

The voice of Southbank, South Wharf & Montague

SOUTHBANK Local NEWS

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Students move in!

More than 1000 students and staff moved into the new state-of-the-art Ian Potter Southbank Centre last month, home to the new Melbourne Conservatorium of Music.

Part of the University of Melbourne's Southbank campus, the \$109 million conservatorium is located in the heart of the Melbourne Arts Precinct and is the centrepiece of the university's \$200 million Southbank campus transformation.

While classes have officially started, the facility will be formally opened to the public in June.

Read more on page 9.



The Conservatorium's Kalon Quartet (Aidan Filshie, Oscar Woinarski, Amy You, and Louise May) with Conservatorium Director Professor Gary McPherson. Photo: Sav Schulman.

Council throws veterans a lifeline

By Sean Car

The City of Melbourne is exploring options with the Department of Defence for the sale of the old repatriation clinic at 310 St Kilda Rd.

It comes after Defence said last month that it intended to sell the site on the open market, following another failed attempt to offload it to the Victorian Government.

That initial news shocked the Australian National Veterans Arts Museum (ANVAM), which has lobbied all levels of government about the site for many years. It wants to become a trustee of the heritage building to establish an art gallery, studios and community retail space for veterans to practise art and recover from trauma, which

is consistent with its original use as a clinic for veterans.

In a letter addressed to ANVAM chairman and director Mark Johnston on March 20, Assistant Minister for Defence David Fawcett initially wrote: "The Department of Defence has been working with the Victorian Government to explore the opportunity for a direct sale of 310 St Kilda Road to the Victorian Government with an appropriate security of purpose clause."

"The Victorian Government has confirmed it is not in a position to develop an off-market sale offer that meets the requirements of the Commonwealth Property Disposals Policy (CPDP)."

"Unfortunately, gifting the site to ANVAM is not permissible under the CPDP. Defence now intends to proceed with the sale of 310 St Kilda Rd on the open market at full market value in accordance with the requirements of the CPDP."

While Senator Fawcett told ANVAM's

chairman that Defence was committed to supporting veterans by ensuring that any sale of the site included requiring uses that supported rehabilitation of veterans, the decision left the veterans' group furious.

Under CPDP guidelines, property under Commonwealth ownership can be transferred between any state, territory and local government at a peppercorn rate so long as there is a security of purpose.

Continued on page 3

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VCAT battle over open space

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Developer OSK Property is taking the City of Melbourne to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) over a dispute regarding open space contributions for its new Kavanagh St park.

Despite providing nearly three times the amount of open space required as part of its six-tower mixed-use development Melbourne Square, the City of Melbourne is requesting an open space contribution on top of the developer's land contribution.

Approved in 2015, the Minister for Planning Richard Wynne determined that the 3745 sqm park should be delivered by OSK Property as part of its open space contribution. As part of the agreement, the park will remain under private ownership of the developer and maintained at its own cost to council standards.

The dispute has since evolved from an application from the developer to council, which seeks to subdivide its land into five staged lots. Melbourne Square will include four residential towers, a commercial tower and a hotel managed by Hilton.

While council has issued a permit for the subdivision, it has done so on the condition that the developer pay an open space contribution equivalent to 7.06 per cent of the site's land value as per the Melbourne Planning Scheme.

OSK Property spokesperson Scott Jessop told *Southbank Local News* that the developer hadn't taken lightly its decision to take the council to VCAT.



A render of the new park.

"We had hoped to resolve the issue prior to a formal VCAT hearing in collaboration with council," he said. "We feel that during the process of delivering Melbourne Square the goal posts and priorities have been moved, creating this unresolved issue that suggests a cash contribution is required in addition to the extra investment in delivering what was originally identified as the top priority for Southbank and doing so markedly above our requirements."

"OSK Property supports the developer contributions scheme as it delivers essential community amenity for residents in our growth city. It is for this reason, through extensive consultation with industry colleagues across planning, architecture

and design, we have sought to exceed our required contribution in delivering Southbank's most architecturally significant public park."

"Spanning over 3700 sqm, this park is almost three times the size of that required by City of Melbourne and will be maintained by the development in perpetuity."

A spokesperson for the City of Melbourne said its request to OSK Property was consistent with planning scheme amendment C209, which set fixed open space contributions of either land or cash for new developments.

"Developer contributions allows us to create high-quality public open spaces to meet the needs of our growing population," the spokesperson said. "We have an ambitious 15-year plan to create an additional 24 hectares of open space and developer contributions help us pay for it."

"Planning scheme amendment C209 sets contribution rates of 5 per cent and 7.06 per cent for new developments, as either a percentage of the site value, a land contribution or a combination of both. The higher rate applies in urban renewal areas where there is a greater need for open space."

The matter will be heard at VCAT on April 24.

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Council throws veterans a lifeline

From page 1

In a desperate effort to keep the building in public hands, Mr Johnston reached out to Lord Mayor Sally Capp to understand whether the City of Melbourne, as the only remaining level of government in play, would be in a position to purchase the site.

On April 5, a second letter to Mr Johnston from Mr Fawcett confirmed that the City of Melbourne had indeed entered into negotiations.

"I am pleased to advise you that I have discussed the sale of 310 St Kilda Rd, and the opportunity for the City of Melbourne to participate in an off-market sale, with Melbourne City Lord Mayor, the Right Honourable Sally Capp," Senator Fawcett wrote.

"Following this discussion, I have requested that the Department of Defence engage with the City of Melbourne to explore an off-market sale in accordance with the Commonwealth Property Disposal Policy."

"Defence will continue to ensure that any sale process provides for protection of the heritage values of 310 St Kilda Rd, including a requirement that future uses appropriately consider the historic use of the property for rehabilitation of veterans."

Constructed in 1937, the clinic was important for the rehabilitation of veterans and provided a wide range of services to support injured soldiers with recovery and reintegration into civilian life.

The Department of Defence told *Southbank Local News* that it had nominated the property to the Victorian State Heritage Register. However, the Heritage Council of Victoria is unable to consider the application until ownership of the building is settled.

While the news doesn't guarantee security for the ANVAM proposal, it does provide it with hope. A City of Melbourne spokesperson told *Southbank Local News* that it was still in the preliminary stages of gathering more information on the property.

"City of Melbourne maintains a watching



The building at 310 St Kilda Rd, Southbank.

brief on appropriate properties, which are available and may be suited to a range of community and administrative purposes," the spokesperson said.

The cost of restoring the building, which has been unused for more than 20 years and is understood to be riddled with asbestos, has been estimated between \$10 - \$20 million.

While ANVAM says that these are costs it is willing to seek philanthropic support for if necessary, the group has also developed a business case for its proposal at the request of Creative Victoria, which forecasts a positive return on investment.

While separated from the Arts Precinct by the Victoria Barracks, the building also sits within the state government's zoned Southbank Arts Precinct. ANVAM says its proposal lends itself to a range of government strategies relating to the creative industries and mental health.

Mr Johnston told *Southbank Local News* that his group looked forward to progressing

negotiations with the City of Melbourne so that ANVAM could start raising funding for remediation works.

"Working with the City of Melbourne toward transforming 310 St Kilda Rd into a national cultural institution for veterans is a positive development," he said.

"The city has demonstrated time and again that it highly values the culturally significant sites in its boundaries like 310 St Kilda Rd is to the veteran community.

"The condition of sale mandated by the Federal Government whereby ANVAM will create an arts-based centre for veterans' wellbeing and rehabilitation will be delivered in a way that invites the broader community to be part of the process."

"Once operational as Melbourne's newest cultural institution, 310 St Kilda Rd will be the southern gateway to Melbourne's arts precinct."

news@southbanklocalnews.com.au

Meet your candidates

The Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) will host a meet the candidates night for the federal seat of Macnamara on April 16.

To be held at South Melbourne Primary School on Ferrars St, Southbank, at 6pm for a 6.30pm start, the event will provide locals from Southbank and the Montague Precinct with a chance to meet their candidates ahead of the election.

The Labor Party's Josh Burns, Liberal Kate Ashmor and Greens candidate Steph Hodgins-May will all be present, with the event to be moderated by former City of Port Phillip Mayor Cr Bernadene Voss.

The seat of Macnamara represents an intriguing contest in this year's election in what is a genuine three-horse race for a seat in the House of Representatives.

While the seat has been a Labor stronghold since Federation and held by outgoing Labor MP Michael Danby for the past 20 years, the 2016 election saw then Liberal candidate Owen Guest only lose on the narrowest of margins following preference flows.

Steph Hodgins-May will also take confidence from the last election, having only been edged by Mr Danby by 953 primary votes. Following a change to the electoral boundaries, the Greens also gain 5000 new voters in Windsor, which is historically a strong booth for the party.

Local issues expected to be of particular prominence include planning, infrastructure, climate change, housing and redevelopment of Fishermans Bend.

For more information email info@southbankresidents.org.au

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The Lord Mayor's Commendations are back this year, celebrating the contribution small businesses make to the city.

The commendations are open to any business proprietor within the City of Melbourne who employs 20 people or less and has operated continuously for more than 10 years. There is also a commendation for businesses run by three or more generations of the one family.

Commendations for small business proprietors include: Generational; 50+ years; 40+ years; 25+ years; and 10+ years.

The Lord Mayor's Commendations are free to enter and recipients will be invited to take part in a photographic exhibition and a presentation ceremony with the Lord Mayor.

Applications close on Friday, April 26.

