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Setting a new benchmark

The six groundbreaking designs for the BMW site at the corner of Southbank Boulevard and City Rd were revealed last month.

Developer Beulah International hosted a Design Symposium on July 27 when competing teams consisting of some of the world's best architects shared their visions for the prominent site.

From twisting towers, interlocking blocks, a propeller penthouse, stacked neighbourhoods, vertical cities and an illuminated cloud, the winning concept, to be announced this month, is expected to draw global attention to Southbank.

Read more in our feature on pages 6-7.



The six designs bidding for the BMW site on the corner of City Road and Southbank Boulevard. A panel will select the winning design this month.

Let there be light...in the post Rimmer era

By Shane Scanlan

The sky above Melbourne Town Hall is looking brighter following the announcement on August 1 that CEO Ben Rimmer is moving on.

New Lord Mayor Sally Capp brought an unprecedented freshness to the role when she bounced into the job on May 24 with a big smile on her face.

The smile is still there and it is likely to remain now that she has an opportunity to create a new culture at the City of Melbourne.

Even without the Robert Doyle saga (which is yet to conclude) and the election of Cr Capp, Mr Rimmer would have unlikely been reappointed to the role by councillors.

Mr Rimmer appears to possess an extreme amount of confidence in his own ability to run the show without reference to our elected representatives. He was simply unsuited to local government.

It remains to be seen whether the massive loss of senior staff and corporate knowledge during Mr Rimmer's tenure can be repurposed as an opportunity for renewal. The key will be whether or not the legacy batch of Rimmer-appointed senior managers are actually talented enough for the roles

they occupy.

The new City of Melbourne CEO should make it clear that staff are rewarded and promoted based on merit - and that the converse of this also applies.

But perhaps the biggest challenge for the new CEO is to unwind the city's stifling culture of secrecy.

The windows need to be thrown up, curtains cast aside and the doors opened so that the now-bright sky above the Town Hall

can filter into the dark, musty hallways and closed offices. After all, sunlight is the best disinfectant.

The City of Melbourne was by no means an open book when Mr Rimmer took the reins in February, 2015. And former Lord Mayor Robert Doyle didn't help things by insisting on an "orderly classroom". But citizens have even less right to know what is going on these days.

Continued on page 2.

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Let there be light...in the post Rimmer era

Continued from page 1



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The City of Melbourne's default starting point is to withhold information. How it reached this point is a mystery - no doubt evolving over decades to the point where it now considers itself some sort of corporation and has lost sight of the fact that it is actually a local council.

On July 3, its Future Melbourne Committee had a single item to consider. At its July 17 meeting, it had two items from management to consider. The direction and tone of this desire to exclude councillors from decision-making comes from the top. The appointment of a new CEO is an opportunity to reset the paradigm.

Even when councillors are involved, the most recent state government report into the performance of Victorian councils shows that the City of Melbourne makes 28.85 per cent of its decisions in confidential session. That makes it the most secretive council in the state, if you discount the Shire of East Gippsland where officers have no delegated powers to make any decisions.

City of Melbourne councillors could do well by starting their search for a new CEO within the municipalities that respect and value their residents' right to know.

The same state survey showed that two councils - the City of Greater Dandenong and Mt Alexander Shire - made ALL their 2016-17 decisions in public.

Obviously there is more to look for in a CEO than that. And the City of Melbourne is also

a capital city council and has special needs, circumstances and challenges.

But Melbourne has a fantastic opportunity to stop the rot now. The current group of councillors are naturally cohesive and Lord Mayor Capp has no opponents in the chamber.

An ideal chief executive will firstly

be steeped in the values of open and transparent government. Then they will have the character, nature and capacity to transform the City of Melbourne's internal culture.

After that, they need to the best local government administrator in the state. Not much to ask for, is it?

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Skinny tower cut down to size

By David Schout

Southbank's controversial "skinny skyscraper" apartment tower looks set to finally go ahead – at less than a third of its originally planned size.

A planning application for the site at 54-56 Clarke St was sent to the City of Melbourne by developer BPM on July 9.

It proposes a 24-storey, 80-metre boutique-style apartment tower, significantly smaller than the 74-storey, 240-metre building approved in 2013 by former Victorian Planning Minister Matthew Guy.

That move caused public and council contempt, and contributed to Mr Guy earning the nickname "Mr Skyscraper" for his inclination to approve large buildings irrespective of local authority views.

Had that building gone ahead – at over 100m higher than the council's preferred height limit – it would have been Melbourne's fifth-largest tower.

BPM's more modest proposal includes 119 apartments, compared with the 270-unit Elysium proposal.

Development manager Tom Small said the demand for apartments in more boutique-style towers was currently strong.

"At this point in time in the market we feel that the smaller 100-200 unit developments are right in the sweet spot," he said.

"We're seeing a strong appetite for local investors to purchase this type of product given the good rental returns that are on offer."

Mr Small said BPM's 46-level Shadow Play tower on Clarendon St was "achieving excellent rental results for its investors".

Its application states that the proposed building "results in a significant improvement to the streetscape and public realm in this location, particularly when compared to the existing approval".

However, residents in the neighbouring Bank



(Left) A render of BPM's new proposal for Clarke St, which is a fraction of the size of formerly approved Elysium (right).



The site at 54-56 Clarke St, Southbank.

Apartments said the new proposal does little to ease their frustrations, and would still be detrimental for most of its occupants.

The new tower would sit five metres back from Bank Apartments.

Jack Tan, speaking on behalf of Bank residents, said the proposed building's lack of separation from their own would result in a "very bad state of affairs".

"All of our members are very much concerned and frustrated by it," he said.

"The new design proposal, although makes the building a lot lower than the previous one, does not make any difference to the Bank Apartments building's ever-worsening neighbouring environment."

In September 2013 a Melbourne City Council report found the previously proposed Elysium building would have a negative

impact on neighbours.

"The sense of containment would be substantial and oppressive, particularly for dwellings at the lower levels," the report stated.

Mr Tan said the new boutique building would still impinge on two key rights for most Bank Apartments occupants.

"There is already a building under construction extremely close to Mainpoint Apartments [on nearby City Rd]. I'd assume, sooner or later, it will happen to our building too. And that means, no more sunlight through my bedroom windows, and no more privacy in many of our apartments."

The planning application, however, states that Clark St and adjacent Hancock St "are already cast in shadow from existing built form" and any "negligible" additional shadowing falls to the south, away from Bank Apartments to the north.

The Clarke St block currently consists of two disused warehouses, which were the subject of two fires within a week of each other in July 2017.

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Too late for C308?

By Sean Car

In theory, the proposed planning scheme amendment aiming to create more lively streetscapes would appear significant to Southbank. But in reality, how much of a difference will it actually make?

When one stands at the corner of Balston St and City Rd and looks towards Power St, they are met with one long continuous series of podiums with no breaks in between and, quite literally, no active street frontages.

When a resident living in, say, City Tower, needs to get to neighbouring Kavanagh St, the only way to do so is to walk around the entire block. In an ideal setting, there might be a laneway nearby, like those found in the CBD, to break up this experience with cafes and services along the way. Right?

That is exactly the sort of experience that council's planning scheme amendment C308 seeks to create more of in Southbank. The question now is, how to do it?

The Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) hosted a forum on amendment C308 on August 1, when professional planning consultant Rob Milner provided locals with an insight into what the proposed changes mean for Southbank.

As Mr Milner put it on the night, much of what is written in the amendment is aimed at Southbank "in a big way". However, while it contains a lot of useful stuff for Southbank, much of it might mean very little in reality. The horse has bolted, as they say.



Mr Milner presents to residents at last month's forum.

Mr Milner described the amendment as a "colouring-in" of the spaces. The problem in Southbank is, what spaces? The majority of the area, particularly surrounding City Rd, is already fully developed.

Hence, many of the so-called opportunities that the amendment seeks to identify would appear to be lost. Unfortunately, planning is not retrospective, so even if C308 was introduced tomorrow it would have no

application to currently "live" applications.

As Mr Milner highlighted on the night, C308 has largely come about as a result of planning work currently being carried out in neighbouring Fishermans Bend – Australia's largest urban renewal project.

Much like Southbank, Fishermans Bend is an area in transition from industrial to residential. Planners know that, given some of the sizes of land in the area, street frontages of more than 70 metres without a mid-block connection or active use would result in poor amenity.

While Southbank is considerably smaller than Fishermans Bend, its former industrial land uses meant relatively large blocks. When developers came along, they were able to build podiums to the boundary and maximise every inch of their sites.

That is what we see at nearly every block along City Rd from Clarendon St to Southbank Boulevard. This is why the City Road Master Plan is so desperately needed to create a more liveable neighbourhood in Southbank.

When it comes to future developments, there are almost no opportunities left to create

a laneway-style feel in Southbank similar to that found in the CBD. C308 in many respects, is too late.

However, that is not say that this amendment is where the buck stops for a more liveable Southbank. Sure, laneways in the CBD are great, but that is the CBD. Southbank isn't the CBD, so let's conclude by focusing on the positives.

Approved projects at 87-127 Queensbridge St and 35 City Rd have actually included public connections within their developments on their own accord. These will connect Queensbridge and Fawcner streets to City Rd, opening up the potential for active hubs on those blocks.

And between Southbank Boulevard, Boyd Park, the transformation of the Arts Precinct, the City Road Master Plan and large-scale developments at the BMW site and Melbourne Square, Southbank has a lot to look forward to.

These projects will provide anyone with more than enough reason to make the slightly longer walk around the block. They may even provide attractive propositions for better use of ground floor spaces in current buildings, even if C308 can't!



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A fresh look at Macnamara

By Sean Car

As Michael Danby says farewell to politics after 20 years in the federal seat of Macnamara (formerly Melbourne Ports), Labor is now calling upon 31-year-old Josh Burns to bring the party into a new era.

Currently working as a senior advisor to Premier Daniel Andrews and having previously run for the seat of Caulfield in the 2014 state election, Mr Burns may be young but his passion for politics is unquestionable.

Born and raised in Caulfield, he has worked and lived throughout the electorate his whole life. Having been officially preselected last month, he told *Southbank Local News* that he looked forward to bringing a “fresh set of eyes” to the seat.

“My life is in the electorate,” he said. “I think I bring a fresh set of eyes that I think is familiar to so many people living in Macnamara – one that’s based on the needs of the people that you love.”

Mr Burns fought off fellow Labor candidates Nick Dyrenfurth and Mary Delahunty to win preselection last month following a factional ballot meeting held at the Caulfield RSL on July 11.

In spite of a number of local Labor members complaining about being excluded from the ballot process, Mr Burns won preferred candidacy with 61 votes, followed by Mr Dyrenfurth (49) and Ms Delahunty (16).

He told *Southbank Local News* that his passion for Labor’s social and economic



policies largely stemmed from his Jewish ancestry. Stories like that of his grandfather, who worked back-breaking hours as a pastry chef in England during World War II, or his grandmother, who escaped extermination in Nazi Germany, are what led him to the Labor movement.

And having recently become a father himself, he said his ambition for providing greater access to better schools and hospitals, as well as social and economic opportunities, had been reinforced in a whole new way.

“I recently had a beautiful young daughter

and anyone who has a kid knows that it completely changes your life and what’s important to you,” he said. “For the first time in my life I’m thinking about her life, her journey and the opportunities that are going to be afforded to her and others like her.”

“Politics is a great vehicle for change. I’ve always believed that you can do things if you work in politics and especially in the Labor movement. I want to see the best for my family and my community.”

