

The voice of Southbank, South Wharf & Montague

SOUTHBANK Local NEWS

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Arts Precinct grows!

The highly anticipated launch of Creative Spaces at The Guild last month saw even more creative institutions officially move into Southbank.

Over 200 people helped celebrate the unveiling of the transformed spaces on February 23, which the National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA) and Melbourne Fringe now call home.

Creative Victoria Deputy Secretary Andrew Abbott described the new space as a "gem".

Story and photos - Arts Precinct supplement page 13.



Creative Spaces program manager Eleni Arbus, Lord Mayor Robert Doyle, NIDA CEO Kate Cherry, Fringe Festival CEO Simon Abrahams and Creative Victoria Deputy Secretary Andrew Abbott at last month's unveiling of Creative Spaces at the Guild. Photo: Melanie Desa.

Residents fight Crown approval

By Sean Car

The Southbank community, led by the Freshwater Place Owner's Corporation (OC), is demanding that the State Government's approval of Crown's 90-storey tower be reviewed under the normal planning process.

The OCs of neighbouring Freshwater Place and Prima Pearl, along with the Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) and Southbank OC Network (SOCN) have expressed their outrage over the approval.

The joint project for One Queensbridge St between Crown and Schiavello Group was exempted from the normal planning process with Premier Daniel Andrews issuing a press release stating that it was of "true state significance".

Having had multiple applications knocked back by consecutive governments, the

developers gained approval via an amendment (C310) to the Melbourne Planning Scheme.

While Freshwater Place OC chairman Peter Renner stressed he was not against the development, he said a hotel apartment building did not qualify as state significant.

"It's absolute folly and a joke," he said. "It's just done in a way and means of avoiding the normal planning process."

"This term is used for public property we're not talking about apartment buildings and hotels. If we were, everyone that's built in

Melbourne should just go through on the basis of state significance."

The Freshwater Place OC has pleaded with the developers over a number of years to respect the wishes of its future neighbours for minimum setbacks, tower separation, privacy and access to sunlight. The OC has also commissioned an independent report, which illustrates that the tower will also overshadow the Shrine of Remembrance.

Approved at 323-metres, One Queensbridge will become Australia's tallest tower and include 708 apartments and feature a new

6-star hotel comprising 388 rooms.

The controversial sky-bridge link over Queensbridge St has also been approved as part of the development. In opposition, local member for Albert Park Martin Foley had referred to it as "a bridge too far".

His colleague, Minister for Planning Richard Wynne spruiked the approval as a "jobs announcement", which he claimed would deliver 4000 jobs, \$21 billion in economic benefits to the state and \$100 million as part of a 'community benefits package'.

Continued on page 3.

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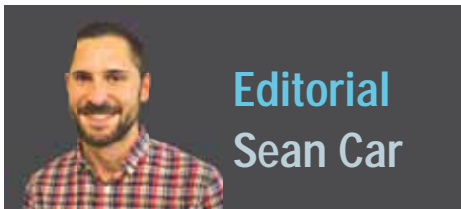
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After years of hammering former Liberal Minister for Planning Matthew Guy over poor planning, it would seem our current minister isn't so different after all.

In just one approval, Minister Richard Wynne and his government have lost a great deal of credibility when it comes to respecting proper planning.

And he's not alone. Many Southbankers also feel let down by his boss Premier Andrews, the Lord Mayor and our highly respected local member Martin Foley, who were all seemingly happy to follow the beat of Crown's drum.

Yet no one, including myself, is anti-development and particularly on what has long been a redundant series of sites on a prominent part of Queensbridge St. Southbank will be so much better for its redevelopment.

But the manner in which this has been approved really is unfathomable in so many regards. Where to begin?

Let's start with trying to understand the planning exemption of 'state significance,' for which this was approved under. Or was it?

The Premier himself had referred to it as "truly state significant" and a spokesperson for Minister Wynne initially provided the following statement:

"One Queensbridge Street, which delivers \$2.1 billion in economic impact and 4000 jobs, while exempted from the controls on the basis of its state significance, was



approved within the spirit of these controls."

Under s201F of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, 'state significance' is a formal declaration and is often used for public infrastructure projects.

When I pursued my original enquiry for a list of other projects that had been approved under this exemption (which I now know includes projects such as the Melbourne Museum), the spokesperson changed their tune.

"Queensbridge Street has been determined as being 'In the interests of Victoria,'" the spokesperson said.

'In the interests of Victoria' is the wording used regarding s20 (4) decisions, and can be used for public infrastructure projects. It's an entirely different exemption to the one the government has spruiked in press releases and to other media following the approval.

Based on my experience and having read several other news reports that also used the term "state significance" I'm not convinced by the minister attempting to brand the approval anything otherwise.

While Crown's tower is more aligned within 'The Interests of Victoria,' the Government suggesting that a new hotel is significant

to the state or is public infrastructure is, as Freshwater Place OC Chairman Peter Renner put it, "a joke".

But the jokes don't stop there! Next we have Minister Wynne's public benefits package to open.

While Southbank will be pleased to see a makeover of the promenade and Queensbridge Square, these areas are tourism epicentres. Just what Crown wants. From a local perspective, \$100 million of such 'benefits' represents an opportunity lost for real community infrastructure. But hey, at least we get a sky deck...

And more broadly, at a time when so many of our most vulnerable Melburnians are doing it tough, most would make the case for public housing over public realm improvements any day.

And then there's the Lord Mayor Robert Doyle. In case you hadn't heard, Cr Rohan Leppert moved a motion at the Future Melbourne Committee meeting last month requesting that council's planning officers complete a report to assess Crown's planning scheme amendment to be published on its website. Some transparency for the public, which is devoid of a voice on what is the largest building ever approved in our city.

However, the Lord Mayor and ultimately his team were forced to declare a conflict of interest having accepted an election donation from Harold Mitchell, who just happens to sit on the board of Crown.

We could talk for days about the minister compromising his new C270 planning controls or how in opposition his government opposed many aspects of the project, including the sky-bridge or overshadowing of the Shrine.

In short, this approval has made a mockery of the planning process. Will we now see other developers pushing through hotels on the grounds of state significance or 'In the interests of Victoria?' The government's anything goes approach in this instance suggests nothing is impossible.

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Residents will soon know more about the City of Melbourne's Boyd Park project.

Deal on park imminent

The Southbank community will soon know more about its future public park at the Boyd Community Hub.

Southbank Local News understands that the City of Melbourne has set a date of March 31 for developer Cairo Melbourne Pty Ltd to sign a contract for the purchase of the land.

It's also understood that council plans to commence development of the park this year, regardless of whether the developer signs the contract or not.

While it's expected that the sale of the land will go ahead, council would reevaluate whether or not to put the site back to the open market should Cairo fail to put pen to paper by the end of March.

Having originally torn up its contract with developer Mackie in May last year, the council controversially announced that it had reentered into an agreement with the same developer, which is now operating under the name Cairo.

A taller order for Hanover

The owner of Hanover House on the corner of City Rd and Power St in Southbank is seeking to add another 24-levels to an already approved 43-level building.

Having already received approval for a 151-metre tower in 2010, Eastern International Property Group has requested to amend its permit and increase its building's height to 218 metres and 67-storeys.

The matter went before City of Melbourne councillors at its Future Melbourne Committee meeting on March 7 shortly after Southbank Local News published its March edition.

Council's planning officers advised councillors not to support the proposal in its recommendation, with Minister for Planning

Richard Wynne to have the final say on the amended plans.

Planning officers noted a number of concerns in their report regarding inadequate setbacks, wind impacts and poor internal amenity. It also stated that by virtue of its height, the building would dominate the desired urban form for Power St and represented an overdevelopment of the site.

If approved, the new building would comprise 556 dwellings, 96 serviced apartments, office and retail spaces and a supermarket.



A render of the ground floor podium.

Residents fight Crown approval

Continued from page 1.

Crown will provide \$25 million to upgrade Queensbridge Square, \$15 million for the Sandridge Rail Bridge and \$25 million for landscaping and public realm works along Queensbridge St, Southbank Promenade and Southbank Boulevard.

Not included in the amendment nor the government's press release was \$35 million for a public sky deck on the building's top floor and residents have questioned the benefit to the community.

And with a plot ratio of 57:1, the development far exceeds the planning minister's new C270 planning controls approved in December, which stipulates a maximum plot-ratio of 18:1.

Under C270, developer contributions are calculated under a floor area uplift scheme defined by plot ratio. 57:1 would suggest that the required uplift would far exceed \$100 million, which Peter Renner described as a "free kick" for Crown.

SRA president Tony Penna said he was



"absolutely disgusted" by the secrecy of the State Government.

"There is a mechanism for the community

and the City of Melbourne to have a say for applications where the Minister is the responsible authority," he said. "We were robbed of this opportunity through this surprise announcement."

"Were they afraid of what feedback us stakeholders might have offered? The so-called community benefit trade-offs will benefit only one player in our community and that is Crown."

With the application still required to pass through the Legislative Council in State Parliament, Mr Renner told Southbank Local News he had met with opposition planning minister David Davis to encourage his party to reject the amendment.

With Labor only holding 14 seats in the upper house of 40, there are enough non-government numbers to dismiss the application and send it to a planning tribunal for review.

Mr Renner said the Freshwater OC was considering all options to fight the proposal, including legal avenues.



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VEC orders the removal of Cr Caiafa

By Shane Scanlan and Sean Car

In an unprecedented move, the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) has actively sought the removal of sitting Councillor Michael Caiafa from Melbourne City Council.

It comes after the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) overturned a magistrate's decision, potentially paving the way for a return to Melbourne City Council of former Team Doyle councillor Susan Riley.

On February 27, VCAT President, Justice Greg Garde, overturned a magistrate's ruling which would have resulted in a "countback" of votes cast at the October 22 election.

Instead, Justice Garde has ordered an alternative method of calculating votes – a "recount" – predicted to favour Ms Riley at the expense of sitting Cr Michael Caiafa.

Cr Caiafa has said he would appeal to the Supreme Court if unseated, so it may still be months before the final make up to the council is known.

Election candidate Nic Frances Gilley is expected to be offered an 11th councillor position regardless of whether a count-back or recount method is used.

Justice Garde gave candidates the chance to have their say at a hearing on March 7, where

in an unprecedented move by an electoral body, the VEC distributed orders formally requesting that the judge remove Cr Caiafa and replace him with Susan Riley.

The two hour hearing heard a 40-minute submission from former Cr Stephen Mayne, who has long argued for a countback to determine the 11th councillor seat.

The City of Melbourne has been without its 11th councillor since declared-successful candidate Brooke Wandin was found to be incorrectly enrolled and resigned her position before being sworn in.

