

The voice of Southbank, South Wharf & Montague

SOUTHBANK Local NEWS

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A sustainable seafood party!

South Melbourne Market's much loved Mussel & Jazz Festival is helping restore Port Phillip Bay's decimated shellfish reefs.

Taking place on March 9 and 10 from 12pm until late, the festival is teaming up with The Nature Conservancy by recycling all used shells, which are then used to rebuild reefs.

The project has restored 2.5 hectares of shellfish reefs in Port Phillip Bay and, with guests expected to finish more than 200,000 mussels over the course of the festival, those reefs can expect to become a lot bigger!

southmelbournemarket.com.au/mussel-festival



L-R: City of Port Phillip Mayor Dick Gross blows his trumpet alongside South Melbourne Market general manager Ian Sumpter and councillors Andrew Bond and Bernadene Voss.

Fishermans freeze still thawing

By Sean Car

Future viability in Fishermans Bend has been called to question, based on a slow uptake in development since the introduction of the State Government's new planning framework last year.

Southbank Local News can confirm that of the 26 Fishermans Bend planning applications that were unfrozen by Minister for Planning Richard Wynne in October last year, only four amended plans have since been submitted.

It's a fact that paints an uncertain vision for developers and policy makers alike, with both the City of Melbourne and the City of Port Phillip now understood to be exploring strategies for short-term activation in the precinct.

The decision to freeze the 26 applications came in February last year, with Minister for Planning Richard Wynne stating at the time it was a "necessary step" in order to protect Fishermans Bend for the future.

With the new Fishermans Bend planning framework legislated in October last year following four years of planning and consultation by the state government, the door was reopened to developers to resubmit under the new planning controls. However, with only four of the 26 having

submitted amended plans, the combination of a cooling apartment market, slow delivery of key infrastructure and rising land taxes is understood to be forcing a rethink from a number of developers.

A spokesperson for the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) said it was working with applicants to revise the 26 applications to "align as best as possible" with the new planning controls. Of these 26, 14 are located in the Montague Precinct.

One such developer is Gurner, whose three-tower development at 2-28 Montague St is one of 22 yet to resubmit. Founder and director Tim Gurner told *Southbank Local News* there was no question the government's decision to freeze development had had an adverse impact on Fishermans Bend.

"We have revised our plans for the project and have them ready to submit, however due

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Crown extension denied

Minister for Planning Richard Wynne has knocked back Crown and Schiavello's request for an extension of time to begin construction on their billion-dollar mega tower One Queensbridge.

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Approved in March 2017 by the State Government under the special planning exemption of being a state significant project, a condition of its planning scheme amendment was that construction had to have begun within two years of gazettal.

Having formally written to Minister for Planning Richard Wynne requesting more time to start construction last month, Crown Resorts confirmed via a statement on its website on March 4 that its request had been denied.

"Crown and Schiavello have been informally notified by the Victorian Government that an extension to the construction commencement date for the project has been denied," the statement read. "No formal notice has been received from the Victorian Government but it is expected shortly."

"As previously announced, the project was subject to obtaining financing arrangements that were satisfactory to Crown and Schiavello. Unfortunately, these arrangements could not be achieved before the construction commencement date under the planning approval."

"Crown retains a 50 per cent ownership interest in the land and will consider the next steps for the property in conjunction with

Schiavello."

The decision represents a huge setback to the joint venture partners, who will now require fresh planning approvals for the project should they wish to continue.

The site, which is home to the historic Queensbridge Hotel, has since been protected with a heritage overlay following a heritage review of Southbank by the City of Melbourne in 2018. This means that any future development proposal for the site will now need to incorporate this as part of its design.

Approved at 323 metres, One Queensbridge would have become Australia's tallest tower and provided 708 new apartments and a new 6-star, 388-room hotel. While the joint venture partners can still pursue the project in its current form, obtaining the same exemptions for such a proposal would appear to be a much more difficult task.

A raft of public works that included upgrades to Queensbridge Square, Southbank Promenade and Sandridge Bridge, were also tied up as part of the approval, now leaving the City of Melbourne with the challenge of delivering on its own.

A spokesperson for Richard Wynne told *Southbank Local News*: "Crown sought an

extension of time for their commencement of works, but under the relevant planning laws there was insufficient justification for that request. Crown is able to seek new planning approval and that will be considered on its merits."

Council's chair of planning Cr Nicholas Reece welcomed the decision and said he hoped the developers' next proposal would adhere to the normal planning process.

"One Queensbridge did not come within a bull's roar of complying with the Melbourne Planning Scheme and I hope they reflect on that the next time they submit," he said.

"That said, I very much hope that Crown and Schiavello find a way forward because the city would benefit from the investment and world-class tourism facilities that Crown has a history of building in Melbourne."

Assistant chair of planning Cr Rohan Leppert congratulated Minister Wynne for the decision and said that it went some way to restoring faith and transparency back into the planning process.

Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) president Tony Penna said SRA welcomed the decision and said he looked forward to seeing the government consult council on any future proposals for the site.

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Fishermans freeze still thawing

Continued from page 1.

to the incredible uncertainty in the precinct we have been informed that at this time we are not able to submit them," he said.

"The entire catchment is now in limbo which has created a huge amount of uncertainty. This not only affects developers but cafe owners, small businesses and the wider community."

Despite being located in the Montague Precinct, which is more viable due to its proximity to the CBD via existing tram routes and a new primary school and park, Gurner said all developers had been affected by the government's "backwards" policies.

Former Liberal minister for planning Matthew Guy's decision to rezone Fishermans Bend as capital city zone in 2014 has meant landowners are currently sitting on very valuable plots, many of which continue to collect rents that are almost matched in land taxes and council rates.

While few would question the community-driven approach of the Andrews Labor government to set about a consultative recast vision, developers say four years of planning uncertainty is now undermining those same community aspirations.

Minister for Planning Richard Wynne told *Southbank Local News* that the majority of applicants intended to submit revised plans and that his government made no apologies for curbing development in Fishermans Bend.

"We make no apology for putting a stop to the development free-for-all," he said. "We're getting the planning right and giving Victorian families a community that they can be proud of."

"We're making Fishermans Bend a community, rather than a concrete jungle, with schools, public transport and green open spaces to meet friends and kick the footy."

However, without developer contributions and still no firm commitments to public transport, namely the delivery of Melbourne



Fishermans Bend is Australia's largest ever urban renewal project.

Metro 2, Mr Gurner said the government's population targets for 80,000 residents and 80,000 workers by 2050 looked increasingly unlikely.

"Given the uncertainty and process undertaken by the government to date, there is no chance they will meet their population targets," Mr Gurner said.

"The minister is increasingly focused on delivering social housing, however without development in general, none of the proposed social housing components can be delivered."

"At Fishermans Bend the approach seems to be backwards and the government doesn't seem interested in collaborating with developers to ensure these components can be delivered."

The Property Council of Australia's executive director for Victoria, Cressida Wall, said she believed that Fishermans Bend had suffered from shifting policy goal-posts for too long.

"It is critical that urban regeneration projects are considered in light of the proper integration of infrastructure and planning," she said.

"In the context of Fishermans Bend, it is unlikely that the precinct will reach its potential until development is linked to the CBD by mass transit infrastructure, such as Melbourne Metro 2."

While it has established a new governance arrangement, spearheaded by a new six-person development board, the government is still yet to release detailed plans for the five precincts, as well as a funding model for the public amenities.

Minister Wynne said that engagement on the development of the precinct plans for Montague, Wirraway, Sandridge and Lorimer would take place in the next few months. He also said the government was developing a comprehensive funding and finance strategy to deliver the framework by 2050.

This plan will consider a mix of funding sources, including an Infrastructure Contributions Plan to deliver essential infrastructure. He also said that work was underway on other significant "catalyst" projects including planning for public transport connections, a new community hospital, secondary school, as well as a number of projects in the Employment Precinct.

Fishermans Bend Business Forum executive officer David Weston said, given the current uncertainty, the government needed to work with landowners and businesses more actively to ensure its vision remained achievable.

"If development in Fishermans Bend isn't going to progress in the short- to medium-term, then we need to be working with property owners so that the concept of urban renewal remains vibrant," he said.

"We intend to work with the [Fishermans Bend] taskforce and the development board to continue to progress the view that the funding of public infrastructure may not totally be able to rely on infrastructure contribution plans if projects are delayed or deferred."

City of Port Phillip Mayor Dick Gross stressed that, while council had no control over the ministerial development applications, it was not aware of any delays to the delivery of key infrastructure.

Recycling crisis grips the city

By Kevin Jingga

The City of Melbourne is one of a number of local councils currently searching for answers to address the recycling crisis that is plaguing the nation.

Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) president Tony Penna raised the recycling issue with councillors at the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting on February 19.

Mr Penna asked whether the council was affected and, if so, what solutions it was considering to curb the issue.

Recycling giant SKM has recently stopped accepting material for recycling following a ruling by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) that it could no longer store it due to the risk of a fire.

Since China banned the import of 24 categories of recycled materials from Australia in 2018, local councils have yet to find an alternative solution for recycling besides stockpiling or sending it straight to landfill.

Deputy Lord Mayor and council's environment portfolio deputy chair Arron Wood said that while the situation was "unacceptable", all affected councils were still searching for solutions.

"It's unsatisfactory, it's unpalatable, and it's galling that we are in this situation after having the China crisis, after having a state-wide resource recovery infrastructure plan," Cr Wood told the meeting.

Cr Wood said he hoped that SKM would accept recycling again soon.

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Towers targeted for takeovers

By Sean Car and Shane Scanlan

Apartment towers are facing takeovers by short-stay apartment operators able to turn them into quasi-hotels.

Operators are successfully harvesting owners' corporation (OC) proxy votes in majority-investor-owned towers – and it's all perfectly legal.

Unlike NSW, there is no limit to the number, or total proportion, of proxy votes that individuals can harvest in Victoria – and it looks like the flood gates are about to open.

In the past, stories have emerged about OCs being taken over by utility and other contractor-type vested interests. But organised short-stay operators appear to be emboldened by the lack of regulation and oversight.

Professional facilities manager and former Residents 3000 president John Dall'Amico is involved in a draining struggle where an OC is being swamped by representatives of a property company, which has a short-stay apartment division and informal ties to a strata management company.

He said owner-occupier OC members were questioning the possible motive behind having members on the committee with no actual obvious connection with the building.

"They're neither owners, renters or investors," Mr Dall'Amico said. "I will leave it to others to determine the motives behind their push for control of the committee. And whether loop-holes in the law make it possible to profit from residential buildings."

"From my observations as a provider of facility management services it appears there is very little that can be done given the current laws. Most residents are first-time owners of apartments and have very little knowledge or understanding of owners' corporation matters. They are perplexed and left not knowing what to do, or believe."

In Docklands, a short-stay operator in November threatened a landlord with a \$100,000 lawsuit if he refused to pass over his OC proxy vote. It is understood a number of similar letters were also sent to other landlords.

A lawyer for the operator wrote to the landlord asserting the landlord was in breach of the Residential Tenancies Act because building management allegedly



denied the lawyer's client a right to "peacefully enjoy their residence and access all common property in the building".

The lawyer complained about "intimidation, physical and racial abuse" of ethnic Chinese staff by building management.

The lawyer then suggested assignment of proxy voting rights to the short-stay operator as a solution to the problem and asked that irrevocable proxy rights be inserted into the lease. Suggested amended lease wording included:

"The landlord may not revoke this appointment during the term of the lease, including any further term/s, except in instances where the tenant refuses to pay rent. The landlord acknowledges that the tenant has entered into the renewal of the lease at the specific rate in reliance upon the powers conferred upon it by the preceding clause and that the tenant will suffer damages and loss in the event it is prevented or attempts are made by the landlord to prevent the tenant from exercising its proxy in the manner set out above."

Three days later, on November 30, the lawyer again wrote to the landlord saying:

"In not taking action, after our clients have raised their concerns that the OC management is not allowing them to have quiet enjoyment of their property, our client feels that he has no option but to hold you liable as landlord. Our clients estimate that their total loss and damages are in the range of \$100,000."

"If our clients do not receive a response from you detailing the satisfactory steps you wish to take to immediately remedy the situation by close of business on Monday, 3 December 2018, we have been instructed to issue proceedings."

At the last annual general meeting of the circa 500-unit Docklands tower concerned, only eight people voted, leaving the OC particularly exposed to takeover at the 2019 meeting.

In Southbank, Tiara Towers on Haig St has also experienced the pain of proxy farming in the past. After discovering that the building's management company had control of all facets of its building under very lucrative contracts, the committee determined that the company was not acting in its best interests of owners.

Resident and former Tiara OC member Jennifer Fletcher said the committee had decided to review and re-tender those contracts, which the management company didn't receive well.

"Enter proxy farming," she said. "The committee was hijacked by the management company, their many arms and two real estate agents whose reasons must be questioned. These few individuals were armed."

"It appears some were gained by trying to discredit existing committee members and others falsified information sent to selected owners, many of them overseas-investors. Many proxies questionably gained, signed and presented."

Ms Fletcher said it resulted in an outcome where the management company and its subsidiaries resumed control of running

the building and rewarded themselves the caretaker contracts.

"Proxy-farming must be stopped," Ms Fletcher said. "Unfortunately, there are individuals and organisations that can act only for financial gain. They can't help themselves – they get greedier and greedier and leave us with the crumbs."

Strata lawyer Tom Bacon said proxy farming was rife in Victoria because the law was inadequate.

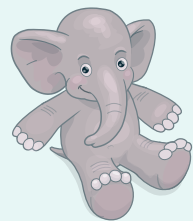
"There is little to curb this practice under the current OC legislation in Victoria. Proxy farming is rife in the industry, and this has allowed the rot to set in over many years as sophisticated short-stay operators, managers, real estate agents and building caretakers have exploited the situation," Mr Bacon said.

"In NSW, the state government introduced sweeping legislative reforms in 2016 to end proxy farming by permitting a person to only hold one proxy vote at a time, made it unlawful for leases and other agreements to include an 'irrevocable proxy' clause, and disqualified persons and proxies from voting on certain matters when they had a pecuniary interest in the outcome of the motion."

Mr Bacon said the Victorian Government had been reviewing OC law since 2016 but secrecy surrounded its intentions.

"The rumour is that the legislation is being re-written secretly because it's already out of date, and because the reforms didn't go far enough to improve liveability for residents and owners," Mr Bacon said. "So, there is no cavalry coming over the horizon anytime soon. Many high-rise buildings in Melbourne are highly exposed right now, and for the foreseeable future."