Mr Burns will go head-to-head with Greens candidate Steph Hodgins-May at the next

federal election, who is re-contesting the seat having nearly pulled off victory against Michael Danby in 2016.

The Liberal Party is yet to announce its candidate for the seat, however, current City of Port Phillip councillor Marcus Pearl is rumoured to be one of the candidates bidding for preselection.

Mr Burns said Labor would have its work cut out to retain the seat but he was looking forward to the challenge ahead.

“There are so many diverse groups of people in this seat, whether they be living in some of the towers in Southbank, new dynamic areas of Port Melbourne or Albert Park, the vibrant St Kilda or the great parts of Caulfield where I grew up,” he said.

“The people are different and they have different needs or are at different stages of their life. It’s exciting because it means there are so many different things that people get to have a say in and hopefully we get to advocate for.”

“We are not a shoe-in in this election and we will be fighting every single day to win this seat. This is not something that we can take for granted and we will be out there making sure that we are listening to people.”



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Setting a new benchmark

There is no doubting that whichever of the six ground-breaking designs is chosen to redevelop 118 City Rd, it will completely change the face of Southbank as we know it.

Since purchasing the prominent 6061sqm BMW Southbank site for more than \$100 million last year, developer Beulah International has brought an unprecedented level of vision to its project.

Since the beginning, Beulah's yearning for the site has been to create a state-of-the-art, integrated mixed-use environment that delivers as much to the private sector as it does to the public.

To realise this vision, it embarked on a design competition for the site, calling on some of the world's best architects to team up with local Australian talent to come up with something special. This competition is an Australian first.

At a special Design Symposium held at 400 City Rd on July 27, the six final ground-breaking designs were revealed to a captivated audience over four hours. Each of them as unique and breathtaking as the last.

"Our overarching vision is to turn the BMW site into a landmark lifestyle destination that

will be recognised around the world, and [one] that contributes to the surrounding community by lifting the urban fabric to a new level," Beulah International executive director Adelene Teh said.

In a further sign of its ambition to give back to the public realm, the developer installed a temporary pavilion at Queensbridge Square last month, which displayed the six designs to the public.

Given its location at the epicentre of Southbank, Beulah's approach and vision for this project is something that Southbank desperately needs. Whichever development gets the nod from the carefully-assembled panel of planning experts this month, we're looking forward to seeing it constructed!

The winning design will be revealed this month and featured in the September edition of *Southbank Local News*. Which building would you like to see built? Send your thoughts to news@southbanklocalnews.com.au



The Beulah Pavilion at Queensbridge Square last month.

The Lanescraper

Bjarke Ingels Group X Fender Katsalidis

Inspired by Melbourne's iconic laneways, *The Lanescraper* is two blocks that extend upwards and interlock to provide connectivity and structural rigidity. In the spaces between, a series of laneways from bottom to top are proposed, each one with a unique identity and experience.

Having designed neighbouring Eureka Tower and Australia 108 (currently under construction), the plan marks yet another landmark project for local architect Fender Katsalidis.

Reaching 359.6 metres, *The Lanescraper* will include retail and culture amenities, including library, office, hotel, serviced apartments and residential.

Green Spine

UN Studio X Cox Architecture

Green Spine will comprise of two towers both with twisting geometry of glass façade and terracing.

Conceived as a conceptual extension of Southbank Boulevard, it will provide a pedestrian connection at street level through a series of stairs and stepped terraces, leading visitors up along the retail and entertainment precinct to 'The Garden.'

The residential tower will reach 356 metres high, crowned by the Future Botanic Garden, a publicly accessible garden in the sky. The hotel and office tower will reach 252 metres high. *Green Spine* will include entertainment facilities, a BMW Experience Centre, school, retail and food precinct and lots more.

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Stack

MVRDV X Woods Bagot

Stack is a new kind of skyscraper with stacked neighbourhoods connected from the bottom to the top and vice versa by lifts, stairs and escalators to create an interconnected vertical city.

Each bar within the stack has its own appearance in pattern, texture and shade, reflecting the building's barcode of functions. This ranges from openable facades at park levels and transparent facades in the public retail facilities, with a tree-like structure representing the park and beehive structure marking the residential.

Reaching 359 metres, *Stack* also features a hotel pool in the centre of the building (pictured) and a rainforest garden.

The Beulah Propeller City

Coop Himmelb(l)au X Architectus

Coop Himmelb(l)au co-founder Wolf D Prix said a driving ambition of this project was to break down the "monolithic structure of the skyscraper". He and his team have certainly achieved that with this proposal.

Reaching 335 metres, *The Beulah Propeller City* is the creation of a vertical city, comprising four main functional parts; public podium, office, hotel and apartment tower. Including a mixture of public amenities such as a gallery, cinema and recording studios, office space will take up 16 floors, while the hotel will account for 15.

The 46 levels of residences will be separated into mid-rise, high-rise, sky homes, penthouses and the propeller penthouses.

Urban Tree

MAD Architects X Elenberg Fraser

MAD Architects founder Ma Yansong said his vision was to reconnect the city with nature. The result is truly remarkable.

Urban Tree will feature small, green foothills that lead pedestrians up to the "mountain village", with amenities along Southbank Boulevard including a children's playground, public artwork and a water feature. With 43 residential floors and 24 floors of hotel, the most unique feature of *Urban Tree* is "The Cloud." Situated 317 metres high, it will change appearance with LED lighting as the day transitions to night.

Reaching 360 metres, the building features a range of amenities including a library, cinema and a 1200 person auditorium.

"Placing the crown at the bottom"

OMA X Conrad Gargett

While this proposal bears no official name as such, it's defined by its emphasis on the base of the building instead of its crown. As managing partner-architect of OMA David Gianotten said, "[we are] placing the crown at the bottom".

In doing so, this concept proposes a ground floor market that draws inspiration and references the historic Melburnian arcades and vaulted markets. The base of the design is a 24/7 mixed-use vertical city in which many cultural, commercial, educational and social elements are bound by retail, food and beverage. Situated above are commercial office spaces, hotel and residences, with supporting amenities at the top of the tower.

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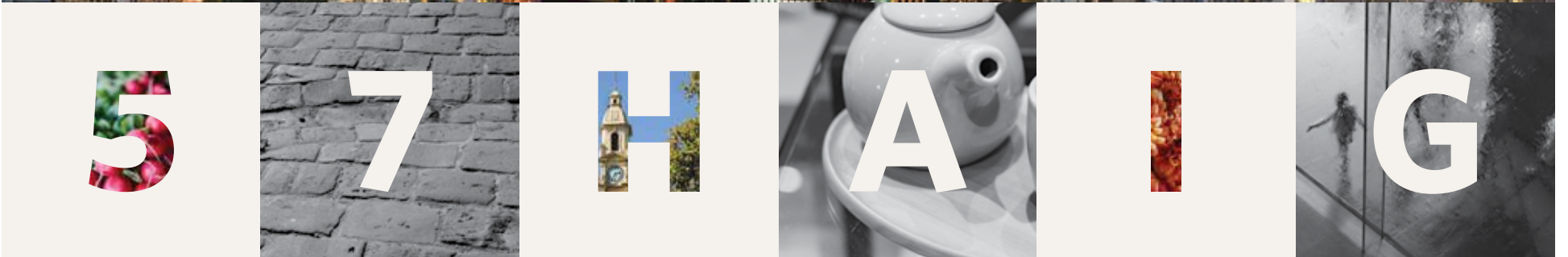
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MPavilion's future debated

By Niccola Anthony

Melbourne councillors have upheld a proposal to provide a further two years' funding to MPavilion, despite some contentious debate.

Located in Southbank's Queen Victoria Gardens, this public art installation forms part of an ongoing series of architecture commissions, and will now continue to receive council funding until 2022.

However, four councillors chose to vote against the proposal to extend council's funding of the grant past its original 2020 deadline.

Crs Nic Frances Gilly, Beverly Pinder, Susan Riley and Arron Wood all opposed the motion, largely on the basis that the revenue spent on the installation could be better used elsewhere.

The council provides around \$300,000 per year towards the project, with total council expenditure on the series expected to reach \$3.5 million by 2022.

"I think we just need to be mindful that, yes, it has delivered a lot for Melbourne but \$3.5 million is a very large sum of ratepayer money to be going to an activity like this, no matter how much its delivering," Cr Wood argued at the council meeting of July 31.

Concurring with Cr Wood was Cr Pinder who argued: "I can come up with a zillion ways in which the city can spend \$300,000 far more effectively, given that this program has had its run."

While the councillors who voted in favour of the proposal were sympathetic to the arguments of the opposing councillors, the project's unique ability to bring people together tilted the vote in its favour.

"One of the great things about the MPavilion is that it's providing a space, that is free essentially, for community organisations, start-ups, university students and their like," Cr Cathy Oke



A render of this year's MPavilion, which will be on display to the public in the Queen Victoria Gardens in Southbank from October to February.

argued in the project's favour.

"The MPavilion has provided, for quite a few years now, the opportunity for people looking for a space to talk about what they're wanting to talk about that they're not able to do elsewhere."

Additionally, Cr Oke argued that the projected \$3.5 million sum required to see the project through to 2022 should be taken into consideration alongside other projects of a similar expense.

"When we're looking at that sum of money, we're making that assessment against other large sums of money that we provide to events that don't have anywhere near the same alignment with council goals and values and what we're hoping to provide the community," Cr Oke said.

The MPavilion was initiated in 2014 by the Naomi Milgrom Foundation and serves as a civic space for community groups to engage and share with one another.

The 2018 model (pictured) was designed by Barcelona-based architect Carme Pinós and will be on display from October until February 2019.



Loose decking on the northern end of the Evan Walker Bridge.

One noisy bridge!

By Sean Car

The loud and clattering Evan Walker Bridge is again in need of refurbishment despite already having been upgraded in 2015.

The noise produced by the bridge's decking has become unbearably loud over recent months, particularly at the northern end near Flinders Street Station.

This has sparked complaints to the City of Melbourne and was the subject of a few questions at last month's Southbank Residents Association (SRA) annual general meeting (AGM) and the Yarra River Business Association's (YRBA) July function.

The City of Melbourne's principal project manager of city design, Steve Perumal, told audiences at both events that council was well aware of the noise and that it was currently working on plans to rectify the issue.

When asked about these plans and a potential timeline, council spokesperson Brian Wilson told *Southbank Local News*: "The City of Melbourne has received complaints about noise from the bridge decking. Our engineers are investigating the

feasibility of possible solutions and we will provide an update in due course."

In June 2015 the council invested \$150,000 to refurbish and re-deck the bridge, which was closed for nearly a month while the maintenance works were carried out.

Once re-opened, council was immediately met with a surge of complaints about the bridge's new decking, which consists of a composite material that produces a clattering sound when walked on.

The noise was so great that it was affecting business at the popular Ponyfish Island, which operates beneath the bridge. Management at the time told *Southbank Local News* that having a conversation was a challenge at the best of times!

Council later inserted more screws to reinforce the decking, which seems to have only temporarily addressed the noise problems.

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Resident Panel flagged

During her address to last month's SRA AGM, Lord Mayor Sally Capp revealed her desire for the City of Melbourne to establish a Residents' Panel.

Cr Capp told the meeting that the panel would provide a vehicle for community representatives across the city to formally present and manage local issues with councillors and council management.

The initiative would be the first of its kind since council established a people's panel in 2015 to help inform its 10-year plan, and comes as a further illustration of the new Lord Mayor's ambitions for a more transparent and consultative council.

"It was great to hear directly from Southbank residents and I was delighted that they are supportive of my proposal for a Residents' Panel," Cr Capp told *Southbank Local News*.

