

The voice of Southbank, South Wharf & Montague

# SOUTHBANK Local NEWS

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Arts Precinct Supplement



## Councillor #QANDA!

City of Port Phillip's Gateway Ward councillors and CEO will present a public Q and A session as part of the next Montague Community Forum on September 20.

Hosted by the Montague Community Alliance and sponsored by the Southbank Local News, the forum will see Mayor Bernadene Voss, Cr Marcus Pearl, Cr Ogy Simic and CEO Peter Smith take your questions on the current and future development of the Montague Precinct of Fishermans Bend.

The forum will take place at the Golden Fleece Hotel on the corner of Buckhurst and Montague streets from 6pm for a 6.15pm start.

For more information turn to page 11.



Left to right: City of Port Phillip (CoPP) Gateway Ward Cr Marcus Pearl, Mayor Bernadene Voss, Montague Community Alliance convener Trisha Avery and CoPP CEO Peter Smith.

## Council makes its move on oBikes

The City of Melbourne has stepped up its efforts to clean up oBikes on our streets, with images emerging online showing the bikes declared as "illegally dumped rubbish".

It comes after Lord Mayor Robert Doyle told local small business operators at the town hall on August 16 that he had come "to the end of his tether" with the Singaporean operator of the oBike scheme and was preparing to act.

Cr Doyle outlined a series of possible remedies to the cluttering of public areas by the bicycles. These latest images show one such remedy, with clusters of bikes being

wrapped in yellow hazard tape - labelled illegal rubbish under investigation.

Speaking to 3AW's Neil Mitchell on September 4, he said the council had started impounding oBikes that were deemed to be an obstruction.

"We have seized some and taken them down to our Dynon Rd transfer station. They can be redeemed and it will cost the proprietors

\$50 a bike to redeem those bikes and we will keep doing that," he said. "This is the public realm, this belongs to the people of Melbourne. You don't just get to use it as-of-right for your business."

The Lord Mayor last month accused oBike of avoiding meaningful discussions to arrive at an acceptable solution.

"I reckon they've played us on the break for

two months," he said. "We entered these discussions with them in good faith. They've made promises, including the provision of data and that has not been forthcoming."

"As recently as yesterday, there was real, I would say, anger amongst councillors that they haven't tried to do the right thing."

Continued on page 5.

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PO Box 23008 Docklands 8012  
Tel: 8689 7980 Fax: 9602 2929  
www.southbanklocalnews.com.au

Editor: Sean Car

Publisher: Shane Scanlan

Tel: 8689 7980 Fax: 9602 2929  
advertising@southbanklocalnews.com.au

Reader contributions are welcome.  
Please send articles and images to  
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**Automotive giant BMW has put its Southbank showroom site on the market, complete with an impressive high-rise development scheme.**

Marketed by CBRE, the 6191 sqm site at the corner of City Rd and Southbank Boulevard is expected to ignite global interest and is mooted to form part of a mixed-use development in a coveted corner position.

A highly advanced development scheme has been prepared by local architecture firm Fender Katsalidis, comprising two towers accommodating 800 apartments, 600 hotel rooms and 10,000 sqm of retail space.

The striking render provides an insight into what is possible on the site, which is part of a high-rise block already consisting Freshwater Place, Prima Pearl as well as Crown's recently approved mega tower. Neighbouring Hanover House is also the subject of a high-rise application, while the next site along on Power St is also the subject of the 73-storey Freshwater 38 proposal.

BMW Australia CEO Mark-Heinrich Werner told the *Australian Financial Review* last month that BMW planned to lease back part of the site to secure a new look showroom as part of the sale.

CBRE real estate agent Mark Wizel said the project would help further enforce Southbank's reputation as a destination of high quality high-rise development.

"Ultimately what investors are looking for is confidence and you couldn't be more confident investing in the Southbank precinct," he said.

"There is over \$7 billion worth of public and private infrastructure investment within the future supply pipeline in Southbank through to 2021. This includes many commercial and mixed-use projects, which will add to the existing amenity of the area and will allow for more local jobs."

What do think about another high-rise development on this block? Send your thoughts to [news@southbanklocalnews.com.au](mailto:news@southbanklocalnews.com.au)



A render of Fender Katsalidis's development scheme for the BMW showroom site.

Image: CBRE.

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# Boyd Park update

*The City of Melbourne says it will release a draft concept plan for the new park behind the Boyd Community Hub later this year.*

While specific dates are yet to be confirmed, a council spokesperson said it would release a plan for community consultation and re-tender the sale of the land in late 2017.

The re-tender is due to the site's former developer Mackie failing to uphold its original contract for a commercial development, which included affordable housing, retail and a public park.

Despite financial concerns surrounding the developer, council renegotiated with Mackie last year, which then entered into a new agreement for the site under the name Cairo Melbourne.

Once again, the developer failed to meet its contractual obligations.

The construction of the park is expected to start in mid-2018, with the \$1.7 million allocated in the 2017-18 budget. It is understood demolition of the building behind Boyd Community Hub, currently occupied by Creative Spaces, will take place in April.

"Following the unsuccessful contract of sale of the development site earlier this year, City of Melbourne is currently revising the development brief in response to changes to the planning framework under C270," the spokesperson said.

"The revised brief will ensure the best outcome is secured for the park, private development site and the Boyd Community Hub."



## Fancy a swim in the Yarra?

By Sean Car

*Not-for-profit group Yarra Pools has released a concept for a floating swimming pool in the Yarra River in the turning basin near Enterprize Park.*

The concept's brainchildren, environmental scientist Michael O'Neill and Yarra Swim Co president Matt Stewart, believe the initiative will help breathe life back into the Northbank and create a year-round attraction for locals and tourists.

Mr O'Neill said direct pedestrian links existed via Queens Bridge and between Crown Promenade and the Aquarium, which placed Southbank in a most advantageous position.

Stage one of Yarra Pools' three-stage concept includes plans for an enclosed 25m controlled water pool, a kid's pool, fishing pontoon, floating wetlands, events kiosk, cafe and changing facilities.

With stage one estimated at around \$8 million, Mr O'Neill told *Southbank Local News* Yarra Pools had set its timeline for opening the pool in time for summer in 2019.

He said that, while the response to the idea from both the public and private sectors had been very positive, the project still had

to overcome a number of regulatory and funding challenges.

"Because we're on and off water you have people in charge of different areas so we very much see ourselves as positive disruptors if you wanted to use a better word," he said.

"It is pushing all of the regulatory regimes from water quality through to planning. It's kind of working out a way of getting all of these groups together to start having these conversations."

A range of user groups and stakeholders will now assess the concept before students from RMIT University will be handed the challenge of coming up with designs for the project early next year.

With a detailed concept, design and business case expected to be finalised by April 2018, it is hoped construction of stage one will start in April 2019, subject to funding.

Positioned in the widest part of the lower Yarra, the turning basin was a popular swimming spot in early Melbourne and also

possesses great historical significance as the founding place of our great city.

However, despite its rich history Enterprize Park has become a neglected part of our city and Mr O'Neill said a swimming pool was just the thing that could help breathe life back into the area.

"You talk to people about Enterprize Park and they're often like 'where's that?'" he said. "You just look at the history of it as well that it was a swimming spot. The river needs it and that spot needs something."

"This offers all those solutions to staying out of the way of existing river traffic of which there is not much anyway compared to other cities. We won't impede any of that."

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle described the concept as an intriguing proposal that could prove to be "a wonderful addition to our city".

For more information visit [yarrapools.com](http://yarrapools.com)

What do you think about a swimming pool in the Yarra River? Send your thoughts to [news@southbanklocalnews.com.au](mailto:news@southbanklocalnews.com.au)



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# Underspending on works and staff blowout

By Stephen Mayne

## How does the City of Melbourne manage to consistently underspend its capital works budget by tens of millions of dollars every year?

That is the key question to emerge from the council's 2016-17 Financial Performance Report which was unanimously approved by councillors on August 15.

The Lord Mayor described the \$13.1 million underlying surplus as "an excellent result" but there was no commentary in the committee room or the 19-page report about why only \$91.6 million of the \$133.86 million capital works budget was spent.

When the 2016-17 draft budget was first unveiled on May 5, 2016, the capital works budget was set at \$108 million, but this then soared to \$133 million courtesy of a \$29 million underspend in 2015-16, \$26.4 million of which was carried forward to 2016-17.

There was a similar underspend and carry forward a year earlier in 2014-15, although underspending the target by \$42 million in 2016-17 is the biggest miss in council's history.

So what happened this time? Well, the public won't know the full project specific underspending until the fourth quarter

capital works report comes to the August 29 council meeting.

However, the council works report for the first nine months of the year from the May 30 council meeting is instructive. Back then, the cumulative underspend was only \$16.43 million (\$60.67 million against a year-to-date, nine-month budget figure of \$77.1 million). In other words, the City of Melbourne was budgeting to have a hefty \$56.76 million capital works spend in the June quarter, but only managed to spend \$31 million over those 92 days.

In terms of specific projects, the figures for the first nine months are instructive as the major underspends were in:

**Queen Victoria Market renewal program:** only \$3.7 million of the \$9.2 million budget was spent in the first nine months. Final underspend \$4 million.

**Rollout of new LED street lights:** zero of the \$5.6 million budget had been spent.

**Bicycle Improvement Program:** only \$1.33 million of \$2.67 million budget was spent in first nine months.

**Upgrade to Lady Huntingfield Children's Centre:** \$391,000 spent against budget of \$2.2 million.

**Flood mitigation renewal:** only \$957,500 spent against budget of \$2.65 million.

**Parking meter renewal:** only \$150,000 of \$1.3 million budget spent due to delays from Swedish supplier.

**Roadway renewal:** only \$2.67 million spent of \$5 million budget.

**Major streetscape improvements:** only \$1.9 million of \$4.35 million budget spent.

**Parks renewal:** only \$3.32 million of \$7 million budget spent.

**Green Your Laneways Pilot Project:** only \$236,962 spent of \$1.63 million budget.

**Climate change adaptation streetscape renewal:** only \$651,120 spent of \$1.5 million budget.

You get the picture - underspending across a range of projects that won't be delivered as promised in an election budget which was clearly too optimistic.

That said, the council's financial position remains strong and town hall is cashed up to invest heavily into QVM and other projects. There was an unexplained \$41.7 million book profit on an asset sale which is presumably related to the Metro Rail project and City Square but hasn't been disclosed.

Cash contributions from developers came in \$10.2 million ahead of budget at a record \$17.2 million as the development boom continues. This also fed through into higher than expected supplementary rates lifting overall rates revenue \$4.63 million ahead of budget to \$262.3 million.

The council has a staggering \$37.74 million cash in its open space reserve and will need more than just the \$35 million Southbank Boulevard project to spend this.

Another round of property revaluations lifted the overall statutory annual surplus to \$292 million as council's net worth soared to a healthy \$4.2 billion.

We won't see which parks and buildings have been re-valued until the 2016-17 annual report is released in October but top of the pops last year were Royal Park (up \$11m to \$298m), Fawcner Park (up \$4m to \$194 m), Fitzroy Gardens (up \$17m to \$185m) and Queen Victoria Market (up \$20m to \$123m).

On the revenue front, parking fees were a healthy \$3.8 million ahead of budget at \$49.9 million, even without an expected post-election fee rise.

However, parking fines finished \$3.6 million below budget at \$39 million due to higher levels of compliance and industrial action related to the fractious enterprise agreement negotiation with the unionised workforce.

