

The voice of Southbank, South Wharf & Montague

# SOUTHBANK Local NEWS

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Arts Precinct Supplement



## At last! We have our school

The brand new vertical South Melbourne Primary School on Ferrars St, Southbank officially opened its doors to the local community last month.

Premier Daniel Andrews joined (pictured back left to right) principal Noel Creece, Member for Albert Park Martin Foley, City of Port Phillip Mayor Bernadene Voss and Minister for Education James Merlino on January 30 to help unveil the school.

At the time of opening, the school had already enrolled 109 prep students and Noel Creece said the school was very excited about engaging with the local community.

Photos and story on page 8.



## No Wynne for locals in C270

By Sean Car

The Minister for Planning Richard Wynne has admitted that the very planning controls he introduced via amendment C270 don't provide adequate protection for the Arts Precinct and Southbank Village.

His comments come as local architect Hayball won its bid at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) late last year to develop an 18-storey tower on the site of its current office at 135 Sturt St.

The local community, led by the Save Dodds Street group and Southbank Residents' Association (SRA), has long voiced its opposition to the development.

It argues that such development is out of character with the Arts Precinct, would dominate the surrounding low-rise village

and adds to existing traffic and parking congestion in Sturt St.

The VCAT approval will now see a 55-metre tower constructed next door to the 14-metre high Malthouse Theatre and the Australian Centre for Contemporary Arts (ACCA).

A decision on whether to approve a permit had rested with the minister as the responsible authority. However, after failing to rule on the application within the prescribed 60-day time limit, Hayball pursued a permit through VCAT.

While Hayball had submitted its application prior to the introduction of C270 in 2016, Minister Wynne failed to introduce mandatory height controls that would have protected the Arts Precinct from similar future developments.

And in January, it was a case of déjà vu as many local residents in Southbank Village received correspondence via mail notifying them of a VCAT action regarding a 19-storey application at 153 Sturt St.

Neighbouring architect Rothelowman has

too pursued action for a failure to grant a permit for the redevelopment of its own office building within the prescribed time. This time it's against the City of Melbourne as the responsible authority.

"It's clear that the current planning controls don't offer adequate protection for Melbourne's arts precinct," a spokesperson for the Minister for Planning told *Southbank Local News*.

Continued on page 7.

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Deadline for edition 72 is March 1.

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# Boyd Park activities

*The City of Melbourne says it will continue to bring a range of activities to the temporary Boyd Summer Park right through until autumn.*

To date, health and wellbeing classes such as Splash Yoga (pictured), Zumba, Sunday Sports and fitness sessions have been held in the park and council says these will continue to take place.

On January 19, a piano was also installed as part of the Play Me, I'm Yours exhibition presented by Arts Centre Melbourne.

Beginning this month, upcoming activities include skateboarding workshops by Riverslide Skate Park YMCA, creative community craft sessions, Dusk DJ's and African Drumming sessions.

Council told *Southbank Local News* that it would confirm several other community

events this month.

The temporary park opened in December and will be in place until the construction of the new park begins, which is expected to commence in April.

Council also said it was inviting anyone who would like to conduct a free community activity in the space to contact the community animator at [boyd@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:boyd@melbourne.vic.gov.au)

All events at the pop up park are being promoted through the Boyd e-newsletter and Participate Melbourne: [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/boydpark](http://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/boydpark)

# Montague forum

*The first Montague Community Forum for 2018 will be held on Tuesday, March 20 at the Golden Fleece Hotel on Montague St.*

Hosted by the Montague Community Alliance and sponsored by the *Southbank Local News*, the forum will focus on the subject of planning in Fishermans Bend with a natural focus on the Montague Precinct.

With the State Election approaching later this year, invitations have been extended to Member for Albert Park Martin Foley and Liberal candidate for Albert Park Andrew Bond to sit on the panel.

The remainder of the panel, which will include planning representatives from both major parties, as well as representation from the Greens Party, will be announced in the March edition of *Southbank Local News*.

The forum will commence at 6pm for a 6.15pm start and finish at 7:30pm.

To register your interest email

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# A chance for transparency

By Shane Scanlan

**With Robert Doyle quitting as lord mayor on February 4, one unanswered question is: why did he wait so long?**

Everyone involved expected his resignation weeks ago. Only Mr Doyle, it seems, couldn't see what was coming.

A host of other unanswered questions remain about the process surrounding this sorry saga, which has been hidden from public view.

In the absence of any precedent, council chief executive Ben Rimmer took it upon himself to hire Ian Freckleton QC to investigate sexual misconduct claims by former councillor Tess Sullivan against Mr Doyle.

Mr Rimmer says this investigation was "independent" and followed "principles of natural justice". But, so far, there is no evidence of this. Mr Rimmer refuses to even release his inquiry's terms of reference.

A fundamental principle, which has been ignored in his process, is that justice must not only be done, it must be seen to be done.

If the public was involved in the process in some way, would there have been a different result? Probably not. But it would have been a more legitimate outcome.

Sexual harassment is obviously a delicate subject where victims need protection, but other commissions of inquiry and courts manage to strike the right balance between the public's right to know and privacy.

In a public statement on February 5, Mr Rimmer said: "I cannot control the behaviour of the parties or of the media."

For someone with an instinct for control and secrecy, this is, no doubt, a source of frustration.



Acting Lord Mayor Arron Wood's mind seems to be elsewhere at the Chinese New Year launch on February 5.

It remains to be seen how much of Dr Freckleton's investigation is released.

Mr Doyle's resignation certainly makes Mr Rimmer's job easier. But the council has been rocked to its core by the scandal.

Apart from the damage to its reputation, the political balance of the council has been turned on its head.

The dominant faction, Team Doyle, turns out to have been a "team" in name only. Even if the former lord mayor had survived, he had already lost the support and confidence of his "team" and, therefore, his majority.

With a fresh election for lord mayor now imminent, the opportunity exists for a more open and democratic council.

As a lord mayor with a majority of votes in hand, Robert Doyle effectively ruled by decree. Decisions and deals were made behind closed doors and council meetings had become almost meaningless.

Councillors say management determines

which decisions are taken in secret and it is true that such a culture, with the council being run like a private corporation, starts at the top.

As recently reported by *Southbank Local News*, Melbourne City Council is making about a third of the number of public decisions that it was making a decade ago.

And, at the same time, it has become the most secret of the state's municipalities, making 28.85 per cent of decisions behind closed doors in 2015-16.

It also routinely subverts and stymies the spirit of freedom of information laws to the degree that it is pointless asking questions.

With the dismantlement of the dominant faction within the council and new lord mayor on her/his way, the opportunity exists to revolutionise this culture of secrecy.

Mr Rimmer might consider whether an open, transparent local government suits his style of management.



## Government buys CUB site

**The State Government has officially purchased the Carlton & United Breweries (CUB) building at 77 Southbank Boulevard.**

The government is reported by *The Australian* to have purchased the building for \$95.5 million, with the sale confirmed to *Southbank Local News* on February 1.

A spokesperson for the Victorian Government said that the government would be restoring the building for public use.

"The Victorian Government has purchased the CUB site at 77 Southbank Boulevard with the long-term view of returning it to public use," the spokesperson said.

"As the government finalises plans for the site, CUB will remain as the key tenant."

As reported in the December-January edition of *Southbank Local News*, it is understood that the State Government is in discussions with a number of key arts institutions about potentially occupying the site.

With a number of institutions including the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV), Arts Centre Melbourne and ACMI-X said to be at maximum capacity, the building could host a mixture of arts for a range of uses.



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# Doyle drama – how did it happen?

Opinion, by Shane Scanlan

**Tessa Sullivan's resignation on December 15 was not a surprise. But her decision to take down Robert Doyle was a shock.**

Ms Sullivan never appeared really comfortable as a councillor. Inexperience is one thing, but she seemed particularly sensitive and unsuited to the rough and tumble of politics.

Was she doing it to make the world a better place in some small way? Her public performance offered no real clue about why she was making the considerable sacrifice to take on the role.

She had a shaky start, charged with leading a universally-unpopular policy position to amend a local law to redefine rough sleeping. Her more senior colleagues were supportive and protective.

Just what she was expecting when she accepted Robert Doyle's invitation to join his 2016 election team, only she could say. And she has never spoken to *Southbank Local News* – about anything! But I think it's fair to say that her expectations were poles apart from the former lord mayor's.

Again, one can only guess .... so here's my best guess of how this all went so horribly wrong (with no assertion about the actual facts of the matter).

As a bright young woman, Ms Sullivan was an attractive recruit for Team Doyle (even if her inclusion in a winnable position on the ticket was at the expense of two former female councillors). And she had the requisite cash to contribute to the campaign.

But was she expected to make a meaningful contribution to policy formulation or merely make up the numbers?

Her contribution to debate within the



Tessa Sullivan at the press conference where Robert Doyle announced her candidacy.

council chamber would suggest that she wasn't being asked by "the team" to do much. Was this a source of frustration for someone who signed on to do more?

Did she get the support and guidance from "team leadership" to develop her into an effective councillor?

Or did she get "Bad Robert" – not just in the sensational sexual misconduct allegations sense, but in the day-to-day, garden-variety bullying sense?

Robert Doyle takes an aggressive position with people who don't agree with him. It's how he's wired. Many a public questioner at public meetings has been shocked and humiliated by his caustic responses.

Perhaps Ms Sullivan started finding herself on the wrong end of some of this treatment?

And then there's Mr Doyle's reputation for drinking. To the uninitiated, it is difficult to tell whether or not he's had a "long lunch". This is testament to his unquestionable talent as an orator and debater.

But it appears that it also lets him down at times. These times, I suspect, include such moments of harassment/assault alleged by Ms Sullivan.

It's not an excuse but a possible explanation of how his world has come tumbling down.

The way things were progressing, Robert Doyle was staring over a cliff. His career, reputation, relationships, board positions, future earnings, pride, reason for being – pretty much everything – was at stake.

Is it wrong then, to hope that there is more to come to explain Ms Sullivan's reasons for

starting the fire that consumed him? What else is in the 35-page dossier of allegations which she is believed to have compiled and presented to council management?

Motivation is important here.

Is it personal and vengeful? Or was Ms Sullivan motivated as a gender war warrior – taking a stand for women everywhere against the oppressive patriarchy?

At what point are the consequences commensurate with her allegations? On the little we know via *The Age* about what Cr Doyle is alleged to have done and said to her? With the addition of what we are told about what happened to Cathy Oke (and do we assume that Cr Oke consented to be drawn into this inquiry)?

The councillors, the city – even the state – have been damaged by this drama. Will it be worth it when it finally plays out?

If it's part of a broader battle about gender equality then, no doubt, many would not consider such fallout as consequential. To even raise the prospect that the outcome may be disproportionate may invite criticism.

Ultimately, an inquiry that excludes public scrutiny (however well motivated) works against everyone involved – both the accused and the accusers. We are left guessing about too many important questions.

In times-not-so-long-passed, everything would still be "okay". But changing times, standards and values have overtaken events.

When Mr Doyle was a boy, the worst thing you could be called was a communist. In centuries past, reputations were ruined without the requirement for due process by the accusation of heresy or witchcraft.

To be struck down by the #metoo global phenomenon would have come totally out of the blue.

To be struck down by his own creation is epic mythology for the ages.

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# Doyle has done the right thing

By Stephen Mayne



**Robert Doyle has made the correct call to end his record-breaking, nine-year run as lord mayor of Melbourne.**

Four separate women – ex councillor Tessa Sullivan, current councillor Cathy Oke, the un-named partner of a Melbourne Health specialist and Dianne Mallas, a former constituent in Cr Doyle's state seat of Malvern – gave detailed formal evidence against him, plus had their stories made public.

There were more stories to be told and, if Cr Doyle hadn't voluntarily resigned, a majority of councillors will have almost certainly stepped up and called for such a move at a council or committee meeting before the end of February.

Councillors can't sack each other but if enough Team Doyle councillors chose to stand by their man, they would have run the risk of the whole council being sacked by the State Government.

The next move is for his loyal deputy Arron Wood to also resign so that fresh elections for the entire two-person leadership ticket can be held. This will also allow Cr Wood to contest the lord mayoral election. But he needs to be quick so the Victorian Electoral Commission can make the necessary arrangements.

The remnants of Team Doyle – Crs Kevin Louey, Susan Riley, Nicholas Reece and Beverley Pinder – should all now resolve to sit as independents. Without Robert Doyle there should be no Team Doyle. Tellingly, both Crs Pinder and Riley had earlier indicated to *Southbank Local News* that they believed Mr Doyle should move on.

