

The voice of Southbank, South Wharf & Montague

SOUTHBANK Local NEWS

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Locals rally for Louise

While the news of a new park at Boyd is welcome news to Southbank, it has come at a cost for one of our most loved locals, artist Louise Baker.

The 88-year-old has been renting space at Boyd School Studios through the City of Melbourne's Creative Spaces program for the past seven years.

With the former classroom block to be demolished in July to make way for the new park, a local effort has started to help Louise find a new space in the area to finish her art project, which explores the life and death of the tomato and its relationship to humanity.

Read more on page 9.



Local artist Louise Baker outside the former Boyd School Studios, which will soon be demolished to make way for a new park.

Community waits on Crown "benefits"

By Sean Car

The local community could be waiting a very long time for the "public benefits package" it was promised by Crown as part of its plans to construct Australia's tallest tower at 1 Queensbridge St, Southbank.

Given the green light in March 2017 by the state government as a project of "state significance", the inclusion of a \$100 million public benefits package was the major factor that got the project over the line.

In exchange for the construction of its 90-storey residential and hotel tower, Crown and project partner Schiavello offered to fund long-awaited upgrades to Sandridge Bridge, Queensbridge Square and Southbank Promenade.

In its half-year statement released on February 22, Crown Resorts stated that its \$1 billion joint venture with Schiavello remained the subject of "financing and long-form agreements".

This was followed by a City of Melbourne report released on February 27, which noted that funding forecast in its 2017-18 council works program for Southbank Promenade had been withdrawn due to a delay in Crown's project.

Billionaire James Packer has resigned as director of Crown Resorts for "personal reasons", according to a statement released by Crown on March 21. He is understood to be suffering mental health issues.

Given exemption from the normal planning process by the state government under planning scheme amendment C310, Crown is now in a race against the clock to start construction and make good on its "public benefits".

Conditions in the amendment state that the developer must commence construction within two years from the date of the project's gazettal, which was March 2, 2017. It also states that the development must be completed within five years from the date construction starts.

Former City of Melbourne councillor and Crown Resorts shareholder Stephen Mayne

Continued on page 3.

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Locals lose hope on Sturt St

By Sean Car

Following a meeting with Member for Albert Park Martin Foley last month, members of the Save Dodds Street group say they aren't holding out hope that high-rise towers will be curbed in the Arts Precinct.

Organised by the group's convener Julie Cowley, Mr Foley met with locals at the Malthouse Theatre on March 9 to discuss high-rise development in the precinct.

The meeting followed his government's announcement last month that it was introducing new planning controls, which force developers with live applications on Sturt St to include arts and cultural uses as part of its first four floors.

While the controls are a step in the right direction as far as locals are concerned, many at the meeting expressed their frustration with Mr Foley over his government's lack of commitment to protect the area from high-rise towers.

Minister for Planning Richard Wynne had an opportunity to reintroduce mandatory height controls along Sturt St as part of planning scheme amendment C270 in 2016, but failed to do so.

When asked by group members as to why Richard Wynne hadn't adequately protected the special character area, Mr Foley said he would follow up with the Department of Planning to find out why.



Martin Foley meets with locals last month.

On April 10, Mr Foley forwarded a response from the department to *Southbank Local News*, which included some of the following statements:

"As part of C270, design and development overlay controls in the Southbank Special Character Area that were discretionary, remained discretionary, although some additional mandatory overshadowing controls were introduced."

"Mandatory controls may be appropriate for areas of high heritage value, strong and consistent character themes or sensitive environmental locations such as along the coast."

While the department referred to the

Southbank Structure Plan's vision for providing vibrant streetscapes in the Arts Precinct, it gave no clear reason as to why mandatory height controls weren't reintroduced in the area.

If anything, it only gave further reason, with regards to "high-heritage value" and "strong and consistent character themes", as to why the Arts Precinct should be protected.

Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) president Tony Penna said residents were no clearer as to why the government chose not to protect the area through C270.

Despite the frustration, Mr Foley told group members at the March 9 meeting that he was committed to doing everything in his power to limit inappropriate development in the Arts Precinct.

Such developments opposed by residents include Hayball's already approved 17-storey tower at 135 Sturt St, as well as Rothelowman's 19-storey proposal for 153 Sturt St. Both Hayball and Rothelowman were contacted to comment on the government's new creative planning controls. Neither responded to *Southbank Local News*.

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Community waits on Crown

From page 1

said: "I very much doubt construction of the Queensbridge Square project will proceed before the March 2019 deadline given James Packer's health issues, plus his clear desire to reduce his personal debts and the debts within Crown Resorts."

"The Victorian Government would probably prefer nothing to happen before the November state election given the anger in the state seat of Albert Park, centred around Freshwater Place, about the fast-track planning approval for what will be the tallest tower in the southern hemisphere."

"If construction were to commence this year, it would be very difficult for Martin Foley to retain Albert Park."

Owners' Corporation (OC) chair at neighbouring Freshwater Place Peter Renner said the delay made a "complete mockery" of the government's decision to approve the application without normal planning scrutiny.

While having slammed his colleagues for approving an "unmitigated disaster", Member for Albert Park Martin Foley didn't respond to recent attempts by *Southbank Local News* to provide comment.

With his government having spruiked the project's benefits to the state of Victoria following last year's approval, Minister Wynne was similarly silent when recently asked about the project's viability.

"The government gave the green light for this project because it will create 4000 jobs, build on our nation's reputation as a leader for tourism, boost the economy and provide significant public benefits to the state," Mr Wynne said. "Construction of the project is a matter for the proponent."

Despite doubts cast over the timing and delivery of its project, a Crown spokesperson said Crown remained very supportive of the project, but wouldn't comment on whether it would be able to meet its construction deadline.

"Crown remains very supportive of the



A render of a revitalised Queensbridge Square to be delivered as part of Crown and Schiavello's public benefits package.

project. The funding of the public benefits have always been tied to the project starting actual construction," the spokesperson said.

"The start of the project is related to Crown finalising the project financing and various shareholder agreements as disclosed in our half year results."

Should the developers fail to meet its obligations, amendment C310 states that the land may be used and developed only in accordance with normal planning rules in place at the time of the original approval.

With further delays looking increasingly likely, lord mayoral candidate Cr Rohan Leppert said that much-needed public works in Southbank, which council had flagged for many years, appeared no closer to being delivered.

"It is clear that no so-called public benefits from the approved Crown tower will reach Southbank any time soon," he said.

"This tower broke every planning rule in the book. It will dominate the Melbourne skyline as a monument to private profit over the public interest."

The government's decision last year to

provide Crown and Schiavello with planning approval for its 323-metre mega-tower, which will consist a 388 room six-star hotel and around 700 apartments, was met with widespread opposition.

With less than a year to go until approval lapses, Mr Mayne said it may be time for the council to start developing contingency plans for delivering some of the announced public realm improvements itself.

A council spokesperson wouldn't provide comment on contingencies or Crown's delay, saying all works remained linked to Crown's planned development.

Council's chair of planning Cr Nicholas Reece said: "Southbank Promenade is one of Melbourne's most used walking routes and a terrific drawcard for tourists and locals alike."

"We will be keeping a close eye on the timelines for the Crown development and will continue to push for improvements to the public realm."

"It would be unacceptable for the city that such a well loved area like Southbank Promenade remain unimproved for an extended period of time."



Sean Car and Shane Scanlan.

Changing of the guard

Editor Sean Car has bought into Southbank Local News and will become sole director in July 2019.

Mr Car, 26, and Shane Scanlan have formed a new company, Hyperlocal News Pty Ltd, to publish *Southbank Local News* and sister publications *Docklands News* and *CBD News*.

60-year-old Mr Scanlan acquired *Docklands News* from the state government in 2007. On the strength of success in Docklands, he established *Southbank Local News* in 2011 and, in 2014 he started *CBD News*. Mr Car has edited *Southbank Local News* since 2014.

Mr Scanlan said: "Sean has excelled in all aspects of the business and has taken the paper to new levels of quality and commercial success. I have no doubt that *Southbank Local News* will remain in the best possible hands in the future."

Mr Scanlan said he hoped to maintain a strong involvement in the papers beyond July 1, 2019, when he intends to resign as a director.

"I've got plenty left to give but am happy to hand over responsibility to a younger person," he said. "The publications will thrive under the direction of a new generation."

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Forum produces fireworks

The first Montague Community Forum of 2018 last month produced a fiery display as politicians from the three major parties shared their visions for the future of the Montague Precinct.

Some 40 locals gathered at the Golden Fleece Hotel on Tuesday, March 20 to meet with Member for Albert Park Martin Foley, Liberal shadow minister for planning David Davis and leader of the Victorian Greens Samantha Ratnam.

Led by the Montague Community Alliance (MCA) and sponsored by *Southbank Local News*, the forum began with respectful and positive addresses by all three panelists.

Martin Foley flagged a new secondary school in Fishermans Bend as the next “big and immediate thing”, following the recent completion of the new primary school in Ferrars St, Southbank.

He used the forum as the first public platform to invite the community to start working towards a secondary school, one of six recommended in the State Government’s recast vision for Fishermans Bend.

Samantha Ratnam spoke confidently of her party’s intentions to “honour the work done” by the community and the current government and “accelerate it.” The Greens are still yet to announce a candidate for Albert Park.

As development in Fishermans Bend continues, Ms Ratnam pleased many in the audience when she also stated her desire



Left to right: Martin Foley, David Davis and Samantha Ratnam make up the panel.

to restore third party appeal rights and reinstating councils as the sole planning authorities.

While providing a positive opening address about the Liberal Party’s vision for Fishermans Bend, David Davis quickly became the subject of controversy as the forum transitioned to question and answer.

Mr Davis has inherited a position in his party formerly occupied by opposition leader Matthew Guy. During his time as planning minister, Mr Guy controversially rezoned Fishermans Bend as capital city zone, causing land prices to skyrocket and presenting planners with many challenges.

Since being elected in 2014, the Labor government has largely put the brakes on development in Fishermans Bend, engaging

the community and experts to rethink the approach to planning for urban renewal project. While the government has released its recast Fishermans Bend framework and put a freeze on all live development applications, the project has lost a lot of momentum.

These were facts not lost on the community, as locals lined up to ask Mr Davis whether his government would honour the work done by the community should his party win the election in November.

Because of his reluctance to questions, Mr Davis was met with a fiery response from the crowd as he steered the discussion onto Labor’s approval of Crown’s mega-tower at Southbank.

“Labor approved the tallest tower in

Australia with no consultation,” he said. “You’d be naive to think that this current government will do what you want.”

Mr Davis continued to cop heat from the audience including former City of Port Phillip councillor Anita Horvath, who he referred to at one point as “one-eyed”.

While he gave no clear indication as to his intentions for Montague and Fishermans Bend, he said he would be making some “sharp statements” ahead of the election.

In an effort to calm the meeting, MCA convener and forum moderator Trisha Avery called for respectful debate but told Mr Davis that locals “had been burned” by his government and had the right to express their anger.

A former Moreland City councillor, Ms Ratnam spoke of her desire to empower local council with more planning power and see mandatory rather than discretionary controls for the whole precinct.

Martin Foley expressed the possibility of a future “one stop shop” for governance arrangements that would give councils and the community alike a seat at the table.

The next Montague Community Forum is expected to be held mid-year. Look out for the details in the *Southbank Local News*.

Authorised by Ken Ong OAM, Level 10, 278 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000.

KEN ONG



FOR LORD MAYOR, MELBOURNE

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- ✓ Introduction of Notice Rights for all developments in the Capital City Zones (CCZ) including Southbank, CBD, Docklands and City North.
- ✓ Finalisation of Boyd Park Development Plan and commencement of works during this term.
- ✓ Completion of Southbank Boulevard Open Space development.
- ✓ Start a review of Southbank Structure Plan and to be completed by 2020.

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Woolworths announced

By Kathryn Lewis

In answer to the rising population's need for local amenities, residents can finally welcome the suburbs first full-line supermarket as part of the Melbourne Square project on Kavanagh St.

Melbourne Square developer OSK Property announced that supermarket giant Woolworths would be occupying the new supermarket space as part of its six-tower mixed-use urban precinct.

Scheduled to open in 2020, the new Woolworths supermarket will span 3,800 sqm over two levels in Melbourne Square, a former car park that will be transformed into an incredible inner-city community precinct.

The population of Southbank is forecast to rise by 174 per cent by 2036 and exceed 50,000 residents, which will place considerable pressure on existing services in the area.

Executive chairman of OSK Property Tan Sri Ong Leong Huat said all developments had to be able to accommodate the expanding population.

"It is essential that the community is able to access basic everyday amenity," he said.

The news is cause for celebration for locals in a suburb devoid of large-scale supermarkets. While the area possesses many small supermarkets, residents are often forced to South Melbourne and the CBD for larger shopping needs.



A render of Southbank's future Woolworths supermarket and (below) stakeholders turn the sod on Melbourne Square.

"From fresh fruit and vegetables to a large range of grocery items at great prices, those living in the area will be able to pick up all their shopping essentials, without needing to travel too far," Woolworths' state property manager Brad Karge said.

The supermarket is expected to open in 2020, alongside 6,000 sqm of retail space dedicated to shopping, dining and café facilities.

The announcement of a new supermarket was celebrated on March 22 as part of a sod turning ceremony, which marked the official start to construction of the iconic Melbourne Square project.

Melbourne Square is one of the city's largest mixed-use projects, with six towers consisting of four luxury apartment

buildings, a commercial tower and a hotel. It will also include several community amenities including a large 3700 sqm public park, childcare centre, cafes, restaurants and retail.



Meet the candidates

The Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) will host a Meet The Candidates event at the Boyd Community Hub on Thursday, April 26, ahead of the Lord Mayoral elections on May 11.

Former City of Melbourne councillor Stephen Mayne has been confirmed as moderator for the event, which take place in the Assembly Hall from 6pm.