For more information and to apply visit: melbourne.vic.gov.au/about-melbourne/celebrating-melbourne/lord-mayors-commendations



The loose decking on Evan Walker Bridge has resulted in increased noise over the past few years.

Noisy bridge no more

The City of Melbourne will invest nearly half a million dollars to fix noise and structural issues on Evan Walker Bridge.

A spokesperson for the City of Melbourne said it planned to construct additional supports for the decking on the bridge at a cost of \$446,778.

Having invested \$150,000 in 2015 to replace the former timber decking, which saw the bridge closed for nearly a month, the new fibre-reinforced polymer decking immediately drew noise complaints upon completion.

While council has made a number of efforts since to fix the problem, the noise from the loose planks has continued.

A council spokesperson said the geometry of the bridge and heavy pedestrian traffic had led to the planks flexing and creating noise.

"Around six months ago, we successfully installed increased supports in a section of the bridge. In May 2019, we will start extending these works for the entire length of the bridge," the spokesperson said.

"The works will be completed from underneath the bridge, requiring access from the water, so we are seeking approvals from Parks Victoria."

Crime rate at an all-time high

By Shilan Pan

The Southbank crime rate increased to a new high last year.

The rate has almost doubled since 2009, according to Crime Statistic Agency (CSA) figures.

Some 2643 crimes were reported in Southbank in 2018 –slightly up from 2569 in 2017. In 2009, 1369 crimes were reported.

Among all the categories, the number of "crimes against the person" rose to 498 in 2018 from 367 in 2017.

The number of "justice procedures offences" (97 up to 107), and "other offences" (12 up to 31) has slightly increased.

Though crime rate in the Southbank has been increasing, not all categories were up. "Property and deception offences" (1653 down to 1601), "drug offences" (135 down to 133), and "public order and security offences" (323 down to 263) are trending downward.

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Approval for Sturt St

Developer Crown Group has launched its new arts-themed two-tower residential project at 175 Sturt St.

Having won approval from the City of Melbourne in January, the project will encompass two towers of 14- and 16-storeys set across a corner site of 2070sqm, hosting 152 luxurious studios, one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments.

It's the Sydney developer's first Melbourne project and is being conducted as a joint venture with long-time Melbourne developer G3 Projects.

Designed by world-renowned Koichi Takada Architects, the design seeks to celebrate Melbourne's thriving arts precinct, with one of its key features being a community space on the lower level providing exhibition and installations spaces for artists.

Crown Group chairman and CEO Iwan Sunito said the project was part of the company's vision to grow a \$3 billion development pipeline in Melbourne.

"This is part of our think big, start small strategy," he said. "Our bigger plan is to grow our pipeline in Melbourne, but we wanted to start with a single project first to test the market."

"Our vision is not just to build another

apartment building, but to deliver a place to live that has a story."

"Melburnians are very passionate about arts and culture. It is one of the most cultural cities in the world, so we thought, why not create something that tells that story."

"Construction will start in 2021, which gives us the confidence to be able to deliver the project at the best time in the market cycle and allows investors to capitalise on potential uplift."

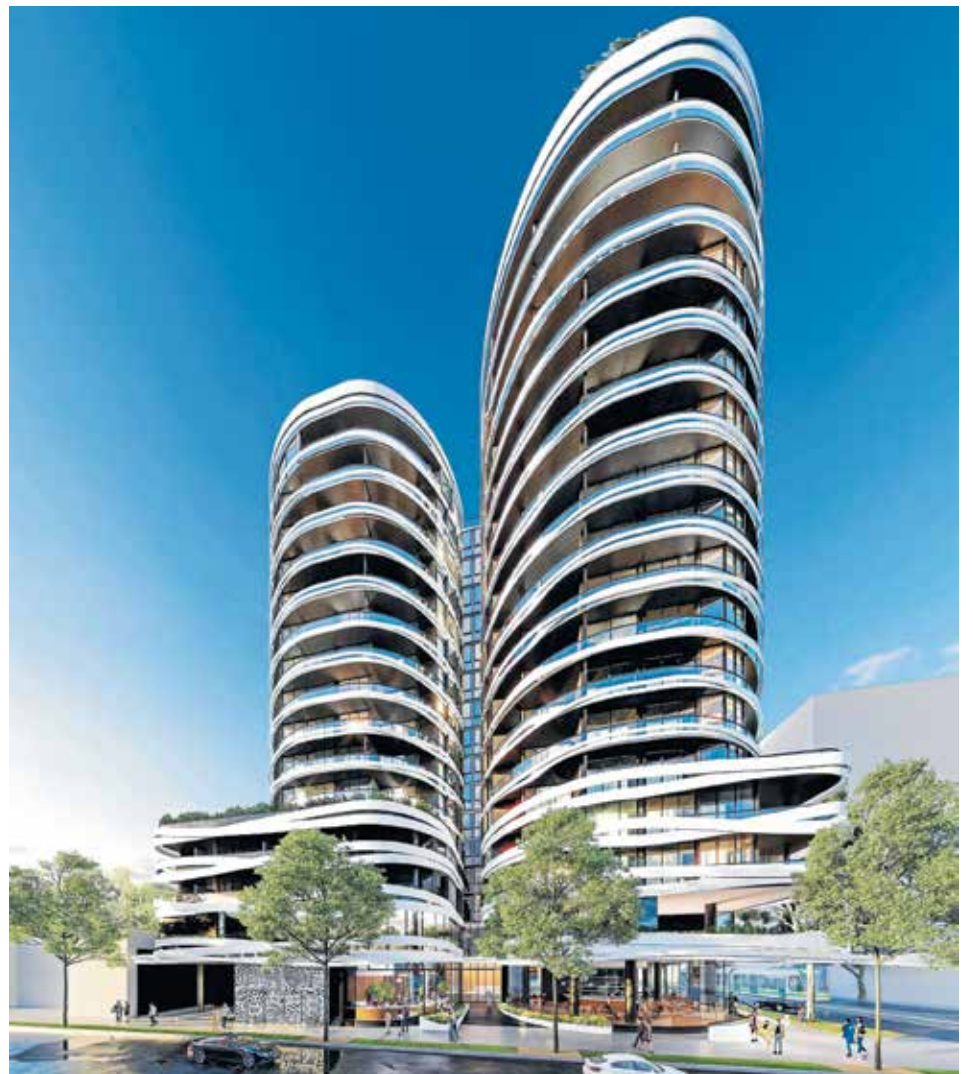
As a celebration of the arts, architect Koichi Takada said the two striking curved towers would be encircled by sinuous white "ribbons".

"The ribbons will form a beautiful pattern that will gleam white, reflecting the light, creating an ever-changing canvas and a beacon to people in the surrounding area," he said.

The project marks the first development on the Sturt St spine of the area zoned as Arts Precinct in Southbank, following the introduction of the state government's planning scheme amendment C330 in March last year.

Under current planning controls, developments on Sturt St have to include arts and cultural uses as part of the first four floors in an effort to ensure that all development complies with the government's Arts Precinct Blueprint vision.

The situations surrounding neighbouring



developments at 135 and 153 Sturt St remain largely unknown, with local architect Hayball selling its approved permit for an 18-storey tower last year.

Former Sturt St architect Rothelowman also

put its permit for an 18-storey development at 153 Sturt St on the market last year. The owner of 151 Sturt St, currently home to an IGA supermarket, put its site up for sale in October last year.



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“Watch this space” on panel

By Shane Scanlan

Lord Mayor Sally Capp’s heavily-spruiked residents’ panel is suffering a long and protracted labour and, if born, may resemble an entirely different child.

First revealed at the Southbank Residents’ Association’s (SRA) annual general meeting (AGM) last July and talked up to Residents 3000 last September, the panel concept hasn’t really progressed.

The idea itself, however, appears to have become more narrowly focussed, with a singular interest in planning and development.

Cr Capp told the SRA on July 18 the panel would provide a vehicle for community representatives across the city to formally present and manage local issues with councillors and council management.

“If implemented, [such] a panel could help us understand what residents care about how we as a council can work to make Southbank a better place for people to live, work and visit,” the Lord Mayor told *Southbank Local News*.

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

On September 6 she told Residents 3000’s AGM the idea had support within the City of

Melbourne and was progressing.

She said the idea was first raised at a “meet the candidates” forum in the lead-up to the May 2018 lord mayoral by-election.

“It would be a way in which we could have residents more involved in planning decisions, but really, more pre-application discussions with the council and, hopefully, also with developers if we can get them involved,” Cr Capp said.

“So, since I’ve been in [council], we’ve started those discussions. I’ve had a more detailed submission on how it could work. And there have been a number of discussions with other councils and a lot of discussions internally.”

“We are currently working through what a residents’ panel might look like, what its terms of reference might be, and the sorts of issues which that group would consider.”

“And I hope to come back to you before the end of the year with some draft ideas on how a residents’ panel might work.”

Asked by *Southbank Local News* at the March 19 Future Melbourne Committee meeting for a progress report, Cr Capp threw

to planning chair Nicholas Reece who said he’d held discussions with council officers that very day.

“You’ll be pleased to know that I was in a meeting with some of the best officers of the City of Melbourne here today to work on this very idea. So, all I can say is keep the faith and watch this space,” he said.

The Lord Mayor elaborated: “The concept is something that is being explored and there are a number of elements to it.”

“There’s a process underway in terms of understanding how we can streamline planning applications and, as we go into that, we’re also looking at what communications we can do with residents on the other side as well, just to make sure that everyone is feeling very informed and involved in the process.”