In his submission, Mr Mayne told Justice Garde that had he known Brooke Wandin was ineligible he would have preferred Susan Riley lower. He stated that he didn't want the VEC intervention leading to his preferences handing Team Doyle a majority on council.

As a member of the Lord Mayor's team, a Susan Riley return would result in Team Doyle taking up six of the 11 council seats.

Justice Garde reserved his final decision on

March 7, which he is expected to announce this month.

Magistrate Michael Smith in the Municipal Electoral Tribunal (MET) on December 5 disqualified Brooke Wandin and ruled that the "countback" method be used.

But Victorian Electoral Commissioner Warwick Gately quickly objected to this methodology and on December 8 appealed the decision to VCAT.

Justice Garde agrees with Mr Gately's view that a "recount" should be conducted as if Ms Wandin had been a "retired" candidate.

And, although he has not formally made such a declaration, he listed eight reasons why it was the correct method to use.

At the February 21 hearing, Justice Garde adjourned proceedings after hearing the VEC's case and arriving at a decision that the effect of recalculating the votes without Ms Wandin's presence should be known.

Mr Mayne had argued that recalculations for three "scenarios" be known before the

tribunal reconvened – the "recount", the "countback" and another showing the effect of the disqualification of both Ms Wandin and her running mate, Nic Frances Gilley.

But Justice Garde has opted to ask the VEC for only the effects of the "recount", saying the tribunal's duty was to "determine how the recount is conducted and to make the necessary orders to see that it occurs".

It was previously understood that Mr Frances Gilley was not interested in the 11th councillor position and it was thought it would flow to Southbank's Joe Sarraf.

However, the February 21 VCAT hearing was told he had changed his mind and would now take the role if offered. The VEC contended that votes cast for Ms Wandin were "tainted" and needed to be removed before a recount was conducted.

Ms Wandin and former councillor Richard Foster are facing charges for allegedly making false declarations about Ms Wandin's address. Their cases are next listed for further mention in the Melbourne Magistrates Court on March 15.

Red stair to go!

It might sadden some locals to know that Southbank's signature red stair at Queensbridge Square will be removed.

However, one might also suspect that its removal will also be the cause of celebration for many! The controversial landmark has divided opinion since its construction in 2005.

While Southbank's answer to the great landmarks of the world such as Paris's Eiffel Tower and New York's Statue of Liberty is widely recognised, it's often been for the wrong reasons!

The City of Melbourne's director of city design and projects Prof. Rob Adams

revealed the news at last month's Yarra River Business Association (YRBA) luncheon, confirming its removal as part of the future redevelopment of Queensbridge Square.

"Will the red stair go? Yes," he said. "I had one of the dubious privileges of designing the red stair and it was really there just to hide the entrance into the casino."

"Part of the proposal to redo Queensbridge Square will be to put a facility over that and that could be a cafe or something that will help activate that space for 24 hours rather than just something you walk past."



The days of Southbank's famous Red Stair at Queensbridge Square are numbered.

Loss of an icon or overdue demolition of an eyesore? Send your ideas of what should replace the red stair to news@southbanklocalnews.com.au

Find out Rob Adams had to say in his presentation to the YRBA on the transformation of Southbank Boulevard on page 10.



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A new park for Southbank

Malaysian Developer OSK Property has announced that works on stage one of its six-tower development Melbourne Square on Kavanagh St will commence later this year.

The Victorian Government's Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) has endorsed stage one of the MCG-sized vertical village, which is set to transform what has long been a car park.

And in good news for the Southbank community, stage one will deliver the project's wealth of public amenities, including a new park and a network of green spaces totaling over 3700 sqm.

Stage one will not only encompass the dynamic realm with a central park, but also mixed-use community and retail facilities including a supermarket and childcare centre.

The first stage will also feature the construction of the first two residential skyscrapers, with latter stages to include two more residential towers, a hotel, commercial offices and a shopping centre.

OSK Property director Tan Sri Ong Leong Huat said the endorsement was a key milestone for the project.

"We hope it will be a place for people of all ages to enjoy, with its beautiful public park drawing people in from across the city," he said.

"This is an important project for Southbank's



The view of Melbourne from the top of two of OSK Property's six towers for Kavanagh St. Construction will commence this year.

future and provides the delivery of critical community infrastructure in this popular suburb."

Designed by Cox Architecture, the highly-anticipated project will not only provide Southbank a green heart and important community infrastructure but will give Kavanagh St all the makings of a great central

street that Southbank has been longing for.

Cox Architecture director Ian Sutter said Melbourne Square was one of the only remaining opportunities to fulfill the City of Melbourne's vision for a more verdant Southbank.

"A deliberate decision was made to

significantly exceed the open space area requirements for Southbank – we believe this is an essential feature in providing a superior quality of life for the community."

The two towers to be delivered as part of stage one will comprise more than 1000 apartments. Sales along with construction will commence later this year.

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Where is the real power at Town Hall?

Stephen Mayne

In his first column with *Southbank News*, former councillor Stephen Mayne exposes a common misconception



There is a great misconception out there that councillors hold the power at City of Melbourne. Alas, truth be told, it is the officers who are really in control.

Part-time councillors come and go but the highly paid full-time officers endure and, in the end, they usually win.

Under the Local Government Act, the only employee who councillors can hire is the CEO. But once hired, the CEO is very much in charge of the organisation, controlling the meeting agendas, flow of information, deployment of staff and allocation of resources.

The capital works budget is arguably the best example of officer control. There is a Capital Works Committee chaired by Professor Rob Adams but it only comprises officers. As councillor chair of the finance and governance committee from 2012 until 2016, I was never invited to this committee and never saw any agendas or minutes leading up to the budget.

In 2016, the draft budget was only released to councillors a day before the media lock-up and the granularity on individual capital works projects remained sparse because officers had successfully resisted my push for disclosure of individual capital works projects over a 10-year period.

The enterprise agreement is another prime example of officer power. Negotiations on a new agreement are continuing but this four-year contract is literally the largest commitment of rate-payer money that City of Melbourne enters into, amounting to more than \$500 million over a four-year council term.

Councillors may get to vote on dozens

of tiddler contracts worth a few hundred thousand dollars (which, like the hundreds of grants dished out, are rarely changed from the officer recommendation), but we have no involvement in the enterprise agreement. It has been a succession of CEOs, not the councillors, who have made City of Melbourne employees the best paid local government workers in Australia. The 2015-16 annual report reveals City of Melbourne had a staggering 169 staff earning more than \$139,000.

All this largesse on the staff has squeezed council's capacity to deliver more capital works projects, such as fixing up Harbour Esplanade.

Achieving change is never easy as an individual councillor and often encounters resistance from the officers. Take reform of council's audit committee and internal audit

function – a closed book if ever there was one.

Having arm-wrestled through a commitment at the start of the last four-year term for City of Melbourne to aspire to become Australia's most open and transparent council, it wasn't until year four that we finally turned our attention to the audit committee process.

However, when asked if there was a single change they would recommend for increased public visibility of the audit function, the officers couldn't think of any, even though Tony Abbott's local council at Warringah was publicly releasing internal audit reports.

In the end, as often happened, the only way to ensure something got done was by way of councillor motion.

Councillors duly requested the audit committee to suggest changes and it came back with a raft of amendments which elevated the status of the audit committee, increased the ability of independent members to communicate directly with councillors and provided some public visibility on their excellent work.

The officers lost some control, but the sky hasn't fallen in.



New plan goes out for comment

The City of Port Phillip has released a revised streetscape design for the Ferrars St education and community precinct, which is now available for the public to make comment on.

The community has until Friday, March 10 to provide feedback on the new proposed design, which was shaped by a round of consultation late last year.

The council has been provided more time to revise a more informed plan for the precinct after the State Government informed it in December that it didn't have the required developer contributions available to fund the project under its original timeframe.

Mayor Bernadene Voss said Council was eager to receive feedback on the proposed design.

"We have listened to community concerns and the revised streetscape offers dedicated drop off zones for the South Melbourne Ferrars Street Primary School, due to open in 2018, and more short-term on-street parking for visitors to the precinct," Cr Voss said.

"It's less than a year before the new school opens and we are excited about the benefits this project will bring to our growing community."

The updated plan provides 20 angle parking spaces on the school side of Douglas St for those visiting residents and businesses, as well as a new loading zone on Meaden St for business drop-offs.

Enhanced drop off zones for the new school have been included on Kerr, Ferrars and Whiteman streets providing 26 time-limited parking spaces, while a new bus zone has also been included on Kerr St.

To provide feedback or for more information, visit haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au by March 10. Community feedback will be reviewed before council considers a report to endorse the design on April 5.

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The former site of the Castlemaine Brewery on Queensbridge St has been listed for permanent planning protection.

Heritage protected

The City of Melbourne has made an urgent request to the Minister for Planning to place permanent heritage protection controls on four Southbank sites of historical significance.

Councillors were provided an update on stage one of the *Southbank and Fishermans Bend Heritage Review* at its Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting on February 21.

The Castlemaine Brewery Site at 107-117, 129-131 and 133 Queensbridge St, the former PMG postal workshops at 45-99 Sturt St, the former Crown Chemical Warehouse at 63-65 City Rd and the former GP Motors Site at 35-41 City Rd were all identified in the review.

Councillors unanimously voted in favour of planning scheme amendment C276, which requests that Minister for Planning Richard Wynne place interim controls on Queensbridge St and part of the Sturt St site.

As part of the motion, the City of Melbourne will also request that minister Wynne implement permanent controls on all four sites under amendment C280.

However, while local resident and heritage groups have welcomed council's efforts, they say it may be too late to save some of the buildings from demolition.

Of the four sites in question, the owners of the buildings at 63-65 City Rd and 45-99 Sturt St currently hold active planning permits, which authorise the demolition of both buildings.

While C280 seeks to permanently protect all buildings, these controls will now only come into effect should either of the permits not be acted upon.

The owner of 35-41 City Rd has also lodged

a planning application, which seeks to demolish the Opera Australia building to make way for a 23-storey tower.

President of the Australian Art Deco and Modernism Society Robin Grow said it was disappointing that protection hadn't been placed on the sites sooner.

"We've been concerned for some time about the lack of protection accorded by the planning scheme for the four sites," he said.

"The South Melbourne Heritage Study identified these sites as worthy of heritage protection in 1997. It's disappointing that 20 years on council is finally considering including them in the planning scheme but better late than never."

Melbourne Heritage Action president Tristan Davies praised council's initiative and said it was important to protect the little remaining heritage Southbank had left.

"Heritage is dwindling in Southbank and I think besides the heritage issues it's important that we move forward with amendments like this to improve the streetscapes and the amenity of this area."

