

The voice of Southbank, South Wharf & Montague

SOUTHBANK Local NEWS

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The deal is done

By Sean Car

Following long and arduous negotiations over many years, the City of Melbourne has finally confirmed the sale of the land behind Boyd to a private developer.

Councillors unanimously approved the sale of the land at 132 Kavanagh St for \$15.5 million + GST to Cairo Melbourne Pty Ltd at its March 28 meeting.

Originally operating under the name Mackie, Cairo first purchased the site from the council way back in 2007 and the two parties entered into a commercial agreement in 2012 to develop a residential building and a 2500 sqm park.

However, while the heritage JH Boyd School building has flourished as the vibrant Boyd Community Hub since 2012, the site behind the school building has laid idle.

In May last year, the council announced that it had torn up its commercial contract with Mackie after the developer failed to uphold its contractual obligations.

It came amid revelations that the same offshore financier that forced former Family First Senator Bob Day into bankruptcy, Goshen Capital Resources, had been tied up in the deal.

Despite allocating \$200,000 in last year's budget for marketing and legal fees associated with putting the site back on the open market, council announced in September last year that it had re-entered into a contract with Mackie.

However, Mackie is now operating the project under the name Cairo.

The renegotiated deal has resulted in more public open space for Southbank, with the Boyd Community Hub and urban park set to account for 5171sqm of the site.

Some 46 of the 2356 sqm development's 200 residential apartments have been designated for affordable housing, while the building materials used will be in keeping with the heritage character of the community hub.

The installation of solar panels on the roof of the new building will also partially offset the cost of electricity for the affordable housing units. The project will also include a retail component.

While the new deal has resulted in a slightly larger urban park, the Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) has long campaigned for council to turn the whole site into open space for the local community.

In its submission to the council, the SRA described council's renegotiated deal with Cairo as "another heavy blow for Southbank".

"The Southbank community has always been vocal with regard to the development of this site and understood this was a unique opportunity to establish a considerable sized park for residents and visitors," the SRA stated.

"Unfortunately our campaign was unsuccessful and City of Melbourne decided to sell the land to create affordable housing with all proceeds going to the Queen Victoria Market project."

Speaking at last month's meeting, Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said he was irritated by the community's ongoing campaign to turn the entire site into a park.

Continued on page 5.



A fruitful River Graze!

More than 100,000 people flocked to the banks of the Yarra River between March 31 and April 2 for this year's River Graze festival, which was highlighted by this giant floating fruit bowl!

The Melbourne Food and Wine Festival continues until April 9. Picture: Daniel Mahon.

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Council damning of mega tower

By Sean Car

The City of Melbourne's planning officers are less than impressed by Minister for Planning Richard Wynne's approval of what will be Australia's tallest skyscraper at 1 Queensbridge St.

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Council publicly released its official review of Crown and Schiavello Group's 90-storey tower on its website last month and it's hard to find much that planning officers like about it.

Due to the State Government deeming the project as "state significant", it was exempted from normal planning rules and hence the council's views are irrelevant.

Nevertheless, the review provides a good insight into exactly what the exemption of state significance has gifted the developers and denied the local community in the process.

Perhaps officers' most glaring critique was of what Mr Wynne referred to as a \$100 million public benefits package, which supposedly flowed as a result of the planning minister's rubber stamp.

It notes that contributions to Queensbridge Square (\$25 million), Queensbridge St (\$10 million), Sandridge Rail Bridge (\$15 million), Southbank Boulevard (\$ million) and Southbank Promenade (\$10 million) only equates to \$65 million.

Furthermore, it duly highlights that the minister's own floor area uplift scheme (based on a building's plot ratio of 56:1) should have warranted public benefits worth \$125 million.

"Floor area ratio (FAR) in this location is limited to 18:1 with any additional uplift to be matched by a controlled public benefit/floor area uplift," the report stated.

"The development has a FAR of 56:1, which in this case would require a public benefit/FAU to the value of approximately \$125 million."

The report also noted the development had been exempted from providing a public open space contribution of approximately \$7

million and the building's mass, height and setbacks also came under fire.

The building has been setback from neighbouring Freshwater Place by 12.8 metres, while it is a mere 6.95 metres from Prima Pearl. Under normal rules, the building should be set back from both of its neighbours by a minimum of 19.3 metres.

Both its front and rear boundaries will be constructed right to the site's boundaries. Again, normal rules require setbacks of 5 metres at the front and 19.3 metre at the rear.

The development's controversial skybridge over Queensbridge St also received heavy scrutiny in the report. The developers noted in their application that without it, "the new hotel would be commercially unviable".

However, officers noted that it would inhibit a major gateway into the city and encourage visitors and inhabitants of the building to remain inside and avoid the public realm.

"The pedestrian bridge does not meet relevant policy objectives, which seek to retain views into and out of the capital city," the report said.

"Although the design of the bridge itself appears considered and engaging, the negative outcome to the public realm will be irreversible."

While highlighting a series of other issues, perhaps officers' only positive comment was the developer's revised walkway linking Queensbridge St to Freshwater Place.

However, all in all, the review provides a damning assessment of an approval that neighbouring residents have vowed to fight tooth and nail.

Freshwater Place Owners' Corporation chairman Peter Renner applauded the council's review.



Crown's approved Queensbridge Tower.

"We commend the report. I've thanked the planners for their unbiased presentation. It's comprehensive and it actually does show how the minister has ignored his own planning scheme," he said.

Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) president Tony Penna said he maintained that the public benefit would only benefit the developers and their future guests.

"I find it appalling that this planning minister, but worse premier, would allow a blatant disregard of the recently-spruiked and gazetted planning scheme amendments and, in the process, rob the community of a further \$67 million of benefit," he said.

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Caiafa booted off council. Riley back

By Shane Scanlan

A judge has removed City of Melbourne councillor and Queen Victoria Market trader Michael Caiafa and replaced him with former Team Doyle councillor Susan Riley.

On March 14, Justice Greg Garde removed Mr Caiafa, simultaneously acknowledging that he had done nothing wrong and even suggesting that the council cover his legal costs.

Justice Garde said: "His conduct has been exemplary. He has done all that an elected councillor can do since he was declared elected. His position is affected by the actions of another candidate over whom he had no control, and for whom he has no responsibility."

Justice Garde acted on the suggestion of the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC), which appealed an early decision of the Municipal Electoral Tribunal (MET) dealing with the disqualification of successful candidate Brooke Wandin.

Ms Wandin was declared elected in the October 22, 2016 council election but was later found to be incorrectly enrolled.

On December 5, MET Magistrate Michael Smith ordered a "countback" of votes, which would likely have preserved Cr Caiafa's position but added Ms Wandin's running mate Nic Frances Gilley to the council.

But the VEC successfully appealed to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) where Justice Garde ordered a "recount". Mr Frances Gilley was also successful using this method of counting and had now become a councillor. He and Susan Riley were sworn in on March 21.

Explaining his decision, Justice Garde said: "Exercise of a discretion often involves competing factors. Each must be given



Michael Caiafa.

the weight considered appropriate. Whilst acknowledging the effect of the ineligibility of Ms Wandin on the other candidates, particularly Mr Caiafa, the tribunal must ensure that effect is given as far as possible to the votes of the electors as cast in the ballot."

"This duty is at the heart of the democratic system of local government. It is the factor that deserves greatest weight in the exercise of the Tribunal's discretion."

Justice Garde went on to say: "While the tribunal undoubtedly has power to declare unelected a candidate who was elected and who is qualified to be elected, and has acted



Councillor Susan Riley.

properly, it is a power to be approached cautiously and only exercised where necessary."

"No previous instance of such a nature in the case of a multi-member electorate was cited to the tribunal. Nonetheless I am satisfied that it is necessary in this case to give effect to the votes and preferences cast in the ballot, as determined on the recount. There is no alternative if the two candidates who were elected on the recount are to serve on the council."

Justice Garde's action grants Lord Mayor Robert Doyle a majority of councillors in the

11-member chamber.

Cr Doyle had been critical of Magistrate Smith's decision and had publicly advocated for the methodology championed by the VEC. Cr Doyle admits to speaking with VEC Commissioner Warwick Gately on two occasions but both men deny any influence was brought to bear on the VEC's decision to appeal the matter to VCAT.

Mr Caiafa told *Southbank Local News* he considered his legal options and determined it was too hard to appeal Justice Garde's decision to the Supreme Court.

"I greatly appreciate the comments and the overwhelming support shown to me from other councillors, council staff and members of the public," he said.

"Obviously, the outcome is terribly disappointing for me. Despite this disappointment and my great desire to continue in my role as councillor for the remaining three and a half years of the term, I do not wish to cause more uncertainty and interruption to the work of the council by pursuing any appeals against the VCAT decision."

"I remain passionate about the Queen Victoria Market and, while I am not able to serve out my time as an elected councillor, I want to continue to serve the people of Melbourne and all those who wish to see the market thrive and develop long into the future."

"I would welcome the opportunity to continue to work with the council to achieve that outcome."

Cr Jackie Watts told *Southbank Local News* the decision was further evidence of the need to reform the municipal electoral system.

"It's most unjust and is very concerning that our democracy has malfunctioned to this extent," she said.

Cr Watts has written to the VEC with 32 questions arising from the conduct of the October 22 election.



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Council supports Queensbridge transformation

The City of Melbourne has backed plans for a major redevelopment of what is currently a defunct part of Queensbridge St.

Developer Aohua Sheng Le Property Pty Ltd has submitted an application for a 51-storey tower at 87-89 Queensbridge St to the Minister for Planning, Richard Wynne.

The proposal went before councillors for review at the Future Melbourne Committee meeting on April 4, with the developer seeking an amendment to the Melbourne Planning Scheme.

Because much of the application pre-dates the gazettal of the State Government's former amendment C262 interim planning controls, the developer is requesting the proposal be considered under old planning rules.

In their report, council officers agreed to this request, as it "would seem unjust if the applicant were not allowed to pursue an application where considerable time and effort went into the preparation of plans".

Designed by local architect Fender Katsalidis, the \$370 million proposal includes 852 one, two and three-bedroom apartments, seven retail tenancies and a ground floor supermarket.

Cr Rohan Leppert told *Southbank Local News* the request to have the application assessed under old rules had meant council officers were able to negotiate greater public benefits with the developer.

The application has included plans for a publicly accessible walkway from Queensbridge St through to City Rd, which would provide much needed activation to the precinct.

Council officers have supported the proposal subject to a number of conditions, one of which is making the walkway accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

However, the building in its current form would cast a significant shadow over the future Boyd Park on neighbouring Balston St during the April equinox in violation of the current planning rules.

The developer has complied with the September equinox (as outlined in the old planning rules) and council officers have deemed this to be acceptable, given the circumstances of the application.

The report also noted Crown Resorts and Schaivello Group's recently-approved mega-tower at one Queensbridge St would also cause significant overshadowing to the future open space.

Cr Leppert said that, while it wasn't ideal that Boyd Park would be overshadowed, there wasn't a lot council or the State Government could do due to the timing of the applicant's submission.

While generally in support of the application, Southbank Residents' Association president Tony Penna said he was disappointed that Boyd Park would be further overshadowed by the development.

However, in good news for what is currently an inactive section of Queensbridge St, council officers have deemed the building's main street frontage as "excellent".

Council has also requested that the developer contribute to the public realm by providing new bluestone footpaths and upgrading all street furniture to stainless steel.



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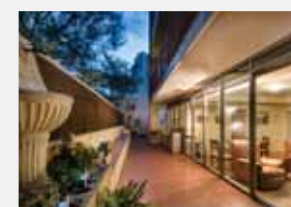
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The deal is done

Continued from page 1.

“Yes it (open space) is required in Southbank but I can’t think of an area of the city where more effort and resources are going into providing public open space than in Southbank,” he said.

“It’s extraordinarily difficult to retrofit in a very developed postcode like Southbank and yet we’re doing it and therefore I think we should be proud of that and it’s a great story.”

