

The voice of Southbank, South Wharf & Montague

SOUTHBANK Local NEWS

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The Southbank pyramid is born!

140 interior design students from RMIT University gathered at Testing Grounds last month to construct a gigantic pyramid made from a whopping 4317 concrete blocks!

As part of Melbourne Design Week (March 15-25), the students constructed the pyramid in an impressive three hours and 26 minutes on February 26. Testing Grounds general manager Joseph Norster said the temporary structure offered a space for artists and people to experiment.

"We invite people to draw it, write it, photograph it, sit on it, climb it, run around it, question it, sing to it, give speeches from it, declare your love on it, almost anything but you can't ignore it," he said.

More info: testing-grounds.com.au



RMIT students gather on their monumental concrete creation at the Testing Grounds last month.

Photo: Emma Byrnes.

Government takes creative control

By Sean Car

Developers with live applications on Sturt Street's arts spine will be forced to give back to the Arts Precinct under new planning controls introduced this month.

The State Government has announced historic planning controls that ensure all new developments comply with the creative industry's vision for Southbank's Arts Precinct.

The new planning controls are in direct response to a spate of new developments along Sturt St, which the local community has long argued threaten the amenity of

the Arts Precinct and low-rise Southbank Village.

Minister for Planning Richard Wynne and Minister for Creative Industries and Member for Albert Park Martin Foley announced planning scheme amendment C330 on March 6.

The amendment includes a rezoning of the precinct to the newly created Capital City

Zone Schedule 7. The new controls will be introduced on an interim basis of one year, allowing time for the City of Melbourne and Creative Victoria to work with the community on permanent controls.

Under the Australian-first rezone, future developments will have to include arts and cultural uses as part of the first four floors, such as studios, workshops or galleries, or

performance and events spaces on the first four levels. Any exemption would require additional permits.

The amendment has been approved without transitional provisions, meaning all "live" planning permit applications on Sturt St, for which there are currently three, will be subject to the new controls.

Continued on page 2.

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Thumbs up for Boyd Park

By Sean Car

The City of Melbourne is to be applauded for its Boyd Park concept plan.

City of Melbourne councillors endorsed the final concept on March 6 and construction of Southbank's long-awaited community space will now finally commence in July.

Council's project team, led by Steve Perumal, Victoria Evans and Lewis Wright, is to be congratulated for designing a brilliant concept that truly reflects the interests of the local community.

Following the release of the draft concept plan in November, plans to install a basketball court out the front of the Boyd Community Hub were not received well by the community.

Missing from the plan was a space for the thriving Southbank Sustainability Group to continue its wonderful community garden and members of the group made their feelings known to the project team.

While acknowledging that bureaucratic difficulties in establishing a community garden, Steve Perumal and his team listened, put their heads together and came up with a brilliant solution.

Gone is the basketball court; enter a brand new community garden out the front of Boyd for the Sustainability Group!

The basketball court will now be installed at the Kings Way undercroft as part of the City Rd master plan, while a dog park is being proposed for the unused space next to the tram stop on Moray St.

Southbank Residents' Association president Tony Penna said the final design was a "brilliant outcome" for the community and we have to agree!

To view the full plans visit participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/boypark



The final concept for Boyd Park.

Government takes creative control

Continued from page 1.

The controls will extend all the way from the Yarra River to Kings Way and while they don't provide protection against height, Minister Wynne said they got the balance right.

"We're calling time on developments that detract from our treasured Arts Precinct and give nothing back to the community or the creative industries sector," he said.

"From now on, all developments within the Melbourne Arts Precinct zone will need to ensure they're helping the thriving industry grow."

Martin Foley said the controls were an important step in the ongoing effort to transform the area into a major creative and cultural hub.

"Nothing says Melbourne quite like the Melbourne Arts Precinct, but the inevitability of development threatens this precious location if we don't act now."

"The community and the creative industries sector have asked for this change and we've listened. It will take our arts precinct to a whole new level and provide more opportunities for small to medium creative organisations."

Send your thoughts to news@southbanklocalnews.com.au

HYPERLOCAL NEWS

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Developers take all benefits

By Shane Scanlan

Residents of Southbank and the CBD have missed out on a bonanza of new community facilities and open space.

It's as a result of Planning Minister Richard Wynne decision in 2016 to reward developers for building commercial office space instead.

When Planning Scheme Amendment C270 was introduced in December 2016, it contained a floor area uplift (FAU) mechanism whereby developers would be rewarded with extra floors in return for contributing to the community.

The architects of the scheme, SGS Economics and Planning, in early 2016, recommended the benefits of the scheme and nominated a number of inclusions to the list: "Libraries, aquatic centres, art galleries, performance spaces, meeting rooms, kindergartens, social housing, open space, etc."

But, by the time the amendment became law, the term "community benefit" has been replaced with "public benefit" and the list of benefits contained the provision of commercial office space.

Now, a little over a year later, some 54,248sqm of commercial floor area has been awarded to applicants under FAU mechanisms. During the same period, no uplift has been awarded under any of the other defined community benefit categories.

A spokesperson for the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning told *Southbank Local News*: "Following the introduction of C270 an additional 54,248sqm of commercial floor area has been awarded to applicants due to uplifts."

"No floor are uplift has been awarded under the other defined community benefit categories."

When defining locally-relevant community

assets, SGS said they should be publicly-owned and should "represent a permanent or long-lived enhancement of local community infrastructure".

But between February and April 2016 the government added to the list of defined benefits provision of commercial office space as well as architecturally-designed buildings.

City of Melbourne planning chair Nick Reece said he was "surprised but not surprised" by the results.

"At the time C270 was introduced there was a genuine need to get more office accommodation into the central city, and there still is," he said. "But this evidence suggests developers are going for office development over everything else, and at expense of everything else, and this was clearly not the original intent of the policy."

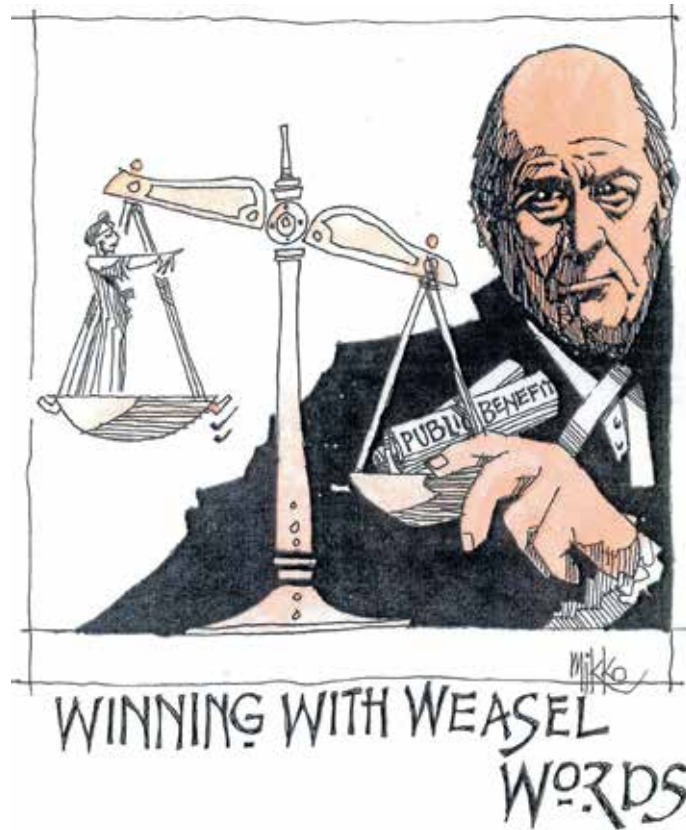
"It is still early days in the life of C270 but

if this trend continues then the Victorian Government and the City of Melbourne will need to update the policy."

Deputy chair Rohan Leppert said: "Floor area uplift regimes are never going to reliably and predictably deliver core community infrastructure, and I would prefer to do what Sydney and Brisbane do and levy all new high-rise residential apartments in order to co-fund new community infrastructure for a growing population."

"We should recognise, though, that the new central city built form controls are far superior to the free-for-all that came before, particularly in relation to tower setbacks and the fact that uncapped density is no longer just a gift without any requirement to deliver a return to the broader community."

"There is always room to improve the system of course, and the definition of what constitutes a public benefit should be continuously reviewed."



Cover-up allegations

The City of Melbourne is refusing to discuss corruption allegations against a senior manager who was sacked last September.

Southbank Local News understands that an internal council investigation resulted in the officer being summarily dismissed following information being provided by a whistle-blower.

However, current council staff have recently contacted *Southbank Local News* alleging a management cover-up.

Southbank Local News contacted some of the eight council employees who were purged from the same section of council in late August, immediately before the senior manager was sacked.

Allegations of fraud and deception have been made, but no concrete evidence has been provided.

Southbank Local News asked the City of Melbourne:

- Can you confirm the reasons for the dismissal?
- Has the council reported the officer's activities to the police?
- If not, why not?

Council spokesperson Brodie Bott replied:

"The City of Melbourne does not make comment on individual staff. As always, the City of Melbourne adheres to all reporting requirements in relation to fraud, corruption and or issues of misconduct."



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Green market

South Melbourne Market's innovative organic waste systems have won the Port Phillip Council two separate sustainability awards.

The systems won the Environmental Sustainability Awards at both the IPAA Victoria Leadership in the Public Sector Awards and the LGPro Awards for Excellence.

The market's waste program includes two processes that recycle organic waste: a vermicomposting worm farm project and the installation of a GaiaRecycle machine that heats and dehydrates organic material.

This has resulted in more than 90 per cent reduction in organic waste volume at the market, where you can now buy market-made garden fertiliser products.

Port Phillip Mayor Bernadene Voss said the award-winning systems were proving it was possible to successfully divert organic waste from landfill at a large scale.

"Our market is the first retail market in Australia to adopt this technology and the results really are outstanding," Cr Voss said.

The projects have already diverted about 950 tonnes of green and food waste from landfill.



Cr Voss uses the GaiaRecycle unit at the market last month.



(Main) A render of the new linear park at Dodds St where the first commission will be installed, (top right) 'The Vault' (Yellow Peril) on Grant St and (bottom right) Vaari Claffey.

Major public art set for Southbank

Southbank has been revealed as the lucky recipient of a series of four major public art commissions, with the first to come at a cost of \$2 million.

City of Melbourne councillors endorsed plans to proceed with the first of the four commissions at its council meeting on February 27, which will be installed in Dodds St as part of the transformation of Southbank Boulevard.

Irish academic Vaari Claffey has been engaged as a "public art strategist" to oversee the project, which will see a further three works produced for Southbank's new public realm in the heart of the Arts Precinct.

Ms Claffey appointment follows an international search conducted by a Curatorial Advisory Group (CAG) consisting of representatives from the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA), National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) and the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA).

A council report stated: "in prioritising significant sites for public art in the immediate term, Southbank, Melbourne Metro, University Square and the QVM renewal programs were considered, with Southbank providing the most profound,

imminent opportunity."

In August last year, Ms Claffey spent two weeks in Southbank undertaking primary research into the area and worked closely with Arts Melbourne and City Design Studio to inform her strategy for the precinct.

The strategy, presented to council at last month's meeting, outlines the first piece of public art to be a "Destination Artwork", with the winning artist to be announced publicly in August following a tender process.

To be permanently closed to make way for a new linear park, Dodds St was selected as the most suitable site for the major artwork based on its location in the heart of the Arts Precinct and proximity to VCA.

Council's report noted that throughout the community consultation for the Southbank Boulevard and Dodds St concept plan, public art was consistently requested to be a feature of the completed project.

Acting Lord Mayor Arron Wood said: "I look forward to what is, by the looks of it and the

intent of it, going to be something that puts us on the world map in terms of something that you have to see when you come to Melbourne."

"It's probably not since the Yellow Peril that we got a little bit nervous about public art so to see us getting back into the public art commissioning I think is a good thing."

"If we're going to have an Arts Precinct, which is everyone, from Minister Foley to many of the great institutions that are in this precinct, are calling for then we need to be supporting this kind of major public art commission whole heartedly."

Cr Nic Francis-Gilley said: This is a way of really starting to envisage the city and I think it's going to be a great example of how we think about the future and art at its heart and centre is really fantastic.

What do you think about new public artwork in Southbank's Arts Precinct? Send your thoughts to news@southbanklocalnews.com.au

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Heavyweight panel to talk Montague

Member for Albert Park Martin Foley, Liberal Shadow Minister for Planning David Davis and the leader of the Victorian Greens Party Samantha Ratnam will make up the next Montague Community Forum panel.

To be held at the Golden Fleece Hotel (cnr of Montague and Buckhurst streets, South Melbourne) on Tuesday, March 20, the first community forum of 2018 will discuss planning matters relating to Fishermans Bend and Montague.

Initiated by the Montague Community Alliance (MCA) and sponsored by *Southbank Local News*, the free community forums provide locals with the opportunity to quiz leaders on issues affecting Montague.

With the natural focus centred on current and future residents and businesses of Montague, each panelist will be given five minutes to share their party's vision before the forum is put to question and answer.

With the State Government's Fishermans Bend Framework released late last year and Minister for Planning Richard Wynne's recent freeze on development (read story



Left to right: Member for Albert Park Martin Foley, Victorian Greens Party leader Samantha Ratnam and Liberal Shadow Minister for Planning will make up a strong panel.

on page 7), the forum presents a timely opportunity for locals to raise their issues with leaders ahead of November's state election.

Montague Community Alliance convener

Trisha Avery will moderate the forum, which will run from 6pm to 7.30pm. The forums are informal in nature and designed for the community to come together for a discussion. Locals are encouraged to stick around after the forum for a drink or meal

and network with politicians and other locals.

You can register your interest with *Southbank Local News* editor Sean Car at sean@southbanklocalnews.com.au

Students test out new basketball stadium

Students from South Melbourne Primary School in Southbank tested out their brand new Basketball stadium last month with a little help from basketball legend Warrick Giddy!

Warrick, a former National Basketball League (NBL) star with the Melbourne Tigers (now Melbourne United) held a clinic with students on Monday, March 5 at the brand new stadium.

The students were the first to use the competition-grade facility, which has been constructed for both the school and the local community to use.

The indoor sports facility is part of an expansive community sports complex, which includes another rooftop basketball court with city views!

The new South Melbourne Primary School on Ferrars St opened its doors last month and has already received more than 100 enrolments in its first term.



Melbourne basketball legend Warrick Giddy takes South Melbourne Primary School students for a 'spin' at the school's brand new basketball stadium this month.