If trying to make a fresh start, it would be unreasonable for a new directly-elected lord mayor to be saddled with 10 Doyle-era councillors, including Doyle's hand-picked deputy.

If Cr Wood hangs on as deputy and there is only a by-election to find a new lord mayor, he'll face an avalanche of questions about what he knew about Town Hall culture.

Cr Wood is not a career politician – he's an emerging board director and a talented communicator and educator on environmental issues who should return to his first love on a full-time basis. This would clear the way for fresh blood and potentially an all-female ticket that would deliver a first ever majority of female councillors. The likes of Bulldogs director Susan Alberti and Property Council CEO Sally Capp are two

names that have come up as potential lord mayoral candidates. If there is a by-election, expect past candidates such as Ken Ong, Phil Cleary and Gary Morgan to contest.

There will be individuals asking public questions at council committee meetings and another loyal male Doyle supporter who will come under significant pressure is Kevin Louey, the quietly spoken chief Doyle fundraiser who has occupied the top position on the Team Doyle council ticket for the past two elections.

The view of Tessa Sullivan will be pivotal. If she details a lack of support or protection during her time on council and calls for additional resignations from her old council faction, it will be hard to resist.

Much will turn on the contents of her 35-page dossier and what investigator Ian Freckelton QC says in his report.

The former lord mayor was given a copy of the draft Freckelton report 72 hours before CEO Rimmer received his copy. This was for fact checking and right of reply purposes. Ill-health was cited as a reason for his earlier inaction but he has now done the right thing and resigned.

The Sullivan dossier was delivered to the former lord mayor a week before he appeared before Freckelton on January 5. Interestingly, Ben Rimmer did not show Mr Doyle a copy of the dossier before commissioning Freckelton or securing his December 17 concession to stand down for

a month.

Now that Mr Doyle has seen the Freckelton report, it is interesting that he is casting doubt on the process. This is not a wise strategy as the public interest is so overwhelming that, at the very least, the City of Melbourne will have to release a summary of its key findings, which will include my evidence that I saw the Lord Mayor grope Cr Oke under a table on December 8, 2014.

Blaming the women involved is a similarly unwise strategy and will come back to bite him.

The State Government, potentially through the Local Government Minister or Municipal Inspector David Wolff, will be supplied a full copy of the report and remain the ultimate kingmakers in this situation.

Mr Doyle's strong personal relationship with Premier Daniel Andrews has now become moot as he has also resigned from his 10-year stint as chair of Melbourne Health. The state's investigation by Charles Scerri QC continues until at least mid-February.

It was far better to resign than be sacked which is what would have probably happened at Melbourne Health if he tried to fight on. And once that domino had fallen, Town Hall would inevitably have been next, particularly given the powers held by the State Government.

*Stephen Mayne is a former councillor.*

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# Parks Victoria shows its true colours

By Shane Scanlan

*As if to demonstrate once and for all its inability to deliver, Parks Victoria (PV) has issued a press release celebrating that it has taken two and a half years to select designs for pontoons it plans to install at Southgate.*

Back in 2015, despite unanimous support for a single, independent waterways authority recommended by the Yarra River Use Future Directions Group (LYRUFDDG), Parks managed to retain its jurisdiction over the river.

Another committee was established – the 15th such body in 20 years – and \$2 million was announced for new pontoons at Southgate. It took until February 2017 to establish the new committee and until last month to select a pontoon design.

The committee’s three-year tenure is due to expire in July this year, by which time PV expects to have installed the new pontoons.

“With designs finalised, and project planning well underway, project completion is anticipated in mid-2018,” its January 24 press release said.

The president of the Melbourne Passenger Boating Association, Jeff Gordon, responded: “The government made the funds available in early 2016 and PV promised the industry that a floating landing would be constructed during winter 2017.”

“However, in the usual slow Parks Victoria timescale, we are now finally seeing at



An example of a similar floating landing near Southgate, which Parks Victoria provided with its press release.

least a plan. Surely this sends a red flag to the government on just how slow the bureaucracy at Parks Victoria works.”

“The industry called for an independent management authority for Melbourne’s Lower Yarra and we would like the government to relook at this proposal in light of the slow response.”

PV Melbourne division executive director, Chris Hardman, said: “Parks Victoria is working with the Lower Yarra River Management Advisory Committee and key stakeholders to ensure the proposed floating landing upgrade at Southgate will be delivered to avoid the peak berthing periods.”

Last May, in response to critical questioning about the failure to deliver an independent waterways authority, Mr Hardman said: “What’s the problem we are trying to solve? We need to activate the waterways, get the investment in the waterways and those sorts of things.”

“So we can work together and do that. Or we can lament a recommendation that wasn’t taken up by the government of the day.”

“And, you know what? If it doesn’t work and you’re not satisfied, then re-prosecute the case in the future,” Mr Hardman said.

The January 24 Parks press release said: “Introducing floating landings that meet

Disability Discrimination Act compliance standards will improve safety and access for commercial vessels at various tides.”

“The project includes refurbishing the information and ticket booths improving point of sale facilities that will enhance the visitor and tourism experience.”

“To ensure minimal disruption to the industry peak period an extension of the project completion timeline has been supported by the Lower Yarra River Advisory Committee due to specialised contractor availability.”

Lower Yarra River Management Advisory Committee chair Chris Trotman said: “The Lower Yarra River Management Advisory Committee is pleased to see the Southgate Floating Landing Project progress to the project implementation phase. It’s important to ensure the services provided for visitors to Melbourne provide the best and safest experience possible.”

The Lower Yarra River Management Advisory Committee is also supposed to recommend to government appropriate future governance arrangements for the Lower Yarra.

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# No Wynne for locals in C270

Continued from page 1.

When questioned as to why the minister had failed to make a decision on the application, his spokesperson said: "It's not uncommon for complex matters that need to go to multiple authorities to take a bit longer, unfortunately."

The spokesperson also said that, despite opposing the application at VCAT, the current planning scheme didn't provide the minister with sufficient grounds to pursue further action.

"Advice provided indicated that he did not have sufficient grounds to 'call in' the proposal," the spokesperson said.

"While Planning Ministers of the day have powers to intervene in planning applications, any intervention must stand the scrutiny of Supreme Court action, and he will not be seeking to challenge the decision."

SRA president Tony Penna said he was "gob-smacked" by the minister's comments and described the VCAT decision as "a sad day for Southbank Village".

"The SRA is absolutely gob-smacked with the comments from the Planning Minister," he said. "Our community, volunteer-driven, not-for-profit organisation spent \$5000 engaging with a consultant for the Minister's own review of the Capital City Zone built form."

"We made a 50-page contribution to this and also presented to the panel. We argued there needs to be defined mandatory height controls, but more over that the special character areas such as Sturt St environs must be protected."

"The final outcome of that C270 review left these areas vulnerable. We felt our view was simply ignored."

Save Dodds Street convener Julie Cowley said the community felt let down by the Minister for Planning.

"Our Planning Minister Richard Wynne has let down not only our local community but the whole of Melbourne," she said.

"We as a community have made ourselves heard at council and with the Planning Minister's office. They acknowledge our correspondence and do nothing."

The City of Melbourne now has a



(Top) Minister for Planning Richard Wynne, (bottom left) Rothelowman's 19-storey proposal for 153 Sturt St and (bottom right) how Hayball's tower will measure next to the Malthouse Theatre.

similarly unwinnable fight on its hands. Rothelowman, acting as Sturt Street Pty Ltd, last month launched a VCAT action against council for delaying a decision on a permit for the redevelopment of its office building at 153 Sturt St.

With the VCAT hearing set for July, City of Melbourne media officer Brian Wilson said council was yet to form a position on the application.

"Council initially identified some concerns with the proposal, which were communicated to the applicant," he said. "Council has also been informed that VicRoads has requested additional information regarding the proposed development. As such, council is yet to form a position on the application."

Neither Hayball or Rothelowman responded to a number of offers by *Southbank Local News* to provide comment.

Neighbouring arts institutions Malthouse Theatre and ACCA also both declined

the opportunity to comment on the developments.

Considered a "special character zone" in the Melbourne Planning Scheme, Southbank Village is subject to mandatory 14-metre height controls in Dodds St. However, the adjacent Sturt St border is only subject to discretionary 40-metre height limits.

As part of planning scheme amendment C171 in 2013, Former Liberal Planning Minister Matthew Guy had kept 40-metre height controls in the Sturt St precinct but removed the mandatory cap of 20 per cent. He also made compliance with the built form controls discretionary.

Richard Wynne's C270 amendment included the Southbank Village area and ultimately had the chance to address these height controls, but didn't.

City of Melbourne's assistant chair of planning Cr Rohan Leppert said it was important to note, however, that C270 did not include Sturt St in the "DDO10 area",

which was what changed heights in certain parts of the capital city zone.

Cr Leppert said he suspected that the reason the minister hadn't included Sturt St in the DDO10 area was due to the amendment's new style of built form control for higher density areas.

"The reason the area was left out of DDO10 is that the DDO10 is about a new style of built form control (floor area ratio plus floor area uplift) for the higher density areas - mostly 100 metres plus or uncapped," he said.

"Floor area uplift is inappropriate for Southbank Village because it would provide an open ended incentive for more built form (in exchange for community benefits) in these more sensitive areas."

When asked to confirm why Sturt St wasn't included in DDO10, Richard Wynne's spokesperson said: "the new central city planning controls are about protecting the shape and skyline of our city and ensuring that all new developments have the public's interest at heart."

Member for Albert Park Martin Foley, who has long been a vocal opponent of high-rise development in the Arts Precinct, said he would continue working to enhance the amenity of Southbank's cultural hub.

"The VCAT decision (135 Sturt St) raises a number of issues for the local community in relation to future planning for the Southbank creative precinct," he said.

"I will continue to work closely with the community, council and planning authorities to make sure the amenity of this vibrant, cultural hub is enhanced."

*Southbank Local News* understands that the State Government and the City of Melbourne are currently working with Creative Victoria to change a number of planning controls in Southbank Village.

It's understood that the changes would push for future developments in the precinct to involuntarily include a mixture of creative uses and provide developers less discretion around built form controls.

What's your take on development in Southbank Village and the Arts Precinct? Send your thoughts to [news@southbanklocalnews.com.au](mailto:news@southbanklocalnews.com.au)



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# Richmond opens to Southbank

*With an enrolment zone that takes in much of the Southbank area, local families now have a new secondary schooling option after the new Richmond High School opened last month.*

Premier Daniel Andrews, Minister for Education James Merlino and Member for Richmond Richard Wynne opened the \$43 million school on January 31.

The new school will cater for 650 year 7 to 12 students and is located over two sites - the Griffith Street Campus and the Gleadell Street Campus.

The school is opening in two stages starting with the Gleadell Street Campus open as of now. It includes general-purpose teaching spaces, four competition-standard netball courts (one indoor), as well as new showers and toilets, a canteen and administration area.

The Griffiths Street Campus will open in term one next year and will cater for the second cohort of year 7 students and students moving into year 8.

At the school's opening, local member Richard Wynne said it was a proud moment for the local community.



Richard Wynne addresses students on day one.



(Top) Principal Noel Creece with students on the opening day, (bottom left) the school as it appears from the front and (bottom right) Noel Creece, James Merlino, Martin Foley and Premier Daniel Andrews have fun with students.

## At last! We have our school

From page 1.

**Principal Noel Creece gave Premier Daniel Andrews a tour of Southbank's new state of the art primary school on January 30.**

Designed by Hayball Architects and built by ADCO Construction, the five-storey school features a range of modern teaching, learning and recreational play spaces.

It also includes facilities that the community can share so that the school is fully embedded in neighbourhood life.

"We want everyone to come out of their buildings from South Melbourne, Southbank, South Wharf and come together," Noel Creece said. "We're going to integrate with all of the businesses around here and

we're very excited to become part of the community."

The opening provided a bitter sweet moment for local families, many of whom had long campaigned for a new local primary school for many years.

Together with the opening of South Melbourne Park Primary School in Albert Park in 2019, the new schools will accommodate more than 1000 students entering school over the next five years.

# Free safety workshops

*During February and March, the Yarra River Business Association (YRBA) is turning its focus to local issues of safety and security.*

The local business group is teaming up with Victoria Police and the Department of Justice and Regulation to present two business safety and security workshops.

VicPol crime prevention officers and local security personnel will conduct the free two-hour workshops, which will provide practical and immediately actionable tips for staff of retail and hospitality businesses.