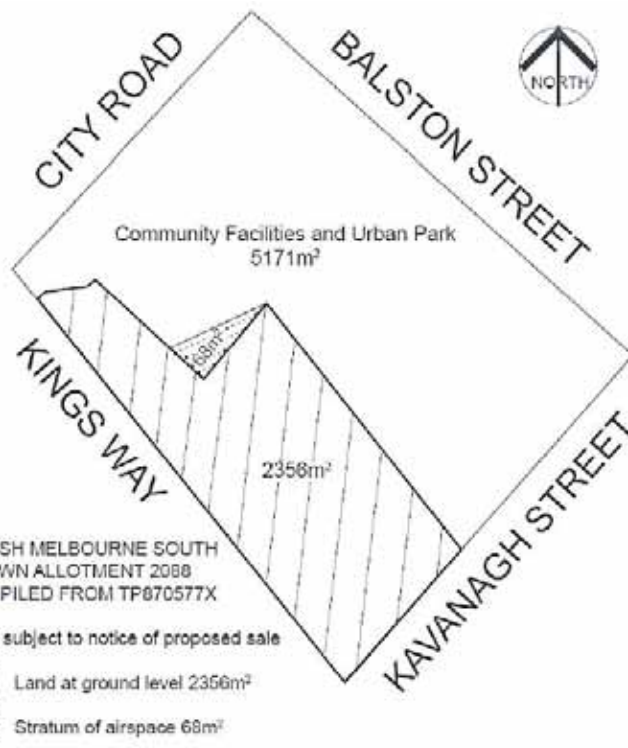
The City of Melbourne’s director of city planning Professor Rob Adams confirmed that council would have full control over the park’s design and that it would be the first component of the project constructed.

“The remainder of the site, which is the majority of the site actually, would go to a local open space and that is currently going through a process of design,” he said. “It will be funded through the open space levy.”

“This proposal with Mackie had previously allowed them to use that open space for construction. That is not the case in this contract.”

“They will need to, in fact, construct that as is normal around the city by not utilising this open space so we can proceed with the construction of that open space and that will be coming through the system in the very near future.”

Cr Rohan Leppert said he was very happy with the “additional and more than expected open space”.



The new layout of the City of Melbourne’s renegotiated contract with developer Cairo for the Boyd site.

“There will be some more public open space fronting City Rd, which will give better views of the Boyd School,” he said. “I think it’s particularly important to get the line of sight between that community facility and the tram stop by Kings Way.”

Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood said he

welcomed the development’s provision of affordable housing, describing the project as “absolutely critical”.

“I know this is one many councillors who have been here longer than me will be glad to see come to fruition. I think it will be a fantastic development,” he said.



South Wharf Hilton sold

Singaporean investors have bought the South Wharf Hilton Hotel for \$230 million.

The UOL Group last month snapped up the local landmark from HHR Conventions.

The 396-room Hilton was put on the market in 2015 and will be converted to a Pan Pacific in two months.



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A Doyle majority – what will it mean?

By Stephen Mayne



Now that the City of Melbourne election results have been finalised by VCAT President Greg Garde, what will it mean for governance at city hall?

The return of former deputy lord mayor Susan Riley as the vital sixth member of Team Doyle, along with the election of non-Doyle Liberal Party member Philip Le Liu, means we have the most right wing or pro-business council for many years.

If you label all members of Team Doyle as part of the right – and Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood along with former Labor Party state secretary Nick Reece both have solid progressive credentials – then you are talking a comfortable 7-4 majority.

The five-person Team Doyle faction did meet regularly in the last council, but they couldn't make any decisions without securing an additional vote. This time, they will potentially have complete control over council decisions within their team meeting.

Cr Jackie Watts, a Labor Party member and persistent Doyle critic, will gain little traction in the new council and has already been the subject of at least one formal complaint to state government oversight bodies.

However, just because we have a business-backed and Liberal-led council, don't expect an immediate move on the 17 per cent loading that business pays above the level of rates paid by residents. That set-and-forget differential has been in place for more than two decades and won't be changed, largely because business has not complained.

Similarly, even if debt blows out delivering the \$300 million-plus Queen Victoria Market precinct redevelopment, you'll never see a Doyle-controlled council asking for an exemption from rate capping.

That said, Cr Doyle is very conscious of the fact he rules over most of Adam Bandt's federal seat of Melbourne, long recognised as the most left wing federal seat in the country. The Lord Mayor jokes about being in a Green-Liberal Coalition and is very proud of being the spiritual leader of the so-called "Hamer Liberals" – the progressive, moderate group who look after the environment and embrace minorities whilst also keeping the budget balanced.

The Lord Mayor is unlikely to alienate the two Greens on council, Rohan Leppert and Cathy Oke, given they are both impressive individuals who have worked constructively with him in the past.

But he will no doubt be tempted to use some of his new-found power and the biggest risk relates to the conga line of rent-seekers who will ask for favourable treatment.

News Corp provided the worst example in the last council when it prevailed on the Lord Mayor to dish out almost \$300,000 of ratepayer cash to assist with their Good Friday Appeal. It was a dud investment which wasn't repeated, but there will be many others seeking favours, such as James Packer's Crown Resorts with its plan to build the biggest building in the southern hemisphere on the Queensbridge Hotel site.

The controversial removal of QVM trader Michael Caiafa, after serving for almost 150 days, will raise legitimacy questions about the Lord Mayor's majority.

Why did it happen? No legitimately elected councillor or politician in Australia has ever been removed from office mid-term by the same electoral authority which declared them elected in the first place.

The VEC is meant to be a sober independent authority which responds to events as necessary – not an interventionist litigant triggering unprecedented electoral outcomes with major political implications.

As *Southbank Local News* has previously reported, the Lord Mayor and Electoral Commissioner Warwick Gately had two telephone conversations during the Brooke Wandin imbroglio. What did they talk about?

As a party to the proceedings who followed

all submissions before Magistrate Michael Smith at the Municipal Electoral Tribunal and before Justice Garde at the VCAT appeal, I did not see or hear any convincing argument supporting the VEC position.

In my opinion, Magistrate Smith got it right and the VEC should never have appealed. Given that the VEC had declared Brooke Wandin elected, there should have been a vacancy declared and a countback which elected her running mate Nicholas Frances Gilley, who only received 14 primary votes.

But no, the VEC persisted with an alternative argument of assuming Ms Wandin had withdrawn before the election, when she hadn't.

The VEC approach didn't stop Brooke Wandin's tainted votes being used to elect her running mate, and it had the additional impact of delivering a Doyle majority (which the clear majority of voters did not want) and removing a serving councillor who scored the fourth highest vote with 7.78 per cent.

This is a travesty of democracy which, assuming no successful appeal, will effectively martyr Michael Caiafa and further boost the already powerful political movement opposing council's QVM redevelopment plans.

Don't be surprised if all this plays out at the 2018 state election as Planning Minister Dick Wynne, a critic of council's QVM plans, desperately tries to fend off a Green challenge in his seat of Richmond.



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The City of Melbourne is seeking nominations from eligible small businesses for its 12th annual Lord Mayor's Commendations.

The commendations celebrate and recognise the contribution that small businesses make to the success of the city. More than 500 City of Melbourne-based small business owners have so far been recognised.

Applications are open until Friday, May 19, with a ceremony to be held on Wednesday, August 23.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said small businesses played a huge role in building the prosperity and cultural fabric of our city.

"Small businesses are the engine room of our economy. Their energy, creativity and passion help to make Melbourne the world's most liveable city," the Lord Mayor said.

"The City of Melbourne is home to 13,000 small businesses which employ 75,000 people. Small businesses make up more than 80 per cent of all the businesses operating in the City of Melbourne."

"The dedication and passion of the people who run small businesses should be recognised and that's what this program is all about."

The Lord Mayor's Commendations are free to enter and are open to any business proprietor within the City of Melbourne municipality that employs 20 people or less and has operated continuously for more than 10 years.

Commendations for small business proprietors include: 50+ years; 40+ years; 25+ years; and 10+ years.

For more information on the Lord Mayor's Commendations, including how to apply or nominate an eligible small business, or call 9658 9658 or visit www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/commendations.

Melbourne's lucky day

By Shane Scanlan

The City of Melbourne has just got lucky with the chance inclusion of Nicholas Frances Gilley as its 11th councillor.

The most-impressive social entrepreneur's "election" to council is an accidental, but fortunate, outcome of a bizarre chain of events, which started before the October council election.

Never really expecting to get elected, Mr Frances Gilley and running mate Brooke Wandin were supposed to contest the deputy and lord mayoral positions and attract votes for former councillor Richard Foster.

However, a simple mistake saw them enter the wrong part of the election, which led to a bitter falling out with Mr Foster and resulted in both Mr Foster and Ms Wandin facing criminal charges over Ms Wandin's enrolment address.

These matters are still before the courts. The authorities are currently working with Ms Wandin on ways to avoid a conviction. By contrast, Mr Foster is pleading not guilty, and the matter is due for further mention in the Melbourne Magistrates Court on July 18.

Ms Wandin was elected to the council (largely on preferences) but was later stripped of the position when it became clear that she was ineligible to stand.

Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) president Justice Greg Garde on March 14 declared Mr Frances Gilley elected in her place. And while he was initially not interested in the position, Mr Frances Gilley said he decided to take up the opportunity to honour his commitment to Ms Wandin (in whom he was "in awe of").

He says he will work towards reforming the electoral process so that indigenous people, such as Ms Wandin, in future can be automatically eligible for election no matter where they live. He calls this "paternal right" and offers the treaty that John Batman signed with the Wurundjeri tribe in 1835 as the basis of his rationale.

Mr Frances Gilley denies this is "idealistic", saying that, in fact, it's a pragmatic ambition because it can be achieved by simply adding



New councillor Nicholas Frances Gilley.

a tick-box to candidate enrolment forms for indigenous Australians.

And while this sounds like "pie in the sky", Mr Frances Gilley's track record for getting things done suggests it just might happen.

He's been a CEO since he was 25, has been ordained an Anglican priest and was awarded an MBE (Member of the British Empire) for charitable achievements in Britain before coming to Australia in 1998 where he became the executive director of the Brotherhood of St Laurence.

He is on boards, writes books, speaks internationally and is well connected with the World Economic Forum. He is also an environmental player on the world stage.

The thought of his intelligent and passionate contribution to the direction of our city within the council chamber is exhilarating.

"I have skills," he said modestly, pointing to

the obvious areas of homelessness and the environment as where he can contribute most.

And he's not daunted by his ignorance of local government policies, processes and powers.

"It's a board position, isn't it?" he said, explaining that his strategic thinking was the best thing he could contribute and vowing to steer clear of the detail.

"You've got to trust the people who do the detail. What I will do will be within the context of that detail," he said.

"My style is to pose questions such as: 'would this be a good goal for us?'"

He's also not embarrassed that he and Ms Wandin's team attracted only 1534 votes.

"It's the system, isn't it? We've ended up with a consequence that neither of us expected, but I'm now in the job."



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Crime's up in Southbank

The Crime Statistics Agency released its annual figures last month and once again the numbers don't look good for postcode 3006.

Overall crime in Southbank and South Wharf for the year 2016 rose 13.6 per cent, which follows an increase of 16.8 per cent from 2015.

Crimes against the person significantly increased by 35 per cent, while property and deception offences also saw a jump from 2015 of 17.8 per cent.

Drug offences also increased by 26.7 per cent, largely as a result of an 88.6 per cent increase in drug dealing and trafficking offences. Drug use and possession offences also increased 16.3 per cent.

However, while these numbers may appear alarming, Southbank Police Station commander Snr Sgt Steve Bills said an increase in drug-related offences meant police were making more arrests in this category.

"That's actually a good news story in a way because that's an indication that more offenders are being caught," he said. "Any drug-related offences don't get reported unless an offender is actually caught."