"If implemented, [such] a panel could help us understand what residents care about how we as a council can work to make Southbank a better place for people to live, work and visit."

"Over the coming weeks I'll be continuing to talk with City of Melbourne officers about the details, including who will be on the panel and its focus, and I'll keep residents informed of the details as they emerge."

SRA president Tony Penna said any initiative that enhanced consultation with residents was welcomed and that SRA would hope to be a voice on any such panel.



No ordinary AGM!

By Sean Car

In its 20th year of operation, the Southbank Residents Association (SRA) held its biggest annual general meeting (AGM) to date, in a clear reflection of the ever-growing strength of our local community.

Around 70 local residents attended the July 18 meeting and many more tuned in online, with the meeting being live-streamed to audiences via Facebook for the very first time.

And with a line-up of special guest speakers including new Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Member for Albert Park Martin Foley and council's principal project manager of Southbank Boulevard Steve Perumal, there was no shortage of discussion!

In a welcome contrast to the former Lord Mayor Robert Doyle who never attended an SRA AGM is his nine years in the role, Cr Capp was a breath of fresh air, providing residents with an open and frank insight into her vision for Southbank and the city.

Having only been sworn in as Lord Mayor a few months prior to the July AGM, she promised locals she would continue to make herself accessible to the community, and responded to a range of concerns from locals on the night.

Mr Perumal later provided a presentation into the staged construction of the new linear park at Southbank Boulevard and Dodds St, which officially got underway in July. He also provided an update into the

progress of the City Road Master Plan, which council has kickstarted with \$500,000 in this year's budget.

The meeting had a packed agenda with president Tony Penna highlighting the SRA's initiatives for the past year, including government planning panels, the further growth of the Southbank Owners' Corporation Network (SOCN) and Southbank Info Nights.

Mr Penna also shared plans for a Southbank Expo in April, 2019, which would also mark the SRA's 21st birthday and aims to co-ordinate this with the opening of the new Boyd Park.

Local Member and Minister for Creative Industries Martin Foley also addressed the audience at the conclusion of the meeting, sharing further detail into his government's recently-announced record investment into Southbank's Arts Precinct.

Following the meeting, the committee welcomed three new faces; local residents Joanne Vanselow, Matt Pyatt and former lord mayoral candidate Nathalie O'Sughrue. Office bearers will be finalised this month.

To become a member visit southbankresidents.org.au



DFO South Wharf operations manager Frank Kerr and centre manager Jessica Harney.

Old soles for good

An initiative by DFO South Wharf to donate old soles has received more than 100 pairs of pre-loved sports shoes.

The outlet centre has partnered up with Australian charity organisation Shoes for Planet Earth and Smart City Solutions to help people in need.

The old sports shoes will be donated to people across Australia and also shipped to Shoes for Planet Earth's locations around the world. DFO South Wharf centre manager Jess Harney explained that the recycling scheme was initiated when the centre noticed old shoes in cardboard boxes often being left behind in bins.

Retail partners of the outlet centre have been very supportive of the good cause. Store manager at New Balance, Scott Lamb, said that it would be encouraging customers to utilise both the shoe box recycling bin and the sports shoe donation bin.

"So many of our customers want to wear their new shoes straight away," he said.

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Ballot story sparks probe

Southbank Local News's exclusive story in July has led to a Local Government Inspectorate investigation into electoral irregularities raised.

On July 2, chief municipal inspector David Wolf tweeted: "As the Local Government Inspectorate's remit includes electoral matters, we are working with the VEC on these ballot paper issues related to the lord mayor election and will advise when the investigation has concluded."

Acting chief municipal inspector Ross Millard elaborated two days later, saying in a press release: "The inspectorate is investigating the potential misuse of ballot papers related to the lord mayor election."

"Recent media reports have suggested the result in the lord mayor election may be challenged, owing to alleged incidents of misuse of ballot papers by real estate agents and property managers," Mr Millard said.

Victorian electoral commissioner Warwick Gately earlier took issue with some of the matters raised in our story.

On June 29 he said: "In your article, 'Doubt cast on mayoral result' in the July issue of *Southbank Local News*, you seem to have confused facts and made several assumptions."



David Wolf @CMI_Vic · Jul 2

As the Local Government Inspectorate's remit includes electoral matters, we are working with the VEC on these ballot paper issues related to the Lord Mayor election and will advise when the investigation has concluded



Doubt cast on lord mayoral result

By Shane Scanlan There is doubt over Melbourne's recent lord mayoral by-election as up to 8313 enrolled voters were potentially denied a vote due to a known ...
cbdnews.com.au

"The VEC has stated publicly that mail delivery timeframes mean that it is difficult to get postal ballot packs to overseas voters and back in time to be included in the count. Despite this difficulty, the VEC did receive ballot papers from some of the 15,000 overseas voters who were sent their ballot packs directly and were able to return them in time. Several thousand ballot packs were sent to an agency, which was the postal address on the roll for these voters. Many of the voters with agency postal addresses live in Australia, and would have had time to return their ballot material."

"You claim that the election result is open to fraud, because there is no record of the signatures of this category of voter and the agents could fill out and return the ballots. In fact, the VEC has processes to check all returned ballot material. Material that does not comply with legal requirements is not included in the count and anything doubtful is investigated."

"It is unfortunate that you have used a difficulty with postal deliveries overseas to make a series of unsubstantiated claims about the integrity of the Melbourne City Council Lord Mayor by-election. I have every confidence in the integrity of both the process and the result for the Melbourne City Council Lord Mayor by-election."

On July 1 *Southbank Local News* responded with a series of questions:

- How many overseas ballots were received?
- How many ballots from c/- third parties were received from overseas? and
- What "process" does the VEC use to check returned ballots from c/- third party-forward ballots for electoral irregularities?

His office replied on July 2: "I have sent this to Mr Gately, who will respond in due course." At the time of publication, no response had been received.



Steve Perumal at last month's YRBA lunch.

Business meets Boulevard

The Yarra River Business Association (YRBA) gained further insight into Southbank Boulevard at a business luncheon on July 20.

Held at Ludlow Bar & Dining Room on Southbank Promenade, principal project manager of city design at the City of Melbourne Steve Perumal explained the project to businesses in greater detail and answered a range of questions.

Members at the luncheon were also given an opportunity to mark things that they liked and disliked about Southbank Promenade on giant maps. Mr Perumal said his team would use the information to help guide council's future upgrade of the area.

The YRBA will host its next luncheon in November. Yarrariver.melbourne

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Bookings open from August, Melbourne Recital Centre, 9699 3333
www.melbournerecital.com.au
Wednesday 19 September at 7.30pm



Boulevard work starts

Construction for the Southbank Boulevard development started last month and will continue for a full year.

It is currently in the first state of early works construction. Work is being undertaken primarily to prepare for the upcoming tram tracks construction that will start on September 22.

Currently, car access is restricted and bus routes are diverted between St Kilda Rd and Sturt St, but trams will continue to operate except for a nine-day period in September.

Construction is planned to end in August 2019. Detours via Grant St and Linlithgow Ave are in place until September, the end of the first stage of construction. Details of detour plans will be released at the start of next stages.

The Southbank Boulevard transformation has been in the works for some time now. It is a joint state government and City of Melbourne initiative and aims to transform Southbank Boulevard and Dodds St into "one of Australia's most pedestrian-friendly places".

The \$40 million project will create 2.5 hectares of new public space and prioritise pedestrians, public transport and cyclists. There will be new parks as well as a new civic square. Tram infrastructure will also improve accessibility and will even incorporate greenery into the traditionally concrete rail beds.



The project is part of an ongoing urban design program transforming more of Melbourne into community spaces.

Following multiple phases of extensive community consultation, the concept plan was adopted by council last year reflecting feedback for more biodiversity and open spaces.

The plan is proposed to cater to current traffic volumes, which sits at around 13,000 vehicles a day, and support the increased residential population, forecasted to rise by 175 per cent over the next 15 years.

However, concerns persist about whether the reconfigured boulevard, as well as a decreased speed limit, will accommodate motor vehicle traffic.

For regular updates visit participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/southbankboulevard/

New parking controls for Fishermans Bend

By Niccola Anthony

Port Phillip Council will introduce parking controls in the growing Fishermans Bend precinct with a three-month rollout starting in October.

The controls were decided on after a consultation process involving community feedback and input from the newly-established Fishermans Bend Business Forum.

Under the new controls, the precinct is separated into four designated parking areas, with restrictions to apply from Monday to Friday between 8am and 6pm as follows:

Area 1: Designates 80 parking spaces with four-hour unpaid timed parking controls, and then further all-day spaces available at a new parking rate of \$1.90/hour. Two-hour timed parking controls to cost \$1.90/hour in designated areas;

Area 2: Designates a mixture of two, four and six-hour parking controls and a number of uncontrolled all-day parking spots;

Area 3: Designates two-hour timed parking controls on one side of residential streets and no parking controls on the other side; and

Area 4: No new parking controls.

In a July 12 press release, Mayor Bernadene Voss said the "staged approach" of the parking controls would achieve council's aim of "deterring CBD commuters from taking up parking spots required by local businesses and residents".

David Weston, executive officer of the Fishermans Bend Business Forum, is pleased with the outcome of the consultation and the final controls. Of major concern to business owners and staff was the lack of all-day unpaid parking under the council's initial proposal.

"A lot of people who rely on their cars to get to work in the Sandridge Precinct were unable to find an alternative way of getting in and so, as a result, we lobbied to keep some all-day parking until such time as there is better public transport," Weston said of the forum's engagement in the process.

While the revised plan retains only a small amount of unpaid all-day parking, Mr Weston acknowledged the council had to balance a number of competing interests.



Hangin' around!

Maintenance man Lee Box, captured high above City Rd, demonstrates that there is never a bad time to catch up on local news! Photo courtesy of Skyhooksolutions.com.au

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THE ARTS PRECINCT



'Surrender' by Melbourne-based artist Ronnie van Hout depicts two larger than life size male soldiers bent over in a gesture of surrender.



The new, tightly curated Fair featured 40 leading galleries.



A photo taken from the very first Melbourne Art Fair in 1988.

A chance to be collegial

By Southbank Local News critic Rhonda Dredge

A more modest art fair this year gave both investors and gallerists a chance to develop contacts and consider their options more carefully.

After a break of several years, the Melbourne Art Fair returned to a new site in the Southbank Arts Precinct.

Thirty-nine galleries were represented from Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, New Zealand and Manila.

When you're selling art, it's important to strike the right pose. Too much hype can put a buyer off, not enough and you won't be noticed.

Michael Lett from Auckland had on display a minimalist wall sculpture by Paul Lee made out of wire and face washers. If someone bought the work, how would they assemble it?

"It comes with instructions," he said. "If I can put it up anyone can."

Some critics have called the Melbourne Art Fair the nastiest end of retail because it sells an illusion to punters that they are buying something important with an esoteric meaning.

Lett had nothing further to add to his



"It comes with instructions."

comments about the wall sculpture except: "If you quote me make sure you make me sound more intelligent than I am."

Others might come to an art fair expecting to see the next big thing. If you spend ten grand on a work now will it be worth \$100,000 within a few years or is it better to

buy something you love?

Rumours about curators and art advisors working behind the scenes to get collectors to fork out are difficult to quash when opening night is called a vernissage and the cost of attending is \$80 per head.

This year's art fair, however, was smaller and more domestic than previous incarnations. A white marquee added a more casual note to the event which has been staged on and off for 30 years in the Royal Exhibition Building.