Contenders Sally Capp, Ken Ong, Gary Morgan, Sally Warharft and Rohan Leppert are just some of the candidates attending on the night.

SRA president Tony Penna said: "This event is a rare opportunity for the community to engage with the prospective candidates and ask the hard-hitting questions that are important to them for the leadership of our council for the next 18 months."

"There is a diverse field of candidates with no single candidate having an edge. It will be a tight contest."

For more information contact SRA president Tony Penna president@southbankresidents.org

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What can a lord mayor do?

By Shane Scanlan

Being elected Melbourne's Lord Mayor doesn't necessarily mean the winner will have any capacity to change anything or get anything done.

The winning candidate will still need to command or negotiate support of five other councillors on every issue that comes before the council. And there is a wide gap in capacity to achieve this between the current and emerging crop of potential candidates.

At the top end of the scale is Sally Capp, who could well be described as the status quo candidate. She appears most aligned with the remnant majority "Team Doyle" councillors. But it's hard to see the "team" concept holding in a post-Doyle council.

It has been suggested that there is an association between Jennifer Yang and Cr Kevin Louey.

Should Greens councillor Rohan Leppert be elected, he would have two other Greens for support (as Apsara Sabaratnam would become a councillor), but would have to negotiate issue by issue for the support of at least another three councillors.

This is not necessarily a bad thing. The council needs to return to representative democracy, having most recently performed as a rubber stamp for the Doyle agenda.

Perennial candidate Gary Morgan is aligned only with Cr Jackie Watts and Ken Ong would

be closing supported by Cr Philip Le Liu.

From the list of nominees, it is difficult to see any other candidates with links to existing councillors.

Incumbent or former councillors enjoy the advantage of knowing what they are in for and how the system works (or doesn't work).

Voters should be wary of candidates offering change. The best that candidates can offer are their ideals, aspirations and principles.

But having the support of fellow councillors is, perhaps, the easy part. As we have seen with the demise of Robert Doyle, it is the unelected officers who run the show.

Councillors were sidelined by CEO Ben Rimmer for the entire three-month "Freckleton" process. Just like others, they were getting their news from the daily press - with this news cycle being highly influenced by Mr Rimmer's team of media minders.

Following Tessa Sullivan's resignation on December 15, council media manager Mandy Frostick visited the home of the former councillor to offer media advice.

Councillors still know only as little as the general public in this matter.

Over his three terms, Mr Doyle elevated the lord mayoralty beyond what was envisaged for a popularly-elected lord mayor. By bringing with him a team of five, Mr Doyle morphed the lord mayoralty into a presidential-type position and cemented his influence with strong support from conservative print and radio media interests.

So Melbourne's new lord mayor will be starting from a position well below that enjoyed by the previous incumbent.

Officer support is crucial. If not forthcoming, a new lord mayor's alternative would be to find another chief executive. Mr Rimmer's four-year contract expires on February 8.

Candidates

When nominations closed on April 10, 14 candidates were listed on the Victorian Electoral Commission's website:

Michael Burge; Luke Downing; Sally Capp; Rohan Leppert; Alex MacDonald; Gary Morgan; Ken Ong; Nathalie O'sughrue; Bruce Poon; Katie Sfetkidis; Sally Warhaft; Allan Watson; Qun Xie; and Jennifer Yang.



Local candidate

Local single-mum Nathalie O'sughrue has thrown her hat into the ring to become Melbourne's next lord mayor.

Ms O'sughrue said she was unaligned to any political party and was motivated to contest the by-election because she wasn't happy with the status quo.

"I am merely a resident who decided that if I wasn't happy with something I should do what I can to change it," she said.

"A good lord mayor understands the people and their community. They listen to all sides of the equation and form their own opinion before deciding for the greater good. They are confident within themselves and know what they stand for," the Southbanker said.

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CEO buries Freckelton investigation

By Shane Scanlan

The full extent of allegations against former lord mayor Robert Doyle will probably never be known as council CEO Ben Rimmer tries to kill off the \$1 million investigation he started last December.

Having achieved Mr Doyle's resignation in February, it comes as no surprise that the leader of Victoria's most secretive council is now hell bent on preserving what's left of its reputation.

Mr Rimmer on March 13 released to councillors and the public a mere 805 words from a 100-page, so called "First Report" from investigator Ian Freckelton QC.

His strategic timing, stage management and content of a 4pm special council meeting and its resulting human drama and pathos conspired to divert attention away from his intention to kill off the investigation process.

It was "lights, camera, action" in the council chamber just in time to catch the nightly news bulletins. The apologies, the tears, the hugs and the promise by councillors to make the City of Melbourne a better place was the story of the day.

And, considering that councillors were given just a few hours and the press about an hour before the meeting to digest his 3345-word, carefully crafted report, it is no surprise that the theatre of the occasion took centre stage.

Like the ancient Romans, who maintained control of their population by providing "bread and circuses", Mr Rimmer is an artful bureaucrat.

What was less apparent on the night was the relative insignificance of what Mr Rimmer chose to release.

His material added nothing to what was already publicly well known about a small number of accusations. And the "First Report" deliberately confined itself to matters relating to Cr Cathy Oke and former councillor Tessa Sullivan (although it goes on to inconsistently mention the also-publicly-known Melbourne Health incident, which Mr Rimmer calls a "further allegation").

Reference to a "further allegation" implies that there have been just three women have made complaints against Mr Doyle. This is not the case. *Southbank Local News* understands other complainants have contacted Dr Freckelton since Cr Sullivan



Former lord mayor Robert Doyle introduces his team in 2016.

resigned with a 35-page letter of complaint on December 15. Like many other aspects, Mr Rimmer's report is silent on the number of complainants.

"The First Report does not consider other matters that have been raised by **OTHERS** (our emphasis) in relation to Mr Doyle's conduct," he says.

He goes on to say: "Such matters, where relevant to his role as Lord Mayor, **MAY** (our emphasis) be the subject of a further report."

Is it too cynical to suggest that the determining factor as to whether there will be a further report is whether or not anyone notices or cares about the paucity of detail to date?

Mr Rimmer says that his nine-page March 13 report is a summary "derived from the executive summary" of the first report.

Tactically, this is a departure from his February 6 announcement that there would be an "interim report" followed by a "final report". At that time he said the "interim draft report" had been provided to Mr Doyle on January 30.

While Mr Rimmer has revealed that Dr Freckelton's "First Report" found four

adverse findings against Mr Doyle, we still know nothing about what Dr Freckelton's terms of reference were. We have been given some answers without their questions.

We don't know how broad or narrow the investigation was. Or:

- How many women came forward?
- How many allegations have been made?
- What is the nature of the allegations?
- Were allegations made against any other councillors?
- On what basis was an allegation judged worthy of investigation?

On February 6 Mr Rimmer said: "To date, no concerns about the conduct of any person other than the Lord Mayor have been identified as requiring investigation."

This does not say that no allegations have been made against other councillors. But it does say that certain criteria must have been in place by which allegations were judged worthy of investigation. So what are these criteria?

A suitably-redacted version of Dr Freckelton's first report would adequately protect participants and, at the same time,

satisfy the public interest.

For Ms Sullivan, public exposure of the breadth and quantity of her allegations about her time as a councillor would better explain why she resigned.

Among Mr Rimmer's justifications for not revealing more on March 13 is that he is legally bound not to reveal "personal information". This is a City of Melbourne favourite and is also frequently used to avoid its obligations under Freedom of Information legislation.

He brought a lawyer with him to discuss with councillors the risks of revealing more, which is also a classic strategy from the City of Melbourne playbook - pay for an opinion from a consultant or lawyer to support your position.

And, judging from the March 13 special meeting, there is little appetite from councillors to continue the pain. The consensus appears to be to move on, rebuild and put the matter behind them.

Cr Jackie Watts said: "I'm frustrated that, because of the various legal constraints and difficulties, we are seeing a summary. I understand fully why this has occurred but it is my deep position that more information is better than less, but the summary outlines the legal position and very well."

Acting Lord Mayor Arron Wood said: "We now have a summary of findings, and it is a summary of findings for the various reasons outlined in the summary report."

"I know it's probably going to fall on deaf ears and the public commentary will probably continue, but there is still an ongoing investigation in terms of the third complainant."

"But people want to get on with their lives and start to rebuild their lives and start to focus on some of the good things that they wake up for every day," Cr Wood said.

Whether other complainants feel the same way remains to be seen. Just don't hold your breath waiting for more information about this sorry saga to come from the City of Melbourne.

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Locals rally for Louise

Continued from page 1

Southbank Local News first met Louise in 2012 shortly after she first moved into the Boyd Studios.

A career fashion illustrator, Ms Baker has become a well-known figure at Boyd having originally taught her craft of fashion illustration out of the community hub. Since then, she has been working on her unique tomato art project, which she is still yet to finish.

In 2012, she provided us with what is now an ironic quote, which reflected her yearning to stay at Boyd School Studios for as long as possible.

“I don’t even care if the bulldozers have pulled half the building down, as long as my studio is still standing. I’ll still be there,” she said at the time.

True to her word, she remained at Boyd until the very last minute. Sadly, she is now desperately searching for a space to finish her work.

“I was given hardly any time. I have been working on one subject for seven years now and I thought that we had more time,” she said.

“I need somebody to support me because I’m being pushed around. Nobody has rung me to say I’m sorry you have to go. There’s been nothing. No ‘there are a few spaces available would you like to move to one?.. Nothing!”



Louise Baker last month in her now former studio space at Boyd School Studios.

The South Yarra resident first received official correspondence regarding the termination of her tenancy from commercial real estate services company Cushman & Wakefield on behalf of the City of Melbourne on February 22.

The letter informed Ms Baker and all other tenants occupying space at the Boyd Studios that they were required to vacate the premises by March 31. However, with demolition of the building not taking place until July, Ms Baker had thought she had more time.

Occupying two large rooms at the studios, which are packed to the rafters with her work, she found herself desperately searching for support last month to help her find space to finish her project.

“I’m either going to have a heart attack or burst into tears because I can’t cope. They (council) haven’t been nice to me. You know

I’ve been a good tenant,” she said.

“It’s financially wrecked me because I’m so involved with what I’m doing I don’t earn any money so I’m trying to live on the pension. I just have to keep drawing on my savings but I’m determined to finish this tomato story.”

She describes her art project as a “poetic metamorphosis”, which captures the life and death of the tomato as it relates to humanity. Once complete, she said she hoped to obtain a grant to share her story.

After contacting Southbank Local News and the Southbank Residents’ Association (SRA) last month, a community effort has started to help Louise find a new space to fulfill her artistic vision.

Thanks to a request from SRA, the City of Melbourne provided Louise with an extension of her tenancy until April 5, which allowed her time to organise removalists to relocate all of her work to a storage facility in South Melbourne.

Discussions have already been prompted among fellow artists, Creative Spaces, the City of Melbourne as well as a prominent local developer, in an effort to help her find the space she needs.

If you know of an available opportunity for a rentable studio in the local area, please email news@southbanklocalnews.com.au



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Lord mayoral election is a lottery

By Shane Scanlan

Melbourne votes for a new lord mayor this month, but the winner won't necessarily be the most popular.

Without the dominant figure of Robert Doyle in the race (with 45 per cent of the primary vote in 2016), the field is wide open and the prize is likely to be claimed by the candidate who organises the best flow of preferences.

It is even possible that the eventual winner could poll the least number of primary votes. There is a current Melbourne councillor whose team in 2016 received just 1534 votes.

Voting within the City of Melbourne is unlike any other municipality. Its special electoral system has morphed and evolved from a desire from both Labor and Coalition state governments to prevent the capital city council falling into the hands of local, parochial interests.

But is it fair? Is it democratic? Is it corrupt? It is certainly unique.

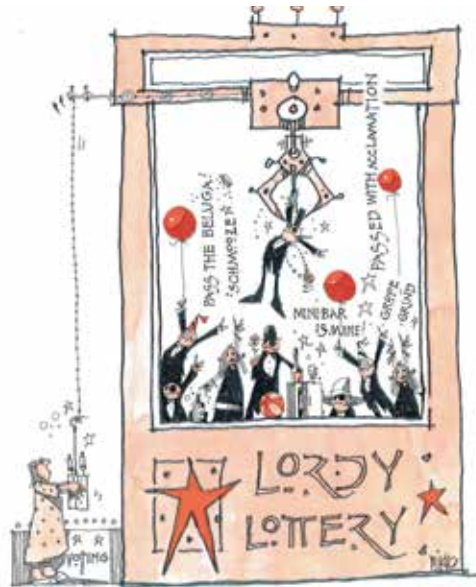
Lowest participation

To start with, Melbourne has the lowest level of voter participation. In 2016, ballots were received from only 55 per cent of eligible voters. Eligibility in Melbourne is broader than anywhere else, which goes some way to explain the poor turnout.

While the city in 2016 had an estimated residential population of 148,000, only 54,791 were on the state electoral roll.

A further 77,939 voters were on the City of Melbourne's roll which, combined, added up to 133,801 eligible voters (before 1607 additions and 536 deletions).

The numbers show there were tens of thousands of residents who were not enrolled. And, no doubt, there were plenty of other enrolled voters who did not even



know they were required to vote.

But there are also other factors to explain the poor participation rate of two years ago.

Postal woes

Does anyone maintain faith these days that a correctly-stamped item entrusted to Australia Post will reach its destination?

City of Melbourne elections are run purely as a postal ballot. And ballots have to run the postal system gauntlet twice – once from the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) to the voter and again on the return journey.

This system is open to routine abuse. Stories abound of theft of ballots from letter boxes on the day they arrive. And hundreds, if not thousands, are discarded (which can be harvested by others) by residents who receive mail addressed to a previously-correctly-enrolled voter.

And, because the VEC does not have matching signatures for most voters, there will always be suspicion that the ballots being received are not genuine.

On top of all this potential abuse, ballots destined for absentee landlords are routinely

sent in bulk to real estate agents acting on their behalf. No audit is conducted about what happens to these ballots.