While burglary and break-ins also increased 19.3 per cent, a minor increase of 0.2 per cent in thefts is positive news for local police. Theft offences, particularly from or of a vehicle, have caused police in Southbank ongoing headaches over recent years and while, not in decline, the minor increase is fractional compared with spikes from previous years.

While the statistics released recorded all crimes up until December 2016, Snr Sgt Bills said police had noticed an ongoing decline in property related crimes in Southbank.

"Our results show that property crime has

gone down on all fronts so hopefully it's an indication that the awareness messages around being vigilant are getting through to residents," he said.

"It's important that residents keep up the work that they're doing. You can't leave anything in your car that's at all obvious and it's important to make sure you keep all your possessions safely secured."

Snr Sgt Bills told *Southbank Local News* police often received reports of thefts from multi-level residential car parks either due to offenders tailgating or following a vehicle in before the gate had closed.

He said it was important that residents understood that living in a residential tower didn't necessarily guarantee security and police are continuing to encourage vigilance.



Hand bag theft

By Meg Hill

Police are searching for a man who allegedly stole a woman's handbag and used her credit cards to make purchases in Southbank last year on Saturday, October 8.

The victim's bag was stolen from beneath her seat between 10.45pm and 11.30pm.

Just after midnight, the victim was notified that her credit card had been used to make four transactions in Dandenong and Oakleigh.

The man is described to be of Indian appearance in his 40s. He was wearing a striped shirt with tan-coloured pants and has a distinctive moustache.

Police have released CCTV images of a man they believe may be able to assist with their enquiries.

Contact Crimestoppers on **1800 333 000**.

Motorbike theft

By Meg Hill

Detectives from the Melbourne Tasking Unit are investigating the theft of a motorbike from a private car park in Southbank on Australia Day.

Investigators are enquiring for information from the public regarding the incident, which occurred on Thursday, January 26.

An unknown man was seen loitering around the Sturt St car park for about 40 minutes before leaving with a red and black Honda motorcycle.

The man wheeled the motorcycle, with New South Wales registration MJA 10, out of the

car park and down the street just before 5pm.

Investigators have released an image of a man they believe may be able to assist with their enquiries.

Anyone with any information about the theft is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on **1800 333 000** or to submit a confidential report at www.crimestoppersvic.com.au



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Carnage on Kavanagh St

A wild car chase on April 2 resulted in severe damage to several parked cars on Kavanagh St.

A 24-year-old Hoppers Crossing man was charged following a series of crashes in Southbank, which occurred just after midnight.

Police had originally attempted to intercept the Holden Commodore on Exhibition St in the CBD. However, as police approached the vehicle it sped off.

Police pursued the vehicle along St Kilda Rd, where it's alleged to have sideswiped a car and crashed into the rear of another stopped at a red light, before it turned right into Southbank Boulevard.

Witnesses told *Southbank Local News* that the car was travelling at low speeds when it lost control, taking out a sign on the median strip of Kavanagh St before smashing into parked cars.

The vehicle allegedly swiped four parallel-parked cars near the corner of Southbank Boulevard before smashing into cars parked diagonally further up the street.

Southbank Condos resident Glen Lapham said he heard the crash from his apartment on the 19th level.

"I heard a screeching noise it sounded like a real chattering. I later realised it was the car's wheel rim scraping the road because the car was damaged," he said.

"I got to the window and heard the crash and four or five police cars arrived within 10 seconds. There was a lot of police."

Southside Gardens resident Ahmet Atasever described the incident as like something out of "a scene from a movie".

"We were sitting in our apartment watching TV and we heard this screeching get louder and louder. I originally thought it was someone doing a burnout and being silly," he said.

"I then heard a loud series of bangs and saw a white car that looked pretty dinged up. Then I just saw everyone from the car fleeing."

"They all ran but there wasn't much of a chase for three of them police were there in seconds. One of the guys somehow got into the apartment block across the street."

Witnesses said police stormed into the Southbank Condos multi-level car park but were unable to find the man in the car park. According to Mr Atasever, the man was wearing a red hoodie.

The driver and two 20-year-old women were quickly apprehended. However police have been unable to confirm whether a fourth person was involved.

The two women were questioned by police but were released pending further enquiries. The driver was taken to hospital for observation and was released into custody on the same day.

He has been charged with reckless conduct causing serious injury; handle/receive/retention of stolen goods; driving in a dangerous manner; evading police; three counts of failing to stop after an accident; careless driving; driving an unregistered vehicle; driving while unlicensed and conducting an indictable offence while on bail.



An aerial view of the scene shortly after police arrived (above left) just after midnight on April 2 and the aftermath of the rampage, which resulted in damage to several vehicles in Kavanagh St (above top right and bottom right).






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Have your say on traffic in Montague

Southbank Local News is partnering with the Montague Community Alliance (MCA) in hosting a series of free community forums in 2017 on the future redevelopment of the Montague Precinct.

The first of three forums will be held at the Golden Fleece Hotel on the corner of Montague and Buckhurst streets on Tuesday, May 16 at 6.00pm for a 6.15pm start.

As development of new towers and the vertical primary school at Ferrars St ramps up, the May discussion will focus on current and future traffic flows in the Montague Precinct.

A five-person panel, whose identities will be revealed in the May edition of *Southbank Local News*, will lead the forum.

Discussions are taking place with the City of Port Phillip, State Government, VicRoads, a prominent Montague developer and the South Melbourne Primary School.

Panelists will each be given five minutes to present before the forum is thrown to question and answer, where the audience will be encouraged to participate in the discussion.

MCA convener Trisha Avery will moderate the forum, which will be scheduled to conclude at 7.45pm.

Discussion topics for the other two forums, which are expected to be held in August and November, will be announced in *Southbank Local News* closer to the respective meetings dates.

For more information on the forum read Trisha Avery's regular column on page 19 of this edition. Alternatively, you can email Sean at sean@southbanklocalnews.com.au or Trisha at trishavery@bpca.com.au

Lifeline for skinny tower

The site hosting an active permit for the controversial 74-storey Elysium tower at 54-56 Clarke St has been purchased, according to a report in "Commercial Real Estate".

The report, published online on March 20, states that the site is believed to be changing hands for "about \$9 million".

The purchaser of the site is registered as Mitchell Asset Management, which according to *Commercial Real Estate* is an investment group "known to represent wealthy high-net-worth individuals, including Chinese developers".

Southbank Local News contacted the company for comment, however a representative said it would not be disclosing any information about the purchase.

Former developer Matrix and Cube put the site on the market in March last year and the reported sale ends a series of failed marketing campaigns by several agents.

The sale could represent a lifeline for the controversial project, which residents of neighbouring towers, as well as the City of Melbourne, slammed after former planning

minister Matthew Guy approved it in 2013. The council took Mr Guy to VCAT over the approval.

While Mr Guy hailed it as a "revolutionary change for the way that we design buildings in Melbourne," Lord Mayor Robert Doyle slammed the approval as "bad strategic planning".

Designed by BKK Architects, the 244-metre tower will be constructed on a slender 597sqm block and comprise 270 apartments.

Owners' corporation (OC) committee member at neighbouring Bank Apartments Jack Tan described it as a "terrible project".

"I am very concerned with this development, along with other residents, committee members and all the people living in the Bank Apartments," he said. "This project will be a huge infringement on our rights to privacy and sunlight, the two most fundamental rights for apartment residents."



The approved Elysium tower on Clarke St, Southbank.



A render of the proposed tower at Moray St, Southbank.

Moray tower endorsed

The City of Melbourne has shown its support for a 51-storey tower for the corner of Moray and Hancock streets in Southbank.

Councillors unanimously endorsed the 171-metre application at the Future Melbourne Committee meeting on March 21, which will now go before Minister for Planning Richard Wynne for approval.

Developer Capital Eight Pty Ltd's \$225 million proposal comprises 287 one, two and three-bedroom apartments, ground floor retail space and 2825sqm of office space from levels one to five.

While council's planning officers supported the application in their report, they recommended endorsement subject to a number of conditions.

Officers mainly noted that they held concerns about the "uncharacteristically small apartment sizes and configuration", external amenity and the design of the ground floor canopies.

However, council's chair of planning Cr Nick Reece told last month's meeting that discussions between officers and the developer had resulted in altering some of the apartment designs.

Speaking at the meeting, representative of the developer Brodie Blades told councillors that the developer was seeking to "set a new benchmark" for Southbank.

While he didn't agree with Mr Blade's assessment, Cr Rohan Leppert said given the challenges of developing in a floodplain area the application struck a good balance when activating the public realm.

"Balancing the flood constraints with the need to provide some high quality interaction with the public realm and the building interface, this building certainly does that so I'm happy to support it," he said.



Montague Community Forum

The *Southbank Local News* and the Montague Community Alliance invite local residents, workers and business owners to the first of three 2017 community forums focused on the current and future redevelopment of the Montague Precinct in Fishermans Bend.

The May forum will focus on **traffic management** in the Montague Precinct. An expert panel of five (to be announced in the May edition of *Southbank Local News*) will lead a Q&A.

When: Tuesday, May 16. 6pm for a 6:15pm start - 7:45pm
Where: The Golden Fleece Hotel, cnr of Montague and Buckhurst streets
Cost: Free

For more information email Sean at sean@southbanklocalnews.com.au or Trisha at trishavery@bpca.com.au

Hot box apartments are a health risk

By Sean Car

CBD residents face growing health risks associated with heat stress due to poor Australian apartment design standards, a new study by the University of Melbourne has shown.

The *Living Well – Apartments, Comfort and Resilience in Climate Change* study has found that Australian apartments don't comply with international standards when it comes to protecting inhabitants from extreme heat.

It looked at how apartments would perform in "free running mode" without mechanical cooling systems or air conditioning, such as in the event of a black out.

Researchers tested six common apartment building types ranging from high-rise and low-rise apartments to brick buildings and apartments considered as "best-practice" in the context of current Australian standards.

The study modeled how apartment designs could cope with excessively high temperatures by testing them against the heat wave conditions that hit Melbourne in January and February 2009, which included the Black Saturday bushfire disaster.

It also chose a worst-case scenario by modeling west-facing apartments that are most exposed to the sun. All six apartment samples failed the four standards they were tested against.

Two building types tested that were typical of most apartments in Southbank – being high-

rise heavyweight apartments made almost entirely of concrete – measured as the worst performing.

While current overseas building standards in countries such as France and Germany enforce strict rules on mitigating heat impacts, it is not currently addressed within the Building Code of Australia.

The study's lead researcher and construction scientist Chris Jensen said the results were a wake up call, particularly with scientists predicting longer and more frequent heat waves in the future.

"The research highlights to the public that heat stress inside apartments is a real issue and that we need to do more to control this, not only in new buildings, but also for existing buildings," he said.

One of the study's key recommendations calls on the national building regulator to adopt standards that protect people against heat stress by considering variables such as air temperature, humidity, air velocity, metabolic rate and clothing insulation.

The State Government's *Better Apartment Standards*, released in December, includes a maximum cooling load, which is calculated

using the Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme (NatHERS) standards. However, Mr Jensen told *Southbank Local News* these standards didn't go far enough in addressing heat stress.

"We're calling on a range of different policy changes," he said. "It's addressed really well overseas but it's not currently addressed in Australia. The apartment guidelines don't address heat stress – the maximum cooling load uses computer energy modeling and doesn't capture peak temperatures."

Apartments currently considered best-practice encourage natural ventilation for adaptive comfort, while others recommend windows be kept closed during heat waves.

Many of the inner city's high-rise apartments don't have opening windows, posing particular dangers for residents in the event of power blackouts. And not all apartment buildings have back-up generators.

According to the building manager of Freshwater Place in Southbank, Mike Zverina, generators only ensured that power was maintained to lights, air supply, lifts and water. All appliances, including air conditioning, are not connected to the emergency loop.