Bill Nuttall, director of Niagara Galleries, helped organise the first fair. A few galleries got together and staged the fair above an agricultural display. He still remembers making the speech and noting who was listening.

"Nobody bought contemporary art in those days," he said. Press coverage included small children riding on exhibits to make the art more accessible to the public. Now, attendees are more attuned to the zeitgeist

and artists to their audience.

Elizabeth Willing at the Tolarno Gallery stand makes no excuses about the purpose of her collages. They glow from a distance and only reveal themselves close-up to be of pictures of fruit cake cut out of cooking magazines.

"I want the work to be absurd," Willing said. "Fruit cake can last 100 years and still be edible."

The more casual approach to showing work gave space to younger galleries. "The trouble with the Exhibition Building is that it's too expensive. Use of a transient space like tents is increasing. The art world can't afford the hard space anymore," Nuttall said.

Nicholas Thompson Gallery from Collingwood has 26 artists in its stable. The gallery was able to support one artist at the fair and show Amber Wallis's pensive, muted paintings.

"It's a good chance to be collegial," Thompson said.



Beijing Guitar Duo and Grigoryan Brothers

By Stephanie Zhang

In an upcoming convergence of culture, the Beijing Guitar Duo and the Grigoryan Brothers are set to reunite for an evening of guitar virtuosity.

The Grigoryan Brothers, Slava and Leonard, have already received four ARIA (Australia Recording Industry Association) awards, and their ambition for exploring new frontiers in guitar arrangements have taken them across the world to many unconventional performance settings like jazz and folk festivals, clubs and even salons.

Similarly, the Beijing Guitar Duo have appeared in countries such as Germany, Portugal, even Panama and Finland.

Members Meng Su and Yameng Wang were both born in the coastal city of Qingdao, China, and met while studying guitar. They quickly became protégés of renowned guitarist Manuel Barrueco, and are currently based in the USA as artists-in-residence for the San Francisco Performances.

The duos first met in 2016 when performing together in a series of concerts in Shandong province. Taking the stage together again this August, one can expect

a culturally rich program drawing from Australian, Chinese, and European classics, celebrating guitar's influence on music across the globe.

For tickets and more information visit melbournerecital.com.au



Blasted

British playwright Sarah Kane's debut play 'Blasted' will open on August 24 at the Malthouse Theatre.

Known as a highly controversial play fiercely attacked by the British press when first performed, the play is directed by Anne-Louise Sarkis (*The Testament of Mary*).

Blasted starts with a gin-swilling journalist taking his young lover to a hotel room, and quickly brings soldiers and a war zone into the very same room.

The narrative pulls its audience in with the sex, the violence, but quickly confronts us with questions about our response to violence.

malthousetheatre.com.au



Sign up for dance classes

If you're looking to unwind from a long day at work, sign up for Chunky Move's year-round, public classes in contemporary movement and yoga.

Classes are offered at a range of difficulty levels, catering to dancers of every background.

All classes are taught by professional dancers working in the industry, and are held at 6.30pm on weekdays as well as Saturday mornings, aligning perfectly with the working week.

Chunky Move "constantly seeks to redefine what is or what can be contemporary dance in an ever-evolving

Australian culture".

When asked what students can expect from classes, teachers emphasised an increased awareness of body and space.

"Dance has always felt like magic to me. It has the potential to transform a person and a space. I believe dance is for everyone and everyone can dance," contemporary beginner class teacher Chimene Steele-Prior said.

Sign up at chunkymove.com



Coodabeen Champions

What's hotter than a footy pie? The Coodabeen Champions now traditional end-of-season live Father's Day show of course!

Returning to Arts Centre Melbourne on Sunday, September 2, what better way to spoil dad than with an afternoon chock full of footy frivolity!

The Coodabeen's Covey, Champs, Billy and Richo come together at their hallowed ground, Playhouse, for their fifth finals outing. They will serve up their trademark music, talkback and footy lexis in celebration of the beloved game and will be joined by a couple of handy inclusions in "role players" Torch and Young Andy.

First hitting the airwaves in 1981 on 3RRR, The Coodabeen Champions were the number one draft choice who actually lived up to the hype. As rookies, they broke new ground for sports coverage and almost 40 years on remain as popular as ever with their ABC Radio Melbourne program cementing them as a Melbourne institution.

artscentremelbourne.com.au



PSC students win at AIPP Awards

By Meg Hill

Each year, final-year students studying at the Photography Studies College (PSC) enter the Australian Institute of Professional Photography (AIPP) Victorian Awards.

This year the cohort came back with a trove of accolades. Agata Myes won a gold



Peter Bratuskins - Kutchan, Japan



Peter Bratuskins - Mt Hotham

distinction, two golds and two silvers, as well as emerging as Photographer of the Year.

Peter Bratuskins received an award for each of his three entries. His entries were winter themed – two were taken in Kutchan, Japan, and one at Mt Hotham.

“Kutchan is a working town that gets completely frozen. It’s got this dark, harsh look to it, but the longer you look the more

you see people living their lives,” he said.

He said the AIPP awards pushed him to be a better photographer.

Another student, Peter Riordan, also won a gold award with an abstract architectural piece, while Stella Nyugen received two awards.

Peter Riordan’s abstract piece features an apartment building in Docklands, tightly-



Peter Bratuskins - Kutchan, Japan



Peter Riordan - apartment building in Docklands

cropped, inverted and over-sharpened.

“It was something of an accident,” he said.

“I’d been playing around with inverting abstract photos of fireworks, and while I was processing that photo I accidentally clicked on the invert pre-set, and liked the look of it.”

Images in the awards are submitted into a specific category, with its own rules and regulations.

The images are submitted in print form, too. This puts huge importance on the quality of prints on top of the actual photograph.

The work is submitted anonymously and judged by the five experienced judges – who must hold a Masters of Photography degree or higher.

Students at PSC are now preparing for the national awards at the end of this month, hosted at the Melbourne Olympic Park Function Centre.



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KAKI KING AND DEREK GRIPPER

Aug 13 - Elisabeth Murdoch Hall
Hailed by Rolling Stone as "a genre unto herself," Brooklyn-based composer and guitarist Kaki King is a true iconoclast. For more than 10 years, Derek Gripper has produced some of South Africa's most extraordinary music with his unique ability to interpret complex compositions played with the Kora - a 21-stringed traditional West African lute for solo guitar. The result is extraordinary.
melbournerecital.com.au



ICH NIBBER DIBBER

Opens Sep 5 - Beckett Theatre
Natalie Rose, Mish Grigor and Zoë Coombs Marr sure talk a lot of shit! First loves, bowel movements, birthing moans and the global financial crisis: they tackle the messy issues, and it's all on tape. In this colossal act of self-examination, Nat, Mish and Zoë fast-forward through 10 years of camaraderie and captured key moments, embarrassing, hilarious and profound.
malthousetheatre.com.au



YALINGWA @ ACCA

Until Sep 16 - ACCA
Curated by Hannah Presley, *A Lightness of Spirit is the Measure of Happiness* celebrates the significance of family, community and humour in contemporary Aboriginal life. This major exhibition features 10 new commissions by artists from south-east Australia and beyond, in an exploration of everyday life and experiences of Aboriginal people today.
acca.melbourne



THE SIMON & GARFUNKEL STORY

Aug 24 - Hamer Hall
Performing to great acclaim around the world, *The Simon & Garfunkel Story* tells the fascinating tale of how two young boys from Queens, New York went on to become the world's most successful music duo of all time. This is a show not to be missed by any fan of the music and era
artscentremelbourne.com.au

AUSTRALIAN MUSIC VAULT

Ongoing - Arts Centre Melbourne
The Australian Music Vault features a free, immersive exhibition showcasing Australian music, innovative digital participatory experiences and iconic objects from our Australian Performing Arts Collection.
www.australianmusicvault.com.au

POLYPHONY

Until Jan 2019 - Cafe Vic Terrace
Artist Louise Paramor has created a group of four sculptures specifically for the terrace outside Café Vic in Southbank. The works, titled *Polyphony #1 - 4*, have been commissioned as part of a Contemporary Art Projects program. FREE.
artscentremelbourne.com.au

BERNSTEIN ON BROADWAY

Aug 18 - Hamer Hall
All his life Leonard Bernstein had a love affair with New York and in his many music theatre works he painted the most vivid picture of life in the "City That Never Sleeps." This performance embraces Bernstein's New York, offering a rare insight into the composer's mind with Bernstein devotee Bramwell Tovey at the helm and on the keys.
mso.com.au

MOMA AT NGV

Runs until October - NGV
In partnership with The Museum of Modern Art, New York, this exhibition consists of over 200 key works, arranged chronologically into eight thematic sections. It traces the development of art and design from late-19th century urban and industrial transformation, through to the digital and global present.
www.ngv.vic.gov.au



AN IDEAL HUSBAND

Until Aug 18 - Playhouse
Oscar Wilde's effervescent high-society comedy stars the incomparable Gina Riley (*Kath & Kim*), as the grand Lady Markby, with a top-drawer cast including Michelle Lim Davidson (*Utopia*), Christie Whelan Browne (*Born Yesterday*), Simon Gleeson (*Les Misérables*) and William McInnes (*The Last Man Standing*), directed by MTC Associate Director Dean Bryant (*Born Yesterday*).
mtc.com.au



ALIKI SMITH - SHE SHOOTS FILM

Sep 3 - Photography Studies College
Photography Studies College (PSC) is proud to present Aliki Smith, editor-in-chief of *She Shoots Film Magazine*, which is an independent publication dedicated to exploring life through the female gaze. Focusing on a specific theme in each issue, the publication offers a raw and emotive selection of film photography, interviews and narratives.
psc.edu.au



CREATIVES CALL-OUT: SHOWTIME

Apply by Aug 18 - Testing Grounds
A series of events for summer will put creativity on show, bringing together a spectacular expo of creative innovation and discovery. We are seeking applications for weird, wonderful, and wacky creative demonstrations in the form of workshops, participatory performances, happenings, collective actions, or any other interactive thing we haven't heard of yet.
testing-grounds.com.au



DIDO AND AENEAS

Aug 21 - Elisabeth Murdoch Hall
Purcell's great masterpiece *Dido and Aeneas* packs more into its 60 minutes than should be possible. In partnership with the extraordinary students from the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School (VCASS), and with guest soloists this is a rare performance of this exquisite, beautiful and powerful work.
melbournerecital.com.au

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Southbanker

Giving the community a lift

By Sean Car

24-year-old Nai To is building her life around supporting others.

Having originally moved to Australia from Vietnam in 2013 on the back of a scholarship to study commerce at the University of Melbourne, Nai has been living in Southbank since February last year.

While normally a self-described “happy, bubbly, social and driven person,” Nai said that not so long ago she had started to experience a lot of ups and downs in her life. Unfortunately, it was the downs that were outweighing the ups.

“People generally have good days and bad days and I was just having more bad days,” she said. “There were days I couldn’t get out of bed, couldn’t make myself a meal and just didn’t feel motivated to do anything.”

“Normally I’m quite driven, social and active and after seeing a psychologist I eventually figured out I had depression. The hardest time lasted for about six to eight weeks but it got to the point where I was determined to fix it.”

While coming to terms with her condition was the first step in the right direction, Nai said one of her biggest challenges in dealing with depression had been learning how to be nice to herself.

This was where she ultimately realised how important the presence of people was



in her journey. She said it was through the kindness and support of others in her own network that eventually provided the catalyst for her to begin reaching out to support others dealing with similar issues.