The association's first business lunch of the year at Arts Centre Melbourne will focus on counter terrorism. An international terrorism expert will provide an overview of where Melbourne currently stands with regard to terrorism activity and preventative measures. The lunch will also focus on what businesses can do at the micro level to better prepare.

YRBA president John Forman said the focus on business safety and security was not intended to scare the business community, but to make them more aware and to build resilience.

"The experts say it is now a matter of 'when' rather than 'if', so we want our members to be on the front foot to better withstand any impacts," he said.

The first safety and security workshop on February 21 will be held at Eureka 89, while the second workshop will be held on February 28 at Clarendon Room E at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre at South Wharf.

For lunch and workshop bookings visit [Yarrariver.melbourne](http://Yarrariver.melbourne)






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# A uni for the bend

**Australia's largest urban renewal project received a major boost in December with the State Government announcing a new Melbourne University campus in Fishermans Bend.**

The government and the university have reached a deal that will see the university buy about seven hectares of the 37.7-hectare Holden site, which the government purchased in 2016 for \$130 million.

Located within the new Employment Precinct of Fishermans Bend, Melbourne University will invest almost \$1 billion to create a world-class engineering school just five kilometres from the CBD.

The new campus, which will open in the early 2020s, will be at the centre of the new Employment Precinct and will see more than 1000 new engineering and IT students and academics collaborate with industry leaders.

Treasurer Tim Pallas, Minister for Industry and Employment Ben Carroll and Member for Albert Park Martin Foley joined

University of Melbourne Vice-Chancellor Glyn Davis AC to announce the project on December 21.

Prof. Davis said the move would allow the university to undertake large scale research and innovation that couldn't be accommodated at its Parkville campus - including autonomous vehicle testing, engine propulsion testing and wind tunnels.

The University's economic modeling for its 2025 engineering strategy shows their investment will provide an \$8 billion boost to Victoria's economy and generate over 15,000 new jobs by 2035.

Local Member Martin Foley said the new campus would be "the jewel in a revitalised Fishermans Bend".

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"While studying the MPA course, you plant seeds of business ideas and test them in your research projects, (hopefully) to inspire and ignite the imagination and appreciate the wonders of accounting, tax, finance - our business world," MPA course leader Vasanthi Peter said.

Naina Bharti (pictured) used her time in the classroom to improve her future career potential. She, along with her classmates, explored their goals through extra-curricular activities to coincide with Women Entrepreneurship Week.



"Holmesglen is an ideal place to thrive, it's where I found my voice. Migrating from India to Australia, I was welcomed at Holmesglen and the teachers guided me in the right direction," she said.

The MPA is also accredited by industry professional bodies, including Certified Practising Accountants (CPA) Australia, Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand, Institute of Certified Management Accountants (ICMA) and the Institute of Public Accountants (IPA).

Holmesglen is currently accepting applications for the Master of Professional Accounting February intake (or, the second intake in July 2018). Find out more at [holmesglen.edu.au](http://holmesglen.edu.au)

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# More share bikes coming

By Sunny Liu

***The clutter of dockless share bikes looks set to increase with more dockless bike share operators launching in Melbourne this year.***

And, with state and local governments insisting the other is responsible, a regulatory response is looking increasingly unlikely.

The City of Melbourne has confirmed that, in addition to oBike, some dockless share bike companies have expressed their intention to tap into the Melbourne market.

Council would not disclose the names of the share bike companies, but it is understood that most of the companies are coming from Asia, such as Ofo, Mobike and Reddy Go.

Chinese company Ofo recently launched with hundreds of bikes in Sydney and Adelaide and is likely to bring its services to Melbourne.

"Ofo will continue expanding its fleet to other Australian cities in 2018 when the time is right to do so," an Ofo spokesperson told *Southbank Local News*.

Reddy Go has confirmed that it was planning for a Melbourne launch.

And Beijing-based Mobike pumped its bikes onto Sydney streets last year and is

understood to also be planning a Melbourne expansion in coming months.

The dockless feature of these share bikes means users can unlock bikes with a mobile app without having to park them at designated locations.

Just like the memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed with oBike last October to set operating standards, the City of Melbourne, Port Philip and Yarra will offer a MOU with these new companies.

Under the MOU, oBike has agreed to ensure that bikes are parked at appropriate locations and damaged and dangerously placed bikes be removed within 24-48 hours.

The City of Melbourne said the MOU had improved clutter around the city but would not eradicate the issue.

Robert Doyle has previously indicated that regulating dockless share bikes would be the state government's responsibility.

"We've signed the MOU and all I can say is that their compliance seem to be better in the City of Melbourne. Nevertheless, it's still not ideal," he said.

A City of Melbourne spokesperson said local government had limited power to regulate share bikes.

"While the MOU is a step in the right direction, the development of dockless bike sharing requires specific regulatory responses that are not currently available to local governments."

But the state government disputes this, maintaining the council are responsible for regulating share bikes.

"Managing share bikes is entirely the responsibility of local governments. Local governments have the power they need to regulate share bikes," a state government spokesperson said.

"The footpaths that the share bikes are obstructing are owned and managed by the local governments and the three local governments have already introduced their regulations to address the issue," the spokesperson said.

Minister for Roads Luke Donnellan said: "We'll continue to work with local councils to ensure they have the powers they need to manage the challenges posed by this emerging industry."

"We have always said that while we welcome innovation and efforts to get more people on bikes, any operators in this space must comply with local laws and meet community expectations."



*Reddy Go is launching in Melbourne.*

## Authority has no cladding powers

***Owners affected by non-compliant flammable cladding are going to have to take direct legal action against parties they believe responsible, following a Supreme Court decision.***

On December 22, Justice Cavanough ruled that the Victorian Building Authority (VBA), did not have the power to order builder LU Simon to rectify works on six Melbourne towers.

Justice Cavanough found that building surveyors and the VBA could not make such demands after an occupancy certificate had been granted.

He said the law did not provide "power to require builders (and even former builders), alone, to rectify alleged defects of whatever kind, in buildings of whatever kind, years or decades after the buildings have been completed and certificates of final inspection or occupancy permits have been issued for them."

On December 1, the government released an interim report from its cladding taskforce. And, while the number of affected buildings soars, the taskforce is yet to examine where liability lies and, therefore, where the cost is to be borne.

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# A facelift for feral underpass

**Local businesses are rejoicing after the State Government announced plans to finally upgrade the Elizabeth St underpass at Flinders Street Station.**

As a central gateway connecting locals and tourists from the CBD to the Yarra River and Southbank, the walkway's eroding condition has long been the subject of scrutiny from local business owners.

In January, acting Premier James Merlino and acting Public Transport Minister Luke Donnellan appeared at Northbank to announce a new entrance to Platform 10 as part of the State Government's \$100 million station redevelopment.

Construction started last week on the new entrance, which will provide direct access to Southbank Promenade to Platform 10 via the Evan Walker Bridge and ease congestion through the underpass.

While construction of the new entrance is already underway, Minister for Public Transport Jacinta Allan told *Southbank Local News* that works to the underpass would start before the new entrance is opened in April.

"Entrance first then underpass renewal - staged works, timing for underpass will commence before the entrance is finished," Ms Allan's spokesperson said.

Yarra River Business Association (YRBA) president John Forman said business welcomed the long-awaited



(Above) A render of the new platform 10 entrance and (below) the decaying Elizabeth St underpass.

upgrade, describing the underpass an "embarrassment" to Melbourne.

"The Southbank business and resident numbers continue to grow and the upgrade will assist with the increased traffic and demand," he said.

"Southbank is a tourism hotspot and the current condition of the underpass has been a major embarrassment to the 'World's Most Liveable City!'"

"The YRBA has been working hard over the years to highlight the importance of upgrading the main connection footpath/underpass from Southbank to the CBD."

"We are appreciative that the government is making a significant investment to assist with Southbank's growth and offer a more appealing look and feel for locals and tourists who use the underpass on a daily basis."



## A community Christmas

**Residents of Southbank Grand came together on December 16 to celebrate the apartment tower's inaugural children's Christmas party.**

As one of Southbank's newest apartment complexes located at the corner of City Rd and Power St, the Christmas celebration was the building's first of its kind.

And much to the delight of the local families, the 15 children who attended received a gift from the man himself ... Santa Clause (aka building manager David Nathan!). Many other children who weren't able to attend on the day got personal visits from Santa.

"It was great to see the parents introducing themselves and for the children to interact and make new friends," David said. "Given the feedback and the success of the party, this will now be an annual event!"

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Plenty of time to ask questions relevant to your business.

**Southbank workshop: Wednesday, 21 February, 2-4pm. Eureka 89, Eureka Tower**

**South Wharf workshop: Wednesday, 28 February, 2-4pm, Clarendon Room E, Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre**

Choose which workshop you wish to attend, then complete your free registration at [yarrariver.melbourne/southbank-security-workshop](http://yarrariver.melbourne/southbank-security-workshop) or [yarrariver.melbourne/south-wharf-security-workshop](http://yarrariver.melbourne/south-wharf-security-workshop)

**Enquiries: Tim Bracher: [exoff@yarrariver.melbourne](mailto:exoff@yarrariver.melbourne) or 0412 502 931**

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VICTORIA POLICE



# THE ARTS PRECINCT

## A SWEET NEW SETUP



### Review by Sean Car

Southbank's tapestry of local arts institutions was put on display on January 20 as Sugar Mountain festival moved into the Arts Precinct.

Since moving to Southbank from the Forum Theatre in 2015, Sugar Mountain has quickly become one of the most popular day festivals in Melbourne, largely due to its unique cultural home within the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA).

With construction of the Melbourne

Conservatorium of Music currently taking place on a space previously utilised by the festival, organisers were forced into a dramatic rethink to its usual layout.

With the main stage at Dodds St changing to face south towards Grant St, the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA) and the Malthouse Theatre were brought into the fold to amazing effect.

Festivalgoers entered from Sturt St onto ACCA's vast forecourt where they were greeted with a range of fun communal hangout spaces, food trucks and arts installations.

Taking a right turn through the walkway that dissects ACCA and one was met with the new home of the Boiler Room amphitheatre, tucked away in the Malthouse Theatre courtyard.

The new look Boiler Room proved a raging success with crowds packing out the space throughout the day to the electro sounds of the likes of Dan Shake, Fantastic Man, Honey Dijon and Shanti Celeste.

Step inside the Malthouse itself and fans were treated to an experience like no other, with the festival also taking over the illustrious Merlyn Theatre. The space provided a darkened and immersive atmosphere to enjoy performances from the likes of Actress and Laurel Halo.

Renowned for its visual arts focus, the new setup also meant the festival was able to take over ACCA's gallery space, while VCA's Margaret Lawrence Gallery housed the popular Sensory Cafe. The Grant St Theatre also showcased the breathtaking virtual reality and live performance of VIA

*ALICE* – a truly masterful cross cultural creation showcasing Aboriginal dance and connection to country.

As usual, the Dodds St main stage didn't fail to deliver on its usual block party vibes complete with a UFO-style arts installation hung above the crowd and the stage itself.

The array of musical talent didn't disappoint either! Starting early with the incredible vocals and lyrics of Stella Donnelly, Ara Koufax captured the crowds in the afternoon while Cut Copy brought it home with a bang as darkness set in.

Notorious for its colour and street-style feels, the festival once again delivered a perfect dynamic of music and art while showcasing our beautiful Arts Precinct. Just when we thought we had seen it all, Sugar Mountain continues to blow us away.



# Good Muslim Boy

By Ree Maloney

The Malthouse Theatre presents the stage adaptation of Osamah Sami's hilarious "Good Muslim Boy" this month.

From February 9 to March 11, actor and comedian, Osamah Sami will let audiences take a glimpse at his rollercoaster life.

People will both laugh and cry with his story. From a survivor of the Iran-Iraq war to faking a perfect Year 12 score to get into Melbourne University, Osamah's life journey is one to watch.

Amongst other things, Osamah is the proud owner of a fake medical degree from Melbourne University, speaks six languages, starred as Saddam Hussein in a musical comedy and was mistaken for a terrorist in the USA.

His romantic journey includes three attempts at proposed "temporary marriage" and escaping an arranged marriage by running away on the day of the event.

The book *Good Muslim Boy* was winner of the 2016 New South Wales Premier's Literary Awards and the 2015 International Golden Phoenix Award for its contribution to Iraqi culture in diaspora.