The eventual wage settlement - plus a round of redundancies amongst divisional finance staff which will save \$800,000 a year - saw overall staff costs finish \$4.56 million ahead of budget at \$156.2 million. This followed on from a \$3.86 million staff spending blowout in 2015-16 when a \$139.4 million employee budget came in at \$143.3 million.

Overall, the council is over-spending on staff and under-spending on capital works.

*Stephen Mayne was chair of the Finance and Governance Committee from 2012-16 and is an occasional Southbank Local News columnist.*

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\*Source, July 2016- June 2017, realestate.com.au, CoreLogic RP Data

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melcorp.com.au

Sergio Lopez  
Senior Sales Executive  
0404 659 330  
sergio@melcorp.com.au

Aisha Coe  
Senior Sales Executive  
0439 888 837  
aisha@melcorp.com.au

Trish Destito  
Senior Property Manager  
+61 3 9696 8869  
trishd@melcorp.com.au

Patricia Chuah  
Property Manager  
+61 3 9696 8869  
patriciac@melcorp.com.au



## Hotel project underway

**Construction of a new 16-storey hotel at the site of the former Tow Truck Building at 167 City Rd is now underway.**

The brand new purpose built hotel will comprise 162 rooms and is due for completion in late 2018, according to CBRE Hotels.

The hotel will be managed by well-recognised international and Australian hotel operating company Accor Hotels.

Despite calls by some heritage advocates to preserve elements of the former art-deco style Tow Truck Building, it was finally demolished last year having fallen under a serious state of disrepair.

The new hotel is expected to open for service in 2019.

# Council makes its move on oBikes

*Continued from page 1*

Cr Doyle accused oBike of not caring where their bicycles ended up.

“When you pay your 70 bucks, they couldn’t care less. And they’ll just leave them anywhere and you can leave them anywhere,” he said.

“We’re at the end of our tether. We’ve worked with them for two months now.”

“My suggestion to them was, you know, we have MOUs with Coles and Woolworths where they go around and pick up discarded trolleys. And we’ve said: ‘we think you need that model to keep them neat, to keep them upright and in places where people want them. At the moment, they look like they’ve been scattered by a giant hand.’”

“If they’re not prepared to do that, then my next step is to go to a bylaw, which turns them into just another street trading permit – because they’re using the public realm for private purposes.”

“If we can’t do that, then we do have rules around obstruction and clutter. And we’d be prepared to remove them.”

“We’ve tried talking with them for two months. It’s been pretty unproductive so far.”

“But here’s the thing that’s scary though: There’s something like six other operators who have the same model,” he said.

oBikes are a problem in the neighbouring City of Port Phillip. Mayor Bernadene Voss told *Southbank Local News* her council had received a number of complaints.

“Our council has so far logged 71 official complaints while councillors are being approached informally by some residents and traders,” she said.

“These concerns include some unattended dock-less bikes posing potential hazards for pedestrians after being left in public places, such as footpaths.”

“If oBike is ultimately unable to provide solutions to concerns, such as a quick response to reports of bikes cluttering pavements, we will have to consider



*The City of Melbourne has declared some oBikes, such as the ones pictured above, to be dumped rubbish. Photo: Twitter.*

measures such as impoundment.”

However, Cr Voss said she was hopeful that it could help resolve oBike’s “teething problems”, as the council saw dock-less bikes to be a great active transport option.

In response to the Lord Mayor’s comments, oBike Australia marketing head Chethan Rangaswamy denied the company had not been genuine in its dealings with the City of Melbourne.

“We at oBike are in all honesty have been having upfront and open conversation with the City of Melbourne,” Mr Rangaswamy told *Southbank Local News*.

Mr Rangaswamy acknowledged the company had been “challenged” by some of the places its bikes had ended up, but said it was working with the City of Melbourne, City of Port Phillip and the City of Yarra on better management of bike sharing.

“We have since added more resources to our efforts to raise awareness. When you look the usage numbers these incidents are solvable with more awareness,” he said.

“We also have operations teams looking at bike usage data and re-deploying the bikes to

the busy areas accordingly from lesser busy areas – daily!”

Mr Rangaswamy also said oBike had established a rapid action team to police “proper parking”, ensuring that bikes did not take up public parking loops, were not parked on private property and always “park in a safe and civic manner”.

“We will be ending our pilot test end of August,” Mr Rangaswamy said. “We will then look at the data holistically and compare it to other international cities and share the same across with the local councils to better come up with local solutions.”

Mr Rangaswamy said more than 5000 apps had been downloaded in Melbourne. He said 90 per cent of the more than 1000 oBikes circulating in 17 suburbs had been ridden at least once.

“We will move the bikes if they have not been used after one week,” he said.

“We conduct extensive research in each location that we deploy our bikes in, taking into account the population, transportation habits and the bicycle infrastructure availability to decide on the numbers of bikes to place at each location.”






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# Share car policy stalled in the slow lane

By Shane Scanlan

**After two years pursuing an unpopular share car policy, the City of Melbourne has achieved less than 20 per cent of its 2021 CBD target.**

When councillors approved the policy in July 2015, the council was aiming to have 1230 spaces within the “CBD”. As of last month, it had achieved just 217.

The council is close to its “on-street” target of 100, with 83 spaces now available for share cars. But it is nowhere near the 1130 off-street spaces it envisaged, with only 134 being provided.

Share car operators widely criticised the 2015 policy position, arguing at the time that it was economically unfeasible. Most specifically, they objected to the council’s requirement that they rent an off-street space before the council would release to them an on-street parking bay.

Green Share Car owner Paul Cummaudo told *Southbank Local News* his company was yet to apply for any more City of Melbourne spaces since the 2015 policy was introduced.

He said it was simply uneconomic to rent off-street spaces for up to \$500 per month to qualify for on-street spaces.



“Off-street spaces just don’t work in this industry,” he said.

And, despite his issues with the City of Melbourne, he said his company had been working productively with neighbouring municipalities where share car requirements were being mandated through planning permits to developers.

The City of Melbourne promised a review of the controversial policy after 12 months of operation but has reneged.

Instead, it says share cars will be considered as part of a wider 2017/18 transport policy “refresh”.

“The City of Melbourne has assessed the

operation of car sharing in the municipality, including holding discussions with car share operators,” a council spokesperson said.

“We have determined that the current car share policy will remain in place to provide operators, including new entrants, with greater certainty.”

The council is currently charging operators an annual fee of \$3000 per on-street parking bay within the Hoddle Grid and \$2000 for spaces within a wider-defined “CBD” including Southbank.

It is closer to its targets within the Hoddle Grid, particularly with on-street quotas. Already, 29 of 30 available on-street spaces have been taken. In the “fringe CBD” areas, 54 spaces of an allocated 70 spaces have been taken up.

Last year, operators told *Southbank Local News* they were prepared to lose money on Hoddle Grid spaces to prevent them being taken up by competitors.

As a sweetener to the harshness of the 2015 policy, councillors included into the successful motion undertakings to help share car operators.

They requested management to:

- Make share cars a theme of one of the 2015-16 developer forums; and
- Connect car share companies with apartment block bodies corporate where appropriate.

But these undertakings were not acted on.

A council spokesperson said: “Developer forums during 2015-2016 had a greater focus on a review into the built form of the central city, which was considered a higher priority at that time.”

“Car share operators have provided feedback to the City of Melbourne indicating they did not face barriers in making initial contact with body corporates (owners’ corporations) as they seek to install off-street car share spaces.”

GoGet carshare has had a better experience, with Victorian general manager Justin Passaportis saying his company had added roughly 20 off-street spaces in the CBD and immediate surroundings.

GoGet claims to have 10 per cent of the City of Melbourne’s population as members.

“It is our understanding that the review is in process and naturally will take a while. We look forward to growing both off-street and on over the coming months and working ever more closely with the city, including them helping us form strong partnerships with developers for the provision of carshare for new and even existing buildings,” Mr Passaportis said.

“The last year has been a learning experience as we have worked with the City of Melbourne to maximise utilisation and place cars to serve the community within the current policy framework.”

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# Eco-friendly festival

By Chelsea Cucinotta

**Australians waste \$8-\$10 billion of food every year – that is four million tonnes of edible food!**

With the month-long Sustainable September, the South Melbourne Market aims to reduce this number by educating and inspiring market-goers with fun festival activities.

Market enthusiasts and newbies alike can learn how to shop and live more sustainably with the Sustainability Circuit. In this guided tour around the market, participants can meet the various eco-friendly traders and stalls. The tour will also highlight the market's latest eco-innovations, like the use of food waste as garden fertiliser.

Another festival highlight is *Turning Trash to Treasure*, which runs from September 20 to October 1 and exhibits some of the strategies implemented by the market to stop wastage – which turn waste into “artistic treasures”.

The exhibition is inspired by Kim Simon's *The World is your Oyster* sculpture, which refashions 7000 oyster shells from the market's Aptus Seafood stall.

The *SO:ME* space sees permanent and pop-up stalls, which are both fair trade and environmentally friendly.

The *Catlogic* stand works with Nepali artisans to create stylish cat beds from 100 per cent New Zealand Merino wool, while La Sierra uses ethically sourced alpaca textiles and clothing from Ecuadorian communities.

There will be something for everyone, from making beeswax wraps, denim bags, DIY soap and skincare as well as a waste-free kitchen workshop.

Children can also join in on the fun, with *Sustainable Storytime* in the Food Hall on Wednesdays.

For more information and for tickets visit [southmelbournemarket.com.au](http://southmelbournemarket.com.au)

# A look into Fishermans future

**The City of Port Phillip's Fishermans Bend Community Forum opened to the public for the first time last month.**

Held at North Port Oval on August 17, City of Port Phillip Mayor Bernadene Voss was joined by a number of council officers and community stakeholders to discuss a range of matters affecting the area.

The council's open space and recreation manager Anthony Traill started things off with an update on the future Montague Park (pictured), with the site cleared last month.

Mr Traill told the forum that, while a number of contaminants, namely asbestos, had been found at the site since demolition, the remediation process was almost complete.

“At this stage we've essentially completed the detailed design process. We've got a concept,” he said. “To finalise the design we're just working with some soil

consultants and auditors to ensure we adequately manage the soil contamination.”

He said potential infrastructure, such as a playground and fitness equipment, would soon go to community consultation in preparation for the park's opening mid-next year.

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) also presented at the forum to reveal the current findings of groundwater studies that had been undertaken throughout the whole of Fishermans Bend.

With 80,000 residents and 60,000 workers projected in Fishermans Bend by 2050, the council's waste futures director Jorja Pindor also gave an insight into the important work being undertaken to plan for future waste

management.

The meeting was rounded off with a statutory planning update from council's principal planner for Fishermans Bend Simon Gutteridge, who provided an overview of current and future development.

In the Montague precinct alone, there are 18 approved developments and 21 applications with the City of Phillip, as well as a number of others such as 400 City Rd (pictured) seeking ministerial approval.

For more information on matters discussed at the forum, the minutes are available at [portphillip.vic.gov.au/fishermans-bend-keeping-community-informed.htm](http://portphillip.vic.gov.au/fishermans-bend-keeping-community-informed.htm). You can also attend future forums by contacting the City of Port Phillip.