In May this year Nai founded a free weekly depression support group from her Southbank apartment called LiftMeUp, which provides a safe space for people to share their feelings and thoughts with likeminded people.

Since the first Wednesday meet-up in May, the group is now regularly attended

by an average of 10 to 15 people per week with around 200 people registered from all around Melbourne.

Nai said that having gone through depression herself, she had been able to identify a gap in the market for providing a more effective depression support model.

“We have amazing resources like Beyond Blue, Black Dog Institute and RU OK? Day. The thing is that a lot of it focuses on the insiders, who are people who have been through depression and anxiety,” she said.

“We get to a point where we are educating people about asking ‘are you okay?’ The problem is that I don’t think a lot of people are ready for the answer.”

“From the inside you don’t really know what you need but often it’s just about companionship. Just having someone sit there and not even having to talk. You can just be there.”

While the homely environment of her Southbank apartment continues to provide the base for her initiative, she has already begun expanding on her vision.

Having quit her marketing job earlier this year and funded LiftMeUp entirely out of her own pocket, she is now looking to develop the initiative into a social enterprise and to

spread awareness.

That mission has already started here in Southbank through the support of our very own Boyd Community Hub. On September 13, Boyd will host the LiftMeUp Launch Party, which will offer a range of mindful activities and a chance for people to connect.

For just \$4, guests can expect colouring, origami, a thoughts and diaries session, a hug station and much more! LiftMeUp has also collaborated with local laughter guru Merv Neal to offer a laughter yoga class.

“I was blessed to have friends and family who were there for me so I just want to pay forward,” Nai said. “Because I learnt to be so open and honest with sharing my story, people have been able to open and let their guards down.”

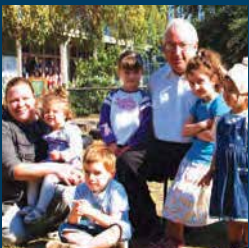
“Sure you’re having problems but now you’re finding people that are going through the same thing so we can laugh, cry or just talk about it and support each other for a few hours.”

To register for the Launch Party visit [meetup.com/Melb-CBD-Southbank-LiftMeUp-Depression-Support-Group/events/252800309/](https://www.meetup.com/Melb-CBD-Southbank-LiftMeUp-Depression-Support-Group/events/252800309/)

For more information on LiftMeUp visit liftmeup.cc

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Southbank Residents Association

20th AGM – What a milestone!

We have had a remarkable month and the committee has worked tirelessly to prepare for two events, the 20th AGM and a public forum on Amendment C308.

It was a real honour to preside over our 20th AGM. It also appeared the community too thought it was a worthy night, but I suspect that had more to do with the new Lord Mayor, Sally Capp, being our guest speaker than probably the significance of a 20th AGM.

There was standing room only as everyone packed into the assembly hall at Boyd Community Hub. It was a delight to listen to the Lord Mayor outline her vision for our city.

While bold, and in many ways visionary, we need to start somewhere and it was clear that Sally is focused on getting results. Sally has certainly hit the ground running and clearly receiving good advice from her advisors.

There is no time for the Lord Mayor to be dragging her feet because before we know it, in only about two years, there will be a new council election. It is important for Sally to get some wins on the board between now and then and I know that she will be listening closely to what Southbank has to say.

Sally made a promise to me after our meet-the-candidates event to visit the Southbank community again if she was successfully elected Lord Mayor. Here we are, within eight weeks of the election, and we have had the pleasure to hear from Sally again.

But we didn't let her off lightly, I opened the floor to questions and there were some passionate residents who really needed some assurances that their issues were known first-hand.

Overall, it was a great night and a special thank you to our committee who all worked diligently to make the night a success. While we lost three members from our last committee, we have gained two. This will assist greatly with allowing us to continue to work hard for the community.

As you can see, I have remained on the committee and am happy to continue to lead as the president, should the committee deem that fitting at our committee meeting this week.

Two weeks following our AGM, we held a forum to invite the community to find out more about providing feedback to Amendment C308, the second of two "city shaping" amendments that have been advanced in the last couple of years that will have a bearing on the quality of the public realm and the living environment in Southbank.

The SRA committee engaged the same consultant that assisted us with the C270 built form amendment. We will be making a significant submission to this new proposed amendment. Overall, it is very positive and our main concerns revolve around the wording. By the time you read this, there will only be a few days left for the public to have their say on the **Participate. Melbourne** website. Submissions close on August 10.

Your committee has lots in store for the coming year. If you would like to assist in any way, please reach out as many hands make like work. Please send an email to president@southbankresidents.org.au. If you aren't yet a member and would like to join, please visit our website southbankresidents.org.au. It only cost \$10.



Tony Penna

Tony Penna is the president of Southbank Residents' Association.

southbankresidents.org.au



St Johns Southgate

Let it rain

Rain has popped up (or should that be down?) in the news a fair bit lately.

During the recent coverage of the Thai cave rescue we kept hearing that the urgency to mount a rescue was increasing because more rain was coming. Meanwhile in south-western Japan, 225 people tragically perished in disastrous floods following successive heavy downpours. On top of that, only days after the World Cup had wrapped in Russia, a storm almost washed away one of the brand new stadiums purpose-built for the tournament!

The destructive power of rain does capture our attention. But if you're anything like me, the other times you find yourself thinking about rain are generally when you're inconvenienced by it. "Damn, I didn't bring an umbrella!" or "Ugh! The washing's on the line!"

For us in Southbank, most of us enjoy the comforts of modern life. But being so far removed from the primary industries that we can't tell wheat from lentils, it's easy to forget that rain is a good thing – and necessary, even if it can be destructive or cause us to be late for work by a few minutes.

Before there were windscreen wipers and disposable ponchos, there was undeniably a greater connection to the waters that fell from the sky and more of an innate understanding of their importance. Even more than that, there was a sense of rain being a blessing – a blessing from the heavens.

The cosmology of the ancient Near East, for example, considered heaven, the dwelling place of God, to be up above the sky. But also, it understood that there was an expanse of water up there. Which is perfectly good logic for the ancient world.

When it rains it has to come from somewhere, right?! It followed then, that rain, coming from up above, was a blessing from heaven. We still have a poetic hangover from this time, in that we still sometimes say, "the heavens opened" after a heavy shower.

To a large degree, though, we've lost the spiritualisation of rain. That being said, recently at St Johns, we tried to recapture a little of it. Our Thanksgiving-Celebration

service this year focused on rain.

The display in the church truly captured its majestic beauty. During worship, the children of the congregation shared what they thought was great about rain. Among the wisdom shared from the mouths of babes were rejoicings in drinking water, the filling of the seas, muddy-puddle-jumping, and of course, the growing of food for us to eat.

From my perspective, rain certainly is a blessing from God and a special one at that, because it connects all of humanity.

We all need water and most of the time we mercifully receive it. But right now, we in Australia, find ourselves at a juncture where we desperately need more of it. The drought continues and it has shown us the destructive power of rain being withheld.

It might do us good to look to the heavens and pray for God to let it rain. But even if praying is not your thing, I invite you to join me in resolving to see rain for the good it is the next time it comes, rather than cursing your momentary inconvenience.



Tom Hoffmann

Tom Hoffmann is the pastor at St Johns Southgate Church.

www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au



St Johns
Southgate

Sunday 12 August
9am Worship with Bach Cantata
Der Friede sei mit dir (BWV158)
for bass solo, chorus, violin, oboe
and continuo
Presented by students and staff
of the Early Music Studio
Melbourne Conservatorium of Music
8:30am Cantata in Context: pre-service talk

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

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

Metro Tunnel



MetroHub opens its doors

Thousands of Victorian jobs seekers will train and up-skill as part of the state's biggest-ever public transport project thanks to the launch of MetroHub – a one-stop-shop for jobs and training.

The centre, which is providing construction jobs and training for Metro Tunnel's \$6 billion tunnels and stations package, opened last month on St Kilda Rd near the future Anzac Station.

MetroHub is a partnership between Cross Yarra Partnership and Holmesglen Institute, based at the TAFE's Southbank campus. It has an emphasis on opportunities for priority job seekers through partners like Holmesglen's Skills and Jobs Centre, Whelion, CareerSeekers and the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre.

People seeking a job on the project can drop into MetroHub and register their interest or express their interest online via Seek.

Tradies, crane operators and tunnel boring machine crews will all be needed to build the Metro Tunnel, which will create nearly 7000 jobs, including positions for almost 800 apprentices, trainees and cadets.

The tunnels and stations package will create 5000 of those jobs, including providing a start for 500 apprentices, trainees and engineering cadets, who will study and train at MetroHub in programs designed for young people looking for a career in construction.

For more information on Metro Tunnel jobs, visit metrotunnel.vic.gov.au

Construction update

Major construction work on the new Anzac Station under St Kilda Rd is progressing.

In August, d-wall construction and piling is expected to get underway which will support the excavation of the station box.

D-walls are thick concrete slabs that will be installed in the ground to form the permanent perimeter of the underground station box.

A bentonite plant was installed last month and will support the construction of d-walls up to a depth of 25 metres at the St Kilda Rd site. Bentonite is a type of clay commonly used in construction to support excavation.

As we continue these works, traffic changes will remain in place for pedestrians, motorists and cyclists. They include:

- The service lane in front of 400 and 390 St Kilda Rd will remain closed until mid to late 2019;
- Local access will be maintained for residents of 400 St Kilda Rd; and
- Access to Albert Rd from Bowen Lane will be maintained.

Support

We appreciate your support while we undertake these vital works in the Domain precinct.

Please help us support local businesses affected by Metro Tunnel construction by continuing to visit them while works take place.

Visit metrotunnel.vic.gov.au for more information about works in your area.

Owners' Corporation Law

OC discriminated against a disabled owner

Last month, a residential owners' corporation (OC) in Travancore was found by the Supreme Court to be discriminating against a disabled owner by refusing to carry out modifications to its building to accommodate her wheelchair access.

The owner had applied to VCAT seeking an order that the owners' corporation should make alterations to the common property, including modifying entry doors and the ramp to the car park door to make it easier for wheelchair access. She relied on the Equal Opportunity Act by raising the argument that the OC was considered to be a "service provider" to owners and residents and therefore it should make reasonable adjustments for people with a disability.

VCAT found that the OC does indeed provide a "service" to owners and residents for the purposes of the Equal Opportunity Act. That decision was upheld by the Supreme Court on appeal.

The owner had purchased her apartment in 2013, but by 2015 had developed disabilities that affected her mobility, such that she required the use of a wheelchair or scooter. The owner claimed the OC should carry out modifications to the building for the doors to the car park, the main entry to the building, the rubbish disposal area and the courtyard and garden. All of these areas of the building are classified as common property and, as a member of the OC, the owner was entitled to access and enjoy all areas of the common property.

The court's decision is interesting in that it ruled that an OC provided services in characterising that the maintenance and use and enjoyment of the common property was a service.

In making the decision, the court did not need to grapple with the provisions in the Owners Corporation Act regarding special resolutions to alter and upgrade common property, and how to differentiate and apportion any levy to be raised to carry out those upgrades. The VCAT's and court's view was that these were separate processes that required an OC to expend money to upgrade the building, but were

nevertheless separate to the question of whether discrimination had already occurred.

The Equal Opportunity Act, in purporting to oblige a service provider such as an OC, to "make reasonable adjustments" to accommodate someone who is disabled, effectively requires an OC to make the necessary modifications to the common property without delay and without the need to pass a special resolution.

In my view, the court's decision was the correct one. In future, all OCs need to be careful and responsive to all persons (abled or otherwise) in ensuring that they can all equally access, use and enjoy the common property.

