is a joke as the short-term offender is long gone.

Please write to [campaign@welivehere.net.au](mailto:campaign@welivehere.net) if you would like to make a submission and more information will be sent to you as it comes to hand.

Funding

Finally, a not-for-profit advocacy group such as We Live Here needs financial support to survive.



www.welivehere.net
emails to campaign@welivehere.net

Owners Corporation Law

Proposal for differential OC charging

As part of its review into consumer property law legislation including the Owners Corporation Act, Consumer Affairs Victoria is currently considering a number of different options for reform.

One of the many options on the table that hasn't had a great deal of publicity is a proposal to allow owner's corporations to recover costs from a lot owner or group of lot owners arising from their particular use of a lot.

Such an approach would be a departure from the current law, which requires that lot owners contribute to the owner's corporation in shares proportional to their lot liability.

This is known in legal circles as "the Mashane principle" where those lot owners which stand to gain more from a particular expenditure, ought to contribute more.

If adopted, an owner's corporation would be permitted to make an assessment of how much of its general repair and maintenance costs arise from a particular use of a lot and, if it were possible to assess these costs accurately, it would be permitted to issue a differential levy for the associated costs of repairs, maintenance of replacement directly to the owners of those lots.

For instance, if a particular building had commercial lots on the ground floors, and if those commercial lots used common property facilities such as toilets, stairs, services, waste bins and rubbish rooms, then it would be possible for an owner's corporation to apportion those items that are exclusively for the benefit of the commercial lot owners and issue a differential levy accordingly (with VCAT to enforce in the event of non-payment).

This would get around the unfair situation where a developer might set the lot liability for ground floor commercial suites at very low rates (while retaining high lot entitlement rates) so that commercial lot owners are subsidised by the residential lot owners.

The proposal from Consumer Affairs has not come out of the blue. In 2013, the Victorian Supreme Court ruled that a lot owner that did not have a balcony was not required to contribute to a special levy to replace and repair common property balconies belonging to other owners.

If adopted, the option put forward by Consumer Affairs would effectively be a codification of the Supreme Court's decision.

Pressure groups such as Strata Community Australia and the We Live Here movement have endorsed the option in their response to the options paper from Consumer Affairs.

It remains to be seen whether Consumer Affairs will adopt and permit the expansion of this principle to allow for differential levies to be issued where the use of a particular lot affects costs such as insurance premiums, or wear and tear on common property items such as elevators or the cost of security contractors and/or CCTV.

If the Mashane principle is to be adopted by the legislature, then care should be taken to ensure the limits of the operation of the principle are clearly spelled out, and the formula for apportioning costs is carefully phrased. Any ambiguity would lead owner's corporations and lot owners back to court.



Tom Bacon

Tom Bacon is the principal lawyer of Strata Title Lawyers.

Tom@stratititlelawyers.com.au



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Yarra River Business Association

Boulevard transformation good news for our river precinct

The City of Melbourne's imminent transformation of Southbank Boulevard is the biggest public infrastructure project in the area since the creation of Southbank itself.

It will significantly impact on how local people spend their recreation time and how visitors interact with the precinct. It will create an open space corridor, linking St Kilda Rd with the Yarra River.

The river will therefore have a new gateway point and residents will have a new local lifestyle to enjoy.

Work on the project begins this year and we have dedicated our first business lunch of the year - Thursday, February 23 - to hearing about, and discussing the project, with the two principal minds behind it: Professor Rob Adams and Steven Perumal from the council's urban design unit.

It's the first in our 2017 series of business events, but anyone is welcome to attend, especially residents.

We're holding the function on Eureka 89, where you will not only hear about the

concepts and planned works from the two speakers, but you will be able to get a bird's eye appreciation of what they are saying.

Needless to say, it's also a great lunch, with drinks and an opportunity to mix with the business community and key stakeholders of our precinct.

Look for the lunch advert in this issue for booking details, or contact our executive officer on **0412 502 931**.

This is a great time of the year to be a resident, worker or visitor to this precinct. The banks of the Yarra are alive with major events.