Cr Reece said: “Citizens’ panels are another way of engaging residents in the review of planning applications and development ideas for a city.”

“It’s something that the Lord Mayor asked me to investigate. It just so happened that I was talking with officers of the City of Melbourne about the idea today.”

Haig St snapped up

One of the last key remaining Southbank sites at 65-71 Haig St was purchased by a Malaysian developer last month.

Developer Hattan Land has purchased the site, which is currently partly home to Southbank’s Backlot Studios cinema, for a reported sum of \$15.8 million.

The site’s previous owner Sunvale Development had received planning approval for a 55 storey (170-metre high) residential tower, comprising 361 units.

In a statement last month, Hatten Land said it intended to develop a mixed-use development on the land, which may comprise retail and hospitality.

Hatten Land executive chairman and managing director Datuk Colin Tan said the proposed investment marked Hatten’s first foray into the Australian real estate market.

“We observed that Melbourne has been an increasingly popular overseas property destination for high net-worth Singaporeans and Malaysians who favour the city for its good yield, liquid markets and promising prospects for rental yield,” he said.



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Montague development driving Fishermans Bend

The Montague Precinct continues to provide optimism for future development in Fishermans Bend, with another sod turned on a new development in Thistlethwaite St last month.

Construction of the new Lilix development at 51-59 Thistlethwaite St is now underway, with Spec Property, a development arm of Samma Group, marking the milestone with a sod turning ceremony on March 13.

The event was attended by chair of the Fishermans Bend development board Meredith Sussex and general manager of the Fishermans Bend taskforce Paul Byrne, who moved earth alongside Spec Property director Simon Abdelmalak.

Mr Abdelmalak described the ceremony as a significant endorsement in the government's vision to create a beautifully designed urban renewal area for Fishermans Bend.

"As a developer, we are excited about the opportunities in Fishermans Bend and Lilix will be a significant project in the Montague Precinct," he said. "As construction has begun on Lilix, Spec Property is getting on with the process of creating something special at Fishermans Bend."

"Spec Property strongly believes in the future vision of Fishermans Bend and in total we have over \$250 million worth of development planned for this precinct and we are looking forward to working with government on progressing our plans."

The \$61 million Lilix project, which will include 94 apartments, is already more than 80 per cent sold, according to the developer. It's the newest project and the first development to begin construction in Fishermans Bend since the state government introduced new planning controls.

While the state government's decision to freeze 26 planning applications in February 2018 has seen development stagnate across



General manager of the Fishermans Bend taskforce Paul Byrne, Spec Property director Simon Abdelmalak and Fishermans Bend development board chair Meredith Sussex turn the sod on Lilix (below) last month.



the precinct since the new controls were introduced in October, development in Montague continues.

The few unfrozen applications to have submitted amended plans are all located in Montague, namely Normanby Rd.

Speaking to *Southbank Local News* last month, Meredith Sussex said that developers felt that Montague and South Melbourne represented an "extraordinary development opportunity right now".

Since the completion of the new South Melbourne Primary School and Kirrip Park on Ferrars St, development has ramped up

in the precinct, which is also well serviced by public transport.

Construction has started on developments on the corner of Boundary and Thistlethwaite streets, the corner of Thistlethwaite and Ferrars streets and at 202 Normanby Rd. These will follow the already-completed Gravity Tower and Nightfall developments on Gladstone St.

Marketing also continues to ramp up for a number of other projects, including Fifteen85 (15-85 Gladstone St), South (15 Thistlethwaite St) and Normanby (199 Normanby Rd), which are all due to start construction this year.

Calls for climate action

By Kevin Jingga

Climate change is at the top of a list of issues the City of Melbourne will present to the major parties contesting the up-coming federal election.

Councillors have compiled a list of 19 issues ranging across climate and environment, transportation, social security and community services, education, employment, Aboriginal Melbourne, arts and planning.

Speaking at the March 19 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, Cr Rohan Leppert said: "It is absolutely appalling that our federal government has been asleep at the wheel on carbon emissions regulation or a market for it."

"I hope that this federal election will be fought on climate change and not on who can be the meanest to which particular minority," he said.

Chair of the environment portfolio, Cr Cathy Oke said the CBD climate change protest on March 15 was an "amazing display" of young people in the City of Melbourne.

"It really shouldn't have had to happen and they shouldn't have had to do that and if we actually had a government that did accept the scientific consensus of climate change then they wouldn't have had to skip school," Cr Oke said.

The questions for federal parties were prepared by councillors and set out Melbourne's priority issues for the city.

Chairing the meeting, Lord Mayor Sally Capp said: "This gives us an opportunity to bring together in one platform a number of the issues that are more important to us as councillors in our roles as chairs of portfolios, in our roles as representatives of our citizens, in our roles as citizens ourselves in the things that are important for our futures."

Responses from parties will be posted on the City of Melbourne website without editorial comment, and retained online for the term of the 46th Parliament.

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The conservatorium's oculus window closed during a performance.



The oculus opens. The window will look out onto a new outdoor performance space, cafe and linear park.

Students move in!

From page 1.

The facility's completion is a huge boost for the Arts Precinct and Sturt St's ongoing transformation into the precinct's creative spine. With a new linear park linking Sturt St to Dodds St and the new park along Southbank Boulevard soon to come, the conservatorium forms an important part of Southbank's evolution.

Faculty of Fine Arts and Music Dean Barry Conyngham said the conservatorium was one of Australia's first music education institutions and continues to be one of the most internationally-prestigious, providing cutting-edge facilities for students.

"With a student cohort that has increased by two thirds since 2010, the new conservatorium will allow us to teach, rehearse, perform and record like never before," he said.

"Currently, the faculty has over 40,000 campus visitors a year and hosts more than 220 events, which will now be expanded with a public program of events at the conservatorium that will enrich Melbourne's thriving cultural scene."

One of the major funders, whose significant donation helped make the new

conservatorium possible was president of the Myer Foundation Martyn Myer.

"I'm so proud of this beautiful building," Mr Myer said. "It is a wonderful example of how philanthropy can support the creation of valuable infrastructure, and in this case, provide world-class learning experiences for students and staff."

In addition to accommodating around 80 to 100 students at Melba Hall at the Parkville campus, the conservatorium can now integrate over 1000 enrolled music students and 6600 students from the other faculties across two campuses.

The building was designed by award-winning John Wardle Architects, constructed by Lendlease and the integration of superior acoustic spaces designed by Marshall Day.

The conservatorium also boasts one of the world's largest oculus windows – six metres in diameter – and includes a 400-seat cantilevered auditorium, a 200-seat ground floor studio and rehearsal spaces for teaching, performing, recording and research.

The Ian Potter Southbank Centre will be officially opened on Saturday, June 1.



Faculty of Fine Arts and Music Dean Barry Conyngham and Myer Foundation president Martyn Myer AO.



The new 400-seat auditorium.



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A priority precinct

The Minister for Priority Precincts, Gavin Jennings, and Fishermans Bend Development Board chair, Meredith Sussex, have reinforced the government's intentions for a world-class employment and innovation cluster in Fishermans Bend.

Speaking at a Committee for Economic Development Australia (CEDA) event on March 14, *Unlocking Innovation and Jobs for Melbourne*, Mr Jennings said the new priority precincts portfolio emphasised the importance his government was placing in areas such as Fishermans Bend.

While much of the discussion around Fishermans Bend to date has been based around planning the four community precincts of Montague, Sandridge, Lorimer and Wirraway, the Employment Precinct has largely gone under the public radar.

Moderated by AECOM's director for cities Australia and New Zealand Tim O'Loan, who authored the 2018 report *Transforming Fishermans Bend*, the CEDA event discussed the growing importance of creating national employment and innovation clusters (NEICs).

Released in November last year, Mr O'Loan's report made a number of recommendations in support of the state government's plans for an NEIC in the Employment Precinct, as outlined in its recast vision for Fishermans Bend.

These included attracting leading domestic and international universities, focusing on the advanced industrial and manufacturing sector and investing in the precinct as a test bed location for emerging technologies. It also recommended to actively include the creative industries.



Minister Gavin Jennings and Fishermans Bend Development Board chair Meredith Sussex speak at the CEDA event.

While the government has already made significant investments in the Employment Precinct, namely the purchasing of the General Motors Holden (GMH) site, the report also highlighted the importance of engaging with existing businesses to develop the NEIC.

Mr Jennings told the CEDA event that the NEIC in Fishermans Bend would bring together facets of a quality community and cultural life and infrastructure, which were all precursors to innovation and collaboration.

"This [priority precincts] is a very important concept beyond the precincts that I'm formally responsible for in the first instance," he said. "Arden-Macauley, Fishermans Bend, Parkville and Richmond to Docklands are, in fact, the formal areas that I will be spending a majority of my focus in what I describe as trying to bring the alchemy together."

"This is in terms of the national employment and innovation clusters, in terms of the value creation that we actually want to create in those precincts as the exemplar and the role models for how this can be applied with the university sector and the roll out of the suburban rail loop."

Ms Sussex told the audience that the investment from the University of Melbourne in building its new engineering campus at



Minister Luke Donnellan and Arts Centre Melbourne CEO Claire Spencer tour the facility last month.

the GMH site, as well as interest from other organisations, were encouraging signs for a NEIC in Fishermans Bend.

While she acknowledged that future development, both communally and commercially, hinged greatly on the delivery of key infrastructure such as Melbourne Metro 2, she said the NEIC concept itself was still being grappled with internationally.