I note this would be a very interesting case if there were different factual circumstances involved. Let's say, for instance, it was not the owner of the property that was disabled, but instead it was someone who was a tenant.

Even someone who runs airbnb and wants to let their unit to disabled guests might be able to apply to enforce the OC to make modifications to the common property.



Tom Bacon

Tom Bacon is the principal lawyer of Strata Title Lawyers. Tom@stratatitlelawyers.com.au

Open for business

Campbell Arcade

Metro Tunnel works in Campbell Arcade/Degraves Street underpass will not commence before July 2019.

All your favourite Campbell Arcade shops are still operating and looking forward to seeing you. Please continue to support them.

For more information visit metrotunnel.vic.gov.au or call 1800 105 105.



Campbell Arcade shops

- A Touch of Paris
- Bingo Betty
- The Cat's Meow
- Corky St Clair
- Cup of Truth
- Flinders Station Gifts
- Station Haus Pop Up
- The Sticky Institute
- Sublink PC Mobile Repair
- Wax Museum Records



More trains,
more often



Montague Community Alliance

Can we be good neighbours?

We currently have a unique opportunity in this high-growth, capital city-zoned area to do things differently – to be a strong and embedded community that respects and notices each other.

Take a minute and think about this ... a builder, constructing that very tall and disruptive building next door, wishes you good morning and you, knowing the schedule of work because they inform you weekly, can warmly respond and wish them a good day pouring concrete!

And, as they have informed you in their weekly communication about the pour, you are leaving the house to hang out with friends during this loud and messy phase of the build.

Sound odd? Well actually, we've already achieved this with one developer here in Montague and it was very easy.

The developer communicated with us weekly, provided contact phone numbers, abided to the bylaws and didn't undertake pile driving, concrete pouring, or other major disruptive, excessively noisy activities on Saturdays – thus ensuring residents were able to have restful, liveable family times on weekends.

The flow-on from this is that the neighbourhood has warmly welcomed the new residents of 45 apartments and have a positive attitude to this exponential growth.

We see no reason why normal, considerate developers, builders and community members cannot do something similar for ALL the other developments here in Montague.

We are trying to get the City of Port Phillip to ensure that this is actively encouraged at the permitting stage and then again at construction, including asking the developers and builders to sign a voluntary neighbourhood agreement.

It helps to meet face-to-face and surely developers and builders would want to have a business and residential community welcome them into the neighbourhood, be polite and considerate and not make it only about revenue.

Come on COPP and MCC, let's do this. And as it's being developed right now, let's start with Montague ... Neighbourhood agreements NOW.



Meet a Montaguan ... Titane Laurent

Who are you? My name is Titane Laurent. I am an artist, a mum and the founder of the LAURENT Gallery. I grew up in Belgium moving here from the United States four years ago with my husband Jonathon Miller and our two children Ellieh and Swann.

What brought you to live or work in the Montague Precinct (MP) of South Melbourne?

As an artist, I travelled a lot and during my time in France, New York and Miami, and I grew fond of their industrial art districts. I was fascinated by the fact that the city managed to transform ugly industrial areas into vibrant, inspiring art centres. The Montague Precinct contains an abundance of buildings that fit this description. I was inspired to transform the interior of one of them into an oasis of contemporary beauty. It's probably what brought me to Thistlethwaite St to plant our art space. The Montague Precinct has the same feel as the art district of Miami but without the art (aside from the LAURENT Gallery of course!). It has great industrial buildings, big roller doors, large spaces for workshops etc. It was love at the first sight!

What are the best and/or most interesting things about living in MP?

MP is special because it's still rough and unpolished. Personally, suburbs with lovely houses and manicured gardens make me queasy. MP is the perfect fit for an artistic soul. It has so much to offer, an amazing industrial look that I cherish, a reasonable sized area for community to grow, affordable rent, relatively close to the beach, parks and the city, quiet yet marginal enough to be interesting and inspiring.

How does working in Montague affect your quality of life, including your work?

As an artist, Montague has the perfect energy for me to freely create large abstract paintings. It has also, in my opinion

huge potential to become artistically extraordinary. I feel inspired here. It reminds me a bit of some arty parts of NY, Miami or even Bobourg in France. I can be myself, focus on what really matters, ride my bike, wear jeans covered with paint, etc. Our street is messy, desolate after 5.00 pm and in the middle of nowhere is our spotless, white and contemporary art gallery.

What are the challenges of living in MP?

The challenge is that Montague is not yet an art district. There are not enough artists and art lovers visiting, even though our street includes a sculptor, a printer and a designer and that we have art studios, a small coffee shop and free events.

If you could change something about Montague life, what would it be?

I would become Montague's fairy godmother, transforming her into the new Bobourg, or Miami art district. A proud community, known for visual art, installations and industrial style galleries. I would have organised art tours and yearly open studios, massive stunning wall graffiti, parks filled with art, abstract seats, groovy features for people to enjoy. Montague would be the art capital of Melbourne and it would overflow with visitors.



Trisha Avery

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



Federal Politics

Supporting the peaceful struggle of the Tibetans

While the world monitors China's relationship with North Korea, it's timely that we remember the plight of the 7 million forgotten Tibetans.

I have always supported the peaceful struggle of the Tibetans since I was elected to Parliament. As usual I spoke out at a Tibetan rally outside Parliament House in Canberra earlier this year as they cried out to end the Chinese oppression against their people.

It's important to understand the modesty of the struggle of the Tibetan people as many may be unaware of the breach of human rights from one of our largest trading partners. And its violation of its own constitution which guarantees language customs and religions rights to minorities.

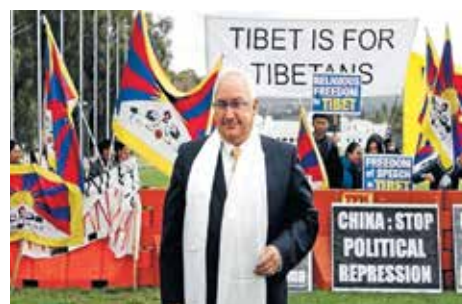
It has been my privilege to have supported these gentle people and their wonderful ancient culture ever since becoming a member of parliament. I continue to do so.

At the beginning of the New Year, around two million followers of Tibetan Buddhism gathered in the Indian town of Bodh Gaya, where Buddha is believed to have attained enlightenment. The devotees came from around the world to receive a major teaching from His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Ironically,

Tibetans from Tibet, perhaps the most loyal followers of the Dalai Lama, were banned from attending this religious congregation. For these people seeing their exiled spiritual leader was the dream of their lifetime. The Chinese government crushed their dreams.

In the months leading up to Kalachakra, as it is called—teachings in India—the Chinese authorities confiscated the passports of many Tibetans. Just days before the event, authorities demanded that all Tibetans who had already reached India return home or face severe consequences such as losing one's job, pension or ration cards. Seven thousand Tibetans had to go back from India. During the 12-day event, the Chinese authorities threatened Tibetans that sharing videos or news articles about religious teachings would lead to arrest and imprisonment.

When it comes to handling the Tibet issue, China is often its own worst enemy. The Chinese government does not want Tibet to get involved in political activities. Those who



travelled to India were religious pilgrims—the purpose was religions—but they returned to Tibet politicised. A global leader of peace and compassion, the Dalai Lama is loved and revered by millions around the world. This simple Buddhist monk, as the Dalai Lama likes to call himself, is feared by a nation with the world's largest population, the second-largest standing army and the second-biggest economy.

The recent crackdown on Tibetan pilgrims is part of China's intensifying attempt to undermine the Dalai Lama's influence in

Tibet and globally. It is a serious violation of the Tibetan people's right to freedom of religion. It is also a violation of their right to move freely.

The Tibetan Middle Way is not an attempt for independence. His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Lobsang Sangay, the elected representative of Tibetans in exile, appeal for the Middle Way—where Tibetan religion, culture and language be respected as undertaken by the Chinese Constitution. I appeal directly to China's all-powerful leader Mr Xi Jinping. I ask you to reverse your policies and I call on the Australian government to renew its support for our endeavour to visit Tibet over the term of this parliament.



Michael Danby

Federal Member for Macnamara

michael.danby.mp@aph.gov.au

We Live Here

One woman's stand gets results

One brave apartment owner has taken on the developer and the management company appointed to administer the common property for the owners' corporation (OC) and won back residents' rights that had been eroded in her apartment building.

In the June edition of this column we reported that the owner of the Stonnington apartment had embarked on a lone fight to expose some serious irregularities between the plans provided to purchasers in 2008 when the building permit was obtained and 2012 when settlement of the apartments took place, including:

- Allocation of residents' and visitors' car parks being vastly different to what was expected in the original plans;
- Access to the loading bay and goods lift denied to residents who were forced to carry out move-ins via dangerous kerbside parking near a busy intersection, with goods being taken through the glass front door; and
- A parcel of common property in the entrance foyer that had been set aside for residents handed over to an estate agent to conduct a commercial business.

Between them, the developer and the OC (which was under the control of the management company) had blatantly ignored the rights of owners who were virtually powerless to do anything about it.

With very little support, the owner took the only option available to her and lodged an application with VCAT.

The City of Stonnington, perhaps embarrassed by the VCAT action taken by the owner, stepped in and investigated the appalling breaches of residents' rights.

It didn't take too much digging to find out that an earlier VCAT determination was being flouted by the OC allegedly at the behest of the developer, including claims that the developer disposed of common property car parks for its own benefit; and that building plans had been falsified to support the alienation of common property.

The city's senior planning investigator has now notified the OC that it has been breaching a VCAT determination that underpins the building permit, that it is illegal to try to overturn a VCAT determination, where a building permit was issued.

Consequent to the council's recent action, the owner has deferred her VCAT action, with a right of reinstatement pending satisfactory resolution of the non-compliance issues.

After hundreds of hours of research, being denied a position on the OC committee by three of the current five members who, between them, hold proxies for hundreds of absentee owners – a blatant case of proxy farming – issuing complaints to the manager about breaches of the model rules which have been ignored, the intrepid owner had taken the manager to VCAT to obtain a ruling that residents can use what is legally theirs!

This owner's win benefits all 500 owners – despite having done it all on her own

with the only assistance being provided by Consumer Affairs and freedom of information. Bravo!

New service for monitoring short-term letting in strata buildings

In a We Live Here newsletter in February 2018 we reported on BnbGuard, believed to be an Australian-first monitoring service for residential property owners, building and strata managers wanting to find out the extent of short-term letting in their building.

We have now received further information from BnbGuard that five of its first 10 customers came as a result of the mention given to the service in our newsletter, and that it is now working with hundreds of customers across Australia helping them monitor and track short-stay lets in their buildings.

It is also working with several local governments across Australia – helping them track short-stays in their area and providing consultation and technology to implement local regulations.

For more information about the service check out its website at www.bnbguard.com.au. Also check out its blog at blog.bnbguard.com.au where it is starting to create a library of articles around the short-stay issue including:

- The recent changes in NSW;
- Analysis of best practice overseas; and
- Comments on the effects of short-stays on housing affordability.

Developer bans short stays

Finally, some good news in the recent announcement by property developer, Capital Alliance, that it will write enforceable safeguards into the sale contracts of its new developments, including a \$250 million project in Docklands.

Although there are a number of buildings that already have caveats on title restricting short-term leasing this is the first instance we know of where a written guarantee has to be provided by the owner, before they can complete the purchase.

This is music to the ears of owners who bought into residential buildings believing it be their home then finding that it was being severely eroded by the impact of the rampant unregulated short-stay industry.

Let us hope that many more developers follow this lead.