This year's Lunar New Year has been the biggest we've had along the Yarra. This year, South Wharf joined the celebration and Crown contributed its usual high standard offering, with a double fireworks display on the water over two weekends.

After a couple of fairly ordinary White Night years along the Yarra, this year's event on February 18 looks to be a winner. The most memorable installations will no doubt be the huge inflatable rabbits in Birrarung Marr.

We had artistic director David Atkins address our November luncheon and, if his enthusiasm and talent is anything to go by, White Night 2017 should be the best yet.

We then have Moomba and the Grand Prix during March, and in early April we will see a bigger than ever River Graze - the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival's opening weekend along the Yarra.

The Yarra River Business Association is once again financially supporting River Graze, as it is a tremendous showcase for our dining and hospitality reputation.

There's renewed hope for river governance

with the recent appointment of Matthew Jackson as CEO of Parks Victoria. Matthew has senior private sector experience and in early talks with him he clearly recognises the great value in a solid private-public sector approach to activating our important waterway.

John Forman



John Forman

John Forman is the president of Yarra River Business Association. www.yarrariver.info



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When: Saturday 4 March, 10am to 4pm.
Where: Queensbridge Square, Southbank.

For more information, including details of what you can drop off, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/waste or call 9658 9658.



20170046

Modular means flexible vertical living

There is no time like the summer holidays to test our design ingenuity as we organise and reorganise our compact apartments to accommodate hordes of visiting friends and relations (e.g. Christmas dinner for 15 at my place?).

As summer also sees our local unis enjoying a break, I looked to see what students on the other side of the world could contribute to our “vertical” entertaining challenges.

One who is shedding new light (literally) is James Vanderpant who hails from the University of Brighton. Perhaps taking inspiration from the long dark days of the northern hemisphere, James’s final year (studying product design) saw him develop a modular lighting system.

James’s story is that, while displaying his final year project in a student exhibition, it was noticed by a businessman who subsequently partnered with James. A Kickstarter campaign ensued which saw 1008 backers pledge £128,931 (about A\$211,000) to bring this project to life.

Called Helios Touch, it comprises a series of small, moveable hexagon panels that are activated, as the name suggests, through touch. Each panel can be turned on and off independently, meaning that the level of lighting can be adjusted to suit the task at hand. So if you need more light for your craft activities, touch all the panels, but if your



EverBlocks.

guests would like more ambient lighting, then swipe to turn a few panels off. Magnets located on each panel’s edge allow them to be pieced together into any honeycomb pattern that appeals.

Helios Touch is not alone in bringing the benefits of modularity to apartment living, as can be seen in the recent viral video featuring the EverBlocks System.

Comprising essentially of a range of oversized plastic blocks, they can be used – just like their smaller cousins – to construct all types of objects without the need for tools, glue or heavy equipment. According to EverBlocks, its uses include modular room dividers, interlocking partitions, temporary and permanent enclosures, windscreens, visual blockers and architectural accent walls.

The appearance of these blocks seems particularly well suited to newer apartment buildings and those liking a funky vibe.

Also, the temporary and mobile nature of EverBlocks may be particularly appealing to those renting, as the blocks “do no harm” to apartment walls and can subsequently be disassembled and relocated, along with everything else, when the lease is finished.

But the real kicker is their reconfigurable nature. Because they are literally building blocks, their versatility means you can take them apart anytime to construct something different – move your wall’s location, change its size and/or appearance and/or take out a few blocks and create occasional furniture (like guest stools!).

Returning to our entertaining challenge, these blocks could be used day-to-day as a dividing wall to screen off your utilities room – but then when friends and relations visit en masse and additional space is needed, the wall can simply be moved further back or, more radically, dismantled and the same blocks used to make a serving bar for the day, a play pen for little guests or some much needed additional seating (just add a bit of cushioning!).

The key appeal of both Helios Touch and EverBlocks is that they are modular and moveable, meaning that these products can be tailored by the user and, in fact, they could be quite interesting as companion products.

As regards vertical living, this ability to separate and recombine individual components in new ways (without taking additional space) seems well suited to our high-rise lifestyle.