# Malaysia meets Blockchain

**Southbank's Blockchain Centre on City Rd received a visit from the Malaysian Government on Wednesday, August 30 when the Vice President of Growth Ecosystem Development of Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (third left) toured the facility.**



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# Yarra River revamp

By Chelsea Cucinotta

**Parks Victoria (PV) will trial floating food and beverage services on the Yarra River this summer between November 2017 and February 2018.**

Locations for the proposed activation of the often over-regulated river include Sandridge Wharf in Southbank, the Flinders Street Landing and the Botanic Gardens Landing.

The trial, which will run for a minimum of 12 consecutive weeks, will consider future opportunities to strengthen Melbourne's connection with its world-class river and further enhance the city's food-centric reputation. It will further add to Melbourne's running profile as the world's most liveable city.

At a July luncheon held by Yarra River Business Association (YRBA), PV's new CEO Matthew Jackson expressed his hopes of promoting and activating the lower Yarra.

Director of marine and maritime for PV Graeme Davis said that the trial would be integral to support the growth of Melbourne's visitor economy and would encourage further public engagement with the river in general.

"The Yarra River is central to Melbourne's

liveability. Considering the viability of contemporary and innovative approaches to on-water activation will enhance the diversity of opportunities for the community to engage with the Yarra River," he said.

With nearly 40 million visitors to the riverbank each year, PV's decision to make use of the prominent waterfront in this way has been welcomed by many.

YRBA executive officer Tim Bracher welcomed Parks Victoria's more business minded approach to the lower Yarra.

He said it was the first sign of a possibly more business-friendly attitude on the Lower Yarra from Parks Victoria, which he hoped would extend to the new berthing regime.

Arbory Afloat two years ago showed that a combination of private sector enthusiasm and more public sector flexibility could create a new business atmosphere on the river, which benefited the public.



Firefighters raced up the stairs at Crown Metropol for charity this month.

## Climbing for charity

**On Saturday, September 2, some 630 firefighters from around the world climbed all 28 floors of the Crown Metropol Hotel in a bid to raise \$500,000 for charity.**

Competing firefighters were required to wear 25 kg of protective clothing and breathing equipment during the climb, which would simulate the experience of entering a burning high-rise building. The Firefighters Charity Fund (FCF) contest has been running for four years and has raised funds for many life-saving causes.

"Since its inception, [we have] raised more than \$1 million for a variety of worthy causes, including cancer research and burns support, with the focus turning to mental health and suicide prevention this year," FCF chairman Mark Carter said.

In addition to the many firefighters, MFB chief officer David Bruce, emergency management commissioner Craig Lapsley, CFA chief officer Steve Warrington and celebrity trainer "Commando" Steve were in attendance.

This year, firefighters were hoping to raise



half a million dollars for Lifeline and the Black Dog Institute within their local communities.

Event manager and MFB leading firefighter Steve Axup said: "These much-needed funds will be used to improve support services, sponsor research, remove stigma and raise awareness of mental health issues, including depression, post traumatic stress disorder and suicide - a cause close to the heart of so many firefighters."

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# Crime wrap



## Apartment burglary

Police are still searching for a man and a woman who allegedly broke into a Southbank apartment on Sunday, March 12.

The offenders gained entry into the Clarke St home at around 12am before allegedly stealing a handbag containing a purse and credit cards.

Police allege the credit cards were later used a number of times later that morning and have released CCTV images of the man and woman whom they believe maybe able to assist with their enquiries.

Both the man and woman are perceived to be Caucasian in appearance and in their 20s.

The woman was wearing prescription glasses, has dyed red hair and a large build. The man was thin in his build and approximately 180cm tall.



## Coward punch

Police are appealing to witnesses following a brutal coward punch attack that left a man unconscious on Southbank Promenade.

The incident occurred on March 18 when at 3am two men were ejected from of a local bar for inappropriate behaviour. They proceeded to attack the victim who exited the same venue a short time later.

Crime Stoppers released CCTV footage last month showing the victim falling to the ground and smashing his head on the paving. He was left with a broken jaw and nose during the violent ordeal.



CCTV shows him sustaining a blow to the head from one attacker before another unleashes, knocking the victim to the ground with a single punch.

Southbank Police Commander Sen-Sgt Steve Bills told the *Southbank Local News* the attack could have been fatal.

“It’s just another cowardly, stupid attack without any thought around the consequences that may come from it,” Sen-Sgt Bills said.

The 33-year-old victim, who has made a full recovery, does not recall having any interaction with the men inside the bar.

Crime Stoppers has released images of two men police believe may be able to assist with inquiries.

The first man was of islander appearance and wore a black T-shirt, black cap and grey pants. The second appeared Caucasian and wore a white T-shirt, white shoes and blue jeans.



## Forced to walk!

*Their ship can no longer navigate upstream, so Melbourne Day re-enactment players were forced to walk from Southbank to Enterprize Park on August 30.*

A small group gathered to commemorate Melbourne’s 182nd birthday at the site first selected in Melbourne for European settlement.

Junior Lord Mayor Sienna Koop was asked

what she would do if she was the real lord mayor for a day.

The 11-year-old said: “I’d take the homeless people to Luna Park and I’d build a monorail or train to the airport.”



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An image from a Trivia Night held last November.

## Trivia returns

*The local favourite Southbank Trivia Night will return to the Boyd Community Hub on Wednesday, September 13.*

Run in partnership with the Southbank Residents' Association (SRA), locals are invited to come mix, mingle and team up with other Southbank residents for a range of great prizes provided by local businesses.

Off the back of the huge success of its inaugural trivia night in 2016, the event has proven to be a favourite amongst locals and new residents are always encouraged to get involved.

The trivia night will start at 6.30pm. Bookings are essential and can be done so by contacting Boyd's community animator Nadine Ford: [nadine.ford@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:nadine.ford@melbourne.vic.gov.au)

# City joins WeChat

*The City of Melbourne has officially joined Chinese social media platform WeChat.*

The council's international engagement chair Cr Philip Le Liu said:

"Melbourne is the only local government in Australia to have access to WeChat's audience of almost 1 billion people."

"As someone who uses WeChat every day I know this is a great way to engage a community, with WeChat users spending 66 minutes a day on average browsing their feed."

"There are also more than 10 million corporate accounts, with the social media network fast becoming an accepted way to do business in China."

"WeChat is the perfect place for Melbourne to showcase its growing status as an international business hub with a booming start-up sector."

The City of Melbourne's WeChat account will be trialled in a six-month pilot project, with new articles, photos and information posted every week.

Content will include business opportunities, Melbourne sector capabilities, major events, What's On and useful information for visitors.

Cr Le Liu said the account would target international students who were keen



to study in Melbourne and need help to navigate the city.

As WeChat restricts corporate accounts to registered Chinese entities, the account has been set up through the City of Melbourne's office in Tianjin.

The City of Melbourne is the only Australian local government to have an established business office in China. The office is a dedicated resource designed to facilitate trade, investment, civic and educational exchange between the two cities.

Melbourne and Tianjin formed a sister city relationship in 1980.



The last Montague Community Forum held in May.

## Councillor #QANDA!

*Continued from page 1*

Councillors and the CEO will each be given a few minutes to share their vision for the redevelopment of Montague before the forum is thrown to Q and A.

Montague Community Alliance convener Trisha Avery will moderate the forum.

Information from the forum will be captured and used in devising a neighbourhood working agreement between residents, developers and the council for future development of the precinct.

For more information contact [news@southbanklocalnews.com.au](mailto:news@southbanklocalnews.com.au)

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# Public art and the city

By Chelsea Cucinotta

*How does public art behave? How important is community understanding of art? How do we give voices to contemporary constructions of indigenous story?*

These were just some of the questions posed at the public forum Public Art and the City: creating meaning by disrupting the everyday and enhancing the human experience, held by the City of Melbourne in association with the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA) on August 19.

Five key speakers presented their own experiences with public art on the night, each with unique perspectives from different fields and domains.

Speakers included Monash University Museum of Art director Charlotte Day, City of Melbourne city design and projects director Rob Adams, curator and public art strategist for Southbank Vaari Claffey and Greenaway Architects director Jefa Greenaway.

Questions of audience and community in local, international and indigenous contexts were debated, as well as the potential for public art to facilitate a dialogue.

According to Jefa Greenaway, the discourse that public art invites has the ability to “re-colonise the city, and understand the importance of place”. Indigenous stories function as lungs of the city, as they are “infused and embedded in (their) DNA”. He said these stories were not homogenous, but rather specific to place.

Charlotte Day addressed the symbolic nature of sculptures and installations both within her work environment and extended to the removal of monuments in the US.

In this way, public art spaces were described as both temporal and permanent, due to their ever-changing nature.

Prof Adams applied this concept to Melbourne’s own City Square, which initially had no grass, but with feedback, was later adapted to suit the needs of the community.

“People can always re-enter the debate,” he said.

To close, the panel re-centred the discussion to the upcoming Southbank Boulevard transformation, before inviting questions from the audience.



Top: An attendant speaks to the panel at ACCA (photo by Bryony Jackson). Below: Public art at Sandridge Bridge.

Prof Adams believed that parts of the Arts Precinct had been lost in the mental map of Melbourne and hoped that the new project would function as an anchor in creating a consistency of feel in the area.

Vaari Claffey spoke of the need for an informality and deregulation of space in the precinct, with the panel agreeing that too many of the institutions in the area were internalised.

The Southbank Boulevard project will run through various artistic, residential low-rise and high-rise Southbank communities and is due for completion in 2020.

Prof Adams highlighted the particularly interactive nature of the project and importance of community in public art in general. For the upcoming development, “our budget is your budget,” he said.



The new Swan St Bridge will now open in December.

## Swan St bridge delayed

*Further delays along City Rd and Alexandra Ave can be expected until the end of the year after the State Government revealed it had been following inaccurate plans for the upgrade of the Swan St Bridge.*

The project, which includes an added lane and improved pedestrian and cycling access, was earmarked for completion in July.

However, Roads Minister Luke Donnellan announced last month that the expected completion date had been pushed back after it was found that plans for the project had misplaced the bridge’s steel structures.

He told radio station 3AW last month that he felt “like a fool”.

“I feel like a fool as a minister to actually make pronouncements saying it will be done in July. But here we are in August,” he said.

“The Swan Street Bridge is 70 years old, and as we’ve opened up the bridge, we’ve found the historic, technical drawings that guided the final design are inaccurate,” he said.

“We had to redesign on the run. It is disappointing, no doubt about that.”

VicRoads is now working with contractor Seymour Whyte to deliver the project as fast as possible, with the first priority being to get the bridge back up from three lanes to four.

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# THEARTS PRECINCT

## Melbourne Fringe presents 'Out of the Echo Chamber'

By Chelsea Cucinotta

**Melbourne Fringe is back in September with *Out of the Echo Chamber*, a theme that encourages conversation between artists and audiences alike.**

This conversation plays out across various festival events, but is particularly relevant to Melbourne artists Madeleine Flynn and Tim Humphrey's PIVOT.

This creative program sees festival-goers in a private conversation, mediated by seesaws with built-in voices, which will incite discussion between participants through a series of stimulating questions.

Melbourne Fringe creative director and CEO Simon Abrahams said: "It's time to step out of the echo chamber and get the conversation flowing, for art to be the two-way-street it's meant to be."

"Art connects us to each other. It inspires debate and questioning, it makes us feel funny in our bellies, it outrages us and unites us - whatever it does, it takes two to tango."

The festival is spread across various Melbourne settings, with many performances taking place in Southbank's Arts Precinct.

The darkest corners of the Arts Centre will be used for *Discordia*, a live performance

narrated by SBS news presenter Lee Lin Chin. Experimental artists will work to paint truth as stranger than fiction and create a religious experience with the help of their audience. Participants can choose to be bystanders or take a more active role in the performance.

The Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) will host *Absolute (Un)certainly* through projections and live music, whereby actors will bring migrant stories to life and contemplate the new opportunities and divided identity that moving places or countries bring.

Chunky Move will present *ONLY A YEAR*, an event dedicated to newborn babies. The immersive and participatory theatre performance marks the very first year of life as both the shortest and longest time imaginable in one's life and invites reflection on both childhood and parenthood.

Simon Abrahams said the festival was all about taking risks.

"For our artists, Fringe is a safe space perfect for experiment and discovery, where big names can sit alongside emerging artists and push the boundaries of their art form. Whatever you decide to do, give it a red hot go," he said.

Melbourne Fringe runs from September 14 to October 1 and features more than 440 events. For more information and for tickets visit [melbournefringe.com.au](http://melbournefringe.com.au)





(Photo credit: Zan Wimberley and Magnus Hastings)

## Black Rider: The Casting of the Magic Bullets

By Chelsea Cucinotta

**Director Matthew Lutton takes on the decadent and gothic work of William S. Burroughs in *Black Rider: The Casting of the Magic Bullets* come to life at the Malthouse Theatre this month.**

Based on a German folktale, *Black Rider* tells the story of Wilhelm who must learn to hunt in order to marry his true love, the daughter of a woodsman.

Wilhelm must face the consequences of his desperation after he strikes a deal with the devil in exchange for magic bullets that never miss their target.

Victorian Opera and Malthouse Theatre will collaborate in this upcoming dance with the devil, which will bring audiences into "the dark and decadent depths of the underworld".

*Black Rider* will run from September 15 to October 8. For more information and for tickets visit [malthousetheatre.com.au](http://malthousetheatre.com.au)

# Instagram for music

By Kate Mani

**Melbourne-based singer Fem Belling will perform little-known American jazz songs by popular artists in her upcoming performance "Unsung" at the Melbourne Recital Centre.**

The performer will delve into the 1920-1950s "Great American Songbook", which involved musicians like George Gershwin, Harold Arlen and Cole Porter.

For Belling, raising awareness about previously unknown songs is vital to ensure "absolute gems" are not lost among popular favourites.

Growing up in a jazz-performing family, Belling said her entry into the genre was inevitable but that she pursued a path in musical theatre first.

"I think my musical theatre streak was me rebelling against the jazz in the house," she said. "I've always come back to jazz, I feel like it has always been there."

Belling's musical experience is shaped by her performance space and singing at Southbank's Recital Centre means entering an established musical legacy.

"I think we do ourselves an injustice by not getting excited about the venue," she said.

"To hear that grand piano, the Recital Centre atmosphere, the clientele ... it's an honour to contribute and be part of that world."

South-African born Belling's music is heavily inspired by a nostalgia for the rhythmic, happy sounds of her country of origin.

"South African music influences all my creative choices," she said. "I definitely fly the flag for South African music."

Outside of her American Songbook work, Belling's Youtube channel blends old-school melodies with contemporary tunes as she performs jazz covers of pop songs



from Adele to Pharrell Williams.

"I take pop songs and put a vintage filter on them and turn them into jazz songs. It's basically Insta for music," she said.

"It's Ella Fitzgerald meets Eminem, instead of rapping in an Eminem song I'll be scatting (wordless singing)."

By making jazz "pop", Belling hopes to "get (young people) away from Netflix" and engaged in a musical genre."

Belling's musical experience is wide-spanning, having appeared in the 2015 season of *The Voice* and recently "pinching herself" as she performed at the world-famous Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club in London.

No matter where she sings, Belling is driven by the same passion for music, her "oxygen."

"I get so much adrenaline and enjoyment out of performing," she said.

"I'd never be able to function without music. I don't really have a choice in the matter."

*Unsung* will be held on Saturday, September 16 at 7pm at the Melbourne Recital Centre.



## Ballet in Wonderland

By Chelsea Cucinotta

**Renowned choreographer Christopher Wheeldon is taking on Lewis Carroll's classic tale and translating it into dance with the performance of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland.**

It will be Wheeldon's fifth work for the Australian Ballet, which he created for the Royal Ballet back in 2011.

Wheeldon describes it as "both a coming of age story, as well as a whimsical journey of great adventures and discovery".

This colourful performance will include puppetry, projections and optical illusions. Vibrant costumes will paint the stage, including an indigo caterpillar designed with eight pairs of "bejewelled pointe shoe-clad feet".

Everyone's favourite Mad Hatter will be tap dancing around the stage, while the Cheshire Cat and its unnerving grin will come to life with the help of six dancers.

Composer Joby Talbot pairs the romance expected of a 19th century ballet with a more contemporary and witty score, as performed by Orchestra Victoria. The score will reflect the very absurdities of Alice's encounters.

"Alice's journey is quite a rollercoaster ride. She shrinks, grows, nearly drowns, is threatened with capital punishment and rescues a baby from the cooking pot. All these adventures have to be expressed musically and I have used every trick I can think of to chart her extraordinary adventures," Mr Talbot said.

The show will run from September 12 to 30 at Arts Centre Melbourne. [artscentremelbourne.com](http://artscentremelbourne.com)

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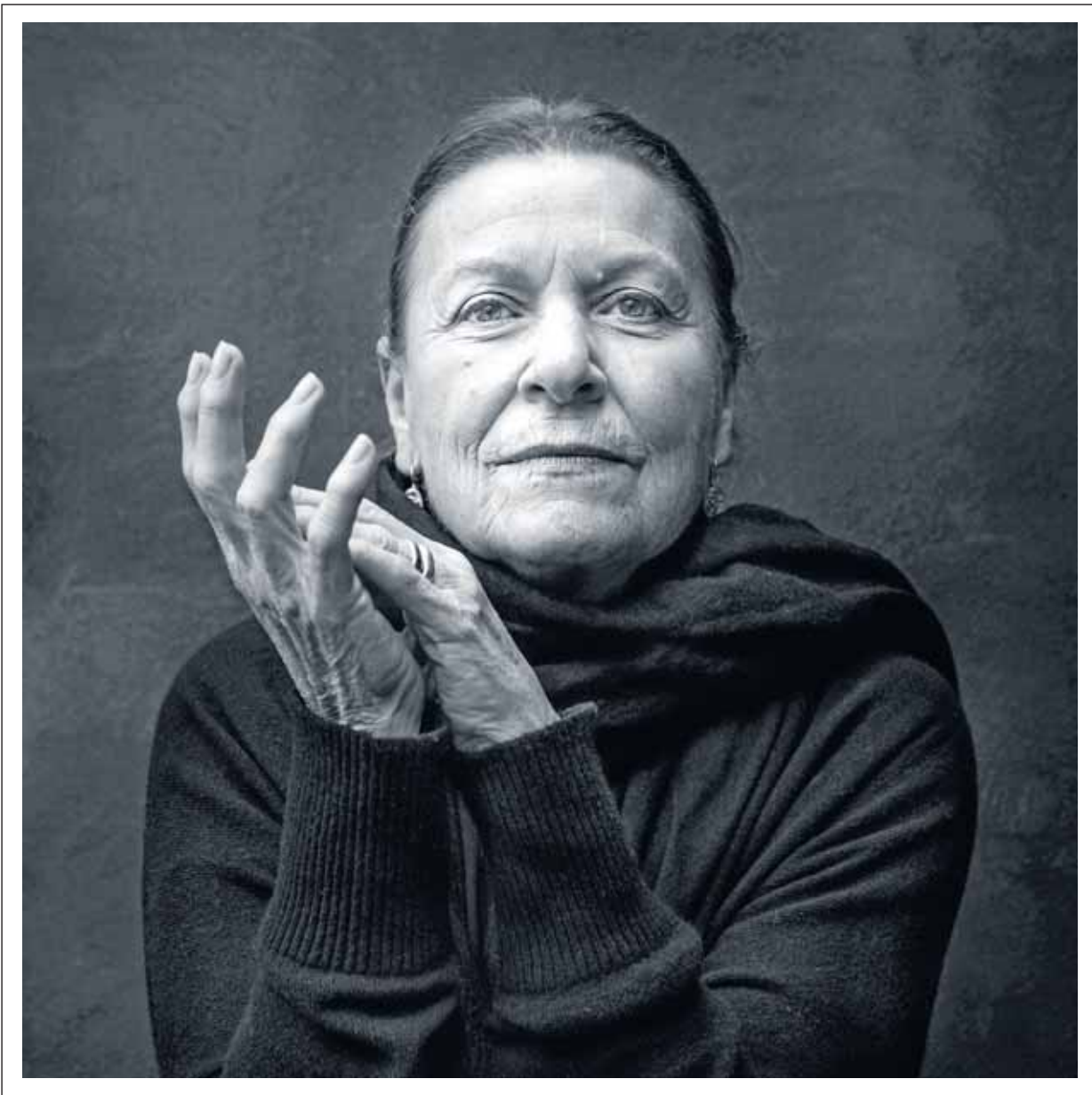




ELLI BARDAS

# Elli's prized portrait

Former 'Profile Picture' interviewee Elli Bardas has recently taken out the top prize at the Ballarat International Foto Biennale with a black and white portrait of her aunt.



When Elli last caught up with *Southbank Local News* in June last year, the now fourth-year Photography Studies College (PSC) art major student provided insight into her passion for artistic portraiture.

Her career has now received a major boost after taking out the inaugural acquisitive \$15,000 Martin Kantor Portrait Prize last month for a portrait of her aunt Vicki Vidor OAM.

Unanimously selected by a panel of judges from the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV), Centre for Contemporary Photography and the Myer Foundation, Elli's portrait emerged victorious from a field of more than 150

entries.

"The award was totally unexpected," she said. "There were some really amazing photographers so it was fantastic."

"There were three judges and it was fantastic to be seen by them. They said it was unanimous, which was fabulous and I ended up speaking to each of them independently and they were very generous."

"What I really think and what I'm really the most happy about is that when I start putting applications in now my name now has something attached to it so it's a great start!"

With the subjects of the portraits having

to be a significant Australian, Elli's stunning black and white image of her aunt provided the perfect submission.

Vicki Vidor OAM has supported homeless youth for more than 20 years through her work with the Lighthouse Foundation and she is also the patron of the foundation's Vicki Vidor Home for Young Mothers and Babies.

"It (the portrait) really captures her and she looks very proud," Elli said. "She really is a proud and powerful woman and I really feel like it captured her. I was really happy with the finished print."

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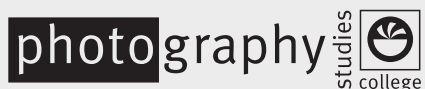
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### SARINA LIROSI & ANAT COSSEN: TXT

**Sep 22 - Photography Studies College**  
*TXT*: From word, to image, to movement. The nature of artistic collaboration. *TXT* is an artistic collaboration that commenced in January 2016. During one month, while on separate continents, Lirosi and Cossen sent each other one text message a day. Each message was interpreted by the recipient and represented as an image.

[www.psc.edu.au](http://www.psc.edu.au)



### MELBOURNE BEETHOVEN QUARTET CYCLE

**Sep 12 - Salon**  
 The Fidelio Quartet has been described as one of the most exciting new forces on the concert stage of Melbourne. Each member has an enviable reputation among the finest artists in Australia. A selection from an early, middle and late period of Beethoven's life so the magic of Beethoven's legacy can be enjoyed at every concert.