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said he was "delighted" to support the initiative, stating that he felt it was important to preserve the heritage value of Southbank's industrial past for future generations.

Clarke St endorsed

City of Melbourne councillors unanimously endorsed a 70-storey application for 51-65 Clarke St, Southbank at the Future Melbourne Committee meeting on February 7.

Developer New City Lane (One) Pty Ltd has submitted a proposal for a 233-metre tower comprising 565 new apartments and over 1000 sqm of ground level space for retail, office and outdoor seating.

However, it's the public benefit contributions that made this Elenberg Fraser designed proposal a sure thing for councillors, with the developer agreeing to contribute \$1.6 million towards the City Rd master plan.

As part of its contribution, public realm improvements will be made in the proximity of the building on Clarke St, Catherine St and Hancock St, as well as the new public space at the Kings Way southern undercroft.

While Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) president Tony Penna supported the project, he questioned why more hadn't been done to encourage the developer to include more three-bedroom apartments.

Out of the building's 565 new apartments, the development provides only 10 three bedroom apartments, which Mr Penna said wouldn't help attract families to the area.

"It's the chicken and the egg," he said. "If we don't get those three-bedroom apartments in these developments then we are not going to be attracting families to the suburb."

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said all apartments complied with the State Government's better apartment guidelines by providing flexible floor plans, which meant more three-bedroom apartments could be created.

"One of those guidelines is a flexible floor plan that will allow a future amalgamation of apartments into larger apartments," he said.

"It's regrettable, we agree, but there is nevertheless the future capability for people to create three and four bedroom apartments because of the better apartment guidelines."

The application was submitted during the government's previous C262 interim planning controls, which allowed for a larger plot ratio of 24:1. The current plot ratio under C270 is 18:1.

Cr Rohan Leppert said while the development was larger than what would have been allowed under current planning laws; it had resulted in greater public benefit.



A render of the proposal for 51-65 Clarke St. w

"The public benefit that has been arrived at by going above the C262 plot ratio is good and is a good example of what can be done," he said.

The application will now go to Minister for Planning Richard Wynne for final approval.



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River committee appointed

By Shane Scanlan

The long-awaited, but likely ineffectual, Lower Yarra River Advisory Committee has been appointed.

The committee is to be chaired by Parks Victoria board member Christine Trotman, with other members being City of Melbourne director Linda Weatherson and private sector appointee Jonathan Metcalfe.

The formation of the committee is a watered-down outcome flowing from the November 2015 recommendations of the Lower Yarra River Use Future Directions Group (LYRUFDDG).

That group recommended that a management committee be appointed to oversee a transition of governance from Parks Victoria and the City of Melbourne to a new single entity.

The group was unanimous in recommending that the committee be headed by an “independent and influential” chair.

Similarly, there was no dissent from its recommendation that: “a new local port be established and the port manager effectively becomes the single entity and it be directed to appoint a management committee.”

Fragmented and bureaucratic waterways governance has been identified by the Docklands Community Forum as one three major obstacles to be overcome if Docklands is to reach its full potential.

However, former Environment Minister Lisa Neville did not accept the LYRUFDDG’s recommendations and instead allowed Parks Victoria to establish the Lower Yarra River Advisory Committee. Minister Neville later told a deputation from the Docklands Chamber of Commerce that the new committee would, in fact, transition governance to an independent single entity but this objective appears to have been

lost since Ms Neville has been replaced as minister.

In announcing the Lower Yarra River Advisory Committee on February 9, the current Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D’Ambrosio said the committee would “provide advice on potential improvements to governing arrangements and management of the Lower Yarra River, aligning the work of Parks Victoria and the City of Melbourne.”

The press release announcing the committee said: “They will help develop a strategy and advise on the allocation of commercial berths and identify future funding needs for the waterway.”

“Christine Trotman has spent most of her career in the not-for-profit sector and currently chairs the Australian Institute of Company Directors Regional Council for Gippsland and is an independent member of the Audit and Risk Committees for East Gippsland Water and Uniting Care Gippsland.”

“Linda Weatherson is the Director of City Operations at the City of Melbourne, where she has worked for 27 years overseeing the Arts Melbourne, Community Services, Health and Wellbeing, Libraries and Recreation and Social Investment branches.”

“Jonathan Metcalfe is the principal for JNM Advisory Pty Ltd, a specialist management advisory service providing guidance to governments and private companies.”

“The new committee will help support our vision for the future of the Lower Yarra to remain a key feature that makes Melbourne one of the world’s most liveable cities.”

Ms D’Ambrosio said: “This is a great group of experienced and qualified professionals and I have every faith that they will help deliver a positive future for the Lower Yarra so business, tourism and locals can make the most of this great waterway for years to come.”

Ms Trotman was unavailable for interview.

A Parks Victoria spokesperson said: “Christine Trotman has considerable board and committee experience and currently serves on the Boards of Parks Victoria and People and Parks Foundation. She is very informed.”

When appointing Ms Trotman to the Parks Victoria Board in 2015, the government said: “Ms Christine Trotman – chief executive officer of Cooina Hill, a disability support service based in the Latrobe Valley. She has held management and executive roles in health and education, and has tertiary qualifications in nursing, health education, business and accounting.”

In November 2015, the LYRUFDDG was unanimous in recommending:

- “1. That a single entity be charged with implementing the vision for the Lower Yarra;”
- “2. That a new local port be established and the port manager effectively becomes the single entity and it be directed to appoint a management committee.”
- “3. The management committee be headed by an independent and influential chair charged with implementing the vision and working with all relevant agencies to generally oversee and coordinate management of all issues pertaining to the development and management of the two rivers.”

The report went on to say: “There was much debate about the degree of autonomy granted to the management committee with the private sector wanting to maximise the autonomy but accepting continued involvement of Parks Victoria as an interim solution.”

Docklands News understands that, despite universal acceptance of the need for a single management entity, the formation of the new Lower Yarra River Advisory Committee is the 15th such body to be formed in the last 20 years.



CCTV images of two women and a man police believe may be able to assist with their enquiries.

Vehicle theft

The Melbourne Vehicle Crime Reduction Team is investigating the theft of a car and motorcycle, which were stolen from the same Southbank car park in two separate incidents.

Police have been told three offenders entered the Whiteman Street secure car park at about 6am on Monday, December 26, driving a stolen blue Holden sedan, and stole a 1997 Mitsubishi coupe with registration RNO681.

Investigators believe two of the same offenders returned to the car park on Tuesday, January 3 about 5.30am, this time driving a green Ford Fairmont sedan with a damaged headlight.

On this occasion they made off with a 2010 Triumph motorcycle registration 1L8ZE.

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

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential crime report at

www.crimestoppersvic.com.au






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Prof. Adams talks Southbank Boulevard

The City of Melbourne’s director of city design Professor Rob Adams gave an insightful presentation to local businesses on the future transformation of Southbank Boulevard last month.

Speaking at the Yarra River Business Association’s (YRBA) networking luncheon at Eureka Skydeck on February 23, Prof. Adams informed businesses that plans to create 2.5 hectares of new open space in Southbank were well advanced.

“The current budget has been formulated on the basis that the design and the tender will be done over the next nine months and then it will go to a build in the next calendar year,” he said.

As part of council’s strategy to provide more open space in Southbank, it will convert half of Southbank Boulevard and Dodds St (up to Grant St) into a linear park.

Having once provided a direct link into the city, the top end of Southbank Boulevard was closed in 2006 to make way for the construction of Queensbridge Square.

Prof. Adams said since the closure, it has gone from carrying 30,000 vehicles per day to 13,000 and this ultimately presented an opportunity to repurpose the space.

“You often explore a city by nature of walking around the city and discovering its spaces and places,” he said. “Most of that happens in the streets so good cities normally have a good street environment.”

“As you walk along it will have the character that is continuous from the gardens right through to the river. Within those spaces there will be different opportunities for tranquility, play, recreation, hospitality and the opportunity to spill those cafes outside the recital centre onto the street.”

Here is a snapshot of what Prof. Adams had to say around some of the key issues affecting the project:

On Crown Casino’s developer contribution:

“A lot of that investment will go into the bottom end of Southbank Boulevard from City Rd down to the river. We will have control over the design solution of all of Crown’s contributions.”

On the impact to traffic:

“One thing that is declining in the city is that businesses are on the increase; residents are on the increase; the general prosperity is on the increase but the number of cars in the central city is decreasing and that’s a fact.”

“We’ve completely modeled the peak hour and looked at the cars and, in fact, there are actually some improvements here that will help traffic move through here a little faster.”

On collaborating with the Arts Precinct:

“What we do with too many of our institutions is we internalize. We put all the interesting stuff behind closed doors where people can’t see it.”

“For the ABC to be able to be able to come out onto that space whether it be an orchestra or something like that to use that space is something that we’re looking at.”

On cycling:

“I hope I’m not letting the cat out of the bag too soon but we have been working really hard to get a bike route going through the park as a diversion,” he said.

“That doesn’t solve the whole problem but it takes a big chunk of the promenade out.”

For more information visit participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/southbankboulevard



Prof. Rob Adams presents to the YRBA last month.



A render of the proposal for 83-89 Coventry St, Southbank looking from Dodds St.

Coventry contention

By Sean Car

The City of Melbourne has already received 19 objections to a proposal for a 20-storey residential tower at 83-89 Coventry St.

While council’s planning officers are still assessing the application, it comes as yet another contentious tall proposal in Southbank’s low-rise precinct.

However, being located on the southern side of Coventry St where there is a discretionary 40-metre height control, it is likely that the 59-metre proposal will get the nod.

It is also located close to the 50-metre tall Sunday Apartments at 63 Coventry St and backs on to the 73-metre Kings Domain at 68-70 Dorcas St, which is currently under

construction.

Developer R&Y Pty Ltd has included 143 new one, two and three bedroom apartments in its proposal, as well as 71 car parking spaces within a two level basement accessible from Wells Place. The ground floor will also feature 244 sqm of new retail space.

It is not yet known when the application will go before councillors at a Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting.

What do you think about this development? Send your thoughts to news@southbanklocalnews.com.au

2017 Southbank Community Nights

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February 27th

Jazz and Shiraz
(Free wine tasting)

March 27th

Opera – The Three Tenors

April 24th

How to make fresh pasta
(with Bella Ciao)

May 29th

Opera Spectacular
(with Tamara Vasilevitsky)

June 26th

Jazz and Shiraz

July 31st

Christmas in July
(Italian Yum Cha)

August 28th

The Three Sopranos

September 25th

Neapolitan Theme Night
(with Bella Ciao)

October 30th

Jazz and Shiraz

November 27th

The Three Tenors

Major Sponsors



Meet councillor Pearl

As the third City of Port Philip councillor representing the Montague Precinct, newly elected Cr Marcus Pearl says he looks forward to playing a key advocacy role for current and future residents.