Next month this column will return to our own shores to see what our well-rested university sector can offer for the betterment of our vertical lifestyles. In the meantime, if you would like links to the organisations mentioned, please visit and like SkyPad Living on Facebook.



Janette Corcoran
Apartment living expert
<https://www.facebook.com/SkyPadLiving/>

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PROPOSAL TO UPGRADE A MOBILE PHONE BASE STATION AT SOUTHBANK

Telstra plans to upgrade a telecommunications facility at 100 Dorcas Street, Southbank, Vic, 3006 (Telstra Site ID: KINGSWAY, 19668)

1. The proposed works will involve the swap out of six (6) existing panel antennas for six (6) new panel antennas, not exceeding 2.8m in length. Ancillary works are proposed including the installation of three (3) tower mounted amplifiers (TMAs) behind new antennas and the swap-out of nine (9) remote radio units (RRUs) for six (6) new RRUs. Additional works are proposed within the existing equipment shelter. The proposed upgrade will improve the Telstra LTE700 and LTE2600 networks within the area.
2. Telstra regards the proposed installation as a Low-impact Facility under the Telecommunications (Low-impact Facilities) Determination 1997 (“The Determination”) based on the description above.
3. Further information can be obtained from Dana Jeffrey at Aurecon (on behalf of Telstra) on 03 9975 3956 or email: dana.jeffrey@aurecongroup.com and at www.rfnsa.com.au/3205012
4. Written submissions should be sent to: PO Box 23061, Docklands, VIC, 8012 by 5pm on Monday 21 February 2017.

Business

A missing ingredient

Owner of new My Goodness Pizza and Burgers Danny Debattista said he had felt Southbank had been lacking a casual and quality dining option for some time.

And judging by the local response since the store's opening late last year, he's spot on. Danny said the business had been well received for its easy menu and relaxed environment.

"I just thought this was missing from Southbank there's nothing around here like this. It just needed to have something for the locals," he said.

"It needed that price bracket around here of not having to go and spend \$30 or \$40 on a main course and to be able to come into a relaxed environment and get out of your apartment for a burger or a pizza."

The Southbank store is Danny's second, having operated My Goodness Pizza on St Kilda Rd for more than eight years.

He said he had been determined to set up shop at the City Rd location having attempted for the best part of the last four years to lease out what was formerly a storeroom.

"I saw the site and it was a storeroom that used to be offices and I just thought it was the perfect site to put My Goodness Pizza and Burgers," he said.

"The street frontage, the accessibility for

all the apartments and for us to be able to deliver to Port Melbourne and the city and get in and out is perfect."

While My Goodness has built its reputation on delicious gourmet pizzas at St Kilda Rd for many years, it has introduced burgers exclusively to its Southbank store.

Danny said everything on its menu was made with the most quality ingredients from the Cape Grim wagyu beef and free-range chicken in its burgers to the Bertocchi ham and salami and fresh vegetables on its pizzas.

Beyond pizzas and burgers, the menu also offers a delicious range of baked potatoes, salads and deserts as well as ribs, bruschetta and its famous waffle fries.

As a chef with a passion for fine quality food himself, Danny said the business's approach was to serve the customer with what it would serve family.

"My motto has been right from the start to use the best ingredients on our pizzas and burgers - it's as if you came to my house for dinner or lunch," he said.

"We don't use any cheap ingredients and I use what I would cook at home for my friends and family. That's the standard."



Owner Danny Debattista (left) and staff members of the new My Goodness Pizza and Burgers on City Rd, Southbank.

As well as delicious food, My Goodness also provides plenty of options for customers to quench their thirst with a variety of fresh juices and smoothies, craft beer, spirits and wines.

The business has always placed a big emphasis on giving back through regular charity initiatives and events and Danny said it looked forward to engaging more with the local community in Southbank.

"We've tried to make it as comfortable as possible. We get a lot of repeat business and that's the main thing. Then you've got all of the travellers as well," he said.

"We want to be here for a long time and we want to be a part of the community and give back."