But the VEC says “there has never been a single piece of evidence provided to us” to support claims of stolen or discarded ballots.

Its director communication and engagement, Sue Lang, said the VEC had:

- Worked with CrimeStoppers over two MCC elections to encourage people to do in any such miscreants and had also taken out print ads for the same purpose;
- Put posters in public housing high-rise advising that packs were coming and had hand-delivered ballot packs to management so that they could be delivered securely. Hand deliveries would also be made to Melbourne Inner City Management and to the Melbourne Law Chambers;
- Had spoken on talk-back radio over the years to ask people to come forward if they knew of anyone who was stealing/completing bulk ballot papers or witnessed it happening; and
- Had paid security staff to observe public housing high-rises and other potential “hot spots” when ballot packs were delivered.

Ms Lang said the VEC conducted random signature checks and knew that “in the main”, that real estate agents posted on ballots to landlords. She said the VEC knew this because of complaints from landlords who received ballots too late to vote.

“There are systems and checks in place,” she said.

Gerrymander

Much is made of the unique situation in Melbourne, where corporations are given two votes, whereas residents are restricted to one. Supporters of this anomaly justify it on the basis of the percentage of commercial rates underpinning the council's operations.

Critics say it just isn't fair. But this cuts

both ways. Up to two residential renters per property can apply to be added to the council roll – and they don't even have to be Australian citizens. The only prerequisite is that they had lived at the address for a month before applications closed (March 16). No proof of occupancy is required.

Dummies and stooges

Like other Victorian municipal elections, candidates routinely enlist others to direct preferences their way.

As in the past, voters can expect to select from candidates whose sole role is to attract or block votes that may have otherwise flowed to an opponent.

The Greens are the only major political party to officially endorse candidates in local government elections. Labor and Liberal interests are unofficial. But they are there in the mix.

Motivations of parties and candidates vary. For Labor, blocking Greens influence in the inner city is high on the list. Last time around, Robert Doyle was supported by Labor as a brake on Greens' ambition.

Ordinarily, the successful candidate would be the one who does the best preference deals. However, the VEC has revealed that this time packs sent to voters will not include candidates' how-to-vote cards.

A short statement from candidates will be included. But, confronted with a “clean” ballot paper with a series of names, voters this time have their work cut out for themselves how their preferred candidate would wish them to allocate preferences.

Don't be surprised if the candidate who wins the position at the top of the ballot becomes the lord mayor.

It would be easiest for voters to mark their preferred candidate as number one and then simply complete the rest of the ballot by numbering down the list.

In any event, for the voters, the candidates and the City of Melbourne, the 2018 by-election is a lottery.

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Left to right: FBBF executive officer David Weston, Sheree Proposch, Ministerial Advisory Council chair Meredith Sussex AM, FBBF Chair Stephane Fayd'herbe, FBBF steering committee member Murray Nicol, Aaron Lambe and steering committee member Richard Blackman.

Business group forms for the bend

The business community in Fishermans Bend came together last month to officially launch the Fishermans Bend Business Forum (FBBF).

The forum has been established to assist government and the two councils involved in the redevelopment of Fishermans Bend as well as provide business with a stronger voice in shaping the urban renewal project.

A steering committee has been working since late 2017 on the formation of the forum, which was officially launched on March 15 at Pier 35 in Port Melbourne.

"There has been a lot of coverage of issues around developers and the height and density of development, however, many of the businesses currently operating in the area were not becoming engaged with the process," FBBF chair Stephanie Fayd'herbe said.

"Like my business, operators do not have the time to attend forums, read consultant reports and respond."

"Our focus is on delivering products or services to our clients, managing costs and meeting the compliance requirements of the modern business environment. That leaves very little time to engage with planners."

The FBBF will seek the views of businesses on issues that they foresee coming from increased population and increased employment in the area. These views will be

assessed against the future plans being put forward by the Fishermans Bend Taskforce.

The steering committee has already built a database of some 330 businesses out of the estimated 400 that government estimate to be in the area.

According to the forum, the area is largely home to highly-specialised companies in the creative industries, defence industry contractors, technology companies in the road and rail sector and specialty food importers and distributors.

Construction companies, civil engineers and materials testing businesses also feature prominently, while many of Australia's leading data centres are also based in the area.

The FBBF has already made a submission to the Fishermans Bend Planning Panel, highlighting the close connection with the Port of Melbourne activities, road linkages and the economic importance of current industrial uses.

For more information contact FBBF executive officer David Weston david.weston@optusnet.com.au

Fighting for St Kilda Rd

Meet the people fighting on behalf of Southbank and the entire St Kilda Rd precinct to protect our city's most revered boulevard.

When completed in 2025, the Metro Rail Tunnel will provide a much-needed link from North Melbourne and Parkville through the city directly to Southbank and St Kilda Rd via the new Anzac Station at the Domain Interchange.

There is no one who doubts the value that the \$11 billion project will add to Melbourne's status as the world's most liveable city.

The same goes for the founders of Save St Kilda Road, Marilyn Wane and David McGowan. Like everyone, the Wells St residents are very much in favour of the vital infrastructure project – just not the way it is being carried out.

Following the release of the Melbourne Metro Rail Authority's (MMRA) environmental effects statement (EES) in 2016, they were alarmed by some of the impacts the project was proposing on the local area.

This included the removal of over 200 trees, major traffic changes, the new station's design and a raft of environmental impacts that they argue could have been mitigated with better planning.

"This is 10 years of nightmares," Ms Wane said. "We're not opposed to the railway. We're very clear about that but there was a better way to do it. They didn't want to do that."

"What we decided, in conjunction with experts, was that we would like to have the same construction method as they were doing in the city but the method they have taken is more convenient and cheaper for them."

After engaging a qualified engineer and tunneling expert, the group called on the MMRA to reconsider its design and take the tunnel deeper underground in order to spare trees and prevent tram and traffic changes. Residents of Southbank have already been feeling the effects of road closures in the area.

The group tabled a petition to parliament in 2017 with more than 10,000 signatures. However, after experiencing what it described as the MMRA's "divide



David McGowan and Marilyn Wane.

and conquer" strategy to community consultation, they soon realised they were on a "hiding to nothing".

"I think their view on communication is 'let's not get too many people involved,'" Mr McGowan said. "One of the features of the open sessions is that they shutdown the public part in asking questions because that just gets too difficult."

A MMRA spokesperson told *Southbank Local News* that a deeper Anzac Station would add 30 seconds travel time between the surface and platforms, which would undermine the project's fast and seamless train-tram interchange.

The MMRA refuted claims that it hadn't engaged community, with the spokesperson stating that it had consulted extensively on the station's design, construction, as well as traffic management.

Ms Wane and Mr McGowan said the only success the group had managed so far had been reducing the number of trees being removed by around half. However, with the MMRA and state government pushing full steam ahead with the project in its current form, they said they were saddened by the fact that they would not see St Kilda Rd return to its former glory during their lifetime.

"We're beyond saving it. Now it's more about managing the impacts," Ms Wane said. "Save St Kilda Road's function has always been to tell it like it really is as opposed to the mumbo jumbo that Metro put out. Now when there is something happening I'm posting about it and it's about keeping people informed."

Locals can stay up to date by following Save St Kilda Road on Facebook and Twitter or by visiting savestkildaroad.org




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A portrait of Jennifer Yang, a woman with long dark hair, wearing a blue and white striped blazer over a white top. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and sunlight.

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Owners to cop cladding cost

Strata lawyer Tom Bacon says the Victoria Government seems more determined than ever to burden apartment owners with the cost of removing non-compliant cladding.

Planning Minister Richard Wynne on March 10 issued new ministerial guidelines to building surveyors, which ban the most dangerous types of combustible cladding from being used on Victorian buildings.

Aluminium Cladding Panels with a polyethylene core of more than 30 per cent will be banned on all multi-storey buildings. Expanded polystyrene will also be banned.

Mr Wynne has directed the Victorian Building Authority (VBA) to issue a product safety alert, and building practitioners who ignore this directive will face disciplinary action from the VBA.

But the minister also said if buildings were found to be non-compliant at a current state-wide audit, the VBA and municipal building surveyors will issue emergency orders.

"These orders are issued on building owners, which are the owners' corporations," Mr Bacon said.

"Because these orders are of an emergency nature, in extreme cases, the buildings could be declared uninhabitable until such time as the cladding is removed and replaced."

"In other situations, the residents might be able to reside there, but only if interim safeguard measures are put in place and the cladding issues are fixed very, very quickly."



The Guilfoyle is a Southbank apartment complex understood to have cladding concerns.

"So it doesn't leave OCs with much time to seek to join wrongdoers who might be responsible for why the cladding is there in the first place."

"If the building is over a certain age, or if the legal risks of bringing a claim are too high, then OCs might well have to simply fix the cladding themselves via special levies."

Mr Bacon said the government seemed determined to protect building surveyors

who had originally approved the installation of non-compliant cladding.

"The problem is that if certifiers and building surveyors are hung out to dry, they might simply close their companies and hand back their licences," Mr Bacon said.

"The state government faces a shortage of qualified surveyors already, and if the industry collapses then the state government and councils will need to step back in and start certifying buildings themselves again, which would be very expensive and then exposes them from a liability perspective."

He said builders and developers were similarly also not in the firing line.

"The policy reason is that the government must keep 'building conditions' optimum for developers and builders so that they continue to build apartment blocks," Mr Bacon said.

"It's simple economics. The more apartments, the more stamp duty in the coffers, and it's not worth upsetting builders and developers by placing the liability at their feet with the cladding issue, for fear that the builders and developers decide to 'land bank' and not develop their properties, or go to other states around Australia where it is easier for them to do business."



Lunch, business and security

The Yarra River Business Association (YRBA) was given a gritty insight into the world of counter terrorism by guest speaker David Crompton-Guard at its business lunch on March 23.

Held at Arts Centre Melbourne, Mr Crompton-Guard (pictured) provided members with a detailed presentation on his experience in counter terrorism and security operations.

Having worked with the likes of the Greater Manchester Police, State Government and currently Metro Trains, Mr Crompton-Guard gave insight into the important role business could play in helping keep the community safe.

Meet the CANDIDATES Event

What local issues are you concerned about?



Southbank
Residents Association

The Melbourne Lord Mayor elections are coming up next month and we're inviting all residents to put their questions to candidates directly in this open forum.

Moderated by the well-respected and highly regarded investigative journalist, Stephen Mayne.

Date: Thursday 26th April
Time: 6.30pm - 8.30pm
Venue: Boyd Community Hub (Assembly Hall)
Address: 207 City Road, Southbank
Book your spot at:
<https://meetmelbcandidates.eventbrite.com>

This free community event is an initiative of the Southbank Residents Association
For more information call 03 9028 2774, or email info@southbankresidents.com.au

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THEARTS
PRECINCT

Chunky Move finds its Common Ground

By Emma Doherty

Chunky Move redefines contemporary dance with artistic director, Anouk van Dijk's new work, "Common Ground".

From a dance company that stands out for its ability to use movement to reflect on our evolving cultural landscape, Common Ground explores the elements that not only unite, but also divide us.

The performance is a visually arresting response to this strange time we find ourselves in.

"There is an incredible sense of instability in the world - social, political, economic and environmental. This affects us on a visceral level and in this new full-length work, I'm exploring this and how we can stand together," she said.

Building on the relationships we share with others and the world around us, the performance looks to find these shared moments of commonality amongst the chaos.

The performance brings together two of Australia's leading contemporary dancers, Tara

Jade Samaya (ANTI-RAVITY, Chunky Move) and Richard Cilli (CounterMove, Sydney Dance Company).

It also features the creative work of Paul Jackson's lighting design, Marg Horwell's set and costume design and Jethro Woodward's sound design.

Common Ground will be performed at Chunky Move Studios, 111 Sturt St, Southbank from April 26 until May 5.

To make a booking visit chunkymove.com.au/commonground

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Mexico City comes to ACCA

By Kathryn Lewis

A city is only as interesting as the stories people tell about it, is the idea behind the latest exhibition to hit ACCA this month.

Dwelling Poetically: Mexico City, a case study is Chris Sharp's newest exhibition reflecting his experience of the city he feels most at home in.

Five years ago, Mr Sharp moved to Mexico City for no reason other than he had fallen in love with it.

"I fell in love with Mexico City for the reason I fell in love with New York or Paris ... due to their shared and seemingly boundless capacity to both generate and contain story and myth," he said.

His love affair with the city by no means made him a local, something Mr Sharp acknowledges in his work.

"I knew that I did not want to curate a typical, necessarily limited survey of the usual suspects, nor did I want focus on Mexican-ness," Mr Sharp said.

Opening on April 21, the exhibition is based on the progressive transformation of cities and the artists who live there.

"At the core of this exhibition, is the

notion about how cities and artists mutually transform one another," Mr Sharp said.

The exhibition portrays both the experiences of artists who live, or have lived there, as well as those who were only passers-by.

"Such a perspective opened the show up to artists who not only live and work in the city, but also artists who have had a more fleeting relationship with the place, but who have undergone and contributed to just such a transformation," Mr Sharp said.

Each artist brings a uniquely created "myth and narrative" that adds to the city's identity, Mr Sharp said.

Three artists crucial to the creation of Mexico City as a cultural hub are Francis Alÿs, Abraham Cruzvillegas and Melanie Smith.

"They are foundational in terms of helping insert Mexico City into the global imaginary of contemporary art," Mr Sharp said.

ACCA's artistic director and CEO Max Delany, who invited Mr Sharp to create the exhibition, said he was excited to work with all the artists to present "this rich and complex exhibition".

The exhibition will showcase the work of nine other artists representing varying experiences of the city.

Dwelling Poetically: Mexico City, a case study is on at ACCA from April 21- June 24. acca.melbourne

Dive into deep listening

By Kathryn Lewis

Jazz and indigenous culture have collided in "The Art and Beauty of Deep Listening".