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



### HAY FEVER

**Opens Sep 23 - The Sumner**  
 No bright young thing ever burned brighter than Noël Coward in the 1920s, and his deliciously seductive comedy of bad manners, *Hay Fever*, has been raising scandalised laughter for almost a hundred years. For this high society classic, the irresistible Marina Prior (*Jumpy*) will be joined by Simon Gleeson (star of *Les Misérables*), directed by 2016 Helpmann Award-winner Lee Lewis (*Rupert*).

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



### BLACK T-SHIRT COLLECTION

**Sep 5 - 10 - Elisabeth Murdoch Hall**  
 A game-changer in British theatre, don't miss Inua Ellams as he brings his acclaimed one-man show to Melbourne. *Black T-shirt Collection* tells the story of two Nigerian brothers whose differences - one gay, one straight; one Christian, one Muslim - are nothing compared to the fierce bond they share.

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

### HOKUSAI

**Runs until Oct 15 - NGV International**  
 Katsushika Hokusai is regarded as one of the most influential and creative minds in the history of Japanese art. His unique social observations, innovative approach to design and mastery of the brush made him famous in Edo-period Japan and globally recognised within a decade of his death.

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

### PETER AND THE WOLF IN HOLLYWOOD

**Sep 16 - Hamer Hall**  
 Comedian Josh Thomas joins the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra to team up with critically acclaimed New York production company, Giants Are Small, to present *Peter and the Wolf in Hollywood*, the untold prequel to Prokofiev's classic tale.

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

### HOMAGES AND VIRTUOSITY GRAND FINAL

**Sep 17 - Elisabeth Murdoch Hall**  
*Homages* with the Melbourne Youth Orchestra will pay tribute to great German composers, before three of Melbourne's best and brightest young musicians take to the stage to compete in the Virtuosity Grand Final with the Percy Grainger Youth Orchestra.

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

### PIKE ST.

**Sep 12 - 17 - Fairfax Studio**  
*Pike St.* sees one-woman wonder Nilaja Sun return to Australia in her first solo theatre show since the success of her sold-out Melbourne Festival hit and OBIE-award-winning show, *No Child*. Featuring her trademark humour, political incisiveness, and virtuosity, Sun's performance is not to be missed.

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



### KADER ATTIA

**Opens Sep 30 - ACCA**  
 The practice combines ideas of culture, appropriation, as well as the complex relationship between Occidental and Western cultures in an era of decolonisation. Attia integrates mediums of collage, photography, sculpture and video into his works, which enquire cultural memory and the repercussions of global events.

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



### PULCINELLA

**Sep 15 - Elisabeth Murdoch Hall**  
 Young soloists and ensembles from the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School (VCASS) present their Gala concert, including Dvorák's lively *Carnival Overture* and Stravinsky's *Pulcinella Suite* conducted by Fabian Russell.

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



### IF THE CITY COULD SPEAK

**Sep 22 - 29 - Arts Centre Walkway**  
 Arts Centre Melbourne's walkway will spring to life with new sounds from Alistair McLean of ACME with his project *Field Mirror*, which re-contextualises found sounds from the city, allowing Melbourne to share its unique song. We hear the noises of the city as background, ambiance and intrusion, but rarely stop to think about what the city is trying to tell us.

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



### THE HOUSE OF DIOR

**Runs until Nov 7 - NGV International**  
 Exclusive to Melbourne, this exhibition is a collaboration between the NGV and the House of Dior and includes a sumptuous display of more than 140 garments designed by Christian Dior Couture between 1947 and 2017.

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# A snapshot of Montague

*Photographer Vicky Ellmore shared a series of intriguing images online last month capturing Montague during a walking tour of the precinct as part of Open House Melbourne.*

The July 30 walk was led by Port Places convener and former City of Port Phillip Mayor Janet Bolitho, who described Vicky's photos as a summary of Montague "at this moment in time in 2017".

In response to the current renewal of the Montague Precinct, the event was titled "Jane's Walk" after renowned American journalist and author on urban studies Jane Jacobs in an attempt to explore Open House 2017's question: What would Jane do?

Anyone who has spent time in the Montague Precinct knows of its rich tapestry of industry, historic homes, street art and quirky businesses. Vicky's photos captured the area's soul and provided an important snapshot into the atmosphere that needs to be both preserved and harnessed in the future redevelopment of the precinct.

To view the whole photo series visit [vickyrae0.wixsite.com/itchyrightfoot/single-post/2017/08/04/Montague-Janes-Walk-Roses-among-cigarette-butts](http://vickyrae0.wixsite.com/itchyrightfoot/single-post/2017/08/04/Montague-Janes-Walk-Roses-among-cigarette-butts)



Clockwise from top: The Foxtrot Cafe with Gravity Tower in the background, a historic Montague home on City Rd, the Montague Tram Stop and Trump street art.

ADVERTISEMENT

**I want to get on with the job of making marriage equality a reality.**

Malcolm's upcoming 'survey' may be unnecessary and expensive. However, I will be voting **YES** for equality.

Will you be voting too? If and when you receive it on September 12, you **NEED** to post your response back **BEFORE October 27**. If you need help, call my office.



**Make sure that YOUR voice is heard.**



**Michael Danby MP**

**FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MELBOURNE PORTS**

(03) 9534 8126 | [Michael.Danby.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Michael.Danby.MP@aph.gov.au)  
[www.danbypm.com](http://www.danbypm.com) | @MichaelDanbyMP

Authorised by M Danby MP 117 Fitzroy St St KILDA WEST

# Giving credit where it is due

I must give credit where credit is due. Last month saw the release of the artist's impressions for the transformation of Southbank Boulevard and Dodds St and I can truly say, it will be transformed.

The project team at the City of Melbourne, led by Steve Perumal, has done a fantastic job listening to the needs of the community and translating them into what appears to be a practical reality.

The first \$10 million of this three-stage project has already been allocated in this year's budget by council, so it too has shown commitment to this project. This will add an additional 2.5ha of desperately needed open space in Melbourne's most densely populated suburb.

Currently open space in Southbank is at 2.5sqm per resident when the city's goal is 20sqm per resident. However with Southbank's continuous development these gains will unfortunately be short lived.

I was surprised to learn last month that the new, one-of-a-kind, vertical school being built on Ferrars St in Southbank, has been given an interim name of South Melbourne Primary School while the government considers an appropriate name for the school.

While this part of Southbank is within the City of Port Phillip and essentially borders South Melbourne, Southbank Residents Association was an integral voice with the lobbying, debate and community drive for two additional schools in the area.

With Southbank's current population of 18,000 continuing to grow, I find it more fitting that the new school be called



A render of the City of Melbourne's transformation to Southbank Boulevard.

Southbank Primary School. After all, it is located within the Southbank boundary and the name will help add to the identity of Southbank and continue to make our suburb attractive to families.

It was a long and hard fight to have our voices heard for the schooling needs of our local children, but at least common sense prevailed in the end and a school is being built.

I say let's call it Southbank Primary School. What are your thoughts?

We have a busy month ahead and are looking forward to collaborating with Boyd to put on another fun trivia night

on Wednesday, September 13 at Boyd Community Hub. There will be prizes and it's free. All you need to do is register at Eventbrite ([bit.ly/boydtrivianight](http://bit.ly/boydtrivianight)) to get your tickets.

Also, you are all invited to our AGM on Wednesday, October 11 at Boyd. We are always looking for new members to join our committee and at our AGM we'll be looking for a new secretary, so if you think this might be you, please get in touch.

For those a little unsure, we are more than happy to answer your questions about what the committee does. Alternatively, you might want to attend one of our monthly meetings

to see for yourself whether you'd like to get involved. We'd love you to join our small group of passionate volunteer residents trying to protect the liveability of our suburb, so please give it some thought.

If you can't volunteer, don't forget you can always show your support for what we do by being a member and telling friends and family in Southbank about what we do. It's only \$10 a year, which is a small price to pay given all the work we do on behalf of Southbank residents. If you have any questions or want to find out more, please make contact at [info@southbankresidents.org.au](mailto:info@southbankresidents.org.au).

A note on our June column, the Hoop Pine at 20 Kavanagh St has finally been moved and we were pleased to see council take positive action after our concerns were made public. The tree has been relocated to the centre of the "pocket park", and we hope to see it thrive in the new location.

Tony Penna  
President



**Tony Penna**

Tony Penna is the president of Southbank Residents' Association.

[southbankresidents.com.au](http://southbankresidents.com.au)



## Federal Politics

# Marriage equality – Let's get it done

The Bureau of Statistics (ABS) postal opinion survey on marriage equality is not what Australians wanted, envisaged or expected.

It was not even part of the Coalitions policy last election. Even 80 per cent of the ABS staff think they are not up to it.

Unfortunately, however, this \$122 million survey is more about a prime minister who can't take the country forward without his backbench revolting against him.

Labor supports a free vote in parliament on marriage equality. Bill Shorten has introduced a Marriage Equality Bill. He has even said Labor would vote for Liberal Senator Dean Smith's Bill. Even though an ABS opinion survey is not our way of addressing this issue, Labor stand with the LGBTI community and will be campaigning for a yes vote on the ABS poll.

Malcolm Turnbull seems to believe that this is all about him – that it provides him with an opportunity to talk about how he thinks himself to be a "strong leader". Labor understands the marriage equality issue is bigger than any one's political fate. Even if



Michael Danby and Federal Senator Penny Wong.

that person is the PM.

Labor recognises this is about community, about thousands of members of our society who only seek a human right that the rest of society enjoy. A right to be treated equally isn't something you should need to ask for.

Despite all the hurdles the current government has put up, the community now needs to pass a ridiculous public survey on marriage equality.

Anthony Albanese and I have for more than 15 years been standing up for the LGBTI community and I have been discussing the rights of same sex couples in parliament since 1998. I was very pleased

to second legislation Albo moved to remove all discriminatory clauses discriminating against LGBTI community as part of the 2007-2013 Labor government. So it will come as no surprise that I will be voting yes and campaigning for a yes vote.

Accross Melbourne Ports we are blessed with Labor and other councillors from our four local governments – Port Phillip, Glen Eira, Stonnington and City of Melbourne – that are all active supporters of our vibrant LGBTI community.

St Kilda is also to be home to Australia's first equality centre, just a few doors down from my Fitzroy St electorate office. The

centre will provide a venue for the LGBTI community to plan, perform reach-out services and organise community campaigns to improve equality outcomes. This centre was funded by the Andrew's Labor State government, and announced by Martin Foley, Member for Albert Park and Minister for Equality, just three months ago.

Even if the yes result postal poll result is ignored by the members of the Turnbull government in parliament and even if those Liberal MPs promising to cross the floor and support a free vote don't, Bill Shorten and Labor have promised to make marriage equality a reality within 100 days of taking office.

While other parties offer gagged debates, delay tactics and expensive polling, a Shorten Labor government will see marriage equality legislated.

The Melbourne Ports LGBTI Community deserves nothing less.

Please join with me in voting "yes" for it.



**Michael Danby**

Federal Member for Melbourne Ports

[michael.danby.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:michael.danby.mp@aph.gov.au)

## St Johns Southgate

## Focus

"Come on, focus!" I wonder if anyone has ever thrown that sentence at you?

Focus is an interesting word. We've come to understand it as having something to do with our concentration. To be focused on something, apparently means to give it your full attention. But is there more to "focus" than that?

Etymologically speaking, focus comes from a Latin word that refers to the hearth – the domestic fireplace. At first this might seem a bit odd. What's the connection? What has a fireplace got to do with focus?