My Goodness Pizza and Burgers is located at 186 City Rd. For more information visit mygoodnesspizza.com.au

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

Health & Wellbeing

Goal setting, prevention and spotting a fad diet

Goal setting - Begin with the end in mind!

Stephen Covey is the author of the best seller *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, a book of that has been strongly influential on the way I look at life and fitness goals. One of the habits is to "begin with the end in mind".

Begin with the end in mind means to begin each day, task or project with a clear vision of your desired direction and destination and then continue by flexing your proactive muscles to make things happen. This is a very important notion when embarking on any pursuit, but particularly relevant when starting an exercise program.

You should start with an ideal target or a list of specific goals that you want to achieve. From there you can work step by step to build, grow and ultimately achieve what you set out to do.

It's great to have a big goal but to achieve it you need a process and a strategy.

Using a footy analogy from my senior

coaching years, it was understood that to make the finals you needed to win 80-90 per cent of your games. To win 90 per cent of your games you needed to score 16 goals. Break that down further and you needed to kick four goals per quarter.

Without systems, strategies and a game plan in place to get four goals per quarter, the end goal wouldn't be achieved.

Maybe you could take the time to reverse engineer your goals and really break them down to some simple starting strategies?

Prevention is better than cure

The majority of our personal training clients are aged between 40 and 70 and the vast majority come to us with aches, pains and a body that has had much wear and tear from stress, poor technique whilst exercising, office-desk jobs, poor posture, etc. The list goes on.

No matter what your age, the time is now to give yourself the best opportunity to achieve better posture and an improved body that

will move more freely, with reduced aches and soreness and free of injury and pain.

Many people seek regular treatment from chiropractors, masseurs, osteopaths and physiotherapists for aches, pains and ailments.

A regular exercise program that includes core, resistance, stretching, fitness and weights helps to reduce and even eliminate the reliance on these treatments.

In essence, regular training can be viewed as a complete prevention program.

We all know that if our car steers to the left, we need to turn the steering wheel to the right in order to keep travelling in a straight line, but ultimately it's not the ideal way to run our car.

Likewise in our bodies, when something wears down, if it's not corrected it can become problematic and maybe permanently damaged.

Prevention is better than cure so if you are not already, start doing something that your body, its joints, muscles, ligaments and tendons will all thank you for in the years to come!

Spotting a fad diet

I get asked almost daily my thoughts on the varying diets out there and why none really stack up. According to the Dietitians Association of Australia, "a fad diet is best described as a weight loss diet that promises fast weight loss without a scientific basis".

The trick with fad diets is they use excellent marketing and branding tools to attract interest, while the overarching theme is generally to achieve rapid (and often large amounts of) weight loss in a short period of time. Whatever the branding slogan, remember that the general rule of - if it sounds too good to be true, then it probably is - applies for fad diets.

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



Justin Moran

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

2017 WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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



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www.chunkymove.com



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.



THROUGHOUT FEBRUARY @ BOYD
SUSTAINABILITY FESTIVAL

- Nature Play Day - 10:30am to 1pm, Thursday, Feb 9
- Powering up Southbank workshop - 6:30pm to 7:30pm, Thursday Feb 9
- Community Planting Day - 10am to 2pm, Saturday, Feb 18
- 'Love Food Hate Waste' film screening - 6:45pm to 8:30pm, Wednesday February 22.

A pop-up library and eco-display will also be available at the Southbank library for the length of the festival.
www.slf.org.au



MARCH 1 @ BOYD
NEW TO SOUTHBANK
The Southbank Residents' Association is hosting an information session for new residents. Find out everything you need to know about about living in Southbank.
Register: southbankresidents.org.au



WEDNESDAYS
TAI CHI OUTSIDE BOYD
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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.



SATURDAYS @ BOYD
COMMUNITY YOGA
The free class is gentle yet dynamic in synchronising active movements with active breath. A perfect start for beginners and older people alike. Bookings essential.
beishen428@gmail.com



SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH
READING CIRCLE
A free and informal chat about whatever it is we've been reading. Fiction, non-fiction, plays, poems, travel writing, biography – anything at all!
6pm - 7pm @ Boyd Library

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.

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

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

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