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留学生应该积极参与市政选举

撰稿: Sunny Liu

继墨尔本前市长罗伯特·道尔于二月份因丑闻辞职后,五月份将会有一场市政选举。

而很多人都不知道的是,非澳洲公民也可以参与市政选举。

选举人只需要在墨尔本市政府管辖区域内租住房或商业房超过一个月的时间,并且满18岁。那么这也意味着中国留学生也可以投票选举市长。

在市中心这样的留学生聚居的地方,留学生的票将会对市长选举有特殊的影响力。

对于很多从来没有体验过参与政治选举的学生来说,这是一个很好的参政议政的机会。

若想参与市政大选,选举人需要在3月16日下午4点之前通过市政府注册。

大家可以登陆墨尔本市政府的官方网站,填写表格来注册。

注册成功后,维多利亚政府选举委员会将会寄选举表给选举人的住址,然后选举人填写好之后再邮寄给选举委员会。

Foreign renters can vote

Non-Australian citizen renters can vote in the May lord mayoral election.

To be eligible, the person simply needs to have rented a rateable property within the City of Melbourne for more than a month and be over 18 years of age.

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) has confirmed that international students, for example, are able to participate in the election.

Communications manager Mike Lagastes told *Southbank Local News* that the eligibility rules surrounding City of Melbourne elections were more complex than in other municipalities.

He said commercial or residential renters of rateable property were eligible to apply to enroll with the City of Melbourne by March 16. The council's website says only two renters per property could enroll.

The council enrollment form for renters (Voters' Roll - Form D) does not ask for any evidence of rental history. It merely asks applicants to declare and sign that they are:

- I am an occupier of the rateable

property specified in Section 1;

- I would not be an elector in respect of an address in the municipal district if a roll of electors for the Legislative Assembly were compiled; and

- I am a resident of the municipal district.

Enrolments are open until 4pm on Friday, March 16. The one-month occupation criteria is defined as a month leading up to March 16.

The council's website says: "To be eligible you must:

- Be at least 18 years of age, or will attain the age of 18 on or before 12 May 2018;

- Occupy (solely or jointly) a rateable property in the City of Melbourne municipal district; and

- Be a resident of the municipal district for at least one month prior to 16 March 2018."

Cr Jackie Watts is critical of the inconsistency between Melbourne's electoral structure and other municipalities.

"In relation to voter eligibility criteria, the City of Melbourne should simply align with that of all other municipalities," Cr Watts said.

Lord mayoral election

Southbank residents and businesses are to vote in a by-election in May for the position of Lord Mayor of Melbourne.

The vacancy and by-election follows the resignation in February of Robert Doyle after nine years in the job.

Nominations for the position open on April 5 and close three working days later at noon on Tuesday, April 10.

Potential candidates and voters have until 4pm on Friday, March 16 to enroll themselves to become eligible.

The poll is to be conducted entirely via Australia Post, with the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) posting "packs" to voters between April 23 and April 26.

Candidates have until April 11 to send statements and photos to the VEC to be included in the voter material.

Ballots must be posted back to the VEC by Friday, May 11.

Voting is compulsory for enrolled voters under 70 years old. Residents are entitled to one vote. Businesses, either renting or owning rateable property get two votes.

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Fishermans freeze

By Sean Car

Minister for Planning Richard Wynne's decision to "call in" all live development applications in Fishermans Bend has been widely applauded in the local community.

However, Mr Wynne is now facing potential legal backlash from developers over his decision to put a freeze on 26 applications, with the Property Council of Australia calling for immediate industry consultation.

The Minister for Planning made his announcement on February 22, as his appointed Fishermans Bend Planning Review Panel commenced public hearings into the Government's urban renewal plans on March 1.

The panel is scheduled to hear more than 100 submissions from interested parties over a three-month period. The list includes a number of landowners and developers affected by the freeze.

Interim planning controls have been in place in Fishermans Bend since 2015 – a direct response to former Minister for Planning Matthew Guy's rezoning of the precinct to capital city, which saw land values skyrocket.

In late 2016, Richard Wynne had stated the interim controls would be mandatory and applied to every existing development application that was under assessment – a statement that developers are now claiming as contradictory.

Property Council of Australia's deputy executive director Matthew Kandelaars said it was time for the government to "draw a line in the sand" and provide developers and the community alike with certainty.

"Fishermans Bend has enormous potential. The Minister has his reasons for this announcement but, sadly, a continuing policy pendulum means that after years of talk we appear no closer than ever to achieving serious progress," he said.

"The private sector needs certainty and confidence to invest and to risk its own capital to develop a world-class precinct. Instead, we are at serious risk of missing the opportunity to finally see the project advance."

While the State Government released its draft Fishermans Bend Framework in October last year, questions still remain over key issues of public transport, governance



Developer Gurner's proposal for 2-18 Montague St, which is one of the applications frozen by Minister Wynne.

and funding.

The 26 live applications, which amount to more than \$4.5 billion worth of development, will now be referred to an independent advisory committee for thorough analysis. The committee will assess the 26 applications against the new planning controls once they are implemented in the planning scheme.

With the new controls to be implemented later this year, it is unlikely that developers subject to the freeze will be issued with new permits prior to the State Election in November.

"We make no apology for calling time on a developer's free-for-all," Richard Wynne said. "We know that this will be a temporary inconvenience for developers, but we're fixing up Matthew Guy's mess for the future community of Fishermans Bend."

Currently, 11 of the 26 applications are before the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT). Mr Wynne used his powers under the VCAT Act (1998) to call in the applications.

While a judicial review may be possible, a

spokesperson for the Minister for Planning said given the current controls were interim in nature, developers would be aware that the planning controls in place were subject to change.

City of Port Phillip Mayor Bernadene Voss said council welcomed the Minister's decision to put a halt on development.

"We all want Fishermans Bend to live up to its potential as a sustainable, world class urban renewal area which contributes to greater Melbourne's ongoing reputation as the world's most liveable city," she said.

"It has been challenging for council to provide input about applications made under the current interim planning controls when we knew the "playing field" would later change."

The Montague Precinct was hardest hit by Matthew Guy's rezoning of Fishermans Bend and was ultimately subject to an overnight flurry of development applications following his decision.

Montague Community Alliance convener Trisha Avery said while she supported the minister's freeze, the community still wanted more certainty into the status of all inappropriate development both proposed and approved for Montague.

"The thing we're most happy about is that action was taken because so often with the capital city zone there's very little done to support the community," she said.

"It goes some way to us knowing that somebody in authority is paying attention to the area and the existing community in the area – residents and businesses."

"What we don't know is what has happened to the ones that have been approved. We still need more clarity with what is happening with some of the existing inappropriate permits that were issued by the previous government."

For more information on the Planning Review Panel for Fishermans Bend visit: planning.vic.gov.au/panels-and-committees/current-panels/fishermans-bend-planning-review-panel

Foster to plead guilty

Former councillor Richard Foster is to plead guilty to electoral fraud charges relating to the 2016 City of Melbourne election.

On February 20, Mr Foster successfully sought a further adjournment of his case until April 19.

The Local Government Investigations and Compliance Inspectorate alleges that Mr Foster aided, abetted, counselled or procured the unlawful nomination of candidate Brooke Wandin before the election.

Ms Wandin was last year granted a diversion order without conviction for her role in the matter, a fact which led Mr Foster's lawyer James Catlin to suggest a similar outcome for his client.

Before magistrate Julie Grainger on February 20, Mr Catlin said it was an "abuse" that Mr Foster had been relentlessly pursued and had not been also offered a diversion.

He pointed out that Mr Foster was a "clean-skin" and the "accomplice" in the matter and questioned the prosecution's objectivity in relation to his client.

Magistrate Grainger rejected Mr Catlin's request that the matter be adjourned so it could heard by the same magistrate who granted Ms Wandin's diversion.

Mr Catlin then requested an adjournment as he was not ready to proceed as he had been "doing other things" – a situation he admitted was "trite".

He said he was yet to compile "further references" as well as a list of media reports about Mr Foster.

Mr Catlin said Mr Foster had already been "quite severely punished" by "crippling media reports" about his role in the matter.

He said Mr Foster had been portrayed in the media as "some sort of Svengali" who had guided 37-year-old, community leader Brooke Wandin to sign her name under a false address.

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Hopes high for OC reform Bill

By Lina Le

After five years, owners' corporations may finally see legislative reform enter the Victorian Parliament this year.

The new reforms are going to strengthen the operation of owners' corporations, giving owners' corporations more power and control over maintenance and safety decisions, and lifting eligibility requirements for owners' corporation managers, among other things.

Back in 2013, the Owners Corporations Act 2006 was reviewed with the aim of identifying and making improvements to existing legislation.

In August 2015, a comprehensive review of consumer property law was announced. This review includes the Owners Corporation Act 2006.

The first step in the review was the release and consultation of three issues papers during 2015-2016, which covered a range of issues including the conduct of owners' corporation managers and the management of owners' corporations.

The second stage of the review started in November 2016 with the release of an options paper streamlining the ways owners' corporations make decisions and resolve disputes.

Public submissions to the options paper closed on December 16, 2016 and Consumer Affairs Victoria has been considering feedback received to inform the development of the government's proposed reform package.

Almost three years since the process started, a spokesperson from Consumer Affairs Victoria confirmed that a Bill outlining reforms was expected to be introduced into parliament later this year.

Commenting on the delay to the review, Strata Titles Lawyers CEO Tom Bacon said: "It is strange that the consultation ended a year ago and the options papers sat there for several months before the process of reviewing the draft bill started."

Reforms of current strata laws have been installed throughout Australia in recent years. In NSW, new strata laws were passed in November 2016. In WA, a draft strata Bill is due to be delivered into parliament in the next six months. Changes to Queensland's body corporate law is also underway after public submission closed in May last year.

The future of events

The best skills are experienced, not simply learned. And, in the evolution of a person's career, the right skills remain significant.

Like most industries, the events field is organic – always developing and growing. Therefore, the need to up-skill is important, particularly in today's competitive professional landscape.

To meet this trend, Holmesglen has designed a professional program, the SIT50316 Diploma of Event Management, which gives mature-aged students the chance to add to his or her business qualifications.

Offered at Southbank's city campus, the course uses a blend of face-to-face activities and online study that are suited to workers organising business events in the corporate, small business, non-profit and government sectors.

Lynda Olsen (pictured) used the program to complement and strengthen her 14 years of events planning experience in the healthcare and financial industries.

The decision to return to study was influenced by the current state of the workforce, and a personal desire to add to her skills.

"While experience and on-the-job training cannot be underestimated, it became clear that, particularly in the corporate world, the best employers are looking for event professionals with formal qualifications as



well as experience," Ms Olsen said.

The chance to formalise her previous training provided her with new opportunities, while also reinforcing her knowledge base.

"The course content not only confirmed that many of my working practices were at an industry standard but (it also) offered the tools to take my processes to the next level," she said. "For example, analysis of return on investment, as well as an increased knowledge of risk assessment processes, have immediately improved my standard of event delivery."

Applications are now open with classes starting on April 9. For further details, please call 9564 1699 or visit holmesglen.edu.au

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TAFE VICTORIA

Council plans for active streets

By Sunny Liu

Developers will not be allowed to build ground-level car park in Southbank and the CBD under the new C308 urban design policy package.

Amendment C308 will replace the existing Design and Development Schedule 1 (DDO1) with a new Schedule 1, with the aim of activating buildings' street frontages in the Hoddle Grid and Southbank.

Under the amendment, developers will be required to build only underground car parking and only use less than 40 per cent of a building's ground floor for building services.

Car parks in new Southbank buildings must be sleeved with active uses and configured to be adaptable to future uses.

Also, the required 80 per cent of active retail street frontages on a building's ground level will be expanded for more activation.

Amendment C308 is to complement C270, which specifies minimum setbacks from streets, building separation, overshadowing and wind requirements.

At the February 20 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, councillors endorsed the C308 amendment and sought authorisation from the planning minister to prepare and exhibition the amendment.

The City of Melbourne's planning portfolio chair Nicholas Reece said C308 would significantly improve future buildings' design quality.

"In my view, C308 and the design guide that accompanies it is the one of the most important things that the City of Melbourne will do in this term. And it's all about lifting the design standards in

Melbourne," Cr Reece said.

"The new set of planning controls will adopt a far more rigorous focus on the street and surrounds. We want to drive a new focus on how buildings in the city work at the eye level," he said.

"The days of new developments being no more than spread sheets in the sky are over. We want to make sure every building gives more back to the city than it takes and this begins with design excellence and quality build," Cr Reece said.

Southbank Residents' Association president Tony Penna told the meeting that such a review was "long overdue".

"As we are well aware, Southbank doesn't have much land remaining that doesn't have a planning approval ... As we have seen in the latest census, vehicle use continues to be on the decline, with 30 per cent of car parking spaces not being utilised. So (the amendment) is certainly a positive," Mr Penna said.

"We hope there is enough undeveloped parts of Southbank for C308 to have a lasting, practical and worthwhile outcome," he said.

The new planning controls also promote a more attractive and walkable pedestrian environment through introducing additional pedestrian connections on buildings' street level.



Sally Capp has entered the contest for the top job at Town Hall.

Candidates emerge

Property Council Victoria executive director Sally Capp has announced her candidacy for the upcoming lord mayoral by-election.

Ms Capp joins Gary Morgan and Ken Ong as the only declared candidates in the May poll. Candidates have until April 10 to nominate.

Ms Capp said she had taken leave without pay from the Property Council and would not be accepting any donations from property developers.

She said that, although she enjoyed strong connections with industry and business groups, she needed to get closer to residents and other community groups.

She nominated managing population growth and major infrastructure projects as key issues. She said she would be

approaching the position on the basis of personal principles of authenticity, having integrity and working hard.

"The families, businesses and communities that make up the City of Melbourne are our best asset and it would be an absolute honour to represent them," Ms Capp said.

Mr Morgan said, if he was elected, he would work to reduce the size of the council.

"I would change the culture," he said. Mr Morgan said the homelessness issue also needed more attention from the council.

Former councillor Ken Ong has also announced his candidacy for the election.






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Interest surrounds BMW site

After being snapped up for more than \$100 million late last year, the search for a world-class architect has begun for one of Southbank's last remaining key development sites.

Malaysian-backed developer Beulah International emerged as the successful purchaser of the prominent BMW site at 58 Southbank Boulevard in December and has wasted no time in pursuing its bold vision.

The developer has embarked on a global tour to meet and greet with world-class architects in a bid to potentially bring a new firm to Australia to design the development.

With seven architects already on the meet-and-greet list, Beulah International told *Southbank Local News* that it would meet with firms in New York, Basel, Copenhagen, Rotterdam and Amsterdam to name a few.

"Our vision for the site is to create a groundbreaking concept not seen before in Australia," Beulah principal Jiaheng Chan said.

"What attracted us to the BMW site was simple. It provides an opportunity to create a landmark development that will potentially comprise of retail, hotel, residential, commercial and public space that is of a world class standard."

A mixed-use project is proposed for the site, which will include a new flagship, state-of-the-art BMW dealership. BMW Australia has placed high emphasis on who it would be partnering with on the future development

due to the strategic nature of the site, which has housed the group's inner-city dealership for well over two decades.