Jazz musician Steve Sedergreen has teamed up with two musicians to engulf viewers in the world of deep listening.

Deep listening is an Aboriginal concept that "describes a deep contemplative process of listening to one another in reciprocal relationships", the Melbourne Recital Centre said in a press release.

The performance will be a collaboration of solo piano, small ensemble and orchestral compositions designed to allow musicians and audience alike to respond to their environment without distraction.

"The audience, who will play a big part in the performance, will be able to experience the beautiful connection to our environment and indigenous culture," Mr Sedergreen said.

Mr Sedergreen's academic life led him to this project, a topic he investigated throughout his postgraduate years and worked on with indigenous musicians and

artists on a global scale.

"The Salon at the Melbourne Recital Centre is the perfect place for this performance. It is the right venue and it is the first time we have played this performance as a trio in the Salon," he said.

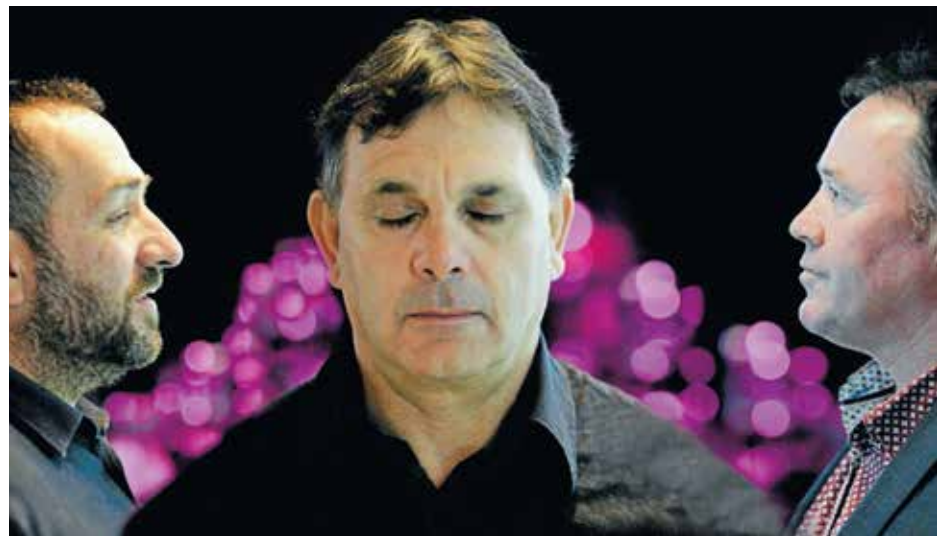
Joining him on stage is jazz drummer and regular on the scene for the past 20 years, Michael Jordan, and internationally-renowned didgeridoo soloist, Ron Murray.

As a Wamba Wamba man, Mr Murray said he was passionate about his heritage and keeping Aboriginal art and culture alive.

The Art and Beauty of Deep Listening pays homage to Aboriginal tradition, merging it with Australia's jazz scene.

After gracing the stages of several festivals including White Night, the performance will come to the Melbourne Recital Centre on Saturday, April 14.

melbournerecitalcentre.com.au



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Fri 20 April 7.30pm

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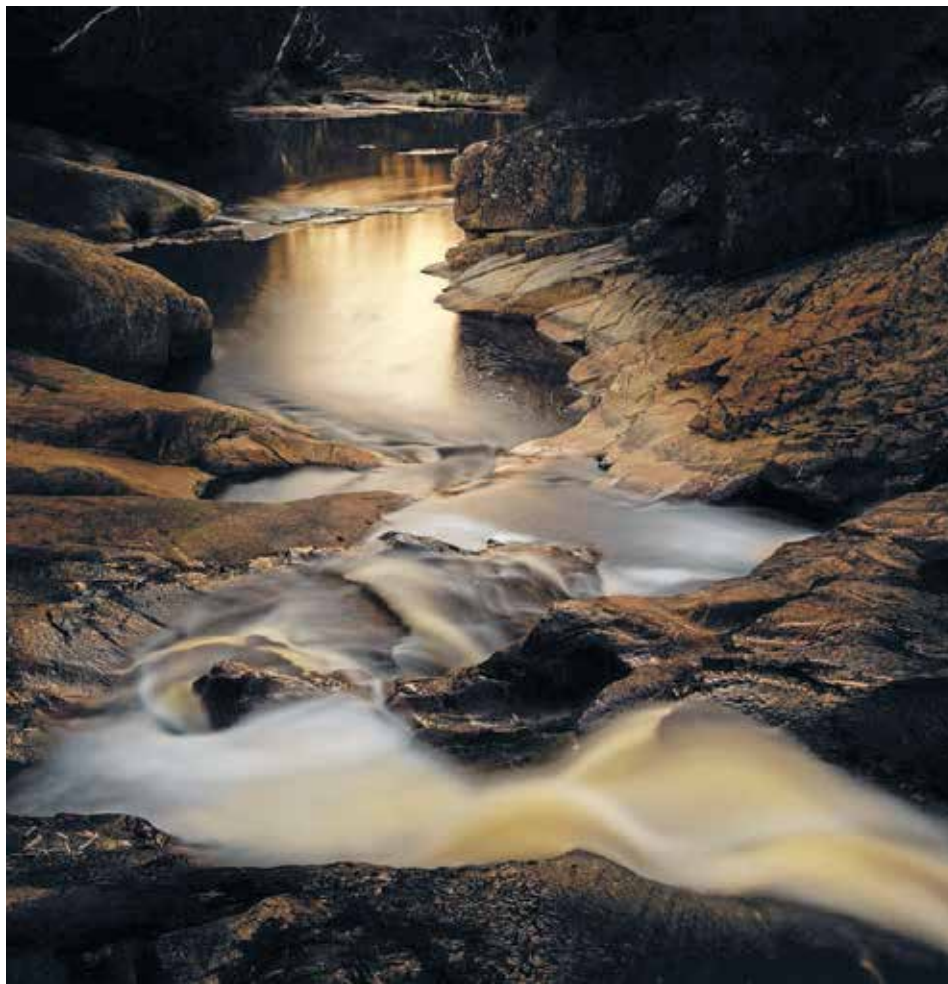
Loving land and people

For Guy and Catherine Cameron, photography is an advocacy tool for shining a light on the planet and its people.

The couple currently lives on a 370-acre block of land at Gooram, south of Euroa in Victoria's north-east and commutes to the Photography Studies College (PSC) each week for class.

Since 2013, they have committed much of their lives to what has become a personal environmental mission to regenerate their land, which had previously suffered from years of grazing.

Guy said they felt they were doing their



(Above) a stunning landscape by Catherine and (above right) an example of Guy's portraiture.

bit for the environment, and in doing so, spreading awareness about the importance of conservation for current and future generations.

"We're busy rehabilitating that land as it's suffered terribly from the rabbits in the 70s and 80s and from grazing," he said. "It's right on the banks of Seven Creeks and it's recovering remarkably."

"It's all set aside for wildlife and rehabilitation of the soil so we're planting a lot of trees. We feel we're doing a little bit to rehabilitate all that"

Having moved to Papua New Guinea (PNG) in 1994, Guy and Catherine started a business there growing and manufacturing balsawood products, which they produced mainly for wind turbine blades.

After spending 20 years in PNG working and sponsoring aid posts and a local school, they said they decided to move back to Australia to explore a different side of their

lives.

Now in their final year of a four-year advanced diploma at PSC, they haven't wasted anytime using their newly acquired skills to promote the things they are passionate about while producing some stunning works.

While Guy says Catherine has a gift for capturing beautiful landscapes and creating amazing illustrative works, Catherine says Guy has a particular love for portraiture.

Guy regularly travels to remote parts of Australia to work and engage with indigenous communities, which Catherine said had been a catalyst for his passion for photographing people.

"I think Guy's particular strength is portraiture. He often works in the outback with Aboriginals and they've got the respect and trust for him that allows him to do that," she said.

"To try and capture elements of the



landscape, which we think are significant or worth preserving for future generations are also pretty alluring for us. You see things, either destruction or beauty."

They admit that while they had no particular aspirations of making photography a career, they did hope to use their expertise in the medium to advocate for both environmental and social change as much as they could.

"We do want to find ourselves a little bit in the environmental advocacy world subtly pointing out to Australians what's happening to some of the environmentally sensitive areas in this country," Guy said.

"The environment or nature doesn't have a monetary value in our society in the capitalist system so doing what we're doing people think you're a bit cuckoo!"

And while their commute to Southbank might take longer than most of their fellow students, they said choosing to study at PSC had only been a worthwhile experience.

"PSC is great because it introduces you to a broad spectrum of genres and it allows individuals to really find their own expression," Guy said. "We want a better ability to express ourselves photographically and to promote our causes."

"We also want to engage with people. I see portrait photography as a great way to engage people and learn more about them and know a bit about how they live and what their expectations are."

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Comedy round up

By Kathryn Lewis

The international comedy festival is back for another big year with heaps of shows packed across four venues in Southbank.

This year, the festival hosts several big names from around the world as well as returning acts and newcomers.

The much anticipated return of Lano and Woodley is on every night at the Arts Centre. After a hiatus of more than a decade, the duo has made a come back with a show dedicated to pioneers of flight, the Wright brothers.

For younger audiences, LOL Squad is a collection of class clowns from across the country. The group of eight new faces on the comedy scene claim to cover uncharted territory and guarantee laughs.

The festival runs until April 22.

Check out our picks of Southbank shows, or head to the festival's website for a full rundown. comedyfestival.com.au

Arts Centre

LOL Squad Live

7pm, April 12-14

LOL Squad is an ensemble of handpicked class clown alumni from around the country, bringing a fresh and electric blast to the comedy scene.

Natalie Palamides: Laid

8.40pm and 9.30pm, March 29 - April 22

Laying an egg every day, a woman faces the decision: raise it or eat it? In her Australian debut, LA-based comedian Natalie Palamides explores motherhood with absurd dilemmas, silly routines and surreal physical comedy.

Rod Quantock: Happy Birthday To Me

5pm and 6pm weekends until April 22

From his first routine in the Melbourne University Architect's Revue to his musings on contemporary events, Australia's most seriously funny comedian Rod will reflect on the things that have made him and you laugh for the last five decades and set a course for future decades.

The Malthouse

Showko: Absolutely normal

5.45 and 5.45pm, April 10-22

Armed with stories from her slightly odd childhood (growing up with a dual

personality mother in the kookiest culture on earth) and her adventures around the world as a globetrotting comedian (London, Edinburgh, Paris, LA, Tokyo), Showko will give you a glimpse into the craziness that exists just below the surface of Japan that most foreigners never get to see.

WTF Renaissance

10am daily until April 22

FREE

Strap in. *WTF Renaissance* comes to the Melbourne International Comedy Festival for the very first time with a brand-new exhibition that is guaranteed to upset both young and old. With modern captions accompanying renaissance and medieval paintings, *WTF Renaissance* is the original renaissance online sensation.

Emma J Hawkins: I am not a unicorn!

5.30pm Saturdays until April 21

Come and get lost down the rabbit hole with Emma J Hawkins, where Alice is probably drunk playing cards with Goldilocks and the three bears. Here you'll meet a host of quirky characters that inhabit this world, including John the train driver (an average bloke), the wicked queen and the rare horned beast.

NGV

Squeaky-clean comedy road show

8pm Fridays and Saturdays until April 14

That's right - the much-loved *Squeaky Clean Comedy Gala* is hitting both the CBD and suburbs with its brand-new *Squeaky Clean Comedy Roadshow*, bringing the squeakiest comedy acts of this year's Melbourne International Comedy Festival right to your doorstep.

The Spiegelent at Arts Centre

Alex and Luke's Make Your Parents

Disappear: Revenge of the Parents!

2pm daily until April 15

Alex and Luke will need your help to pull off the ultimate prank to trick their mum and dad. Who knows, you might even learn how to make your parents disappear! Back for their fourth year at the famous Spiegelent, Alex and Luke have created a shiny new show packed with never before seen magic and mayhem.



A performance worth waiting for

By Kathryn Lewis

Archie Roach is reuniting with award-winning trio Tiddas for a special performance at Hamer Hall on May 6.

The one-off show will give the audience an unmissable chance to hear Roach's recently uncovered album, *Dancing with My Spirit*.

This is the only Melbourne show in a national tour celebrating the album which has been forgotten for more than two decades and is only now being released to the public.

Tiddas featured on the original recordings and are reforming just for the tour.

Roach said he was humbled by Tiddas' return to the music scene.

"When Amy, Lou and Sally added their voices to these songs recorded over 25 years ago, it gave it what was needed. It is like the songs were there and it needed something else. Tiddas completed it," he said.

The trio broke up in 2000 and said working on the album was incredibly rewarding and they were honoured to grace the stage with Roach.

"I am so glad that it is now, 20 years down the track and a few extra grey hairs later that this beautiful recording will be released for public pleasure and for our joy to sing and perform together again," Tiddas vocalist Lou Bennett said.

Archie Roach rose to fame in the '90s when his ARIA award-winning debut album, *Charcoal Lane*, written from his own experiences of the stolen generation, was named one of *Rolling Stone's* top 50 albums.

Tiddas also became known for their music throughout the '90s, winning an ARIA award for their debut album, *Sing About Life*.

They will be joined on stage by Archie Cuthbertson and Bruce Haymes who also featured on the original album recording.