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

Pet's Corner



Jumper's proud parents

By Jacklyn Yeong

Jumper the cavoodle was extra delighted for his walk as his "mum" had just arrived home from a month-long holiday.

The Cavalier King Charles and poodle mix was happy and contented with the presence of both his parents, Corrie and Dave, by his side. They explained that Jumper always knew when they were heading off to his favourite location – the botanical gardens.

"He gets extra alert and a little too excited when we fill his water bottle and take out

his special ball," Corrie said. "He jumps around and impatiently whines if you take a minute longer to get ready."

However, when approached by other dogs, Jumper always behaves calmly even when off-leash. This is one of his traits that Corrie is proud of.

"Jumper never barks or pounces on other dogs. He just stays quietly by our sides," Corrie said. "However, he was pretty badly bitten once. That is why we are extra careful now, even with dogs that don't look threatening."

When asked about tips on his fluffy maintenance, his parents shared that they showered Jumper once every two weeks and brushed him every day.

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Art Deco panels at the ABC

The ABC has finally finished its refurbishment of its headquarters in in Sturt St, providing an ultra-modern facility for its operations. But they haven't forgotten the past.

Inside the foyer is a group of stunning wall panels depicting aspects of life from the interwar era. They were originally located in the ABC building in the city, on the site where the County Court is now located.

Constructed in 1940, the building housed ABC offices and studios, in front of a former church hall used for live broadcasts. The ceiling of the entrance vestibule was adorned with the colourful bas-relief panels, lovingly created in 1942 by the sculptor Stanley Hammond, who was responsible for many of Melbourne's public sculptures.

In the Southbank area he worked on sculptures at the Shrine of Remembrance, the Macpherson Robertson Fountain and the South African War Memorial.

He was also a teacher and was highly regarded by his peers in the profession and



was a leading light in the Victorian Sculptors' Society, started in 1947.

Panels like this were rare in Melbourne. Attached to a barrel vault ceiling in the William St building, they had suffered the indignity of being covered over when a flat ceiling was installed in the 1950s or 1960s, causing Hammond to believe that they

had been lost when he made a visit to the building.

The 10 panels are great examples of the Art Deco styling used throughout the original building and comprise representations of figures from the worlds of art, drama, music, education, industry, sport, agriculture and transport.

My favourite depicts a female figure, with her hair streaming behind her, touching the top of a tower that is sending out radio waves. All very symbolic for a public broadcaster. When the ABC first moved to Southbank in the mid-90s, the building company was informed about the panels and thought that they would make a great addition to the foyer of the new building. After they were retrieved they were then restored by conservators, who removed years of dust, undid some over-painting, fixed some parts that had been dislodged, and were installed against a timber background in 1994.

Hammond was delighted to see them restored and back on public display. When the ABC undertook its most recent building works, the panels were retained and installed at ground level behind the foyer. He passed away in 2000 but not before he saw this wonderful work again able to be viewed by the public.



Robin Grow

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

Safety & Security

Visable presence

As this is my first article for *Southbank Local News* I thought I should introduce myself to you all.

My name is Sen-Sgt Steve Bills and I am the station commander at Southbank Police Station.

Southbank Police Station falls under the Melbourne East Local Area Command (LAC) which is lead by Inspector Craig Peel, who is based at the Melbourne East Police Station in Flinders Lane, and we are part of Division 1 of North West Metro Region, which essentially covers all of the City of Melbourne and City of Yarra.

Probably not unsurprisingly to readers is that a large part of our focus in the Southbank response zone is on public order and dealing with the consequences of alcohol and drug use.

Having said that, just like the state crime rate, the crime rate in Southbank has fallen over the last year, with a particularly large drop in robberies in our response zone. But don't think we are resting on our laurels - we will continue to focus on offences that impact on the community such as robberies and assaults.

With Southbank being part of the larger CBD and with the increasing number of licensed premises there are significant challenges for us in these areas. And, whilst we are focusing on prevention and enforcement, we will only have a significant impact with the help of the community both in assisting us to identify offenders but also in using their situational

awareness to reduce the chances of some of these offences occurring.

Being aware of your surrounds, who and what is around you and not falling into the trap of being totally distracted by your phone, will reduce your chances of becoming a victim and, after all, that should be everyone's main aim.

With an intelligence-led approach, we are trying to create a more visible presence during the peak times which is why you will generally see more police out on the streets on Friday and Saturday nights than you will during the day.

Finally, I'd like to invite anyone that has any questions around policing in the Southbank Area to send them to me at southbank-uni-oic@police.vic.gov.au. I will try to answer as many as I can and will print some in future additions of SLN.

Quote for the day: Never go to a doctor whose office plants have died.

- Erma Bombeck



Senior Sgt Steve Bills

Station Commander at Southbank Poilice Station
steve.bills@police.vic.gov.au

Crime wrap



Assault

Police are appealing for public assistance after a man was assaulted at an apartment complex in Southbank on December 9 last year.

Investigators have been told a group of men were leaving the Clarke St premises when they were approached by a staff member.

A verbal argument started before the group began assaulting the staff member in the foyer of the property.

The victim, a 35-year-old man, was treated for minor injuries.

Investigators have released images of three men who may be able to assist with their enquiries.

Deception

Police are seeking to identify two women after a deception incident in Southbank on April 11.

At around 6pm, two women attended a Whiteman St premises and used a stolen credit card to purchase multiple items of clothing.

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

The first woman is perceived to be of Southern European appearance, in her 30s and of solid build.

She has dark, long hair and was wearing a white/light grey t-shirt and black pants.

The second woman is perceived to have an olive complexion, solid build and dark black/burgundy coloured long hair.

She was wearing a black t-shirt and blue jeans.



Theft

Police are seeking to identify a man after an alleged theft of motor vehicle in Southbank on May 15.

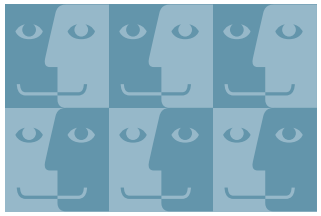
Between 10.30am and 10.45am, a man is alleged to have gained access to a 2011 Hyundai iLoad Silver refrigerated milk truck outside the front of a Whiteman St premises. The alleged offender drove the vehicle south, away from Whiteman St.

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

The man is perceived to be of Caucasian appearance, approximately 30 years old with a thin build.

He was wearing a camouflage print t-shirt and dark tracksuit pants.





FACES OF SOUTHBANK



PENNY GRIGOR, 20, SOUTHBANK, STUDENT

I think it's bizarrely impractical. I don't carry cash with me at all as cards are very convenient, the only place I would need to pay with cash is Queen Victoria or South Melbourne markets.



CHARLOTTE MARTIN, 23, PRAHRAN, DANCER/SINGER

I've always been a tap-and-go person. Now that we're so evolved I can't imagine just using cash.



LISA LEE, 35, SOUTHBANK, ART TEACHER

I prefer using card because I think that cash is not very convenient to carry around.



PHILL GOODE, 60+, SOUTHBANK, RETIRED

I think it's too late for a cash-only lifestyle, we're better off having a card-only world now.



LENNY GOLIGHLY, 50+, BRUNSWICK, ARTIST

I totally appreciate the cash-only lifestyle. I think it's absurd that we're paying banks to use their tap-and-go service.



FLAVIA COMBA, 29, EAST MELBOURNE, MUSICIAN

I prefer tap-and-go so you don't need to have so much cash on you all the time. Also, getting cash out is really inconvenient.

Question:

What do you think of a cash-only lifestyle in a tap-and-go world?

SOUTHBANK SUDOKU



Last month's Sudoku solution

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

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

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Health & Wellbeing

How to break the cycle of fear

Fear can be uncomfortable and crippling. But eliminating it would be like shutting down your home alarm system because it sometimes makes strange noises.

Fear is healthy and useful and helps us stay alive. But when it starts to affect your daily functioning or becomes debilitating, we need to look at ways to understand and reduce our fear response so that it does not begin to control our lives.

Fear is healthy

Fear is a powerful and primitive human emotion that alerts us to the presence of danger. Feeling fear is thus neither abnormal nor a sign of weakness. In fact, a lack of fear may be a sign of neurological issues.

Fear can actually be divided into two stages, biochemical and emotional. The biochemical response is felt by all people to some degree, while the emotional response is highly individualised based on your nature, nurture and temperament.

Biochemical reaction

When we are confronted by a threat or

perceived threat, our bodies respond in specific ways. The physical reactions we experience include sweating, increased heart rate, fast breathing and high adrenaline levels running through your brain and body.

This physical response is to prepare you for “fight or flight”, in which the body prepares itself to either enter combat or run away.

Think back to the last time you heard an extraordinarily loud “bang” for example. You would have experienced some if not all of the above symptoms in preparation to either face the threat or run, you went into “survival mode”.

Emotional response

Your emotional response to fear is highly personalised depending on your temperament, what your experiences have been and how you perceive non-threatening and threatening stimuli.

Some individuals thrive on fear-inducing situations, while others avoid them at all costs. Although the physical reactions (described above) are the same, the fear is perceived very differently from person to person.

Breaking the cycle

What I write next may be controversial, but as a clinical psychologist who has

supported hundreds of clients experiencing severe and debilitating fears, I want to say this: emotionally, you have the choice of perceiving the feared stimulus as a threat or not and, as such, you have the power to do something to significantly minimise or completely eliminate the fear that holds you back.

I know it can be overwhelming, scary and (ironically) fear-inducing to face your fears, but once you are willing to trust your ability to overcome them, that is the time to look fear in the eyes.

Closing your eyes will often only make the fear grow – sometimes to proportions bigger than it was when it started!

I have seen people overcome fear time and time again and here is how to start:

Start with understanding that our brain cannot distinguish between a real threat or a perceived threat and our mind can trigger a threat in the absence of one.

Read that sentence again. Google it, get to know how the mind works, talk about it to a friend or a psychologist, understand this concept.

Then, start noticing the inner conversation that surfaces when you begin to experience fear. Just notice when the conversation starts happening in your head and what it’s “about”. Once we have noticed the inner conversation and fearful self-talk, acknowledge it at an emotional level (that

it is your emotions reacting to a real or perceived threat).

Reassess the way you feel by asking yourself what’s the story behind your fear (you might need a psychologist to help you get there).

Now that you have separated the story from the fear, you have the power to move forward. Doing the above-mentioned steps under the guidance of a registered psychologist is highly recommended.

Essentially what you are doing is taking control of the fear, by identifying the “danger” in what you perceive as a threatening stimuli and then responding accordingly.

What you are doing is beginning to exercise and condition your mind and body to assess the situation differently. Through this assessment, you will be able to redefine the feeling of fear and create an opportunity to move forward despite the physical feeling.

Do you have a question for Rajna, or want her to write an article on a particular topic? Feel free to email her on: rajna@southbanklocalnews.com.au



Rajna Bogdanovic

Clinical psychologist

rajnab@hotmail.com

Southbank Sustainability Group

Community’s journey into sustainability

It all started February last year, when as part of City of Melbourne’s Sustainability Month activities, a few Southbankers gathered to plant herbs in Boyd’s new planter boxes, or to watch a movie on food waste.

It quickly became apparent there here is Southbank (on the surface, a concrete neighbourhood that breeds isolation, where it’s hard to build a community or meet like-minded people), there is passion and interest for gardening and sustainability and that people want to take action but don’t know where to start. These locals want to take responsibility for their environmental footprint but feel isolated in their journey.

The wonderful Nadine, Boyd’s community animator at the time, co-ordinated these 10-12 residents to meet and talk about expanding sustainability activities in Southbank beyond Sustainability Month, and the Southbank Sustainability Group was born.