"We are very excited to partner with Beulah on this development, which will showcase our latest technologies and redefine how people live and travel," BMW Australia CEO Marc-Henrich Werner said.

As part of its global search, Beulah's executive director Adelene Teh said the company would also be expressing its desire for a design that brought the local community with it.

"Some of the firms we're meeting with are ones often referred to throughout academia, who are responsible for setting new benchmarks and informing discussions around architecture and design philosophy," she said.

"We're also looking for a firm that puts public amenity at the forefront of their approach, as engaging with the community and integrating with the urban context is an important driver."

Located in the prominent Freshwater Precinct, the development could prove to be a defining feature of Southbank.



A render of a concept design for the BMW site, which was released by CBRE last year during the sales campaign.



Shane Scanlan (left) and Kim Wen (centre).

SLN meets 3CW Radio

"Southbank Local News" publisher Shane Scanlan was interviewed by Southbank-based Chinese radio station 3CW in February.

3CW broadcasts news, talks shows and music in Mandarin Chinese to the local Chinese community 24 hours a day.

Shane was a guest on 3CW's Monday drive-home program on entrepreneurship, hosted by businesswoman Kim Wen.

Kim interviewed Shane about his journey of starting and maintaining the three hyperlocal community newspapers - *Southbank Local News*, *Docklands News* and *CBD News*.

The program was aired on February 26.

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Melbourne City Council Lord Mayor by-election

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Voting

Ballot packs will be mailed to voters enrolled in the Melbourne City Council Lord Mayor by-election from Monday 23 April 2018. Your completed ballot material must be in the mail or hand delivered to the Returning Officer by 6.00 pm on Friday 11 May 2018.



If you will be away

If you will be away when ballot packs are mailed, or your address has changed since Friday 16 March, your ballot pack can be redirected by writing to:

Returning Officer
Melbourne City Council Lord Mayor by-election
C/- Victorian Electoral Commission
Level 11, 530 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Alternatively, you can fax your request to (03) 9620 1568 or scan and email it to redirections@vec.vic.gov.au.

Please include the address for redirection. Each voter requesting redirection must sign their request. Requests for redirection must be received by Thursday 5 April.

Large print and braille ballot papers

Large print or braille ballot papers are available for blind and low vision voters who register by 5.00 pm Wednesday 28 March.

To register, call (03) 8620 1122 during business hours.

How to nominate as a candidate

To nominate as a candidate you must complete a nomination form and lodge it, together with the \$250 nomination fee, in person with the Returning Officer. Nomination forms can be lodged during business hours from Thursday 5 April until 12 noon on Tuesday 10 April at:

Level 4, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne

To help reduce waiting time while nominations are processed, visit vec.vic.gov.au and pre-complete your nomination form using the Candidate Helper.

The Candidate Helper will be available from Thursday 29 March. Print your pre-completed form and lodge it with the Returning Officer along with the \$250 nomination fee.

Call the Returning Officer from Wednesday 4 April on (03) 8619 1498 to make a nomination appointment.

Candidate information sessions

When: 7.00 pm Wednesday 28 March 2018

Where: VEC Head Office
Level 11, 530 Collins Street
Melbourne

When: 1.00 pm Wednesday 4 April 2018

Where: Melbourne City Council Lord Mayor by-election office
Level 4, 530 Collins Street
Melbourne

Candidate Information Kits containing nomination forms and other electoral information will be available at these sessions.

Bill Lang
Returning Officer

Nominations close 12 noon Tuesday 10 April

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:

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Victorian Electoral Commission 

Authorised by W. Gately, AM, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

Site sold

Former bookmaker and Betstar founder Alan Eskander has sold a Southbank office property for \$5.85 million.

The figure is more than double the price he paid in 2013. The 584 sqm property at 34-36 Market St, Southbank is located in South Melbourne's eastern business district.

According to the managing agent CBRE, the transaction represented a land rate of more than \$10,000 per square metre with a building rate in excess of \$13,000 per sqm.

David Minty from CBRE Victorian development sites division said: "Unprecedented tenant demand, low vacancy rates, rising rents and yield compression are collectively creating the emergence of new office markets in and around the CBD."



The site sold at 34-36 Market St in Southbank.



A skater enjoys the new look Riverside Quay last month.

Skaters move in

A section of the new community space at Riverside Quay opened for public use last month and has quickly proven to be a paradise for skaters.

While stage one of the Riverside Quay renewal is set to be formally unveiled by Mirvac and the City of Melbourne later this month, locals have expressed their frustration over the skate-friendly space.

Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) president, who sat on the community reference group for the project, said ensuring the space was not skater friendly was a clearly stressed by the community.

"Making sure it would not be attractive to skateboarders was a strong and clear message that came from the working group," he said.

"It disappoints me to see the damage from skateboards so soon after its public access is

made available."

Other local residents have also expressed their concern to *Southbank Local News*, stating that the presence of skaters and BMX riders has already caused significant damage to the new community space

Mirvac's senior development manager Dan Collins told the Riverside Quay Community Reference Group the developer acknowledged the issue and was working with the City of Melbourne on a solution.

"Please be assured that Mirvac is working with the City of Melbourne to modify some elements of the park design so that this damage does not continue to happen," he said.

St Kilda Rd delays

By Medha Vernekar

As the construction of the new Metro Tunnel ramps up around the new Anzac Station, part of St Kilda Rd has reduced to one traffic lane for several years.

Both directions of the lane in St Kilda Rd between Kings Way and Dorcas St in Southbank, spanning around 800 metres, closed on February 14.

Tram access will operate mostly normally over this period with pedestrian and cycling access maintained.

During this time, pedestrian access will be maintained with some diversions for cyclists.

During the April school holidays, buses will be replacing trams along St Kilda Rd as traffic lanes and tram tracks will be reconfigured to accommodate traffic flow throughout the construction of Anzac Station.

The Minister for Public Transport, Jacinta Allan encouraged motorists and passengers to plan ahead and allow up to 15 minutes extra travel time through these affected areas.

Market under One Roof

By Kathryn Lewis

Women-led co-working space, One Roof hosted a community market on February 17 to showcase Melbourne's best female-led startups and small businesses.

The market, held at One Roof's headquarters on City Rd, Southbank, had a variety of stalls including wedding vendors, ethical clothing, graphic designers and user experience design services.

"One Roof's community market was an absolute hit with over 200 people through

the door to see what female-led businesses in Melbourne have to offer," One Roof happiness concierge Hayley Hewitt said.

One Roof is home to more than 80 different startups and hosts regular support sessions and social events. For more info visit: melbourne.oneroofwomen.com



Visitors and stallholders enjoy a fantastic One Roof Community Market at its City Rd headquarters last month.



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No laughing matter!

Local happiness guru and Southbank resident Merv Neal is taking his passion for making people laugh to the next level.

Merv has become a renowned local figure since establishing a weekly Laughter Yoga class at the Boyd Community Hub nearly four years ago.

While a weekly meet to laugh might sound all fun and games, Merv takes the science of laughter very seriously. As the CEO of Laughter Yoga Australia, Merv quite literally lives life through the old saying “laughter is the best medicine” and has now come up with a mathematical formula that can help prescribe laughter to patients.

According to Merv, the “Laughter Quotient” is the length of the laugh times the repetition, divided by the volume, times the pitch – in other words, the way in which one laughs can be significant in maximising the health benefits!

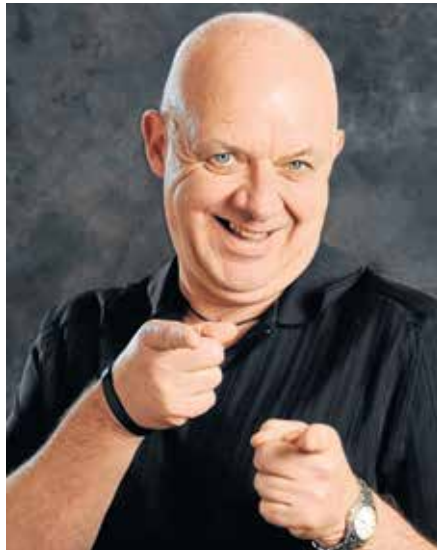
“The act of laughing depends on those four things, so the longer you laugh the more you exhale the toxins from your body, which actually allows your body to take in more oxygen,” Merv said. “The only way you’re going to take in more oxygen is to lengthen the laugh.”

“If someone needs to laugh in a particular way then the length is really important. If someone sits there and goes ‘ha!’ and then a minute later goes ‘ha!’ and so on then it’s probably not going to do much.”

“Whereas if they go ‘hahaha’ then it makes a substantial difference because it’s the physical act of laughing that’s important.”

As a leading expert on how laughter impacts on human physiology, he said the new equation was the first of its kind in that it focused on the act of laughter rather than the stimulus.

While we all know laughter helps to stimulate those “happy hormones”, Merv said research was now being conducted by the likes of Monash and Deakin universities to prove that there are certain



Local laughter expert Merv Neal

types of laughter for healing certain illnesses.

“If you need to heal from something we’ll actually have a methodology to determine the best type of laughter for that person to actually practise to gain the maximum healing,” he said.

“Cancer, for example, is very related to oxygenation of the cells in the body and there has been plenty of information that says if you’ve got oxygen in the cells of your body it promotes better health than if you don’t.”

“Through our evidence, our equation will be able to allow us to prescribe the best type of laughter that we could administer for oxygenation.”

Merv hosts his popular laughter yoga classes at the Boyd Community Hub every Tuesday night at 6pm and new participants are always welcome.

For more information on laughter yoga and current research studies visit laughteryoga-australia.org



Food and wine lovers will once again flock to the banks of the Yarra for River Graze.

Photo: Thereas Harrison.

River Graze returns

By Medha Vernekar

The annual Melbourne Food and Wine Festival is back to transform the banks of the Yarra into a foodie’s paradise!

The River Graze opening weekend kicks off from March 16-18 with a lineup of events such as the Food Truck Stop, Southgate Seafood Fest, River Graze Market, City Cellar and many more.

A pop-up edible garden will be a green sight amidst the concrete of Southbank for visitors to witness a growing space for semi and mature plants and information on how to grow them at home.

Event goers will be able to experience a slice of Naples as the renowned chef Johnny D Francesco will be serving up a classic Italian feast with his own line-up of talented craftsmen and pizzaiolo on Crown Riverwalk.

Heinz will be offering diners a classic Australian barbecue but the starring act will be its range of sauces including Ketchup, Spicy BBQ, Honey Mustard, and the winner of the 2018’s Product of the Year, Garlic Aioli.

Seafood lovers could make their way to five pop-up restaurants all serving up delicious seafood dishes along the Southgate promenade at the Southgate Seafood Feast.

The River Graze Market will be showcasing local produce from all around Victoria with a farmers’ market in the heart of the city.

Beatbox Kitchen’s Raph Rashid handpicked a vast collection of the city’s best food trucks to bring along their regular menus along with a dish especially created for the festival to feed hungry diners on the banks of the Yarra.

The Southbank Spillway will be transformed into the Sweet Valley for the festival as dessert purveyors (including New York’s Oddfellow Ice Cream) use local harvest into their sweet dishes for diners to indulge as they enjoy family-friendly entertainment in the community space.

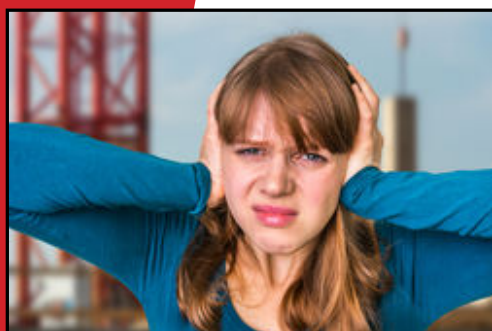
Queensbridge Square will be a hub of celebrating the different styles of barbecues around the world with its red steps being transformed into local pop-up beer garden for guests to kick back with.

The River Graze will also be showcasing its gallery of local producers of cheese, cured meats and beers from Stomping Ground Brewing Co in Collingwood and Moon Dog from Abbotsford. Attendees will also be able to enjoy a selection of wines from the Yarra Valley, Bendigo and Geelong.

For more information on dates and bookings, please check out the website www.melbournefoodandwine.com.au/program/river-graze-opening-weekend

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THE ARTS PRECINCT

Southbank gets Buxton's collection



Michael Buxton.

By Meg Hill

The arts precinct's newest museum holds one of Australia's most significant contemporary art collections, with the Michael Buxton Collection given a public home this month in the Victorian College of the Arts.

The museum, Buxton Contemporary, is housed in heritage buildings revamped by Melbourne-based architects Fender Katsalidis on the corner of Dodds St and Southbank Boulevard.

Opening on March 9, the space covers over 2200 sqm, featuring a teaching space and five galleries displaying the work of over 58 contemporary artists.

The overhead of the entrance will display digital and video works on one of largest digital screens of its type in Australia, and the only animated screen of its kind in Victoria.

Buxton Contemporary was conceived with a donation of over \$26 million from Melbourne property developer and art collector Michael Buxton.

Michael Buxton donated the building and operational support funds, but also the collection itself, to Melbourne University's alumni engagement campaign, *Believe*, back in 2014.

The contribution is the biggest ever donation to the campaign.

But, the story of the Buxton Collection goes back much further than that. It was established in 1995, but is representative of work from the 1980s onwards.

Now, with the opening of the gallery, Mr Buxton relinquishes much of his control, handing it over to the inaugural director Ryan Johnston.

Mr Johnston's responsibility involves creating a balance between Mr Buxton's preference for the collection to continue to refresh and stay truly contemporary, and the fact that the collection tracks the evolution of some of Australia's leading artists.

"Michael and Janet Buxton's remarkable gift presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to engage and better understand contemporary artistic practices,"

Mr Johnston said.

"Buxton Contemporary will provide a dynamic forum through which the university will engage local, national and international communities with the art, culture and issues of today."

The museum's first exhibition, *The Shape of Things to Come*, features more than 20 artists from the collection and explores the various roles and agencies of the artist through culture, society and politics.



Ryan Johnston.



ACCA's Arts Club

Designed for the curious minds and those with a passion for art and conversation, Art Club is a regular meeting group organised by ACCA that explores and discusses and ins and outs of contemporary art.

ACCA's exhibitions, offsite projects and studio visits are all used as starting points to explore and discuss.

"Art Club is a really convivial, friendly way for anyone interested in art to get behind the scenes," ACCA public programs manager Anabelle Lacroix said.

"We always meet around a glass of wine and cheese and encourage everyone to join in and not be afraid to express their thoughts, ask questions and share ideas."

The group will meet eight times during the year, on Thursdays from 6-8pm, with members of the ACCA artistic team and guest artists and curators.

Program:

April 5 - Mutlu Çerkez 1988-2065 at Monash University Museum of Art

An exhibition and monograph that surveys the art and life of Turkish Cypriot-Australian



artist Mutlu Çerke. Çerkez has a significant impact on the Australian and international art worlds, with his work incorporating traditions of conceptual art, minimalism and monochrome painting.