In our far too busy, media-soaked lives, there is always something competing for our attention and, in my opinion, it's not doing us any good. In a simpler time, when after dark there was no light but the glowing coals of the hearth, there was something beyond the individual – our attention spans and neuroses – that necessarily had to be the focus.

The hearth was that focus. It gave individuals, couples and families the means by which to keep warm, to cook a hearty meal and to socialise after a long hard day. The hearth was the focus because being surrounded by darkness there was nowhere else to go!

Having a focus, in that ancient sense of it being something singular, essential and outside the realm of personal choice, might just be of benefit to us today. Finding a life-focus that can transport us from the anxiety of "what's next?" or "what am I missing out on?" to a place of peace and calm can only

be a good thing.

At St Johns we aim to provide such a place. A place where you can come to sit by the fire, so to speak, and focus not on the darkness that surrounds you, but the light that shines in front of you and radiates into your soul.

The great thing about our worship at St Johns is that it doesn't depend on you to keep the fire going. It doesn't require you to focus your attention. It's an opportunity to come to a home you never knew you had – a home with a God who focuses his attention on you.

Home is where the hearth is. Maybe you're being warmed by one already. If not, you're always welcome to sit with us in front of ours.



**Tom Hoffmann**

Tom Hoffmann is the pastor at St Johns Southgate Church.

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



## Montague Community Alliance

## Life's too short to be a sceptic ...

I was talking enthusiastically to someone in our precinct the other day about the next Montague Community Forum.

I was telling them that we have Bernadene Voss the Mayor of the City of Port Philip, Marcus Pearl and Ogi Simic the other two councillors who represent the Montague Precinct, plus the new CEO of the City of Port Philip, Peter Smith, coming along to answer the community's questions.

I also mentioned how delighted I was to be able to have that opportunity, my neighbour responded despondently with "what's the point of talking to them, nothing ever changes". And with that response, I realised how far I had come in moving from that same sceptical position to one of cautious optimism.

In the more than four years that I have been involved with the Montague Community Alliance, I have dealt with state government departments, the local council, developers, residents and local businesses here in Montague. At first, there was real angst in the knowledge that we had been Capital City zoned which meant (amongst other things) that no one was required under the law to communicate with us about any development issues.

And yes, it has taken four years to get to a point when senior stakeholders (which now, happily, also includes South East Water) not only communicate with us, but

also want to come and talk directly to the community.

As an example, we lobbied the council to retain the bluestone laneway around a development in Gladstone St and won. And as we delve further into the wonderful history of Montague, we hope to work with the council to save more than just the bluestone lanes of old South Melbourne.

Please come along at 6.15pm on Wednesday, September 20 to the Golden Fleece Hotel at 120 Montague St, to ask your questions about the Montague Precinct and to listen the councillors and the CEO's responses. This is a Q and A – not a presentation, or speeches. It is direct community engagement with those that represent our local interests.

There is only one way to affect change and that is to be involved with the change. So dear workers, business owners and residents please don't be a sceptic. Life is far too short for that!



**Trisha Avery**

Trisha Avery is the convener of the Montague Community Alliance.

[trishavery@bpca.com.au](mailto:trishavery@bpca.com.au)



## Letters to the Editor

## A few matters ...

I trust the City of Melbourne that strives for and cherishes its most liveable city status will do everything it can to preserve the state-significant, heritage-listed Tea House on Clarendon St against the proposed Tea Tower proposal which I read in SLN issue 66 of its approach (assuming I am reading it correctly) to a proposed high-rise development in the Southbank Arts Precinct.

Every quote from the Lord Mayor and Cr Reece in the SLN article is and should be

how council objects to the proposal that will over-tower the Tea House.

In the same edition (page 9) I read MCEC has reached record-high financial year results for a fifth year in a row where it received a total operating revenue of \$80.1 million and a contribution of over \$969.1 million to Victoria in 2016/17.

Will MCEC allocate any of its profits into repairing its pedestrian bridge crossing over the Yarra River adjoining Spencer St Bridge for Victorian's (and others) to enjoy once

again? And if so, when? This crossing has been closed for an estimated 12 months as previously reported.

I am bemused by the "green tram tracks" presumably proposed for St Kilda Rd as shown on page 7. This is yet another artist's impression of a perfect outcome that will never eventuate. To have 100 per cent coverage of pure green grass (presumably all year round) is unrealistic and any decision maker who relies on artist impressions is ignorant to real life.

The grass in the tram tracks will brown off (cure) or die from dripping oils and heat from trams or the sun. Also, will the grass be trimmed from the actual metal tracks by the tram wheels or do employees go every fortnight with a grass trimmer?

*Peter Gibbs*



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



**St Johns**  
Southgate

Sunday 1 October

9am Worship with Bach Cantata  
Guest preacher: **Rev Mark Whitfield**  
Bishop of the Lutheran Church of New Zealand  
**Lobe den Herrn, meine Seele BWV69** and  
**Nun ist das Heil und die Kraft BWV50**  
for 4 soloists, chorus, strings, 3 oboes,  
3 trumpets, timpani and continuo  
Katherine Lieschke, Christopher Roache,  
Robert Macfarlane, Oliver Mann  
8:30am *Cantata in Context*: pre-service talk

Every Sunday

9am Traditional worship with communion  
10:30am Sunday School during school terms  
11am Informal worship with communion  
except 17 September and 1 October  
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](http://www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au)

Southbanker

# A supportive Southbanker

Having only recently moved to Southbank, psychologist Rajna Bogdanovic has wasted no time using her gift of helping others to improve the lives of her fellow Southbankers.

While she spends a majority of her week working as a psychologist for Victoria Police, Rajna also operates her own company part-time out of the Southbank Medical Clinic on Sturt St.

She said working within the community had helped her understand many of the local issues that came with living in an apartment-dominated environment like Southbank.

"Some individuals who are young and single can feel quite alone in their apartments," she said. "There are also older individuals who have moved from big properties to the area and there can be issues that come with that."

"Often I'd suggest things like exercise and dietary changes as well as psycho-therapeutic approaches and I'm really mindful of referring everyone to the Tan and the local park because everyone is going to bump into each other!"

With a diverse professional background that has seen her serve in an array of challenging roles overseas, her new-found local knowledge makes Rajna the complete local health and wellbeing expert.

From 2018, Rajna will become the new Health and Wellbeing columnist for *Southbank Local News* taking over from local personal trainer Justin Moran, who has generously served in the role for well over two years.



After moving to Melbourne in 2014, Rajna originally settled in St Kilda, which suited her love for the beach. She said that, while the beach was no longer at her doorstep, she loved everything about her new neighbourhood.

"It's not 30 seconds from the beach, however in saying that it's like 10 minutes from beach so it's not too bad!" she said.

"I love living in Southbank. I never thought I'd say that but I do. Having the markets, having the Tan. I mean I'm there everyday

unless it's raining. I go for a walk after work. I love where I am."

Born in Croatia, Rajna has achieved a lot for someone who only recently turned 30. Raised in New Zealand after immigrating with her family as a young child, Rajna completed her bachelor and honours at the University of Auckland before moving to The Hague in Holland to intern for the United Nations in the International Criminal Court.

After helping victims of conflicts from countries including Lebanon and Sierra Leone, Rajna returned to her native Europe in 2011 to work for a non-government organisation (NGO) helping victims of the Bosnian War.

She would later complete her master of clinical psychology at Macquarie University in Sydney before relocating to Melbourne in 2014.

Having held a passion for helping others from a young age, she described working in her chosen field as a privilege.

"I think it's a combination of my personality type and temperament, which is very much wanting to help others," she said. "I enjoy being given the privilege to have an insight into people's deepest darkest fears."

"Very often people say that I'm the first person they tell about an issue even before their partner or their kids so you need to be able to support people through those times."

Pet's Corner

# Southbank's own Jack Sparrow

By Chelsea Cucinotta

Meet Southbank resident Sandy Wagner and her nine-week old puppy Jack, whose name was inspired by Captain Jack Sparrow from the "Pirates of the Caribbean" films.

Jack was born with one blue and one green eye because of his many combinations of breeds, which include Labrador, Staffy, Border Collie and Kelpie.

And as Sandy told *Southbank Local News*, the story behind his birth is quite a remarkable one.

"His mum Cleo, who is 12 years old is my daughter's dog," she said. "She was never interested in seeking a mate until she was on Magnetic Island where she sought her mate out of many other dogs."

"She went for a second time to make sure and later travelled from Queensland to Darwin. She gave birth naturally at a caravan park in Darwin, where my daughter nursed her and the pups until they were transportable."



"All healthy and trained, Jack and his sister Luna, were flown to Melbourne. Jenny, my

youngest daughter has Luna, and Jack is living with me here in Southbank. Jack has

two brothers named Yin Yan and Muckwa. A beautiful calm mother produced four amazingly different but equally gentle pups!"

While Sandy has only had Jack for one week, she said he had already brought a positive change to her life.

"He's such a calm and beautiful dog. Having him has been a learning experience, but definitely a great one. And he gets me out the house more often."

Sandy walks Jack for 45 minutes a day around Southbank. Jack's favourite spot is the Boyd Community Hub, where he can be found running around wearing his colourful winter coat.

"When he sees me bring his jacket out, he knows it's time for a walk and gets very excited."

Sandy said Jack received a lot of attention on his walks, as he was still so small.

When Jack is not soaking up the attention of those around him, he is usually sleeping.

"Jack sleeps more than he is awake and you know when he's tired, as his eyes will slowly nod off."

Though little, Jack has a big appetite and his daily menu consists of kangaroo meat with vegetables and brown rice for breakfast and puppy dog food for dinner.

So far Sandy has taught Jack how to sit by rewarding him with treats, and is now in the process of teaching him how to fetch!

Health & Wellbeing

# More than just a body transformation

I'd like to share one of my latest success stories with you of recent time.

As a personal trainer that is not all about the "body beautiful" image that the industry is renowned for, I have recently helped a young girl with low self-esteem, depression, anxiety and psychological issues around food and eating reduce her weight from 126.5kgs to 108kgs.

Whilst it has taken nearly 18 months to get there and she still has a long way to go, I am over the moon with her attitude change, her increased knowledge and awareness to the mere fact that she is now asking me for new and advanced programs regularly to do almost daily in between our sessions. All of this from starting unwilling to do any exercise at all apart from our two sessions a week!

The changes she has made for the better far surpass the traditional "before" and "after" pictures you see all over Facebook and Instagram and to me so much more rewarding to see a now positive and optimistic outlook from a girl that is very different from the one I met nearly 18 months ago.



### Small steps . . .

Goal setting is crucial to success in all that we do and it is no different when applied to our health, fitness and wellbeing. So many people start out with the best intentions but generally do one of two things:

- Set way too unrealistic goals early; or
  - Don't write goals down and regularly revisit and keep accountable to them.
- The secret is to write down your goals, check weekly that you are on track and stick to them.

At the same time, rather than say you are going to the gym three to five times per week when you haven't done so for over five years, start with something a little more realistic and aim for two 20-minute trips to the gym and a five to 10-minute walk per day.

That way you are actually making some inroads on behavior change and that will lead to sustained change and a feeling of success along the way and not shooting yourself in the foot from the outset and failing because you have set the bar way too high. Small steps!

### Stop doing sit-ups!

Are you still doing sit-ups or crunches? If you have a trainer instructing you to do them, you are training with a dinosaur!