"The notion is that if we bring people, who are smart people, together with a place and ways of making people and place collide and together with investment you get a whole different level of activity," she said.

"We are really lucky in Fishermans Bend that we already have a strong base of innovative inventive industries that are driving innovation in day-to-day work. What we're trying to do now is bring that together around the 'place' and particularly in the employment precinct."

The Fishermans Bend Taskforce has started operations under the newly-created Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) and will continue to work closely with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) on the remaining planning tasks, including assessment of development proposals and precinct implementation plans.

A more accessible Arts Centre

By Sakshi Agrawal

Southbank's Arts Precinct has recently become home to the latest Changing Places facility located at Hamer Hall in Arts Centre Melbourne.

This state-of-the-art changing room and toilet facility is bigger than normal toilets and also has additional features like a tracking hoist and full-sized change tables to cater to the needs of people with a disability.

The Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers, Luke Donnellan, said: "Hamer Hall is one of Australia's great concert venues and this fantastic new facility makes it accessible for the whole Victorian community."

Arts Centre Melbourne is receiving \$100,000 for the facility from the Victorian Government's statewide fund of \$2.6 million for the Changing Places initiative.

"Changing Places plays an essential role in positive, social inclusion and encouraging the participation of people with a disability, their families and carers in our city's cultural life and in particular the Melbourne Arts Precinct," Arts Centre Melbourne CEO Claire Spencer said.

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Election investigation raises more questions than it answers

By Shane Scanlan

The Local Government Inspectorate has warned five local property managers for voting in last year's City of Melbourne election on behalf of landlords.

And, while the authorities are hailing the result as evidence of an untainted outcome, the inspectorate has cast a cloud over the integrity of its work by refusing to divulge its methodology or even talk about the investigation.

The inspectorate launched an investigation last year following *Southbank Local News's* coverage of the City of Melbourne's lord mayoral election.

The inspectorate found that 41 ballots had been signed and returned on behalf of landlords, but said the agents involved did not intend to break the law.

"This issue has arisen from a misunderstanding of the electoral laws," said chief municipal inspector David Wolf.

Mr Wolf said: "Our investigation did not uncover any systemic or intentional ballot fraud."

But the inspectorate refuses to say how, or even if it looked for systemic fraud.

The 41 cases were reported to it by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC). These examples were obvious to the commission because they were signed by property managers on behalf of voters.

A VEC spokesperson told *Southbank Local News*: "It was during this process that the



VEC identified ballot material as being defective on the basis that the declaration signatures had been authorised by property managers."

"Where the name of the voter printed on the declaration envelope is clearly different to the name represented [on] the declaration envelope - it is put aside and not included in the count."

Southbank Local News asked the inspectorate whether it had actually looked beyond what had been provided to it by the VEC. It refused to answer.

An inspectorate spokesperson said: "There's nothing further that we can add."

But more than 8000 ballots were posted to third parties to on-post to voters and it is widely accepted that the time allocated for these voter to finally post their completed ballots to the VEC is potentially inadequate.

Southbank Local News understands that about a quarter of these ballots were returned and included in the final count.

So we pointed out to the inspectorate that it would have been relatively simple to check whether an unusually high proportion of ballots were returned by a particular third-party agency - thereby triggering a more vigorous investigation.

An inspectorate spokesperson said: "There's nothing further we wish to comment on."

By refusing to discuss the subject, the inspectorate has engineered a situation where the public doesn't know whether third parties intent on illegally manipulating the outcome were active or successful.

But this hasn't stopped the City of Melbourne hailing the outcome as a victory for the electoral system.

CEO Justin Hanney said: "We are pleased that the investigation has shown there was no systemic or intentional ballot fraud and we will work with the Local Government Inspectorate to raise property managers' and agents' understanding of electoral laws." "Importantly, the Victorian Electoral Commission detected and excluded the relevant ballot papers thereby ensuring that the election outcome was not affected. Publication of the investigation outcome should reinforce voters' confidence in our electoral system and regulatory processes."

But not everyone is buying the story.

Cr Rohan Leppert told *Southbank Local News*: "I believe that the extent of the problem is far greater than the 41 ballots discovered to have been incorrectly handled."

"The weaknesses in the City of Melbourne's unique electoral system have been known for a very long time, but the state government has shown no appetite to address them."

"Thousands of ballot papers are sent to property managers, rather than directly to voters. Just one property manager in Southbank receives nearly 2000 ballot papers, all delivered to the one address."

"Obviously this creates the potential for fraud, and while I am not suggesting that there has been any malicious behaviour in this case, it's a risk that should be removed for future elections."

"The electoral system as a whole should of course be reviewed - something I have been calling for consistently for more than 10 years. I don't think government can justify so many anomalies and special provisions just for the City of Melbourne."

The VEC told *Southbank Local News*: "The VEC has a comprehensive integrity program for each election which includes supervision of ballot pack deliveries, signature and date of birth checking of returned declaration envelopes against enrolment data, and investigation of instances where voters claim not to have received their ballot material."

But in City of Melbourne elections, the VEC does not have signatures or dates of birth for most eligible voters.

The inspectorate said that, while a prima facie breach of the electoral provisions had been substantiated by its investigation, it opted not to pursue prosecution against the property managers.

Formal warnings have been issued to five people and the inspectorate says it has also provided guidance to ensure property managers understand and follow relevant electoral rules.



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Magic at the lunch table

The Welcome Dinner Project held an international student welcome lunch on March 10 at the Boyd Community Hub, attracting more than 30 participants.

Its student pilot program was initiated in late 2018 to help newly-arrived international students connect with established Australians.

“The point is for international students to connect with local Australians over a shared meal – in someone’s home or in a trusted community space like a library, town hall or community centre,” said student pilot project manager James Seow.

“Everyone brings a dish that tells story about their life, family or culture, to share with everyone in the group.”

“Magic happens at the dinner table. When we eat together, when we share a meal, somehow, we are more receptive to the exchange of ideas, opinions, perspectives, life experiences and so on.”

Seeing the enormous potential in promoting a sense of belonging to the community and enhancing social capital, Study Melbourne and City of Melbourne also came on board to support the program.

Wurundjeri elder Aunty Julieanne Axford started the event with a beautiful Welcome to Country.

A Taiwanese student was delighted by the opportunity to practise speaking English with local residents.



The lunch crew and volunteers at Boyd Community Hub last month.

Australian Jan Rees spoke of her first experience of a community welcome lunch: “I was impressed by the friendly, happy atmosphere and everybody being with everybody. I thought it was a really wonderful occasion.”

Mr Seow said when the international student program started last August it joined the project’s existing streams: skilled migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

His first welcome dinner was three years ago in St Kilda.

“It was a huge one, I saw it in my council

newsletter,” he said.

“The guests came from all over the world and at the end of the dinner I felt very encouraged, because there is a global climate of alienation and division between people of different cultures.”

“They welcome strangers into their own homes, everyone brings a dish that tells a story to share with the entire group.”

Prompted by the event description to bring something from his culture, Mr Seow brought sago pudding.

“I’m from Singapore, I’m three quarters Chinese and one quarter Peranakan,” he said.

“It’s a culture that’s indigenous to Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore.”

Trained volunteers professionally facilitate the project’s events.

A Bolivian volunteer, Cecilia Rios Teran, said the project helped bring her out of the often-isolated life of an international student.

“It’s true, we’re always with other international students. I would go from class to my room to class to my room and so on,” she said.

“I wasn’t as confident talking with Australians as with other international students.”

Ms Teran saw the Welcome Dinner Project on Facebook. During a phone conversation with Mr Seow, she was asked to cook something from her culture for her first event. She brought a dish with quinoa.

Since then, she’s established an array of networks, connections and friendships.

To participate in the next welcome lunch in your neighbourhood visit www.welcomedinnerproject.org or www.facebook.com/wdpvictoria



Southbank
Residents Association

Meet the Federal Election Candidates



The Federal Election in May 2019 has been announced and we’re inviting all Southbank residents to put their questions directly to candidates from the three major political parties for the seat of Macnamara in this open forum:

- Kate Ashmor (Liberal)
- Josh Burns (Labor)
- Steph Hodgins-May (Greens)

This event will be moderated by Bernadene Voss, two-term Councillor and three-time Mayor in the City of Port Phillip. A successful businesswoman, Bernadene has been a resident for 20 years in the electorate of Macnamara.

Registration plus tea & coffee are available from 6.15pm, for a 6.30pm event start.

Date: Tuesday 16 April
Time: 6.30pm – 8.30pm
Venue: Community Facility at South Melbourne Primary School
Address: 129 Ferrars Street, Southbank, VIC 3006

Note: The school is at the North end of Ferrars St. The number 96 tram stops at the other side of the school in Whiteman St. There is free street parking available after 6pm.

Book your spot at:
<https://sra-mtc-fed2019.eventbrite.com>

This free community event is an initiative of the Southbank Residents Association.

For more information call 03 9028 2774, or email info@southbankresidents.com.au

Printed and circulated with the assistance of a Melbourne City Council community grant

Heritage protected

By Sakshi Agrawal

The Port Phillip Council has endorsed the inclusion of the pair of shops and residences at 588-590 City Rd in the Montague Precinct into its planning scheme heritage overlay.

Heritage overlay means that for any future developments on a building, some aspects have to be retained.

The double-storey bluestone shop and residence is situated on the northern side of City Rd, between Montague St and Boundary St.