The tour will be travelling across Australian capital cities throughout May and June.

artscentremelbourne.com.au

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EVENTS



FOLIAS

April 17 - Salon

Latitude 37 explores the richness and variety that can be found in music based on just a few simple chords, and with a Spanish twist! *Folias* features a new work commissioned by up and coming composer Jorden Heys.

www.melbournerecital.com.au



LANO & WOODLEY

Runs until April 22 - Playhouse

After such a long wait, it's with almost uncontainable excitement that Lano and Woodley present to Australian audiences *FLY*. Lano & Woodley said good bye in 2006, now a dozen years later they are storming their way back onto the stage with their brand new show.

www.artscentremelbourne.com.au



VICTORIAN PRO PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

April 11 - Photography Studies College

AIPP Epson Victorian Professional Photography Awards. Judging continuing on Wednesday, April 11 from 8am- 6pm. Watch the livestream FREE online in the two separate judging rooms:

Room 1: [youtube.com/watch?v=Re5nQ4u6-Q8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Re5nQ4u6-Q8)

Room 2: [youtube.com/channel/UC-ofiMsCSIWbUFwjwOBjltA/live](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-ofiMsCSIWbUFwjwOBjltA/live)



THE FIELD REVISITED

April 27 - Aug 26 - NGV

The Field Revisited is accompanied by a reprinted version of the rare and highly collectable 1968 exhibition publication alongside a new publication which reflects the importance of this exhibition over the past fifty years.

www.ngv.vic.gov.au

AUSTRALIAN MUSIC VAULT

Ongoing - Arts Centre Melbourne

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

www.australianmusicvault.com.au

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

INFINITE VERSION

Runs until April 24 - Testing Grounds

Michael GF Priors' *Infinite Version* organises natural and industrial materials into self-generating compositions of sound, light and movement. The work aestheticises the transfer of energy from one form into another, harnessing the visual and sonic potentials of these events and composing them in time.

www.testing-grounds.com.au

A VISIT WITH NAN IN A CARAVAN

Runs until April 22 - The Forecourt

12 audience members in one caravan with three nasty nannas for 15 minutes? It's horribly hilarious! Edith Vale, Caroline Springs and Maureen McGillicuddy have been travelling around Australia for 50 years and they want to tell you all about it over a cuppa in their caravan.

www.artscentremelbourne.com.au



CHAMBER 1

May 6 - Iwaki Auditorium

The stylish sounds of the French Baroque at their very finest! Escape into a wonderful world of chamber music in this exquisite program showcasing Francois Couperin's Concerts Royaux.

www.mso.com.au



BLISS

May 4 - June 2 - Merlyn Theatre

Peter Carey's madcap novel is brought to life in a lush and extraordinary collaboration from the team behind *Picnic at Hanging Rock*. Starring Toby Truslove (ABC's *Utopia*) and a stellar ensemble cast, follow Harry as he clamours for his soul, from suburbia to the rainforest, and beyond.

www.malthousetheatre.com.au



MASQUE OF RED DEATH

May 1 - Salon

A part of the Spotlight series, this is Debussy's *Dances* and Andre Caplet's startling musical re-telling of Edgar Allen Poe's *Masque of the Red Death*. The program concludes with the rich harmonies of Strauss's Sextet from *Capriccio*, a homage to the power of poetry as it relates to music.

www.melbournerecital.com.au



FUTURE

May 7 - ACMI

A screening of works by Mexican artist Diego Ramirez followed by a conversation between Ramirez and Anabelle Lacroix, ACCA's Curator of Public Programs. The screening is presented in partnership with ACMI, as a parallel program to ACCA's exhibition *Dwelling Poetically: Mexico*, a case study.

acca.melbourne



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To find out more about this movement, please visit: SOUTHMELBOURNEMARKET.COM.AU






Doyle damned by investigators

By Sean Car

The City of Melbourne's independent investigation into sexual harassment claims against former lord mayor Robert Doyle has returned four adverse findings.

A special council meeting held on March 13 heard the long-awaited outcomes stemming from the first report of top silk Dr Ian Freckelton's investigation into allegations made by Cr Cathy Oke and former councillor Tessa Sullivan.

Council CEO Ben Rimmer said the investigation into allegations made by a third complainant had been suspended until Mr Doyle, who is currently suffering ill health, was able to respond.

However, the CEO has only made public a summary report of the first report, citing "the confidential nature", "personal" and "health" information, as well as interests of all involved parties, as justification against full disclosure.

On December 15 last year, Ms Sullivan resigned from council after making serious allegations of sexual misconduct against Mr Doyle, which she documented in a 35-page dossier. This document also included

allegations made by Cr Oke.

Having initially taken leave from council amid Mr Rimmer's announcement of an investigation into the allegations, Mr Doyle resigned as lord mayor on February 5.

On March 13, the four adverse outcomes of Dr Freckelton's first report were made public and found that:

- On May 2, 2017, Mr Doyle deliberately grabbed Ms Sullivan's breast;
- On December 4, 2014, Mr Doyle inappropriately placed his hand on Cr Oke's inner thigh below her groin area;
- On another occasion in late 2016 or early 2017 he embraced Cr Oke and attempted to kiss her on the mouth in his office; and
- Each of these matters occurred in the context of Mr Doyle having consumed substantial amounts of red wine.

Investigators were required to apply what is known as the "Briginshaw standard", which in practice, meant they were required to be satisfied to a level that goes beyond mere likelihood that something happened.

While Mr Rimmer's summary noted that Ms Sullivan had raised a number of other matters about the conduct of Mr Doyle, investigators were not sufficiently satisfied that they met the Briginshaw standard.

Acting Lord Mayor Arron Wood said that all councillors had unanimously agreed to review the council's code of conduct and

supported management's review of council's alcohol and drug policy.

Cr Oke made an emotional speech to the meeting, where she called on her colleagues to cast politics aside and work together to achieve cultural change and a healthier workplace for all.

"Achieving cultural change in an environment where political debate is essential to achieving policy change is of course difficult. We need more women in local government for diversity of voice and approach, but change can't only be on the shoulders of women to make it happen."

"I hope I am not being too naïve in wanting my daughter to grow up in a post #metoo era where speaking out doesn't cause so much pain. Where political games and machinations can still operate but with the view that people can expect to be safe and free from harassment when going about the halls of power," Cr Oke said.

Cr Susan Riley said she felt ashamed that her fellow councillors had been forced to go through their experiences and called for a "united council" to make its remaining three years the "best term yet".

Cr Jackie Watts said she was "frustrated" that council and the public was only receiving a summary of the investigation, but felt optimistic and confident that positive change would occur as a result.



Park name endorsed

The City of Port Phillip has endorsed the name Kirrip Park as the title of its new community park currently under construction on Ferrars St in Montague.

Councillors unanimously approved the progression of the proposed name at its meeting on April 18, as the official name for the area that is currently referred to as Montague Community Park to the community consultation stage.

Kirrip, meaning friend or mate in the Boon Wurrung language, was submitted to council by the Boon Wurrung Foundation as part of the council's campaign for the community to submit suggested names for the park.

For more information visit www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/ferrars-st.htm

Melbourne City Council Lord Mayor by-election

Postal election: check the mail for your ballot pack

Ballot packs containing voting material will be mailed to enrolled voters from Monday 23 April 2018.

This is a postal election.

If you do not receive your ballot pack by Thursday 3 May please call (03) 8619 1498 during office hours to arrange an alternative.

Candidates

Candidates who have nominated to stand for election will be listed in the ballot packs and at vec.vic.gov.au. Where provided by candidates, a photo and a statement will also be included.

Responses to a candidate questionnaire, where provided, will also be available at vec.vic.gov.au.

How to vote correctly

You must complete your ballot paper correctly for your vote to count. Put the number **1** in the box next to the candidate you most want to see elected, then number **ALL** the other boxes in order of your preference. You must number **EVERY BOX** and only use each number once.

How to return your ballot material

Post your completed ballot paper using the reply-paid envelope provided, or hand-deliver it during office hours to the Election Office at:

Level 4, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne

Voting is compulsory

Voting is compulsory for everyone under the age of 70 who is enrolled for the Melbourne City Council Lord Mayor by-election.

If you don't vote without a valid excuse you will be fined.

Bill Lang Returning Officer

Level 4, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne
Tel: (03) 8619 1498 for general enquiries

Office hours:

- 9.00 am to 5.00 pm until Wednesday 9 May (excluding public holidays)
- 9.00 am to 8.00 pm Thursday 10 May
- 9.00 am to 6.00 pm Friday 11 May

Your completed ballot material must be in the mail or hand-delivered by 6.00 pm Friday 11 May

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

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• All other non-English languages 9209 0112



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vec.vic.gov.au

Victorian Electoral Commission



Local table tennis league

By Kathryn Lewis

A new table tennis league at West Village at South Wharf is working to fight loneliness and build friendships.

The second Melbourne competition run by Pulse Leagues, starting on April 19, gives everyone a chance to have a beer, play a game and meet new people.

“I am going to see how it goes and hope that those looking to meet new friends and widen their social circle get involved,” founder John Dalrymple said.

The leagues aims to combat loneliness in the community, an issue Mr Dalrymple faced when he first arrived in Australia.

“I joined groups to widen my circle of friends but my work schedule got in the way, which meant I came across a bit unreliable and that’s not a great way to make mates,” he said.

The group most affected by loneliness in Australia is men aged 25 to 40.

He quit his job last year to focus on the project that has already come a long way but he hopes the leagues will continue to grow.



A render of a potential design for a swimming pool in the Yarra River at Enterprize Park.

Political backing for pool

Support for a swimming pool in the Yarra River has heightened, with key political figures calling on the State Government to assess the viability of the concept.

Greens MP for Melbourne Ellen Sandell and Lord Mayoral candidate Sally Capp have both publicly thrown their support behind the initiative, which would see a swimming pool constructed at the turning basin near Enterprize Park.

The political support comes as welcome news to the community group behind the initiative Yarra Pools, which is now seeking State Government funding to develop a feasibility study for the concept.

Ms Sandell told *Southbank Local News* that she had written to the Ministers for Planning, Environment, Water and Sport, calling on them to develop a business case for Yarra Pools.

“The concept of a swimmable Yarra within easy reach of the city is an exciting one and an opportunity that should be explored,” she said.

“We could create a world-leading sustainable facility, which would benefit a range of people in our community, from local residents, to sportspeople, to people with a disability.”

“This project could pave the way to a cleaner Yarra River. The government should work with the community to take this project further.

Front running Lord Mayoral candidate Sally Capp has said she would also advocate for a business case to be conducted for the concept should she be elected in May.

Superhero Day!

Five to 12 year olds girls showed off their super powers at One Roof in Southbank on March 24 for Superhero Daughter Day 2018!

An initiative of DCC Jobs and Tech Girls Movement, the City Rd female entrepreneurial co-working space One Roof hosted the event, which aims to promote science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) amongst primary school aged girls.

The day saw girls learn and create with a range of activities, including creative play with programmable friendship bracelets, wearable tech, HoloLens and much more.

Oneroofwomen.com



Harper Ryan, age 5, experiences virtual reality for the first time.

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AUTHORISED BY MICHAEL DANBY MP - FEDERAL LABOR MEMBER FOR MELBOURNE PORTS - 117 FITZROY STREET, ST KILDA WEST

Southbank Residents Association

Happy 20th birthday SRA!

Well what a month April is shaping up to be. This month the Southbank Residents Association (SRA) will mark its 20th year of representing and advocating for our community.

Previous committee member and resident, Lynne Lumsden, has been tirelessly researching and compiling our history. We are anticipating having this available in a small publication at around this time next year when we hope to have a public celebration of our 21st anniversary after the City of Melbourne rejected our grant request for us to hold a community expo this month. This would have been an opportunity to incorporate a small anniversary celebration to recognise this esteemed 20-year milestone.

Much has changed in this time and, without the SRA voice, I dread to think what Southbank would look like today. On behalf of our community I wish to convey a big thank you to our founding committee under the presidency of Ray McDonald, and all the subsequent committees which have worked tirelessly to ensure Southbank is not forgotten. Watch this space over the coming year as we plan for our 21st anniversary – hopefully with some support from the City of Melbourne.

If you haven't heard, there is currently a mayoral by-election after the recent resignation of Robert Doyle. We will receive our postal ballots in the last week of this month with voting closing on May 11.

I was delighted to learn that current councillor, Rohan Leppert, has decided to put his hand up for lord mayor. Rohan is currently serving his second term on council after being successfully re-elected in 2016, he currently holds the arts, culture and heritage portfolios and is deputy chair of planning.

Since my time as president of the Southbank Residents Association I have worked closely with Rohan across a multitude of issues which affect our suburb, but particularly with planning. Rohan is a champion of transparency and good governance.

Rohan has always made himself accessible to our Southbank community. With his passion for planning coupled with his youth, under his leadership I know he will bring much needed vitality to this

council.

Rohan would be a brilliant ambassador for the City of Melbourne. But, don't take my word for it, the SRA has arranged an opportunity for our entire community to ask the hard questions to the candidates themselves at our "meet the candidates" forum on Thursday, April 26 at 6.30pm at the Boyd Community Hub (Southbank Library).

This will be moderated by acclaimed previous CoM councillor and Walkley award-winning journalist, Stephen Mayne. So be sure to mark the date in your diary as this is a not-to-be missed event. It is exciting times ahead, so please keep a lookout for your ballot packs and don't forget to vote.

The committee has locked in Wednesday, July 18 for our next AGM so mark it in your diary as we would love to see you there. If you would like to get involved and have a say in shaping your community, please consider joining our committee.

There are still a few more committee meetings before this date, so if you are curious and would like to see what is involved then please reach out and come along and meet the current team and see how we operate.

If you are interested or have any questions, please make contact by emailing president@southbankresidents.org.au, we would love to hear from you.

Hope to see you on April 26 at our "meet the candidates" event.



Tony Penna

Tony Penna is the president of Southbank Residents' Association.

southbankresidents.com.au



History



Henley-on-Yarra

The people of Melbourne love hosting and participating in large-scale sporting events – racing, football, cricket and the grand prix.

For the first half of the 20th century, we could add in rowing, with the Henley-on-Yarra regatta, a race that concluded on the edge of what is now Southbank.

In 1903 some influential Melbourne residents met with the amateur rowing clubs and proposed the idea of a regatta. The major race would be an eight-oar race called the Grand Challenge Cup, with crews racing from the Botanic Gardens to the Henley stage, near Princes Bridge.