May 10 - Dwelling Poetically: Mexico City, a case study at ACCA

Mexico City is one of America's most populous urban centres, Latin America's strongest economy and a node of rich and potent cultural production. Authored by the city as much as they are authors of it, the city's artists are crucial factors in its development and cultivation. *Dwelling Poetically* is intended as a portrait of the city itself, and a case study of one of the capitals of the 21st century.

June 7 - Black and White and Red All Over at Justin Art House Museum

Justin Art House Museum is an initiative of Charles and Leah Justin, passionate collectors of contemporary art. Through their private house museum, they hope to share both their collection and their passion for art with the public. The collection includes over 250 works collected over 40 years, exploring and challenging concepts of polarities.

July 26 - Yalingwa Indigenous Commissions at ACCA

The inaugural Yalingwa exhibition will highlight the significance of family, community and humour in contemporary Aboriginal life. Curated by Hannah Presley, the exhibition will reflect the love, support

and commitment of family and the cultural relationships that make us healthy and happy.

August 23 - City galleries and/or artist studios

Locations to be advised closer to the date.

September 20 - Eva Rothschild at ACCA

The annual ACCA International presents the work of Irish-born, London-based artist Eva Rothschild. Influenced by minimalist sculptural forms of the 1960s and 1970s, classical architecture, spirituality and the nature of visual perception and materiality, Rothschild is best known for her abstract sculptural works constructed from leather, paper, Plexiglas, jesmonite, steel and wood.

November 15 - All the World's a Stage: MacFarlane Commissions preview at ACCA or offsite artist studio

An exhibition that consists of five especially commissioned projects by artists who seek to construct alternative narratives and worlds through illusionary, cinematic and theatrical devices including scripting, costumes, props and mise-en-scene.

Pricing:

\$800 - Yearly membership
\$700 - Returning Art Clubbers
\$500 - ACCA's exhibitions only
\$450 - Half-year pass

Book here: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/acca-art-club-2018-tickets-42255408063>

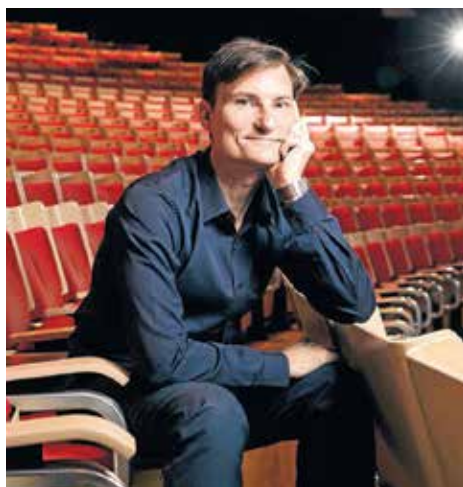
Behind the Ballet in March

Behind the Ballet events give fans a chance to see behind the scenes action and experience what goes into creating the magic they see on stage, hosted at The Arts Centre Melbourne.

5pm, March 17 - McAllister in Conversation

Artistic director David McAllister hosts an insightful conversation with the luminary Graeme Murphy and Janet Vernon.

\$25, including a drink on arrival - Book



here: <https://australianballet.com.au/event/mcallister-in-conversation>

6.30pm, March 19 - Murphy Post-Performance Q&A

Murphy fans are invited to stay back after the show for a special Q&A with dancers and creatives.

Free with your ticket to Murphy: <https://australianballet.com.au/the-ballets/murphy>

March 21 - The Music of the Dance

Audiences will hear from music director and chief conductor Nicolette Fraillon (pictured right) about the Murphy score and what it's like to be in the pit during a performance.

FREE - no booking required.



11.30am, March 23 - Behind the Scenes

Watch elite dancers take their class on stage and enjoy a rare opportunity to see a principal couple fine-tune their technique.

\$29 - Book here: <https://australianballet.com.au/event/behind-the-scenes>

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BEHIND THE SCENES

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Pip scores a gig to 'Abigail's Party'

By Sean Car

Director Stephen Nicolazzo will make his Melbourne Theatre Company (MTC) main stage debut this month when his lavish revival of British playwright Mike Leigh's cult-classic 'Abigail's Party' opens on March 22. To find out more about this contemporary take on 70s British suburbia, 'Southbank Local News' caught up with the play's starring actress Pip Edwards over lunch at the local Downstairs Bistro & Lounge on Sturt St.

In the midst of a busy rehearsal period and just a few weeks out from the play's opening, Pip kindly swung across the street from MTC's headquarters to Downstairs to bring us up to speed with how the show was shaping up.

Working alongside a talented cast under the direction of her long time friend and creative counterpart Stephen Nicolazzo, she said she was excited to be a part of Stephen's bold new interpretation of a Mike Leigh classic.

"We're at week three of rehearsal so it's at the stage of 'what's this going to be like right now?' but we're getting there," she said. "We did one run the whole way through and now we're now going through and detailing and fine tuning it."

"We're making something that's quite new and contemporary out of a 1970s piece and so I think Stephen is well and truly an artist and he's making something new."

"He's not rehashing a 70s sitcom because I guess in some ways there's something nice about disco and cheesy pineapple canapés but he's focused on what's going to speak now so it's quite in your face!"

Boasting an impressive career in theatre, film and television, some of Pip's most notable performances have included parts in shows such as *Home & Away*, *Anzac Girls*, *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries* and *Wonderland*.

Making her return to the MTC main stage following her debut in *Ghosts* in 2014, she stars in the role of Beverley in Mike Leigh's kitsch classic, which opens at Southbank Theatre, The Summer on Thursday, March 22.

Abigail's Party takes the audience to the suburban drinks party from hell! The play is set during a period of rapid transition in 1970s England pre-Margaret Thatcher and wedged between the disco era and the punk revolution.

Pip said her own character was considered to be quite selfish and even a tad monstrous! However, beneath it all, she said Beverley was a real human managing life as a woman in the 1970s.

"If you think about the 1970s she hasn't come from a huge amount of money. If you were to look at her she'd be what you'd call a narcissist but from the inside there's no reason for me to play that as an actor," she said.

"It's really important for me to also feel what is the truth that we're bringing out and what I see is a woman. She's got this idea that you must get married and a lot of her life she's made herself look as gorgeous as she can."

The desperate-to-impress Beverley and her staid real estate agent husband Laurence host the party. The guests are their neighbours – eager-to-please nurse Angela and her bully-boy husband Tony and divorcee Susan, who is steering clear of her daughter Abigail's own party down the road.

Over cheese and pineapple sticks, Demis Roussos records and copious amounts of alcohol, audiences will witness one



(Main) Actress Pip Edwards takes a break from rehearsal to enjoy a meal at the local Downstairs Lounge & Bistro in Southbank, (top right and bottom right) Pip in rehearsal with fellow cast members at MTC and (centre right) the press image for 'Abigail's Party', opening at the Southbank Theatre on March 22.

disastrous evening of social awkwardness, outrageous flirting, cringe-worthy one-upmanship and hilarious put-downs!

The classic tale remains a wonderfully sharp portrait of middle class aspirations 40 years on from its original staging. Mike Leigh's ability to extract warmth, humour and humanness out of the darkest of situations was a style that Pip said resonated heavily with her and Stephens' own creative approaches.

"Mike Leigh has got a particular style," Pip said. "He is known for working with his actors in a very unique way of getting them to pick a person in real life, study them and then put them in situations and sees what comes out of it."

"Stephen and I both love theatre that is camp, vibrant, fun and kitsch but at the same time we both have a heart and a real interest in humanness and human relationships and we're both very caring."

"As humans we're both like that as well. We'll be silly and bold and vicious and sometimes absolutely ridiculous and rude but then it comes from a place of loving people."

Pip features in a stunning cast that includes Zoe Boesen (*The Moors*), Daniel Frederikson (*Matilda: The Musical*), Benjamin Rigby (*Alien: Covenant*) and Katherine Tonkin (*Three Little Birds*). The play runs until April 21.

For more information and to book tickets

visit mtc.com.au/plays-and-tickets/season-2018/abigails-party

Downstairs Bistro & Lounge at 215-217 Sturt St also offers a delicious pre-theatre offering for locals just a five-minute walk from the Southbank Theatre.

For \$45 per person, Downstairs offers a two-course dinner menu, which includes bread, dips and a cocktail on arrival, as well as a choice of main that comes with a matching wine or beer.

To view the menu visit mtc.com.au/your-visit/dining or to make a booking or an enquiry visit downstairs.net.au



Turning Japanese

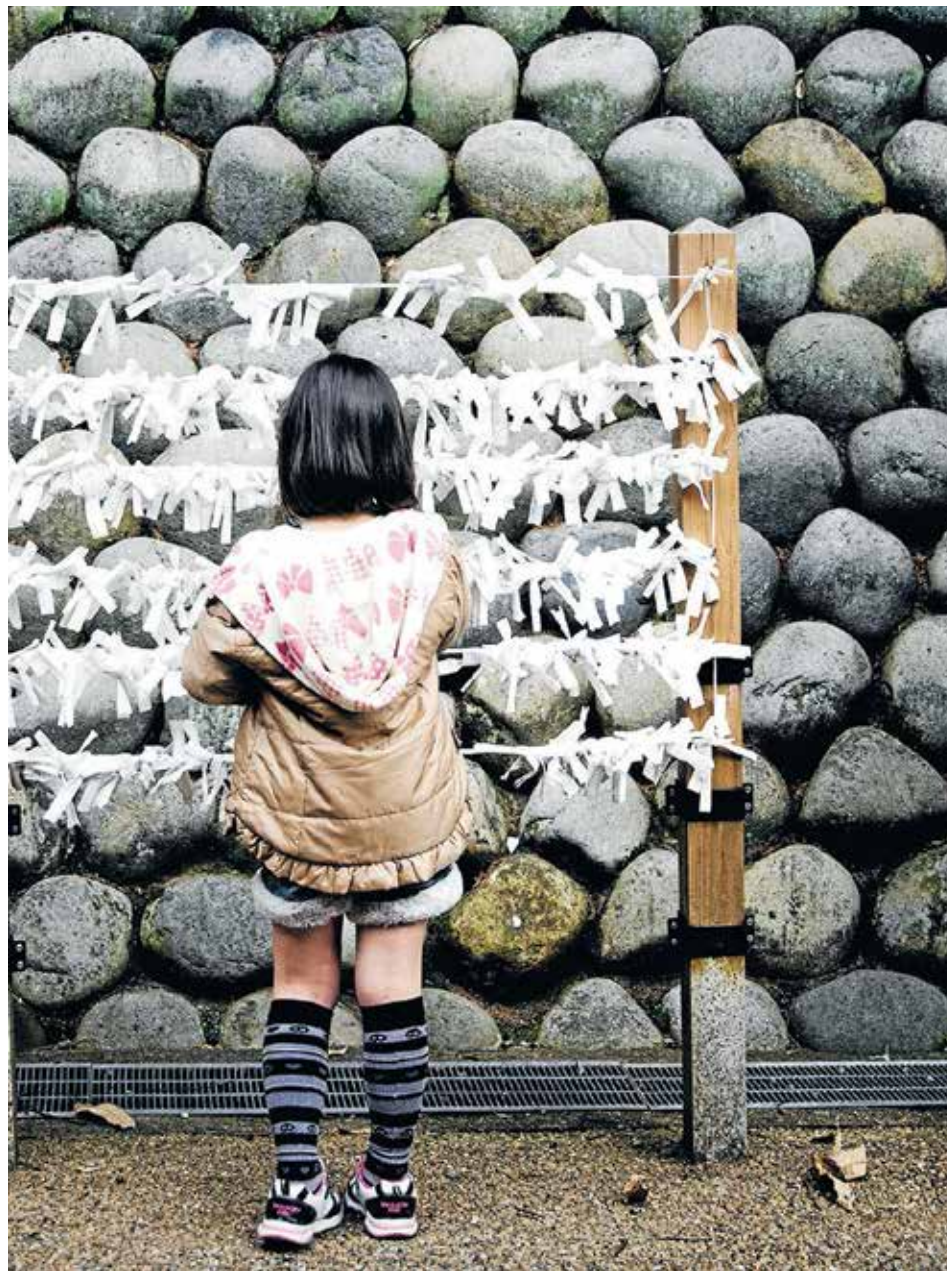
By Lina Le

A 12-day tour to Japan combining travel and photography this September, organised by the Photography Studies College (PSC) in Southbank, is open for registration.

Anyone who is passionate about Asian culture and photography, from photography students to enthusiasts can book the tour, which will depart for Japan on September 8 this year.

The tour takes participants to southern Honshu and Shikoku Islands - the centre of imperial Japan and one of Japan's least visited islands within the Kansai region with visit to cities of Osaka, Nara and Kyoto. An optional extension to visit Tokyo is also possible.

Combining ancient culture with exquisite natural landscapes and dazzling architecture, participants can expect to see cultivated gardens, vibrant markets, and sacred temples.



Speaking about the tour, renowned international photojournalist and tour leader Michael Coyne said: "It's not so much the Japanese style but it's the place. You're stepping into another culture into such places as the gardens in Kyoto and places like Hiroshima. Stepping into that zone requires respect while you're taking photographs."

"We'll go right across the inland sea from Hiroshima right up to the old imperial capital of Kyoto so you'll experience a good contradiction and variety of places."

Michael and Japan-based Australian

commercial photographer Steph Doran will be co-leading the tour. Michael is an expert in photojournalism and documentary and Steph lives in Japan and is fluent in Japanese. With their expertise, participants will receive both technical and cultural guidance throughout the tour.

A maximum of 14 participants can sign up for a package that includes accommodation, daily breakfasts, all domestic transports, airport transfers and much more.

The tour follows last year's success with a tour to Iran, which received tremendous feedback, according to Michael.



Photos: Steph Doran.

"It's not a workshop but it will give an insight into some photography. If you've got a passion for photography we encourage you to come along," he said.

For costs and more information visit www.psc.edu.au

DISCOVER JAPAN 2018 with Photography Studies College



Accompanying us and providing expert photographic support will be renowned international photojournalist Michael Coyne and Japan-based Australian photographer Steph Doran.

Tour departs Melbourne 8 September

12 Days and 11 Nights:
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Hiroshima-Kyoto

Photography team and tour information:

Mandarine Montgomery
Communications Coordinator
Phone +61 3 9682 3191
Email mmontgomery@psc.edu.au

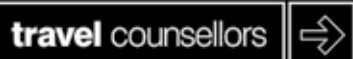
Information Evening
Thursday 15 March
at PSC 6.30-8.30pm

Plus
3 Days and 2 nights:
Optional Tokyo Extension

For travel details, register your interest or make a booking go to:

psc.edu.au/japan-2018

Discover Japan offers you the opportunity to engage with the Japanese people and discover the country's cultural diversity and physical beauty with your camera with a group of passionate photography students and enthusiasts. Whether you love to travel or you love photography, join us now to be part of this fusion of culture and photography in the fascinating country that is Japan.