If you are doing them because you think they are the best way to get a six-pack, then I am here to tell you that for your posture and for real gains in abdominal muscle and tone then you need to simply stop doing sit-ups or any form of flexion of the spine!

We are generally too sedentary and spend increasing amounts of time seated in front of the computer, in the car or on the couch.

This all leads to ever-increasing loads placed on the spine, poor posture and combine that with sit-ups and you are further contributing to hip instability and potential back pain.

There are many effective alternatives.

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



**Justin Moran**

Justin Moran is the Owner of Just In Time Personal Training. [www.justintimept.com](http://www.justintimept.com)



## Montague Community Forum

Featuring:

- City of Port Phillip Mayor Bernadene Voss
- Gateway Ward Cr Ogy Simic
- Gateway Ward Cr Marcus Pearl
- City of Port Phillip CEO Peter Smith

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

The September forum will feature a Q and A with City of Port Phillip Gateway Councillors and the council's CEO.

When: Wednesday, September 20. 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](mailto:sean@southbanklocalnews.com.au)  
 or Trisha at [trishavery@bpc.com.au](mailto:trishavery@bpc.com.au)



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# Media campaign reaches 1 million Victorians

We Live Here has been working with media professionals to reach out to Victorians affected by the short-stay industry and we have been overwhelmed with support.

Our campaign has reached over 1 million readers and viewers in the past two months.

The campaign impetus came from the success of our lobbying efforts to block the State Government's Owners Corporation Amendment (Short-Stay Accommodation) Bill, 2016. The bipartisan parliamentary inquiry unanimously decided to send the Bill back to the lower house to be completely redrafted. The government has until December 8 to respond to the report.

We Live Here is now focussing on the next stage of the campaign to promote the message that the entire short-stay industry must be regulated as a matter of urgency.

The rapid, unregulated rise of the industry has seen significant detrimental impacts for residents, not only around maintenance costs, but also safety and security and loss of amenity for long-term residents. These issues must be addressed by proper regulation.

We need to find a solution that addresses the large-scale, commercial exploitation of accommodation sharing platforms. Sharing platforms were designed for individuals and families to share their home but they have been taken over by commercial operators with scant regard for apartment communities.

During our two-month media campaign six media releases were distributed, backed by key research and background information on local issues.

Thirty known pieces of media coverage were generated over a wide range of geographic areas, industries and age groups. This equates to approximately one story every two days over the two-month period.

The media coverage included:

- SBS World News (report), ABC Goulburn Murray (interview), 3AW (Ross and John Breakfast Program); and

- News publications (including online) from all over Victoria, into NSW and Queensland, also *Modern Asian* newspaper and *Modern Asian* online.

Now we have to engage with the Andrews Government to see there is proper regulation of the short-stay industry for the benefit of the whole community. This will necessarily include:

- Planning law overhaul;

- Restoration of proper powers to owners' corporations;

- Licensing of premises used for commercial short-stay operations; and

- Let's learn from global solutions.

Globally, major cities are tackling the issue of short-stays. Municipal and state governments around the world are developing increasingly mature solutions that protect communities. The state government needs to sit up and take notice of these international solutions.

Some recent reports from overseas in the last three months show how cities have tackled the problem of large-scale commercial exploitation of sharing platforms.

## Berlin

Holiday apartment platforms like Airbnb are being over-run by firms with massive turnovers, new research in Germany suggests. More and more cities are bringing

in legislation to counter the problem. Berlin government believes it has the problem in check – having introduced a law in 2014 that forbids the commercial use of residential space for vacations.

"We consider that law is in line with the constitution and we will continue to stick by it," said Katrin Dietl, spokeswoman for the Berlin housing ministry.

Public officials are tasked with policing Berlin's ban, with the power to impose fines for violations and, according to Dietl, the ban has been successful with some 2500 former vacation apartments being returned into the regular rental market by the end of last year. (From *Deutsche Welle*, August 4, 2017 – <http://m.dw.com/en/airbnb-dominated-by-professional-landlords/a-39972379>)

## Vancouver

Vancouver plans to licence and tax Airbnb rentals. It proposes a ban on short-term rentals in secondary homes which would, in effect, cut out large, commercial hosts. (From *Vancouver Sun*, July 5, 2017 – <http://vancouver.sun.com/news/local-news/vancouver-mayor-plans-to-license-and-tax-airbnb-rentals>)

## Paris

Paris authorities are aiming to introduce a new law that will force those who rent apartments on Airbnb to register the property with the City Hall first. (From *The Local* July 3, 2017 – <https://www.thelocal.fr/20170703/paris-set-to-introduce-new-law-to-crack-down-on-long-term-airbnb-rentals>)

## New York

In October 2016, the New York legislature signed into law a bill that prohibits apartment advertisements for purposes

other than permanent residence. The bill carries with it a civil penalty of up to \$7500.

Although it was always illegal in New York City to occupy a class A multiple dwelling unit (for example, an apartment building for permanent residents) for less than 30 days, the new multiple dwelling legislation clarified that rule and made it illegal to advertise these units on online home-sharing platforms.

The justification for the law, according to the New York City legislature, was a concern for safety and compliance with fire and building codes.

In a public hearing on December 19, 2016, the Mayor's Office of Special Enforcement made clear that a key aim of the new law was to target large-scale illegal hoteliers who contribute to increased rent, narrowed housing markets, and neighbourhood gentrification. (From *The Regulatory Review*, May 24, 2017. – <https://www.theregreview.org/2017/05/24/artunian-short-term-rentals/>)

## Campaign donations

As a not-for-profit organisation, donations from individuals and buildings keep our campaigns going. To register as a supporter of We Live Here or to make a donation please visit our website at [welfarehere.net](http://welfarehere.net).

You can also reach us at [campaign@welfarehere.net](mailto:campaign@welfarehere.net). We Live Here members can make a presentation to your owners' corporation committee upon request.

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



[www.welfarehere.net](http://www.welfarehere.net)  
emails to [campaign@welfarehere.net](mailto:campaign@welfarehere.net)

## Owners' Corporation Law

# Check the balcony and terrace rules first

In a recent VCAT decision, a lot owner in a Docklands building has been ordered to remove shade sails and a permanently-affixed clothesline from his terrace, in breach of the rules of the owners' corporation (OC).

The shade sails were installed by the owner shortly after purchasing the lot. The owner claimed that the sails were to prevent cigarette butts, debris and glass from units above him striking the terrace and potentially causing injury and damage.

VCAT found, however, that the rules of the owners' corporation were clear that permission was required from all relevant authorities such as the council and from the OC before the works to install the structures could proceed.

The OC and VCAT were concerned with the fact that other owners in the building that looked out on the shade sails might suffer an adverse amenity effect. Furthermore, the precedent effect was taken into account in that other owners might be emboldened to install their own structures should they be allowed to remain in place.

Accordingly, VCAT ordered the removal of the shade sails and clothesline forthwith.

The case raises an interesting question about a lot owner's right to take proactive action to protect their lot (and seemingly themselves and their guests) from rubbish and debris falling from above. Ultimately, while there might be legitimate concerns about safety, the OC rules nevertheless prevail.

The lot owner made enquiries about his rights to install these structures prior to purchase with the OC manager and was told that he would not be able to proceed with the structures without a special resolution.

Ultimately the lot owner took his own view that the legislation and the rules did

not apply to his situation and installed the additions regardless.

Indeed, all lot owners and owners' corporations in Victoria should learn from this case, especially given the cost involved between these two parties from a three-day hearing with lawyers on both sides and with multiple witnesses being called to give evidence and be subject to cross examination.

VCAT found that the lot owner's failure to take specialist independent legal advice prior to purchase counted against his position.

In addition, I would add that specialist building surveyor advice should also be provided as the interface between common property. Lot boundaries are difficult to determine and, indeed, the principles of interpretation for finding common property boundaries are uncertain and, frankly, are a dog's breakfast. Other states and territories have clear and unambiguous statutory definitions of lot and common property boundaries. Legislators in Victoria – take

note and take action.

Owners and potential purchasers need to be aware when deciding to live in ground floor or podium level apartments that there are massive risks from flying debris and rubbish from above. Unless there is a very widespread support from all owners to make changes to the common property (assuming that the architect of the building and the local council approve of the changes) then it is unlikely that much can be done for an owner or resident in this situation.

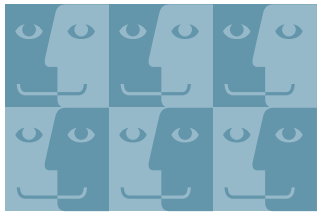
This VCAT decision confirms that invoking a self-help remedy to mitigate the risk of damage can also land you in hot water.

Remember – always check, check and check again.



**Tom Bacon**

Tom Bacon is the principal lawyer of Strata Title Lawyers.  
[Tom@stratattitlelawyers.com.au](http://Tom@stratattitlelawyers.com.au)



# FACES OF SOUTHBANK

## Question:

**Do you think Melbourne is the most liveable city and why?**



SAMAR AL HABSİ, 21, GEELONG

It definitely is for many reasons. Firstly, the people are very friendly and accepting. If you need something, you can always ask anyone, as the people are generally very helpful. I also think the public transport system is great!



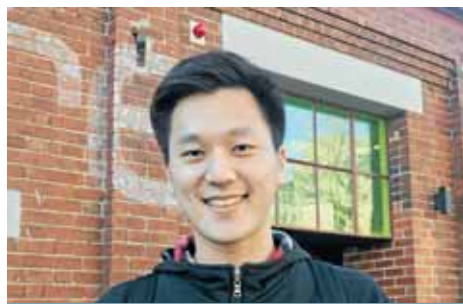
NATALIE SPENCER, 46, PERTH

Yes! The culture and the arts are great here and I especially love the music scene - there's something so eclectic and special about it. If I were to live anywhere else in Australia it would be here!



CHRISTIANA TSENG, 23, TAIWAN

Yes, it is a very liveable city! The people are so friendly. I also love the trams and find them very interesting and cool to watch.



CODY KUNG, 22, HONG KONG

I'm a visitor to Melbourne and so far think it is great. I really love the weather here, as Hong Kong is very hot and humid. I love the atmosphere in the CBD and the public transport too.



MONICA SHAHAT, 20, BULLEEN

I agree, as we have facilities like hospitals and universities all within close proximity. I did exchange in Washington DC and I feel so much safer in Melbourne. We also have beautiful beaches and gardens so close to the city!



RYAN KING, 21, BLACKBURN

While I think it is a very liveable city, it does not always feel like it with peak hour traffic and the public transport system. It is so difficult to get a 9am tram that is not full. Other than that, it is great!

## SOUTHBANK SUDOKU



### Last month's Sudoku solution

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

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 MEDIUM-HARD! Good Luck!

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

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## History

# VAULT!

The dazzling yellow, abstract, geometric sculpture called “Vault” sits peacefully on the gravel forecourt of the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA), at the corner of Dodds and Grant streets in Southbank.

The minimalist sculpture, made from yellow polygonal sheets of prefabricated steel, is today respected by those who pass through the Arts Precinct, but it is easy to forget that this stunning work has had a troubled and turbulent past.

It was commissioned by the Melbourne City Council in 1978 following a public competition for a public sculpture in the newly built Melbourne City Square. The sculptor was Ron Robertson-Swann, c 1941, who had worked as an assistant for the sculptor Henry Moore. His work won a number of prizes and some of his works are held in the collection of the National Gallery of Australia.