Directed by Janice Muller, the play is described as a "Kafkaesque tale" that "makes light of spectacular absurdity and highlights the beautiful contradictions found at the cross currents of two cultures."

It's recommended for ages 15 plus. For

more information and to book tickets visit: [malthousetheatre.com.au/whats-on/good-muslim-boy](http://malthousetheatre.com.au/whats-on/good-muslim-boy)



# Experimental Jazz

By Ree Maloney

Following the success of their 2017 LP "Unfold", The Necks will perform at the Melbourne Recital Centre for one night only on Friday, February 9.

Best described as an experimental jazz band, the Necks have been mesmerising audiences for the past 30 years. Comprised of pianist Chris Abrahams, drummer Tony Buck and bass player Lloyd Swanston, the Necks have a unique sound with no two concerts being the same.

This will be their third performance in the Elisabeth Murdoch Hall.

"We're so happy to be returning to Melbourne Recital Centre. We play venues all over the world, and the Recital Centre is one of the most beautiful and beautiful-sounding, of them all," Lloyd Swanston said.

The trio intertwine their sounds -

seemingly so in-tune with one another that a set can last for a minimum of 40 minutes. The mind boggles at how in sync these three performers are with their timing and skill.

Geoff Dyer of the *New York Times* said: "A performance by The Necks is all about band and audience being utterly absorbed in the process of creation."

For jazz and experimental music fans alike, this is a performance not to be missed.

The performance begins at 7.30pm and will be two hours with a 20 minute interval.

For more information and tickets go to [melbournerecital.com.au](http://melbournerecital.com.au)

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AARON WALKER

# Water Body

Former "Profile Picture" interviewee Aaron Walker has just concluded an eye-catching exhibition, capturing his dynamic aerial world, as part of the Midsumma Festival.



An image from Aaron's recent series 'Water Body'.

When *Southbank Local News* last caught up with Aaron in July last year, he provided us with a fascinating insight into his acclaimed drag artist portraiture series, as well as his background as a circus aerialist.

His latest exhibition *Water Body* captures the raw power and seductive beauty of soaking wet, suspended acrobats in what is presented as a dynamic portrait series capturing the visual power of water on the

body.

According to Aaron, aerialists have an immense respect and understanding of the dangers involved in their work. They use their unique movement qualities to dance beautifully in the air against gravity and, in this case, a cold fresh torrent of water.

Aaron said the shock of the water had an immediate visceral effect on how the artists chose to move, which created a sense of reverence and surrender once fully immersed in the cold downpour.

He said American video artist Bill Voila had inspired his work as it drew heavily on natural elements and especially water.

"Since all my circus work is airborne I wanted to contrast the aerial choreography by introducing water as a secondary element that would affect the performers movement quality and create a more unique portrait of each one," he said.

"The symbolism to me was all about using water as a metaphor for the qualities that the performers already imbue - fluidity, sensuality, flow, power, strength, force, immersion and so on."

"By focusing on how water is used within our own language the term 'body of water' appealed to me, and this was an idea that I simply expanded upon - a body and water, bodies with water, water bodies."

Aaron brings to his photography 25 years of experience as an international circus artist and he uses these physical skills and production knowledge to inform his unique style of capturing dynamic aerial movement.

He said the production challenges that had come with creating this series was one of the aspects he had enjoyed the most.

"It is a safe and familiar area for me so the main appeal for this project was the challenging production side - creating a giant indoor shower in a space where I could suspend amazing aerialists and light and capture them in the right way," he said.

"I am also driven to get real life, collectable printed artwork out into the public that is captivating and unusual. With this exhibition I wanted to present a different way of seeing aerialists by using water to amplify the aesthetic of the circus aerialist."

While the exhibition at Chapel Off Chapel Theatre in Prahran has since concluded, prints of Aaron's series can be viewed and purchased online at [aaronwalkerphotography.com](http://aaronwalkerphotography.com)

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# EVENTS



## STAND HERE

Feb 23 - *Testing Grounds*

Brand new acrobatic collective Tons of Sense push their practice into new territory by integrating narrative and interactive elements not usually associated with traditional circus - exploring deeper, darker themes around personal identity (a world away from cirqu-de-solie)

[www.testing-grounds.com.au](http://www.testing-grounds.com.au)



## COLIN HAY FIERCE MERCY TOUR 2018

Feb 10 and 11 - *Elisabeth Murdoch Hall*

Colin's latest album, *Fierce Mercy*, finds him at the top of his game. Alongside the thoughtful storytelling in his songs, Hay's shows are peppered with hilarious anecdotes from his, often surreal, experiences in the world of rock music.

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



## TRIENNIAL

Runs until April 15 - *NGV*

A free exhibition, the *NGV Triennial* is a celebration of contemporary art and design practice that traverses all four levels of NGV International, as well as offering a rich array of programs. Visitors have an opportunity to look at the world and its past, present and future through the eyes of some of the most creative minds.

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



## THE CHILDREN

Runs until March 10 - *The Summer*

Award-winning playwright Lucy Kirkwood's brilliant new play asks big questions about the responsibility that each generation faces in leaving a better world for the next, with Pamela Rabe (*Wentworth*), Sarah Peirse (*Switzerland*) and William Zappa (*Rock 'n' Roll*) balancing the stark realities of our times with intrigue and humour.

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

## AUSTRALIAN MUSIC VAULT

Ongoing - *Arts Centre Melbourne*

The Australian Music Vault features a free, immersive exhibition showcasing Australian music, innovative digital participatory experiences and iconic objects from our Australian Performing Arts Collection.

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

## GUIDED TOURS

Runs until May 31 - *Arts Centre Melbourne*

Did you know Arts Centre Melbourne extends five floors underground?! Explore the labyrinth beneath the famous spire, including the grand State Theatre, and uncover the fascinating story of this 130-year-old entertainment precinct.

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

## EAST MEETS WEST

Feb 24 - *Hamer Hall*

This Chinese New Year, join maestro Lü Jia and a stellar cast of guest artists to celebrate the Year of the Dog in a colourful and joyous one-night-only event showcasing Melbourne's diverse culture.

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

## WEEKEND WORKSHOPS

Runs until March 23 - *NGV Australia*

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



## COMMUNITY PRECINCT

Mondays to Saturdays - *Testing Grounds*

Testing Grounds is now home to *Community Precinct*, a delicious place to drink coffee (roasted by Tin Man), have your morning dose of pastry (delivered every morning by bike from Loafer) and have all your arty, creative meetings.

[www.communityprecinct.com](http://www.communityprecinct.com)



## THE SOUND OF FALLING STARS

Feb 23 - March 8 - *Playhouse*

Actor/singer Cameron Goodall (ex the Audreys, Sydney Theatre Company, *The Lion King*) displays his amazing vocal versatility for the first time, as he magically inhabits the souls of great singing stars such as Elvis Presley and Jeff Buckley, who gave us so much, and died so young.

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



## UNDERCURRENTS

Feb 19 - *Salon*

Ensemble Three (pictured) takes in influences from genres as diverse as jazz, popular, avant-garde and traditional classical. *Undercurrents* combines new works in a program that explores fragile and subtle textures alongside more robust sound worlds. Drawing inspiration from the natural world, the timbres of trumpet, trombone and electric guitar are woven together with live sound manipulation.

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



## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

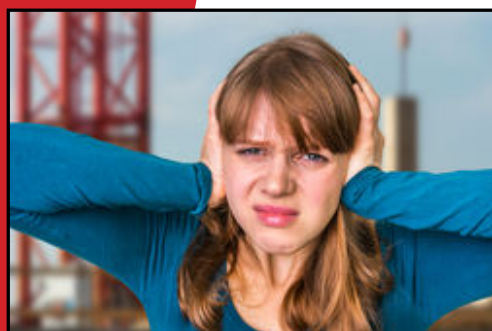
Runs until March 25 - *ACCA*

A major exhibition surveying the diverse scope of feminist art practices - including painting, performance, photography and film to community engagement and cultural activism - the exhibition focuses upon the dynamic formal invention and social engagement of feminist artists.

[acca.melbourne](http://acca.melbourne)

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# Revolving door for spin doctors

*The City of Melbourne is struggling to get enough “spin” on its media messaging, having churned 17 media advisers since mid-2015.*

Statistically, in recent times, it has turned over its entire team of seven every year.

At the same time, a self-congratulatory report claims that in 2015/16 the City of Melbourne achieved a 92 per cent positive or neutral outcome from the 8533 stories in which it was mentioned.

The recently-published report by Media Measures Pty Ltd says only 8 per cent of stories were “unfavourable” to the council.

But is this just more “spin”? And why can't it keep well-paid spin doctors within the fold?

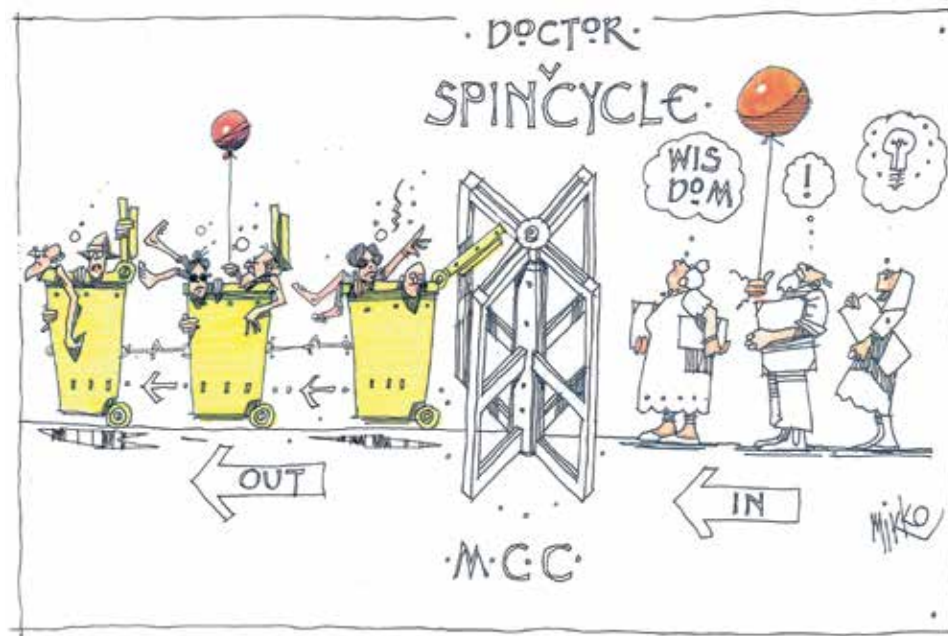
The Media Measures report is a curious document as it claims the “key issues” of that year were: Moomba (775 stories); sustainability (354 stories); cycling and bicycle plan (209 stories); Queen Victoria Market renewal (81 stories); and Lacrosse Tower and apartment cladding (79 stories).

Homelessness and begging was the subject of 421 stories but didn't rank as a key issue. Neither did planning, with 650 stories.

Another measure used by the report's authors was whether stories about the council were “proactive” or “reactive”. It is no surprise that issues achieving a perfect 100 per cent score for their proactiveness were: Melbourne Music Week; ArtPlay; Docklands Library; Retail and hospitality; Melbourne Knowledge Week; Melbourne Day; City Library exhibitions; and Melbourne Awards.

It's actually surprising that North Melbourne Arts House only achieved a 98.6 per cent score for proactiveness.

The measurement methodology presumably



reflects the values, goals and aspirations of the council. But is it appropriate for a level of government to adopt such a corporate approach?

Another section outlines on how evident the city's stated goals were in the reporting.

“The City of Melbourne's vision statement – that the City of Melbourne will strive to achieve the community's vision of a bold inspirational and sustainable city – was apparent in 5470 stories or 64 per cent of all media,” the report says.

Leaving the role since June 2015 were: Elizabeth Muling; Sam Bishop; Irene Vlahos; Shelley Blake; Jem Wilson; Katherine Millar; James Talia; Carlos Ibarra; Daniel Breen; Jason Berek-Lewis; Dharni Giri; Larisa Tait;

Philip Blackman; Kate Loughnan; Kathy Alys; David King; and Matt Smithson.

Of the current team (Claudine Ledwidge-O'Reilly; Debbie Guest; Patrick Phillips; Brodie Bott; Brian Wilson; Mandy Frostick; and Bec Brewin), only Claudine Ledwidge-O'Reilly has been there more than a year.

The council says the number is not 17, but 12. It also says its people are so good, they are being headhunted.