The history of this block dates back to the late 1800s when Sandridge Rd (former name of City Rd) extended from St Kilda Rd to the corner of Boundary Rd and Crockford St. On the north side of Sandridge Rd, many industries became established but the south side remained empty.

The two bluestone shops and residences were built in 1879 and later became 588-590 City Rd. They had joined a cohort of furniture dealers, architects, tailors, grocers, butchers, druggist and many more.

Context Pty Ltd, in its full heritage assessment, said the shopfronts had been remodelled, but the upper facade of both were intact – and this represented simple commercial facade of the pre-1880 period. The windows in number 590 have been replaced but in 588 the windows maybe



588-590 City Rd in the Montague Precinct.

original, with an addition of window hoods.

Today, the pair of shops and residences is one of the rare remaining examples of the commercial buildings as seen in the period of 1880s.



A City of Melbourne map highlighting locations of speed advisory signage (SA1 and SA2) and loggers (T1 and T2).

Cycle speed study

By Rowan Webb

The City of Melbourne is conducting a cycle speed study along Southbank Promenade in April that will run for five weeks.

According to council data from 2017, more than 2000 cyclists travelled in and out of the city using either side of the Yarra River trail or St Kilda Rd during peak hours every day, making Southbank the most densely populated for cyclists in the municipality.

Starting on April 1, specific traffic logger tubes will be laid in two locations in order to monitor cyclists' speeds and data gathered from the study will assist in informing the long-term safety strategy for the area.

Yarra River Business Association's (YRBA) executive officer Tim Bracher commended the council study.

"A quantitative behavioural study of cycling on that section of the promenade will inform any new amelioration work

needed to address any problem" Mr Bracher said.

The study will analyse the influence of dynamic and pavement signage on reducing the number of cyclists speeding along Southbank Promenade and will be completed in three phases:

Monday, April 1 – Sunday, April 7: Monitoring of current cyclist speeds

Monday, April 8 – Sunday, April 28: Installation of two temporary trailer based dynamic speed advisory signs

Monday, April 29 – Sunday, May 5: Installation of permanent advisory signs on the pavement.

A council spokesperson said that there was no plan in place to implement permanent bans on cyclists on the promenade.

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Erections!

Now that we have your attention, there is a new exhibition currently taking place at a Southbank gallery, which explores man's love of high-rise.

Eureka Tower, Australia 108 and Prima Pearl are some of the iconic members of Melbourne's skyline to feature in the art show at Melbournestyle Gallery at 155 Clarendon St, Southbank.

Artist and writer Maree Coote, who has spent much of her life following her beloved city of Melbourne, has created an exhibition themed on "Melbourne Buildings Men", with the cheeky title *Erections*.

Incorporating a series of mixed-media artworks and a new ceramic collection, Maree told *Southbank Local News* that the show celebrated some of the modern symbols of the city that she loved.

"Melbourne is always my inspiration," she said. Every time I've looked at the skyline since I was a kid and more so now I can't help but see the buildings as giants standing on the horizon and they're automatically male to me."

"It led me into this imagery of the buildings with suits on and being masters of the universe kind of standing there on the CBD the way they do, to me they are personified."

Featuring everyone from the "old gentleman" like Manchester Unity in a pinstripe suit to the "young-blades" like

Australia 108 in flash suits, Maree said the works sought to bring every building's personality to life.

The exhibition will be on display at Melbournestyle until June. For more information or to view some of the works visit melbournestyle.com.au



Artist and Melbournestyle co-owner Maree Coote alongside 'Eureka Man'.



The "Coffee Zombie" herself! Artist Suhasini Seelin on set in Southbank with her Achilles' heel...coffee!

Meet the Coffee Zombie

Born in Southbank, the Coffee Zombie is a character that can't function without coffee.

Actor Suhasini Seelin created the Youtube mini-series *Coffee Zombie* with photographer and videographer Wilari Tedjosiswoyo when she was artist in residence at the Boyd Community Hub last year.

Filmed in various locations around Southbank, the fun and quirky mini-series is now preparing for its second season, having launched the first eight-episode season from February 4 to 10.

It is fair to say that there is a little bit of

Coffee Zombie in all of us. While largely improvised and unscripted, Suhasini said whether it was dependence or sustainability, every episode had a little meaning of its own.

"It's highlighting our current life and I feel like we've become so dependent," she said. "You can even stretch the metaphor to technology and it seems like we always need something to keep us going. Can we take ourselves out of it?"

The Coffee Zombie is also a waste warrior, according to Susahini. Keep cups feature heavily in the series, with different brands said to feature prominently in season two.

To watch season one search 'Coffee Zombie' on YouTube or follow [@coffeezombie.melbourne](https://www.instagram.com/coffeezombie.melbourne) on Instagram.



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THEARTS PRECINCT



YIRRAMBOI FESTIVAL 2019

By Sakshi Agrawal

Australia's premier first peoples' art and cultural event, YIRRAMBOI Festival, will fill Southbank and the city with close to 100 events across 25 different venues from May 2 to 12.

Curated by creative director, Boonwurrung woman Caroline Martin, the 2019 program is packed with free and low-cost events across dance, music, film, theatre, exhibitions, fashion parades, markets, talks and symposia.

Ms Martin said that, in the shared languages of the Boonwurrung and Woiwurrung people, YIRRAMBOI means "tomorrow" and the program was all about what's next.

"While the cultures belong to first peoples, it is our shared history, and our chance to create the vision for the future," Ms Martin said.

Having a future-focused celebration, it will showcase and demonstrate the diversity and evolution of the longest living cultures of first peoples and also the unique talents, innovative and modern practices of first nations' creative people.

Witness-acclaimed international acts include 13 artists from Taiwan's Pulima Arts Festival, while Canada's Talk is Free Theatre will be staged on a moving bus.

The festival's hub, YIRRAMBOI Weelam, will be housed in North Melbourne's Meat Market. The location will have food stalls, bars, and communal fire in the courtyard where the audience can cosy up before and after shows at the venue.

The venue will have a range of events like live music from Bad Apples Music House Party, talent-based beauty pageant Miss First Nation, and many more.

Learn about the "Six Seasons of Kulin" and have a bush food experience of the first nations' people at Royal Botanic Gardens. On May 4, The Art Centre Melbourne's Hamer Hall will be taken over by Yothu Yindi's *The Treaty Project* and *Dis Rupt* performed by a team of 10 emerging artists led by Kate ten Buuren.

Other events at Southbank are *Negotiating*

Home X Red Earth, a dance piece by artists Carly Sheppard and Watan Tusi, which also includes a First Nations' Dance and Music Workshop by them at Chunky Move Studio on May 10 and 11. The Bombini Buzz at Arts Centre Melbourne will feature Tiriki Onus on May 8 and Rachael Maza on May 9 who will share stories about the Blak culture in Australia.

Experience contemporary Hawaiian music on May 8, with transgender mother daughter duo, Kekuhi and Kanaka'ole, as they perform *Kaumakaiwa Kanaka'ole* at the Melbourne Recital Centre's Elizabeth Murdoch Hall. Portland's premier drag clown performer, Anthony Hudson, will take over The Wheeler Centre on May 11 with his workshop that explores the history and future of drag and gender. Not only enclosed locations, but also the underpass at Flinders Street Station will feature Kabu Kabi avant-composer, William Elm, who will perform *Yauar*, a durational musical drone on May 4.

One highlight of the festival, as part of the Knowledge Industry Network (KIN) initiative, will feature works by four emerging Victorian-based practitioners - Kalaji's *Night River* will be the first major work under the musical alias of Helpman Award winning

actor *Mark Coles Smith*, *Blood Quantum* performed by Ngioka Bunda-Heath, *Daddy* by Jeol Bray will examine colonial condition and a solo act on the theme of suicide by Jack Sheppard.

The Melbourne Town Hall will be filled with two world premiere performances of Naretha William's *Black Mass*, a sound-work which considers the Grand Organ as a significant symbol of European domination, and Dan Sultan, an ARIA award-winning rock legend who will be supported by Alice Skye and Kalaji.

Another highlight is the International Year of Indigenous Languages, which will be honoured by The Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages (VACL) by presenting two symposiums by Lee Healy and Harley Dunolly-Lee. They will be exploring how the languages of First Nations are essential to cultural strengthening, health and wellbeing, education and reconciliation.

The YIRRAMBOI festival is rich in history, yet innovative and will bring the Aboriginal culture to all Melburnians. A chance for everyone to celebrate together, it has something for everyone.

yirramboi.net.au

Alexander Calder paraphrased

By Rhonda Dredge

If you want to capture the essence of Alexander Calder you need to begin in one place then move forward without lifting your pen off the page, unless you're at the NGV when you must use a pencil.

If you are three-quarters of the way through the exhibition you will not want to retrace your steps to get one.

Continuous line drawing is at the heart of student sketching and Calder was a master.

The line work of this American artist from Connecticut is superb, full of swirls and wild dashes but also complex crossings, repetitions and knots.

In a sculptural piece in which he claimed to have invented a new art form, he cut up his aluminium boat, sculpted the pieces into pleasing shapes than joined them with rigid pieces of wire.

The work, called *Constellation with Red Knife*, also includes carved hardwood in abstract forms and the wires not only serve to keep the pieces in place but also create a solid empty space which is quite relaxing.

How can a thin piece of wire allow enough separation between forms to serve as a protective device?

Calder's work is moving, pre-dating as it does, the advent of social mechanisms to break down the barriers between galleries and the public.