However, while some generators, such as those installed at Freshwater Place, ensure a temperate pressurised average air of 22 degrees, Mr Zverina said not all buildings had temperate air provided by the central system.

A spokesperson for the Australian Building Codes Board said the National Construction Code did not regulate backup power supply other than for emergency safety equipment.

"The provision of a generator for backup power is a matter that is at the discretion of the building owner/developer or building manager having regard to the nature and use of the building," the spokesperson said.

"A building does not get sold or occupied without a power source, so it is not something that needs to be regulated."

The *Living Well* study recommended a number of retrofit options, which included increasing thermal mass, added insulation, light colouring of external walls, improved ventilation and window shading.

However, the study found that even with the addition of all of these retrofits, some apartments would still fail to comply with some international standards.



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High school options aplenty!

Southbank families will be pleased to know that the enrolment zone of the new Richmond High School, to open in 2018, takes in Southbank Village.

The school's 2018 enrolment zone has been set to include Southbank's low-rise community from Kings Way and Dorcas St up to St Kilda Rd and Southbank Boulevard.

However, Richmond's zone will change for 2019 enrolment when the new Prahran High School on High St opens its doors. Residents living roughly between Miles St and Dorcas St will then be included in Prahran's zone.

Collingwood Secondary College currently caters for the remainder of Southbank and this will continue to be the case for the foreseeable future.

However, with two new secondary schools on the horizon and more earmarked for Fishermans Bend in the future, Southbank families will no longer be limited for quality high school options.

The inaugural principal of the new Richmond High School, Colin Simpson, was most recently the principal of the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School (VCASS) on Miles St in Southbank.

He said he was delighted that his new

school would serve the Southbank Village community and he encouraged families in need of a quality high schooling option to enroll.

"I am excited to be appointed as the foundation principal of the new Richmond High School, providing incredible opportunities for all children in the Richmond community and other children in our neighbourhood boundary, which extends to Southbank from 2018," he said.

"In 2019 Richmond High School and Prahran High School will not only return as an education force in their communities but will be a model school for others. Both schools will serve the Southbank community."

The new Richmond High School, currently being constructed at 280 Hightett St, Richmond, will have an initial intake of 100 year seven students in 2018. Both Richmond and Prahran will take in 650 students at full capacity.

For more information on both projects visit schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au



A render of the new Richmond High School, which will accept students from Southbank Village.

Short-term bridge pain

Works started last month to widen the Swan St Bridge and drivers are being encouraged to plan ahead with long delays along City Rd and Alexandra Ave expected until July.

However, Southbank can expect major benefits from the bridge's \$30 million upgrade with an extra lane to help ease peak hour congestion along City Rd.

New cantilevered four-metre-wide shared footpaths on both of sides of the bridge will also help pedestrians and cyclists accessing Southbank.

The City of Melbourne's director of city design Prof Rob Adams last month also hinted at council's plans to create a cycling route connecting the bridge with the future linear park at Southbank Boulevard.

The upgrade will be undertaken in three stages beginning with the removal and re-building of the bridge's existing beams and new shared paths on both sides of the bridge.

Each section of the existing bridge will be carefully removed and replaced piece-by-piece by a 150-tonne crane stationed on a barge on the river.

The final stage will re-open all lanes to traffic, switch on the feature lights and include additional landscaping.

There will be changed traffic conditions on



A render of how the new pedestrian link will appear on the Swan St Bridge.

the bridge until July with one city-bound lane and one footpath closed, along with short-term bridge closures at night.

Drivers are encouraged to use alternative

routes such as Alexandra Pde, Victoria Pde, Wellington Pde and Commercial Rd or use public transport to travel to and from Southbank.



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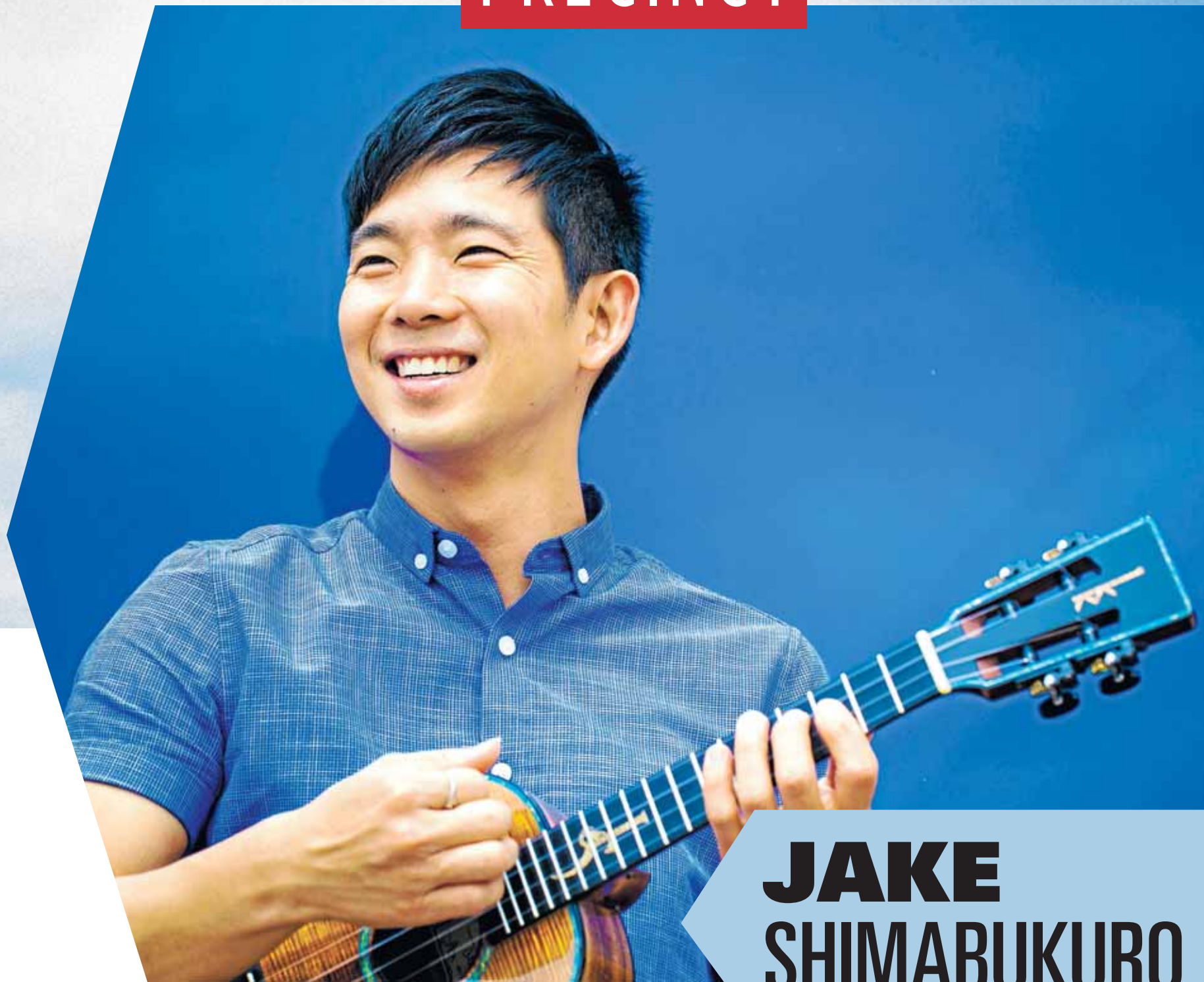
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THE ARTS PRECINCT



JAKE SHIMABUKURO

at MELBOURNE RECITAL CENTRE

By Meg Hill

Southbank will be treated to an infatuating blend of traditional Hawaiian and contemporary cosmopolitan music with the return of ukulele guru Jake Shimabukuro at the Melbourne Recital Centre on Monday, April 10.

Jake is returning with a new album full of originals – showcasing his continued commitment to breaking the confines of expected ukulele playing.

Like his music, Jake's career has taken shape with help from both old and new strategies. He had worked in multiple bands, released four solo albums and signed with Sony Music before going "viral" on YouTube in 2006 when a third party posted a video of his *While My Guitar Gently Weeps* cover. The video had millions of views before Jake was even aware of it.

"It almost singlehandedly started a touring career for me outside of Hawaii and Japan," he said. "YouTube has made it a lot easier for artists like myself to get music out to the public."

The video now has over 15 million views – appealing to such a large number of people by shattering their ideas of what the ukulele is capable of.

Jake says experimenting with different genres on the ukulele was just a natural progression for him.

"My musical interests changed over the years. I started out playing strictly traditional Hawaiian music – but as I got older, I found that I loved many different styles of music – like rock, classical, jazz, blues, pop, etc," he said.

Jake, however, is not one to grow complacent. His newest album is his first all-original and he says his shows have developed since his last visit to Australia.

"It'll be the first time that I'll be bringing my bassist up with me. The show will be quite different than my previous concerts in Australia. There will be a lot more jamming and spontaneous improvisation now that I have someone to hold down a groove for me," he said.

But, Jake has not forgotten the power of covering the classics on ukulele. If you're hanging out for a *Bohemian Rhapsody* or *While My Guitar Gently Weeps* cover, he promises not to disappoint.



How to spend Friday nights

By Nadia Dimattina

Friday night program is back for its fifth year, giving visitors after-hours access to Melbourne's Winter Masterpieces exhibition.

After being introduced in 2013, the series has become an integral part of Melburnians' lifestyles with about 72,500 visitors attending the series since it started.

For this series, visitors will enjoy the winter masterpieces exhibition of *Van Gogh and the Seasons* every Friday from April 28- July 7. The series will end with a special Saturday night performance on April 8.

The internationally exclusive exhibition *Van Gogh and the Seasons* will display works lent by leading international museums, presented within sections devoted to each of the four seasons.

The exhibition invites visitors to look at Van Gogh's life and experiences through his observations of the seasons.

Over 13 weeks, *Friday Nights at NGV* will showcase after hours art, live music and entertainment with an outstanding lineup of acts including:

Friday, April 28 – Gemma Ray;

Friday, May 5 – Toby Martin (Youth Group);

Friday, May 12 – Gareth Liddiard;

Friday, May 19 – Emma Russack;

Friday, May 26 – Gawurra;

Friday, June 2 – Two steps on the water;

Friday, June 9 – The Fauves;

Friday, June 16 – Grouper;

Friday, June 23 – The Blackeyed Susans;

Friday, June 30 – Ben Salter Band;

Friday, July 7 – Steve Gunn; and

Saturday, July 8 – The Panics.

British, singer songwriter Gemma Ray will open the series, bringing her unique torch song *Psychodelia* to NGV to promote her latest album *The Exodus Suite*. Gemma is performing at the NGV in combination with her Australian tour where she will perform at the Northcote Social Club and Caravan Music Club on Thursday, April 27 and Saturday, April 29.

Enjoy a classical string quartet recital, drop-in exhibition talks, have something to eat and finish your night with live performances by international and Australian acts in the Great Hall.

The events regularly sell out, so book tickets online in advance.

Friday Nights at NGV.

Cost: Online: \$24 Member/\$30 Adult/\$12 Child

On the door: \$29 Member/\$35 Adult/\$15 Child

Time: 6.00pm – 10.00pm

Doors open at 6.00pm. Headline act from 8.30pm

Location: Ground level, NGV International.

Comedy Festival: Southbank

By Nadia Dimattina

From March 29 to April 23, Melbourne will once again gear up for a festival full of laughs as the Melbourne Comedy Festival returns.

It's time to leave your stresses at home and join in the three weeks of laughter and happiness by watching a range of fantastic shows in the heart of Southbank.

There is a great lineup this Comedy Festival at a range of Southbank venues including Malthouse Theatre, Testing Grounds, Crown, Lawler theatre and of course the Arts Centre.