The picturesque river carnival kicked off in March 1904. Crews were invited from rowing clubs across Australia. The event soon moved to November and, by 1907, it attracted 45,000 onlookers and was being compared favourably with London's famous Henley-on-Thames. Crowds kept growing until the WWI forced a break between 1914-18. The crowds flocked back in when the regatta resumed in 1919.

But this was more than just a series of races. It was THE outdoor social event of the year, drawing numerous prominent people who dressed in their finery and attended parties on four gaily-decorated houseboats moored at the Henley stage.

Hundreds of other boats and canoes

crowded the river, hired for the day. During the 1930s it became an exhibition for the latest fashions of the day, with fashion contests. It was also popular with ordinary citizens who took their picnic lunches into the gardens and enjoyed the events (and frequented the many beer booths!).

In 1946, after an eight-year hiatus caused by WWII, the event attracted a record crowd of more than 100,000. But problems emerged in 1948 when planned construction of the new Swan St Bridge over the regatta course meant that the race was to be run higher up the river where there was not enough room to park boats for the usual carnival.

There would be no fireworks or fashion parades that year. Henley was now to be a purely sporting event for rowers. Reported as drab without its pre-war glamour, the event attracted a poor crowd and made a financial loss. Whilst it was expected that completion of the bridge would permit a return to the original course, this did not happen and the crowds continued to dwindle.

In 1955 the regatta moved from its traditional date in November to become the opening ceremony of the Moomba Festival. It was a sad end to one of the great events on Melbourne's sporting calendar.



Robin Grow

President - Australian Art Deco and Modernism Society

robingrow@ozemail.com.au

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St Johns Southgate

Rise and shine

It's twenty-past six on Easter morning and pilgrims from Good Friday's Way of the Cross walk are starting to gather outside St Paul's Cathedral.

It's a little bit cold and everyone's still waking up (except the party goers who've been out all night) but there's a whiff of anticipation in the air and everyone's exchanging smiles or friendly hellos with the familiar faces from last year.

On the dot of six-thirty, some words of scripture and poetry are shared and then, together, we walk past Federation Square, across Princes Bridge, around the side of Hamer Hall until we reach St Johns Southgate. Gathering outside, by the bronze plaque depicting the resurrection, we hear its startling story from scripture, some poetic



reflections, then gather in the church to light candles and burst into joyful song.

As light begins to creep in through the windows, the dawn service continues with more singing and readings from scripture and an opportunity for worshippers to reaffirm their faith.

Finally, after a dramatic organ postlude,

everyone follows their noses to the function room where they're treated to bubbly, strawberries and, of course, hot cross buns!

The room is abuzz with chatter and the bright shining faces of people from every imaginable Christian tradition. The festivities continue as the sun shines brighter and people are still chatting as worshippers arrive for the nine o'clock service. Some enthusiastic pilgrims even decide to stay on for the eucharist!

In the calendar of the annual events at St Johns, the Easter dawn service is unique. Every year we welcome a great number of devout and enthusiastic pilgrims who have walked the Way of the Cross on Good Friday and choose to make St Johns their worshipping home on (arguably) the most holy day of the year.

For many people, Easter is an opportunity to spend quality time with family, but this dawn service widens the arms of family embrace to an extended family.

Lutherans, Catholics, Anglicans, Orthodox, Uniting Church folk and more worship as one. For a faith-based celebration that is singularly focussed on the resurrection of Jesus, it is characterised by a beautiful diversity.

Admittedly, thinking about rising before dawn might make you feel gloomy but I guarantee that doing something outside your ordinary routine, with a family you didn't even know you had, will make your face shine.

See you there, bright and early, next year!



Tom Hoffmann

Tom Hoffmann is the pastor at St Johns Southgate Church.

www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au



Health & Wellbeing

Don't be SAD this autumn and winter

Seasonal affective disorder (SAD) is a type of depression that's related to changes in seasons. If you're like most people with SAD, your symptoms start in the autumn and continue into the winter months, sapping your energy and making you feel moody.

Don't brush off that yearly feeling as simply a case of the "winter blues" or a seasonal funk that you have to tough out on your own. Take steps to keep your mood and motivation steady throughout the year!

SAD symptoms

- Symptoms specific to autumn and winter-onset SAD, sometimes called winter

depression, may include:

- Irritability;
- Tiredness or low energy;
- Problems getting along with other people;
- Hypersensitivity to rejection;
- Heavy, "leaden" feeling in the arms or legs;
- Oversleeping;
- Appetite changes, especially a craving for foods high in carbohydrates; and
- Weight gain.

What are the causes of SAD?

The specific cause of seasonal affective disorder remains unknown. Some factors that may come into play include:

- Your biological clock (circadian rhythm). The reduced level of sunlight in autumn and winter may cause winter-onset SAD. This decrease in sunlight may disrupt your body's internal clock and lead to feelings of depression;
- Serotonin levels. A drop in serotonin, a brain chemical that affects mood, might

play a role in SAD. Reduced sunlight can cause a drop in serotonin that may trigger depression; and

- Melatonin levels. The change in season can disrupt the balance of the body's level of melatonin, which plays a role in sleep patterns and mood.

What you can do RIGHT NOW to manage some of these symptoms:

Get moving! Exercise can help alleviate SAD symptoms by increasing the happy hormones (endorphins) in your system and reduce stress, which often exacerbates feelings of depression brought on by the winter blues. Outdoor exercise would be most helpful (a walk/run in the botanical gardens perhaps?), but if you can't exercise outside because it's cold or rainy, choose a treadmill, stationary bike or elliptical machine close to a window at the gym. If you don't have access to a gym, training indoors such as a high intensity interval training session, yoga or Pilates (that can be accessed

on youtube.com) will do the trick!

Light therapy (phototherapy). Speak to someone who is a sleep professional to recommend the best light therapy product for you. Places like: sleephub.com.au and mcsaustralia.com.au can help you with this;

Psychotherapy/counselling. Find a psychologist in the Southbank area that can support you with your SAD symptoms; and

Self care. Spending time doing things that you enjoy such as reading, listening to music, lighting a candle, having a bath and spending time with loved ones;

Medication. Speak to your doctor about medication that might be appropriate for you and the symptoms that you are having.



Rajna Bogdanovic

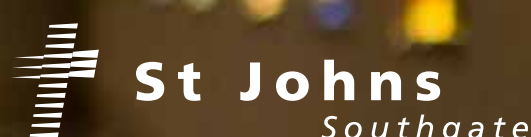
Clinical psychologist
rajna@southbanklocalnews.com.au



Welcome to St Johns Church Southgate
A place for worship, prayer and community
located on the upper level of Southgate

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



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Pets' peeves of vertical living

2018 is an Earth Dog Year in Chinese astrology and we are all advised to pay special attention to our health – but if you actually have a four legged friend, how might their 2018 health be in your vertical village?

Pet keeping in strata communities continues to grow, reflecting the cultural importance of pet ownership in Australia. Led by a generation of baby boomers who have become empty-nesters, apparently almost 90 per cent claim their animals to be more family than pet. Also the “cats, not kids” brigade have seen pet parks become increasingly popular safe zones in which both owners and pets mingle.

However, how we treat our furry family in our vertical villages varies. In Queensland and NSW, for instance, pet ownership is subject to a wide range of bylaws, whereas in Victoria and the ACT, pets are allowed by default unless they become a “nuisance”.

Individual building protocols and pet facilities also vary widely.

Some apartment towers require pets be carried across common space (lest they mark the marble flooring). Others request residents register their pets with building management, citing the need to convey relevant bulletins (and also, possibly, to ensure that owners approve of their four-legged tenants). Some villages also have an induction package which alerts pet owners to their responsibilities to neighbours and asks them to give thought to how they will remove their pet in the event of an emergency.

Current trends are towards greater support for pets in apartments as we “age in place” and become more reliant upon our pets for company. In fact, many policy makers are including pets in their future views

of high rise living as they are believed to positively impact on their human’s wellbeing by reducing loneliness and (possibly) alleviating some symptoms of depression and dementia.

Added to this, pets are claimed to strengthen our sense of community, a point agreed by Lisa Wood, associate professor at University of Western Sydney. Her cross-national study (involving Perth, Australia, and three US cities) has lent weight to the claim that pets help build social capital (i.e. trust and connections between people, including those we don’t know personally).

Also in support of pets is John Bradshaw, visiting fellow in anthrozoology, University of Bristol, who claims that pet-keeping is one of the few available outlets in today’s urbanised society that help us to reconnect with the world of nature.

It appears then that pets are good for their owners – but what about vice versa?

Are we, and in particular our high-rise lifestyle, good for our pets?

According to RMIT researchers Yolande Strengers, Cecily Maller and Larissa Nicholls, there are some concerns for high-rise pets, starting with the temperatures within our apartments. As noted in a previous *SkyPad Living* column, a University of Melbourne study found that heat stress inside apartments is a major issue for residents – and this includes our pets as they, too, are susceptible to overheating.

Some real thought is needed to ensure that pets have a suitable environment, especially

when owners are away. For some, this means leaving on the air conditioning, which can contribute significantly to energy bills.

And this is just one pet health concern.

Dr Jo Righetti from Pet Problems Solved has identified several more challenges including your pet’s mental health – what are they going to do all day when their human is away?

But marketing, like nature, abhors a vacuum – and so, in this time of “premiumisation of pets”, there are a wave of pet-friendly services and innovations that I have come across.

For instance, previously owners might have left on the radio for their pet (along with the air-conditioning!). However, now there is DOGTV, a live stream channel that “provides the right company for dogs when left home alone”. Apparently, DOGTV helps stimulate, entertain, relax and habituate dogs with TV shows that introduce them to various movements, sounds, objects, experiences and behaviour patterns, all from a dog’s perspective.

But too much TV could make too much Fido.

So, rather than simply leaving toys around, there is digital day care with Camp PetChatz which makes “chatting with your pet easy!” Apparently it is as “easy” as pressing the chat button and your dog or cat will see your smiling face on the full-colour LED display.

But wait – of course there’s more!

By clicking the treat button, you can give your pet a healthy reward – and naturally

you can record and share all these precious moments!

And just to give you choice, there is also Petcube Bites – an all-in-one Wi-Fi pet camera with built-in treat dispenser that lets you train and reward your pet remotely. See, talk, treat, and train from your phone!

But if you are more old-school, there is a local offering called Dogshare which introduces dog-owners to other dog-lovers in their neighbourhood. Dogshare, which is free to join, aims to connect time-poor dog owners with fellow dog lovers – and, to my mind, there seems potential to add a vertical village twist to this service by developing a building-based group and including this information in the building’s induction program.

But if the demands of vertical pet ownership seem all too great, there are an array of virtual pets – but before you head down this simulated path, you might like to view *Strange Beasts*, a short film from London filmmaker Magali Barbé.

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



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



Owners' Corporation Law

The values that underpin a vertical community

Sometimes balancing the competing interests of owners and residents can be a daunting prospect for owners’ corporation committees.

The microcosm that makes up an apartment building contains many moving parts and shifting sands and the owners and residents each have differing characteristics: commercial businesses and retail lots, owner-occupiers, families, renters and investors, baby-boomers and first-home buyers alike.

Take a simple example – say, for instance the committee of the owners’ corporation was faced with a decision about whether to renew the concierge’s agreement.

Now, the owner-occupiers and renters would most likely be in favour of the renewal, in order to maintain the building’s high level of cleanliness and service quality and to ensure continuing high levels of amenity, security and privacy.

Investors on the other hand, might favour the concierge agreement being removed

or scaled back, in order to lower operating costs, which would maximise rental yield and re-sale prospects.

How on earth then, should a committee approach decision-making when these differing interests collide?

The Owners Corporation Act 2006 places a duty on committee members to act in the best interests of the owners’ corporation and without regard to self-interest. In reality though, this is the beginning and not the end of the question.

Some buildings might not know what the percentage split is between owner-occupiers, renters and tenants are. In order to find out, the OC manager could take a look at the roll to get a rough idea based on the names and addresses for service.

Another option might be for a survey to be commissioned by the committee to find out about its own building.

Ensuring that the numbers on the committee represented by these different percentage splits is advisable, however it rarely ever happens in my experience.

What might be most useful for committees is to develop a manifesto, or a mission statement. Such a set of values can greatly assist a committee in making decisions

and can improve accountability and consistency in decision making by applying the blowtorch to each decision made to ensure that it does not breach the mission statement.

Governments do this all the time when they are bound by a constitution and any decisions made that go against the constitution can be judicially reviewed.

Now, I’m not suggesting that owners’ corporations make their mission statements a legally binding document – this is more informal and internal – but it would remain a very important decision-making tool.

For instance, an owners’ corporation might decide that its mission statement is to be a technologically-advanced building with high conservation values and to be an early adopter of new technological means and with an interest in making sure that its building stands for technological progress and a reduced carbon footprint.

This might mean that the building focuses on new products for electric car charging stations, smart homes and smart locks, LED lights, solar panels, batteries and timers for VSD drives.

Another building might decide that its mission statement is to make sure that the

community is inclusive and tight knit and to make a real effort to bring the community together for events and to share common amenities by holding rooftop concerts, social sports team events, games nights, communal vegetable gardens or beekeeping.

In whichever way your community forms together, it will be very important for committees to be aware of not just the financial dynamics and the administration of the building, but also the societal impacts of living in high rise.

There must be a recognition that lives can be improved, whether through technology or through friendships and inclusiveness and I’m sure that, in time, there will be a reckoning where Australians must truly embrace apartment living.

At that time, the “early adopters” will pave the way for the new way of living in Australia and around the world.



Tom Bacon
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We Live Here

Embedded kickbacks

We Live Here has had a request from the ABC for information about embedded electricity networks.

The broadcaster is investigating an issue arising from electricity companies in strata complexes with embedded networks having difficulties trying to change electricity providers or take over the network.