Spokesperson Brodie Bott said: “Twelve permanent full-time City of Melbourne media adviser roles were vacated between June 2015 and December 2017. Of those, three employees had up to three years' service, one employee had up to five years' service and another had 10 years' service

with the City of Melbourne.”

“There are two main factors that have contributed to the recruitment and retention of media advisers in recent years:

- An increase in large infrastructure projects and initiatives in Melbourne has driven unprecedented demand for skilled media communications professionals across the sector; and
- City of Melbourne's media advisers are highly sought after and are known across the industry for excelling at what they do. In recent years, former City of Melbourne media advisers have been recruited to a variety of challenging and high profile roles with major government, media and corporate organisations.”

Former councillor and respected journalist Stephen Mayne observed: “The revolving door of media advisers reflects a number of factors including excessive use of contractors rather than permanent employees and the high pressure nature of the work which tends to attract younger more transitory employees seeking to further their careers.”

“There has also been inattention at senior levels by the likes of Martin Cutter who should have provided a better career path for the high performers and helped retain popular and effective operators such as Lynne Haultain and Sam Bishop.”

“There was perhaps also a little bit too much pressure coming from the Lord Mayor's chief of staff Amelia Bitsis whose boss is admittedly overly media focused but a highly effective communicator with very high standards and expectations,” Mr Mayne said.

## MCEC takes shape

*Late 2017 saw some incredible progress on Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre's (MCEC) expansion.*

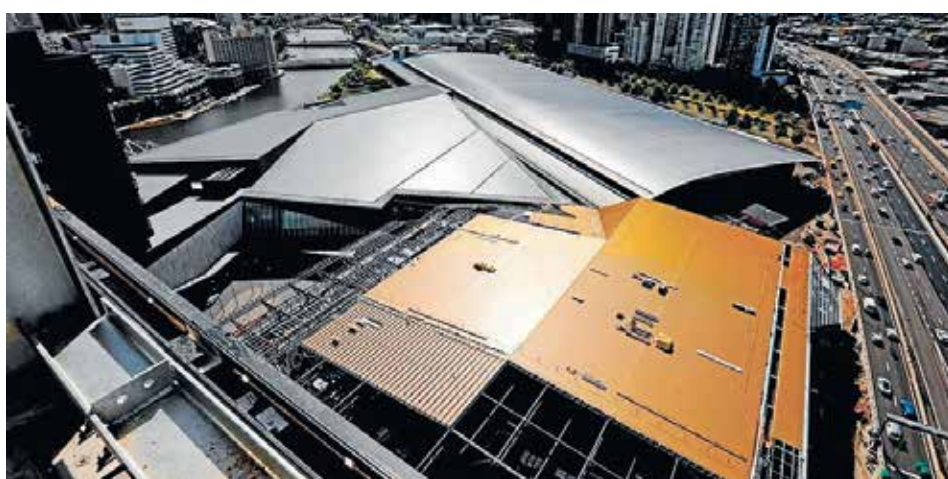
Acting Premier James Merlino and Acting Minister for Major Projects Luke Donnellan visited the South Wharf site on January 18 to view the progress for themselves.

The expansion will add nearly 20,000sqm of multi-purpose event space, including 9000 metres of new exhibition halls, meeting rooms and banquet rooms when it opens for business in mid-2018.

Completed works to date include the installation of the central staircase, distinctive gold exterior panels and a skylight over the new foyer space, which is a significant architectural feature of the building.

Multiple milestones have already been reached on the project, that also includes an expansion of the South Wharf precinct through a new 347-room hotel, the Novotel Melbourne South Wharf, and a new 1150 space multi-level car park.

The multi-level car park is complete and the new hotel will be open from March.



MCEC's expansion, highlighted by its golden roof, captured from its new hotel at South Wharf.

MCEC chief executive Peter King said the expansion would ensure the venue could continue to accommodate the growing global demand for multi-purpose meetings and events spaces.

On January 18 Ministers Merlino and Donnellan visited the site where around

700 workers – including 60 apprentices – are currently working on the project during construction.

The expanded MCEC will also add more than 900 new ongoing jobs across the South Wharf precinct when complete.

## Pool design

*Yarra Pools is collecting feedback to understand what the community thinks is important in its outdoor pool design.*

The non-profit organisation has proposed to build a floating swimming pool on the Yarra River's Northbank.

The first stage of the community-led project features plans for an enclosed 25m controlled water pool, a kid's pool, fishing pontoon, floating wetlands, events kiosk, cafe and changing facilities.

The community is invited to fill out four surveys focused on health and wellbeing, place and community, sustainability, environment and heritage, as well as economy, jobs and innovation.

Each survey takes around five minutes to complete. The feedback will help shape the Yarra Pool's design principles.

Visit [yarrapools.com](http://yarrapools.com) to complete the surveys and contact [michael@yarrapools.com.au](mailto:michael@yarrapools.com.au) with any questions.

# Southbank sold out by Planning Minister

Sadly, since my last column Southbank has had a few disappointments.

Recently VCAT ruled in favour of the developer for the controversial 135 Sturt St development. So, in the not too distant future the beautiful character of the Arts Precinct residential, Southbank Village as us locals refer to it, will be blighted with an 18-storey monstrosity.

And, the developer for 153 Sturt St has now also referred to VCAT its application for a 19-storey tower. It isn't difficult to guess what the outcome there is likely to be.

Did I hear you mention you thought there was a 40-metre height limit in that part of Southbank? Well you are absolutely correct! So how did we get in this predicament which allows developers to build almost 20 metres over the 40-metre height limit?

The key wording here is that the height limit is a "discretionary" limit. Therefore, when VCAT decides if the height is acceptable they will consider this relative to the surrounding developments. The closest high-rise to these sites is at 152 Sturt St, which is The Guild apartments comprising two towers with the tallest being 24 metres. At the other end of the street, at 250 Sturt St, is an approval for 16-storeys.

We have always been concerned with

the ambiguous height control in this area and have lobbied to have it amended to a mandatory control. Our opportunity came when the current Planning Minister, Richard Wynne, conducted a review of the Capital City Zone built form in mid-2016 called C270 Built Form review. The new planning scheme was gazetted at the end of 2016 and, despite our vigorous lobbying, we were unsuccessful with obtaining mandatory height controls for the Southbank Village.

It is troubling to recently learn the Planning Minister stated that C270 doesn't provide adequate protection for the Arts Precinct. We (Southbank Residents Association) spent \$5000 hiring a consultant to assist us with having a say in this review.

It was critical that we had a say in this important review and not only for height control. In fact, we were the only residents' group that did have a say. We contributed through the very means that the Minister advised us to.

We were even invited to put our case forward in person to the panel, of which I did personally.

In our 50-page submission, among other things, we argued that the special character areas (SCAs) particularly Sturt St/Arts Precinct needed to be protected through mandatory height controls.

How can the Minister now say that C270 is inadequate when we clearly told him that this needed to be addressed? It would seem that all our time and expense was useless as

it appears to have fallen on deaf ears.

If the system doesn't provide us with a voice to actually be heard by the decision maker, then the Minister should have made himself available to chair the panel and hear first-hand from all the submitters.

Sadly, I feel the Minister has sold us out and this is just the beginning of the end for the Arts Precinct. In the same way the Minister didn't give us (or council) a voice to be heard (through council's FMC meetings) with the Queensbridge Tower development, citing State Significance (what a load of crap, that should not stop the Minister from allowing stakeholders to have a say).

And again, most recently with the Apple flagship store to replace the three-storey Yarra Building at Federation Square – no public consultation or even consultation with council – the deal was done at the start of the Christmas holiday break. I wonder if that was a deliberate strategy?

I think the Minister is showing his true colours with how much he cares about what the public and local residents have to say. No wonder our submission fell on deaf ears! Has the Minister forgotten that we are in an election year?

But I do ponder how much lobbying our local Member, Martin Foley, has lobbied on our behalf to his political colleague during this time? These issues have not been kept secret within ourselves.

And now, over to the other side of Southbank where we are trying to save the

beautiful Robur Tea building. There is a development application to build a multi-level serviced apartment hotel which, in my opinion, is going to dominate the built form and hide this heritage-protected building.

If you feel the same as us, please send an objection to [planning@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:planning@melbourne.vic.gov.au) quoting TP-2017-801 – Robur Tea Building 28-34 Clarendon St, Southbank.

Council needs to hear from the community that such a development is certainly crossing the line and is going too far. We don't have much heritage left in Southbank, so what we have needs to be preserved.

Finally, this month we will be holding our bi-annual free Southbank information evenings. If you are new to Southbank come along and meet some other residents and learn lots of little tidbits about your neighbourhood to help you settle in.

Even if you are a long-term resident you are most welcome. I am sure you will learn something new too. This will be held on Wednesday, February 21 at 6.30pm at Boyd Community Hub. I hope to see you there.



**Tony Penna**

Tony Penna is the president of Southbank Residents' Association.

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



## Federal Politics

# Embracing our past

Melbourne Ports has a rich history.

It is a history that began tens of thousands of years before the first European settler, Wilbraham Frederick Evelyn Liardet, arrived with his wife and family 1839 and decided to make their home on the beachfront.

Before the arrival of Europeans, indigenous Australians in the Port Phillip Bay area for around 40,000 years lived a semi-nomadic existence of fishing, hunting and gathering and some farming.

The traditional owners of the lands of Melbourne Ports and surrounding areas, are the Boon Wurrung, whose lands stretched for over 7500 square km reaching from the Dandenong Ranges to Wilson's Promontory.

We are fortunate to have representatives of the Boon Wurrung still actively participating in our community at all levels. This is especially fortunate on Australia Day, as we openly display our diversity, welcoming new citizens into this great multicultural nation of ours, and embrace indigenous culture at the same time.

I always look forward to our Australia Day celebrations on January 26 and this year was no exception.

The ceremony of Australia Day is a timely reminder of our pre-colonial history to all of those present, and also acts as an excellent

introduction to our indigenous culture for our new citizens.

Our Boon Wurrung people were made up of land-owning clans that spoke a related language and were connected through cultural and mutual interests, trading initiatives and marriage ties. The Yalukut Willam Clan were the clan from the Port Phillip area, and are often referred to as The River People of Port Phillip.

For thousands of years natural resources that were seen as essential were monitored, controlled and often restricted by a governing body, much the same as different levels of government do now. This was done to protect food sources such as fish and ensured a sustainable future for generations. There were also penalties, often severe, for breaches of these restrictions.

According to tradition, Boon Wurrung land is protected by their creator Bunjil, who travels as a wedgetail eagle and also by Waarn who looks after and protects the waterways travelling as a raven.

Bunjil taught the Boon Wurrung to always welcome guests, but it was imperative that the Boon Wurrung ask all visitors to the lands to make two promises. Obeying the laws of the Bunjil and to not harm the children or the land of the Bunjil.

This was a commitment that was made through the simple exchange of a small bough, which was dipped in the water.

After the formalities of the day at St Kilda



and Glen Eira councils, new citizens were welcomed by the Boon Wurrung, as the lands traditional owners, with a "welcome to country" ceremony organised and hosted by representatives of the Boon Wurrung.

To this day the Boon Wurrung people continue their tradition as the proud custodians and protectors of these lands and it is of great importance that we honour and respect these traditions.

In previous years this ceremony has been held by Boon Wurrung elder Aunty Carolyn Briggs.

Aunty Carolyn Briggs is recognised as a keeper of the history and genealogies of her people. She is a language and linguistics expert and is passionate about recording her Boon Wurrung language in

both oral and written form. She has been active in community development, native title, cultural preservation and cultural promotion. She established Australia's first Aboriginal childcare centre and is the CEO of the Boon Wurrung Foundation, which she set up to help connect Aboriginal youth to their heritage. Aunty Carolyn Briggs is also a member of the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples.

We are extremely fortunate to have active members of our indigenous community such as Aunty Carolyn Briggs in Melbourne Ports and their participation in the City of Port Phillip's and Glen Eira's Australia Day celebrations and citizenship ceremonies are some of the events I look forward to most in my calendar.

As an elected official it is vital that I attend significant events such as these that honour the region's history and traditional owners. It is also a pleasure to welcome the newest members of our community which is a crucial part of any elected official's role if they truly seek to represent their community.

I was glad to see so many in attendance this year.



**Michael Danby**

Federal Member for Melbourne Ports

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

St Johns Southgate

# Giving without thought of reward

Upon winning the men's title at the Australian Open last month, everyone's favourite tennis player, Roger Federer gave a heartfelt and emotional speech in which he said his thankyou.