LANY

March 24 - Elisabeth Murdoch Hall

Riding high on an unstoppable wave of recent success, LANY, LA's finest purveyors of intergenerational alternative music, return to Australia for three huge capital city shows in 2018. If last year's Splendour in the Grass is anything to go by, these will be the hottest tickets around.

www.melbournerecital.com.au



CONTEMPORARY CUSTODIANS

March 10 - NGV

Contemporary art presents logistical challenges for collection managers, conservators and installation teams. Explore the unique challenges galleries face in transporting, displaying and preserving contemporary artworks in a series of presentations and discussions.

www.ngv.vic.gov.au



PHOSPHERE

Runs until March 18 - Testing Grounds

Phosphene is a video installation exploring the link between passive forms of electronic visual display, and the active environments they are placed in. The project focuses on how screens present digital content that is fluid - able to be copied, deleted and shared - but viewed upon fixed forms of technology within physical spaces or environments.

www.testing-grounds.com.au



LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER

March 19 - ACCA

As part of *Unfinished Business: Perspectives on Art and Feminism*, ACCA presents *Learning From Each Other*, a special leadership and professional development seminar. The seminar aims to create a space for development and discussion among arts curators, administrators and students.

acca.melbourne

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

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

A PACIFISTS GUIDE TO THE WAR ON CANCER

March 7-18 - Merlyn Theatre

Bryony Kimmings wants to talk about cancer but she's not getting very far. Instead, she keeps hearing about battles, survivors, fun runs and new leases of life. What's everyone so scared of?

www.malthousetheatre.com.au

WEEKEND WORKSHOPS

Runs until March 23 - NGV Australia

Budding artists discover the NGV Collection and create their own works of art using a variety of media. Fully supervised for ages 5 to 9 years old.

www.ngv.vic.gov.au



JOSÉ GONZÁLEZ

April 2 & 3 - Elisabeth Murdoch Hall

Swedish singer-songwriter and modern day heartbreaker José González brings his indie folk style to Melbourne Recital Centre across two huge evenings.

www.melbournerecital.com.au

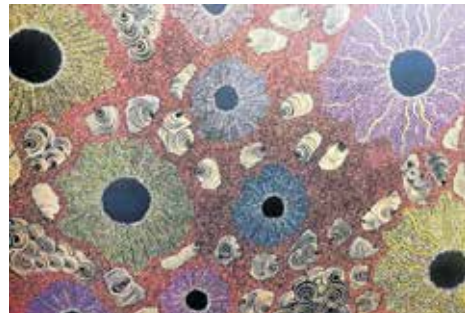


STEEN RASKOPOULOS

March 29 - April 22 - Playhouse Rehearsal Room

The Barry Award and Edinburgh Comedy Awards Best Newcomer nominee is back with a brand-new hour of never-before seen characters and spontaneity. This show is unlike anything Steen has ever done. As seen on *Top Coppers*, *Whose Line is it Anyway? Australia* and *Squinters*; don't miss the latest show from this gifted and masterful improviser.

www.artscentremelbourne.com.au



OAK VALLEY - MARALINGA LANDS

March 9 - 26 - Laurent Gallery, Montague

Oak Valley is the only community of Maralinga Tjarutja Aboriginal Council in South Australia. Home to an incredibly small population, it is located approximately 128 km from the original Maralinga township. This exhibition, hosted by Laurent Gallery on Thistlethwaite St in Montague, will showcase stunning art from this remote indigenous community.

www.laurentgallery.com



ONE SUITCASE: FOUR STORIES

April 6 -12- Arts Centre Melbourne

My Nonna told all her stories to us in the kitchen. *One Suitcase: Four Stories* invites audiences to be family for one night - to sit around the table together, to hear and share stories, just as I did when I was little. My kitchen is the setting for us to share some freshly prepared food and hear stories of a family, of immigration and love, not so different, perhaps, to your very own.

www.artscentremelbourne.com.au

COMING UP IN MARCH



REBETIKO FESTIVAL

Sat 10 Mar from 3pm

A music festival of exile, redemption and love that fuses the flavours of Greek rebetiko (blues), early jazz and music drawn from across Eastern Europe featuring a mix of international and local artists.



MEASHA BRUEGGERGOSMAN

Wed 21 Mar 7.30pm

Equally at home in opera, pop and jazz, Canadian soprano Measha Brueggergosman sings well-loved vocal masterpieces and spirited new works by Ravel, Montsalvatge, Bolcom, Poulenc and Mahler.



SEU JORGE - THE LIFE AQUATIC: A TRIBUTE TO DAVID BOWIE

Wed 28 & Thu 29 Mar 7.30pm

Reprising his unforgettable role as a David Bowie acoustic strummer in *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou*, see the Brazilian legend perform acoustic renditions of Bowie hits including 'Rebel Rebel', 'Life On Mars' and 'Changes'.



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*Transaction & delivery fees may apply



The new proposal for Shed 5 at North Wharf.

Council supports Shed 5 renewal

Riverlee's revised proposal to develop the heritage-listed Shed 5 area at North Wharf has been endorsed by the City of Melbourne.

Gone is the 14-storey office building which was granted a permit in 2013 and, in its place, is a 17-storey residential and hotel complex.

The proposed residential hotel component has been designed to target the 4 to 4.5 star hotel market with 231 rooms. A further 182 apartments are to be located on levels 8-17. The existing shed structure is to be refurbished and repurposed as a function hall fronting the wharf's edge.

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

Helipad removed

By Shane Scanlan

Flinders Wharf residents are delighted, but the industry is feeling vulnerable following the removal of the North Wharf helipad on January 31.

The residents had been strongly opposed to any lease renewal between Parks Victoria and the operator Microflite.

Local resident John Johnson told *Southbank Local News*: "Relocating the North Wharf Helipad is a relief to us residents and local businesses within the immediate area."

"This self-monitored helipad was only six metres from the footpath, 30 metres from a busy pedestrian bridge and closer than 60 metres from a residential high-rise building and shops."

But industry spokesperson Clem Newtown Brown decried the removal as a backward step for the state's economic activity. He said more than 10,000 tourists used the facility each year and regional tourism was the primary beneficiary.

"Melbourne is the only city in Australia where you can land a helicopter in the CBD. It is a significant advantage we have over other cities. After over 50 years of helicopters operating in the city we are at risk of losing our helipads, squeezed out by development," he said.



The North Wharf Helipad is removed on January 31.

As part of the deal between Shed 5 developer Riverlee (see our story on this page), it is obliged to restore the wharf, but couldn't do so until the helipad was removed.

Its wharf contractor Freyssinet Australia has now started the wharf's restoration.

But Parks Victoria is refusing to say whether the removal is temporary or permanent.

Parks Victoria executive director, Chris Hardman said: "In September last year, Parks Victoria issued a relocation notice to Microflite Pty Ltd advising of the need to relocate the North Wharf Helipad site in January 2018."



Right to left: Tim Bracher and Renee Kohncke with students Georgia Creighton and Ivor Atanassov.

YRBA welcomes tourism students

By Kathryn Lewis

The Yarra River Business Association (YRBA) met with international tourism students at South Wharf last month to teach them about the local tourism market.

Students of the Masters of Tourism (Destination Management) at Breda University in the Netherlands visited in February to look at tourism development projects and planning in the area.

The program that has been running for many years now is a way to spread the reputation of the Yarra precinct and Melbourne tourism across the globe.

LABOR HAS A PLAN TO FIX HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

1956

The average house price was x3 annual income.



2018

The average home now costs **x11** annual average income.



Only Labor has a plan to fix this problem. To learn more, go to www.alp.org.au/negativegearing

Labor



Southbanker

A surprise Southbanker

By Sean Car

It was by complete surprise that former World Vision Australia CEO Reverend Tim Costello AO found himself to be a Southbank resident.

He told *Southbank Local News* that it virtually happened by complete accident, as he and his wife Merridie were heading to the Melbourne Writers' Festival last year.

"We hadn't discussed buying or moving," he said. "My wife and I were driving in to the Melbourne Writers' Festival as I was interviewing an author and we parked just off Southbank Boulevard because I had to do Sky TV."

"I came out and my wife said 'I saw an auction board up and I wondered in come over!' I said 'what? We're going to the Writers' Festival!' and she said 'ohhh just have a look!' So I went and had a three-minute look and thought it was very nice."

"I said 'fine let's go to the Writers' Festival now' and she said 'well what if it goes for a good deal?' and I said 'we haven't spoken about it, we haven't looked, we've got no plans, this is madness!'"

In a hurry not to be late for his interview, it was at that point Tim departed for the Writers' Festival and left his wife at the auction on Southbank Boulevard. That wasn't before advising her "not to do anything silly!"

"So I'm in the middle of interviewing an author Arnold Zable who wrote a book called *The Fighter*," Tim said. "My phone's on silent and then up comes a text from my wife saying 'wow I've bought it! I think it's a good deal!'"

"In the middle of the festival I go WHAT?!" he laughed. "So yes, it was completely spontaneous!"

Despite his unexpected status as a Southbanker, we're proud to call him one! Having previously resided in Elsternwick, he said he and his wife had quickly taken to life in Southbank's low-rise green village.

"The change has been terrific," he said. "Our kids have all grown up, it's perfect for the ABC, Sky TV and SBS, I could open my window and do an ABC interview without leaving my bed!"

"I've taken to walking the tan, enjoying the gardens and my wife loves theatre. The quietness has amazed us we thought being



New Southbank resident Tim Costello.

near the centre of the city it would be noisy but it's not at all."

"It's a real community and village feel. People are relational because they're often sitting out using the pool or the gym and it functions like a renaissance European village, which really surprised me."

Tim Costello shouldn't require much of an introduction. While his career has included various roles as a lawyer, politician and religious leader, to his core, he is none other than a passionate humanitarian.

Having spent 12 years in the top job at one of the world's most recognised charitable organisations, World Vision Australia, his efforts in keeping global poverty on the national agenda has taken him to all corners of our planet.

Beyond that, he has long been one of Australia's most sought-after voices on social justice issues both at home and abroad such as gambling, urban poverty, homelessness, reconciliation and substance abuse.

A former mayor of St Kilda and Baptist Minister, Tim has been named Victorian

of Year (2004), an Officer of the Order of Australia (2005) and Victoria's Australian of the Year (2006).

While he stepped aside from his role as World Vision Australia's CEO in 2016, he has done anything but step away from his work. For the past two years he said he had been enjoying his new role as the organisation's Chief Advocate.

"I'm loving it. It's the fun part of the job rather than the slog," he said. "I love the work in the field. You see terrible poverty and the mystery is that you still see hope."

"At this stage of life being in my early 60s now I have to start thinking about slowing down. As my wife says to me the problem with you is that you won't burn out. You'll burn everyone around you out!"

"There is part of me that recognises that I do have to slow down and accept my age and start mentoring. The city and Southbank is a good place for coffee and conversation for mentoring for the next generation and I do enjoy that."

As World Vision continues its global

mission to respond to 65 million displaced people, conflict and poverty around the world, Tim continues to commit his energy to reversing such injustices.

He said one of his main goals in his new advocacy role was to encourage Australia's younger generations against "turning inwards", which he said started by forcing our politicians to put aid funding back on the national agenda.

"We need governments believing in our aid programs. We've gone backwards in Australia - our aid program is now at its lowest ever in our history," he said.

"70 cents in a hundred dollars of gross national interest. That's what we all promised for the world's poor. When we're at 22 cents we need to actually say that's not who we are."

"Is poverty natural or created? If it's created, we can 'uncreate' it - we can change it. We can challenge it. I have great hope that the next generation will reject this turning inwards."

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Southbank Residents Association

Finally a park, but a long time coming

It is with great enthusiasm that I am writing about the long-awaited and highly-anticipated Boyd Park at the Boyd Community Centre on City Rd.

The site was bought from the state government in 2007 for \$10.5 million and, not long after, the community received its community centre in the heritage-listed JH Boyd school building.

The centre has a library and a number of meeting rooms. At the time, it was envisaged that the 70s-era two-floor school building at the rear would be demolished to make way for a park and roughly a third of the remaining rear block would be sold to a residential developer to allow the City of Melbourne to recoup its cost for the provision of the community centre and park.

Also at the time, the 239-apartment, residential and commercial development was to incorporate affordable housing specifically designed for people with disabilities.

Despite the development being approved in 2012 by Matthew Guy, followed by a lot of fan-fare by the then lord mayor, Robert Doyle, and developer Ralph Mackie, CEO of the Mackie Group, the project never got off the ground – suffering from continual delays until eventually the agreement expired in 2016 and the City of Melbourne rescinded the contract.

From the onset, Southbank Residents

Association (SRA) had argued the entire block should be retained for the enjoyment of the community and not sold to a developer for yet another residential high-rise development.

The City of Melbourne has an open space policy of 20sqm per resident while Southbank is currently sitting at about 3.5sqm and decreasing at an alarming rate with every completed development. To the community it was a no-brainer that this space should be retained.

Despite the development being approved, SRA continued to pressure the council for our promised park but it never eventuated.

In 2016, upon learning the contract was rescinded, SRA saw an opportunity to fight once again for the entire site to be developed into green open space for our community.

Despite intense lobbying and garnering in excess of 1000 signatures on a **change.org** petition, once again we were unsuccessful and the council put the development back to tender.

Surprisingly, the council awarded the contract to the same failed developer, but now called Cairo Melbourne, even after SRA advising the council that we believed the developer's financiers were questionable, as highlighted by *The Australian* newspaper linking the failed business of the then Family First Senator Bob Day to the same financiers.

SRA was assured that the council had done its due-diligence and was given all the necessary sureties that finance was sound. As SRA expected, Cairo Melbourne failed to satisfy the project and as such last year the contract was rescinded once more and now the council is in the throws of sending the

contract back to market.

Of course, this only meant further delays to the highly anticipated park, so this time around the council is developing the park independently to the residential and commercial development – and about time too.

In the meantime, the land value has increased exponentially, with expectations of a \$15 million windfall to the council of which it has confirmed will be allocated to the Queen Victoria Market rejuvenation fund and not spent within Southbank. Another disappointment to the Southbank community.

SRA has been engaged in all aspects of bringing this park to fruition, particularly with the community consultation, which started in 2014 and most recently with the draft concept plan.

While the whole block has not been allocated for development to public open space, we are very pleased with the final concept plan.

We acknowledge the complexities the project team had with trying to balance the diverse needs and competing interests of our broad and diverse community. It would have been no easy task to achieve the outcome.

SRA truly believes this space will be a hit with the community and will go a long way to creating a feeling of being the community heart of Southbank. The completion of the City Rd west upgrade will add the finishing touches to this community space. While the park won't be everything to everyone, we feel the balance is about right. We trust the community will feel the same way about this park.

SRA would like to thank and acknowledge Steve Perumal and his team, with particular mention of Victoria Evans and Lewis Wright for their tireless efforts, innovation and attentive listening to the community.