He was encouraged by his artist mother to be clever and even at the age of 11 was working out how to turn a piece of tin into an animal with minimal cuts.

A craven attempt at impressing his mum is still impressing viewers today, judging by the rapt attention of an art student from RMIT who had been to the lecture the night before and was on the steps of the gallery the moment it opened this morning.

Relevance is an important criteria for selecting artists to show at the NGV with many students getting their inspiration from what is imported from overseas where more radical and, often more modest, movements



have prospered, or at least been able to grow without too much condemnation.

According to the student, Calder sold just 300 of the 23,000 pieces he made during his lifetime, which included mobiles, illustrations, paintings, jewellery and sculpture.

The impression the exhibition gives of his character is one of radical innovation but really, from the distance of 80 years, his work seems quite constrained and that is its beauty.

You won't see Alexander Calder self-promoting. In fact he was far too shy to share any of his jewellery with the public or manufacturers, instead giving it away to friends and family for special occasions.

Even at his largest in scale, Calder was almost heart-rendingly true to his original sheet metal cutting days. He managed to making a rocking duck with just four bends



and eight cuts out of a sheet and it's this parsimony that is so clever and was at the heart of the Modernist revolution.

The RMIT student said it was almost impossible to be an artist now because art was so much part of society rather than a small gesture with a pair of metal-cutters.

Calder is credited with the invention of the mobile or perhaps it was Duchamp who gave him this label in a gentle swipe at the artist who is featured in a black and white film bending wire while wearing a suit.

The curators have used a quote by Calder as an endnote to the exhibition in which he suggests that it would be silly to look for meaning in his work.

That is a paraphrase so if you want the original you'll have to see it for yourself.

Alexander Calder: *Radical Inventor*, NGV International, until August 4.



Jazz Day

An all-star global concert, featuring Herbie Hancock, James Morrison, Dee Dee Bridgewater and Kurt Elling plus other international artists, will highlight the 2019 International Jazz Day festival on April 30 at Hamer Hall.

The festival will present over 30 world-renowned jazz artists from more than a dozen countries and will be celebrated in more than 190 countries worldwide and can be streamed via YouTube, Facebook, the United Nations and UNESCO to millions of viewers.

Besides jazz performances, the celebrations will include other aspects such as education programs and community service initiatives in partnership with the Melbourne Conservatorium and the University of Melbourne.

In the week prior to International Jazz Day, a series of jazz performances and many outreach programs will take place in many Australian cities including Adelaide, Sydney, Perth and other cities.

International Jazz Day brings together countries and communities worldwide every April 30 to celebrate the art of jazz, highlighting its important role in encouraging dialogue, combating discrimination and promoting dignity.

This festival will warm jazz lovers up for the next Melbourne International Jazz Festival (MIJF) on May 31.

jazzday.com

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YIRRAMBOI FESTIVAL

Wed 8 May 7pm & 7.30pm

Yirramboi is Melbourne's premier festival celebrating the vibrant music and culture of First Nations artists. Featuring performances by singer-songwriter Lydia Fairhall with the Black She Oaks and contemporary transgender Hawaiian artist Kaumakaiwa Kanaka'ole.



HARTS PLAYS HENDRIX

Thu 30 May 7.30pm

Award-winning multi-instrumentalist Harts celebrates the 50-year legacy of Jimi Hendrix. The reverberations of Hendrix's astounding artistry endure today as a new generation thrive on his music. That same vivid spirit of song is heard in Australian musician Harts.



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MARTIKA SHAKOOR

Connection to culture

By Sakshi Agrawal

Martika Shakoor connects with her culture through her photography.

"I focus on different elements of my culture and how I have experienced it by growing up in a different country," she said.

A second-generation migrant, Martika was



born in Australia, with her parents migrated from Afghanistan in 1984.

The Photography Studies College (PSC) student said: "One of my folios focused on the complexities behind being a second-generation migrant, the barriers you face, the sense of assimilation but also being isolated, the urge to belong somewhere and the playing between two different cultures."

Having an interest in the documentary

side of things and photojournalism, she also tries to base a lot of her work on her personal experience.

"I use that as a vehicle to represent the wider migrant population and their experience," she said.

For Martika, photography has always been her interest but she did not pursue it until she completed her bachelor's degree in arts with a major in international studies and a



minor in human geography.

"I hesitated about it because I thought I won't have a career, so I did my bachelor's degree but then I just kept thinking about it. So, eventually I just enrolled. Now, I just can't get out. It's like once you start, you just can't leave," she said.

Martika is in the middle of the third year of her Advanced Diploma of Photography course at PSC.

She also works full-time as a paralegal support worker at an Aboriginal legal service.

"The course is amazing and it's one of the main reasons I'm still here. The learning experience has been very different from anything else that I've studied," she said.

"The tutors are very supportive and they are very real in the way they give you feedback. There are heaps of opportunities and you always get something to experience around the college."

OPEN DAY 11 MAY 2019

Clytie Meredith Michael Foxington Fabrizio Evans



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Two years of lectures to define Australian art moments

The Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA) is launching a two-year lecture series focused on the defining moments of Australian art.

Defining Moments: Australian Exhibition Histories 1968-1999 will have eight guest speakers per year – artists, curators, critics and historians – delivering hour-long lectures and conversations on pivotal moments in our art history.

“Ambitious, contested, polemical, genre-defining and genre-defying, contemporary art exhibitions have shaped and transformed the cultural landscape, along with our understanding of what constitutes art itself,” ACCA’s artistic director, Max Delany, said.

John Kaldor will give the first lecture on April 15 with respondent Rebecca Coates discussing Christo and Jeanne-Claude’s *Wrapped Coast 1968-69*.

Fifty years ago, John Kaldor invited the French artists to Australia to wrap two-and-a-half kilometres of coast at Sydney’s Little Bay.

It was the first major installation for Kaldor Public Art Projects, the now internationally renowned art organisation. Mr Kaldor will discuss the monumental event that started it all.

“Beginning with an in-depth discussion around Christo and Jeanne-Claude’s *Wrapped Coast – One Square Million Feet*, the 2019 program will take us to a series of sites beyond the museum, with a focus on exhibitions and projects that took place outside of conventional institutional frameworks,” Mr Delany said.

The 2019 series will focus on the period from 1968 to 1981:

Monday, April 15: Christo and Jeanne-Claude, *Wrapped Coast 1968-69*

Lecture by John Kaldor, with respondent Rebecca Coates;



Christo directing work at Wrapped Coast, One Million Square Feet, Little Bay, Sydney, Australia, 1969. Photograph: Shunk-Kender © 1969 Christo

Monday, April 29: *Digging for Honey Ants: the Papunya mural project*

Lecture by John Kean, with respondent Hannah Presley;

Monday, June 3: *Object and Idea*

Lecture by Ian Milliss;

Monday, July 8: *Inhibodress*, multimedia interference

Lecture by Peter Kennedy, with respondent Sue Cramer;

Monday, August 5: *Clifton Hill Community Music Centre 1976-83*

Lecture by David Chesworth;

Monday, September 3: *Almost Anything Goes: Sculpturescape 1975 at Mildura*

Lecture Julie Ewington;

Monday, October 7: *A room of their own* creating a space for the feminist collective

Lecture by Janine Burke, with respondent Helen Hughes;

Monday, November 4: *Post Object Art in Australia and New Zealand*

Lecture by Anne Marsh .

Bookings: [eventbrite.com.au/e/defining-moments-australian-exhibition-histories-1968-1999-tickets-58349257199](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/defining-moments-australian-exhibition-histories-1968-1999-tickets-58349257199)



Yothu Yindi & The Treaty Project

Eight-time ARIA Award winner Yothu Yindi returns to Hamer Hall on May 4 in a new electronica-driven formation called Yothu Yindi & The Treaty Project.

Founding members of Yothu Yindi and the next generation of indigenous stars will be joined together on stage to perform classic hits with an electronic twist.

Yothu Yindi & The Treaty Project was launched in 2017 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Yothu Yindi’s *Treaty* remix and raise awareness about a push for a treaty with the Australia’s First Nations people.

Rounding out the line-up is multi-instrumentalist and current musical director of Circus Oz, Ania Reynolds, Stu Kellaway’s son Roy Kellaway on guitar, along with DJ / producer Gavin Campbell on additional percussion and the Toraiiz SP-16 sampler.

Special guests Shane Howard and Emma Donovan will also be there.