Here is a guide to the Melbourne Comedy Festival lineup in Southbank:

Malthouse Theatre is home to a range of shows this festival including Dane Simpson and Matt Fords' *Aborigi-LOL*, The Bedroom Philosopher's *Cat Show* (pictured), Geraldine Quinn's *Fox Poncing* as well as Lousia Wall's *A Dingo Ate My Baby*. Others include:

Honor Wolff and Patrick Durnan Silva's – *Cull*;

Josh Earl and Daniel Tobias;

Jude Perl – *Roomates the Musical*;

Rama Nicholas – *The Lucky Ones*;

Sami Shah – *Punching Down*; and

Xavier Michelides – *Lettuce Do This*.

Location: 113 Sturt Street, Southbank. Price range: \$18 - \$30.

Despite there only being one show at **Testing Grounds**, it must not be forgotten. *Spiritual Botox and the New Wage* is a show suitable for all ages running April 5-8.

A performance by Jule Small and Ceri



Hann, this open forum chat show explores the relations between the art world, capitalism and ideas that give rise to comedy.

Location: 1 City Rd, Southbank. Price Range: \$10-\$15.

Aimee D will present her debut solo show at this year's comedy festival on April 8 at **Crown**. She is ready to unleash her hilarious tales of interracial relationships in *Gimme Some Sugar*.

Location: Level 3, Crown, 8 Whiteman St, Southbank. Price range: \$20-\$25.

There are two shows being featured at **Southbank Theatre's Lawler** including Magic Steven's *Note to Self* and Phillip A Mayer's show *Table 17*.

Location: 140 Southbank Blvd, Southbank. Price range: \$16-\$25.

There is a huge lineup at the **Arts Centre** this year with a range of shows being held including Daniel Kitson and Gavin Osborn's *Stories for the Starlit Sky*, Ruby Wax' one woman show *Frazzled* as well as Judith Lucy and Denise Scott's show, *Disappointments*. There is also a range of shows for a children audience including Mr Stink and Frank Woodley's *Noodlenut*.

Location: 100 St Kilda Rd, Southbank. Price Range: \$15 - \$79.90.

These are just a selection of some of the shows featured in Southbank during this year's Melbourne Comedy Festival. For more information visit: www.comedyfestival.com.au/2017



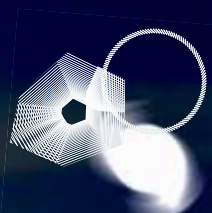
JAKE

SHIMABUKURO

Jake has elevated the ukulele from a beloved Hawaiian folk instrument, fearlessly traversing boundaries and putting his inspired touch on everything from island standards to popular tunes.

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PIER CARTHEW

Looking beyond aesthetic

While Pier Carthew enjoys exploring fashion through his lens, he said his was a more “rebellious” take on the theme.

Currently undertaking his final year of a commercial major at the Photography Studies College (PSC), the 36-year-old comes from a diverse artistic background, having made a career in acting and production.

With a fascination for diverse and interesting

people, he is currently exploring identity through the theme of fashion in an effort to unearth a person’s story rather than just simply capturing their appearance.

“I think you can read a story into a person. It’s really hard to read a story into a generic model,” he said. “I actually don’t understand commercially why this isn’t explored more.”

“For me when I’m looking at a billboard of a beautiful person I don’t even look twice because you’ve seen that so many times.”

“It seems to me that there is an opportunity there to explore diversity more because it does have a visual impact. Apart from being politically correct, I think it is actually compelling.”

While he has pursued his commercial course with the intention of making money out of photography long-term, he said the course struck a good balance between encouraging creativity and commercial success.

“The teachers definitely encourage a real artistic exploration,” he said. “I think what this school does very well is that it incorporates that artistic stuff but brings it into a commercial context, which is the whole reason why I came.”

Pier recently returned from a three-week journey to India with his 12-year-old daughter, where he used his time to test his own concepts as well as capture some amazing scenes from the streets of India.

Working through his favourite format of film, he described it as a “big adventure” that had given him a range of new ideas that he hoped might eventually manifest into an exhibition or photo book.

“Working with film is kind of freeing – where you don’t have so many files to look at and process everyday,” he said. “It’s slower. You take less photographs and you think more about every photograph you take.”

“I guess what it did do was it got me thinking about the thousands of projects that I could go back and do there.”

His featured image (pictured) provides an apt example of his exploration into identity during his trip to India, which features a moving and colourful portrait of an everyday Indian man.



The image of Pier’s provides an apt example of his exploration into identity.

It’s this sense of adventure that Pier holds dear in his approach to all of his work and he said he would continue to use photography as a vehicle for exploring things that interested him.

“I’m not much of a goal setter kind of a guy!” he said. “I just try and do things that I enjoy and, for now, I’m just going to keep making work that I really like.”

“I’m not going to produce work that I think the world will like. I’m going to keep doing my thing and I think there are people out there who are going to respond to it and those are people that I would probably rather work with.”

To view more of Pier’s work, visit piercarthewphotography.com

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Image by Maja Pearson



DAVID MAURICE SMITH

April 7 - Photography Studies College
David Maurice Smith is a Canadian documentary photographer currently based in Sydney, whose work focuses on exploring the issues facing marginalised communities. His images have been recognised internationally and he has worked regularly for global and national NGO's and not-for-profit organisations. David will present as part of PSC's *Image Makers* series.
www.psc.edu.au



LAURA MVULA

April 13 - Elisabeth Murdoch Hall
One of the most exciting musical talents to come out of the U.K., the award-winning singer-songwriter Laura Mvula is heading to Melbourne to win our hearts. The soulful vocalist is known for her inventive, atmospheric mix of R&B, jazz, classical and pop.
www.melbournerecital.com.au



THREE LITTLE WORDS

April 18 - May 27 - The Sumner
Expecting your friends to stay the same even as the world changes is the sort of self-defeating folly that acclaimed playwright Joanna Murray-Smith loves to skewer. In this razor-edged new comedy, beloved actor Catherine McClements and director Sarah Goodes remind us why cultural sophistication is no help at all when dealing with the everyday upheavals of modern life.
www.mtc.com.au



CLAIRE LAMBE

April 8 - June 27 - ACCA
ACCA is proud to present a major exhibition of newly commissioned work by Melbourne-based, English-born artist Claire Lambe. Encompassing sculpture, photography and theatrical mise-en-scène, Lambe creates intimate and intense psychological spaces in an ambitious attempt to describe the human condition in its cruel reality and horrifying glory.
acca.melbourne

MILES ELECTRIC BAND

April 15 - Hamer Hall
Expect a funk explosion when the Miles Electric Band hits Australia for the first time, performing music from the influential 1969-1975 era. Musicians who played with Davis during this seminal period feature in the line-up, including bassist Daryl Jones (The Rolling Stones, Sting) and Blackbyrd McKnight (Parliament).
www.artscentremelbourne.com.au

MELBOURNE MUSIC WEEK

Runs until 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.artscentremelbourne.com.au

AMERICAN 20TH CENTURY

April 26 - Salon
Individually, Joe Chindamo and Zoë Black have forged stellar careers and are amongst the most respected musicians in Australia. As a duo, they have established themselves as one of the most innovative voices in contemporary chamber music. Presented as part of *Local Heroes 2017*.
www.melbournerecital.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



BILLY BRAGG & JOE HENRY

April 22 & 23 - Elisabeth Murdoch Hall
English singer-songwriter Billy Bragg and American singer-songwriter Joe Henry have between them recorded over 25 albums, won countless accolades, garnered rave reviews for their live performances and written some of the most original thought provoking songs of our times.
www.melbournerecital.com.au



CARMEN

May 24 - 26 - State Theatre
Opera Australia opens its 2017 Melbourne Season with *Carmen*. In the heat, dust and danger of the city, fiery Carmen sings her siren song. With each seductive note, the guileless Don José is drawn into her world: a world of smugglers in suits, a world outside society's bounds.
www.opera.org.au



FRIDAY NIGHTS AT NGV: GEMMA RAY

April 28 - July 17 - NGV International
NGV Friday Nights is your opportunity to see *Van Gogh and the Seasons* after hours with live music performances and pop-up bars. The headline performers have just been announced. Gemma Ray (pictured) will kick things off on April 28.
www.ngv.vic.gov.au



AWAY

May 3 - 28 - Merlyn Theatre
Taking up playwright Michael Gow's challenge to break apart the rules of theatre, Matthew Lutton's production unleashes the full theatricality of the text; intimacy gives way to the epic, and suburbia is replaced with the dark spectacle of a tempest.
www.malthousetheatre.com.au

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Alistair MacGibbon (fourth right) with Blockchain members at the Real Meal program last month.

Bitcoin supports Big Umbrella

As part of his visit to Bitcoin's Blockchain Centre in Southbank last month, the Prime Minister's special adviser on cyber security Alistair MacGibbon took part in local charity The Big Umbrella's Real Meal program.

After visiting the centre on March 24, Mr MacGibbon joined Blockchain community members to take part in the charity's regular meal program on Flinders St, which supports Melbourne's homeless community.

Joined by his assistant secretary Sandra Rugg, Mr MacGibbon toured the Blockchain Centre.

Mr MacGibbon told *Southbank Local News* that the visit was part of an effort to gain a

greater understanding of start-ups and smart technologies around the country to create a robust national cyber security strategy.

"If we as a government are going to help influence the ecosystem that people operate in our cyber strategy, I think the bit that will make this strategy unique and most effective is the whole concept of growing cyber industries," he said.

www.blockchaincentre.com.au

Bollywood fitness fun

If you're keen to break the fitness monotony of repeated gym workouts, why not try the popular Bollywood Dance Class at the Boyd Community Hub?

Led by dance company The Naach Box, which is spearheaded by instructors Karthika Vijaykumar and Raphael Jacob, the class has proven to be a hit with Southbank locals.

The pair will host classes at Boyd throughout the year on Tuesday evenings from 7pm to 8pm and, for a \$5 donation, locals can experience the fun that is Bollywood dance.

However, Karthika explained that, while the focus was centred on Bollywood inspired dance routines, the class included a range of different themes including salsa, belly dancing and even hip-hop!

"Typically peoples' perception of Bollywood dancing is that it's a lot of dancing around trees, a lot of drama and a lot of colour. If you

watch Bollywood movies that's what a lot of it is about. Any situation has a song and dance," she said. "I think the difference that Raph and I bring to the club is that we try and use different dance forms."

According to the pair, the structure of the class begins with a warm-up involving core conditioning. This is followed by the mixed choreography - where the fun begins!

Both coming from diverse dancing backgrounds, Raphael said he and Karthika always brought a range of influences to their dance routines, which was typical of dance in modern day Bollywood.

For more information visit facebook.com/TheNaachBoxMelbourne/



The Bollywood Dance Class takes place on Tuesday evenings at the Boyd Community Hub.

ADVERTISEMENT

Liberal Prime Minister Turnbull wants to change Section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act so that it is OK to:



- ✓ **Offend**
- ✓ **Insult**
- ✓ **Humiliate**
- X **Harass**

you on the basis of your race, colour or national or ethnic origin.

The Federal Senate, this time said NO to watering down racial discrimination laws. Processes for lodging a complaint were made stricter. How long before Turnbull again kowtows to his party's right wing to force these changes through? Malcolm, this rhetoric doesn't go down in Melbourne. Australians are proud of our pluralist, tolerant society. **This brand of dog whistle, hard line ideology does not belong here.**



Michael Danby MP

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Authorised by M Danby 117 Fitzroy Street St KILDA WEST

Southbank Residents Association

The final nail in the coffin

It was the final nail in the coffin last week when the council sealed the fate of the proposed Boyd Park site, selling off roughly a third to a developer for \$15.5 million.

As predicted, Southbank will not see a cent from the sale with all funds going to the Queen Victoria Market upgrade.

We have been told the community will be receiving a park on the remaining two thirds of the site but we're understandably a little sceptical, having already waited in excess of five years for any progress.

In our submission to the council on the sale of the land last year, we expressed concern about the developer's ability to finance the project. Let's just hope the City of Melbourne has done its due-diligence and is confident the developer's finance is sound or else I suspect there will be further delays on the park.