A real effort was made to ensure the community was heard and kept abreast of the progress. It has been a real pleasure working with them on this project. Let's hope the park is as good as it looks on paper!

Commencement of the park proper will begin in early April. In the meantime, continue to enjoy the pop-up park and check out all the park's programmed activities on the Boyd website.

If you were not aware, SRA is a volunteer-driven association and relies on membership to ensure it has a voice. The more members we have, the louder our voice.

If you would like to join, please visit southbankresidents.org.au and sign up online. Alternatively, you may like to get involved and be part of the passionate team of residents who volunteer their time and skills. Any questions please email president@southbankresidents.org.au



Tony Penna

Tony Penna is the president of Southbank Residents' Association.

southbankresidents.com.au

Southbank
Residents Association

Federal Politics

Once again the Formula 1 Grand Prix season is almost upon us

Having now been held in Albert Park since 1996, and with the level of opposition to the event from plenty of people in the community, I'm surprised we're still debating its merit.

And once again, my office receives letters, emails and phone calls from all over the electorate with concerns regarding the grand prix event – the bulk of concerns relating to noise, particularly from the planes flying over and in regards to the physical pollution.

Each year the grand prix causes issues locally. I can't tell you how many times I've spoken to media on this topic, nor how many times I've written about this, spoken about it but nothing seems to occur for the betterment of everyone involved.

When I was first elected, I tried to give the grand prix a fair go. I even went once.

It was like attending a dentist convention.

The noise was similar and it was just as unpleasant. But since that initial curiosity I have made my opposition to the grand prix quite clear in statements to Parliament, to the media, and to past governments, both Labor and Liberal.

I believe that, for ethical, economic and political reasons, we should re-think how the grand prix runs this annual event.

I recall the protests of the early years when Jeff Kennett, former premier, then announced that the grand prix would take place around the lake of Albert Park. Plenty of people marched in the city, and at the lake and took up arms against what Kennett thought would be a good plan for the inner city and the state. The electorate hated it then, and still hate it now.

I understand and empathise with residents in relation to the noise levels and the effects of the pollution on our community. I have long opposed the grand prix and, like residents in Melbourne Ports, I voice concerns about the overall financial

impact the grand prix has on the state, with the costs of holding the event seemingly far outweighing any perceived benefit.

I have been told that local residents leave for the weekend that the grand prix is on to avoid the event's inconveniences. Unless you're a Formula 1 enthusiast, what's in it for us?

All of these issues are not even mentioning the out-dated use of "grid girls", a sexist and old fashioned practice at any sporting event, let alone the grand prix which attracts thousands who can view this "tradition".

I'm pleased to see that F1 decided this year to ban grid girls and work towards stopping objectifying and sexualising young women when their purpose on stage is only for that reason. But really, it still doesn't make this event suitable for our local area.

We all support Victoria's reputation as Australia's leading sporting state and hope that this continues, however major events need to be suitable for the area for they are being held in.

The state government has invested plenty

in Albert Park – over \$3.25 million for various upgrades at Albert Park, including upgrading the lake wall walk and the Albert Park Lake fitness trail. However the grand prix still seems to be a sticking point for plenty of people who, predictably, contact me on this issue every year.

On behalf of my constituents who do raise this issue with me and my office every year, I will continue to voice my concerns on this matter in any way I possibly can.

I want to keep listening to your thoughts on this issue. Let me know what you think if I haven't heard from you already. You can email me at Michael.Danby.MP@aph.gov.au



Michael Danby

Federal Member for Melbourne Ports

michael.danby.mp@aph.gov.au

St Johns Southgate

Dust to dust

One balmy March evening a few years ago, I found myself at a service station filling my car up with fuel.

It was a night like any other and I was on autopilot, just doing one of those mundane things that has to be done. But when I went into the store to pay for my petrol, things got a little weird.

The attendant looked at me funny. He was polite enough, but he kept staring at me in such a wide-eyed curious way that I thought I must have had the world's biggest booger hanging out of my nose or something.

What should have been an entirely uneventful interaction turned into something quite unnerving. But I paid what was due and then headed home. Once home, I put my bag and keys down and headed to the bathroom to wash up.

As soon as I looked in the mirror, I noticed it. A cross of black ash marked my forehead. How could I have forgotten? I'd just come from our Ash Wednesday service where, along with the congregation, I'd been marked with an ashen cross as the words, "remember that you are dust, and to dust you will return" were spoken to me. So much for remembering, I'd forgotten all about it!

But yes, Ash Wednesday, the first day of the 40-day season of Lent, is a time when ashes are imposed as a sign of mortality, and one's faith in spite of it.

Those who worship on Ash Wednesday are reminded that they will eventually find themselves six-feet-under, in an urn on the mantelpiece, or scattered in a favourite spot. But it's not morbid. It's a solemn and beautiful service.

It's perfectly healthy, spiritually speaking, to look death straight in the eye from time to time. The darkness of the ashes, smudged in the shape of that old instrument of death, can paradoxically open our eyes to the technicolour vividness of life.

The mortal destination of the cross wasn't the end for Jesus of Nazareth. There was the new beginning of Easter to come. So, in a sense, there's nothing to be ashamed of in carrying on with life, either on autopilot or with a spring in your step, on Ash Wednesday. Giving thought to your expiration date can help you appreciate the

time you have left.

There are times, though, when circumstances are such, that there doesn't seem to be any light penetrating the darkness. There are times when the new dawn of Easter seems too distant from the cross of Ash Wednesday and Good Friday for it to challenge the shadows. But it's at those times that the cross is at its most powerful.

On Ash Wednesday this year, the families of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida had to face the glaring truth of mortality, as 17 students were shot dead on campus. A mother was photographed that day, weeping outside the school, the ashen cross of Ash Wednesday marking her forehead.

She didn't need to be reminded of death, she was taken directly to the cross that day. But as a person of faith, she would have known that when we return to the dust, even if it's far too early and totally unfair, that new life can, and does, spring up.

Jesus' death, and the dust and ashes of our own, can always be seen in light of Easter. That's why Ash Wednesday is a beginning and why Good Friday's good.



Tom Hoffmann

Tom Hoffmann is the pastor at St Johns Southgate Church.

www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au



Montague Community Alliance

Hurrah! Our first 2018 forum is on

It's at 6.15pm on Tuesday, March 20 at the Golden Fleece Hotel, 120 Montague St, South Melbourne.

With the announcement in late February of short term freezes on further planning permits until new planning controls are formalised and the Ministerial Advisory Committee presenting their report to the State Planning Panel on March 1, Fishermans Bend and The Montague Precinct are in the news and our forum is very timely.

The Montague Community Alliance is genuinely encouraged by the Minister for Planning, Richard Wynne's announcement of the permit freezes and we look forward to hearing what controls will be included for building heights, density and the overall liveability of the Montague Precinct.

We have read with interest the Ministerial Advisory Committees (MAC) review and, for the most part, are supportive of its work. We as always, note the lack of direct description of the existing community. We are small but we are here and our voices deserve to be heard.

The Fishermans Bend individual precinct plans have not yet been released. And before they are released, there is an opportunity here for those in authority to engage directly with us, to ask us how it is to live and work here now. How are we incorporating the rapid pace of change? How do we intend to welcome our new neighbours and finally what we think the future might look like?

The Montague Community Alliance has been working hard for five years to ensure our voices are heard. We have been running events, getting information out there to the local community (and those living on the interface with Montague Precinct) to ensure that, even though we are capital city zoned, we have communication and information.

So, Minister Wynne, don't you think we might have something relevant and timely to contribute to the debate?

Sure we have been asked to attend meetings. But NOWHERE in the reports, that have been years in the researching, does it directly acknowledge we exist! This is not a brown field site ...

Well now I have got that off my chest, let me tell you who else we can talk with about the planning and future of the Montague Precinct - Martin Foley, State Labor Member for Albert Park and Minister for Housing, Disability, Ageing, Mental Health, Equality and Creative Industries. David Davis, Shadow Minister for Public Transport, Planning and Equality and Dr Samantha Ratnam, Member for Northern Metropolitan, Leader of The Victorian Greens, spokesperson for Planning, Housing, Gambling, Disability, Veterans, Agriculture and Regional Development.

Please come along and join us, we need to ask pertinent and relevant questions of our elected representatives to ensure we are part of the solution. There is a state election this year and what better time to start asking what we can expect from whom ever forms the next government.

As usual, the Golden Fleece has very kindly provided its great Montague pub and we look forward to catching up with you there.

See you on Tuesday, March 20 at 6.15pm at the Golden Fleece Hotel, Montague St, South Melbourne

It's one for your diaries!



Trisha Avery

Trisha Avery is the convener of the Montague Community Alliance.

trishavery@bpca.com.au



Easter

Palm Sunday March 25
9am, 11am Worship with communion

Maundy Thursday March 29
6:30pm Passover meal
7:30pm Worship with communion in the private garden at St Johns

Good Friday March 30
10am Worship with Bach cantata
Du wahrer Gott und Davids Sohn, BWV23
Also *Crucifixus* from Credo of the Mass in B Minor, BWV232
Christus factus est Anton Bruckner
Graz Kappellknaben visiting boys choir from Austria

Easter Sunday April 1
6:45am Worship at dawn
9am, 11am Worship with communion

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



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

We need to talk about building defects . . .

Inevitably, there are going to be mistakes made in constructing and finishing a 20-storey tower.

There are some fairly tricky building elements that contractors need to be very careful about in their methodology, otherwise some quite serious problems are going to manifest.

For instance, in order to prevent water ingress through a sliding door frame from a balcony into the interior of a unit, the waterproofing membrane and the screed that is applied to the slab must form a complete interlocking seal with the aluminum door frame. Any mistakes here, and water can travel through and under the door and into the unit.

Similarly, the sealing of penetrations such as PVC and copper pipes from sinks and taps need to be appropriately fire-sealed and fitted with a fire collar to prevent a fire from travelling between residential units on different floors of the building and if the fire collar is not fitted properly or at all then it's a huge safety risk and a breach of the Building

Code of Australia.

In Sydney, over two thirds of apartment buildings built since 1997 have reported serious building defects (defined as defects quantified in excess of \$500,000 to fix) according to a survey of 2000 buildings in research conducted by the University of New South Wales.

Here in Melbourne though, we have no such data and nobody seems willing to talk much about building defects in residential buildings.

In Sydney, it's quite the opposite. Legal proceedings are commonplace and the developer or builder are enforced to return to site to complete the job properly or pay for the works to be completed by other licensed tradespeople.

Now, the quality of contractors in Sydney is not too different to Melbourne. The same shortcuts are taken in both cities. On a construction site, time is money and, if some builders or developers can get away with cutting corners in order to save time, then that translates to a much cheaper build and much higher profits for the developer at the expense of the interests of subsequent owners who may eventually have to pay special levies to fix the building if and when

problems manifest.

The problem is so widespread in Sydney that builders and developers convinced the NSW State Government to stop owners' corporations (OCs) from filing legal claims against them. The resulting legislation now means that the developer puts up a 2 per cent bond and if any problems manifest within 15 months of the completion of the building then the bond can be called upon to fund repairs. Legal commentators have decried this reform, noting that defects within a building can sometimes take several years to become evident.

Here in Victoria, we have excellent legislation in this regard. A residential owners' corporation has six years from completion of the work to bring a claim against a builder for shoddy or defective building works.

In fact, the Victorian Government recently overhauled the Domestic Building Contracts Act to set up a new dispute resolution body to conciliate on these matters and to make orders in certain circumstances.

The issue here is about educating owners and committees about these powers. The developers and OC managers mislead owners and committees by talking about the

defect limitation period (DLP) of between 6 and 12 months.

However, this is not the case at all. What they are talking about is completely separate from the six-year warranty period owed by the builder to residential owners' corporation under legislation. The DLP refers to the building contract between the developer and the builder only, and has nothing to do with the OC.

Yes, the developer can request the builder to return and fix defective work within the DLP, but the point is that at any time in the first six years following completion, the OC can also request the same.

It is also worth pointing out that some specialised trades such as plumbing are required to carry an insurance policy, so if you are in a building with serious plumbing issues, the OC might be able to make a claim against the plumber and their insurer.



Tom Bacon

Tom Bacon is the principal lawyer of Strata Title Lawyers.
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We Live Here

Startling Airbnb listing statistics

New data on Airbnb listings for Melbourne has shown that between 2016 and 2018 there has been a 132 per cent increase in listings for metropolitan Melbourne and a whopping 186 per cent increase in listings within the City of Melbourne, see Table 1.

The figures were extracted and analysed especially for We Live Here by New York-based Australian Murray Cox, the creator of **InsideAirbnb.com** who is back in Australia on a short visit.

As many of you will know **InsideAirbnb.com** is the website that analyses Airbnb's publicly available data and makes it available for anyone to use.

Not surprisingly Mr Cox has been referred to as Airbnb's "public enemy number one", but for those of us around the world trying to get a handle on the ever-increasing problem it is gold and we are very grateful to him for providing us with this up-to-date information.

We Live Here's submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Short-stays (March 2017) included data for 2016 that was extracted from **InsideAirbnb.com**. A total of 56.6 per cent of all listings were for entire dwellings and 38.9 per cent of hosts were multi-listing.

These percentages from 2016 were applied to the data from 2018 in the above table (and there is nothing to suggest that anything has changed in the meantime). The results are shown in Table 2.

These results are shocking and fly in the face of Airbnb's own mantra that their business is only about "mums and dads" renting out a room in their own home!

These data of course don't include all

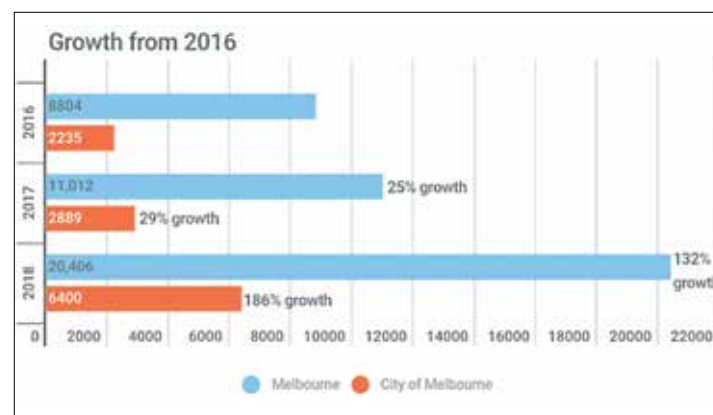


Table 1. Source: InsideAirbnb.com

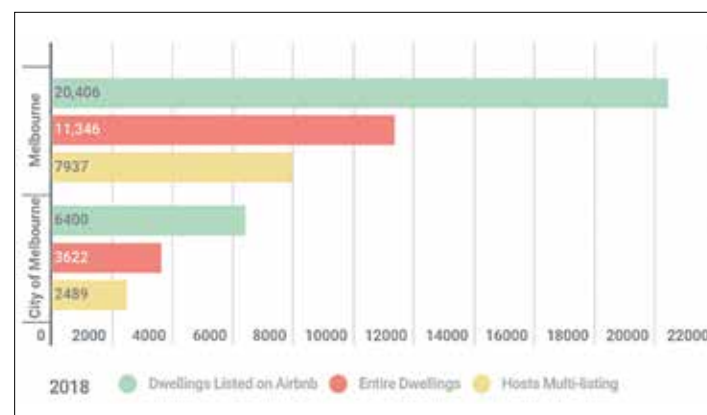


Table 2. Source: InsideAirbnb.com

the other on-line booking platforms or the short-stay operators who for years have been running commercial short-stay businesses in residential buildings not designed for them, and not paying their due taxes, etc.