The government has committed to releasing an "exposure draft" of an Owners Corporations Amendment Bill by June 30. A spokesperson for Consumer Affairs Minister Marlene Kairouz said: "We're committed to working with the public to ensure the views of stakeholders and the community are carefully considered."



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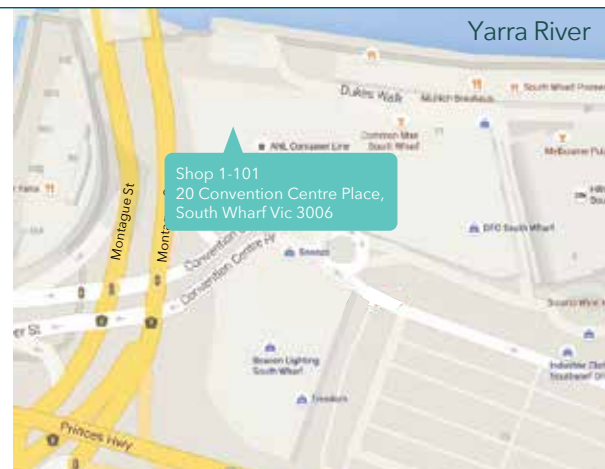
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A storm of pain is looming

Comment

Shane Scanlan



The threat of short-stay operators taking over residential towers stems from a failure of government regulation.

Unintended consequences are flowing from ill-considered decisions as well as a general failure to recognise emerging patterns in inner-city living.

The result is a looming perfect storm which will likely result in residents being displaced and wholesale profiteering by an unscrupulous and determined small cohort of opportunists.

The three major regulatory problems are:

- The state's deliberate backing of the short-stay industry by failing to grant owners' corporations (OCs) adequate control of their buildings. The just-enacted OC Amendment (Short-stay

Accommodation) Bill 2016 formalises and legitimises short-stay letting in residential buildings;

- The state's failure to outlaw proxy farming. In investor-majority buildings, it is ridiculously simple for any individual to harvest a majority of votes to control an OC; and
- Protection offered to short-stay operators under the Residential Tenancies Act. They are running a business, but the law protects them as if they are vulnerable renters. Some commercial operators are taking unreasonable advantage of this, effectively disenfranchising landlords.

The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) is being clogged with cases brought by real estate agents pursuing unpaid rents by some short-stay operators. The "cat and mouse" games being played out are costing landlords thousands of dollars in legal costs.

In a current case, a landlord who succeeded in evicting a short-stay operator after months of unpaid rent is being sued for \$40,000.

Owners' corporation law is in serious need of an overhaul to reflect the realities of the 21st century. It appears legislators think they are dealing with how a small number of people living in blocks of flats in the suburbs interact.

But strata living will soon overtake detached housing as the default situation in Victoria.

And, in our part of the world, owner-occupiers are a vulnerable minority easily swept aside by proxy farmers determined to take over OC committees.

Take a look at Melbourne's skyline. Pretty much all of these recent residential skyscrapers are owned by investors (either off-shore or domestic) who are motivated by financial return.

Why wouldn't they give their proxy vote to someone promising to increase their profits?

These proxy farmers don't need an actual connection with a particular building to end up in control.

And they don't need many proxies in investor-majority buildings to achieve this. Low attendance at annual general meetings creates the opportunity.

They only need a relatively easily-acquired list of investor-owners with their addresses to get started. Once acquired, they either convince owners to grant proxies or simply fake their signatures on proxy forms.

Currently, there are few documented examples that this has happened. But that's no reason to be complacent. A storm is looming and, unless the Victorian Government takes urgent steps to prevent it, the damage will be catastrophic.

YRBA backs Apple store

The Yarra River Business Association (YRBA) has thrown its support behind Federation Square's bid to replace its Yarra Building with an Apple global flagship store.

The board last month voted to submit a response to Heritage Victoria to support the proposal based on its tourism and business benefits to the precinct. It also supports the proposal's plan to open the square more actively to the river.

YRBA president John Forman said he believed it was a glaring oversight in 2002 that Federation Square didn't synergise with the river and that a big opportunity had been missed for nearly 20 years.

"The Apple proposal will help to cement Federation Square's position as a riverside entity and will boost the river's integration with the CBD," Mr Forman said.

A statement from the YRBA said that the board acknowledged that the Yarra Building was originally intended to be the most commercial section of Federation Square's footprint and that the Apple store was in line with the architect's vision.

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Call for tougher rules on builders

By Meg Hill and Sean Car

Residents have called on the City of Melbourne to crack down on after-hours construction, asserting that builders can break the current rules with impunity.

Local residents from Banque 88 (Clarke St) and Bella Apartments (City Rd) wrote to *Southbank Local News* last month sharing their frustrations about construction company Icon Builders allegedly carrying out works after hours consistently between the hours of 2am and 4am at 260 City Rd.

Owners' corporation (OC) member from Banque 88 Nicolo Bolognesi said after one occasion, when trucks had entered the work site at 2am generating noise for two hours, he had contacted council which he claimed did nothing to help.

"I called the council and found out that they did not have an after-hours permit but they didn't do anything about it," Mr Bolognesi said.

"I believe the point here is that regardless of whether the construction company has an after-hours permit, the council should place boundaries. They must consider that this is a residential area and people need to rest and sleep in peace."

A spokesperson for the City of Melbourne (CoM) argued the builder hadn't breached any rules to date and that it did have a permit to undertake certain works after hours.

"They (the builders) had a permit to deliver



"piling rig" machinery at that time. Vic Roads does not allow certain wide load vehicles on City Rd between 12am and 6am and this is the only time this activity can happen," the spokesperson said.

However, residents argue that works have been going beyond trucks simply entering and exiting the site.

The council, according to limits set by the Victorian Government, can issue fines up to \$2000 for out-of-hours work.

"The area is a nightmare," Mr Bolognesi said.

"We are surrounded by construction sites."

But residents say builders regularly start work before local laws allow because their cost-benefit analysis shows that time savings outweigh the fine.

A spokesperson for council said: "The fine for carrying out illegal building works is set at the maximum amount council can set under the *Local Government Act 1989* being 20 penalty units or \$2000. *The Sentencing Act 1991* sets local law penalty units at \$100."

Developer Lendlease was fined \$2000 for

starting early on January 24 at its Charter Hall development on Lonsdale St in the CBD, and the Brady Group was fined on January 25 for a breach at its nearby development on Little Lonsdale.

While not after hours, developer of 18 Moray St ABD Group has been issued multiple fines by council for breaches to its construction management plan. Other local developers have regularly absorbed fines for similar breaches.

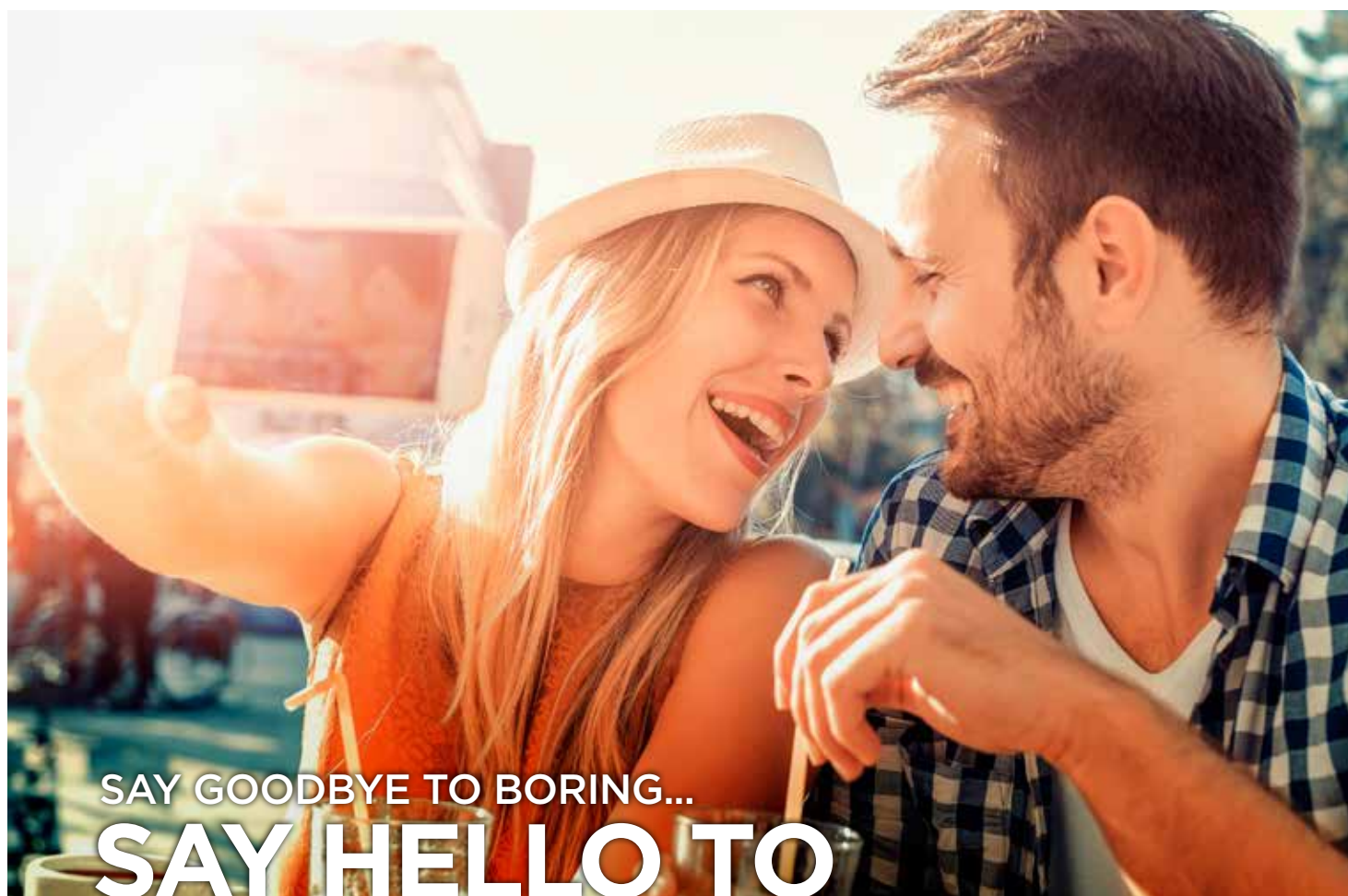
President of East Enders, a resident group based in the CBD, Jenny Eltham said \$2000 was a "drop in the ocean" to some companies.

"It should be three strikes and you're out, the site gets shut for a week," she said. "\$2000 is nothing to construction companies. It offers no deterrent."

Ms Eltham said CoM staff responsible for issuing the fines were as frustrated as residents, but had their hands tied.

"The City of Melbourne needs to have the powers to shut down a site when continual breaches of permit occur," she said.

What do you think about construction bans? Email news@southbanklocalnews.com.au



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What is happening at 310 St Kilda Rd?

By Sean Car

Politicians on all sides continue to dodge questions about 310 St Kilda Rd. But why?

For many years the former repatriation clinic has sat idle on the corner of St Kilda Rd and Coventry St.

A prime piece of heritage real estate gathering dust in Southbank. Unheard of!

Like the rest of Victoria Barracks, the building is owned by the Department of Defence, which has been trying to offload the site for many years now, stating it is surplus to requirements.

Being within direct proximity to Victoria Barracks and the Shrine of Remembrance, it would make sense that its future use should give back to veterans in some way, right?

And being zoned within Melbourne's Arts Precinct, imagine if it also had a creative function ...

The Australian National Veterans Arts Museum (ANVAM) group has, for many years now, sought information from all sides of politics on the status of the building. It is still seeking to becoming a trustee of the site in order to establish an art gallery, studios and community and retail space in the building for veterans to practise art and recover from trauma.

The site is understood to be riddled with asbestos. Some politicians have estimated the remediation works associated in resurrecting the building will cost north of \$10 million or even \$20 million. While lofty, these are costs ANVAM has stated that its willing to seek philanthropic support for.

On paper, nonetheless, this sounds like a lot of money to commit to a project that many politicians have said doesn't sit high on the list of priorities in the grand scheme of all of the other issues and projects that need their attention more. Fair enough.

But why then, with a state Labor government launching a royal commission in mental health and a federal Coalition government throwing \$500 million (yes, that's right) at upgrading the Canberra War Memorial over 10 years, does this project seem so hard to get any answers on?

Different ministers from both major parties at a federal level have thrown their support behind the ANVAM proposal. Potential



Questions continue to surround 310 St Kilda, Southbank.

future prime minister Bill Shorten has even publicly stated it as part of his government's policy platform in the past.

However, the Victorian Government hasn't been so forthcoming as to reveal its own aspirations for the site.

The Department of Defence last year invited the state government to bid for the site in an off-the-market sale. Victorian Treasurer Tim Pallas made an offer (details unknown) which was knocked back.

According to the Department of Defence's secretary for estate and infrastructure Steve Grzeskowiak, its bid was "non-compliant with government procurement rules." What Mr Grzeskowiak was referring to when addressing Federal Senate Estimates on February 20 was the Commonwealth Property Disposal Policy.

Under rules for an off-the-market sale - a sale to a state, territory or local government - has to:

- Protect Commonwealth property interests;
- Facilitate Commonwealth or co-operative

policy initiatives that could not otherwise be achieved through an open market sale; or

- Optimise broader government outcomes including economic or social outcomes.

A Defence spokesperson later said that the in-principle offer from the Victorian Government to acquire the building came subject to a number of conditions.

"One of the conditions in the offer was inconsistent with the Commonwealth Property Disposal Policy," the spokesperson said. Naturally, we can't know the detail!

Reading between the lines though, it would appear that the state and Commonwealth aren't fully aligned on what should be done with the building.

So if, as it's understood, the Commonwealth thinks ANVAM's proposal for the site is a good idea, but does the state government have other ideas?

It's hard to know for sure. However, while the state government is still interested, there is hope. Mr Grzeskowiak later told Senate Estimates on February 20:

"Last week, we received a letter from the Victoria Government explaining to us the type of bid that they are prepared to make. We are assessing that at the moment," he said.

"Shortly, we will be providing advice to government on whether the bid that we've got from the Victorian Government meets the Commonwealth property disposal regulations or not."

Asked what the state government's intentions for the site were, a spokesperson for Mr Pallas told *Southbank Local News*: "The Victorian Government considers strategic opportunities to acquire available sites. It would be premature to comment while discussions with the Commonwealth are underway."

Whatever the situation, ANVAM can take small comfort out of its three local candidates for our local seat of Macnamara, who seem generally supportive.

The Liberal's Kate Ashmor is a known supporter, Labor's Josh Burns is receptive and, while she hasn't met with the group yet, Greens candidate Steph Hodgins-May said the site had to be kept in public hands.