Do not miss the opportunity to see *Yothu Yindi & The Treaty Project* live. [artscentremelbourne.com.au](https://www.artscentremelbourne.com.au)

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CHINA/HONG KONG TOUR INFO NIGHT

May 1 - Photography Studies College
Immerse yourself in modern and ancient sights, people, culture and landscapes in Southern China and Hong Kong. Find out more about this tour at our info night. Registration essential. Tour departs September 15.

psc.edu.au



ECSTASY TOUR BY SARTAAJ

April 28 - Elisabeth Murdoch Hall
A multi-gifted artist, artist, songwriter, singer, composer and poet, Dr. Satinder Sartaa possesses an unprecedented list of achievements and remains in the forefront of his craft, a true inspiration.

melbournerecital.com.au



TOM NICHOLSON: PUBLIC MEETING

Until June 16 - ACCA
Reflecting the complex dynamic between historical traces and speculative futures in Tom Nicholson's drawing, sculptural and social practice, this is the first large-scale exhibition to survey the scope of the artist's practice. Initially trained in drawing, a tradition that deeply informs his practice, Tom Nicholson is one of the most prominent Australian artists on the international stage.

acca.melbourne



PAUL FOOT

April 9 - 21 - The Famous Spiegeltent
The multi-award-winning and critically-acclaimed Paul Foot returns to Melbourne! Paul is a BBC New Comedy Award and Daily Telegraph Open Mike winner, has been nominated twice for the Barry Award at Melbourne International Comedy Festival and was voted Best of The Fest and Best International Act at the 2013 Sydney and Perth Comedy Festivals respectively.

artscentremelbourne.com.au

AUSTRALIAN MUSIC VAULT

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

australianmusicvault.com.au

MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL

Until 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

ANZAC DAY PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

April 23 - 26 - Photography Studies College
Join our two highly acclaimed documentary photographers Michael Coyne and David Callow on this three day workshop (one evening and two days) and learn the methods and techniques of documentary photography as you photograph Anzac Day 2019.

psc.edu.au

NATIONAL ANTHEM AND A NEW ORDER

Until July 7 - Buxton Contemporary
Buxton Contemporary, home to the remarkable Michael Buxton Collections, marks its first birthday with two new exhibitions: *National Anthem* and *A New Order*, running until July. 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.

buxtoncontemporary.com



SINGLE ASIAN FEMALE

Until April 21 - Fairfax Studio
Step into the after-hours of a suburban Chinese restaurant and meet a family of whip smart women who are definitely talking about you in their native tongue. Skewering race and gender in contemporary Australia, Michelle Law's debut play is presented as part of Melbourne International Comedy Festival, following a sold out season in Sydney's Belvoir Theatre.

artscentremelbourne.com.au



TRANSIENTS

April 26 - Primrose Potter Salon
Following the passing of esteemed mentor Allan Browne in 2015, Andrea Keller created *Transients*, a series of trios inspired by Browne's musical philosophy. Dedicated to a collective approach to music making, the trios stem from a jazz tradition, which they interpret with an uninhibited, and often unconventional, Australian accent.

melbournerecital.com.au



THE TEMPLE

May 3 - 26 - Beckett Theatre
Join an orgy of comedic performers for a short course on how to be human. Everything's set for a group session of gags, traumas, banter and tantrums—each as hysterical as the last. Dubliner Gavin Quinn concocts a wild Irish brew with Australian ingredients.

malthousetheatre.com.au



LIN ONUS

April 5 to May 11 - Margaret Lawrence Gallery
The work of Yorta Yorta artist and activist Lin Onus (1948-1996) is a blend of traditional and contemporary imagery. Photorealist painted landscapes are overlaid with intricate cross hatching to create shimmering surfaces that suggest contrasting understanding of place, time and spirituality.

finearts-music.unimelb.edu.au/margaret-lawrence-gallery

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Talking to our prejudices

By Rhonda Dredge

Kate Just has just emerged from a lecture and she's in a hurry. Her lecture notes are flapping and she's still carrying a glass of water. She's late for her next teaching session.

The life of an academic is not all peaceful pondering over big theoretical questions.

If you're a lecturer in visual arts you have to keep your name out there.

In a knowledge-based industry such as higher ed, communication skills may be as important as technical ones. Students respond well to academics who can get their message across.

Dr Kate Just is undeniably a good communicator. When she finished her talk at Federation Hall last month, she invited hecklers to have their say. No-one took up her offer even though the hall was packed.

The only person to offer a critical comment was a quiet little mouse of a bloke who came up to the podium after and expressed his admiration for the structure.

Dr Just was quite surprised. Even though she is disarming with her cheeky confidence and command of feminist rhetoric, she said: "Thank god that's over." She wasn't talking about the pressure of speaking to several hundred people but to the written form of her lecture. "I have trouble with text," she said.

Dr Just teaches art at the Victorian College of the Arts, is a knitter and is the curator of the latest show at Buxton Contemporary where her commitment to both activism and satire are on display. Yet, is there something about academia that still puts off artists?

There's a formality about academic writing that can turn the particular and the anecdotal into pre-agreed generic terms such as "people of colour" or "marginalised minorities". Dr Just obviously prefers the cut and thrust and generosity of people coming



Dr Kate Just.

face-to-face.

She defended social media in an aside in her talk because it connected "people without a voice in institutions" but she expressed concern for "the 'hostility in space' and the way the lack of context makes it spiral." "It becomes an automated habit. The habitual is not as critical or deep."

Dr Just is a great fan of real dialogue. "When you're in a room together you can talk it out," she said.

This is the clue to the success of *National Anthem* as an exhibition. The works she has selected from the Buxton collection and

sources from outside the institution talk to our prejudices. That's why they're so funny.

Tracey Moffat is a mistress of self-parody. In *Useless, 1974*, under a photograph of a teenage girl pondering her situation while washing a sedan, is the caption: Her father's nickname for her was "useless".

"There is a thin line between tragic and comic," writes Moffat and this photograph, part of the *Scarred for Life* series from 1994, is a springboard for works in this exhibition which looks at the way those in power have projected their own issues onto others.

Hoda Ashfar satirically westernises women

wearing chadors in *Westoxicated* by constructing photographs of herself that explore this gaze with visual jokes and pop culture references.

In the first she turns herself into a seamstress, in the second a maternal object of desire with a bare breast and a suckling child. Then she is a Minnie Mouse complete with plastic ears, a femme fatale and even a distraught consumer sucking out of a can of Coke.

The exhibition enjoys a good neologism like *Westoxicated* and has fun with puns and phonetics. In Huong Tran Nguyen's *Like a Version*, visitors are invited to sing along to a karaoke song with a similar name while watching fragments of *Neighbours*.

Language plays a big part in satire, none more amusing than the Chinese version of the national anthem printed phonetically, but so do visual gags such as the reenactment of the Aboriginal tent embassy outside Parliament by Richard Bell complete with white plastic deck chairs and astroturf and the photograph of an outback souvenir shop by Callum Morton.

Australian nationalism and jingoism are revealed to be covers for a host of projected values, most of them kitsch. In Tony Albert's sublime *Clash*, what he calls a collage of Aboriginalia, hundred of ashtrays depicting Aborigines are stuck to the letters S and H.

The national identity of Australia emerges from this exhibition as a land occupied by knockers of all ethnic description. The indigenous contingent is pretty strong and one can only hope that we'll all eventually be as adept at self-deprecating humour.

Friends to local felines

By Asleen Mauthoor

"The naming of cats is a difficult matter" T.S. Eliot said, but choosing the business name A Cat Above for their cat-minding business was easy for Southbank residents Paula and Craig Scher, as most of their clients and their feline friends live in high-rise buildings.

"We started A Cat Above about five years ago in response to a need for our clientele to have their cats looked after in their own homes," Paula said. "This is beneficial for so many reasons: The cat has the same company every day, the cat continues to enjoy the environment they're used to and the owners have peace of mind knowing that their cat is well cared for."

The service has proved popular, as Australia

has one of the highest rates of pet ownership in the world and clients include busy professionals and cat owners taking short holidays. The feline clients are catered for in a most meticulous way.

"Our services are tiered to suit the unique personality and demeanour of the cat," Paula explained. "We've even had a client ask us to come over to entertain the cats when life got just that little bit too busy."

Cat behaviourists advise that company, stimulation and exercise are critical for the wellbeing of cats.

"This is even more important for indoor and apartment cats," Paula said. "Our first priority is the wellbeing of the animal, so we always get a full brief and understanding of the needs of the owner and cat, so that everyone benefits fully from the experience."

A Cat Above offers some unusual extra services, such as arranging Skype calls between cats and their humans, particularly when the latter are away for extended periods.



Craig and Paula Scher with one of their favourite clients Chow.

"We Skype the client from their home and place the screen where the cat can be seen by the client and give them some privacy to have a 'chat'. Some clients also love to receive video footage with commentary which we call 'KittyCam'. I even recorded the wonderful purring of one of my cat clients and sent it to his owner to listen to in an audio file," Paula said.

Remarkably, A Cat Above also organises bird-watching sessions for these well-beloved pets. Paula explained that the cat remained in its carrier, "but is able to soak up the sun and watch the birds. This is a wonderful activity full of enrichment." No birds are harmed in the course of this activity.

acatabove.com.au

Southbanker

An inspiring voice for women

By Sean Car

As society continues to make positive inroads in addressing gender inequity, it is due to fearless leaders like Karen Hayes who work tirelessly to make a difference.

While she is currently most well known for her work as the CEO of Guide Dogs Victoria, the Southbank resident of 12 years was honoured as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) on Australia Day for her long advocacy for gender equity and women in sport.

A co-founder of the Australian chapter of the International Women's Forum (IWF), her work in advocating for women's rights in a range of fields from business through to sport stems from her days as one of the founding members of Breast Cancer Network Australia (BCNA).

She has since gone on to build a reputation as an inspiring voice for women in Australia, from serving as the first female board director at the Melbourne Football Club to chairing Women of Melbourne to her work with the Women Chiefs of Enterprise International.

Having established a strong foundation for her advocacy on a long and successful career in business and technology both in Australia and overseas, she told *Southbank Local News* that she was proud to have used her professional profile for good.

"I do what I do because I love everything I do and because I really want to make a difference, particularly for young girls and women," Karen said.

"I think if you do have the honour of having some level of profile in the community then you also have a responsibility to do good and make a difference and that's what I choose to do."

"I never dreamt in a million years that I'd ever receive anything like that [AM]. I don't think anybody who is a recipient of this kind of recognition do what they do for that, so when it happens, it's actually a real surprise."