It all adds up to an industry out of control that is rapidly turning Melbourne into a city of ghettos in the sky, with the pain now spreading to the fringes of Melbourne such as the Mornington Peninsula.

When will the government start to listen to us?

It is time for Planning and Consumer Affairs to get together to address this issue, as their counterparts in NSW are doing.

San Francisco is an example of how short-stays can be regulated in apartments.

Finally

Jane Garrett for Lord Mayor of Melbourne ... Tell her she's dreaming!

Jane Garrett, formerly Minister for Consumer Affairs, was responsible for introducing the Owners Corporation Amendment (Short-stay Accommodation) Bill, 2016 (the Bill) into Parliament in May 2016.

Evidence shows that the government colluded with AirBnB in producing this legislation.

Ms Garrett was photographed shaking hands with Airbnb's Sam McDonagh following the announcement of the Bill.

Airbnb's Brent Thomas announced on Melbourne radio that it had partnered with

the government on the Bill, declaring it was the "best legislation anywhere in the world".

We now wonder if Airbnb might be trying to infiltrate the council.

When interviewed about her plans to nominate for Lord Mayor, Ms Garrett said that it had been "raised by others" – could it be Airbnb using her to get a toe-hold into the City of Melbourne? The residents of Melbourne deserve better than a Lord Mayor who will destroy the fabric of living in strata communities.



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

Yarra River Business Association

There's so much to love about the Yarra

There's so much to love about the Yarra River Precinct and this year the reasons to love it got even stronger with the two new floating food and beverage offerings.

Arbory Afloat has hugely boosted the activity level on Northbank, while Supafish has extended Southbank's reputation for quality food and beverage onto the water itself.

All credit to the HQ Group and the people behind Ponyfish Island for sticking their necks out and digging deep into their wallets to create the pontoons. A major pat on the back also for Matthew Jackson and his team at Parks Victoria for accepting this association's challenge to make the river more activated.

When the vision and resources of the private sector come together with a more flexible approach to governance, you get creative outputs like Arbory Afloat, Supafish and who knows what else for next spring-autumn period?

They will stay around for another few weeks, especially so that they can be part of the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival's River Graze weekend on the Yarra (March 16-18).

Every year we have financially supported River Graze because it highlights the fantastic food offering of our precinct and it reinforces the precinct's food and beverage offering to hundreds of thousands of people.



In turn, this pays huge dividends for the precincts' businesses for the rest of the year.

Look out for the Association's Yarra River Melbourne branded information hubs and free festival tote bags during the weekend.

Physical and business security remains a focus of our organisation and a couple of events have helped to boost awareness. The Business Safety and Security workshop we held in the convention centre on February 28 was very well attended.

Several of the businesses which attended

will be followed up with one-on-one help from Victoria Police's Community Safety Unit.

The very gritty topic of terrorism will be the focus of the first 2018 Yarra River business luncheons on Friday, March 23.

We have secured a compelling speaker on the topic, who spent 28 years in active duty for Greater Manchester Police, during which time his connection with counter terrorism moved from attacks by the IRA to more recent threats from the Middle East.

Since then, David Crompton-Guard has advised Victorian government agencies on how to prepare for what he describes as "the inevitable". His experience tells him that Melbourne is still a long way from being prepared and resilient enough to quickly recover from such an event.

Don't miss this lunch, which is open to any business or resident. Look for the advertisement on page 6 of this newspaper for booking details.

Please remember that there is a very easy way to always keep up to date with what is happening in the Yarra River Precinct, including events and special offers.

Follow us on Facebook at /yarrarivermelbourne, on Instagram @yarrarivermelb or #yarrarivermelbourne.

Of course, there's also our "Whats On" guide at www.yarrariver.melbourne



John Forman

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



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History

Trams in Southbank

Southbank is fortunate to be served by several tram lines, running along St Kilda Rd, Sturt St, Kings Way and Clarendon St.

But it wasn't always like that. Melbourne had an extensive cable car network, dating from the 1890s, with lines along Clarendon St and St Kilda Rd, and a depot in City Rd (the facade remains in place). Lines to the south were immensely popular, serving the massive crowds attending football in the winter and the beach in summer.

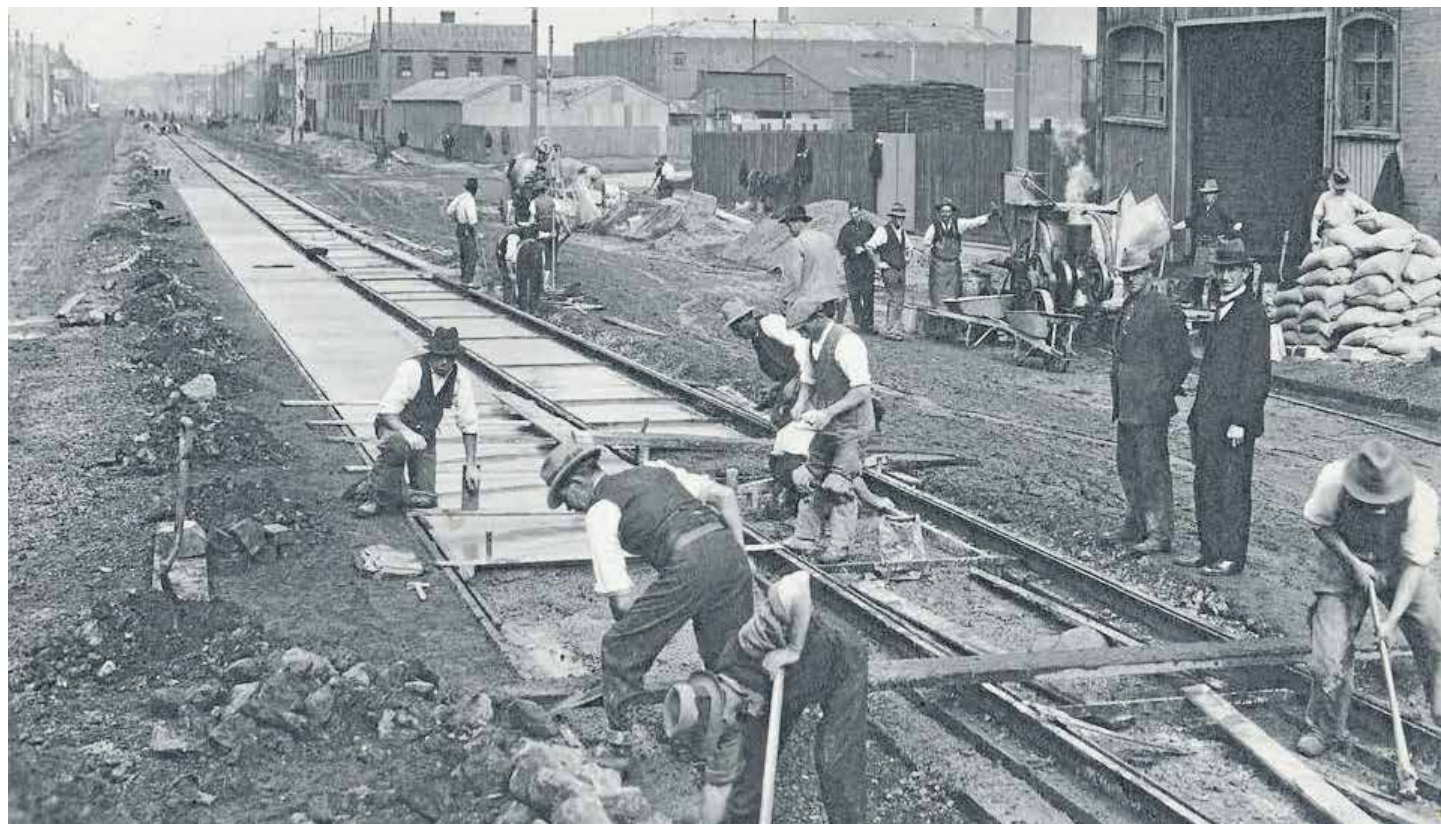
In the 1920s and 1930s the cable car network was progressively replaced by an electrified system, requiring the removal of underground cables, replacement with new tracks and above-ground electricity poles and lines to provide power. Opponents of the new system lamented its introduction on aesthetic grounds, but there was no doubt that passenger service was vastly improved by the electric service.

The area along Sturt St was growing in popularity and the local council began agitating in 1913 for a new line to serve residential and industrial premises. A new line was finally commissioned in 1924, requiring a large workforce to dig up Sturt St.

It was back-breaking work, largely carried out by hand as the concrete and woodblock foundations were laid for the trams, which linked to St Kilda Rd at one end and ran through to South Melbourne beach.

It was a red-letter day for the area when the line was opened in October 1925, with celebrations (and speeches) by the Minister for Public Works, mayor, councillors and Tramways Board officials. When the lady mayoress cut a ribbon, the new line was open for business.

But the trams finished operations in the



late evening and needed an overnight depot. The site chosen was a large (2.8 ha or 6.9 acres) site at the corner of Dorcas St and Hanna St, later Kings Way. From 1925 it was a sprawling, bustling and busy depot, where local kids could climb the fence and explore. In the turbulent world of union/management disputes that characterised the tramways service for many years, the South depot was a hotbed and often served

as the start point for industrial action by the militant Tramways Employees' Association.

Sudden walk-offs, strikes (sometimes authorised by the union, sometimes not), work to rules campaigns, refusal of rosters, and so-on were frequent. In the early 1930s, the Tramways Board even resorted to placing plainclothes police amongst the depot workers to gain information about proposed actions.

It closed in 1997 and was demolished in June 1998 and redeveloped as a gleaming corporate headquarters.



Robin Grow

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

Health & Wellbeing

The importance of gut health

The gut and the brain

A lot of clients come to me struggling with symptoms of anxiety and depression, wanting strategies to better cope with some of their daily struggles.

Many of these individuals might also be on medication and/or be leading stressful lives fuelled by plenty of coffee and meals on the go.

With some of these individuals, my conversation includes a discussion about their gut! Why? Because research is now well and truly pointing to the fact that your mental health is very linked to the health of the microbes in your gut.

In addition to the brain in your head, embedded in the wall of your gut is your enteric nervous system (ENS) which contains 500 million neurons and is thought to be largely responsible for your "gut instincts", responding to environmental threats and sending information to your brain that affects your well-being.

Lifestyle factors that affect gut health

Many people are well aware that taking

antibiotics or eating highly processed and artificial food has a negative impact on your gut health but did you also know that the use of over-the-counter products and medications, such as mouthwashes, aspirin and antacids can wreak havoc in your gut also? The same can be said for sanitation products such as antibacterial soaps.

In addition to this, a lack of exercise (and its association with things like obesity and diabetes) has been shown to result in a decrease in good microbial populations in your gut.

Diet also plays a key role in gut health, with diets high in saturated fat resulting in an increased number of pro-inflammatory gut microbes which can result in discomfort and even the intestinal disorder irritable bowel syndrome.

Another lifestyle factor, stress, has a major impact on our gut. Put simply, when you're experiencing elevated stress levels, your brain goes into flight-or-fight mode, which can impact the blood flow to your gut. This is why it's common to experience a lull in digestive and immune health in tandem with episodes of heightened stress.

Lastly, a lifestyle factor that certainly alters gut health is the disorganisation of your Circadian rhythm, occurring because of travel, shift work, having small children or insomnia.

Easy ways to improve gut health

Diet - Adding beneficial bacteria to your diet is essential for maintaining proper balance and achieving optimal physical and mental health and you can do this simply by introducing these into your diet:

Fermented foods - Healthy choices include fermented drinks such as kefir (buy this at passion foods in South Melbourne, the organic food stores at South Melbourne market or Broad Bean Organic Grocer in Southbank), various pickled fermentations such as Kimchi (buy this at any of the Asian food stores within South Melbourne market); and

Strategic supplementation - Natural anti-inflammatories like polyunsaturated fats (evening primrose oil and fish oil), turmeric, and probiotics to name a few, can help promote a good gut health (consult with your local pharmacist to see which

supplement might be right for you).

For more information, support or if you have any questions, comments or ideas for future columns feel free to contact me anytime.

Exercise - High intensity interval exercise has some great benefits for the gut. It gives the best bang for your buck in terms of cardiovascular and gut benefit. Try practising 30 minutes of high intensity exercise three times a week (either at home, in the park or at a fitness club like F45 in Southbank or free Zumba at Boyd Community Centre).

Meditation - The effects of stimulating the relaxation nervous system, even by listening to a 20-minute guided meditation, can be far-reaching. Jump on YouTube and do a guided meditation in the morning or evening.



Rajna Bogdanovic

Clinical psychologist

rajnab@hotmail.com

Pet's Corner



Happy Harry

Three-year-old bichon Harry is one happy local!

According to owner and local resident Evan Kim, nothing makes Harry much happier than his evening walks to Boyd. And it's fair to say there aren't too many locals more excited about a new park at Boyd than Harry!

Residing at the nearby Victoria Tower on Kavanagh St, Evan said Harry never missed a scheduled daily walk to Boyd, where he got to stretch his legs and meet other local dogs.

As a very cheerful local, Evan said Harry was well behaved ... sometimes!

Letters to the Editor

Skateboard heaven

Today construction workers opened up most of the Riverside Quay park (in front of Eureka tower).

We've taken a walk to the new park only to find that it has been occupied by skateboarders and actively used by dog owners as a toilet.

It's a heaven for skateboarders as there are no metal barriers installed on the concrete features, unlike near the Exxon building.

The tiny green patch of land has already been enjoyed by the local dogs with patches of fresh, picked-up poo throughout. Even when poo is picked up, the grass remains dirty and unsuitable for sitting down or child's play.

If these issues are not addressed, the park will be unusable by local families and employees of the neighbouring buildings.

Max

Park is being destroyed

The new Riverside Quay Park is being destroyed by skater boarders and BMX bikers.

In less than one month of opening, new plants, timber work and concrete borders are begin extensively damaged by skate boarders and BMX bikers who have little or no regard for public property. It is supposed to be there for long-term community use and enjoyment.

With increasingly regular occurrence,

groups of revellers meet to skate and ride here, leaving a trail of destruction and rubbish.