It would have been completely understandable for him to stick to thanking the tournament director, his opponent, the sponsors and the team of support people around him, but he made sure to specifically talk up the many wonderful volunteers of Melbourne.

Volunteers certainly deserve our thanks, but that's not why they do it. The whole point of volunteering is that you give of yourself without reward. But of course, the rewards are great. While it is incredibly touching to be on the receiving end of someone's selfless giving, there's always something of a gift received by the giver too.

I couldn't help but think about selfless giving as I read the letter, "A sincere thank you" in issue 70 of *Southbank Local News*. In it, Lynne, a Southbank resident, described her experience of falling over near the Yarra and injuring herself. She found herself on the ground bleeding, but instantly realised she was being helped by several people.

One of the people who came to her aid was a young woman, Jasmine, who in helping without consideration for her own time, or clothes for that matter, happened to get Lynne's blood all over herself. Lynne reported that she's on the mend, but that she will never forget the kindness of Jasmine and the other strangers who assisted her that day.

Lynne was most thankful, but I'm sure Jasmine and the others would do it all again, even if they knew a word of thanks would never come, or that their gift-giving would never be reciprocated. Giving without thought of reward is itself the reward.

Not all of us are going to find ourselves in a position where we are called upon to give first aid to a stranger. But there are countless ways in which we can volunteer - in which we can give a gift just because it's a good thing to do. Here in Southbank you can serve

your neighbour through the church, or community service clubs like Rotary and Lions. The list goes on.

At St Johns, one of the reasons we seek to be people of service is that Jesus of Nazareth was one. Next month, as the church comes together on Maundy Thursday, we will hear of Jesus washing his disciple's feet. At first, his disciples were shocked by this man they revered humbling himself and serving them in this way.

But he made it clear that he simply had to give them this gift. He then insisted that, having set them an example, they should wash one another's feet. In other words, they should help each other out, without thought of reward.

Whether it's volunteering at the tennis, or assisting a distressed person on the street, we're all going to have opportunities to be givers and receivers. The world will certainly be a better place if we embrace the chances we're given to give and accept selfless gifts when we're in need ourselves.



**Tom Hoffmann**

Tom Hoffmann is the pastor at St Johns Southgate Church.

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



Montague Community Alliance

# Talking about a NEW generation

I hope you have all had a restful and peaceful break and are looking forward to the adventures that 2018 will bring to all of us.

This year is a state election year, and before you all groan, it does provide us with a great opportunity to engage with our political representatives to ask them about their intentions and commitments to Montague.

To this end, the Montague Community Alliance with *Southbank Local News* is continuing our partnership to bring you three Montague Community Forums in 2018. The first will be on Tuesday, March 20 at 6pm, at the Golden Fleece Hotel on Montague St.

More details will be provided in this paper and we hope to see you all there to ask the interesting and difficult questions we have come to expect of these dynamic forums.

Please come early as it is usually standing room only and if you haven't experienced the hospitality of the Golden Fleece, you are in for a treat.

The amazing new South Melbourne Primary School is now open - the first vertical primary school in Victoria is up and running and I am sure it will have an energetic and dynamic effect on both Southbank and Montague for generations to come.

The builders have been working day and night to complete it and if you haven't seen the great design - check it out!

We wish the principal Noel Creece, his team and all the new students success and we look forward to what the school will contribute to the existing community and to the future generations of young people, businesses and residents in Southbank and Montague.

The Gravity Building on the corner of Gladstone and Montague streets and Nightfall at 161-165 Gladstone St are now fully completed and our new neighbours have moved in.

Welcome to the neighbourhood folks.

We look forward to your contribution to our dynamic and friendly precinct.

Please keep in touch through the email below, or our Facebook page @ **MontaguePrecinct**.

In addition to our new neighbours, in 2017 many more businesses have moved into the Montague Precinct and the foot traffic along Gladstone, Boundary, Thistlethwaite and Buckhurst streets has increased significantly. These are exciting times, with many creative industries, counselling services, designers and architects moving to Montague.

It is interesting to note that most of the new businesses are fantastic neighbours, already caring about our unique and diverse community. However, we have some that don't realise that there are in an area made up of both residents and businesses. Let's hope we can all be great neighbours and community members and work together for liveability and amenity for all.

In 2018 we will be focusing on the heritage of Montague, particularly the bluestone heritage and the wonderful laneways.

If you would like to get involved with the Montague Community Alliance, we would be happy to meet you. We are a group of volunteers who live and work in Montague.

We believe that having an opportunity to be involved and influence the incredible growth of this great area, is worth the extra time it takes to volunteer and we would love to hear from you!



**Trisha Avery**

Trisha Avery is the convener of the Montague Community Alliance.

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





**St Johns**  
Southgate

**Ash Wednesday 14 February**  
7:30pm **Worship with Bach Cantata**  
Ach Herr, mich armen Sünder (BMV135) for 3 soloists, chorus, strings, 2 oboes, cornetto, bass trombone and continuo  
St Johns Bach Choir and Orchestra joined by players from La Compañia directed by Graham Lieschke  
7pm *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  
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)

We Live Here

# Privy Council gets it, Andrews doesn't

The Privy Council in London has unanimously ruled that strata corporations may enforce by-laws to restrict short-term letting.

Last month, the Lordships found that the by-law-making power of a strata corporation is very wide, and any by-law that purports to restrict the use of a lot for "residential purposes" is valid. Short-term use by holiday-makers changes the character of the use of a lot, and that type of use is clearly different from residential use.

## Daniel Andrews please take note!

This decision reignites the debate that owners' corporations may legitimately enforce by-laws to restrict their lots to residential use, if they carefully draft their by-laws.

The Supreme Court decision in Balcombe might not now be considered as having settled the matter in Victoria. Leading strata lawyer, Tom Bacon said: "While the Privy Council decision is not legally binding here in Australia, it should be viewed as persuasive, and should not be set aside without a principled reason to distinguish it."

## Victorian Government response to the short stay Bill inquiry – a cop out!

The state Labor government's response to the findings of the Parliamentary inquiry into short stays, released in November 2017, is extremely disappointing.

The government has ignored all the recommendations of the inquiry conducted by a cross-party committee that included government members – and is planning to reintroduce the original bill in February 2018, with a review to be undertaken in two years!

This is a cop-out and plays right into the hands of Airbnb, a company that claims it partnered with the government in the

introduction of the Bill. Not surprisingly, Airbnb's Australian head of policy described the Bill on ABC radio as the best legislation in the world! Well of course if you help to formulate a Bill you'd say it was good, wouldn't you?

Why did the government utterly discount the findings of the inquiry which said the Bill was unfair to residents, whilst seeking to pass the least-restrictive short-term letting regulations anywhere in the world?

Why couldn't the Andrews government take the time to investigate the issues properly, as authorities have already done in New York, San Francisco, London, Amsterdam, Barcelona, Paris and other large cities where short-term letting is prevalent and tearing fragile local residential communities apart, but where lessons have been learned and regulation and restrictions have been introduced?

Why must Melbourne, the world's most liveable city, always learn its lessons the hard way? Why don't our leaders show the way as to how it can be done?

We Live Here has long been advocating for regulations that balance the interests of the tourism industry, hotel industry, short-stay accommodation providers, including booking platforms such as Airbnb and Stayz, and residents living in high rise communities and elsewhere where everyday lives are being severely compromised by the rampant unregulated growth of short-stays.

There must be a level playing field and residents must have a voice. The Owners Corporation Bill does nothing to assist the process and with no changes contemplated for at least two years inner city high-rise communities could be decimated, as the government, by its decision has determined that residents don't matter.

Twenty-five per cent of the Victorian population live in apartment buildings and We Live Here now represent more than 200 apartment buildings across Melbourne.

We are urging the Premier to stop supporting Airbnb – which is based overseas, and is not paying local taxes – and start listening to the concerns of residents about safety, security, rising maintenance costs and a loss of community.

## Sign the government's petition page

We are asking that you, our supporters, sign the petition on the Victorian Parliamentary website, via the following link:

<https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/council/petitions/electronic-petitions/view-e-petitions/details/12/57>

and let the government know :

- The Bill in its current form is totally unacceptable;
- The recommended amendments must be acted on now not in two years' time; and
- Residents must not be ignored any more.
- The petition is planned to be tabled in the Legislative Council in late February 2018, so please do not delay and sign now.

## Fishermans Bend going under?

Martin Foley's political career might yet be saved by an innovative proposal that would see the tramline connecting the city with Fishermans Bend going under water using the LaTrobe St tram corridor. Prebuilt, immersed tubes would be anchored to the sea bed without the need for tunnelling.

This alternative solution has been proposed by Yarra's Edge resident, Keith Sutherland following a groundswell of objection to a low tram bridge from

Collins St to Lorimer St, referred to in the Fishermans Bend Draft Plan.

The current proposed tram crossing of Lorimer St defies logic, Mr Sutherland said, considering the Andrews government is spending millions in eradicating existing tram and train crossings and we need to look to future transport options, not replicate outdated transport that has served the state well in the past.

"If the current proposal is adopted by the Andrews government it will become a major election issue in November," Mr Sutherland said, "And the various groups fighting the low tram bridge could determine the election outcome."

"We will be seeking election promises from all parties and politicians not to proceed with the current bridge proposal."

## 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).

We Live Here does not accept donations from commercial tourism interests.

You can reach us at [campaign@welfarehere.net.au](mailto:campaign@welfarehere.net.au). 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)

History

# Planes crash over Southbank

Living in Southbank, we are used to flying machines overhead – generally helicopters, some light planes and occasionally military planes in formation.

Sometimes we wonder if they are ever likely to crash and conclude that it couldn't happen. But it has happened, with four young pilots killed when their planes collided and crashed into Sturt and Dodd streets.

The occasion was the Royal Visit of 1927, when the Duke and Duchess of York visited Australia to open the new Parliament House in Canberra. Having arrived at Port Melbourne at the end of April, they were headed to Government House along St Kilda Rd in an open carriage, waving to the thousands who had turned out to see them.



The site of the former General Post Office in Sturt St.

In the sky above, a group of five RAAF planes (wooden De Havilland 9s) was flying above the visitors in arrowhead form. The group had welcomed the royals at Port Melbourne by dipping their wings and then climbing and had repeated the manoeuvre at Government House, before heading south over the royal carriage as it turned into the grounds of Government House.



They had swooped down and were beginning to climb. But as they flew over the police barracks in St Kilda Rd, they were still very low. Then the unthinkable happened as one of the planes suddenly banked steeply and roared upward at such a speed that collision was inevitable, followed by a crash and a shower of splintered woodwork as the young pilot misjudged and flew into the plane above.

Horrified onlookers fainted and screamed as the planes disappeared in a cloud of smoke and then plummeted into buildings and streets below. The first plane crashed in Dodds St, near where the *Vault* sculpture is today, whilst the second plane burst into flames in the sky then nose-dived into

the large motor depot and garage of the General Post Office in Sturt St, causing much destruction and mayhem amongst postal workers and their horses.

Luckily there were no civilians killed. Each plane carried two young pilots, all killed instantly.

Having seen the collision, the duke was visibly upset and distressed. RAAF officials stated that the pilots had not been "stunting" at the time and that the planes were all in airworthy condition.

An inquiry concluded that it was pilot error. Nevertheless, it was a dreadful day for the people of Southbank – thankfully one that has never been repeated.



**Robin Grow**

President - Australian Art Deco and Modernism Society  
[robingrow@ozemail.com.au](mailto:robingrow@ozemail.com.au)

# Crime wrap



## Assault

Police are searching for a man who was allegedly involved in a serious assault in Southbank on Sunday, August 27 last year.

At around 4.30am, a man approached a group of men near Whiteman St and Kings Way.

He then stabbed one of the men a number of times in the head and neck.

The injured man was taken to hospital and treated for non-life-threatening injuries.

It is unclear as to what weapon was used during the attack.

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

The man is perceived to be Asian in appearance in his mid-20s with short dark hair. He was wearing a white coloured t-shirt with dark pants.



## Deception

Police are searching for a man who allegedly obtained property by deception in Southbank on Monday, April 3, 2017.

At around 7.30pm, the man obtained a laptop by sending a false transaction receipt.

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

The man has black hair and was wearing a black and white hooded jumper, dark jeans and black sneakers with a white sole.



It is believed the same group of females, who are perceived to be of African appearance, were involved in another incident in the lift at the same address the following morning.

The group assaulted two female victims at about 2am. The two victims are yet to be identified and police are urging these two females to come forward.