Since then, our group managed to convince the council to give our community a permanent veggie garden as part of the new Boyd Park – something we didn’t think possible but had to fight for it anyway. At best, we were expecting a temporary space to continue hosting our guerilla-style planted veggie garden at the Boyd north lawn area.

It turns out though, when community rallies, council listens. That won us a much-needed green space and the opportunity for kids and adults alike to learn how to grow plants for healthier and more sustainable herbs and veggies.



Southbank Sustainability Group at the temporary veggie garden - Boyd north lawn area.

Every time our group meets to tend to our plants, more environmentally-curious Southbankers stop and ask about our group. We are now 65 members strong – bringing changes to our neighborhood beyond what we’d imagined and building a lovely community where we get to know our neighbours.

Our next goal is to reduce waste on an individual and a community level, plus

establish a community composting space. With education being half the battle to combat climate change, we want to strengthen knowledge in our community.

After a four-part workshop series on growing plants and composting in apartments, we’re now inviting the community to learn more about zero waste – an easier-than-it-looks process to reduce unnecessary waste, especially when it comes

to plastics and use of virgin resources.

Did you know that the average person produces 136kg plastic waste/year? Waste that will outlive you and your children? So yes, our individual choices do matter.

Our first workshop is on Saturday, August 25 at 10am. It’s called *Conscious Consumerism and the Impact of Fast Fashion* and is being run by Madeline Clarke, founder of Green Spectrum. The following one is on Saturday, September 22 at 10am and is about *What is Zero Waste and Practical Solutions to get you Started*, run by myself, a long-term zero waster and activist. Both are at Boyd.

Both workshops are free and everyone is invited to come join us and meet your neighbours in the process. For more info, go to [Facebook.com/SouthbankSustainabilityGroup](https://www.facebook.com/SouthbankSustainabilityGroup), or email southbanksustainability@gmail.com

Keep an eye out for next month’s column to learn more about how to practice zero waste in Southbank.



Artemis Pattichi

Southbank Sustainability Group

southbanksustainability@gmail.com

Business

Meet Anne Davies

Anne Davies has practiced as a remedial massage therapist and myotherapist at the Olympic Park Sports Medicine Centre (OPSMC) since 1990.

Working closely with other specialist clinicians in sports and musculoskeletal medicine, she has developed a broad interest in pain, injury and dysfunction of the musculoskeletal system that arose from recreational and competitive sports, work demands, postural stress and life in the big city.

Anne has experience in teaching postgraduate courses, presenting at peer conferences and writing massage therapy-related articles. She also worked closely with swimming and athletics competitions at state, national and international levels.

Her modalities included remedial massage, myotherapy, dry needle therapy and sports massage. These specialties catered for the treatment of pain and recovery from injury, pre- and post-operation, stress-related, biomechanical and

postural issues, training and pre- and post-competition, as well as general wellbeing to cope with 21st century living.

Anne was first introduced to massage therapies through her studies in naturopathy. It brought her to develop a broad interest in optimising musculoskeletal functioning, pain reduction to support every patient's general health and lifestyle.

She continues to attend conferences and workshops in sports and musculoskeletal medicine and soft tissue therapies.

Anne is a basketball mum, but her own fitness interests are more general outdoors activities such as running, cycling, bushwalking and gardening. She is also passionate in helping people stay active throughout their lives.

www.opsmc.com.au



Community living in the heart of Southbank

Meydan Group is putting the focus on community with an innovative residential development at 57 Haig that makes the most of Southbank's access to Melbourne's inner-city attractions.

Designed in partnership between the award-winning Bruce Henderson Architects and Wireframe Architecture, 57 Haig presents a range of one, two and three-bedroom luxury apartments in a genuine vertical community that offers a suite of multi-level residents' facilities.

Wireframe Architecture's Geoff Dill sees the project design as fulfilling the needs of the modern city dweller.

"Social connection and lifestyle flexibility are essential," he said. "Not only is Haig St within walking distance of the CBD, the Yarra's entertainment and dining precinct, South Melbourne and the city's best parks and gardens, but daily life within the building flows and integrates through clever, intuitive arrangements of communal spaces."

Central to the building's architectural concept is a grand internal lobby space at street level. Together with carefully-integrated linking spaces throughout the podium and tower, the inviting gateway experience aims at fostering pride of place and a sense of belonging. The three levels of resident facilities enjoy a separate access from that of the residences, while a pedestrian and bicycle thoroughfare joins Haig St and Blankley Place.

"We wanted to create a 'stacked' village square atmosphere," Mr Dill explained. "Multiple spaces provide huge scope for connected community living. Step outside your apartment and you've got instant access to a gym, residents' lounge, cinema, terrace with barbecue facilities - even a children's playground. And if you're working from home, there's a fully equipped business centre right inside your building."

With only limited apartments per floor, all living spaces and bedrooms have an abundance of natural sunlight. The large selection of corner apartments offer dual aspects over the Melbourne city skyline, the bay and more - through full-height double-glazed windows.

For luxury living in a central location as your next home, register your interest now at 57haig.com.au

Innovative patisserie celebrates three years

Laksa, matcha and squid ink are just some of the colourful croissants on show at Agathe Kerr's Paris-inspired bakery, Agathé Pâtisserie.

Three years since opening, the patisserie has developed a cult-like foodie following at South Melbourne Market.

The Parisian mother-of-three moved to Melbourne with her Australian husband in 2013. After selling, and subsequently, selling out, of her croissants and pains au chocolat at her daughter's school fete in late 2013, Ms Kerr summoned the courage to follow her dream, leaving behind a career as a business consultant to set up her patisserie.

The French-born pastry chef continues to excite customers with her experiential daily specials, which range from Earl Grey to pandan.

Agathe also experiments with bold bicolour croissants including ginger and cocoa, turmeric and caraway and squid ink and nigella.

"Our most popular product is still the plain croissant. That's the one we make and sell the most," said Ms Kerr, who learned her craft at the prestigious Ecole de Boulangerie et Pâtisserie de Paris.

"But our specials are very popular too, especially the matcha croissant and the pandan croissant. Recently we had a laksa croissant which was also super popular. We mix the dough with the laksa paste and coco nut cream and finish it off with coriander."

To mark three years in business, Ms Kerr announced a partnership with Melbourne coffee king and fellow South Melbourne Market favourite, Padre Coffee.

The exciting new partnership will see the talented pastry chef using Padre's Brunswick-roasted coffee beans to make a special Padre coffee tart - made with a coffee infused crème brulee, a coffee ganache and a crunchy shortbread.



Agathe Kerr displaying the popular pastries at her Paris-inspired bakery, Agathé Pâtisserie.



Padre Coffee tart.

Since opening at South Melbourne Market in July 2015, Agathé Pâtisserie regularly attracts long queues of eager customers prepared to wait in line for her popular breads and treats, baked right before their eyes from an exposed pastry kitchen behind the stall's counter.

Agathe Patisserie sells 9000 products a week out of its South Melbourne Market and Royal Arcade locations and is currently building a new off-site kitchen in South Melbourne to help keep up with demand, as their popular pastries often sell out, especially on the weekends.

WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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



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www.life.org.au/implac or call Dianne 0425 140 981



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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.



YOGA: SATURDAYS @ BOYD
Suitable for all levels of experience and includes an appropriate amount of challenges and relaxation which will help you achieve a balance between strength and flexibility. **Register: [facebook.com/events/625656444477843/](https://www.facebook.com/events/625656444477843/)**



BLOCKCHAIN CENTRE
The community and co-working hub hosts a range of regular and new events each week. Ring **9686 7751** to find out what's on or visit the team at 85 City Rd, Southbank.
blockchaincentre.com.au



FRIDAYS 7.45AM - 9AM @ BOYD
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A growing group of green and sustainability enthusiasts who live in Southbank looking to bring positive change. More info: [facebook.com/SouthbankSustainabilityGroup](https://www.facebook.com/SouthbankSustainabilityGroup)

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
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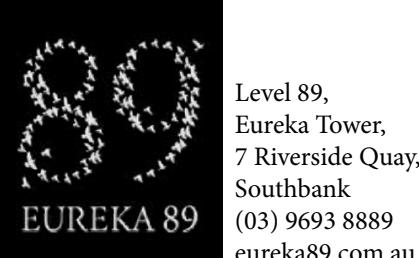
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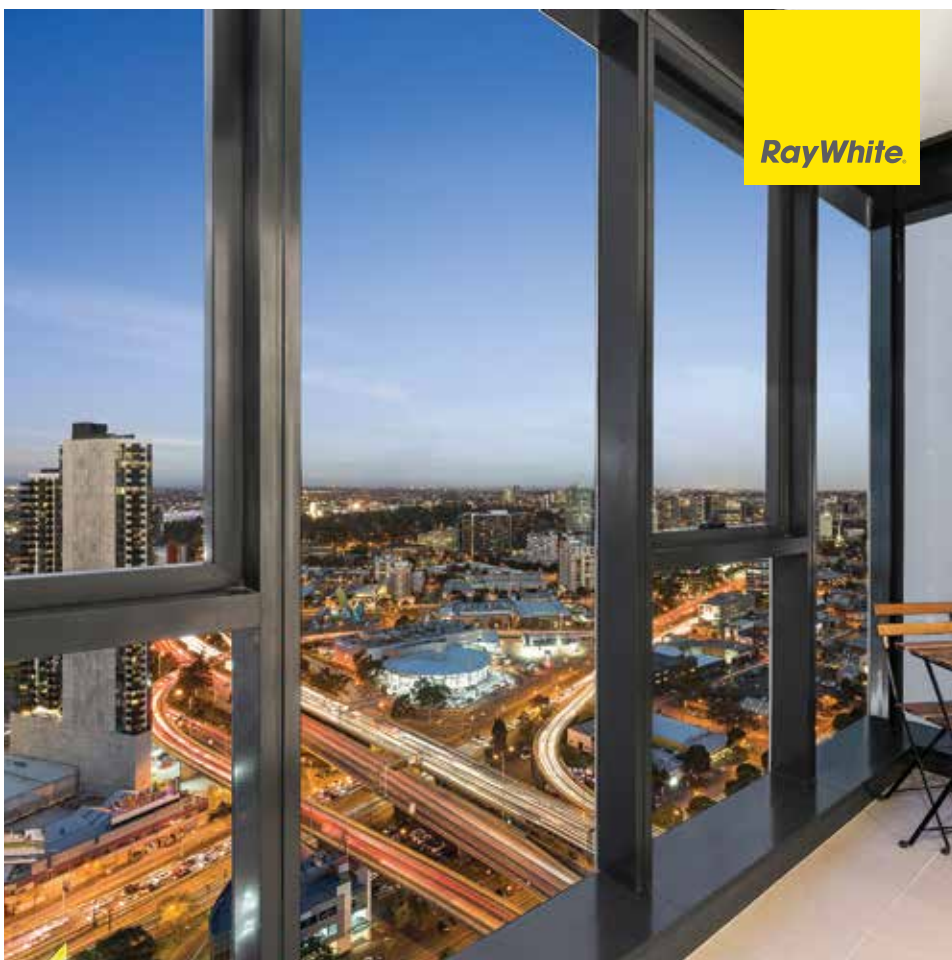
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Av. Property Page Views in Southbank

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Market	1,821

Av. Enquiries in Southbank

Ray White	43
Market	30

Qty Listings in Victoria

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Competitors	3.0%
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Legend: ■ Ray White, ■ Market

Data source: REA June 2018