If your OC, or if you know of any OC that has had trouble changing their electricity contracts, or find that the contracts have been rolled over without realising, or have chosen to pay for the infrastructure to allow the OC to take over the embedded network – please let us know.

OCs might find that the contracts are worded carefully to avoid the word “commission” and importantly, the margin skimmed by the manager is not disclosed. Under the terms of some contracts, managers can claim “commercial confidentiality” to avoid disclosing just how much they make from the electricity account of each occupier.

In a building of 400 apartments, a 10 per cent kickback on electricity could swell your property manager’s account by as much as \$500,000 per year, coming out the pockets of owners who often don’t even know about the commission.

The reforms to electricity distribution, due to take effect in 2020, will make it possible for embedded networks to be challenged. This is a long overdue reform. Until then, you may be paying 10 per cent or possibly 20 per cent above the best available rate to cover the commission being paid to your property manager. Have a look at your supply and megawatt rates and compare them.

Owners pay for proxy farmers stitching up lucrative contracts

Owners at two Southbank apartment buildings have recently been left battered and bruised after nasty fights with their property management companies. The owners were out-manipulated and out-voted.

Armed with a swag of proxies gathered from overseas owners, Network Pacific ousted a committee of owners who had questioned the contract performance of subsidiaries in the group.

The ABC’s 7.30 picked up on the ugly stoush, which ended up in VCAT.

It started with the committee of owners cataloguing more than 400 problems with the management of the building – improperly maintained fire extinguishers, poor cleaning and failure to repair damage. There were also serious concerns about how the funds were being spent, given that the contractors were under the effective financial control of the property management group.

The property manager called a special meeting, circulating information to owners that was described on 7.30 as false or

defamatory.

Two real estate companies with links to Network Pacific gathered a large number of non-resident proxies and the proxy-holders voted the whistle-blowers off the committee. The property manager-linked contractors were subsequently reappointed for three more years.

The disaffected owners took the matter to VCAT which, unsurprisingly, found no issue with the proxy farming.

Meanwhile, another Southbank building is having similar issues with a property management company.

At a recent AGM hundreds of proxies from non-resident owners were used to oust the critics of their operations. Only four members of the new committee are independent owners, the other eight have connections to the company or its associated companies. Two of the proxy holders – a director and an employee – held more than 85 per cent of the proxies between them. This is an instance of proxy farming at its worst, and could soon become illegal.

One of the options considered by the Department of Consumer Affairs in its recent review of the Owners Corporation Act, with the findings due to be released soon, is to limit the total number of proxies held by one person to no more than 5 per cent!

Across town at a Docklands apartment, a developer’s associate voted to give himself a highly profitable lease on his lot to be used by the owners’ corporation. The 20-year lease was about 20 per cent above the market rate with no option for the OC to terminate.

All three situations have arisen from lucrative management contracts being granted hours before the off-the-plan units are settled, and no doubt are just the tip of the iceberg.

We Live Here calls on the state government to:

- Limit developer-appointed contracts to 12 months to allow new owners coming in to have some say in how the contracts are awarded;
- Require that all these management contracts should be disclosed in the section 32 to allow investors to be aware of the costs;
- Make it mandatory for all relationships between the developer and contractors to be disclosed;
- Proscribe any person with an interest, shareholding, directorship or association with a property management company from sitting on an owners corporation committee; and
- Compel all contractors to disclose commissions paid to developers or building managers.



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

Crime wrap



A montage of CCTV footage showing the four teens on the night of an alleged armed robbery on Clarendon St. Arrests have since been made.

Arrests following a series of incidents

Port Phillip Crime Investigation Unit detectives have arrested four teens following search warrants in Southbank and South Melbourne on April 10.

The warrants were in relation to a number of alleged armed robberies, robberies and assaults in March and April.

The first incident occurred on March 20 when a man was allegedly hit with a metal pole, kicked and robbed on Clarendon Street in South Melbourne.

The second incident occurred on April 3 when a man was allegedly surrounded by males, assaulted and robbed on Whiteman Street in Southbank.

The third incident occurred on April 5 when a man was allegedly confronted by a group of males before being assaulted, stabbed in the leg and robbed.

All four males have been arrested and are expected to be charged with armed robbery, attempted armed robbery and assault.

A 16-year-old from Elsternwick, 15-year-old from Albert Park, 14-year-old from Port Melbourne and 15-year-old from St Kilda were interviewed on April 10.

Arrests following armed robbery

Police arrested two men on Friday, April 6 following an armed robbery in Southbank.

It is alleged a woman was walking along the Yarra River near Whiteman St when she was approached by two men.

The woman was threatened with an edged weapon and demands were made for her possessions, before she was assaulted.

She was treated on scene by emergency services for minor injuries.

Two men were arrested a short time later near the corner of King and Flinders streets.

A 23-year-old man, of no fixed place of address, was charged with armed robbery.

A 26-year-old Sunbury man was charged with theft-related offences.

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All for love . . . and fruit!

Local Southbank comedian and lover of all things love Dave Hynes has recently embarked on his first Melbourne International Comedy Festival (MICF) solo show.

While many comedians often possess a more cynical approach to comedy, poking fun and unraveling everything that is wrong with the world, Dave's attitude to his craft is the complete opposite!

Running at selected times until April 21 at the Imperial Hotel on Spring St in the CBD, Dave's show 'I love you special guest in brackets. One night only' is 50 minutes of love, excitement, silliness and pineapples!

Think Jim Carey meets Daft Punk. Then add an adorable neighbour, partnered with a puppy that just wants to be held, Dave's perfectly charming nature will mess with your humour and tug at your heartstrings.

Complete with a trash can-turned pineapple headset and a jumpsuit, the 31-year-old's loving approach to comedy is sure to leave you feeling a raft of positive emotions.

"The love aspect of the show is where you can't feel any boundaries between you and other people and that's what I want to do," he said. "I don't want anyone to leave the show as individuals and I want everyone to feel that they all just did something together and it was a bit weird!"

"While I read a lot of news and the world is a messed up place, I just want to create a happy place and I've got 50 minutes with a group of people where I can do that."

After months of trawling comedy rooms in New York, Dave first snuck into Melbourne's comedy scene with his Monday night comedy room *Quick Bites* at Boney in the CBD three years ago – the same time he



moved to Southbank.

Having previously owned and operated his own restaurant in Collingwood prior to embarking on his comedic career, he said the life consuming nature of working in hospitality had become too great of a burden.

"It was breakfast, lunch and dinner seven days and it killed me!" he said. "I just had no life and I got to this crossroads where I realised that it wasn't what I wanted. I was missing birthdays and my friend's kids getting born."

Since discovering a passion for writing that built on his childhood love for comedy, he said he quickly realised that he wanted to pursue a career in stand up.

"I did my first stand up and was hooked. I knew straight away that's what I wanted to do," he said.

"I grew up loving comedy through my dad who had a real appreciation for it and I think some of that weirdness and silliness seeped through. I really enjoy that idea that being an adult doesn't mean don't be silly."

Since beginning his journey in comedy, he

said one of his main goals has been to "inject some love into the industry", which he said had a tendency at times of being egotistical and chauvinistic.

His first MICF solo show is an obvious representation of that desire to spread love to anyone and anything, friend or fruit!

He said a key inspiration for his show stemmed from his lifelong love of fruit but particularly pineapples, which he described as "symbol of hospitality" that brought people together.

"I had this joke about how much I really love fruit and I think that's where the start of the show came from because I realised that I loved spruiking positivity," he said. "I found that yelling and screaming and getting really animated about how much I loved fruit got me this name."

"Pineapples are great for breaking down barriers. There's a whole section of pineapple stuff in Kmart it's super weird! It's such a strange ephemeral thing that people are just drawn to for some reason."

Dave Hynes *I love you special guest in brackets. One night only* runs until April 21 as part of the MICF.

Expect a night filled with 80s house music, glitter and fruit as musical instruments! Each night also features a completely different special guest, who Dave will quiz on the subject of love.

For more info and to book tickets visit www.comedyfestival.com.au/2018/shows/i-love-you-special-guest-in-brackets-one-night-only

Montague Community Alliance

The "NON-politics" of the Montague Precinct . . .

We held our first Montague Community Forum for 2018. And we thank the panelists – Martin Foley, David Davis and Samantha Ratnam – for their time and contribution to a very dynamic and well-attended discussion.

We particularly thank David Davis, as he was the first Liberal Member of the Victorian State Parliament in the last five years to agree to our request to contribute to our Community Forums.

Although we do, with thanks, acknowledge the Liberal councillors of the City of Port Philip for their ongoing support and engagement of and with our community.

HOWEVER . . . it was very interesting and at times concerning to myself as the moderator, and to the members of the Montague Community Alliance and to other audience members that we were unable in any real way, to communicate with The Shadow

Planning Minister, David Davis.

What we needed to hear from the Liberal Party and the Shadow Planning Minister was about its plans for the Montague Precinct. About how it will focus on Fishermans Bend and Montague and that the mistakes of the past Liberal Planning Minister (the current leader of the party) would not be repeated.

To our great disappointment, we did not hear this and, as Mr Davis failed to take up our offer of a briefing prior to the forum, which all the other speakers did, we were not able to assist him in understanding who we were and why we were holding the forums.

To be clear, we as a community group are not politically aligned. We represent a diverse demographic including those of differing political alignments, but all of us are absolutely focused on the liveability and amenity of living and working now in Montague.

We all have a great interest and a desire to prepare ourselves for the thousands of residents, businesses and traffic that will arrive in our precinct very soon.

The State Liberal Party has missed our very reason for existing and we would like to take this opportunity to reiterate what we would have said to Mr Davis prior to our forum:

- The Montague Community Alliance and the forums exist to provide and communicate with the current residents and businesses in the Montague Precinct and the interfaces with Port Melbourne, South Wharf and other parts of South Melbourne;
- We have developed good communication channels with the City of Port Philip to assist our community's knowledge of what is happening in the planning and decision making for the Montague Precinct;
- We understand and accept the Capital City Zoning and that we are in a significant development area;
- We are not NIMBYS;
- We want to ensure through clear communication, that planning departments and planning influencers understand that there is already a population of long-term residents (including families) and businesses in the precinct and that we pay rates and GST, and we happily and willing contribute to our community and to our neighbourhoods; and
- We have already created neighbourhood agreements and good communications

with some developers that can be built on for further reference in planning permits.

- We are not here to sell our properties or "flip" them to developers. We are here to live and work and enjoy a good quality of life and amenity.

The Montague Community Alliance wants to work with all political parties, however there is a wide spread frustration towards the previous government's planning minister and we would welcome Mr Davis at any time convenient to him, to talk to us further about how the Liberal Party might develop our precinct and build on the advisory and consultative work done to date and, of course, how they would support our existing and future communities.

We look forward to that opportunity and once again thank everyone, particularly the *Southbank Local News*, for their ongoing support and attendance at our community forums.



Trisha Avery

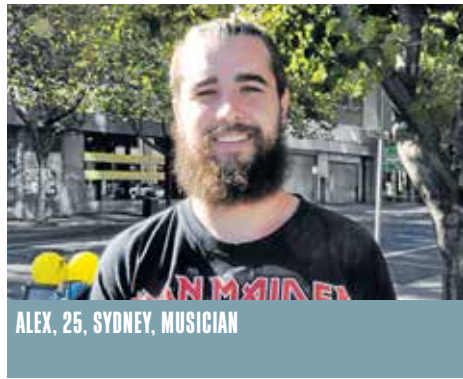
Trisha Avery is the convener of the Montague Community Alliance.
trishavery@bpca.com.au





SOUTHBANK FACES OF

Question: Do you think those involved in the Australian cricket team scandal have been fairly treated in the wake of the ball tampering scandal?



ALEX, 25, SYDNEY, MUSICIAN

"I think if you look at it in the context of a lot of other things going on in sport at the moment I think it's been rubbish."



JORDAN, 20, SOUTHBANK, BARTENDER

"Yes and no. I think for cheating there should definitely be some implications but I think it's been very personalised."



MING, 22, HONG KONG, STUDENT

"I think so, because they are a role model to society and to children."



ADINDA, 29, SOUTHBANK, STUDENT

"It depends on the player or if it's the coach, but I think one year is fair."



LILY, 20, SYDNEY, WAITRESS

"Maybe it was little bit harsh, but I guess they are grown men and they should be able to make choices for themselves."



LUCI, 19, SYDNEY, STUDENT

"Yes. They knew that it was wrong and they're only sorry because they got caught."

SOUTHBANK SUDOKU

Last month's Sudoku solution

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

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

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

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



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The housing unaffordability crisis

It's hard to determine exactly when the "Great Australian Dream" of owning a home became so hard to achieve. However, for many, the prospect of home ownership in Melbourne now must feel like more of a pipe dream.

Some 20 years ago the average house in suburban Melbourne cost buyers three times the annual median income. Today prospective homeowners will need to find 11 times the annual median income before hoping to own a home. In today's housing climate, the three times median income is now little more than a deposit on a home.

According to the Australian Bureau Of Statistics, 52.3 per cent of Melbourne Ports residents are a part of the rental market, while Victoria's rental rate is 28.7 per cent. When you also take into account that a large volume of young people are also still living in the family home in order to save, housing affordability is an issue that is of particular concern to this community.

Fortunately, Labor has a plan to address this issue.

While the Liberal Party procrastinate and the Greens Party dither around with a list of "aims" and "principles" whilst avoiding any commitment, Labor is coming up with real policy solutions to make the "Aussie Dream" achievable.

One of the crucial parts of Labor's policy is to finally address negative gearing. Put simply, negative gearing is a scheme allowing property owners to claim losses on rental properties as tax deductions on their regular taxable income.

This was originally designed to increase investment in housing. In reality it now sees the taxes of those saving for a house

ironically being used to fund an existing property owners ability to own multiple properties. Negative gearing is pushing up the price of the house they are saving up to purchase.