Police have released CCTV of a number of people who may be able to assist with their enquiries.

## Assault

Police are hoping to identify a group of females who they believe were involved in an affray in Southbank on New Year's Day.

Investigators have been told a 24-year-old woman was alone in a lift at an apartment building on City Rd when a number of youths crowded into the elevator about 3.30am.

When the victim tried to get out of the lift at her floor, the group assaulted her.

She sustained bruising and a lump to her head and was taken to hospital for observation.



## Assault and robbery

Police are appealing for witnesses after a man was assaulted and robbed in Southbank in early January.

Police have been told a 29-year-old man exited a tram and was walking down a ramp to Whiteman St about 11pm on Tuesday, January 2.

It is believed up to six male youths on bicycles approached the man and asked him for the time. The group then surrounded the man and punched him in the face and tripped him to the ground before kicking him and stealing his black satchel bag.

The offenders then fled the scene and were last seen running over tram tracks towards Ferrars St in South Melbourne. A passer-by stopped and helped the Footscray man who received minor injuries.

One of the male offenders who asked for the time, is described as Caucasian in appearance, 175cm tall with light coloured shoulder length curly hair. He was wearing a baseball cap with white shorts and was riding a bike.

## Pets Corner



# Fiona and Daisy at the park

Ree Maloney

Despite being a sunny day on Thursday afternoon, few people were out with their pets.

After walking several kilometres in the local area, this Southbank Local News reporter was on the point of giving up.

Rounding the corner behind the Boyd Community centre, I felt my heart sink. I was sure it was empty. But then, a tiny brown and white body in the far left corner caught my attention.

I practically ran across the park, camera in hand. I've never been so excited to see a dog

in my life.

Southbank resident, Fiona and her dog, Daisy saved the day. They were more than happy to have a chat and their photo taken.

Daisy is a two-year-old Jack Russell / Fox Terrier cross. Fiona has had her since she was pup. Daisy is a friendly, wiggly delight who was excited to meet me and have a pat. She was reluctant to sit still for this photo, preferring pats to being in the limelight.

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MELBOURNE CBD

# Community comes naturally

It hasn't taken long for Artemis Pattichi to be embraced as a highly-valued member of our community.

While she has lived in Southbank for four years, it's only been in the past year that she's really become engaged in her new community.

In that short time, she has become an active leader in the Southbank Sustainability Group at Boyd and, more recently, she has taken on the roles of treasurer and marketing manager in the Southbank Residents' Association (SRA).

"I was living in Southbank for three years up until this last year and I had no idea where to even start in terms of community," she said.

"Once I found the sustainability group and then the SRA I was pleasantly surprised by the community feel and the great people who are active and passionate about Southbank."

Before moving to Melbourne in 2014, Artemis lived and worked in her native home of Cyprus and, prior to that, studied and worked in the United States.

She has forged an impressive career in digital marketing and communications that has seen her work on a number of major campaigns for some of the world's largest brands both here in Australia and overseas.

Today, she is self-employed and runs two of her own businesses. The first, Digital With Heart, helps not-for-profits and ethical businesses with digital marketing training, while the other, Metamorphic Healing Melbourne, uses an energy healing technique to help rid people of stress, anger and trauma.



Combined with her newfound interest in her local community, she said she was enjoying using her professional experience to give back to others in any way possible.

"I have had a very good and successful career for the past 12 years and I was getting to the point where I felt like I wasn't getting much out of it," she said.

"I wasn't waking up as motivated going to work in the morning so I thought I'd kind of close that for a while and take a year where I got more involved with the community."

Since discovering the SRA through her work with the sustainability group, she said she had enjoyed the opportunity to work with other like-minded locals to boost Southbank's "green voice".

As well as getting more involved in local issues, she said she had enjoyed getting to know locals and encouraging others in the community to do the same.

"Three years I would walk down the street and I wouldn't see anyone I knew but now I walk down the street and I see familiar faces

so it feels nice," she said. "Southbank actually feels like a neighbourhood now and not this transient, busy suburb outside of the CBD."

"It's hard to build that community and there is a need there. I think people want to. They often just don't know where to start and I think things like the residents' association and the sustainability group do a good job in bringing people together to start interacting."

For more information visit [southbankresidents.org](http://southbankresidents.org) and [facebook.com/southbanksustainabilitygroup/](https://www.facebook.com/southbanksustainabilitygroup/)

## Health & Wellbeing

# Understanding and managing anxiety

Although many of us lead busy social lives, have dynamic workplaces, play sport and spend time with loved ones regularly, it is normal for some of us to have feelings of anxiety at some point in our lives.

This may be as a result of work pressure, an upcoming speech for a wedding, prior to a big life decision or a sudden life shock and is a normal response to a person feeling under pressure. Some people, however, feel anxious even after the situation has passed or at times for no apparent reason. The feelings can range from mild worry and unease, which don't impact significantly on a person's functioning, to intense or severe panic reactions, which severely impact one's functioning and can be highly debilitating.

### What are the symptoms?

- Physical: hot and cold flushes, racing heart, tightening of the chest, quick

breathing, restlessness, or feeling tense, wound up and edgy;

- Psychological: excessive fear, worry, catastrophising, or obsessive thinking;
- Behavioural: avoidance of situations that make you feel anxious which can impact on study, work or social life, changes in normal sleep pattern, restlessness, irrational behaviour (eg repeated checking); and
- Thoughts: worry, negative interpretation of events, unhelpful thoughts.

### What if you have some of the above signs, some of the time?

That's normal! However, you should speak to a mental health professional when the fear or worry:

- Is too intense, happens too often or takes up a lot of time relative to the realistic likelihood or importance of the event;
- Is difficult to dismiss; and
- Prevents you working, socialising, sleeping or taking part in normal activities like travel, shopping or going out in public.

### What you can do RIGHT NOW to help manage your anxiety symptoms?

- Breathing exercises: By learning and practising a breathing technique that works for you, you can start to control your breathing when you start to notice anxiety symptoms. Try breathing in for three counts, holding for two counts and breathing out for three counts;
- Relaxation: There are a number of techniques, including progressive muscle relaxation and meditation that may aid in relaxation. Look them up and then practise these in the comfort of your home;
- Thinking strategies: Learning to differentiate between productive and unproductive thoughts, as well as whether you are engaging in unhelpful thinking styles is something that a mental health professional will be able to assist you with. Some people also try mindfulness and relaxation strategies to help with their thinking; and
- Lifestyle changes: Basic lifestyle changes

can sometimes be very effective in managing the impacts of anxiety. These include: regular exercise; reducing stimulants such as caffeine, alcohol and cigarettes; scheduling fun or relaxing activities for yourself. If these sound achievable, remember to make small changes and try not to make too many changes at once as doing so could both increase your anxiety levels and make it hard to work out what is working or not working!

### Where to seek professional help:

Find a psychologist in the Southbank area that specialises in anxiety.

Seek support from beyond blue: **1300 22 4636**

Do you have a question or comment for Rajna to answer in an upcoming column? Email her on [rajnab@hotmail.com](mailto:rajnab@hotmail.com)



**Rajna Bogdanovic**

Clinical psychologist

[rajnab@hotmail.com](mailto:rajnab@hotmail.com)

Owners' Corporation Law

# The great energy rort

As Melbourne swelters through another hot summer which has everyone reaching for the air conditioner remote control, a great scandal for owners' corporations (OCs) simmers amid the whirrs and buzzes of the cooling towers on the rooftops.

The cost of electricity is skyrocketing around the country. I know - my electricity bills have gone up by almost 100 per cent in the past 18 months.

But imagine not being in control of your own energy futures? Imagine not having the freedom of choice to select your own electricity provider? Imagine being locked in to an uncompetitive long-term electricity contract where you have to pay a price determined not by the market, but by the electricity company itself? Imagine being denied the opportunity to take advantage of new government regulations in the energy sector to provide you with freedom of choice? Imagine being denied the opportunity to "go green" in your building by

installing solar or batteries and other forms of renewable energy and to take advantage of lower electricity costs?

This is the depressing reality for hundreds of large apartment buildings and commercial office blocks in Victoria.

A long-standing practice of developers has been for them to avoid having to pay for the costs of installing common property electricity infrastructure and meters by entering into agreements at construction stage with electricity companies whereby the company will install the infrastructure on behalf of the developer in return for lucrative long-term bulk energy contracts being signed by the developer on behalf of the new OC.

These contracts make it clear that the electricity company owns the meters and gets to decide the price of electricity that it will charge the building and residents. It also gets to charge administration fees on top of the electricity costs. It gets even worse when OCs find out that the electricity company retains ownership of the common property meters - meaning that if the contract is ever terminated, it gets to remove the equipment at the OC's cost.

Developers and electricity companies have been getting away with this rort for years and the galling part about it is that the Victorian Government and the Commonwealth energy

regulator are absolutely silent about doing anything to curb this industry practice.

Then there are those developers that decide to convert the rooftops of buildings into lots and "airspace lots" and retain ownership for themselves. The purpose of this enterprise is to then enter into lucrative long-form leases with telecommunication companies and billboard companies and earn passive income from the rooftop.

If the rooftops are not within an OC's possession, committees are not able to take advantage of recent technological advancements in solar power and are unable to install the infrastructure that would cut the cost of electricity in the building, which leads to less reliance on the already over-supplied national electricity grid.

The solution is simple: Firstly, ban developers from being able to "sell off" essential services such as electricity meters and gas meters at construction stage. Something as critical as electricity supply should always be common property and in the control of the OC itself.

Secondly, insert one small amendment into the Subdivision Act 1988 to render the rooftop and airspace inalienable - meaning the rooftop and airspace must remain as common property.

These two simple reforms should take the Victorian Government a little under 10

minutes to draft the required legislation, but its effect would be to safeguard the renewable energy futures of thousands if not hundreds of thousands of Victorians in the future.

However, with 1400 apartment buildings and commercial buildings set to be built in Melbourne in the next five years, there's no time to lose. For each new building that's in the process of being completed, I'll wager \$5 that its energy future has already been corrupted.

The buzz around government circles is that this is a legitimate industry and that government doesn't want to prevent builders and developers from going about their business and making profits for fear that developers will move to other markets.

Once again, vested interests win out and reasonable and sensible consumer protection policies are ignored.

Here's another wager: I'll give \$10 to anyone who wants to bet that I'm wrong that the government does anything about the great energy rort in Victoria ...



**Tom Bacon**

Tom Bacon is the principal lawyer of Strata Title Lawyers.

[Tom@stratatitlelawyers.com.au](mailto:Tom@stratatitlelawyers.com.au)

## SOUTHBANK SUDOKU

### Last month's Sudoku solution

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

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!

Good Luck!

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

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# Communicating in vertical villages

The sheer number of people who reside in “One Big Residence” means that vertical dwellers live amongst strangers - or so many popular portrayals of high-rise, high-density living would have you believe.

Often our lifestyle is criticised for anonymous interactions occurring in towers of isolation where human contact is either deficient or proactively avoided. We (apparently) are very anxious about our in-house stranger-danger, communicating our fears verbally and non-verbally. And, perhaps more alarmingly, we are also viewed as fearful of contracting communicable diseases from these strangers (as air and touch borne viruses spread more rapidly when many people share hallway air, door handles and elevator buttons).

Added to this, the array of different nationalities in our towers have been noted by academics Edgar Liu (UNSW), Hazel Easthope (UNSW) and Christina Ho (UTS) as adding to our tension as differences in culture, language and lifestyle may exacerbate resident conflicts.

## Who could fail to be attracted to such a lifestyle?

Yet, perception is all in the framing. Stated another way, having “little in common” becomes “richly diverse”, something we are encouraged to celebrate. And differences in lifestyle and life stage become opportunities for vibrant exchanges between people on international secondments, retiree couples, solo women, young families and travellers.

However, there is no denying there are tensions within our vertical villages which is evident in the number of trips to VCAT and the busyness of dispute resolution committees.

Added to this, there is a noticeable difference amongst residents’ knowledge about their building: how it operates, its history and the planned happenings (ie when is that carpet being replaced?). And it is unfortunately often true that our villages have all too few areas to mingle and little social infrastructure to support these interactions (such as in-building clubs).



This means that building-based communication systems become extremely important as they are the key means of keeping residents informed (if not engaged!).

Yet, the communication systems within our vertical villages are often inadequate, comprising out-of-date websites, clunky portals, partial email or phone lists and mail boxes (which require time consuming hand delivery). Added to this, not too many in building management boast strong communication skills (let alone PR!), which has led to issues about the type and tone of messaging. Indeed, there continue to be instances rousing the ire of residents due to the wrong message being delivered in the wrong way – such as was the case with a public and pictorial instruction to keep our tightly-whities off the balcony.