Rest assured, I will not let up on this and at this week's Future Melbourne Committee I will ask the Lord Mayor about a timeframe and stress that the community should receive this park without delay and not be dependent upon the developer commencing or finishing their project.

As some of you know, I don't own a vehicle and as such I am spotted walking throughout Southbank almost daily.

Recently I came across construction workers who decided to close the footpath and redirect pedestrians to the other side of the road.



The SRA led a community campaign for a full park at Boyd last year following the termination of Mackie's contract.

I was suspicious of the closure due to the irrational positioning of their signage, but after confronting them, I was told they were all but following orders.

We know construction is prevalent in Southbank and I'm sure you've been equally inconvenienced at times by footpath closures, lane closures, detours and road closures.

It's a fact of life and we learn to live and work

around it. However, I'm suspicious by nature and have often observed works where the closure seemed questionable and I have often doubted if there was a management plan in place.

In this particular case I doubted a management plan was in place owing to the haphazard signage, staffing and temporary nature of the closure and I was right. I phoned the City of Melbourne (9658 9658)

and sure enough, they didn't have approval for the closure.

You mightn't know this, but the City of Melbourne takes unapproved works like this very seriously and some developers are serial offenders.

If you observe questionable works or processes - including excessive noise, especially at unwarranted hours - then a simple phone call to the City of Melbourne will trigger an officer to attend and inspect.

In my experience they take this seriously and attend without delay as they know some of these actions are time critical.

Developers risk hefty fines in the thousands if they don't comply with their authorised construction plans and the officers will issue them without hesitation.

Join me in keeping the developers honest and let's force them to follow the rules.



Tony Penna

Tony Penna is the president of Southbank Residents' Association.

southbankresidents.org.au



Owners Corporation Law

Read the fine print

Developers owe fiduciary duties to owners' corporations (OCs), but always read the fine print in your sales contract.

The strata law titling system has existed in Victoria for more than 50 years and, as each year passes, the system gets more and more sophisticated as clever lawyers obtain judgments from courts regarding the interpretation of statutory and common law concepts and existing laws continue to be amended.

Since 1968, the courts of Australia have been prepared to recognise that a developer, acting as a promoter of the building, will owe the OC a fiduciary duty to act in an OC's best interests and in relation to the ways in which it sets up an OC to be managed in the future.

Over time, the scale, extent and operation of this fiduciary duty has expanded and contracted as various parliaments around Australia have sought to legislate in this area and various courts have issued rulings in cases regarding this duty.

Within the Owners Corporation Act in Victoria, there is also a legislative provision which requires a developer to act honestly and in good faith and with due care and

diligence in the interests of the OC in exercising any rights under the legislation.

The common law duty extends this principle, requiring a developer not to obtain any unauthorised benefit from the relationship and not to find itself in a position of conflict (where it might be tempted to "self-deal").

The operation of this duty can take many forms. For instance, it can arise in such diverse areas as "embedded networks" where a developer might enter into an agreement on behalf of the OC with a gas or electricity supplier for the bulk buy of utility services.

Typically, the developer would take an annual fee as a commission for the bulk purchase of the utility. It could be said that the developer has no right to earn a commission from the energy or gas that the OC consumes and that any commission should be payable to the OC itself - not to the developer.

In other circumstances, a developer might enter into a service contract on behalf

of the OC with a related company (such as concierge or building management services, property management, cleaning or security). If these agreements are found to be uncompetitive with the market (either in duration of years or based on the annual fees) then these agreements may be able to be impugned.

However, before OCs rush off to VCAT seeking declarations and injunctions, careful consideration and analysis is required of what was disclosed by the developer in the off-the-plan sales contracts.

This is because the fiduciary duty of a developer may be constrained or limited if there was sufficient disclosure to purchasers of what exactly the developer was going to do in the future.

In addition, if there has been ratification of any of the agreements by the OC, then the developer might have a defence to say that the OC has accepted the contractual arrangements and is now bound to the commercial terms.

For instance, if a developer placed an OC into a 25 year agreement with the developer's company to provide a service and, if that agreement has been on foot for say, the last five to 10 years without complaint, then the conduct of the OC has been such that it has accepted the services and may have ratified the agreement through its operation and would be prevented from impugning the agreement.

As always, much depends on the exact facts and circumstances of each case, however it will be critically important for OCs that are less than five years old to take advice on these matters - because if you snooze, you're likely to lose.



Tom Bacon

Tom Bacon is the principal lawyer of Strata Title Lawyers.

Tom@stratatitlelawyers.com.au

St Johns Southgate

May the peace be with you

It's not the fall that'll kill you, it's the sudden stop.

That may be true, but waiting for something to happen, particularly if it has the potential to be bad, can be excruciating. Perhaps you've had to wait for test results from your doctor. It's a horrible feeling.

The passion and Easter stories of the Bible describe some incredibly intense periods of waiting. As Jesus waited at Gethsemane to be arrested he prayed in terrible anguish. It's said that as he prayed his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

Jesus's disciples also had to experience their fair share of nervous waiting. In the days after Jesus's crucifixion, they were huddled away behind locked doors, fearful that they might be the next to be arrested and executed. All they could do was wait and see what their fate might be.

But after the resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples behind those locked doors. He made himself known in a space where the air was thick with tension and fear.

Jesus, knowing all too well what it was like to wait around for something awful to happen, greeted his disciples in a way that described exactly what they needed. He said: "Peace be with you."

Feeling peace in the middle of turmoil isn't particularly achievable on our own. But when someone who has been through tough times steps in to assure you that everything's going to be okay, it can be most helpful.

But the unique thing about the peace that Jesus announced to his disciples is that it wasn't something achieved through deep breathing, visualisation or the right concoction of dietary supplements. Jesus had come through death to life.

He had conquered his (and the world's) demons. He had done something so unthinkable, so unspeakable that it wasn't just a victory for him, but for everyone!

Easter is often thought of as some kind of a chocolate festival, which isn't all bad. Chocolate is festive, it's delicious, and having an Easter egg marks a happy moment. But it can't hurt to remember why we celebrate at Easter.

It's because, out of pain and suffering, from the very heart of life's turbulence, comes peace, hope and the possibility of new beginnings when all hope may have seemed lost.

If you're waiting for something to happen, some news to come through that might not be all that good, may you know peace.

May you know the divine presence of one who has been through it all being there with you, and for you, so that you might know true peace.

Easter peace!



Tom Hoffmann

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



Montague Community Alliance

Let's talk TRAFFIC!

We're having a public forum, at 6.15pm on Tuesday, May 16 at The Golden Fleece Hotel, 120 Montague St, South Melbourne and we are going to talk traffic.

Why traffic you might ask? Why not urban design, governance and infrastructure? Yes they too are important questions and we will have time to address these at the other two forums that we will hold in August and November this year.

Traffic, however, affects 100 per cent of the lives of all those currently living and working in Montague and those that will be moving into the nearly completed properties in Gladstone and Montague streets in the very near future.

And, of course, let's not forget the 2018 opening of the South Melbourne Primary School and all the additional street activity that will bring.

So what do we mean by "traffic"? We mean the movement and parking of any trucks/vehicles/motor bikes/ bicycles/ or other on-road activity that impacts the Montague Precinct.

Currently there has been no thought given to traffic movement or parking, other than the challenges faced by those working at Surveyors Place. There are huge challenges, with massive articulated lorries driving down Boundary St, and the blocking of residential parking zones by the construction workers.

This constant traffic flow on the smaller streets is already having an affect on where residents want to walk their dogs and play with their children. One family has already sold up ...

When at a 2017 community forum we asked the head of the State Government's Task Force on Fishermans Bend what work had been done on looking at the impact of traffic management on the current situation in Montague, he said none! C'mon we are meant to be a smart state and that means thinking not just about what will happen in the future but looking at the existential reality of today.

Montague St is completely inadequate to service the current amount of traffic never mind what will happen in 12-24 months and then, dear readers, there is the next 10 years!

All the stakeholders need to be engaged now on ensuring the amenity of Montague as a residential and business precinct that supports great quality of life, business and education.

Our forum on May 16 is a free event sponsored by *Southbank Local News*. We will have a panel of relevant parties who can answer directly and with transparency your questions about traffic in Montague.

We have invited (to be confirmed) a senior representative of VicRoads, our local Member Martin Foley MP (a State Government cabinet minister), the mayor of the City of Port Philip, the principal of the South Melbourne Primary School and a Montague Precinct developer.

We will be confirming all the speakers in the May edition of this paper. Please come along, have a say on the future of your businesses and your homes - we need action to create workable solutions for all of us in the Montague Precinct.

Let's talk folks.



Trisha Avery

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



The community of St Johns Church Southgate invites you to share our Easter celebrations

Palm Sunday April 9
9am, 11am Worship with communion

Maundy Thursday April 13
7:30pm Worship with communion

Good Friday April 14
9am Worship with communion
6pm Worship with music and poetry

Easter Sunday April 16
6:45am Worship at dawn
9am, 11am Worship with communion

Every Sunday
9am Traditional worship with communion
10:30am Sunday School during school terms
11am Informal worship with communion
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

Letters to the Editor



Red stair I

I was very happy to read in *Southbank Local News* that the red stair will be removed!

As a local resident since the mid 90s, I was very disappointed when it was erected. I see it as an eyesore from the front view and the back view, with the highly-lit casino car park sign.

Moreover, some of the weekend performances, accompanied with very loud spectator cheering, really disturbs the Sunday peace of local residents.

I would rather see the red structure replaced by something like a water fountain surrounded by green grass.

Also, I am hoping that the area can be opened up to Southbank Boulevard for pedestrians and tourists.

The median strip should/could be a walkway, devoid of the current bushes which prevent sunlight from reaching the patchy grass.

I look forward to seeing what plans are put in place for Southbank Blvd and the red stair.

Renzo Rossi

Red stair II

"Red stair to go!" from Queensbridge Square and proposal to be replaced with a cafe, as if there is a lack of cafes in the area. Only 10 paces on either side of the red stair there is an abundance of cafes.

Instead of proposing to take from the scarce open public spaces in Southbank and giving it to private enterprise the authorities should be retaining and enhancing whatever remains unaffected from the orgy of overdevelopment.

If the red stair is to go, my suggestion is to renovate into a mini park with seating facilities and a water feature. Open public space is superior to "a cafe or something ..."

Southbank resident

Red stair III

I liked the red stairs. It was somewhere for people to sit without being forced to purchase anything. I'm not sure how this will go down, but how about a play area for kids like a fun sculpture and seating area for people to sit and enjoy their coffee or food, without being held ransom to have to purchase something just to take a seat.

Melbourne being artistic, maybe you could reference our diverse and artistic culture.

Thank you for your valuable time.

Marita

Red stair IV

As residents on the podium level at Freshwater Place, the removal of the red stairs is a true blessing! Extreme noise levels from buskers and street performers impact on our life. We understand that events are organised and usually these are great. However last weekend's event was SO loud our windows shook!

As more and more people move into apartments council really needs to realise that we are entitled to live peacefully. Buskers and street performers are most certainly entitled to perform, however, many disregard council's performance times and amp levels. We would love to somehow become involved in a discussion regarding the future of busking outside private residences.

Marianne Power

Thanks for the pic

It's lovely to see David featured in this month's issue of SLN. Thank you for the time you took visiting us in our apartment and for a lovely photo of David!

Lynne and David Lumsden

NBN botch

Many residents of Southbank were understandably excited to hear that the NBN was to become available to them recently. Sadly though for many the service has not lived up to the hype.

The NBN that is being delivered in Southbank is not the NBN that Labor initiated, what is being rolled out is Malcolm Turnbull's "NBN Lite".

Malcolm Turnbull's plan to deliver an "NBN lite" Australia-wide has proven frustrating for many Southbank locals who are now experiencing slower paced internet than they had been when connected to their previous networks. It is ironic that the NBN, which was designed to service Australia with faster internet, is for some having quite the opposite effect.