Alongside Mayor Bernadene Voss and new Greens councillor Ogy Simic, Cr Pearl will represent the Gateway Ward, which covers Montague and Fishermans Bend.

A long-time resident of the City of Port Phillip living with wife Prudence and daughter Clementine, Cr Pearl has been an active and passionate member of the local community for many years.

A pragmatic, personable, and charismatic figure, Cr Pearl has an extensive financial services and business background having previously worked in financial markets throughout Asia Pacific and held a senior role at ANZ Bank.

While he serves as a councillor, he will also continue in his current role as the CEO of finance and insurance company Primacy Underwriting Management; a testament to the work ethic that got him elected.

“I said during the election that I wouldn’t go into this role unless I thought I could do it to the full amount and I intend to do that in terms of the allocation of my time and also advocating for peoples’ positions,” he said.

“I spend most of my time outside of my day job going to as many community events as I possibly can and meeting as many people as I possibly can. During the election campaign I personally knocked on more than 5000



New City of Port Phillip Councillor Marcus Pearl.

doors and that’s what people expect you to do in local government.”

Having been elected to the new look council of nine, he described the current group of councillors as “highly intelligent” and “diverse”. Some of his main issues of concern include budget allocation and financial management, education and restoring integrity in planning.

And as a key representative of Fishermans Bend, he said he looked forward to tackling the many planning challenges facing both

existing and future communities of the Montague Precinct.

“My advocacy role is ensuring infrastructure meets the demand of the people moving in there and the people that are activating the area whether they be going to school or using the area for business,” he said.

“It’s an area that is transitioning and we need to make sure that transition respects everyone’s wishes; those who live there now and those who are going to be there 20 years from now.”

Man charged over stabbing

A man has been charged over the stabbing of a local worker at Southbank Promenade on Friday, February 24.

A 21-year-old man was arrested in Greensborough on February 27 in relation to the incident.

He was later interviewed by police and charged with numerous offences including intentionally causing serious injury, causing serious injury and reckless conduct causing serious injury.

A 24-year-old man sustained non-life threatening abdominal injuries during the incident.

Police were told that the victim, who had just finished work at a nearby restaurant, went to the assistance of a woman who was being assaulted by another man.

As the victim attempted to intervene, the man produced a knife and stabbed the victim in the left side of his abdomen.

Following the stabbing, the offender ran off along Yarra Promenade while the victim approached a near-by parking attendant for help.

He was taken to hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

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Left to right: Freshwater Place building manager Mike Zverina, artist Jennifer Webb and resident Irene Ward

A Freshwater feature

The Owners’ Corporation (OC) at Freshwater Place last month unveiled a stunning new series of Melbourne inspired artwork, which is now displayed in the building’s lobby.

Local artist Jennifer Webb was commissioned by the OC to paint a ‘A Suite of 3 – Yarra Series’, which features our beautiful river at night lit up by some of Southbank’s most iconic landmarks including Freshwater Place.

The beautiful series of paintings was unveiled by Jennifer, Freshwater Place building manager Mike Zverina and Freshwater Place’s first resident of more than 10 years Irene Ward at a ceremony on Friday, February 10.

The displays are just another example of why Freshwater Place continues to lead the

way in apartment living in Southbank and Jennifer told residents she was honoured to have her work featured in the building.

“I’m delighted to receive this commission because I’ve done a lot of private commissions but I really love the fact that some of my Melbourne series is now going to be seen by a larger audience,” she said.

“It’s heartwarming for me because I’m still a little infatuated with Melbourne and I hope you very much enjoy this series.”

For more information on Jennifer’s Melbourne series visit portart.com.au

The Evermore launches

A new development, which is set to enliven an inactive part of Dorcas St, officially launched to the public last month.

The new twin tower development The Evermore at 58-66 Dorcas St held its official launch on Saturday, March 18, which was attended by over 150 groups.

Developed by Landence Group and designed by prominent local architect Hayball, the development features two 24-storey towers that will comprise over 400 new one, two and three bedroom apartments.

Landence Group CEO Helen Li said that the new development had been very well received by all who attended the launch for both its location and its luxurious residential and street level amenities.

“With a premium retail offering on ground level, arrival through a hotel style porte cochère and an impressive six-metre high grand lobby, The Evermore will certainly make an impressive statement,” she said.

“Adjacent to the Royal Botanic Gardens and the convenience of South Melbourne Market and Melbourne’s famous coffee culture on its doorstep, the location is unbeatable.”

Construction will commence later this year. The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2019.



Guests arrive at Dorcas St for the launch last month.



Plenary Operations Manager Darren Southurst provides an update on MCEC’s expansion last month.

Expansion takes shape

The \$300 million expansion of the South Wharf precinct is well on track for scheduled completion early next year.

Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) gave *Southbank Local News* a site tour last month to see how the exciting transformation of the precinct was taking shape.

With construction of the multi-level car park nearing completion, work is already well underway on the adjoining 331-room hotel, which will be operated by new owners Action Hotels.

With construction led by Probuild, major

works have also commenced on MCEC’s new exhibition space, which will add an additional 17,500 sqm of exhibition and adaptable event spaces to the precinct.

Upon completion, MCEC will have over 40,000 sqm of pillar-less exhibition space, which will make it Australia’s biggest convention and exhibition centre.

To stay up to date with the project visit mcec.com.au/expansion

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THE ARTS PRECINCT



Our Arts Precinct grows!

Story by Sean Car / Photos by Melanie Desa
From page 1

Just when you thought our vibrant Arts Precinct couldn't get any bigger, the highly anticipated launch of Creative Spaces at The Guild last month saw even more creative institutions officially move into Southbank.

Over 200 people helped celebrate the unveiling of the transformed spaces on February 23, which the National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA) and Melbourne Fringe now call home.

The development, which has transformed over 1000 sqm of previously vacant retail space into a collection of arts spaces, was carried out through the City of Melbourne's Creative Spaces program in partnership with Creative Victoria.

Despite having always been earmarked for creative uses, the ground floor spaces have remained vacant since The Guild's completion in 2012 and many residents had doubted that the vision would ever be realised.

Speaking to guests at the launch, Lord Mayor Robert Doyle

commended the hard work of those involved in the project for turning vision into "a wonderful reality".

"To be honest, although it is a remarkable building and although the people here bought into this building with the expectation that this would be an arts hub, I thought it was probably a bridge too far," he said.

"Thank you to all who've been such an integral part of making what I was a little skeptical about into a wonderful reality. It will change the nature of this street and I think that is a wonderful thing."

Along with its two new tenants, The Guild is now also home to a new co-working space for theatre producers and creatives, a rehearsal space for hire, a curated public gallery, offices, a boardroom and the new cafe Godot.

Award-winning architecture practice Archier, is the project architect responsible for the design and fit out of the co-working studio and Melbourne Fringe office, while the new

cafe Godot has been designed by Aktis.

The project has responded to community and creative sector demand by providing access to affordable arts space and ensuring more artists continue to create and work in the city.

Creative Victoria Deputy Secretary Andrew Abbott described the new space as a "gem" that would provide major benefits to local residents and Southbank's thriving Arts Precinct.

"It's hard to imagine Southbank now home to a thriving creative and residential community was once Melbourne's backdoor. It was a place you may have parked your car on the way to the city," he said.

"You may have even purchased a used car here and today this area has one of the highest concentrations of arts and cultural organisations in the world and now thanks to the Guild, that number will grow even more."

For more information creativespaces.net.au/managed-space/creative-spaces-guild

Marathon on a treadmill

By Sunny Liu

Melbourne artist Tristan Meecham is set to conquer 42km on a treadmill live on stage as part of Fun Run at Arts Centre Melbourne on March 12.

Award-winning comedian and host Eddie Perfect, as well as dancers from Indigenous Hip Hop and Outer Urban Projects will join Mr Meecham. Cheerleaders, cyclists, hundreds of performers, Fun Run participants and performance company All the Queens Men will also join in the fun.

This “riotous celebration of endurance” is part of the Betty Amsden Participating Program and will be held in memory of the Melbourne arts philanthropist who passed away last month.

People from all ages are encouraged to

join the Fun Run flash mob to bust a move and hype up the vibe of this public event. Everyone can come along to the workshops and the rehearsal on March 10. Instructional videos are also available online.

Arts Centre Melbourne’s creative producer Patrick Cronin said Fun Run could strengthen the community bond.

“Fun Run brings together artists, communities and the public in an outdoor extravaganza where sport meets art meets dance party,” he said. “We invite everyone to join in this extraordinary celebration of the every-person and our boundless creativity.”



Tristan Meecham will slog out 42km on a treadmill.

The star of the event, Mr Meecham, is the artistic director at All the Queens Men. He will dedicate his Fun Run performance in homage to Greek messenger Pheidippides, who ran a long distance to deliver the news of the defeat of the Persian army in the Battle of Marathon in ancient Greece.

Mr Meecham is expected to run 42km within three hours.

Watson brings laughs and scares to MICF

By Sunny Liu

Watson’s new horror comedy “Go To Hell!” will make the Malthouse Theatre audience both laugh and cringe at this year’s Melbourne International Comedy Festival.

The comedy trio first tried out this unique genre in 2015, when they lured people into an abandoned jail for a night of spooky storytelling as part its “Who’s Afraid of the Dark” performance. They subsequently won the award for Best Comedy at Melbourne Fringe 2015.

This year Watson plans to create plenty of light and dark moments at the Coopers Malthouse in Southbank. Watson’s Adam McKenzie said “Go To Hell!” would generate “just as many laughs as scares”.

“It can be light, fluffy and scary. We guarantee that people will have a great time,” he said. “The audience will leave feeling they have experienced something they have never



Watson will perform at Malthouse Theatre this month.

encountered before.”

Mr McKenzie, who is a multi-award winning writer, actor and comedian, wrote the script with the other Watson members Tegan

Higginbotham and Liam Ryan.

Mr McKenzie also said the Malthouse theatre was an “incredible” venue for its performances.

“It’s a great privilege to be able to perform at such a beautiful space. There will also be cinematic sound effects that will give the audience an authentic experience,” he said.

“Go To Hell!” is directed by Tripod’s Steven Gates and is a recipient of the 2017 Moosehead Awards, a highly regarded prize within the Australian comedy community. It will run from March 30 to April 23 at the Coopers Malthouse.

Paris Combo is coming back

By Sunny Liu

The globally acclaimed French band Paris Combo is making a comeback at Melbourne Recital Centre on March 25.