"The Repatriation Hospital Building is a historic site that has a long connection with our veterans and service community," she said.

"Defence no longer wanting the site presents an opportunity for both the federal and state governments to give something back to our ex-service community."

Kate Ashmor told *Southbank Local News*: "This derelict building is in the heart of our veterans precinct, and is the perfect place to give ANVAM a home. This is a wonderful opportunity to create a community hub, and to strengthen our support and care for our cherished veterans and their families."

Southbank Local News submitted a request under Freedom of Information (FoI) for a copy of the correspondence to Defence from the state government outlining the terms of its latest bid. It was not received in time for publishing this edition.

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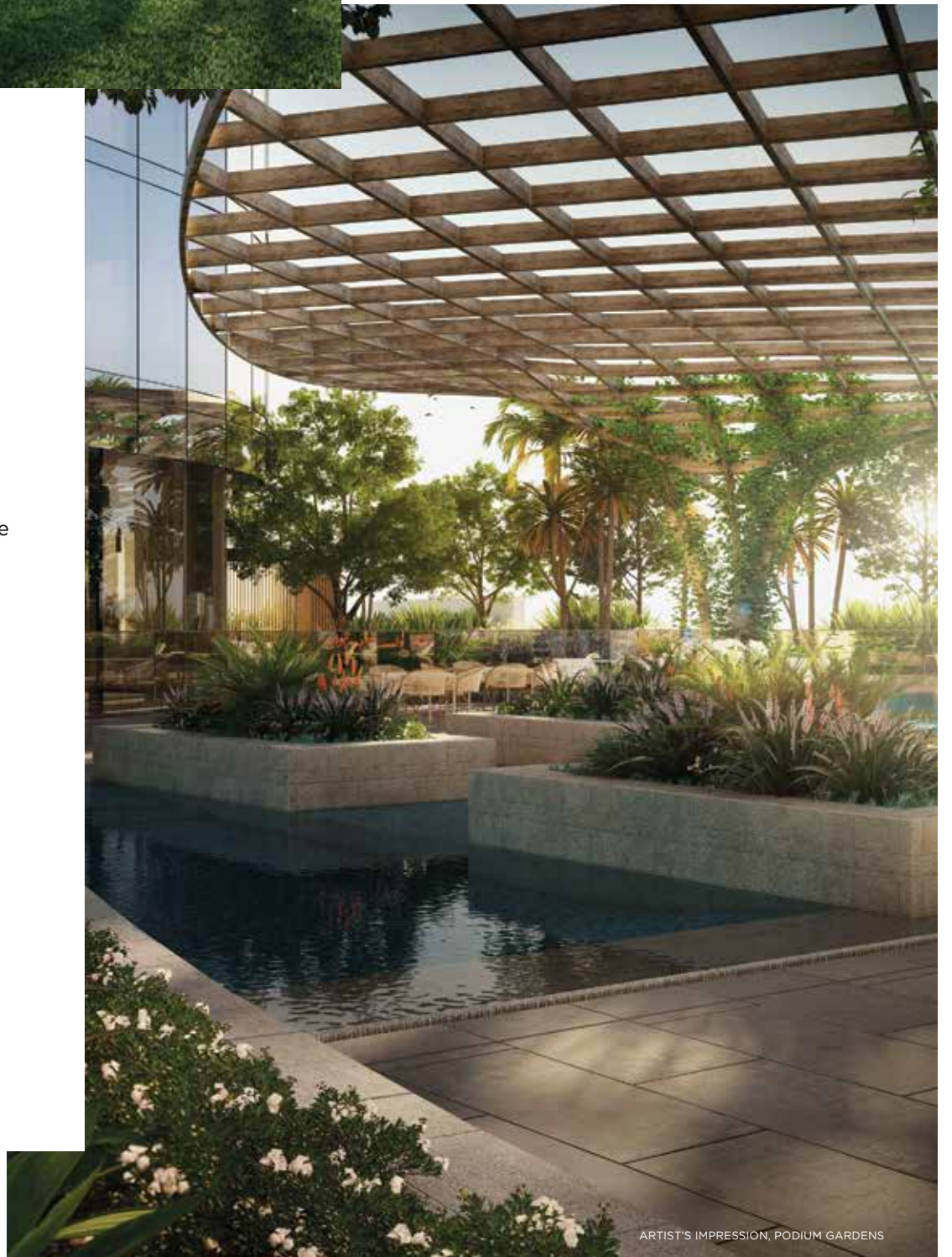
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Builder dodges cladding bill

By Meg Hill

Consultants have been hit with the costs for the flammable cladding on Docklands' Lacrosse building in a high profile Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) decision handed down on February 28.

VCAT Judge Ted Woodward found the builder, LU Simon, primarily liable but ordered the architects, building surveyors and fire engineers reimburse LU Simon for almost all of the damages awarded to apartment owners.

The decision found that the consultants failed their due care, breaching their agreements in the processes, which led to the approval of the flammable material.

The amount of damages settled was \$5.7 million. Building surveyor Gardner Group, architect Elenberg Fraser and fire engineer Thomas Nicolas were ordered to reimburse LU Simon 33 per cent, 25 per cent and 39 per cent of the damages respectively.

LU Simon will pay only the 3 per cent apportioned to Jean-Francois Gubitta, the man whose cigarette started the 2014 fire.

More than \$7 million in claims remain unsettled, the bulk of which relates to compliance costs including the replacement of the cladding.

The 2014 Lacrosse fire led to an uncovering of a widespread flammable cladding problem in Victoria. The long-awaited

VCAT decision had been expected to set a precedent in how liability will be settled on other affected buildings in Victoria.

But Judge Woodward said: "Many of my findings have been informed by the particular contracts between the parties in this case and by events occurring in the course of the Lacrosse project that may or may not be duplicated in other building projects."

"It should also be noted that my findings concerned the particular use of ACPs [aluminium composite panels with a core containing polyethylene] on the Lacrosse tower."

"This relevantly involved large scale (approximately 4000 sqm) of contiguous installation of ACPs with a 100 per cent polyethylene core on the external walls of a high-rise building, including on un-sprinklered balconies."

"Again, these particular features may or may not be present in other building projects involving ACPs."

LU Simon started replacing cladding at Lacrosse in January in what it said was an



The 2014 Lacrosse building fire in Docklands triggered a national inquiry into combustible cladding.

offer of good faith.

LU Simon director Jim Moschoyiannis said: "LU Simon Builders acknowledges VCAT's findings. It is not in a position to comment as it is yet to review the decision in its entirety in consultation with its lawyers."

South Wharf Rotary coup

More than 20,000 Rotary members from around the world will be heading to postcode 3006, with the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) to host the 2023 Rotary International Convention.

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Martin Pakula last month announced that Melbourne had edged out London to win the right to host the event.

The 2023 Rotary International Convention is the most valuable convention ever secured for Victoria and will attract 20,000 delegates, delivering more than \$88 million to the Victorian economy and creating 530 jobs.

The decision was handed down following a successful site inspection with key decision makers from Rotary International.

To be held between MCEC and Melbourne Park, City Rd and Southbank Promenade will provide key transport and pedestrian links in allowing Rotarians easy access between venues.

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Michael Danby MP FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MELBOURNE PORTS
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Help shape your hospital

The state government is calling on the community to contribute to the vision of a new community hospital for Fishermans Bend.

Minister for Health Jenny Mikakos announced on February 28 that Southern Metropolitan MP Nina Taylor will chair a Fishermans Bend community consultation committee, giving the community a say over the hospital's future.

The government is investing \$675 million to build and upgrade 10 new community hospitals close to major growth areas with Fishermans Bend being one of the recipients.

Community consultation committees are being established so carers, patients, families and volunteers can work with health service providers to ensure each hospital meets the particular needs of locals.

Alfred Health will have responsibility for governance of the Fishermans Bend hospital, which will offer services including general practice, pathology and imaging, family and early childhood, family safety, community mental health and alcohol and drug assessment.

It will improve access to specialist services like day surgery, chemotherapy, community-based palliative care, chronic disease management and public dental. Construction is expected to start in 2022

and finish by 2024.

The new hospital will be built at a location to be determined in partnership with local health services and Alfred Health, connecting a range of health and human services under one roof.

"When a loved one gets sick, people want to know that the very best care is just around the corner. Community hospitals will improve access to the care locals need, when and where they need it," Ms Taylor said.

Member for Albert Park Martin Foley said: "It's really important that these hospitals are shaped by the communities they serve, because each area is different. We want to make sure Fishermans Bend locals get a say - this advisory group will do that."

The committee will include approximately 15 representatives from key organisations such as local councils and health services providers, as well as the community.

The expressions of interest process to sit on the committee will open this month.

More info: vhhsba.vic.gov.au/health-infrastructure/community-hospitals-program



Boyd tender closes

The City of Melbourne's tender process for the sale and redevelopment of the commercial and residential development at Boyd closed on February 15.

As part of the new Boyd Park, currently under construction, the council is seeking a collaborative arrangement with a private developer to purchase and redevelop 1843sqm of the site at 132 Kavanagh St.

To be located at corner abutting Kavanagh St and Kings Way, the council is requesting a development proposal that includes 550sqm of community facilities on the ground level, affordable housing and active frontages to the new park.

The tender process represents a significant step in a saga that dates back to 2012, when the City of Melbourne first entered into an agreement with developer The Mackie Group to provide both the development and the park.

Following two failed attempts by Mackie to finance the project, the City of Melbourne cut ties with the developer in 2017. In the wake of the delays the council pushed forward with delivering the park itself, starting construction last year.

With the park now due for completion this year, a spokesperson for the City of Melbourne said the evaluation of development applicants was now underway, with its preferred proponent to be announced in late April and plans to be revealed mid-year.

"Our request for the proposal for the Boyd development outlines the need for community facilities on the ground level, affordable housing, 6-star Green Star certification, active frontage to public space and provisions for appropriate bike and car access," a spokesperson said.

"We require the development to be a high quality design that is responsive and considerate of its surrounds and the needs of the community. Our vision is to support the creation and timely delivery of a vibrant new village centre for Southbank for residents and visitors to enjoy."

The council's development brief for the site notes that current community facilities within Boyd Community Hub were already facing operational challenges and needed to be expanded to cater for future population growth.

In addition to the mandatory 550sqm of community facilities on the ground floor, the brief says there is potential for a health clinic or creche on the podium levels to support the emerging residential and worker population.

It also notes that at least one cafe or restaurant should be included on the ground floor fronting the park and requests a minimum of 40 dwellings (15 per cent overall) for affordable housing to be managed through a registered agency.

The project timeline would see construction start in 2020 and the building completed by mid-2022. The development site will be used as a temporary park until construction begins.

Council's chair of planning Cr Nicholas Reece said: "The Boyd site is an incredibly important project for our municipality and we are excited to see the project reach this important stage."



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Fears to fewer fines

By Shane Scanlan

Melbourne councillors have been told almost \$2 million in parking fines was not collected in the last quarter mainly because of “infringement officers requesting to be paired up over safety concerns”.

In a quarterly financial report presented to councillors at the February 19 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, chief financial officer Michael Tenace reported that \$1.8 million less than expected was collected from fines in the second quarter of 2018-19. The figure is 8.4 per cent under budget.

“This unfavourable variance is due mainly to lower number of infringement notices being issued as a result of infringement officers requesting to be paired up over safety concerns,” Mr Tenace said.

But his explanation has been corrected by an official council spokesperson who said: “The decline in parking infringement revenue is due to a number of factors, including the impact of extreme weather (both heat and rain) on our on-road staff in recent months, a small number of officers working in pairs and some vacancies in our team which are being advertised.”

The spokesperson said the general trend for collection of parking fines was down in recent years.

“Revenue generated from parking fines in our municipality has decreased year-on-year for the last four years as a result of fewer cars visiting the city,” the spokesperson said.

However, the council’s August 2018 financial performance reported that \$3.7 million (9 per cent) more than expected was collected in 2017-18.

“This favourable variance is due mainly to increased number of parking infringement penalties,” the report said.

The first quarter report for 2018-19 also



reported a “minor favourable variance” of \$200,000.

The council spokesperson revealed that parking officers were soon likely to be wearing body cameras in an attempt to prevent them being assaulted.

“There was no specific incident that led to a relatively small number of officers asking to be paired-up,” the spokesperson said.

“It is not yet clear whether pairing-up officers has had any impact on reports of assault. The majority of assaults on our officers are verbal assaults.”

“The streets are our officers’ workplace and we do not tolerate any form of abuse encountered by our officers in the course of their work. We work closely with Victoria Police to ensure the reported assaults are investigated.”

“We are currently in consultation with a view to introducing body worn cameras as a proactive measure to support officers’ safety on street. A number of other councils around Australia are using this technology and have reported a significant drop in incidents,” the spokesperson said.

Open space arts-architects

An architectural team, combining local and international talent, has been appointed to design Southbank’s new public space as part of the Arts Precinct’s transformation.

Melbourne design practice HASSELL, in partnership with New York’s SO-IL, will lead a local and international team to design the new public space that will form part of the redevelopment.

The Melbourne Arts Precinct transformation project will include an elevated inner-city park and new pedestrian connections into and throughout the area, enabling visitors to move seamlessly from Southbank and the Yarra.

The project will deliver 18,000sqm of new and renewed public space in what is one of Australia’s most densely populated suburbs.

HASSELL is an award-winning design practice with extensive experience in public space design – from Darwin’s waterfront to Sydney Olympic Park. The team is currently working on the Melbourne Metro Tunnel project, as well as major new public spaces in Shanghai and Shenzhen.

Based in Brooklyn, SO-IL (Solid Objects Idenburg Liu) has previously worked with New York’s MoMA and Frieze Art Fair. SO-IL is currently creating a new waterfront in Paris. The architects will lead a rigorous, collaborative design process to make sure this massive new public space is the beating heart of Melbourne as a cultural capital.

The winning bid puts a strong focus on nature and include seasonal gardens by world-renowned horticulturalists Nigel Dunnett and James Hitchmough, who transformed London’s Barbican Centre.

In a joint statement, project directors Ben Duckworth (HASSELL) and Jing Liu (SO-IL) expressed their excitement about being chosen to lead the project.

“This is a rare opportunity to help shape how Melburnians and millions of visitors



A concept design by HASSELL.

from across the globe experience the cultural offering within the Melbourne Arts Precinct, and enable them to connect with nature as they experience this part of the city on a day-to-day basis.”

The state government has invested \$208 million over two years in the first phase of the project, to kick-start planning and enable the NGV and Arts Centre Melbourne to start raising philanthropic funds for the revitalisation.