The reason for the NBN not functioning--the government's decision to cut corners in policy making.

Labor was the first to propose the idea of the National Broadband Network, and once elected started the NBN rollout. At the time the Coalition opposed the NBN, branding it too costly, and claiming it was a "Rolls Royce" style service that the public did not require.

Once in government the Coalition proceeded with the rollout but reduced the service quality from a "Rolls Royce" style to a

"Rent A Bomb" service.

This has become a cause for concern for residents of the Southbank area, as more and more residents are switching to the NBN network. Many who have now signed up to the "NBN Lite" are experiencing speeds of half of what they were previously receiving on their previous Cable or ADSL plan.

Some may say that residents in Southbank are just lucky to have the NBN that the Turnbull government promised us all access to by the end of last year and dismally failed to deliver. Those who have contacted my office would beg to differ. Many preferred their old service.

Technology is advancing at a rapid rate and it makes little sense for our internet quality to go backwards.

In parliament I will continue to push for the rollout of fibre to the home as Labor was delivering in government. Labor recognises that the NBN is vital infrastructure that will be essential to health and education services, as well as to business and home users.

Our future depends on us having access to the information super-highway, not being stuck in a back lane looking for directions.

Michael Danby MHR



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MELBOURNE CBD

We Live Here

Airbnb: facts and smokescreens

Founded in San Francisco in 2008, Airbnb has been promoted as an online booking platform that supports young creatives and people on low incomes, hoping to make extra money out of spare rooms.

Initial acceptance in various cities depended on local laws and legislation, but by late 2016 Airbnb had more than three million listings worldwide and was valued at \$US30 billion. With the availability of research data, a growing disparity has emerged between the image Airbnb portrays and the reality of who is profiting from its site.

InsideAirbnb is an independent, non-commercial set of tools and data utilising public information compiled from the Airbnb website that allows you to explore how Airbnb is really being used.

Data is now available for all the major cities of the world, where Airbnb has a presence, including Melbourne and Sydney.

We have analysed Airbnb data for nine cities: Amsterdam, Barcelona, Berlin, London, Melbourne, New York, Paris, San Francisco and Sydney, with the following results:

Airbnb listings by type of accommodation (Chart 1) show that overall 62.9 per cent of listings are for entire homes or apartments with only 37.1 per cent for private or shared rooms (range 49.5 per cent for New York to 87.5 per cent for Paris).

For Melbourne and Sydney the results were 56.6 per cent and 61.9 per cent respectively for entire homes or apartments.

Airbnb's business model is based on hosts renting out spare rooms in their private homes. How then does Airbnb, by its own criteria, account for 62.9 per cent of all its listings being illegal?

Airbnb listings by host (Chart 2) show that, although 67.8 per cent were "Mums and Dads", almost a third (31.3 per cent) were commercial operators (range 20.8 per cent for Paris to 57.5 per cent for Barcelona).

For Melbourne and Sydney, with 12,174

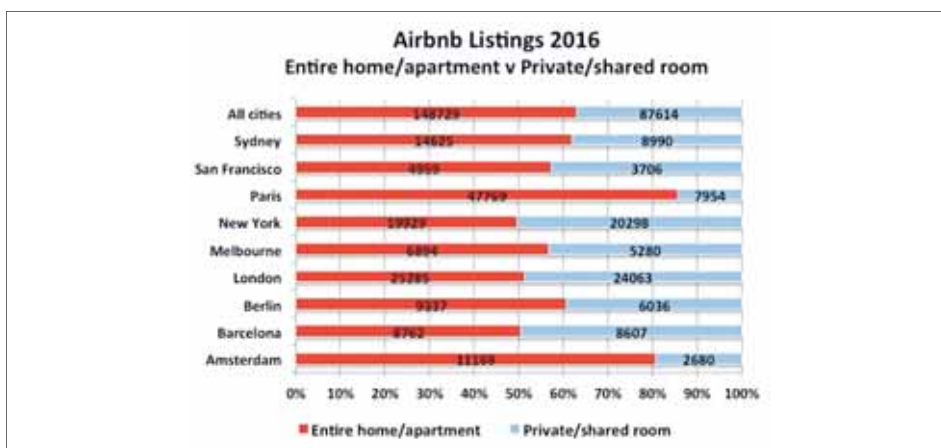


Chart One



Chart Two



Chart Three

and 23,615 listings respectively, the results showed that 38.8 per cent and 30.8 per cent were commercial operators.

The results for Melbourne, coming third out of the nine cities in this study with almost 40 per cent being commercial operations, are particularly disturbing – confirming that

short-stay operators, whether using Airbnb or not, are well entrenched in this city – not paying taxes, or contributing to job creation, just lining their own pockets.

Occupancy rate per month and income per month (Chart 3) shows San Francisco, Berlin and New York with the highest

occupancy rates and San Francisco and New York also having the highest income per month. Melbourne had the second lowest occupancy rate of 23.3 per cent but was fifth in income per month.

The stand-out result was Sydney with the lowest occupancy rate per month of all the cities (14.2 per cent) and the lowest income by a big margin.

One explanation for the Sydney result could be that the NSW Government recently gave the (yet to be ratified) green light to Airbnb, and may indicate investors jumping on the bandwagon with the lure of immediate riches creating an oversupply, thus depleting the rental market. If so it has back-fired with very few making any money, and supports reports coming in from around the world of a shortage of affordable rental accommodation, attributable to Airbnb and other similar platforms.

There are some lessons here for the Victorian Government, which has also been quick to embrace Airbnb.

On May 23, 2016, the day before the Owners Corporation Amendment (Short-stay Accommodation) Bill 2016 was to be introduced into the Victorian Parliament, AirbnbAction released a statement entitled "Airbnb welcomes new rules in Victoria to stamp out party houses" and included a photograph of the former Minister for Consumer Affairs shaking hands with the Airbnb country manager on the steps of Parliament House!

We Live Here has stated before that this legislation is a smokescreen, that owners corporations already have the powers to deal with unruly parties and bad behaviour, and we are pleased that a Parliamentary inquiry into short-stays is about to commence as a consequence of the Bill being defeated in the Legislative Council.

We would like to work with the government in coming up with a Bill that recognises all parties to the debate equally – including Airbnb and residents – so there is a level playing field for all.



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

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An honourable local

Melburnian resident

Thelma Castles was recently acknowledged with a Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia for 18 years of service helping vulnerable women and families.

Thelma joins fellow Melburnian residents Paul Wheelton AM and Anne O'Donovan AO as the third Southbanker to have received Australia Day honours this year.

Having bought off the plan 16 years ago at The Melburnian, she said she and husband John (who also has an AM!) loved living in Southbank.

Since 1998, Thelma has served in a number of roles, including president, deputy president and secretary of The Queen's Fund, which is one of Victoria's oldest charities.

While "completely overwhelmed" to have received the OAM, the career speech pathologist said she felt honoured to be recognised for her many years of ongoing service to the organisation.

"I feel honoured to be the recipient of this award which is recognition, not only for me but for the generations of women who, through The Queen's Fund, have made a positive impact on the lives of thousands of single women and their children," she said.

Lady Loch, who was the wife of the then Governor of Victoria, established the



Southbank resident Thelma Castles OAM.

Queen's Fund in 1887 for the purpose of financially assisting and empowering single Victorian women and children.

Lady Loch established the organisation to both celebrate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee and commemorate the Bulli coalmine disaster, which both occurred in the same year.

The organisation has held its regular meetings at the Melbourne Town Hall ever since, and has helped thousands of vulnerable women and children who are in distress, crisis or emergency situations.

As Thelma explained, while the type of support the organisation has provided to women and families has changed

dramatically over the years, its purpose has stayed the same.

"In those days they would buy poultry so she could keep chickens and sell eggs or an old mangle for washing so they could take in washing or sometimes they would give furniture if they had a spare room for a lodger," she said.

"It was that really early microeconomics in a way but of course nowadays we fill a gap in the service system."

In 2016 alone, more than 600 social workers from over 280 organisations referred people to The Queen's Fund for financial support, which can come in the form of everything from a child's school fees to a woman's medical bills.

Having grown up in Melbourne's western suburbs under very civically-engaged parents, she said giving back had always been a value she held dear.

Thelma currently serves on the 17-person committee as the convener of the submissions sub-committee and she said her passion for The Queen's Fund was still just as strong as when she started.

"When I was asked to do this, I suppose it was sort of a natural thing and the best thing about this is that you're at the coalface," she said.

"I always had that thing about giving back and the truth is you get so much more out of it than you give back. I don't think people realise that."

For more information visit queensfund.org.au

Pet's Corner

Double the cuteness

By Sunny Liu

Italian greyhounds Lucci and Leo are the babies of Southbank resident Holly Rose.

These two skinny pooches love going out for a daily walk, although they also have no problem lying on the apartment couch.

"The good thing about living in Southbank is that there's a lot of parks and walkways, so it's quite good for the dogs in that regard," Ms Rose said.

"I think it's very important to take them for a walk everyday. I also take them to dog off-leash Fawkner Park, where they can enjoy the freedom. There are a lot of good facilities around here."

Lucci has just turned five years old, while Leo is almost four. Having lived in Southbank for almost all their lives, these confident dogs have long grown accustomed to the attention they receive from people.

"People always want to take pictures or ask

questions about them. They quite enjoy the attention they get," Ms Rose said.

According to Ms Rose, Lucci and Leo are very affectionate and behave very well around people, except when there are skateboarders – they bark like crazy when they see skateboarders.

"Leo is very friendly and Lucci can be a little timid. But they are both great around people. The only thing they don't like is skateboards," she said.

Despite Lucci and Leo's small sizes, Ms Rose stressed that small dogs also needed a healthy amount of exercises each day.

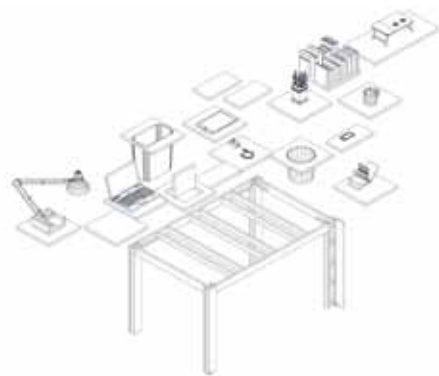
"Some people get them and think they don't need exercises. But they do. They need to be walked everyday," she said.



SKYPAD Living

Double duty furniture

“Vertical living is more than suburbia turned on its side”, so says Mond Qu, a Melbourne designer and creator of the DEBLE – a DEsk taBLE combo.



The innovative DEBLE by Melbourne designer Mond Qu.

Architecturally trained in Melbourne and London, Mond was the 2016 recipient of the Credit Suisse Scholarship at The Wade Institute where he studied for a masters of entrepreneurship.

Described as “the MBA for the entrepreneurial age”, The institute aims to empower future entrepreneurs. This is the dream of Ormond alumnus, Peter Wade who believes that, while we are a smart nation, “too few of our great ideas are generating the future of our economy”.

It is this future focus that appealed to Mond, as his interests lie with the merging worlds of the virtual and physical, which he sees as slowly becoming one. Acting upon the belief that designers need to grab hold of these opportunities and bridge the gap between changes in culture and technology, Mond is currently involved with two ventures – United Make and Prymari (pron. primary). United Make is an experimental think-

tank and multi-disciplinary studio where Mond works alongside a graphic designer, a virtual reality technician and a fabrication technician and, together, they “explore design through the act of making”. United Make has been operating for three years and boasts clients such as Zumbo, Law Advisor and YouTube.

But Mond also wanted a more practical outlet and, hailing from a family of interior designers, he believed that his biggest impact would be through designing sustainable furniture which responded to people’s real life needs. This was the reason behind the launch of his second venture, Prymari, a custom design furniture company that combines innovative design, craftsmanship and technology.