It has been two years since Paris Combo made its last appearance in Australia during its concert tour in 2015, when it sold out more than 20 venues in the US and Australia.

This time the band will play its new album *Tako Tsubo*, meaning “broken heart” syndrome in Japanese.

Paris Combo’s 2000 album *Living Room* helped it achieve mainstream success and obtain a unique status as a French indie band appealing to an international audience for its diverse blend of modern French chanson, swinging gypsy jazz and sassy alternate pop.

The five-person band has spent two decades producing and showcasing its eclectic music and has released six albums to export the French culture.

Belle du Berry fronts the combo and her captivating voice is well supported by David Lewis, Potzi and Benoit Buoyer de Segonazac and Francoise Jeanin.

The band will perform at Melbourne Recital Centre’s Elisabeth Murdoch Hall. For more information visit melbournerecital.com.au





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MICHAEL THOMPSON



Michael's 'Self-Portrait with Mirrors,' which he has submitted in the Australian Professional Photography Awards in the open portraiture category.

An explorative approach

Having spent his whole life constantly learning, fourth year Photography Studies College (PSC) student Michael Thompson is using his study as a chance to keep absorbing everything in his path.

With qualifications in botany and microbiology, computer science and mandarin, Michael's last role prior to life at PSC was working for the Department of Defence for 20 years.

"I spent most of my life in science working for the government in science-IT areas and the other side of my brain never got used so I thought I'd do something different," he said.

"I've always taken photos but it's sort of a

bigger challenge for me because I find the artistic stuff more difficult with thinking outside the box."

For someone who enjoys learning so much, it comes as no surprise that Michael is extremely well travelled, which is where he said his interest in photography originally manifested.

While he said he had enjoyed learning some of the more creative aspects to photography, he had decided to major in photojournalism to complement his love for travel, people and culture.

"I like it all. That's my problem I can't focus easily on one thing because I'm enjoying all of it," he said.

"Instead of doing art or commercial I've gone with photojournalism because I kind of like the street photography side, it sort of suits my love of travel."

Since beginning life at PSC, Michael also runs an exhibition space in Ivanhoe called UpstArts, which he established in order to provide emerging photographers from PSC and abroad with a place to showcase their work.

He has also used the space to feature some of his own work, some of which recently featured in an exhibition *Five Perspectives*, which focused on the theme of identity.

His two series that featured in the exhibition, *Melbourne Cup* and *Jumping*, playfully explored this theme by exposing the glamour and self-absorption of a public event, while revealing the chaotic, kinesthetic joy in people in the other.

"For *Jumping* I got all the people one night who had had a drink to go upstairs and jump in the air in front a grey background and just caught them jumping," he said.

"They're all up in the gallery at the moment and they all loved that it was just a lot of fun."

He described PSC as a very friendly learning environment, which felt like a place "where you feel like you can come over for dinner."

And true to his philosophy that one never stops learning, he said he hoped to use his skills in photography in the future to help others in a mentoring capacity.

"I'd like to assist people in the future. Potentially just someone whose work I like, just help them out and get paid but I want to start off like the old apprentice I think," he said.

"There's a lot to learn. The more I learn the more there is to learn. I admire the quality of the students' work it's really good."

For more information on the UpstArts Gallery visit upstartsgallery.com.au



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Image by Michael Foxington

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STILETTO SISTERS

March 27 - Salon

In this two-concert series the Stiletto Sisters explore the rich and darkly humorous world of Yiddish song and the mysterious poetry of medieval Sephardic music as well as instrumental works that have taken Jewish music as their inspiration.

www.melbournerecital.com.au


PIECE FOR PERSON AND GHETTO BLASTER

March 15 - 26 - Malthouse Theatre

Presented as a part of Dance Massive, *Piece For Person and Ghetto Blaster* explores the ethical dilemma of whether to intervene or not, dancing in and out of a tangle of imagined repercussions for how one can potentially become a better person.

www.malthousetheatre.com.au


SOVEREIGNTY ARTISTS' TALKS

March 18 - ACCA

Join artists Steaphan Paton, Destiny Deacon and Virginia Fraser as they discuss their work included in ACCA's current exhibition *Sovereignty*.

FREE, everyone welcome. Bookings recommended.

www.accaonline.org.au


BEN HANLON & JAMES SHERLOCK DUO

April 4 - Salon

Virtuoso guitarist and winner of the Ike Isaacs International Jazz Guitar Award James Sherlock joins versatile double bassist Ben Hanlon for an intimate concert that melds jazz standards, classical re-imaginings, some original tunes and beautiful improvisations.

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

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.

www.ngv.vic.gov.au

PASSENGER

March 23 - 26 - Arts Centre Melbourne

Passenger is a theatre work, which places its audience inside a moving suburban bus. A conversation is heard between two fellow passengers and—as we gaze at the passing world outside—we are seduced into an altered understanding of the environment around us.

www.artscentremelbourne.com.au

LAWRENCE WEINER OUT OF SIGHT

Runs until April 17 - NGV

OUT OF SIGHT is a generic structure by American artist Lawrence Weiner. Based upon the concept of a hopscotch and designed for public institutions, OUT OF SIGHT is flexible. The work is conceived to be exhibited in multiple languages.

www.ngv.vic.gov.au


JULIE WAJS

March 24 - Photography Studies College

In 2016, Julie Wajs travelled to Cambodia with charity World of Difference and witnessed first hand the impact the organisation has had on villagers living in rural Cambodia. She compiled a photobook on her return, with all proceeds going to the charity. She will talk about her experiences as part of this Image Makers Series event.

www.psc.edu.au


FAITH HEALER

Runs until 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


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


CONTINGENCY

Run until March 23 - Testing Grounds

Artist-in-residence Andrew Rewald will transform the Clear Box into an edible weed garden, exploring the links between urban ecology and food security. Throughout his residency Andrew will host walks and talks, creating a map of the local area with Testing Grounds as epicenter.

www.testing-grounds.com.au

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Welcome new Southbankers!

The Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) hosted the 'New to Southbank' presentation at the Boyd Community Hub on March 1, to welcome new residents.

SRA president Tony Penna led the presentation, which provided new residents everything one needs to know to be a Southbanker, from our suburb's political makeup and geography to its range of services and public facilities.

Boyd Community Hub animator Nadine Ford also provided residents with a presentation of the services available at Southbank's civic hub.

www.southbankresidents.org.au

River Graze returns

The 25th Melbourne Food and Wine Festival returns on March 31, with Southbank set to yet again play host to the event's opening weekend as part of River Graze.

Running from March 31 to April 2, this year's River Graze festival will once again see the Yarra River transformed into a food and wine lover's playground, bursting with culinary hot spots, free entertainment and regional flavours.

River Graze will feature more than 60 stallholders, food trucks, producers and Victorian wineries stretched over a kilometre from Federation Square to the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Staged along the banks of the Yarra, River Graze celebrates the role Melbourne's water plays in the city's thriving food culture, and this year, the fun will literally spill onto the river itself.

The world's largest floating fruit bowl will highlight how the water is the secret to Melbourne's culinary successes, with fruit stickers stating what percentage of each item is made up of Melbourne water.

Cooking demonstrations at Queensbridge Square's Culinary Village will feature Network Ten's *MasterChef* alumni, Justine Scofield, Dani Venn, Philip Vakos, Matt Sinclair plus *Burch and Purchase*'s Darren Purchase on Saturday and Sunday.

Beer and cider lovers will revel in South Wharf Craft Beer Weekend and Southgate



Southbank Promenade will be transformed into a culinary wonderland as part of Melbourne Food and Wine Festival.

Cider Orchard, with the best Australian brews from the country's artisan producers.

River Graze will kick off on Friday from 4pm till late, while opening hours on Saturday and Sunday will be 12pm till late.

There is a whole lot more on offer for all ages and appetites! Find out more at

melbournefoodandwine.com.au/program/river-graze-presented-by-melbourne-water

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***not* Turnbull's NBN-lite.**



Michael Danby MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MELBOURNE PORTS

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www.danbypm.com | @MichaelDanbyMP

Authorised by M Danby 117 Fitzroy Street St KILDA WEST

Where’s the community benefit?

Despite being the shortest month of the year, February was jam-packed . Of particular note - and surprise - was the sudden announcement of the Crown development at 1 Queensbridge Street. I can’t talk in any detail on this development, as the elusive detail is still unavailable to the public.

Cr Rohan Leppert had a Future Melbourne Committee motion to make this information public, however the Lord Mayor Robert Doyle’s team was conflicted owing to a private donation to their election campaign from Crown Director Harold Mitchell and the quorum was subsequently lost.

This application was referred to the City of Melbourne for their input, as is the normal process for ministerial applications in the City of Melbourne. Yet before the deadline Council had to make its submission, the application was ‘suspiciously’ approved. This is an application that contravenes nearly every aspect of the new planning scheme the Planning Minister Richard Wynne introduced only three months ago. Read into that as you will, but I can’t help being incredibly skeptical. However, it is still early days for this development. In the meantime, what has conveniently been spruiked by the Premier and Minister is the so-called ‘community benefit’. Following on from my column last month, owing to this approval, I felt it was timely to have another closer

discussion about ‘community benefit’, which is sometimes referred to as ‘public benefit’.

As mentioned last month, built into the new Amendment C270 – Built Form Controls is an allowance for a developer to exceed the 18:1 plot ratio (18 metres of floor space for every metre on the ground) if they provide some ‘community benefit’. In my last column I spoke of the benefit that was being provided from the development at 51-65 Clarke Street being commercial space. In particular, that while commercial space was considered community benefit; I felt the community benefit received from commercial space to be questionable.

On the flipside, while the new 1 Queensbridge Tower development is not asking for special consideration for an offset offering of commercial space, (which is contrary to what I speculated would likely become the norm with applications that exceed the 18:1 plot ratio), this development would have no direct immediate benefit to commercial space. In this instance, all the ‘community benefit’, in my opinion, is

designed for the benefit of one, being Crown and its Queensbridge Tower. The Premier and Minister have spruiked \$100 million in community benefit being \$25 million to improve Queensbridge Square, which includes two new cafes, \$15 million for improvements to Southbank promenade and the river end of Southbank Boulevard, \$22 million for Queensbridge street flood mitigation and Sandridge rail bridge upgrades and finally a massive \$35 million ‘sky lounge’ for a publicly accessible ‘free’ viewing deck on the 90th platform. It would seem this is all it takes to almost triple the legislated plot ratio of 18:1 to 56:1.

My overarching question now is whether any of this \$100 million of ‘community benefit’ is going to benefit the Southbank community, apart from the immediate interests of Crown and its patrons. This application has now made a complete mockery of the community benefit provision in the Minister’s new planning rules, and disregards the entire intent of the community benefit provision. This is only the second Southbank

application to be considered under these new rules.