Minister for Creative Industries Martin Foley said that, once complete, the project would draw an additional three million people to Southbank each year.

“This project will reshape Melbourne’s cultural and creative precinct, bringing more people than ever into a fantastic new public space and improving access to everything that the Arts Centre and the NGV have to offer,” he said.

“The new public open space will draw people into the heart of the rejuvenated Sturt St arts precinct, which continues to grow as the home to over 40 different arts and cultural organisations and performance spaces.”

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The perils of painting

By Rhonda Dredge

Art as a career has a mystique that is elusive but you can't really equate work with the artist. A painter has his own special language that he might only share with another painter.

At the opening of Jon Cattapan's recent exhibition, the talk was all about natural light, the price of industrial fans and travel plans.

When artists get together they like to compare notes about studios.

Philosophical details will be swamped by the conviviality of the occasion. In an age of political collectives, painters often still work alone and an opening is a time to catch up with old friends.

"I'm looking forward to Berlin," said one artist. "Let's go talk to everybody," said another.

The mood at Cattapan's workplace on Southbank is just as casual, friendly and experimental, often like one big opening, and the inevitable journeys overseas to keep up with the discipline are a big part of the equation.

Cattapan, who is the director of the Victorian College of the Arts, says there are lots of paths to becoming an artist but he can sit at Tom Roberts' easel in his office and connect with the history of painting.

The director's office on St Kilda Rd is modest. There's a conglomerate of materials, which must annoy Cattapan's particular eye, and a scattering of storage cabinets. The most soothing part is a small notice board on which he has pinned three photocopies of a painting above a small saying about subjectivity.

Paint is a subjective material. Cattapan favours luminescence and has applied the acrylic and oil paint to canvas with thinners to create glistening effects. His bold combinations of colour, perspectival lines and outlines of figures are enigmatic yet dramatic.

"There are complications in the under-painting," he says, of the surface. "I see figures as contours of information. These figures are transparent. At the heart is a kind of adherence to distinct layers. That's how I come to understand the world."

Painters use techniques to create meaning. Cattapan resists blocking in figures in flat



colour. His figures are always provisional, suggesting displacement or protest or the creation of social spaces. "I want there to be friction."

Even though he is never jarring and is always impeccably polite when it comes to the corporate line, Cattapan admits there are always points of contention that are "not exactly comfortable".

Perhaps it is this honesty that makes a visit to his office a blessing for a painter.

He now does one-on-one sessions with undergraduates and even though he talks about the VCA as being a big organisation with a reputation and reach to challenge students, a painter can't hide his concerns.

The VCA has stuck religiously to its successful formula, which allows all students access to a range of practitioners on staff. The Atelier style training is expensive but "it's the best way".

Other universities tend to allocate supervisors and it can be hell tracking down someone who is actually interested in your work. An artist needs an interpersonal connection. "That's what it's all about."

Many of the VCA staff were at Cattapan's opening, including Ted Colless who edits the brilliant re-incarnation of *Art + Australia*, a relatively radical glossy art mag with intelligent articles and dark themes.

Students are allowed to be irreverent at

the VCA. Audacity counts for something in performance art and its many permutations, as does impermanence, but there's something about a painter and his paintings that last. They don't have to comment on the politics of the day.

Stratum, on at Station in South Yarra, continues Cattapan's ongoing experiment with the figure in the landscape. For a while he took pictures of rubbish left out on nature strips and used them as his figures, applying his aesthetic machine to their depiction. It's only later that you realise he is commenting about culture and the way it is continually trashed.

"Painting can take a long time for the viewer to get," he says. "The imagery stays with you."

After 24 years at the VCA, Cattapan has seen a lot of changes at Southbank, including the ambitious building program by the former director Su Baker, also a painter with a love of the medium.

Some find the conversion of the police stables to studios for Honours students a bit too elitist but Cattapan is not buying into any realist notions that equate poverty with artistic talent.

"Have you seen the conservatorium?" he asks. "It's very swish." Would he like an office there? "Sure," he says.

Stratum, Adam Lee and Jon Cattapan, Station, South Yarra, on until 23 March.



Domain Park vision endorsed

By Kevin Jingga

New pedestrian and cycle paths, increased accessibility, enhanced ecology and a new "treetop walk" highlight a new 20-year master plan for our iconic Domain parklands.

At their February 19 Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting, City of Melbourne councillors unanimously endorsed the master plan, which seeks to improve accessibility, tackle population growth and address climate change.

The master plan focuses on nurturing ecology and land diversity, acknowledging historical and cultural heritage, supporting visitor experience, improving pedestrian access and building resilience.

The Domain parklands are more than 150 years old and nearly 123 hectares. They include Royal Botanic Gardens, Shrine of Remembrance, Sidney Myer Music Bowl, Government House, Alexandra Park, Alexandra Gardens, the Queen Victoria Gardens and Kings Domain.

The plan seeks to improve connection to the city and offers opportunities to collaborate among the park's many attractions in order to enhance broader destination management.

The master plan also aims to repurpose the existing road spaces. It includes creating a drop off/pick up zone at the Yarra boathouses, reviewing parking restrictions, improving signage and preparing pedestrian access in response to the new Anzac Station.

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THE ARTS PRECINCT



MELBOURNE DESIGN WEEK

Presented by the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) and Creative Victoria, Australia's leading annual international design event, Melbourne Design Week, will present its largest program to date, with more than 200 events from March 14 to 24.

Featuring 47 exhibitions, 14 film screenings, 77 talks, 22 tours and 18 workshops across Melbourne and, for the very first time, Geelong, this year's theme "Design Experiments" begs the question: how can design shape the future?

From Yarra River boat tours showcasing long-held aspirations for Melbourne's waterways, to keynote addresses from major international speakers, the program will demonstrate how design can impact a range of prominent challenges we face today as a society.

As society enters an unprecedented period of urbanisation, digitisation, population

growth and ecological transformation, many believe that design and architecture hold great potential for positive transformation.

Offering disruptive ideas that intersect with industry, politics, history, science, ecology, psychology and more, Design Week will encourage participants to demonstrate cultural and historical awareness by embracing the past, present and future.

Through this idealistic agenda, the program provides an opportunity for designers to reflect on what they do, to imagine new and better ways of doing things, and share these ideas and insights with a broad audience.

One of the most notable highlights of this year's program is *Waterfront*, which celebrates the Birrarung (Yarra River) and asks Melbournians to reconsider and connect with the river that runs through our city.

Offering unique experiences and insights into this winding watercourse, Open House Melbourne presents a program of conversations, boat tours and special events that deep dive into the role design plays in reframing Melbourne's relationship with water.

Executive director of Open House


Melbourne Emma Telford said the program would offer a "reservoir of ideas for reimagining the river" in an effort to get Melbournians reconnected with our river both physically and culturally.

The program spans events that focus on a range of topics, including reframing planning in Fishermans Bend, exploring the river's traditional swimming spots, understanding its forgotten ecologies and delving into water sensitive urban design.

Another highlight, *The War on Waste*, explores some of the defining moral issues of our time such as climate change, waste and pollution spanning geographies and scales - from whole ecosystems to individual consumer choices.

Many leading entrepreneurs and designers see these looming challenges as opportunities for a new wave of innovation, rethinking and renewal that could radically transform our cities ad daily lives.

This series of programs, featuring exhibitions, workshops and talks, celebrates the potential of design and creativity to accelerate the conversation and embrace these challenges head on. Design your own circular food system or zero waste building, explore the *Welcome to Wasteland* exhibition



or get inspired at the Victorian Design Challenge as Craig Reucassel from ABC's *War on Waste* presents the *Waste Challenge Live Pitch*.

Buildings, vehicles, products and garments are made possible by vast global supply chains of materials. Some are natural, others are synthetic, but whatever their origins, all materials have consequences and implications.

Through a series of programs, *Material Matters* will reveal how designers are thinking about where materials come from and where they will end up, perhaps heralding a new wave of thinking.

Other key programs include *Possible Futures* and *Inclusive Cities*, which each respectively explore a range of themes that will help us reimagine how we address a number of challenges relating to science, technology, politics, culture and more.

With an incredible line up of international guests and other creative programs and events, including the Melbourne Art Book Fair, Melbourne Design Week 2019 offers something for everyone.

To view the full program and find out more information visit designweek.melbourne



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Hancock coup!

Herbie Hancock is coming to Southbank as the Melbourne International Jazz Festival (MIJF returns for its 22nd year.

Herbie Hancock, the 14 Grammy awards winner, will close the 2019 festival at Arts Centre Melbourne's Hamer Hall on June 8 and 9.

Hancock's standing and influence on modern music has produced iconic partnerships with artists ranging from Wayne Shorter, Stevie Wonder, Tina Turner and Annie Lennox to Snoop Dog, Flying Lotus and Pink.

Save the date for this rare opportunity to see Herbie Hancock live.

Website: melbournejazz.com

Stay tuned for more details on the Jazz Festival in our next edition.

Critic



Revenge of the pendulum

By Rhonda Dredge

It takes a brave performer to sit reading a book with her back turned towards a large pendulum that is swinging slowly her way.

Every now and then the performer has a chance to stand and control the pendulum's action.

A circle is marked on the floor to guide her. It wouldn't take much effort, however, to increase the circumference and introduce an element of danger into the task.

What if she went too far and got knocked off her stool?

The question is by no means menial. Artistically speaking, there should always be an element of risk in a work, particularly when the goal is to create perpetual motion.

The pendulum is large and heavy and swings slowly. It could be read as a metaphor for the cyclical nature of art. Now it appears to be moving towards the human part of the equation but is it friendly?

Katie Lee, the designer of this little experiment, has a lot of fun trying to provoke the viewer into participating in her world of ropes, bricks, bars, tools, chalk boards and implements.

Is she saying that artistic work is a perpetual activity?

Sometimes performers enter the space at the Margaret Lawrence Gallery and do things with ropes. Other times the interest is in the relative weight of a brick and an iron bar. What is their point of equilibrium when suspended over a rafter?

Gravity is the ruling force in Lee's little laboratory but humans may conquer it for a moment by causing friction, overcoming inertia, lifting and shifting things from one place to another.

Human activity is memorable and objects tend to lose their agency unless in motion but there might be potential for a little revenge.

This exhibition is the result of Lee's PhD at the Victorian College of the Arts and it's a pity that it lasted for just four days.

Lee says that in the West we tend to perceive the world as static and unchanging, rather than emergent and dynamic. *No Single Thing* challenges this perception.



One year on

Buxton Contemporary explores Australian history and identity through its current arts showcases.

Southbank presents the first anniversary of Buxton Contemporary, home to the remarkable Michael Buxton Collection with two new exhibitions: *National Anthem* and *A New Order*, starting on March 8 until July 7.

These free exhibitions invite us to scrutinise crucial moments in the recent history of Australian art and the ideas that continue to shape the nation.

National Anthem, curated by Dr Kate Just, shows the contemporary issue of Australian national identity. It exposes the exclusion of indigenous histories and denial of multicultural voices and experiences due to the desire of singular national identity.

Buxton Collection artists demonstrate their works, challenging the xenophobic, homophobic, misogynist and racist constructions of national identity, and also ask us to consider topics like Australian national symbols, colonial history, queerness challenges or our migrants and refugees approach that construct our national identity.

A New Order, curated by Linda Short, combines the work of 12 artists from three or more generations since the 1980s. Key features are Daniel Crook's "time-slicing" video of Melbourne laneways and *The Truth Effect*, an animation to test the eye and the mind by Daniel von Stumer, alongside other featured artists.

COMING UP



TRIO WANDERER

Tue 9 Apr 7.30pm

Acclaimed for its extraordinarily sensitive style, almost telepathic understanding of each other and technical mastery, Trio Wanderer is one of the world's foremost chamber ensembles. The Trio performs Haydn, Dvořák's 'Dumky' and Rachmaninoff.



I'M WITH HER

Thu 18 Apr 7.30pm

Female folk trio I'm With Her's fine-spun narratives and breathtaking harmonies culminated in its magic debut, *See You Around*. The band brings its family-like chemistry and graceful musicianship to the intimate surrounds of Elisabeth Murdoch Hall.



Ralph van Raat in Recital

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STAVROS MESSINIS

Dreams via the lens

By David Schout

Stavros Messinis was determined to ensure his latest project was abstract yet realistic, surreal yet representative.

“I’m expressing myself poetically,” he explained. “It’s like a visual poem.”

Despite the challenging brief, he appears to have nailed it.

His recently published photo book, *Dream State*, has been almost immediately acclaimed.

A project depicting the state of diminished consciousness, Messinis produced a collection of images through a variety of techniques to portray a dreamy, illusory



state.

In December, *Dream State* won a Centre for Contemporary Photography award for Best Photobook Design.

Now, it has been nominated as a finalist at the 2018 Australian and New Zealand Photobook Awards.

“The feedback has been very good, which is very exciting and encouraging,” Messinis, a Photography Studies College (PSC) student, said.

“The book has also had very good media exposure both here and overseas, especially

through social media.”

The project started as a personal style development project at Southbank’s PSC, and Messinis described it as “poetic photography composition published in book form”.

“In the series I explore the concept of dream state - the state of diminished consciousness in which the environment is considered as in a dream. It’s inspired by surrealism and the work of photographers like Man Ray, Francesca Woodman, Michael Arkeman, Daisuke Yokota and Daido

Moriyama.”

He said the end product was the result of carefully thought-out production steps.

“By using a black and white palette and processing images with a variety of techniques, I attempted to give another dimension to my photography.”

“The series balances the dream and the narrative as well as the poetic-spectral space and the presence of certain form.”

For Messinis, photography has always been a strong point of interest.

He was born in Greece and studied journalism, photography, literature and arts in both his home country and Australia.

He then worked as a journalist and editor for various newspapers, magazines and radio stations.

All throughout this time, it wasn’t uncommon to see him with a camera strap around his neck.

“I became interested in photography while I was studying journalism in Athens,” he said.

“I set up a small darkroom in my apartment and I was processing my films and my photos. Later I used digital cameras, but I still use film and I am experimenting with analogue photography.”

Dream State is his third photo book, and other works have been featured in various exhibitions.

His decision to collate the works into a photo book was a pointed one.

“I have a book publishing and designing background and I love books. Presenting this project in a book form with its special design was like doing an installation of my work in a gallery or a museum. *Dream State* is not just a collection of individual photos. Through this composition I am expressing myself poetically. It is like a visual poem.”

Messinis is into his third year of an Advanced Diploma of Photography at PSC.

“During my studies at PSC I have received a lot of assistance and feedback from my tutors and classmates and gradually I developed my own personal style of expressing myself poetically through photography,” he said.