And Prymari’s first offering is the DEBLE – a customisable, modularised table-and-desk in one. Consisting of a chequerboard-like surface, each square is a separate module which can be swapped out for either a flat surface or a specialised unit. Currently there are modules for such things as computer equipment, lighting and storage (such as for craft materials).

In terms of sustainability, the DEBLE is manufactured locally in Blackburn and the frame is made of sustainably-sourced mountain ash timber. The individual modules vary in terms of their composition and a range of other materials can be used in the DEBLE such as medium density fibreboard, bluestone, marble, Perspex and even material comprised of recycled coffee.

Regarding vertical living, the idea behind the DEBLE is that when living in a small space, it’s helpful to make every piece of furniture pull double duty.

DEBLE achieves this through its switchability, which offers several benefits to vertical dwellers, the first being adaptability. If there is more than one person needing working space, as long as they don’t need it at the same time, the DEBLE can be configured to suit the particular needs of each user.

This means that several different people can tailor the one area to suit their different

needs by swapping in the modules they need for their particular tasks (e.g. craft making, studying, drawing). Also, as our interests change over time, new modules can be obtained and older ones retired or, even better, recycled. This goes to the second benefit which is that Mond envisions offering a repair and/or recycle service which is also part of his drive for sustainability. So, if a module needs updating or repairing, simply take it back to Prymari.

In terms of availability, currently there are 10 prototypes with 30 beta testers putting DEBLE through its final paces. Already Mond is taking on suggestions, such as for a side unit for module storage and he is also examining the idea of a quick release leg system which would aid in shipping and delivery (especially when elevators are involved). A crowd-funding campaign is planned for mid-2017, so if you are interested in getting your own DEBLE, stay tuned for its launch on Kickstarter.



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SOUTHBANK SUDOKU

Last month’s Sudoku solution

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

A variation of Sudoku, with the letters **SOUTHBANK** replacing the numbers.

The rules are the same as regular Sudoku, each line of the must contain the letters ‘SOUTHBANK’ as must each 9-square box. This Sudoku is very hard!

Good Luck!

| | | | | | | | | |
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| | | | U | | | | | H |
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History

The Young Men's Christian Association

It stood prominently on the corner of City Rd and Sturt St, at the gateway to South Melbourne.

The large triangular-shaped building, of six storeys and with a bevelled entry facing towards the city, was the YMCA (commonly known as the Y) and it occupied the site now known as Testing Grounds.

The Young Men's Christian Association is an international organisation, with more than 125 national associations. Founded in London in 1844, its aim was to put Christian principles into practice by developing a healthy "body, mind, and spirit".

A major activity of the YMCA, with its symbol of a red triangle, is organised sports. The Victorian body was established in 1871 and its members (who paid a subscription) progressively took up a range of sports, with competitions in athletics, cycling, gymnastics, baseball, lawn tennis, table tennis, badminton, cricket, football (with a YMCA team briefly appearing in the amateur competition in the 1890s), boxing, diving, rowing, swimming, billiards and basketball (invented in a Y in the USA in 1882).

Formerly in Flinders St, the new building was designed by Alec Eggleston, the noted Melbourne architect who formed a partnership with his architect son Robert in the 1920s.

It cost about £140,000 to build, a considerable sum in 1926, and was the largest Y outside the USA.



The former YMCA building on City Rd, Southbank. The site is now home to the Testing Grounds.

Regarded as being designed along American lines, it included beautiful timber walls, stained glass windows (reputedly donated by the architect), big leather arm chairs and

couches and tables in the middle and built-in telephone booths.

It served as a large centre for activities that

included sports, educational, musical, social and devotional for young men.

Many naval recruits were billeted at the Y and it provided clubs for boys where they could watch cartoons and films, practice gymnastics in the gym and swim in the large pool (where it was compulsory to swim naked!).

During the Melbourne Olympics in 1956, it hosted exhibitions and competitions by visiting athletes, such as the Japanese Judo team.

YMCA activities in competitions in sports such as gymnastics, athletics and swimming took place between suburban YMCA clubs and against other sporting clubs, such as Harriers.

Interstate competitions were a highlight of the year, with Melbourne competing against teams from around the country.

The building was demolished in 1988 to make way for the realignment of City Rd as part of the massive changes associated with the NGV and the development of Southbank.



Robin Grow

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

Health & Wellbeing

Exercise-induced injury and group fitness

Wearable fitness devices are all the rage

Do you own a Fitbit, an Apple Watch or a Garmin? These may be the most commonly used wearable devices but there are so many others and with more to come!

Wearable technology is all the rage and allows you to not only learn more about yourself but in real-time! Of course, even the smart phone can track your steps for the day but there are also apps that help you track your heart rate, sleep, food consumption and even your mood.

So, are they worthwhile and where do you start? The first answer I believe most definitely is YES! As a personal trainer, I am always trying to help my clients become more accountable.

We use heart rate monitors in our sessions, we use program cards to record progress, we use calendar/logbooks to ensure regularity of exercise and behavior change but wearable technology allows the client to have some other accountabilities for the remainder of the week when not under our watch. How good is that!

Accountability = results. So, in a nutshell some of the wearable devices offer some

great insights and definitely help with motivation and keeping active!

Where to start is another question and I would strongly recommend you do your research but the three listed above would be a good starting point.

The need to move

One really positive thing that has come out of wearable technology has been the simple fact that they can tell us if we are inactive or don't move enough. For regular exercisers, moving is a given.

You go for a walk, a run, to the gym, a swim, attend a fitness class or play sport and within that you are moving and doing your heart, lungs, body and mind a hell of a lot of good.

Sadly though, as a population we are getting increasingly inactive and I urge you to take action and the necessary steps (pardon the pun) to move more.

Take the stairs instead of the lift or escalator. Ride or walk to work. Park your car further away from the shops or work. Play golf and carry or wheel your bag instead of using an electric buggy. Even schedule in a lap of the block every morning, lunch or evening. There are so many health benefits keeping active and the standard number of daily



steps we should be aiming for is around 10,000. Are you getting enough?

Book in one scheduled class or session a week

We live in a time now where there are more exercise options than ever before and I urge you to take action on improving your health and wellbeing by allocating 30-60 minutes each week to a scheduled exercise class or session.

Think about what would interest you the most and that you would enjoy and then make the time. There are 168 hours in a week and surely you can find the time for yourself to squeeze in what equates to less than 1 per cent of your week to do any of the

following: Pilates; yoga; Tai Chi; personal training; aerobics; swimming lesson/stroke correction; aqua aerobics; running group; plus, loads more!

Just by doing one session a week, you will develop a positive attitude and commitment to exercise and the side benefits from doing so are endless. So, what are you waiting for!

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



Justin Moran

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

Business



Next generation of \$5 notes

September 2016 saw Australian banknote collectors go crazy for the newly released \$5 polymer decimal bank notes.

With the next new Australian denomination banknotes to be released later this year, we are sure to witness the same excitement again.

With so many new collectors entering the field and with some beautiful new Australian and international banknotes being released, Downies Coins and Collectables would like to help people collect the things they love.

Below are some ways that we'd like to offer our help:

Choosing a theme

Step one is to think about what you want to collect. What are you interested in? What is your budget? And what them would you like to collect to?

There are lots of possible themes to use in collecting so choose a theme that excites you and stick to it! Why? Because defining what to collect will help you stay focused and makes completing your theme realistic, achievable and affordable.

Consider the following:

- **Collecting a set of banknotes by country.** Many people try to get an example of a banknote from every country in the world or an example of every Australian bank note produced;
- **Collecting by year.** Other people collect world banknotes struck in the year they were born or from some other date of importance to them;
- **Collecting by denomination.** This is a collection that, for example, could include all the different types of notes produced by the Reserve Bank of Australia. These could be by pre decimal only, decimal paper only or decimal polymer only; and
- **Collecting by design.** For example,

some collectors base their collecting on images of ships on banknotes, portraits of monarchs or royalty. This type of collecting is interesting because it can include banknotes from all over the world, both modern and historical.

Once you have a theme you will want to learn as much as you can about it! For world banknotes there is a reference book published by Krause Publications called *Standard Catalogue of World Paper Money* by Albert Pick.

Starting to collect

It's easy to start a banknote collection! You can start at home by collecting banknotes that have around your house. Ask friends and family for help.

Ask if they have any interesting banknotes from faraway places, they can also help you look for banknotes from faraway places. They can also help you look for banknotes that have special dates or themes you are looking to collect.

Learning more

Collecting world banknotes has become a popular part of numismatics, especially in the USA! The great appeal of banknote collecting is that banknotes can serve as a means for learning about history, life and traditions of other countries. Banknotes reflect the heritage economy and art of the issuing country.

Happy collecting! Come visit your local coin shop Downies for some free and friendly advice!

Steve Kirby – Numismatist.
Downies Coins and Collectables, Southgate.

For more information visit downies.com



A reimagined favourite

Following its extensive renovation and development over two floors, the new look Pure South Dining has proven a major success since reopening in December.

Having established itself as a fixture at Southgate over its 12 years of operation, the venue has undergone a complete overhaul and has more than doubled in size.

While renowned for its fine dining environment, Pure South now offers a variety of dining options across two levels, with terrace bars on both levels of the restaurant and an open kitchen.

And in what is the most noticeable change about the new fit out, the restaurant now opens up to Southbank Promenade via new terrace seating that looks over the Yarra River.

The transformation of the ground floor now provides locals and visitors with a casual daytime dining option, while the second floor offers a more secluded fine dining space for those seeking something more intimate.

Pure South co-owners Peter Leary and Phillip Kennedy (pictured above with their team of chefs on a recent trip to Tasmania) said it was part of an effort to provide a new experience every time someone walked through the door.

"We want to offer Melburnians and visitors alike an experience like no other," Peter said. "Our ethos has always been driven by three tenets – sustainable, ethical and provenance."

"What we will offer in our reimagined space is the authentic story we have always spoken of in an environment that offers our diners an opportunity to determine their own experience."

Since opening Pure South Dining, Peter and Phillip have created a much loved

destination which champions extraordinary produce from all corners of Tasmania.

The decor has been influenced by the shifting shapes, colours and textures of Tasmania and Pure South will continue to boast the finest produce, deftly handled and presented by a team of talented chefs.

"Over more than a decade we have told stories of growers and farmers, foragers and fisherman from across Tasmania," Phillip said. "They are the heart and soul of our offer."

"We look forward to being Melbourne's 'go to' place with something to suit everyone's taste."

Executive chef David Hall and sous chef Sam Prance-Smith lead Pure South's experienced team of culinary experts – delivering the quality and level of service that has made Pure South a cornerstone over the last 12 years.

Hailing from Scotland, the restaurant's authentic story of respect for provenance and ethical, sustainable produce is familiar to David Hall who learnt his craft in a number of prestigious Scottish kitchens.

"Such beautiful fresh produce comes into the kitchen, especially the seafood. I am delighted to be working with such great farmers and fisherman," David said. "I really enjoy the Pure South Dining story and I am looking forward to writing the next chapter with the team."

Pure South Dining is located at Southgate Melbourne.

For more information visit puresouth.com.au

2017 WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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



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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.



SCHOOL HOLIDAYS @ BOYD
 Grow and learn with movie screenings, animal visits and a special Stompers session at Southbank Library. Bookings required for most events. Visit **melbourne.vic.gov.au/community/libraries/whats-on/school-holiday-program** for bookings and more info.



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

APRIL 12 @ BOYD
EASTER ACTIVITY FOR KIDS
 Get into the Easter spirit and create your own Easter craft at our drop-in activity session. Suitable for children aged 4 to 8. In the playroom from 2pm to 3.30pm. Bookings via **eventbrite.com.au**

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**



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beishen428@gmail.com



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 Rotary Club of Southbank meets weekly for dinner on most Tuesday evenings throughout the year at Federation Square. Visitors are always welcome.
www.southbank.org.au

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

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