So, should the Southbank community ever expect to receive any community benefit from these ginormous developments? Only time will tell, but if the last two applications are anything to go by, it doesn’t look promising.

Oh, and did I mention the 1 Queensbridge Street development will be 323 metres high? A 90-storey tower!

Tony Penna

President



Tony Penna

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



Matters to consider before buying “off the plan”

There is no denying that Melburnians are fascinated by high-rise strata living, as evidenced by the large number of multi-storey high rise developments that continue to be marketed, built and sold “off the plan” in and around the city.

As compared with buying an existing property, there are many potential benefits to buying off the plan.

First and foremost is the opportunity to purchase at a good price (assuming that property values continue to rise).

Other benefits include: a potential capital gain during the period between signing the contract and settlement after constructing the building; an increased flexibility and choice regarding fit out and floor plan size; and a longer period of time for the purchaser to arrange their financial affairs before moving.

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

As a result, the developers are benefitting from the less-restrictive requirements imposed by the lending conditions of the traditional financiers and this can, in and

of itself, lead to more risks for the eventual owners of these apartments.

Some of the most important things for prospective purchasers to consider are:

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

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

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

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

(5) Will the building be independently managed by a reputable owners’ corporation management company and caretaker or does the sales contract provide the developer with the discretion to appoint whomever they like and lock the OC into a lengthy long-term contract?

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

renovations?

(7) Will an area of the building be occupied by a serviced apartment operator or hotel?

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

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



Tom Bacon

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Tom@stratatitlelawyers.com.au

St Johns Southgate

Dreaming to ascend

Since 1955, Melbourne’s Moomba Festival (March 10 to 13 in 2017) has been a staple on the family fun in the sun calendar.

The labour day long weekend wouldn’t be the same without St Kilda Road, Birrarung Marr and the Yarra river playing host to the parade, the carnival rides, the fireworks and the water-skiing. But as iconic as those attractions are, there is one event on the Moomba schedule that in my opinion eclipses the rest. The Birdman Rally.

For the uninitiated, the Birdman Rally is a contest of engineering, aerodynamics, bravery and silly costumes. Participants bear self-made “flying” contraptions designed to carry them further out over the Yarra than any other contestant. It’s a daggy but heart-warming event that brings out the best in people and raises money for charity.

Some of my earliest memories of the Melbourne summer are of the ridiculousness and hilarity of the Birdman. It’s the kind of thing that captures the imagination of the pre-schooler because it’s the perfect combination of dress-ups and bravery with slapstick comedy thrown in.

The young mind wants to believe that the guy in the astronaut costume standing inside a polystyrene rocket can and will fly. But it’s perfectly satisfying when he doesn’t quite make it to the moon and back and rather splashes headlong into the murky waters of the Yarra.

The Birdman taps into the universal dream of being able to fly while reminding us of just how grounded we really are. Ever since humans have gazed up at clouds or watched a bird in flight they’ve pondered what it would be like to soar. But soon after flight was achieved and then industrialised, the romance of it quickly deflated.

Today we look up and see contrails lining the skies and think nothing of them. We hop on a flight to Sydney without any more thought than we’d give a bus trip. The dream come true that is human flight has somehow clipped the birdman’s wings.

And yet, just this month in the news it was announced that Californian company SpaceX would fly paying customers on joyrides around the moon in 2018. All of a sudden the excitement returned. The twitter-sphere went into meltdown and people were wide eyed about flight once again.

Perhaps this shows us that being the birdman is not so much about flying, but about ascending to a higher plain, seeing a new horizon and crossing its threshold into the unknown.

As well as taking tourists to the moon, SpaceX aspires to reach Mars and build the first human colony. This goal, which no longer seems completely out of reach, would most certainly break through a barrier previously thought impassable.

As we gaze through the clouds to the stars and imagine another home, we are sharing in the spiritual imaginings of all ages. Wanting to spread one’s wings and ascend to some kind of eternal otherness is perfectly natural and beautiful. I would argue that having the dream is not just pleasant, but that it’s a basic human need.

Where do you dream of ascending to?



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



Montague Community Alliance

Platitudes and coffee

Well so much for all the talk from the council, state government, developers and builders on collaboration and care for the community.

It’s more than three years since we started discussing issues with all those stakeholders within our precinct, and little has changed. Let me give you an example: traffic! Montague St and City Rd are at a standstill during peak hours. It takes between 10 to 20 minutes to go from the intersection of Ingles and Crockford Street to the intersection of Montague St and Normanby Rd. Nearby, Boundary St, a street bordered by residencies and micro businesses with children and elderly residents regularly walking and parking in it, has two lanes of parking, which barely leaves room for two cars to pass each other. At the moment for six days of the week, it’s filled and blocked with huge trucks delivering concrete slabs with concrete filling trucks lined up outside residents and small businesses, spewing pollution and incredible noise into our homes and businesses.

I know you might be thinking that we here in Southbank have had to put up with that for years and continue to do so and we understand that. However, the difference is Montague has within in it, and interfaces with, existing established residential areas. As much as we discuss this and we started over three years ago, we are not taken seriously or even comically!

We continually ask ourselves why would the Council lets its residential and commercial rate payers live with this? Why won’t it take its community’s views and voices seriously and not just offer platitudes. We here in the Montague Precinct want to understand the actual value of the numerous ‘have your say’ surveys and community forums conducted by City of Port Philip and the State Government. How is this data utilised? Does the council know how to manage and apply the data for change? Or are we just being placated with copious cups of coffee and

sandwiches at the numerous ‘community’ forums to make us feel like we are being heard...


Take action now folks, come and hang out in our areas. Meet us, talk to us, help us talk to the builders and developers so that we can live and work together harmoniously. We are not NIMBYS we are magistrates, battlers, mothers and fathers, students, elderly, academics, writers, film makers, school principals, psychologists, artists, philanthropists, board members, council workers, retirees and children. We are a diverse cultural group with both abled and disabled folks. In other words, we are a normal community. C’mon CoPP, State Government, Education Department, PTV, builders and developers. Let’s get working together now to get a voluntary code of conduct for all the stakeholders, include the community as a full partner and support the healthy development and growth of our precinct. Let’s have forums where the community can ask questions and get them answered, forums that are not designed to placate or ‘inform’ us but to listen to us and to take direct applied action from what you hear.

We are waiting and wanting to help and we might even bring the coffee!




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






St Johns Southgate



Sunday 26 March
9am Worship with Bach Cantata
Guest preacher: **The Rev Christian Wolff**
St Thomas’ Church, Leipzig, Germany
Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern BWV1
for 3 soloists, chorus, strings,
2 oboes da caccia, 2 horns and continuo
Hannah Irvine (soprano)
Robert Macfarlane (tenor)
Christopher Tonkin (bass)
St Johns Bach Choir and Orchestra
directed by Graham Lieschke



Every Sunday
9am Traditional worship with communion
10:30am Sunday School during school terms
11am Informal worship with communion except 26 March
6pm Sunday Night at St Johns
Informal contemporary worship
hosted by Lutheran Students and Friends
The chapel is open daily for private prayer and reflection

20 City Road Southbank Telephone 9682 4995 www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au

Health & Wellbeing



Exercise induced injury and group fitness

Injuries – Please be careful!

One of the main types of clients that we attract are those with a pre-existing injury often sustained from poor quality personal training. There are many good quality trainers out there but you need to do your research.

People are entrusting their bodies to a so-called ‘fitness professional’ to be subjected to unnecessary, inappropriate or unsafe exercises that result in not only acute but life-long injuries!

The fact is that exercise can be safe and all you need is an exercise program designed for you that focuses on posture and functional movement. There is no need to overload on weight and, in fact, I will go as far as to say there is no actual need for anyone over the age of 40 (or even younger) to be performing burpees, deadlifts, chin-ups and definitely not box jumps!

Group fitness classes

What you must do if partaking in this sort of exercise modality is take care in selecting the right type of class for your needs, abilities, fitness level and age.

There are so many options out there for you, which is fantastic, but again I stress to you to be careful with your selection. Through no fault of your own, the fitness industry itself fails the consumer with very poor screening processes to help identify your pre-existing health conditions.

It also pretty much gives you a “liability release” to sign and clear the trainer(s) and/or business of any negligence or wrongdoing if you are injured, sustain a heart attack or

worst of all – you die!

I recently attended a F45 class for the very first time (not here in Southbank) and the liability release was something else:

“I fully understand that I may injure myself as a result of my participation in the workouts and I hereby release the Released Parties from any liability now or in the future for conditions that I may obtain directly or indirectly from participating in the workouts, to the fullest extent permitted by law. These conditions may include, but are not limited to, heart attacks, muscle strains, muscle pulls, muscle tears, broken bones, shin splints, heat prostration, injuries to knees, injuries to back, injuries to foot, or any other illness or soreness that I may incur, including death.”

It prompted me to write what is now my most read blog on my website. I don’t want to instill fear into you and steer you away from group fitness classes, as many of them are fantastic! But I do think it’s in your own interests to do your research and select a group fitness class or fitness alternative that is safe and right for you. Remember that an injury is not fun and sadly I have seen too many people spiral into such things as depression all stemming from major injury through sport or exercise.



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

Letters to the Editor

Build us a post office

I have regularly pestered Australia Post’s social media team about my plea for a Post Office in Southbank, Melbourne. They have told me to submit a request in writing – so I did:

Addressed to Australia Post:

The need for a post office in Southbank would seem to be self-evident. It is Victoria’s most densely populated suburb with an estimated daytime population close to 30,000. It is home to a number of large businesses, the Crown Casino, and a 100-storey building now under construction.

Despite having virtually every amenity under the sun, somehow it no longer has a post office. Yes, it has 24/7 pick-up lockers. Yes, it has convenience stores that sell stamps. But I think you’ll agree these don’t replace a fully functioning post office.

Your staff has informed me (repeatedly) that it is just a ‘short’ walk up to Collins St, across the river, to reach the closest post office. With respect, as I have stated in social media correspondence, the walk is not ‘short’. From mid-Southbank (Southbank Blvd and Sturt

St), the walk to the Collins St Post Office is approximately 16 minutes. Spend 12-15 minutes there and by the time one walks back it’s turned into a 45-minute chunk of time.


Bearing in mind the number of Post Offices that serve much more sparsely populated suburbs, isn’t it time the 30,000 residents and workers of Southbank have a post office that is actually convenient to use?

I look forward to your response.

The silence has been deafening.