## What to do?

Unsurprisingly, this failure-to-communicate has been noticed by some of the larger strata management firms and

there is a move towards incorporating communication as part of their services. It does not take much effort to find offers of “powerful integrated software” which promise to provide access to streamlined community resource hubs that collect resident information and, in return, communicate in accordance with stated preferences.

For those vertical villages thinking about such offers, there are a few things to consider, starting with the data. Key issues include:

- Who owns this data? (the owners’ corporation or the strata management firm) and what happens if/when there is a change of provider?
- Security (from multiple angles). There are issues of access (who and under what conditions), usage (initial and secondary/unintended purposes), storage (format, length), etc;
- And yes, there is also dreaded meta data!

■ Answers to these questions will be critical to the uptake of these systems by residents who will not participate if not convinced about their robustness.

Perhaps then, the work of students from the University of Adelaide might be useful. They have developed Communitilink, a new platform that connects apartment residents and building managers, and it has taken out the 2017 eChallenge major prize for early-stage entrepreneurial ventures.

Developed by Aaron Smedley, Tom Welsby and Josh Marcus, Communitilink is aimed at supporting high-density living through a series of user engagement platforms, allowing building managers and residents to communicate about maintenance, news and other property and facilities issues. The platforms are also designed to encourage residents to interact socially. The developers claim Communitilink as the only service of its kind, and are at pains to have it seen as ensuring not only a more convenient way of connecting but also as a safe and trustworthy way of doing so.

What is not in doubt is that the challenge of communication and engagement will be increasingly important to the fabric of our vertical lifestyles and it is these types of social innovations that will further evidence the transformation of “isolation towers” to vertical villages.

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



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

SKYPAD  
LIVING

## Business

# For the love of honey

Eureka 89 will host a honey lovers delight on March 20 as part of this year’s Melbourne Food Wine and Festival (MFWF).

Locals are invited to join Eureka 89 executive chef Renee Martillano and urban beekeepers from Melbourne City Rooftop Honey as they serve up a honey-inspired five-course dinner as part of this year’s “community” themed MFWF.

Creating a sense of community in their hive constructions, bees are renowned social creatures and Eureka 89’s Eureka Tower has its very own colony through its giant



sculpture of bees perched on the side of the building.

It is a superb artwork that reinforces the important role of bees in our environment, through pollination and food production.

Bringing the community together atop

Eureka Tower, Eureka 89 will take the nectar from five Rooftop Honey apiaries and combine them with locally sourced produce to present five delicious courses and beverages to match.

Bookings are essential for this not-to-be-



missed event and tickets can be purchased for \$170 per person, all-inclusive.

Eureka 89 is located at 7 Riverside Quay, Southbank.

For more information and bookings visit [eureka89.melbourne](http://eureka89.melbourne)



## Business

# Come fly with Melbourne Star

Having been the city's icon for a number of years, the Melbourne Star Observation Wheel is offering experiences beyond just flights with views.

Melbourne Star is now offering a range of unique "in-flight" packages in its fully-enclosed, air-conditioned glass cabins 120 metres above ground.

Available from 1pm daily, Sparkling Flights allows guests to enjoy a glass of bubbles on their flights or upgrade to their own private cabin that can accommodate up to 15 guests.

Catering can be added to the Sparkling Private Cabin for an even more exclusive experience on the southern hemisphere's only giant observation wheel.

This Valentine's Day, take your loved one to a romantic date in your private cabin with wine, canapés, roses and music.

The newly-opened Star Departure Lounge offers snacks and beverages to be enjoyed at the lounge or taken on board the cabins as they rotate above Melbourne's skyline.

The sky really is the limit for what programs are on offer at Melbourne Star.

Try Yoga in the Sky to find inner peace and reclaim clarity while meditating above the



The team at Melbourne Star.

world and perfecting your star pose.

The 60-minute Vinyasa Yoga Flow sessions are suitable for both beginner and intermediate-level yogis and emphasizes on

breathing, alignment and postures.

And if you are after a wedding like no other, say "I do" on board the Star!

Wedding ceremonies can be held in the

cabin with 360-degree city views as the backdrop and fully catered functions are available at the event space.

Melbourne Star's director Toshiya Kawasaki said his team had worked diligently to bring the best service and most memorable ride experience to visitors.

"Just like an airline, we now offer economy, business and first-class flights," he said.

"The team has been busy working on programs that give our visitors new experiences and this is something new for us too."

The past New Year's Eve saw Melbourne Star's cabins booked out by guests wanting to take in the spectacular fireworks in the air.

Mr Kawasaki said the new programs had really diversified what Melbourne Star had to offer and boosted visitor numbers significantly.

"Over the past three years, we've had more than one million visitors fly with us. I think the new packages will get people keep coming back."

"We now provide packages other than just for people to take a flight and enjoy the view. Having that private, exclusive access to a cabin and some canapé while sipping on a glass of wine is a really unique experience," he said.

For more information and to book, visit [www.melbournestarcabins.com](http://www.melbournestarcabins.com)

# Market flexes its mussels!

Locals will have the chance to eat their way through up to six tonnes of mussels as the annual Port Phillip Mussel and Jazz Festival celebrates its fifth birthday in style in March.

Taking place over Saturday, March 10 and Sunday, March 11, the two-day street party and mollusc feast is designed to showcase the humble mussel, which are harvested from the structures of Port Phillip Bay.

The festival is a vibrant celebration of local food and culture and is one of Melbourne's must-do foodie events.

Fresh seafood, hot jazz and the cool market environment make this annual street party a favourite for locals and visitors alike. Both sides of Cecil St will be closed between Coventry and York streets to allow plenty of room for festivalgoers to relax and enjoy the atmosphere.

"The Port Phillip Mussel and Jazz Festival embodies everything the market represents – a vibrant celebration of local food, culture and community," City of Port Phillip Mayor Bernadene Voss said.

Throughout the weekend, people will be entertained by some of Australia's finest jazz musicians, giving the event a New Orleans flavour.

Setting the mood from midday on both days will be leading jazz performers, including Marie Lou Dyer and the Paul Williamson Hammond Combo.

Organisers have secured a performance by the Melbourne Singers of Gospel, a 100-voice ensemble which is based in City of Port Phillip, renowned for foot-stomping energy



(Left) A local chef with some fresh Port Phillip Bay Mussels and (right) locals get amongst the jazz. Photos: Simon Shiff.

and songs of soul and purpose in the Gospel and Motown traditions with jazz-blues accompaniment.

However, mussels remain the festival's star attraction with South Melbourne Market favourites, including Claypots Evening Star, Köy, Paco y Lola, Simply Spanish and Bambu joining other Melbourne restaurant pop

ups to cook and serve mussels in every way possible.

For those who are not mussel lovers, there will be other seafood delights such as oysters, prawns, bugs and calamari from Aptus Seafood and Euro delights like raclette poured over crunchy potatoes.

Festivalgoers can accompany their



seafood selection with local wines, craft beer, cider and sangria, and finish with ice cream, fresh fruit salad, doughnuts, handmade sweet treats and iced-tea.

The festival runs from noon until late and entry is free.

Find out more at [southmelbournemarket.com.au/mussel-festival/](http://southmelbournemarket.com.au/mussel-festival/)

# 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



**TUESDAYS @ BOYD - \$5 DONATION**

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**TUESDAYS - THURSDAYS & SATURDAYS**

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[www.chunkymove.com](http://www.chunkymove.com)



**TUESDAYS**

### LAUGHTER YOGA @ BOYD

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



**QUEENSBRIDGE SQUARE**

### CHINESE NEW YEAR

For 10 days, Southbank will be bursting at the seams to offer locals and visitors alike a range of festive activities, entertainment and abundant feasts to enjoy. Events at Queensbridge Square include:

- Feb 15: New Year's Countdown
- Feb 16: CNY Celebration
- Feb 17: White Night @ CNY
- Feb 17/18: Cultural Kaleidoscope
- Feb 25: Closing Ceremony

For more information on all events taking place across the city visit:

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



**SUMMER @ BOYD PARK**

### BOYD POP UP PARK

A range of activities are planned for Boyd's temporary pop up park right through until April. To stay up to date with what's happening: [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/boydpark](http://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/boydpark)



**FRIDAYS 7.45AM - 9AM @ BOYD**

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**SUNDAYS**

### ARTS CENTRE MARKET

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

**WEDNESDAYS @ BOYD**

### FREE WALKING GROUP

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



**FEBRUARY 17**

### WHITE NIGHT MELBOURNE

From colourful projections and awe-inspiring installations to interactive performances, puppetry and an array of musical hubs, there will be so much to see [www.whitenight.com.au](http://www.whitenight.com.au)



**WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 21 @ BOYD**

### SOUTHBANK INFO NIGHT

A free event useful for residents both old and new. Come along and meet other residents and learn all there is to know about Southbank.

[southbankresidents.org](http://southbankresidents.org)

**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)

**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)

### FIRST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH SUNRISE PROBUS CLUB

Over 50, living in Southbank and want to join our vibrant club for activities, events and friendship? Meet at Library at the Dock at 10am. Contact Verna on 0407 065 910. [MSPC.docklands@gmail.com](mailto:MSPC.docklands@gmail.com)

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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Painting & Decoration  
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email: [outboxed@hotmail.com](mailto:outboxed@hotmail.com)

## PHOTOGRAPHY

photography studies college

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Australia's No 1 Photography College

\*Winner National Photography Industry Award for Excellence in Photography Education  
2014, 2013, 2012, 2011

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Ray White Southbank  
111 Clarendon Street, Southbank 3006  
P:(03) 8102 0200  
F:(03) 8080 3284

## RESTAURANT

**ENA**

Shop M4/9 Mid Level Southgate Complex 28  
Southgate Ave, Southbank  
Ph: 9690 6205  
Menu: [enagreekstreetfood.com.au](http://enagreekstreetfood.com.au)

**DOWNSTAIRS**  
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215—217 Sturt Street Southbank Victoria

9686 5015  
WWW.DOWNSTAIRS.NET.AU

## SCHOOLS

www.haileybury.vic.edu.au

**HAILEYBURY**  
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Health rebate avail. (Conditions)  
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[tangspa-beauty-massage.com](http://tangspa-beauty-massage.com)  
0403280886 / 0447463635

## SUPERMARKET

**FOODWORKS**  
Works for me!

180 City Road, SOUTHBANK  
P: 9686 1561

# What's happening in our market

In 2017 we noted a major shift of energy in the market place, with unprecedented levels of buyer activity. This has been fueled by low levels of interest rates which have remained low for a number of months, stamp duty savings for first home buyers spending less than \$650,000 and the consistent surge in the Melbourne population growth.

Buyer sentiment and confidence has produced peak selling conditions evident in the sales results and days on market for properties dropping significantly.

For sellers now aiming to enter the market in 2018 it is important to be aware for how much longer can these peak conditions be sustained. In our view, as long as strategic structure is followed, some excellent results remain available.

One such example was our outstanding sale of the Penthouse at 8 Wells Street, Southbank which attracted over 70 individual inspections during our sale campaign. This truly highlights how popular Southbank is. The property entered the market with a guide of \$1.2m to \$1.3m and sold at auction for a staggering \$1,510,000.

We proudly achieved an 88% auction clearance rate for the year and private sales are sitting at an average of 36 days on market. This is a true testament to the strong current market conditions and our ability to manage and negotiate through the entire sales process to achieve a premium price for our clients.

Get in touch with me today to discuss how our sales process will deliver the best result for your property.

**Michael Pastrikos**

Sales Manager

**M:** 0404 282 864

**E:** michael.pastrikos@raywhite.com

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



RayWhite

4001/151 City Road, **Southbank**

3 2 2

- North-facing with 40th floor panoramic views from the city
- Light-filled interiors and generous areas to live, dine, and sleep
- Storage cage, two car spaces, and access to fantastic facilities
- Approx. 115sqm in size

**Michael Pastrikos**  
0404 282 864

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RayWhite

30 Albert Street, **Port Melbourne**

3 1.5 1

- Rear Lane Access
- 450m to Tram Access
- Off-street Parking
- Land Size Approx. 177sqm

Auction:  
12:00PM Feb 24

**Michael Pastrikos**  
0404 282 864

- School Zones
- Port Melbourne Primary
  - Albert Park College

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