“I really appreciate the feedback I had from my teachers and classmates – all very talented photographers and artists.”

He released a limited collector’s edition of 50 numbered and signed copies.

To check out and purchase his work, go to messinis-art.com.



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Photo by Michael Coyne

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EVENTS



WILIN JAMS

March 28 - Victorian College of the Arts
An open invitation for everyone to come together, jam and celebrate the pivotal contribution of Indigenous organisations throughout Victoria. Featuring guest musicians and performers, jammers are invited to collaborate and perform whatever they wish. With mics, PA with aux-input, keyboard, amps and drum kit provided, you just need to bring your talents and sign up on the night.
finearts-music.unimelb.edu.au



AMJAD ALI KHAN

March 11 - Elisabeth Murdoch Hall
Amjad Ali Khan brings a new and timeless interpretation to the sarod repertoire, being widely credited with reinventing the technique of playing the versatile and melodic string instrument. Amjad Ali Khan will be performing in trio format, with his sons Ayaan Ali Bangash and Amaan Ali Bangash, who are also renowned sarod players.
melbournerecital.com.au



MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL

March 27 to April 21 - Various venues
Participating Southbank venues include: Arbory Bar & Eatery, Arts Centre Melbourne, Bombini Buzz, Fatto Bar & Cantina, Melbourne Recital Centre, Southbank Theatre, Coopers Malthouse and The Palms at Crown. To find out who's performing and where visit:
comedyfestival.com.au/2019



COMMON GROUND

March 13 - 17 - Merlyn Theatre
Presented by Chunky Move, Dance Massive and the Coopers Malthouse, *Common Ground* is a choreographic game of chess. Chunky Move Artistic Director Anouk van Dijk evokes the birth of ballet in a modern milieu, as two of Australia's most sought after dancers go move-for-move, through to the intense endgame.
malthousetheatre.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.
australianmusicvault.com.au

TOUR SOUTHERN CHINA AND HONG KONG

March 27 - Photography Studies College
Bustling cityscapes, ancient rice terraces, stunning rural panoramas - just some of the highlights of this once in a lifetime photography tour! Led by international photojournalist Michael Coyne, this info night will provide interested travellers with all there is to know. Registration essential.
psc.edu.au

THE THEATRE IS LYING

Until March 24 - ACCA
Constructed in five acts, *The Theatre is Lying* brings together artists who create alternative narratives and worlds through illusionary, cinematic and theatrical devices, including installation, historical re-enactment, digital montage and compositions with video, light and sound.
acca.melbourne

ESCHER X NENDO

Until April 7 - NGV International
Escher X nendo | *Between Two Worlds* is a groundbreaking exhibition that features the work of Dutch artist M. C. Escher in dialogue with the work of acclaimed Japanese design studio nendo.
ngv.vic.gov.au



BRIEFS: CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

March 20 - 24 - Playhouse
Fresh from London's West End, the boys are back in town with a dazzling new show, featuring their trademark heart-stopping blend of insanely talented cabaret burlesque, comic capery and circus to die for - all with punkish swagger. Prepare yourself for interstellar aerial feats and warp-speed strippers from outer space as the Briefs boys apply their skill and humour to push the boundaries.
artscentremelbourne.com.au



SKELETON TREE

March 16 - 23 - Beckett Theatre
Stephanie Lake draws inspiration from the punch and poeticism of funeral songs and dances for the dead, to create a powerful new work about the primary human experience that language constantly fails to articulate: the ecstasy of grief. With her signature virtuosic movement, *Skeleton Tree* is an exhilarating union of dance, music and theatre. Presented as part of Dance Massive.
malthousetheatre.com.au



BILLIONAIRE BOY

April 6 - 14 - Playhouse
David Walliams' best-selling book comes to life on stage for children aged six and up - and their adults! Don't miss this original Australian adaptation as the team behind *Mr Stink* and *The 13-, 26-, 52- and 78-Storey Treehouses* live on stage return with songs, laughs and yes, that cat sick and sweet potato mash from the canteen...
artscentremelbourne.com.au



A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

March 9 - April 18 - Southbank Theatre
Arthur Miller's modern masterpiece *A View from the Bridge* confronts the American dream in a stripped-back, muscular drama that simmers with tension and explodes with passion. We might be in 1950s Brooklyn, but the themes of family, loyalty, immigration and justice are as relevant for contemporary Australia as ever before.
mtc.com.au

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Office & Showroom- 15 Industry Blvd, Carrum Downs 3201

Props and egos

By Rhonda Dredge

It's blissfully quiet in the props room. Even the musical instruments have forgotten how to kick up a fuss.

The timetable for the year is sketched up on a large whiteboard and hundreds of pairs of shoes are neatly graded according to size and colour.

Duraan Reid is getting ready for the student impresarios by creating a bit of space and order before the productions begin.

First out the door was a Schmidt and Sohn piano. The harp will soon follow if it doesn't get a gig.

Visuals count for a lot in the world of theatre, convincing the audience that a drama is real but props just have to look good. They don't have to be functional, even musical instruments.

Last week Duraan dragged the authentic-looking piano out onto the footpath. It hadn't been used for five years and the poor thing was gathering dust, after its starring role in *The Boy from Oz*.

A few hours later it had been rescued by a group of students and was being wheeled across the road to be repurposed. It had no internal works but some pretty ivory keys and walnut veneer.

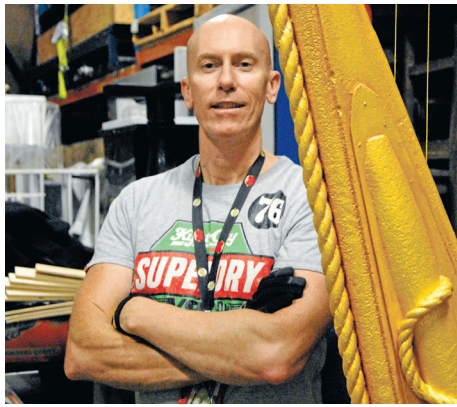
"It's only a prop," Duraan said. "It would make a nice drinks cabinet. They gutted it so it wouldn't play. You don't want noise in a performance. A little kid jumped on it."

The golden harp was used last year in the Steven Sondheim musical *Into the Woods*, a fantasy about a baker's wife seeking a child, but it could go as well if it's not used again soon.

"This is prime real estate," said the props and wardrobe co-ordinator at the Victorian College of the Arts. "We don't have the room any more. We've put a 12-month tag on the harp."

The world of props is a constant source of fascination for this witty reader of student pretensions. He can tell you what kinds of costumes are popular and has a fund of stories about the trials of designers.

Period costumes are no longer favoured, for example. The current crop of dramatists prefers to put a contemporary twist



Steven Sondheim

into performances, even when they're adaptations of fairy tales, preferring glass cubes to frilly hats and aprons.

"Sometimes student designers buy something from K-Mart and sew on lightening bolts," Duraan said. "There are lots of costumes left over. The productions are not as traditional as they used to be."

"In classics such as Jack and the Beanstalk you probably wouldn't favour a classic t-shirt from Target," he said, but actors can overwhelm designers and they tend to prefer athletic wear.

Duraan is gentle on student egos, however. "You have to place yourself inside a 19-year-old. This is my chance to shine. I want to be given a chance."

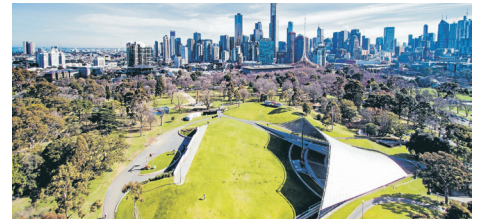
There's plenty of opportunity for being outstanding with a busy schedule of productions up on the wall. Shakespeare begins this week and adaptations of novels and the big musical *On The Town* are on the list for the student theatrical productions in the Grant St theatre.

The musicals are Duraan's favourites. "*Westside Story*, *Forty-Second Street* ... old classics ... music still drives the tradition. A lot of people still like them."

And his preference in props is a bus stop, not because it's easy to store, but because it's a practical solution to his own little productions. When he has students in for tours "people stand near it and wait for my attention."



Then.



Now.

Our Bowl turns 60

Since 1959, The Sidney Myer Music Bowl has been an iconic part of Melbourne's local entertainment scene and last month it celebrated its 60th birthday.

Officially opened by Prime Minister Robert Menzies in 1959, the Bowl has seen many of the world's greatest entertainers perform live. The iconic amphitheatre, which backs on to views of our magnificent city skyline, continues to provide a magical outdoor experience for music revellers everywhere.

In 1967, The Seekers performed their homecoming concert wowing an estimated 200,000 people that spilled over into the lush grounds of Kings Domain. Listed in the 2007 Guinness Book of World Records as the biggest attendance at a concert in the Southern Hemisphere, this extraordinary event is part of Australia's rich and varied musical heritage.

Having a long history with the Bowl, both as listener and worker, Arts Centre Melbourne's now head of contemporary performance David Anderson told *Southbank Local News* that his most memorable moment came at the Bowl's 50th anniversary show.

As the person responsible for programming the four-day party, David said the moment came on day two when the *RockWiz* crew ended their two-hour special, which included the likes of the Galvatrons, Hoodoo Gurus and an encore from a very special guest...

"*RockWiz* did a fake ending and then as the crowd was almost getting up to leave they announced: 'ladies and gentleman please welcome to the stage Judith Durham,'" he said. "She'd apparently taken a bit of convincing to come out but 2000 people literally leapt to their feet and I've never seen that anywhere before nor since. This was people of all ages and that was one of the all-time powerful moments."

While he, like so many Melbournians,



Arts Centre Melbourne's David Anderson.

has many special memories at the Bowl, that image of the crowd's response to the surprise appearance of The Seekers lead singer is forever etched in David's memory.

Whether it's been seeing AC/DC, Sir Paul McCartney, Kylie Minogue, Kanye West, Bob Dylan, Blondie, Pearl Jam, Lenny Kravitz, Lorde, Crowded House, Beach Boys, Bon Jovi or Daft Punk (the list goes on and on!), it's fair to say that nearly every Melburnian would feel a personal connection to the venue like no other.

And while it's undergone a few upgrades over the years to get to where it is now, a process David also played a big role in during the 90s, the feeling for both artists and audiences alike is just as extraordinary as it was 60 years ago.

"One of the things that I love about that venue is the relationship between the performer and the audience," David said. "I've seen some pretty seasoned performers like the guys from the Red Hot Chili Peppers walk out onto the stage and take two steps back almost as if to say 'how many people really are here?'"

"It's got that incredible sense of immediacy so a lot of artists really love playing there."

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Southbank Residents Association

Could this be a win for common sense?

We have just learned that the planning minister has rejected Crown's application to extend its planning permit for One Queensbridge Street which was due to expire in the first week of March.

As you will recall, this was controversial because it violated so many aspects of the then, newly-released, planning scheme. But worse, there was no consultation with the public or even the City of Melbourne.

We woke one morning to read the newspaper and learn that the Premier had decided to approve this development as being of "state significance", which was unprecedented that such a commercial development was approved under this banner.

Our local member, Martin Foley, also a Minister in Daniel Andrews' Labor government was also opposed to the development, but at the time cited he was merely one voice in his cabinet and was unable to influence the outcome.

Owing to this, while one can't help be cynical and assume there were back room deals to get this approved. After all, Crown is also a donor to the Labor Party. I can't but wonder what might have transpired between the parties before the application to extend was rejected.

It would not surprise me if there are other issues at play and we may see something else transpire in the not too distant future.

However, since the original application was approved there has been many changes in the property landscape and I assume the government understood the commercial reality that if it was to approve an extension, then there would be a high likelihood that commencement may not have happened during that extension either and the government, council and residents needed some certainty.

In any case, I believe this rejection will now be a massive win for preserving the heritage of the Queensbridge Hotel. In the recent Southbank Heritage Review, the Queensbridge Hotel was identified for its heritage value and a heritage overlay was

applied to the site.

However, that could not be retrospective and, since there was an approved application it meant that the overlay could only apply should the application expire.

I will be looking into the implications of this rejection and the impacts on the heritage overlay.

The big question from this rejection is how council will now fund the civic works and upgrades for Queensbridge Square and stage three of Southbank Boulevard upgrade as the funding was coming from the community benefit package as part of the Crown development.

I guess there was already a plan prior to Crown applying for its development.

For now, we just need to watch this space and see what the next move by the developers may be.

The Southbank Residents Association was very active with rallying the community and lobbying the government with regard to this atrocious application.

However, without members our organisation has no voice. If you are not yet a member of the Southbank Residents Association, we would certainly welcome your support. You can sign up via our website at southbankresidents.org.au



Tony Penna

Tony Penna is the president of Southbank Residents' Association.
southbankresidents.org.au



St Johns Southgate

Love your enemies. A modern parable.

Ingrid's twin brother, Lukas, died last year. After he'd been separated from his wife, Cheryl, for a couple of months, he'd taken himself up to Queensland to do some scuba-diving, where the coroner said he'd had a heart attack in the water.

Ingrid and Lukas had been close, inseparable in fact, since their mum had breast-fed them simultaneously, one under each arm. They talked endlessly as they walked to school together, even holding hands as youngsters and things didn't change all that much in high school. They saw each other through the shared but different blushings of puberty, and the angst of first, and unrequited, loves. But when their schooling finished, and Lukas met Cheryl, things changed.

Ingrid and Lukas still managed to chat most days, but after the wedding, Cheryl insisted that they not talk so much. Lukas said that Cheryl was just a bit "funny" about things, and that Ingrid shouldn't worry about it. Ingrid didn't think she was intruding, or stealing from the emotional energy Lukas needed to reserve for his wife, but after a couple of years, she was cut off.

The one time she popped around, she came to regret it. Talking through the security door, seeing only the shadow of her twin through metal mesh, and being told that she'd have to leave, was too much to bear. So, she stopped trying. She bore the burden of grief as if he her twin brother had died ... and then, he actually did ...

Sometime after the funeral, where Cheryl had avoided her, Ingrid got a phone call from a solicitor. He said that Lukas had nominated her as a beneficiary of some monies, but that his spouse was contesting the will. Ingrid said that she didn't care about the money and that Cheryl could have it, but was told that there'd still be a process to go through anyway.

On a Saturday morning, soon thereafter, Ingrid got up before dawn. She made an apple pie with a beautiful lattice top, went to the florist, then bought a card from the newsagent. She wrote in it of regret - of her ancient hopes - and even of her love for Cheryl.

She told of the conversations she'd had with Lukas when the two of them had first met and how she'd shared in his joy and excitement when he was falling in love with her. She said that she didn't blame Cheryl for anything, and that if there was anything, she herself needed to ask forgiveness for, that she most certainly would. Finally, she wrote of how she would formally declare that she believed Cheryl should be the sole beneficiary.