Regards,

Norman Hermant



Send your letters to news@docklandsnews.com.au

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CBD - 5 MINUTES TO YOUR DOOR

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PCA113E

Vertical ship making

Having moved to Southbank five years ago, David Lumsden has taken his expertise for making historic model ships to his Whiteman St apartment.

The now retired civil engineer moved to Vue Grande with wife Lynne from their previous home in Blackburn South in 2012 and while he no longer has the space to build large models, vertical living hasn't deterred him continuing his hobby.

From a very modest desk in the corner of a small spare bedroom, David remarkably crafts intricately detailed historic ships by hand.

His latest creation, a model of the *Lady Nelson*, which was the first ship to officially enter Port Phillip Bay in 1802, took David five months to complete equating to approximately 1000 hours.

Since creating his first ships from kits in the 1970s, David has since designed and crafted over 100 models and while he said he had no connections with the sea, historic ships associated with Australia had always fascinated him.

"I remember being fascinated with ships for some reason during my childhood and maybe it was just stories about ships, which fascinated me," he said.

"The story of the people on these ships often fascinated me just as much as the ship itself. You admire a lot of people from this period who sailed these vessels it's a pretty amazing undertaking."

His *Lady Nelson* adds to a long list of model ships he has constructed over the years, which includes the likes of *The Investigator* (captained by Matthew Flinders), and Melbourne's famous founding ship *The Enterprize*.

A number of his creations have ended up in the likes of the Melbourne Museum and private collections both here and abroad. His latest work of art will be displayed at the Churchill Island Heritage Centre.

While there are now a lot of materials and accessories available to model makers in today's world, it's the intricate details that David takes the most pride in hand crafting himself.

In the construction of his latest model, David creates everything from the ship's sliding keels and hull to the tiny cannons and the rigging from scratch using various materials.

And often with limited or no plans of a ship's design available, David said a lot of his model making involved much interpretation.

"Often you have to just toss a coin and go with whatever they might've done," he said.

"This one in particular I've discovered now there are a lot of decisions you have to make because with bits of it all over the hull you end up with three options all of which are viable."

While his latest ship involved months of long days and late nights, David is already looking forward to his next project – a historical cargo ship.

His knowledge of Australia's maritime history is seemingly endless and he said overlooking the Yarra River, where the likes of *The Enterprize* and *The Investigator* once sailed provided inspiration for his work.

"The hull of *The Investigator* was stripped down and it went back to England eventually. This hull came back to the Yarra and was used as a coal hulk," he said.

"Eventually it just rotted into the Yarra so maybe there's still bits and pieces of it in the bottom of the Yarra!"

"Looking out onto the Yarra it does have a lot of connections with a lot of shipping so it does provide a bit of inspiration."









Southbank resident David Lumsden with his latest creation - a model of the 'Lady Nelson.'

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3D printing vertical villages

At Melbourne’s Sustainability Festival in February, four RMIT students showcased their “green innovations”.

Arthur Georgalas presented his project on Turning the Tide which re-imagines recreational boating, courtesy of a lightweight venturi hull, constructed using naturally derived resins and hemp fibre composites.

In a related vein, Finbar McCarthy spoke about his contribution to the future of recreational fishing where his Scales Project pairs a safe and practical landing net with a new smartphone app that simplifies the catch and release process.

The winner of the day, Ruby Chan, showcased Moducware™, a fully-compostable tableware alternative to take-away packaging. Being made entirely from plant-based material, including agricultural discards like cornhusks, discarded Moducware™ containers can “return to the earth as a bio-nutrient”.

And then there was Peter Hermez with Equinox” – a new, sustainable footwear solution. This project addresses the challenge of the ever-growing footwear industry where current production methods mean that 80 per cent of material is wasted just in the pattern cutting stage.

Peter developed Equinox to eliminate this production wastage, which he achieves through his new manufacturing approach that needs no gluing or stitching. There are two further advantages of Equinox shoes – they are customisable, meaning consumers can have individualised footwear – and the shoes have a longer relative lifespan.

Perhaps you are wondering the link between Equinox and vertical living? There is, of course, the obvious benefit that a reduced number of shoes means a reduced demand for storage space (literally a smaller



"Equinox" - a sustainable shoe solution by Peter Hermez.

footprint!).

However, it is the technology used in Equinox that piqued interest – namely 3D printing and 3D knitting technologies. 3D printing, or additive manufacturing, is a process of putting down successive layers of material to make three-dimensional objects.

Instead of using printing ink, 3D printers use materials like flexible polyurethane and follow a set of digital instructions that guide the production of a growing range of tangible items. Already 3D printing has had an enormous impact in design-related businesses where prototype development can now go from idea to physical object within hours rather than weeks.

And more intriguing applications continue to emerge, such as the joint restoration project between the University of Warwick and the British Sugarcraft Guild, which are using 3D printing to restore the vandalised

1947 replica of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip’s wedding cake.

As 3D printers shrink in size and price, they are making their way into more homes, where items both for fun and more practical purpose can be printed. One fast growing area is the ability to print obscure component parts that may no longer be available but are needed to repair broken appliances.

However, 3D-nirvana is not quite here. The ability to print these types of intricate components require two additional elements – the authorised instructions and the right material. A bit of know-how also wouldn’t go astray as the Pandora Box of insurance is awaiting those who wantonly reproduce and use protected items.

This is one reason why new 3D user groups are emerging. In Victoria, for instance, artists needing to 3D print have access to

specialised services, materials and advice.

Returning to our vertical villages, 3D printing has several ready applications, most especially in terms of building management. The capacity to produce, in-house and on-demand, specialised parts (like that missing elevator component) eliminates wait times for deliveries coming from the other-side-of-the-world.

Similarly, authorised replacement parts can be printed and supplied direct to residents. As original fixtures age (like dishwashers) and parts become hard to find, supplying these components could significantly extend the life of standardised fittings.

In another vein, owners’ corporation committees can greatly improve their communications with residents. For example, realistic models of proposed building modifications can be easily produced and displayed for comment.

There is also the possibility of offering services to residents on a pay-per-use basis so, in time to come, residents could order a pair of Equinox, picking them up in their building’s foyer later that day – but this just might be a step too far for our building managers.

If you would like links to the RMIT Green Innovations mentioned, please visit and like @SkyPadLiving on Facebook.



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



Pet’s Corner

Doc – the office ball fetcher

By Melissa Chung

Local worker Harriet has no problem at all walking her dog Doc to work everyday – “it is all about the ball”.

Doc, a three-year-old Blue Heeler, has been following his master to work from North Melbourne to Swanston Street for over a year.

Harriet feels lucky that her boss is also a dog person who loves to bring his dog to work.

“It’s really helpful for me to be able to walk him to work. It counts as one point towards my exercise routine,” she said.

According to Harriet, Doc is well trained by her partner, who has taught him different tricks like high five and rolling over. Different from other young doggies, he sits in the

office quietly without causing any trouble.

“Occasionally he would give one of his toys to someone and check their response, but usually he understands that we have playtime in the breaks,” she said.

When being asked about the special talent of Doc, Harriet mentioned that he is exceptionally obsessed with balls. “Playing fetch is like a lifelong career for him,” she said.

Doc’s attention can be easily grabbed with a ball – he was not looking at the camera before the photo was taken, but once the ball was out, he smiled at the camera obediently. To be precise, he was smiling at the ball above the camera.

Harriet and her partner try to take Doc everywhere they go, be it her office, Yarra River or night bars. However, they still find lots of restrictions for dog entry in bars!



Parliamentary inquiry into short-stays

The long anticipated Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into the Owners Corporation Amendment (Short-Stay Accommodation) Bill 2016 will start in March.

The inquiry is being conducted by the Environment and Planning Committee and its purpose is to:

- Undertake consultation with short-stay accommodation providers, individuals and owners' corporations about the contents of the Bill;
- Examine the impact of short-stay accommodation on residents and owners' corporations of apartment buildings; and
- Examine the adequacy of owners' corporation rules in managing the impact of short-stay accommodation.

The full terms of reference and the guide to making a submission can be found on the committee's website at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/epc/inquiry/446, where you can also follow the progress of the inquiry.

This is an opportunity not to be missed and we encourage all residents – owners and tenants – and others who have a story to tell, to make a submission. This is an open inquiry and all submissions will be accepted until February 28.

The committee is due to report back to Parliament on May 11, 2017.

We need politicians from all sides of politics to sit up and take notice:

- That residents are not just concerned with unruly parties and bad behaviour as the Government seemed to think when introducing the Owners Corporation Amendment (Short-Stay Accommodation) Bill 2016. Owners' corporations already have the powers to deal with them!
- However concerns about unregulated short-stays taking over residential apartment buildings that are not properly designed and equipped for them, are being ignored; e.g. safety and security is being compromised;
- No compensation to owners' corporations for increased wear and tear, particularly for the shortened life of a lift, estimated to be about five years; and
- Very many owners purchased apartments

in the belief that it was to be their home, but establishing communities has become almost impossible because one's neighbours come and go all the time.

This is not the "sharing economy" we were led to believe but it is the "taking economy".

There needs to be a level playing field and now we have the opportunity to do something about it. Our homes and the future of our communities are at stake so we encourage as many of you as possible to become involved and HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

Council

Find out what your elected City of Melbourne councillors are up to!

Do you have a burning issue which you would like to put to a councillor in person, or would you like to contribute a submission on a topic being debated in council, or even just go and listen to the councillors discussing some of the major issues of the day?

If so have you thought about attending a council or committee meeting?

Each month one council meeting and two Future Melbourne Committee meetings, involving all councillors, are held.

Members of the public are invited to attend

both council and committee meetings and submissions on various topics can be made to both by following the relevant guidelines.

Questions without notice can also be put to councillors at committee meetings (but not at council meetings) with 15 minutes allowed at the beginning and end of each meeting.

You can find out more at www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/about-council/committees-meetings/Pages/getting-involved-meetings.aspx

Finally, we welcome your comments and feedback and invite suggestions for topics you would like us to address in this column.

Like most not-for-profit organisations we operate on a shoe-string budget and donations from individuals and buildings are greatly appreciated.

Please send all correspondence to campaign@welivehere.net.au.

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SOUTHBANK SUDOKU



Last month's Sudoku solution

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

A variation of Sudoku, with the letters SOUTHBAK replacing the numbers.

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

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

History

Snowden Gardens

When you cross the Yarra to Southgate, the first building you encounter is Hamer Hall. Finally opened in 1982, the Hall occupies the space previously called the Snowden Gardens. As gardens in Melbourne go, they were very small. Established in 1903, they contained rockeries and public seating amidst a variety of foliage and were a haven of grass and trees that provided a spatial link between Princes Bridge, the Yarra and the industrial area that became Southgate.