Urgent action is required to stop these selfish inconsiderate idiots from turning this area into a ghetto that no one else will or can enjoy.

Jeff Davies

Congrats to council

Cr Rohan Leppert and the Melbourne City Council should be congratulated on continuing to argue for a cap on poker machines in the CBD.

Melbourne's CBD is the only place in Victoria that has no limit. This policy belongs to a time when hardly anyone lived in the CBD. Now there are 44,000 residents. They are entitled to the same protection from gambling harm as everyone else.

Congratulations also to the council for asking poker machine venues to apply for a lesser number of poker machines than they currently operate. With some CBD venues taking over \$10 million each year, it's time to treat gambling like smoking and alcohol, and act to reduce the harm.

Kelvin Thompson



Send your letters to news@southbanklocalnews.com.au

SOUTHBANK SUDOKU

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

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

Last month's Sudoku solution

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

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

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Wicked waste wanted

With our recyclable material now not wanted by China, uncertainly is rippling through our vertical villages as to what lies ahead.

It has been much talked about that as from January 1, China imposed a ban on the import of low-grade and contaminated waste. There are, of course, other markets which could take our waste – Malaysia for instance.

But according to Rob Spence, CEO of the Municipal Association of Victoria, the pressing need is for us to develop our own market in the local recycling industry.

By now most of us are well acquainted with the “reduce, reuse, recycle” mantra. And slowly emerging is another term – “reward” (or ramification). The aim here is to design ways of encouraging “good” behaviour by providing value to those who participate, or to take away value from those who don’t “behave”.

This is the notion which has underpinned South Australia’s long running (since 1977) and successful container deposit scheme, which was adopted by NSW on 1 Dec 2017, with new schemes to start in Queensland and the ACT in 2018 and in 2019 in WA. These schemes focus on the “polluter pays” principle, meaning that the discarder of an empty container forfeits the right to the refund while someone else can benefit by returning it and receiving that refund. It also incorporates product stewardship legislation, meaning that industry is obliged to take greater responsibility for its packaging after it has been sold.

How might this principle apply to those living and managing vertical villages?

Our key challenge is that we have multiple layers: residents (or the apartment level), the building level and “the precinct”.

Starting with residents, we routinely do battle with two types of waste – organic and packaging. A previous SkyPad Living column mentioned the punitive actions being taken by other jurisdictions (such as San Francisco) where residents are charged and/or fined for their organic waste.

Locally, one discussion well underway



Zero Carbon Futures investigates scenarios for sustainable and resilient futures within the urban environment.

looks at turning our organic matter into fertiliser for use by the individual contributor and/or, to service the growing array of rooftop gardens and urban forests. There is also some consideration about the commercial sale of this material. The key here is a system, for example, a sealable container given to each new resident upon entry to the building, along with the provision of facilities and protocols to process the waste.

As for packaging, most especially soft plastic, the current trend is towards involving the place of purchase (e.g. the supermarket) in the solution. Years ago, this saw our European counterparts removing and leaving excess packaging in the aisles of offending stores, but of more recent times many supermarkets have recycling bins at their exits and in France, for instance, customers are encouraged to remove packaging from their purchases, before returning home. In Australia, there is the REDcycle initiative where people can deposit their soft waste into bins near major supermarkets, to be processed and recycled and ultimately, turned into furniture. Unfortunately there are no such bins in Docklands or Southbank.

As regards the building level, communal recycling is well established and the latest

eWaste Bins from City of Melbourne are a welcome addition. But while an efficient means of getting rid of waste, there is no additional value returned to the building. Perhaps this is where initiatives such as TRASHPRESSO – a semi-portable, solar-powered plant that transforms trash onsite – could be of use. Made by Miniwiz, it turns post-consumer waste into high-performance materials and does so on financially sustainable terms, referred to as the “circular economy”.

Finally, there is the less considered level of precinct rubbish, which becomes the problem of vertical villages when it blows onto our property. Included here is waste emanating from events hosted in precincts such as Docklands and Southbank as overloaded bins and high winds mean that this waste is “shared” with many neighbouring vertical villages, which then bear the cost of disposing of it. In fact, a related point was made at the recent “Green Innovators” session at the Sustainability Festival where a strongly-voiced message was delivered to the RMIT panel about the waste generated from their recent graduation ceremonies at Etihad Stadium. The irony was not lost on the audience that two of the green innovators had just

presented innovations designed to replace disposable food containers (Moducware and Cutlery Carriage).

However, credit where it is due, and encouragingly, RMIT is also actively supporting a cohort of students at ‘The Exchange at Knowledge Market’. This is a 12-month industry research partnership with Lendlease (June 2017 - June 2018) aimed at exploring models of community engagement in Victoria Harbour. As part of the Sustainability Festival, they are hosting Zero – an exhibition of RMIT student work envisioning a “zero carbon” future in Victoria Harbour, Docklands.

As regards waste, there are two projects of particular interest:

Habitat Interface: A behaviour-change system that aims to educate the four user groups of Victoria Harbour about how to reduce their waste (Daryl Wong, Shi-Yue Chang, Hao He, Jia-Da Jin, Beatriz Chamsay, Catherine Ward, Si-Yi He)

Pipecelium: An organic waste and food security strategy that goes beyond a community garden and looks at reducing the overall carbon footprint of Victoria Harbour (Chen-Rui Li, Yu-Hao-Ze Gan, Matthew Meaden, Yu Li, Li-Li Zhang, Zachary Jones)

If you are interested in knowing more, visit the EXCHANGE located in Shop 8-10, 892 Bourke St (near the Docklands Library).

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



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



Business

The power of light!

Roop Rani Southgate has just introduced an innovative new machine to its salon, which is capable of producing an amazing range of health and beauty services through the magic of LED light therapy!

The Quattro Lux is a state-of-the-art machine that uses LED lights to sooth and target skin cells to heighten their internal functions. An LED treatment will help with beauty needs such as acne breakouts, fine lines, wrinkles, post inflammatory scarring and rosacea.



Using a combination of both red and blue light technologies, the Quattro Lux can not only help with a range of skin conditions but can even whiten your teeth!

The red light of the LED lamp boosts collagen and elastin production and will

hydrate and plump the skin.

According to Roop Rani’s Rohini Ram, this process leaves skin with a lovely glow and skin tone.

“With studies evolving and more knowledge coming through, we feel that we owe certain integrity to our clients to offer the most effective and efficient benefits to their health,” she said.

Meanwhile, the magic of the machine’s blue light can also help locals get their teeth looking pearly! Used along with a teeth-whitening kit, the Quattro Lux can leave teeth up to 14 shades whiter.

The machine can also conduct super hair removal, with the technology proven to be more effective than traditional intense pulsed light laser technology.

While the Quattro Lux might sound a one-stop salon in its own right, it goes no way

in replacing the professional and specialist beauticians that make up the Roop Rani team!

The addition of the machine is just another reflection of the comprehensive services that Roop Rani continues to provide its customers and Rohini Ram said its doors were always open to locals of Southbank.

“We’d love to see you at Roop Rani to attend and consult to your individual needs and increase your health benefits with your personalised LED light therapy treatment!” she said.

Book in at Roop Rani to have a highly-qualified beauty therapist attend and consult to your individual needs and increase your health benefits with your personalised LED light therapy treatment.

For more information visit rooprani.com.au

Business

F45 exercise space expanded

Southbank's popular home of fitness F45 Training on Power St has had a busy summer upgrading its workout space.

In an effort to cater for an ever-growing membership base, the F45 team has expanded its studio floor space to allow more room for extra equipment and workout areas.

It has done so by demolishing its old office and repositioning its reception space to the front corner of the studio, which manager Andrew Gear would allow for more people to take part in its services.

"The space has changed quite a bit," he said. "We've knocked down the office and changed around the reception so we could add in extra people to our classes now."

"A majority of the renovations were done by a few friends and us. It's awesome to see everyone rally together especially around the holiday period and we're really happy with the result!"

In addition to its expanded studio space, the team are planning to build brand new change room facilities, and bathrooms which will help cater for the growing numbers.

Since opening in Southbank in April 2016, the fitness studio continues to go from strength to strength. While many Southbank residents have access to their own apartment gyms, locals have lapped up the popular



F45 model as a fun and professional way of approaching fitness.

"We're getting five new members a week and that's mainly through word of mouth," Andrew said. "We have qualified personal

trainers on the floor ready to go to show you how it's done properly."

"We really believe in our product that we deliver here and are proud of the systems and quality of service that we provide our



clients here in Southbank."

F45 Training Southbank is located at 30A Power St and for more information or to become a member, more information can be found at f45training.com.au/southbank/#Tue

Business

A passion for people and service

Jumping on this new adventure 18 months ago, Manny and Alki Gerassimou knew it would be vastly different from anything they've ever done before.

They were ready for the challenge and, interestingly enough, they found along the way that some things don't change, no matter what the industry!

Manny, a trained engineer, has worked in many industries ranging from the building industry to IT and then to hospitality! In every position, no matter what the industry, providing top-notch customer service has been non-negotiable.

"However big or small a customer may be and whichever industry they may come from, if you treat them with genuine respect and provide them with the best solution possible, you'll have them forever," he said.

This value is what he applies daily as business owner of Kwikkopy St Kilda Rd and Fitzroy.

Printing may be thought of as a "dead" industry today. Online marketing and communications is now the norm and has really changed the playing field. However, Manny is a firm believer that print and



Manny and Alki Gerassimou from Kwikkopy St Kilda Rd.

online can and should, co-exist. When they do, the message is much more impactful and effective. Integrating the two worlds has proven to create a more memorable

experience for customers as people still love to see and touch.

The examples are many. Handing over your business card when introducing

yourself is still one of the most effective ways for someone to remember you and what your product or service is. The way the card looks and feels can vary from finish to colour, size and even shape.

Stationery printing, i.e. letterheads, "with comps" slips, notepads, envelopes and folders are part of Kwikkopy's day-to-day offering for many of its corporate customers.

Large format printing such as posters, window signage and banners is highly sought after by many retailers and Kwikkopy's capabilities in this area have secured their customers' loyalty.

Working with restaurants, bars and cafes in the printing of menus, promotional postcards and sourcing of specialty paper, is an additional area that Manny has enjoyed as it takes him back to his fun hospitality days.

"I love the diversity of Southbank and the Arts Precinct. You see business people lunching, tourists admiring the sites, groups heading to an exhibition at the Arts Centre or a play at the MTC. People are what make a business and I love working with them to help their brand shine. And that is our motto at Kwikkopy:

"WE MAKE YOUR BUSINESS UNFORGETTABLE."

To discuss your printing and design needs with the Kwikkopy St Kilda Rd team call **9820 1188** or email print@stkr.kwikkopy.com.au

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 or call Dianne 0425 140 981



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www.chunkymove.com



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



SUMMER @ BOYD PARK
BOYD POP UP PARK
A range of activities are planned for Boyd's temporary pop up park right through until April including:

- Creative workshops
- Skateboarding sessions
- Junior ranger program and nature play day for kids
- Drumming workshops
- Splash yoga, family fitness and more!

For more information on all events taking place visit: www.eventbrite.com.au/o/boyd-community-hub-7699778785



MARCH 16 - 18 @ SOUTHBANK
RIVER GRAZE
The opening weekend of the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival is never something to miss! For the full program visit: melbournefoodandwine.com.au/program/river-graze-opening-weekend



FRIDAYS 7.45AM - 9AM @ BOYD

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www.artscentremelbourne.com.au

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



MARCH 9 - 12
MOOMBA FESTIVAL
Now in its 64th year, Moomba will turn the banks of the Yarra River into an all-ages playground with music, entertainment, food and cultural diversity.
moomba.melbourne.vic.gov.au



THURSDAY MARCH 29
ART SOIREEES
Held on the last Thursday of every month at Laurent Gallery in Montague, open to all lovers of art and community! For enquiries phone Jonathon on 0481055558
laurentgallery.com

TUESDAYS
SOUTHBANK ROTARY
Rotary Club of Southbank meets weekly for dinner on most Tuesday evenings throughout the year at Federation Square. Visitors are always welcome.
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

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

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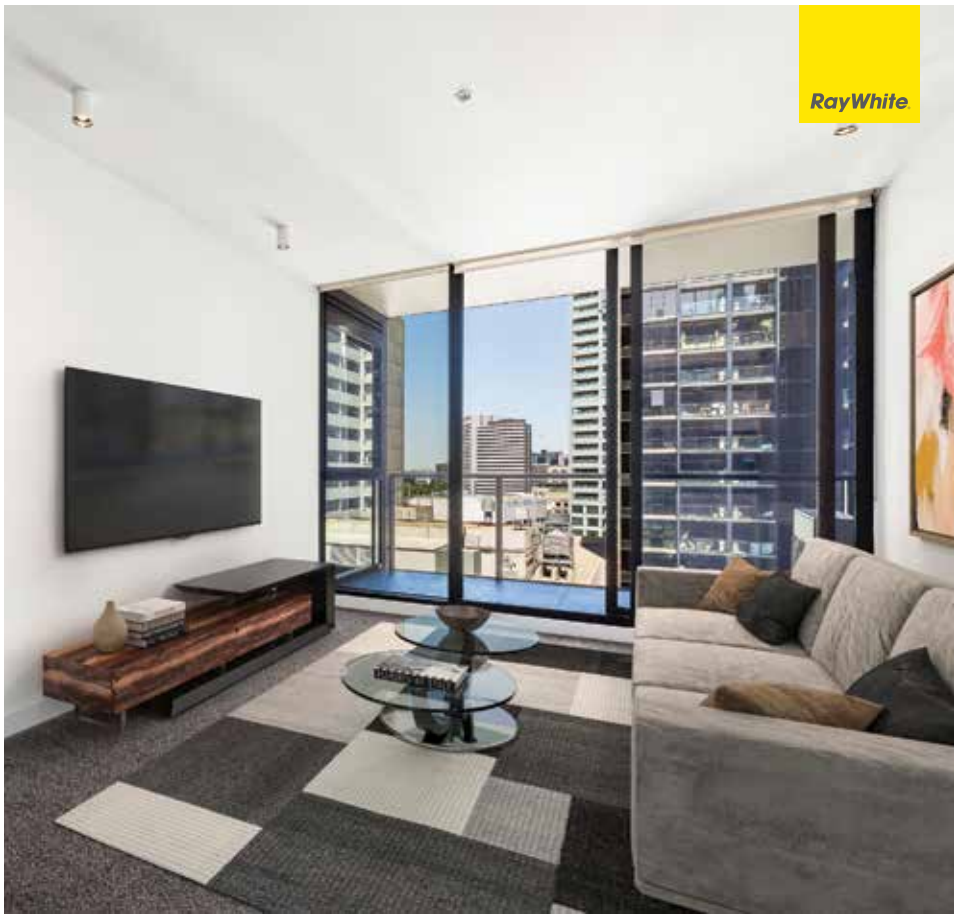
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RayWhite

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- Sizeable and open living
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