Having sealed the envelope, Ingrid slowly sipped a cup of tea at a café, then drove to the house Cheryl now lived in alone.

Speaking, predictably, through the screen door, the conversation was entirely one-way, with Ingrid saying her sorrowful, kind and gracious words, until Cheryl roared, "Can you just leave, please!"

"Okay, but listen," Ingrid said, "I'm signing it all over to you. I'm sorting it out with the lawyers." There was only silence from the behind the darkened door.

Ingrid laid down the pie and the flowers that she'd been cradling like a pair of breast-feeding babies, slipped the card in between them, then straightened up and said, "Goodbye."

After waiting half a beat, perchance an echo might return, she walked away - feeling empty but solid, dusty but damp - and wishing that both she, and Cheryl, might have a hand to hold, as they continued to walk the hard knocks of life.

Could you say the Kingdom of Heaven is like that?



Tom Hoffmann

Tom Hoffmann is the pastor at St Johns Southgate Church.
stjohnssouthgate.com.au



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Metro Tunnel



Tunnel boring machine names revealed

The names of the four tunnel boring machines (TBMs) that will build the twin nine-kilometre rail tunnels under Melbourne have been revealed.

The two TBMs being launched from the Anzac Station site have been named in honour of Alice Appleford, an Australian civilian and military nurse who took part in both World Wars, and Millie Peacock, the first woman elected to Victorian Parliament.

The TBMs being launched from the site of the new North Melbourne Station have been named after Joan Kirner, the first female Premier of Victoria, and Meg Lanning, a record-breaking cricketer and current Australian women's cricket captain.

The first two TBMs - Joan and Meg - have arrived in Melbourne and will soon be assembled before being launched towards Kensington mid-year.

TBMs Alice and Millie will arrive by mid-2019. They will be assembled in the Anzac Station box later this year and launched towards South Yarra as they begin constructing the two underground rail tunnels.

As a symbol of good luck, it is tradition to give machines used in tunnel excavation a female name before they start work.

Anzac Station works progress

Metro Tunnel construction works are continuing on the new underground Anzac Station along St Kilda Rd site.

Heavy machinery was moved from the northern section of the site, across St Kilda Rd, to the southern section in February to allow for upcoming construction works.

The equipment move marks the start of vertical support structure works, known as piling, in the southern section ahead of the station box being excavated and constructed. Excavation of Anzac Station has reached over three metres in depth in the northern section of the site. These works are in preparation for the launch of the TBMs towards South Yarra later this year.

For the latest updates on the construction of Anzac Station visit metrotunnel.vic.gov.au.

Artists brighten up Anzac Station work site

The Anzac Station work site has been given a splash of colour with the latest art installation as part of the Metro Tunnel Creative Program.

Collingwood-based Spacecraft Studio has created the vibrant design for the site hoarding.

It is inspired by the incidental art that occurred because of the splashes, colours and shapes that ended up on canvases covering the tables in the Spacecraft Studio over 12 weeks.



Owners' Corporation Law

Boom, boom, bust and out

More builders and developers will choose to "go bust" instead of being held accountable to owners' corporations (OCs) for dodgy building defects.

An OC recently found out the hard way, when the builder it had taken to VCAT for building defects slipped into voluntary liquidation shortly before the hearing, leaving the OC out-of-pocket and unable to chase any other wrongdoers in the matter.

In my view, this is a cautionary tale for consumers and investors of apartment buildings and the lessons ought to be heeded by other OCs otherwise the same thing could happen to them.

Ascot Constructions Pty Ltd [In Liq.] constructed a three-storey residential apartment building in 2011 at Caroline Springs. Soon after the occupancy of the brand-new building, complaints about defects including water leaks, blocked pipes and flammable cladding emerged.

It took the OC three years to bring proceedings against the builder for damages in respect to the defects and a further three years before the claim was finally set to be determined at a hearing in VCAT in late 2018.

The architect and building surveyor had also been joined to the claim but had ultimately acted to settle their share of the liability before the hearing outside of the proceedings.

The OC was left with approximately \$2 million in out-of-pocket costs and the building company tipped itself into voluntary liquidation shortly before the commencement of the VCAT hearing.

This meant that VCAT was left with no option but to strike out the OC's claim, leaving it with no way of recovering the outstanding costs from the builder.

Three key lessons can be taken away from this experience. OCs and owners that find themselves in a building defects dispute with a builder should:

Act quickly to bring a claim against the liable parties. One of the problems in the case above, was simply the amount of

time that it took for the OC to commence proceedings;

Retain good building experts and engineers to provide the OC with accurate and timely reports that can be used as evidence in legal proceedings; and

Be open and flexible in negotiations and settlements because of the unavoidable danger of the respondents going into liquidation.

Ascot Constructions is not the only recent example that OCs have to learn from. Hickory (a large construction company) placed its subsidiary H Buildings Pty Limited into voluntary administration in late-2018, around the same time as 13 claims for the rectification of cladding and building defects were being made against it by various Owners Corporations in VCAT.

It should be noted that Hickory say that its subsidiary was liquidated due to unrelated mounting legal costs in an unrelated case in Western Australia.

In the meantime, if a defect arises in your building be sure to use the small window of opportunity to bring a claim, do your due diligence on the ability of the builder and other concurrent wrongdoers to meet the costs of the claim, and remain open minded and practical when conducting negotiations and settlements.



Tom Bacon

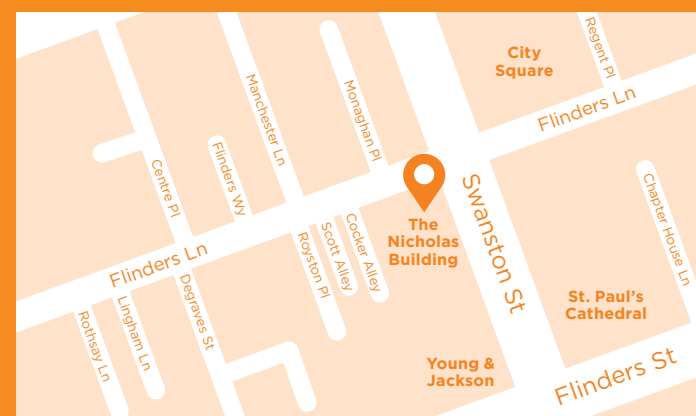
Tom Bacon is the principal lawyer of Strata Title Lawyers.
tom@stratatitlelawyers.com.au

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Throughout construction of the new Town Hall Station, the Nicholas Building will remain open and accessible from Swanston Street and Flinders Lane.

Please continue to support your favourite Nicholas Building businesses. For more information visit metrotunnel.vic.gov.au or call 1800 105 105.



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MT0583

Safety & Security

Thanks for your warm Southbank welcome

I'm officially settled in at Southbank Police Station. Thanks for the emails I received from my first column and for welcoming me into your community.

Have you ever been a victim of theft? Police have some valuable tips to help you keep your belongings safe.

One of the most common reports taken are regarding thefts from motor vehicles. These thefts are often due to valuables being left in plain sight or doors/windows being left unlocked. It is important not to present an easy opportunity to thieves. Follow these simple steps to help reduce the risk of thefts:

Remove all valuables

Do not leave any valuables in your car, take them with you. Do not leave personal documents such as registration or insurance paperwork that disclose your home address in the glove box. Do not leave house keys or garage door remotes in the car, they may be stolen and used in home burglaries.

Lock up

Always lock your car - at the petrol station, going into the convenience store or even at home in your garage or car park.

Secure your car

Park in a well-lit area close to any CCTV if possible. Thieves do not want to be caught breaking into cars or risk being identified from security footage.

An issue specific to Southbank residents is preventing tailgating through residential car park entries. This is often the way thieves enter car parks to steal from storage cages or cars. Take the time to allow the roller door to close after your car has either entered or left the car park. This ensures that your car parks remain secure. Ensure any lost fobs are cancelled straight away. These small steps all make a difference.

In the event of theft

Report thefts to the police. For further crime prevention information, visit the Victoria Police website at www.police.vic.gov.au



Senior Sgt Alex O'Toole

Station Commander at Southbank Police Station
alex.otoole@police.vic.gov.au

Yarra River Business Association

A constantly changing market

The Yarra River Precinct is undoubtedly one of Melbourne's most successful tourism and hospitality destinations, but our business community cannot rest on its laurels.

The consumer market is constantly changing. While the location and ambience is always a key factor, an equally important ingredient to success is keeping-up with consumer needs and wants.

Our next business lunch, on Wednesday, April 3, is dedicated to understanding a little more about "The New Consumer". We have gathered a panel of influential young speakers to participate in a lively Q&A session. They embrace the areas of retail, hospitality and accommodation and are all at the cutting edge of digital communication.

The needs of the millennial generation are quite different, the way they purchase things is different and the way they consume goods and services is very different.

It will be a fascinating discussion, matched by an excellent lunch at Eureka 89. Our lunches are open to everyone, including residents. In fact, we value the opportunity for our business leaders to sit alongside those who call Southbank home.

Simply head to www.yarrariver.melbourne/lunch to book your online ticket, or phone our executive officer on **0412 502 931** for more information

For years, the talk about the demise of hard copy promotional brochures has been heard, but the business association has

again released its annual guide *Discover Melbourne's Waterfront*. It is now in its 15th year of production and remains one of the most popular brochures picked up in hotels and information centres across greater Melbourne and regional Victoria.

This year we welcome Port Phillip Ferries as our major sponsor of the publication. For Southbankers, the daily ferry trips across the bay from Harbour Esplanade, Docklands to Portarlington is a great way to spend a day or weekend away.

We are moving towards the end of the trading season for Arbory Afloat and once again I congratulate the HQ Group for another outstanding season of trading and activation of the lower Yarra River.

Richard Shelmerdine and Tim Botterill took up the challenge a few years ago to run a floating food and beverage venue and each season they have worked hard to provide a new look and feel to it.

This year, Parks Victoria will award three-year contracts for on-water activation, which may result in anything from floating yoga classes to other interesting food and beverage offerings. We wait with great anticipation to see what creative and innovative ideas come forward from the private sector.

Soon to be resolved will be the berthing rights for river boat operators on the lower Yarra. The 10-year licences being offered may see some new players arrive and, hopefully, provide more security of tenure for existing operators, so that they can invest in their product with greater confidence.

You may have noticed the new hire boat operators on the river, Go Boat and On a Boat. They join with association member Melbourne Boat Hire to provide another means of enjoying the city from the water.

There have been some initial hiccups regarding self-hirers not understanding the rules of the waterway, but we trust that the operators will work hard to sort out the problems before becoming a source of friction with other river users.



John Forman

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



Montague Community Alliance

The future is here. Well, nearly...

So that's February done and dusted and everyone is back at work for 2019 and it appears busier than ever.

Montague is gearing up, the state utility companies regularly appear on street corners, digging up the footpath, updating our aging infrastructure for the next 45 townhouses or 30 storey high-rise that are about to begin. It appears that some of those 20-plus developments that were asked, last year by the Planning Minister to lower their heights and density are showing that they are willing to comply, so Normanby Rd will soon become a building site. As an aside, I heard mention that Normanby Rd, may be known as Normanby Boulevard, which did make us locals smile (wryly).

During February, the Montague Community Alliance engaged with the Fishermans Bend Development Board and members of the Fishermans Bend Task Force. The information we received was very useful and did leave us with the impression that, for the most part, we are in good hands. Although of course we would like to see a voluntary neighbourhood agreement in place NOW!

Some points of note:

- Fishermans Bend and Montague Precinct now sits under Minister Gavin Jennings,

Special Minister of State and Minister for Priority Precincts.

- Community engagement on the development of the Precinct Implementation Plans for Montague, Wirraway, Sandridge and Lorimer will take place in the next couple of months. These will provide the fine grain detail for each neighbourhood.
- The Fishermans Bend Taskforce will use a range of communication activities to raise awareness and promotion of the engagement events.

To ensure you stay up to date on the project and these opportunities, subscribe to the Fishermans Bend E-News at www.fishermansbend.vic.gov.au

And work is underway on other significant "catalyst" projects across Fishermans Bend such as planning for public transport connections, a new community hospital, a secondary school, Australia's centre of innovation in design and manufacturing which includes the University of Melbourne on the former GMH site and a world-leading water recycling facility.

It is good to know that all these activities are taking place and the future does look bright. The existing residential and commercial community, particularly those of us living here before that sad day in July 2012 when we lost our rights ... (Mathew Guy the then planning minister made us Capital City Zone, and we know who benefited from that!), do feel like there is not enough

attention on the NOW.

The government and public service do take a lot of time to move to action, or make decisions. We understand the need for cautious compliance and excellent governance, but we do ask all ministers, heads of department, chairs of boards and councillors and mayors to be aware that we are already a vibrant community, a close and happy neighbourhood, who like everyone else in Melbourne suburbs, need down time and quiet to recover and quality rest and recuperation on weekends and evenings so we also can continue to be a close and happy neighbourhood welcoming of the future.

So we look forward to the future becoming the NOW ... and thank you all for reading our monthly missive.

As usual if you have any ideas for this column or want to comment in anyway, please get in touch we would be happy to hear from you.



Trisha Avery

Trisha Avery is the convener of the Montague Community Alliance.
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Business

Boutique Southbank real estate

Long-time friends and now business partners Mel McLennan and David Gay have established a new real estate agency at Clarendon Towers on Haig St.

Southbank Residential provides what both gentlemen described as “boutique” and “old-fashioned” real estate service especially tailored to the needs of Southbankers.

As one of the first residents to move into Clarendon Towers 20 years ago, Mel has a deep understanding of his building and the Southbank community. With an extensive business background and 17 years serving on the building’s owners’ corporation (OC), he knows apartment living very well – and all of the rules and regulations that go with it.

Combined with the real estate experience of David, who has been working in the industry since 1979, Southbank Residential presents a very special and customised offering to postcode 3006.

“We’re basically two senior advisers giving people the real old-fashioned way of doing things,” Mel said. “It’s going back to giving people one-on-one service. You just don’t get it these days and it’s a pretty important thing if you want to buy or sell an apartment.”

Alongside friend of 30 years and real-estate guru David, who has held a real estate licence since 1982, the pair will be heavily focused on providing personalised service to people looking to buy and sell in Southbank.



Like Mel, David said he was also keen to put his “old-school” values and experience into their new venture.

“When I first started in real estate, you took every person in your car to the property,” David said. “You always took them and you were with them the whole time. That way you got to know them.”

“If you got someone interested you’d go to their house. I remember driving to Bendigo once to sign someone up. Not many would do that today, they would just do it on a

computer!”