The gardens were named for Arthur Snowden, a former Lord Mayor, who represented the council on the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, the body responsible for sewage and water supply.

During the post World War II period, the once ornamental Snowden Gardens had become a crime-ridden rubbish dump and then a car park within the land under redevelopment for the Arts Centre.

One Melburnian who was upset by this was Ken Myer, of Department store fame, who was a generous patron of the arts and deplored the lack of fountains in the city.

Reputedly he funded (anonymously) a new modernist-style fountain in the gardens called the Wind Fountain. Designed in 1957 by the famous Melbourne architect (and critic) Robin Boyd and completed in 1960, it consisted of a series of three shallow bowls of decreasing diameter that collected water ejected from the bluestone walls of the plaza. The bowls hung over each other and descended towards the river.

It was an exciting day for Melbourne when the fountain was turned on, even if it was



A postcard image of Snowden Gardens.

turned off immediately to resolve problems with the water. At street level was a railed walkway, with water blown from the top providing a spectacular experience. The flow

and the height of the water were determined by strength of the wind, and Boyd must surely have smiled when observers were covered in spray on windy days. Despite

this, many Melburnians felt that it was very calming to watch, less so when uni students added soap to it, making it froth and foam!

Boyd was a partner in Gromboyd, the legendary architectural practice that also included Roy Grounds (soon to leave the firm and design the NGV) and Frederick Romberg.

Sadly the fountain was lost to Melbourne when it was removed as part of the development of the southern bank of the Yarra and it made way for Hamer Hall. It was reputedly placed in storage awaiting reassembly in Alexandra Gardens opposite where it was damaged beyond repair and then dumped. But maybe not. I'd like to think that it's in a council shed awaiting rescue and re-assembly.



Robin Grow
President - Australian Art Deco and Modernism Society
robingrow@ozemail.com.au

Business

A new dining experience for Southbank

The new Piatto restaurant and bar at Bella Apartments has helped further enliven the City Rd West precinct and provide locals and visitors with a fresh and comfortable dining option.

With the serviced apartment tower, managed by Experience Hotel Apartments, completed last year, it's the start of an exciting transformation of what has long been an inactive section along City Rd.

Having only recently opened in late February, Piatto is now offering local residents, local workers and hotel guests, with a relaxed venue to enjoy breakfast, lunch and dinner throughout the week.

The new business has been met with a constant flurry of customers since day one and Piatto assistant manager Claire Rousserie said it illustrated that the venue was something the area had been in need of for a long time.

"It's great for local residents as the dining choices to date have been very limited in this vicinity," she said.

Piatto (Italian for 'plate') offers a modern-Australian menu with an Italian twist, a fully licensed bar and daily breakfast, lunch and dinner.

While it will launch its dinner and bar menu later this month, Claire said the feedback to its culinary offerings to date had been very positive.

"We've just started breakfast and lunch and the feedback has been overwhelming," she said.

"It's especially good for residents of nearby new developments that are already coming here because that's what they've been waiting for. Plans are well underway for delivery to local residents doors also."

Piatto's executive chef, Pablo, has worked all over Europe and South America and has created a menu that will surprise and delight every guest.

Claire said Pablo, now a Southbank resident himself, was looking forward to seeing many satisfied patrons come through the doors.

"The attendants are from different countries too, representing Spain, France, Italy, Portugal and of course Australia to name a few so it's certainly a diverse team. We all chip in so it's a bit of a family atmosphere," she said.



Piatto staff Sam, Claire and Juan are all smiles.

"We go out of our way to look after local businesses by providing a comfortable space to meet clients, get the staff together, or to simply work out of the office with phone and laptop charging stations throughout the restaurant. We can also organise delivery of lunch if you have a meeting in the office."

Hotel guests throughout winter can enjoy

breakfast for only \$1, so keep Experience Bella Hotel Apartments top of mind if you have family or clients visiting. To book them in, simply visit www.experiencehotels.com.au or call on 9667 0466.

Piatto is located at the ground floor of Bella at 250 City Rd, Southbank.

Business



Left to right: Ollie, Aldo, Anthony (back), Micky, Steve, Eleanor, George, Bambi, Clio, George, Chris and Nikos.

A fresh spin on Greek dining

Since opening in April last year, ENA Greek Street Food has proven to be a major success in Southbank.

Located at mid-level Southgate overlooking the Yarra River, the Greek restaurant has provided a quality, relaxed dining option fit for both Southbank’s vibrant culinary culture as well as the fast paced lunchtime crowd.

Established by Melbourne’s Funky Food Group, the concept was the brainchild of the group’s Greek director George Pezaros, who boasts a long and successful career in the hospitality sector.

While he’s been responsible for establishing more than 250 stores, including the Degani and George’s Gourmet Deli chains, Living Room, Hot Pepper and many more, he had always wanted to open a Greek restaurant.

According to Funky Food Group co-owner Eleanor Barratt, George had waited years for the perfect site and Southbank had always been one of his favourite places in Melbourne.

“Southbank has always been one of our favourite places to eat,” she said. “We are amongst so many famous and wonderful restaurants and bars.”

“We feel privileged to be operating alongside them. The atmosphere and vibe in the dynamic Southbank dining precinct cannot be compared to anything else in the world.”

Having only launched Funky Food Group in October 2015, ENA adds to the group’s impressive list of ventures, which already includes three Espresso Bar International stores, seven Billy Group restaurants and a gelateria.

Translating to number one in Greek, ENA is an evolution of simple, fresh and flavoursome ingredients that brings the theatre of an authentic street food environment to a modern setting.

“ENA, our Greek ‘street food’ concept is atmospheric with charcoal grilled seafood and meats with ‘theatre,” Eleanor said. “This

is a proven performer at Southbank.” The menu offers a variety of delicious sharing plates, mains, salads and desserts, and includes all the signatures one can expect to find in Greece from spanakopita and moussaka to mouth watering seafood and souvlaki. And using a majority of locally sourced Victorian produce, meat and seafood in all of its dishes, Eleanor said the business prided itself on going the extra mile to provide quality and authentic Greek food.

“Our point of difference can best be described as ‘retro,” she said. “By that, we mean we have gone back to the traditional ways of cooking good quality, simple Greek food.”

“This is difficult and at times, a challenging way of producing large volumes of high quality traditional food consistently. But we have put the time and effort into perfecting this and this is our point of difference.”

With the venue continuing to go from strength to strength, Eleanor said the overwhelming feedback from its customers continued to illustrate that ENA was a perfect fit for Southbank.

“The response has been fantastic,” she said. “Customers love that all our staff are Greek. They love the theatre of the open kitchen and the Greek banter between the chefs. Don’t mistake the rowdy nature between the chefs communicating in their own language. It is basically organized chaos that works very, very well.” “They also love that we are the best value for money restaurant in Southbank without having to compromise on the freshness and quality of the products that we use.”

For more information visit enagreekstreetfood.com.au



La Camera’s Paul Scidone takes a selfie with guests at last month’s Jazz and Shiraz Community Night.

A community cornerstone

Having operated out of Southgate for the past 17 years, the team at La Camera continues to serve the community a whole lot more than just delicious Italian food.

While the family business was originally established in South Yarra in 1992, it’s here in Southbank where it has truly enforced its reputation as a family and community orientated restaurant since 2000.

There is no greater reflection of these values than its monthly community nights, which provide guests with a variety of Italian musical and cultural offerings throughout the year.

And according to La Camera’s Paul Scidone, 2017 would be no different, with the restaurant adding an additional Opera Night to its annual calendar of events, which also features other usual favourites including Jazz and Shiraz.

With its Opera Nights continuing to prove a local favourite, Paul said it would host an additional *Three Tenors* night, on top of its usual event in November, which will take place on March 27.

The events kicked off with a full house on Monday, February 27 with the most successful Jazz and Shiraz in 11 years.

La Camera will also host a number of other Italian-inspired events throughout the year, including a pasta-making course on April 24, an Italian Yum Cha on July 31 and a Neapolitan Theme Night on September 25. The Neapolitan night will be highlighted during the Melbourne Food and Wine festival this year on Sunday, April 9. Celebrate Naples style with a special Neapolitan set menu and an interactive musical show with equipment on the table. “We are going to eat, laugh, play... Naples style,” Paul said.

With La Camera’s location along the Yarra River and right next to the Arts Precinct, Paul said the restaurant continued to be

a pre-show fixture for many locals, regulars and visitors.

“We call ourselves the pre-theatre specialists,” he said. “We have a great system that ensures people have a great dining experience and we make sure they get to their show on time.”

Of course while its wonderful service is always appreciated, it’s the food that keeps people coming back! La Camera offers a menu with a range of authentic cuisine inspired from all parts of Italy, which is something it’s very proud of.

“We like to here feedback from our regulars on what we’ve got but when we really appreciate what we’ve got is when we hear it from people from Italy,” Paul said. “They say this risotto or this pizza is better than what we’ve got in Italy and that’s what makes us proud of what we’ve got.”

As part of its tradition of refreshing its culinary offerings, it has recently launched brand new breakfast and dessert menus and will soon launch its new look A La Carte menu.

It’s all part of La Camera’s ongoing effort to provide the best for it’s customers, which includes making people feel at home every time they walk in.

“A lot of the regulars that come in they actually tell us that they feel like they’re part of the family,” Paul said. “Some of them have been coming here for 17 years and there has been four or five of us that have been here during the same time and that’s what it is, we want to make people feel like they’re part of the family.”

For more information visit lacamerasouthgate.com

2017

WHAT'S ON
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

2017

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.



MARCH 15 @ BOYD

BREWING HISTORY

Uncover the history of brewing beer in Southbank, including Castlemaine Brewery and Hotel and its malt house, which is now the thriving Malthouse Theatre. With expert Damian Nippard.



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

MARCH 23 @ BOYD

PETER PORTER POETRY PRIZE

Hear shortlisted poets read aloud and discover who will take home \$5000 in prize money at Australian Book Review's annual poetry prize, at Collected Works bookshop. Free.

MONDAYS @ BOYD

ZUMBA & PILATES

For an optional donation enjoy a pilates class between 6pm and 7pm. This is followed by a free zumba class from 7pm to 8pm. For more info contact Catalina: **partywithlatinas@gmail.com**



FRIDAYS 8AM - 9AM @ BOYD

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www.artscentremelbourne.com.au

WEDNESDAYS @ BOYD

FREE WALKING GROUP

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



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



MARCH 27 @ LA CAMERA SOUTHGATE

OPERA NIGHT

The popular 'Three Tenors Night' is back as part of La Camera's Community Nights Series for 2017. For more information or to book visit:

www.lacamerasouthgate.com

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

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www.clubrunner.ca/mspc

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