Vault was his first major public art work. But nothing could prepare him for the public reaction to this stunning piece of work. During its installation in the grey concrete of Melbourne’s city square, it attracted criticism from councillors and the conservative media, led by *The Sun*.

It became known by the derogatory nickname of the “Yellow Peril”, a term used in those days to describe the perceived threats from Australia’s northern neighbours in Asia. It became the focus for an intense public art debate, similar to that in Sydney during the construction of the Sydney Opera House.

It seemed that everyone had an opinion, many displaying appalling ignorance, whilst many in the art world vigorously defended



it as a startling and outstanding work. The outcry eventually resulted in the sculpture being dismantled and moved to a location at Batman Park.

But it wasn’t easy to dismantle, as Swann

had cleverly disguised the bolts that held it together and was in no mood to assist the council. Eventually the council prevailed (at great cost) and it was moved to its new location in a muddy industrial wasteland

called Batman Park, on the banks of the Yarra.

It sat in pieces, covered in mud, for some time, before reconstruction. However its isolated location meant that it was a target for graffiti artists, vandals and the homeless. It wasn’t a happy stay.

With the creation of the Arts Precinct, it was again moved in 2002, this time to its current location at ACCA, where it stands as a focal point in the vibrant area of Southbank.

As for Swann, he is still winning awards for his work – particularly sweet after his treatment by Melbourne Council nearly 40 years ago.

In 2008 he was awarded an OAM for service to the arts as a sculptor, teacher, mentor and advocate for sculpture, and to art education in Australia and he is happy that his confronting and intriguing creation is now a Melbourne landmark – and still brilliantly yellow!



**Robin Grow**

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

## SKYPAD Living

# Urban forests in a concrete jungle

For a seventh consecutive year Melbourne has been named the world’s most liveable city by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) - but how liveable are our fast growing high density precincts?

Skipping over the vexed issue of what precisely the EIU measures when assessing “liveability”, it is interesting that its assessment is based on what is “most and least challenging” – meaning that the EIU finds Melbourne to be the least challenging city in which to live, rather than the “best” place per se.

In contrast, one of the traditional hallmarks of a great city was its greenery – tree-lined streets and accessible parkland. Recently this green-city perspective has been captured by Jill Jonnes in her book *Urban Forests* wherein she relates stories about the founding mothers and fathers of American urban forestry. From the time of Jefferson

to the present day, she writes of presidents, plant explorers, visionaries, citizen activists and scientists, whose arboreal passions have shaped and ornamented their nation’s cities.

Moving to modern day Melbourne, trees are again being recognised as positive attributes of a great city. A key difference now is that they are viewed increasingly pragmatically. Described in terms of “green infrastructure”, their utilitarian benefits are believed manifold – with mature trees cleaning air, reducing flood risk, lowering the impact of vehicular noise, as well as (more subjectively) decreasing stress and boosting happiness. Furthermore, together these aspects are believed to positively impact property values – a case of money growing off trees!

However, arguably the greatest contribution of green infrastructure for Melburnians is in terms of heat reduction. By actively cooling the urban landscape, green infrastructure aids in reducing energy usage and carbon dioxide emissions, while also decreasing the risk of heat stress or heatstroke. As colourfully described by Melbourne University researchers, “extreme heat is a slow-motion disaster”, and they advocate for changing how we respond to

heat from viewing it as a specific emergency to seeing it as an ongoing stress.

So where does this leave our high-density precincts, which typically still feature expanses of heat retaining concrete and sparse or waning vegetation?

Enter the Urban Forest Fund – this is a new program hosted by the City of Melbourne, which aims to accelerate greening across the city. The Urban Forest Fund offers matched financial support to new greening projects, such as green spaces, tree planting, vertical greening or green roofs.

But wait, there’s more!

RMIT, in partnership with Lendlease, is conducting a project that explores the ongoing development of Victoria Harbour and the wider Docklands precinct.

Called “The Exchange: Prototyping Community Engagement in Victoria Harbour”, it is a 12-month project located in the Knowledge Market near the Docklands Library.

Led by RMIT academics, Dr Charles Anderson and Dr Michaela Prescott, this project includes workshops, forums, exhibitions and community events through which it will examine the liveability of our 21st century urban environment. And it will

do so under the themes of:

- Carbon neutral futures;
- Social diversity;
- Digitally enabled infrastructures; and
- Urban memory and imagination.

According to Dr Anderson, the project aims to be a conduit for exchanging information on the long-term liveability of our cities. So, if you are interested in what might make our high-density precincts “more liveable”, keep an eye on the happenings at the Knowledge Market!

If you would like links to the research or organisations mentioned, please visit and like SkyPad Living on Facebook.



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

SKYPAD  
LIVING



## Business

# Celebrating five years in Southbank

Roop Rani Hair and Beauty Salon celebrates 15 years in business and five years here in Southbank this September.

To mark its birthday celebrations, the salon is offering locals a range of amazing specials right in time for spring.

Operating at the busy Southgate shopping and dining complex, owner Rohini Ram said the mixture of both local and visiting customers had made Southbank a wonderful place to do business.

"We do get really good clientele here," she said. "It's a wonderful community here in Southbank."

"We get really famous people coming in here too like opera singers, movie stars from Hollywood and Bollywood so we are very fortunate to serve a lot of nice and interesting people!"

To celebrate 15 years in business and five in Southbank, just some of the amazing specials Roop Rani will offer include:

- Intracutaneous dermabrasion facials for only \$120.00 (usually \$215).
  - Dead sea salt scrub and body massage for only \$99.00 (usually \$170).
  - Free installation with any full head of tape extensions purchase! Save over \$300!
- To take up on these specials, book yourself in for an appointment this September with one of Roop Rani's professional and caring staff members. The salon also uses chemical free skin and hair products on all of its clients.
- In addition to its birthday celebrations, on



The team at Roop Rani Southgate.

Sunday, October 8 Roop Rani will celebrate the Hindu holiday Karva Chauth, which is a tradition where women fast from sunrise to moonrise for the safety and longevity of their husbands.

A special evening ceremony will be held in the Southgate courtyard outside the salon and local women can also take up on a range of special offers as part of the celebrations.

With a name that reflects and takes pride in its Indian heritage, Rohini said Roop Rani was proud to serve the local community and looked forward to many more years in Southbank.

"The meaning of Roop Rani is beauty queen in Hindi," she said. "I tell all of my clients you'll walk out looking like a beauty queen."

"Once you walk in you'll be treated and pampered like a beauty queen and you'll walk out looking like a beauty queen. That is our motto."

Roop Rani is located at shop P5 Southgate Melbourne. For more information visit [rooprani.com.au](http://rooprani.com.au)

## A passion for good food

ENA Greek Street Food continues to go from strength to strength at Southgate under the leadership of its devoted Greek executive chef Steve Pappas.

Owned by the Funky Food Group, ENA Greek Street Food has quickly cemented its place as a local favourite here in Southbank for providing a simple yet quality menu that caters for everyone.

Since opening at Southgate in April last year, Steve's passion and experience has been the driving force behind ENA's success and he said, when it came to Greek street food, one could not find better.

"In terms of Greek street food, this is it," he said. "People can use the name and they can throw it around how they want, but you won't find a more authentic Greek street food restaurant."

"The menu isn't necessarily following trends because it's true to the name of being street food the list is endless as to what you can put on there so we rotate it depending on the seasons and what ingredients we can get."

Born in Greece and migrating to Australia when he was 15, Steve said he had always been passionate about simply creating good food and, in keeping with his heritage,



Funky Food Group operations and property manager Eleanor Barratt and executive chef Steve Pappas.

particularly good Greek food.

As both a long time friend and colleague of Funky Food Group's Kosta Houdalakis, Steve said he loved creating his beloved Greek dishes amongst ENA's family-like environment.

"I'm allowed the freedom to be creative as I want," he said. "I have the freedom to create different dishes throughout the year. I love working here at Southgate because not only is it a Greek restaurant but also I feel like I own it."

"We're not stingy on using good quality

ingredients so if I want to use something that most other places might say aren't affordable we'll always try and work out a way that we can make a dish. All of the ingredients we use are the best."

In keeping with its simple mantra of providing a delicious and versatile Greek street food menu, Steve's passion for quality ingredients and flavour has been given licence to flourish at ENA.

The menu offers a variety of delicious sharing plates, mains, salads and desserts and includes all the signatures one can

expect to find in Greece from spanakopita and moussaka to mouth-watering seafood and souvlaki.

However, with a focus on using only the best seasonally-available ingredients, Steve and his team are constantly able to use their expertise to change the menu offerings.

ENA's latest menu adds a new range of traditional Greek dishes such as a lamb salad with roast potato, capsicum, rocket, olives and beetroot chips, or crumbed eggplant chips with lime and sweet chili dill or even a delicious gluten free chocolate and walnut cake for dessert.

Steve said the continuously positive response to his food was validation that ENA Greek Street Food was exactly what Southbank's diverse community had long been craving.

"There is very much an established crowd that works and lives here and it's a hugely transient crowd and they're two totally different types of customers," he said.

"The challenge for me has been to create a menu where you can grab and go and you can also sit down and dine. You can come in more than once a week and it's difficult but I think we have achieved that."

ENA Greek Street Food is located at shop M4/9 mid-level Southgate Complex. It is also now taking Christmas and New Years Eve bookings.

For more information or to book visit [enagreekstreetfood.com.au](http://enagreekstreetfood.com.au)

# 2017 WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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



### INNER MELBOURNE LIFE ACTIVITIES CLUB

Meeting on selected dates and various locations, IMLAC takes in the city's parks, its culture, fabulous eating options as well as festivals, galleries and concerts.

[www.life.org.au/imlac](http://www.life.org.au/imlac) or call Dianne 0425 140 981



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**MONDAYS @ BOYD**  
**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE**  
 Local Southbank JP Atilla Akguner offers two hour sessions every Monday morning from 11am until 1pm at the Principal's Office at Boyd. To book in a time contact: [atillaakguner@gmail.com](mailto:atillaakguner@gmail.com)



**SEPTEMBER 13 @ BOYD**  
**TRIVIA NIGHT**  
 Mix, mingle and team up with other residents for prizes. Run in partnership with Southbank Residents Association and supported by local community and businesses. To book contact: [nadine.ford@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:nadine.ford@melbourne.vic.gov.au)

**THURSDAYS 2PM - 4PM @ BOYD**  
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**MONDAYS @ BOYD**  
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**SATURDAYS @ BOYD**  
**COMMUNITY YOGA**  
 The free class is gentle yet dynamic in synchronising active movements with active breath. A perfect start for beginners and older people alike. Bookings essential.  
[beishen.happinessproject@gmail.com](mailto:beishen.happinessproject@gmail.com)



**SEPTEMBER 20 @ BOYD**  
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 Join librarian and history detective Heather McKay as she trawls the mean old streets to present on street gangs and urban crime in Melbourne during the early 1900s. Phone Boyd on **9658 8300** to book.

**TUESDAYS**  
**SOUTHBANK ROTARY**  
 Rotary Club of Southbank meets weekly for dinner on most Tuesday evenings throughout the year at Federation Square. Visitors are always welcome.  
[www.southbank.org.au](http://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](mailto:chengji1214@gmail.com) for more information

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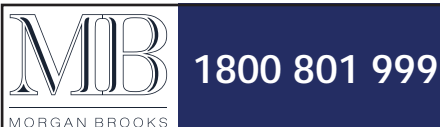


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Contact Agent

**David Barber**  
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1 🚗 1 🛏 1 🚗

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