David and Mel offer complete and individual attention. You could call them your personal agent as you deal exclusively with them throughout the sales or buying process – they are available 24/7 to assist.

With Mel’s passion and expertise in his own home, he said the business would initially specialise in Clarendon Towers, before branching out to other towers in Southbank. They will largely be focused on providing service to the buyers’ market.

As a resident of 20 years, he said he loved everything about Southbank and would be bringing that same level of care into the business. This level of understanding, for example, will extend to providing advice and insight into his many years of working on an OC, which was an area he said many buyers often had no experience with.

“It is very important for apartment buyers to fully understand the importance of OCs,” he said. “Most buyers are not aware of the rules and regulations in an apartment tower compared to a free-standing house or unit.”

“Quite often, a strong OC with a well-planned maintenance plan will command a higher selling price for units as there are no hidden surprises – buyers should always check financials and annual reports of the OC as part of their research into a particular building.”

“We regard our new venture as a unique opportunity to establish a boutique service that offers that good old-time personal service that has almost disappeared today.”

Southbank Residential is located at 102/45 Haig St, Southbank. For more information call **9645 0800** or visit **southbankresidential.com.au**

New local gymnastics facility

The new Advantage Gym Sports (AGS) gymnasium has recently opened to the community on Turner St in Fishermans Bend.

Directly servicing inner-city communities of Port Phillip, as well as Southbank, Docklands and the CBD, AGS offers a range of gymnastics classes and activities for all ages and abilities, with a special focus on aerobics.

The gym is well equipped with excellent apparatus for aerobic and performance gymnastics. In particular the “Gymnova” flooring has attracted expert coaches who are able to provide international-standard exercise and training to AGS members.

While having only opened in October last year, AGS director Kristie Loidl said some of its members had already represented Australia in world championships in Portugal and a national championships in the USA.

It was also awarded the Aerobics Gymnastics Best Performance Club at the Australian National Clubs and won the small group gold medal at the Victorian Gymnastics Fusion Competition.

Providing opportunities for gymnasts to train in quality programs with great coaches, such as elite coach and former international champion from New Zealand Angela McMillan, Kristie said Fishermans Bend provided the ideal location for its new facility.

“In terms of aerobic gymnastics there is no



one in this area so we thought we’d populate this area and make it a central location for aerobics,” she said.

“On the aerobic gymnastics side, we have an elite coach who was a world champion and she is a fantastic coach in Angela McMillan. She’s a champion herself and now she’s coaching future champions. She has a high reputation in the aerobics community.”

“We have members ranging in ages. We have a couple of adults and we have a few locals and others that come from a while away for our elite coaching. The response so far has been really positive.”

AGS also offers fitness and friendship for individuals and small groups. Highly qualified coaches lead and supervise activities ranging from kinder gym to adult



sessions to suit local workers.

Offering both team gym and display gym programs, these are small group programs which are particularly attractive for developing all the physical and social benefits of gymnastics and provides a pathway for state and national competition.

Individuals and families keen to see and try the gym can do so at the next AGS open day from 12pm to 2.30pm on Saturday, April 13. Anyone interested in visiting or watching the Victorian and Australian champions train or having a stretch or bounce themselves can arrange a time with Kristie on **0413 577 583** or **advantagegym sports@gmail.com**

Advantage Gym Sports is located at 3/200 Turner St, Port Melbourne.

SOLD!

Forget everything you thought you knew about the inner-city apartment market.

Ray White Southbank sold \$4.11 million worth of property under the hammer last month to stamp an 87.5 per cent auction clearance.

At an in room auction held on Wednesday, February 27, the leading inner-city Melbourne office completed three sales under the hammer with four more selling just prior to clear seven from eight units.

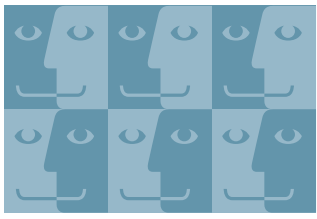
Ray White Southbank | Port Phillip & Projects Victoria principal Andrew Salvo said it was standing room only on the night with more than 65 people crammed into the office at 111 Clarendon St.

Mr Salvo said the in-room style of selling was something new and innovative for the auction market.

“Our agents have been flooded with phone calls from property owners that were previously dubious about putting their property through an in-room auction. They are now enquiring about when we be running our next in-room auction event,” he said.

“Owners don’t like the stress and many agents just don’t have the courage let alone enough commitment to commit to the arduous buyer work required to prepare bidders for an auction.”

raywhitesouthbank.com.au



FACES OF SOUTHBANK

Question:

What do you think of South Melbourne Night Market?



CHLOE CHAN, 24, SOUTHBANK, PERSONAL ASSISTANT

It has music, food, and everything. It's pretty chilled, it's not super busy like Queen Victoria Market. I love it! The place does not have too many people, which is a good thing for me.



ROB ANDRADE, 36, PORT MELBOURNE, ENGINEER

To be honest, I'd probably think it has been really successful. There is nice music, good food and beautiful people too.



JENNA FRANCIS, 21, DIAMOND CREEK, MEDIA ANALYST

It has good food and good vibes.



NIKKI BUCKLAR, 45, MELTON, SENIOR BILLING OFFICER

I really like the night market. I work around the area and I stay late here for the night market. I really like the food trucks.



HAZAM OMRAN, 42, CRAIGIEBURN, ENGINEER

It's one of the best markets in Australia. It's a happy place and very lively one. It has nice vibes. I love the night food and the music.



JAM DEANE, 63, SOUTH YARRA, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

I think it is a great initiative for the market to open until late. It is nice to see the restaurants are being used in the evening. It is lively and colourful in the area.

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SOUTHBANK SUDOKU

Last month's Sudoku solution

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

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

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

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

Southbanker

High-rise singing

Since moving to Freshwater Place in 2012, career music teacher Gary May has privately trained up to six singers per day, five days a week from his apartment.

In a music teaching career that spans more than 40 years, Gary is one of the most sought after singing teachers in Australia. From classical and opera to pop and music theatre, he has trained some of the most talented performers from around the world.

So sought after is his expertise, he has been able to build a business where his clients now come to him! And while his daily singing lessons have come to the surprise of many of his neighbours over the years, he said the acoustics in his apartment surprisingly provided ideal conditions for his practice.

"Once I shut the door of my music room you can barely hear anything in the corridor. It's so faint. I've never heard anybody complain and a lot of my neighbours know what I do in here now," he said.

"I used to tell my students if they bump into anyone in the elevators not to tell that they've been coming here for singing lessons but I don't need to bother any more!"

With little more than a piano and some

sound panels, his corner apartment provides the perfect high-rise singing studio. And in a career that has taken him to all parts of the world, it's little surprise that he has finally settled here in Southbank.

Gary first started singing as a seven year old and has been passionate about music ever since. He said that once his voice broke during adolescence, he knew that teaching, rather than singing was his true calling!

Originally from Dubbo in New South Wales, he trained in classical singing and piano at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, which led him into an extensive career working with opera companies, both as a coach and conductor.

During the 1980s, having spent extensive periods training and working between Italy and Australia, he would land his first role in Melbourne with the Victoria State Opera Company. And while he admitted it wasn't his most enjoyed role, it represented a turning point for his teaching career.

"I wasn't happy in the job but the great thing about it was the contacts it gave me," he said.

"Within six months I had a great job set up teaching here. I was self-employed, I didn't have to answer to anybody, I tripled my money and people in the arts aren't terribly well paid so it was really good!"

While his true passion is training the operatic voice, he said that once he launched his own business demand for his services soon came flooding in from music theatre,



cabaret and even pop singers.

And since then, he hasn't looked back. Although while music teaching is what he is renowned for, he did share with *Southbank Local News* that he rose to temporary fame in 2000 for an infamous incident at a Barry Humphries show at the Princess Theatre.

Some readers might recall news at the time covering the story of a music teacher suing Mr Humphries for throwing a gladioli flower at him during a Dame Edna Everage show. You guessed it, that music teacher was Gary! While tossing flowers was part of Dame Edna's act, the cut end of the stem nearly caused Gary permanent eye damage.

However, when he decided to launch legal action, he said he had no idea of the public reaction that would follow.

"My lawyer calls me one morning and said 'Gary, you better go and buy a paper.' There I am plastered on the front of the paper 'Melbourne Singing Teacher Sues Barry Humphries.' They released it thinking that it

would intimidate me to pull out," he said.

"I thought I'm not going to be bullied because I was the one that was hurt. Within a few hours there were TV cameras at my place and I was in the middle of teaching."

"Apparently after that he was just throwing them to the first few rows very softly but once my case made the news there were others who came forward saying they'd also been hurt. So I'm the one who put a stop to that!"

While the experience provided a rather unwelcome highlight, it did lead him to move overseas to London where he would meet his now husband Wayne and begin a new chapter in his life, which has also lead him to Southbank.

"I really like it here in Southbank," he said. "I've gone in all sorts of different directions but I think I'm finally doing what I was meant to do. It took a while but I got there in the end!"

More information: gmvstudio.com.au

Southbank Sustainability Group

Changing the world's fate takes all of us

From the new community garden opening this month, a result of some passionate Southbankers' determination, to our individual daily choices, it takes all of us to bring about positive change.

With summer coming to an end, a season where we witnessed the detrimental effects of climate change around the country, the conversation around this issue and what we do about it is becoming more important than ever. It's important that we all take responsibility and act – individually, as a community, and as a nation – if we are to reduce the demise of the only home we've got.

Scientists are now using dire and definitive language, never used before by the scientific community, on the criticality of our species' survival in the next 11 years. The global scientific authority in climate change stated that holding global warming to a critical limit will require "rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society".

This highlights the importance of changing our ways, down to our daily habits. It might feel scary or too big to tackle, but through every single choice we make, every single day, we contribute to either the solution or the problem.

What's keeping us from making an effort is letting fear paralyse us into denial and convince us that it's someone else's problem to solve, that others are causing far more

damage than us, that we have no power to affect this or that our voice doesn't matter.

And all it takes is a bit of conscious effort and stepping away from prioritising our immediate comfort and convenience.

From standing up and protecting our gorgeous old growth forests we are so lucky to enjoy in Australia – forests that absorb and hold off so much CO2 from the atmosphere, and for which there are currently no federal environmental laws protecting them, cutting them down to turn into A4 printing paper – to choosing not use a plastic produce bag at the supermarket, we are all doing our part, one way or another.

Back in Southbank, it's encouraging to see this realisation in action by community members passionately working to bring about change in ways big, small, and creative.

As a group we try to do our part and help Southbank residents that perhaps don't even know where to start, get involved in solution-focused activities, making March a busy month filled with such activities.

March kicked off with a visit to the Docklands Community Garden, connecting with this vibrant community and learning how similar community groups work to

establish a healthy, growing garden. With the new, permanent community garden site opening in late March, we will all be working together in planting the new garden, kicking it off with a planting workshop. A recycling info session is also coming up, along with more neighboring garden visits and planting opportunities.

Boyd Park latest update

In some more good green news this month, the council will at end of March or early April open up to the public in two parts the long-awaited Boyd Park. These two parts are the new basketball court and the community garden.

This is especially exciting, since getting a community garden as part of this park started off as a lost cause. This goes to show what small actions, passion and not giving up at the sight of obstacles can do. The overall completion of the park is planned for mid-2019.

If you're itching to get your hands dirty or want to learn more about gardening, come join our activities. For details go to [facebook.com/SouthbankSustainabilityGroup](https://www.facebook.com/SouthbankSustainabilityGroup), or email us.



About the group

A solutions-focused community group of Southbank residents working to bring positive change in sustainability practices and education to our neighborhood.

We meet every fortnight on Saturdays at Boyd, where we talk sustainability solutions, and tend to the community garden.



Artemis Pattichi

Southbank Sustainability Group
southbanksustainability@gmail.com

History

Want to buy a car? Go to Southbank!

Saturday morning would see a procession of prospective purchasers looking for a car in Southbank where the streets, particularly Sturt St, were full of businesses dedicated to the motor car.

A number of car dealers had originally set up their businesses in pre-war years, preferring the latest streamlined moderne style and often including a tall vertical section, which ensured they would be noticed by passing motorists. Melford Motors in Sturt St and Lane's in Dorcas St were among those that featured prominent towers.

Car use in Melbourne increased dramatically after WWII, resulting in more venues for their sale (both new and used), servicing, parts and accessories supply, repairs and upgrades. Sturt St was populated with car dealers such as Lane's Motors, Devon Motors, Spencer Motors, Regent Motors, Neal's Motors and Cheneys.

Anyone seeking a car could select from a range of marques such as Plymouth, Morris, Chrysler, De Soto, Ford and Holden after 1948. Used cars were generally described as "ideal for a working-man", "in perfect condition" or "first class". Some older South residents can remember buying their first cars at Lane's and the firm was particularly careful of its reputation for "square dealing" - they wanted you to come back for your next car.

But it wasn't just cars that were for sale - it



Lane's Motors, Dorcas St.

was a centre for trucks and even tractors. Southbank was also popular with another group of motor-related businesses - those that upgraded vehicles. In an era when items

such as radios were not necessarily standard, you could have one fitted quickly, and even have one with a cassette player included in the 1970s.

Car yards ranged in standard from the small and grubby to the large and pristine, such as the new headquarters of Cheney Vauxhall and Bedford dealers, architect-designed and constructed in the late 1950s. It was all shiny steel and glass, but still with petrol bowsers on the street outside.

Many young people from South found their first jobs in the car yards. Young men worked on the maintenance and presentation of the cars in the workshops along Sturt and Dorcas streets or served their apprenticeships as motor mechanics.

Girls straight out of school (or commercial colleges) worked in the offices as secretaries, typists or telephonists, using old plug-in-plug-out telephone exchanges.

All the former car dealer sites have been replaced by apartment blocks or corporate centres and the recent demolition of Lane's Motors in Dorcas St represented the end of an era in Southbank.



Robin Grow

President - Australian Art Deco and Modernism Society

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Pet's Corner

When dog becomes family

By Kevin Jingga

For some of us, dogs are probably no more than our playful companions or road trip buddies on our day off.

But Lauren Napthine does not share the same thought; she views her dogs, Rob and Mitchie, as part of herself and treated them like her family.

When asked about her relationship between she and her pets, Lauren described it as a "very close" one.

Lauren takes care of her dogs like her own family. She walks her dogs twice a day and gives them treats daily. They even spend the night together.

"We are very close, we sleep on the same bed," she said.

Rob and Mitchie may have very different types, sizes and history. But none of that could diminish their friendship level.

"They are very good friends to each other," Lauren said.

Rob was adopted two years ago from the Greyhound Adoption Program (GAP), while Lauren found Mitchie.