Labor is therefore looking to abolish negative gearing on existing properties. It will keep the scheme for new properties to encourage investment in new houses. This plan will enable continued investment while encouraging growth in the building sector, lifting the supply of new properties onto the market and helping to keep the prices down.

Currently 97 per cent of properties negatively geared were purchased from existing housing stock. Labor would like to see this investment shifted to increase supply.

Another factor which sees investment lifting property prices is capital gains tax (CGT) discount. This discount gives investors an advantage by providing a tax incentive for increasing investment.

John Howard and Peter Costello increased the CGT discount in 1999, however since then house prices have skyrocketed and the discount has been one factor adding to property price rises.

Labor understands that, while investment in the housing market is essential, it should not come at the expense of first home buyers. By reducing the CGT discount, we will hopefully attract long-term investors and reduce damaging speculation in the

housing market. This will help stabilise house prices and provide renters with a more stability and certainty of tenure.

For those who are struggling with rent whilst trying to save, they should know that Labor also has plans to help keep rental prices down. Labor's rental policy calls for the implementation of a vacant property tax to stop investors from purchasing properties and leaving them vacant by ensuring there is increased financial incentive for leasing a property.

Vacant properties take leasing opportunities off the market and put further pressure on rental prices. Increasing the number of properties available for rent will help keep rental prices at a minimum and make it easier for people to find housing.

Labor also understands that a housing policy does not only need to deal with new home buyers. There are many doing it tough on our streets who just need a roof over their heads.

While the Greens Party teamed up with the Liberals in Victorian parliament to block the Andrews government's plan to increase social housing, the federal Labor caucus was announcing plans to boost homeless support and set up a safe housing fund for women and children forced to flee domestic violence and for other community emergency accommodation needs.

The commitment by Labor to address the crucial issue of housing is not just

hollow words or an empty slogan. That's why another crucial part of Labor's housing policy will be to have somewhere the buck stops.

Labor will reinstate a federal minister for housing and homelessness whose remit will be to co-ordinate every aspect of Labor's housing policy. The minister will also be in charge of re-establishing the National Housing Supply Council, which will provide an ongoing independent advisory body on how to boost housing supply.

With housing affordability being such an important issue with Melbourne Ports residents, I have been a strong advocate for change within Labor's federal caucus. I am confident that a Shorten government will have a positive impact on housing affordability while protecting investment.

In the coming weeks you will be hearing more from my office on this subject, however if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact my office for further information on **9534 8126**.



Michael Danby

Federal Member for Melbourne Ports

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Letters to the Editor

Art anytime and anywhere!

"Art never stopped a war and never got anybody a job. That was never its function. Art cannot change events. But it can change people. It can affect people so that they are changed ... because people are changed by art - enriched, ennobled, encouraged - they then act in a way that may affect the course of events... by the way they vote, they behave, the way they think." (Leonard Bernstein).

As a child I loved my sport and, oh, what a city to live in if you love sport. Melbourne has no comparison when it comes to its support of all things sport.

Whilst I still love sport, (the Tigers especially), as I've grown older I've developed a greater appreciation of the arts and what it gives you as an individual. For that I have my father to thank. He was mad about it. Like, seriously mad!

As a Southbank resident, I would like to think that our suburb, within our city, could be held up as beacon for the arts whether it be public or private.

Whilst many mocked the "yellow peril" sculpture when it was first put in place in 1980, I liked it for the fact that it was controversial and made people at least think about art and its place in our lives.

It now resides at the end of Dodds St having been relocated there in 2002. I re-discovered it after I moved to Southbank and happily pass it every day as I walk through my suburb.

I thoroughly endorse any sort of public art that is put in place in Southbank. Let me reiterate that - any sort of public art.

I might not like some of it. It may not be to my taste. But I'm okay with that. Controversial works such as the "yellow peril" generate discussion solely because it is not to everyone's taste and everyone has their own interpretation. And, that's what art is for. Art is an act of expressing feelings, thoughts, and observations. Art inspires. Art makes you think. I say public artwork is welcome in Southbank. Anytime and anywhere. Let Southbank be at the pointy end of any arts-based discussion.

Peter Viney



Send your letters to news@southbanklocalnews.com.au

Pet's Corner



Perfectly petite is Penny

It's hard not to be absolutely taken by five-month-old miniature dachshund, Penny.

Enjoying a quiet afternoon walk around Boyd with owner and local Nicole Allan, they soon drew the attention of two young children playing nearby.

Overwhelmed by this newfound attention, Penny was soon at home in Nicole's arms where she had treats a plenty.

"She loves food. When she sees any kind of food, she wants to steal it," Nicole said.

Nicole and her boyfriend have had Penny since she was eight weeks old. With Nicole's boyfriend having grown up with a dachshund, they decided that Penny was the perfect fit for city living.

"Living in an apartment she is fine. But she knows when she's been naughty, she tries to go and hide," Nicole said.

Business

New location for medical clinic

Southgate Health has moved to its new location on the mid-level of Southgate and has welcomed Melbourne Combined Natural Therapies into the fold.

Southgate Medical Centre

Established 17 years ago, Southgate Medical Centre says it has expanded to be Southbank's most comprehensive, state-of-the-art medical facility.

Southgate Medical has a highly professional and caring team of male and female GPs sharing a wealth of experience.

The team is focused on individual care for each patient and believes in promoting preventative medicine to ensure the health and wellbeing of patients.

Southgate Medical's services include:

- Men's health;
- Women's health;
- Child health;
- Travel health;
- Travel vaccinations; and
- Corporate and occupational medicine.

The team

Dr Martin Fox is the principal and founder of Southgate Medical Centre. He has more than 30 years experience in all aspects of general practice and prides himself on guiding his team to ensure that the highest quality care is always provided.

He graduated from Monash University in 1977 and has multiple postgraduate qualifications. His special interests include



Southgate Medical has relocated to level 2 at Southgate opposite Hophaus.

travel medicine, infectious diseases and preventative medicine.

Dr Nick Alfieri joined the team in 2008. He graduated from Adelaide University in 1994 and his special interests include cardiovascular disease risk management and travel medicine.

Dr Kirsty Dunhill joined the team in 2009. She graduated from Monash University in 1993 and has completed further training in women's health and travel medicine. Her special interests include women's health,

paediatrics and travel medicine.

Samantha Chiu is our practice manager and is a registered nurse. She looks after the day-to-day running of the clinic and leading the nursing team. Sam graduated with a double degree in Bachelor of Nursing and Applied Science (Health Promotion) in 2000. She has extensive experience as a practical nurse and enjoys all facets of general practice, firmly believing that prevention is better than the cure and always encouraging active patient involvement in healthcare.

Melbourne Combined Natural Therapies

Melbourne Combined Natural Therapies specialises in remedial massage and myotherapy services and offers preventative maintenance massage treatments. It is also expertly equipped to treat soft tissue injuries and pain arising from muscular skeletal and postural origins.

Melbourne Combined Natural Therapies has been in Southbank since 2003 when Philip Romeril started the business offering remedial massage and myotherapy treatments.

Phil now has more than 17 years in the field and has acquired a broad knowledge of muscular issues and injuries and is experienced in treating a wide range of postural problems. He utilises skills in myofascial dry needling, laser therapy, advanced cupping and myofascial release.

Cal Savage joined in 2010, bringing diplomas in both Remedial Massage and Alexander Technique Teaching. Cal is also a Pilates instructor and is most adept at treating and correcting postural habits and often uses a blend of techniques in tailored sessions.

The Southgate clinic is open seven days and offers a more comprehensive range of modalities than the CBD clinic on Little Collins St, which is open Monday to Friday.

Both clinics operate from 8am to 8pm to suit the varied community of people living in and around Southbank and the CBD.

Bookings are recommended: www.melbournenaturaltherapies.com.au or by phone at **9645 9923**.

For further information please email info@melbournenaturaltherapies.com.au

Market goes plastic free

By Emma Doherty

In an effort to support a more green and sustainable future, the South Melbourne Market is going plastic free.

As of April 11 the market is introducing a ban on single-use plastic bags. This means that traders will no longer supply lightweight plastic shopping bags to customers and customers are advised to also bring their own bags.

The only exception to the ban are barrier bags, most commonly used to wrap fruit and vegetables, meat, seafood etc. However, the market's organisers are hoping to work these single use plastics into the ban in future.

The move follows the Victorian Government's plans for a state-wide plastic bag ban. Victoria is one of two states to have not already banned single-use lightweight plastic bags.

In June 2017, the market surveyed the community to determine its position on the use of single-use plastic bags. 90 per cent supported the ban and 96 per cent supported a campaign to encourage shoppers to bring their own bags.

"We believe now is the time to act on our



pledge for the market to be at the forefront of the war on waste and lead the way for the City of Port Phillip in their waste reduction target," said market general manager Ian Sumpter.

"It requires a simple change of habit

to deliver long-term benefits for the environment and the longevity of the market."

The ban has been praised by the City of Port Phillip's Mayor Cr Bernadene Voss who said: "Port Phillip residents can see very

clearly the harm disposable plastic bags cause to our environment and marine life and council is strongly committed to moving away from using disposable plastic bags."

Alternatively, paper bags made from 100 per cent sustainably-sourced paper will be available for purchase to shoppers who forget their own bags.

For those wanting to implement more sustainable shopping habits, the market suggests shoppers use reusable produce bags, reusable coffee cups and to say "no".

The ban is just one of the many green initiatives being implemented by the market. The market has already invested in a solar PV system, the redistribution of food in partnership with SecondBite and the recycling of cooking oil into biodiesel, to name a few.

For more information on the ban and other sustainable initiatives visit southmelbournemarket.com.au/bring-your-own-bags/

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



TUESDAYS @ BOYD - \$5 DONATION

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Mondays to Thursdays and Saturdays at 111 Sturt St. Chunky Move dance classes are the perfect way to unwind, get fit and improve flexibility and strength.
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.



UNTIL APRIL 21
BOYD POP UP PARK
A range of activities are planned for Boyd's temporary pop up park throughout April including:

- Creative workshops
- Zumba fitness parties
- 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



TUESDAYS @ 10 CENTRE AVE, PORT MELB
PORT MELBOURNE SCOUTS
Next meeting dates for cubs are April 17 and May 8. Scouts will meet on April 24 and May 15. For more information contact Lisa Picking via email: lisa.picking@scoutsvictoria.com.au



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.



MAY 8 & 10 @ BOYD
BOYD STUDIO SITE VISITS
Site visits provide an opportunity for applicants to view the arts residency spaces offered through council's 2019 Annual Arts Grants program.
Contact Gurjit Singh on 03 9658 9370



THURSDAY, APRIL 26 @ BOYD
MEET THE CANDIDATES
Hosted by the Southbank Residents' Association and moderated by former councillor Stephen Mayne, this is your chance to quiz Lord Mayoral candidates ahead of the by-election on May 11.

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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Michael Pastrikos
0404 282 864

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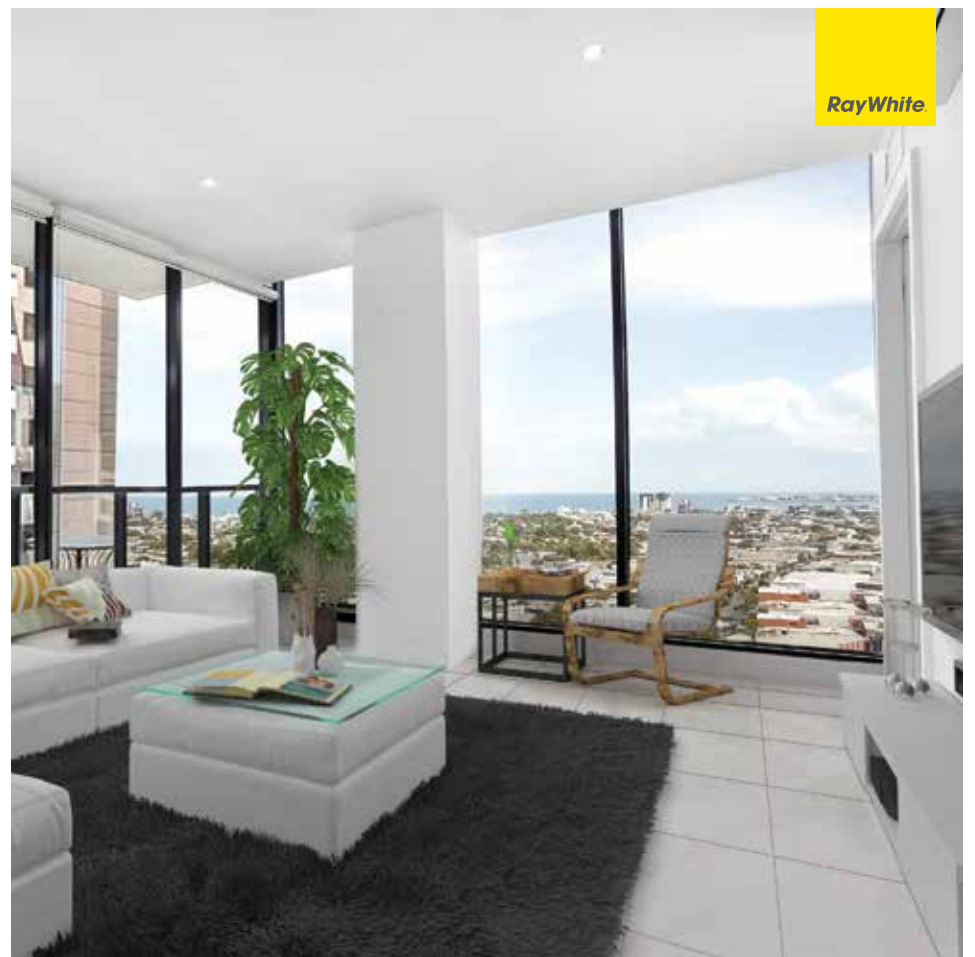
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