"She was neglected. I got her with rotted teeth that have to be pulled out, so she has no teeth now," she said.

Lauren then described Rob as a very calm and kind pet.

"He is very chilled, he does not bark and he likes to sleep all day. He likes to put his head out of the (car) window," she laughed.

Neither behaviour nor physical imperfection can impact Lauren's affection. Lauren loves her dogs unconditionally, just like in a family.

"I treated them with equal love, they are individually unique in their own way," she said.

She said that she loved them so much because they were part of her.

"They are like a family, because they are part of you. They are so beautiful," she said.

Rob is a male greyhound, which commonly grows up to 76 cm and 27-40 kg. Mitchie, on the other hand, is a female fox terrier, is only 33-38 cm tall and weighs 6-8 kg.



Lauren Napthine with Mitchie and Rob.

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We Live Here

Cladding, short-stays and rooming

As evacuees trudged out of the CBD high-rise building that caught fire in February, the media stepped in to interview the victims of this alarming incident that has been blamed on combustible cladding.

Many people interviewed were short-stay visitors. One interviewee was a short-stay business operator who claimed to manage dozens of apartments in the building.

Overcrowding was also reported as a feature of an earlier fire at the same address two years earlier, and just last year there was a report of gangs of youths running amok at an out-of-control party in a short-stay apartment in the same building.

These are not isolated incidents.

It is time the government took notice of what is going on under its nose. Instead, we are supposed to congratulate it for enacting the OC Amendment (Short-stay Accommodation) Bill 2016, which became law early this year, but which doesn't begin to scratch the surface of the many issues facing residents in high-rise communities.

The fire that raced up the 41-storey building at Neo200 in Spencer St had some similarities to the Grenfell fire in London in 2017 and the Lacrosse fire in Docklands in 2014, both of which were linked to combustible cladding used on the exterior of the buildings.

The fire appears to have started in an apartment on the 22nd floor and raced up seven floors damaging the balconies before it was extinguished.

One person suffered smoke inhalation and hundreds were evacuated from the 371-apartment building opposite Southern Cross Station.

The assistant chief fire officer for the Metropolitan Fire Brigade said combustible cladding material was found on parts of the building near the balconies and it is believed to have been one of the fuels that accelerated the fire.

It was also reported that the Victorian Building Authority (VBA) knew that this building was fitted with "non-compliant cladding material" and had referred it to the City of Melbourne Municipal Building Surveyor (MBS).

However, following an audit in 2016, the City of Melbourne MBS determined the building was "safe for occupation" and "no further action" was required.

This is not the first time We Live Here has been made aware of different advice being provided by the relevant authorities and it is fortuitous that no one was killed or injured in this fire.

Combustible cladding, however, is not the only feature of this fire being investigated.

A history of overcrowding and short-term rental parties at this building has also been identified.

After another fire in 2015, beds were found in stairwells and apartments converted into cramped rooming houses with living areas rented to multiple tenants as sleeping spaces.

In September last year, police were called to the building at 7 am one morning following reports of 40 young people

running wild and fighting inside the building. Some youths were armed with knives. On arrival police found that the party-goers had dispersed, leaving behind significant damage to the building.

In February the Victorian Minister for Consumers Affairs issued a media release announcing the enactment of "tough new penalties for out of control parties".

In the light of the events referred to above, which are by no means uncommon, it is risible and insulting to owners' corporations (OCs) that try so hard to manage their buildings to be burdened with such a piece of legislation as vacuous and self-serving as the so-called Airbnb Bill.

This legislation only makes things worse for high-rise owners trying to recover costs from delinquent short-stay guests. We repeat the question we asked of Daniel Andrews and Marlene Kairouz in our previous newsletter, namely: Please tell us how this Bill is actually meant to work in practice?

There will be more on these issues in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, if anything raised in this column strikes a chord with you, please write to the government with your stories and let them know what they need to do:

REVIEW the process for determining which buildings are at risk from combustible cladding and improve the method of communication with those buildings;

RESTORE powers lost by OCs as a result

of Justice Riorden's 2016 Supreme Court judgement; and

REFER to owners and residents for our opinions on proper regulation of the short-stay industry.

Put a fire risk management plan in place NOW

We Live Here made this recommendation before and the recent fire makes it important enough to repeat: All high-rise apartment buildings must implement a fire risk management plan NOW.

The plan should set out all the management steps you have implemented to make your building safe while the assessment is being carried out.

Campaign donations

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

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

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



www.welfarehere.net
emails to campaign@welfarehere.net

Health & Wellbeing

The powerful psychology behind tidying up

As you read this article, take a second to think about the state of your home.

Do you wish it were more organised, tidy, clean, de-cluttered? Having recently read Marie Kondo's best-selling book *The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up* I thought I would share with you the science behind organisation, and practical tips towards a healthier home!

The positive psychology behind organisation

Keeping your home clean and organised is good for you, and science can prove it. A study led by researchers at Indiana University found that people with clean homes are physically healthier than those with messy ones. Clean and healthy homes have been associated with inhabitants who present with lower cardiovascular illnesses, lower levels of the stress hormone cortisol and less occurrences of allergies and even asthma.

In addition to physical benefits, the psychological benefits are well established. A 2010 study published in the scientific journal *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin* found that participants who described their living spaces as "cluttered"

or full of "unfinished projects" were more likely to be stressed, depressed and fatigued than participants who described their homes as "restful" and "restorative." The researchers also found that participants with cluttered homes expressed higher levels of the stress hormone cortisol.

The problems and solutions to your organisational dilemmas.

1. You have too much clutter.

The problem: If you're anything like me, you might have a collection of old newspapers or a blender on your kitchen counter that you never use. These objects take up space that could be better used by other, more necessary items.

The solution: Getting rid of clutter can be difficult, especially since we often attach emotions to old objects.

As Marie Kondo writes: take a look at the item and ask: "does this object spark joy for me?" If not, either store it in a more appropriate place out of sight (if it's an item you will need to use again), or donate it to a local charity or thrift store.

2. You don't have enough time.

The problem: As a busy Southbank professional, I know that organising just one room takes a LOT of time. When faced with the prospect of organising your entire apartment, you might be tempted to give up before you start!

The solution: Kondo's rule is to tidy by category, not by room, for example: dealing with all of your books in one go, otherwise they will continue to creep from room to room and you'll never manage the clutter. Kondo advises beginning with clothing, since it's often the least emotionally loaded. Putting everything you own in one big pile and asking yourself whether each item "sparks joy", and you will see just how quickly you start to get rid of unnecessary items!

3. Your home doesn't seem to flow, there is just 'stuff' everywhere.

The problem: You simply place items where you think they should go or look good, which results in a home that seems "full" not "flowing".

The solution: Everything in your home must have its place is a key principle of Marie Kondo's method of tidying. Though no one is expecting you to place your bag in the same spot every evening, it is a good idea to create some habits around where your items are placed. Label boxes, baskets and even drawers so that everyone knows where things should go to avoid creating rooms that explode with accessories.

Remember, cleanliness not only has physical health benefits but also allows your brain much needed space to rest, recover, be creative and dynamic. Keep your home tidy and start reaping the rewards of a less fatigued, stressed and overwhelmed brain and body, and get out there and enjoy everything that your neighbourhood has to offer.



Rajna Bogdanovic

Clinical psychologist

bogdanovicrajna@gmail.com

WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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



INNER MELBOURNE LIFE ACTIVITIES CLUB

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

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



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www.chunkymove.com



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SATURDAYS @ BOYD

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Register: shenyoga.com.au



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FRIDAYS 7.45AM - 9AM @ BOYD

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www.artscentremelbourne.com.au

WEDNESDAYS @ BOYD
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TUESDAYS

SOUTHBANK ROTARY

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

www.southbank.org.au

MONDAYS @ BOYD

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Local Southbank JP Atilla Akguner offers two hour sessions every Monday morning from 11am until 1pm at the Principal's Office at Boyd. To book in a time contact:

atillaakguner@gmail.com

FIRST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH SUNRISE PROBUS CLUB

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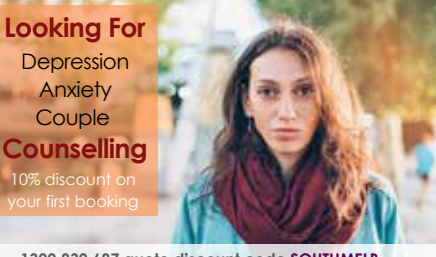
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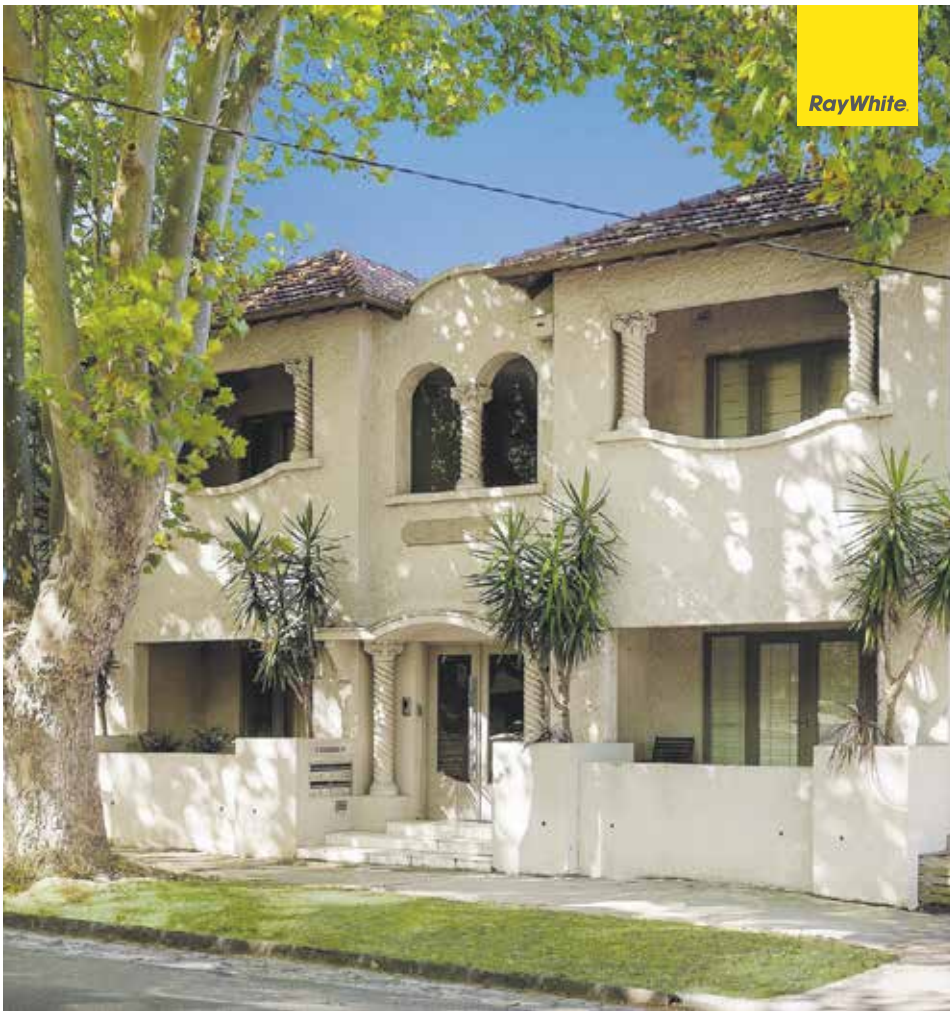
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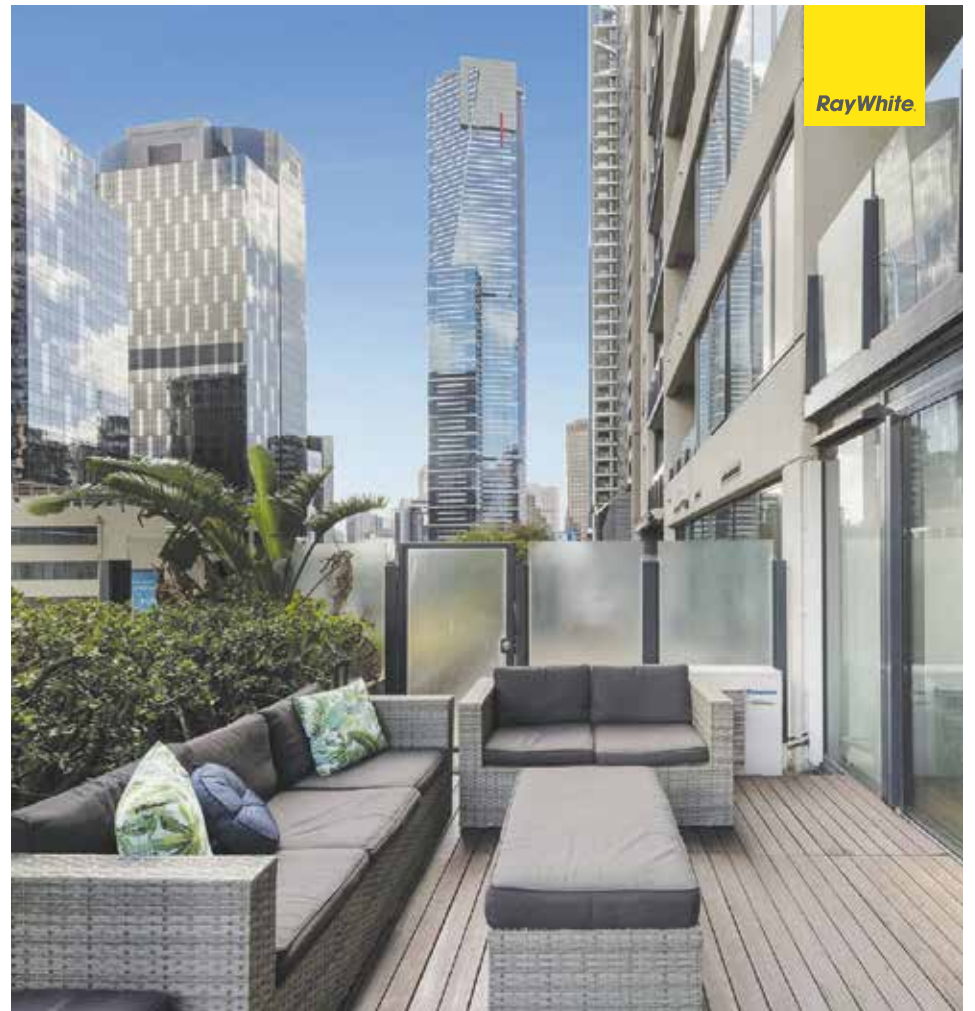
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