Born and raised in Kadina on the Yorke Peninsula in South Australia, Karen said strong family and community values that go with growing up in a small country town had taught her the importance of hard work and supporting others from a young age.

And growing up alongside a twin brother,



Karen Hayes AM with puppy Zorko.

she had learned early on that gender was no barrier to having her voice heard and getting what she wanted out of life. As far as the glass ceiling was concerned, she said she never looked for it.

While family and community influenced and supported her own pathway to leadership, she said that she had always felt obliged to create pathways for other women who were not as fortunate to have had the opportunities or the voice that she did.

One of those pathways has been her work for women in sport, namely football, where through her service at the Melbourne Football Club she played a leading advocacy role in the establishment of the AFLW competition.

"I'm just so proud of where women's footy has gone and what that creates for young girls and women," she said. "The fact that this now creates pathways for women, not just playing, but pathways as coaches, umpires, medical teams and a whole range of prospects across all elements of football is

just fantastic."

Locally, she is also president of the VU Western Spurs Women's Football Club, which is based in Footscray. She said that since the introduction of the AFLW, the club had grown from 60 to over 200 players.

While her advocacy for women continues through a range of initiatives, including the recent establishment of Not in My Workplace – an organisation enabling businesses and individuals to eliminate sexual harassment in the workplace – her efforts don't stop there.

As well as serving on the boards of Multiple Sclerosis Australia, Vision 2020 Australia and the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, it's her role as CEO of Guide Dogs Victoria that sees her squeeze "28 hours into a 24-hour day!"

Having served as CEO since 2011, she has led the organisation through a huge period of transformation, reflected through the upcoming redevelopment of its campus at Kew into the world's first sensory campus off the back of a \$23 million fundraising campaign.

The facility, which is due to start construction this year, will include a vet clinic, a doggy day care centre, a dog-friendly cafe and an education auditorium that will all provide revenue-generating vehicles for the organisation.

Karen described the business model as a "game-changer" for the not-for-profit sector. With only 10 per cent of Guide Dogs' funding coming from government, she said the high dependence on philanthropic funding was unsustainable for any charity.

"I think what I've brought to the organisation is a strong commercial business development, relationship management focus that is quite different in the not-for-profit sector, which has enabled us to look very differently at our business," she said.

"The sensory campus introduces a whole commercial aspect to how we're going to fund our services and it builds sustainability, predictability and diversity into our revenue

streams. It's a very different model for a not-for-profit but it's a model that others need to look at."

"It's a complete transformation of the most trusted charity in Australia to ensure that we're still going to be here 60 years from now."

Alongside her own beloved pup Willow and the 180 staff and 650 volunteers that make up Guide Dogs Victoria, she said the organisation was in good shape for the future thanks to its wonderful team.

Overall, she said that she had been blessed over her journey to be influenced, inspired and supported by good people in all aspects of life.

"People ask what are some of your real lessons in life. Number one would be surround yourself with amazing people," she said. "I've really been fortunate enough to do that. Whether it's been my family or the amazing leadership team at Guide Dogs and the Melbourne Footy Club. I was the only woman on the board back then but I had the utmost respect from all the other guys, as well as the coaches and players."

"They all knew me and I felt completely respected and my view respected even though I didn't know a lot about football, they really respected what I brought to the organisation and I really am thankful for that."

As for her message to other women wanting to make a difference, she says to believe in yourself and have a go.

"It's very Australian isn't it? You just have a go," she said. "Women are their own greatest critics. I don't think I've ever accepted a role that I thought I could do. But you just say, I'm going to give this a go and see how it goes and, invariably, you're great at it!"

"It's quite different from guys who say 'I'm going to be great at this' whereas most women do have this confidence thing. But it's about giving it a go and seeing where it leads you."

"Just get out there and make a difference! It really is about having that attitude."

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Anna, mum of Indigo, 3 years old

Southbank Residents Association

Meeting with Foley

Last month I met with our local parliamentary member, Martin Foley, for some updates on what is happening, or likely to happen, in and around Southbank during this next term of government.

Fortunately for Southbank, Martin has retained the arts portfolio (Creative Industries). Martin has been a great advocate for the arts. I suppose when the bulk of the arts institutions are in your electorate, it would be hard not to be. He also retains mental health and equality.

You may recall in last month's column, I expressed my curiosity with what deals may have been done behind the scenes with Crown and the government after they rejected Crown's request for an extension to their planning application for One Queensbridge St.

I was assured there were no deals as an extension just didn't stack up, especially in light of the currently depressed property market, which is not looking to improve in the short term, but more importantly the demands on the civic improvements which the development was funding.

Any further delays would just compound the uncertainty of when this community investment will be made, namely for the upgrade to Queensbridge Square, but more importantly, stage three of Southbank Boulevard and these upgrades are becoming of critical importance.

I was not able to glean any information on what might happen with the sites now, mainly because nothing has been decided yet, but that the government and the council are working with the site owners to get some activity there.

I was also very interested to know if this government is serious about the improvements to the Arts Precinct and the development of the recently-released blueprint.

I have been assured it is committed and would like to demolish the CUB building (which the government acquired in 2018) as soon as practicable after the stage one Southbank Boulevard works are completed.

As outlined in the new blue print, the current CUB site is slated to be the new NGV Contemporary - a dedicated space for contemporary art, envisioned to be the Australia's best contemporary art gallery.

This blueprint is truly an exciting plan and will really transform the space between all our arts locations.

Martin also mentioned that work is beginning on locating a site in Fishermans Bend for a hospital. This hospital will be an extension of the Alfred but with limited services, mainly focused on servicing the local community. This hospital would certainly service Southbank and would be a welcome addition. It is still early days yet, but it is promising to hear the discussions are happening.

On a federal level, as we know, we will be sent to the polling booths in May. Following-on from our highly successful state election candidate's forum, Southbank Residents Association has brought the federal candidates together for the renamed seat of Macnamara from the three major parties (Liberal, Labor and Greens) for our community to meet the candidates and ask any pressing community questions.

Please note, we will have a change of venue for this event and hold it at South Melbourne Primary School, which is actually located within Southbank, being at 129 Ferrars St, Southbank. The event is on Tuesday, April 16 at 6.15pm for a 6.30pm event start.

We are delighted to have Bernadene Voss moderate this event. Bernadene is a two-term councillor and three-time mayor in the City of Port Phillip. A successful businesswoman, Bernadene has been a resident for 20 years in the electorate of Macnamara.

I encourage our community to be there to hold all candidates to account.



Tony Penna

Tony Penna is the president of Southbank Residents' Association.

southbankresidents.org.au



St Johns Southgate

Call the midwives!

Last month, my wife gave birth to our fourth child, Hugo.

As with the arrival of all our children, it was a special experience with so much to be thankful for. But this time the process was a little more drawn out and complicated than before, which allowed some time for reflecting on the outstanding care we received at the hospital.

One of the loveliest experiences during our time in hospital was our interaction with the midwives - which, for anyone who has been cared for by one or more, would come as no surprise.

Nursing and midwifery consistently rank as the most trusted of professions, and for good reason. Midwives are there for you when you're at your most vulnerable and are fully respectful of the uniquely intimate moments that they are allowed into. So yes, a great deal of trust is needed and given and received when it comes to midwives.

Incidentally, in the birthing centre, about 12 hours before Hugo was born, one of the midwives asked me what I do for a living. To which I answered, "I'm a minister of religion," which unlike midwifery, continues to decline in the professional trustworthiness rankings for reasons that need no explanation in Melbourne.

We shared a moment together acknowledging the privilege it was, in both our professions, to be welcomed into the most intimate and challenging moments of people's lives. It was very touching to hear, first-hand from a midwife, of her genuine appreciation for being able to do what she does.

I've been using the word, "profession" to describe the work of a midwife, but maybe it should be thought of as a "calling" in the same way that my work often is. It really does seem that you have to be the right kind of person - have a specific type of personality and mindset, as well as being smart and capable - to be a midwife. Perhaps midwifery chooses the person, rather than the person choosing to be a midwife.

In the Book of Exodus, there's a great story about midwives that captures the earthy timelessness of the profession/calling. The Egyptian Pharaoh, plotting to perpetrate genocide on the Hebrew people, enlisted the Hebrew midwives - ordering them to do away with the Hebrew babies when they were born. But Pharaoh didn't account for the discretion, diplomacy and protective instincts that come with being a midwife. They, of course, defied Pharaoh and safely delivered the babies, making the excuse that the Hebrew women were too vigorous and gave birth before the midwives had even arrived!

In the Book of Exodus, it's because of the midwives that the Hebrews - individually and as a people - survived and thrived! Today, things aren't that much different. I think it's fair to say that because of the women and men of the midwifery profession/calling, we live. And the world lives!

As we approach the Easter feast - that celebration of ultimate new life - take a moment to remember and give thanks for those people who brought you into the world - mothers, fathers and those all too often unsung heroes, midwives.



Tom Hoffmann

Tom Hoffmann is the pastor at St Johns Southgate Church.

www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au



Easter

Mundy Thursday April 18

6:30pm Passover meal
7:30pm Worship with communion

Good Friday April 19

9am Worship with communion
6pm Tenebrae

Easter Sunday April 21

6:45am Worship at dawn
9am, 11am Worship with communion

Third Sunday of Easter Sunday May 5

9am Worship with Bach cantata
Ich lebe, mein Herze, zu deinem Ergötzen, BWV145
Also Telemann: *Missa Brevis on "Christ lag in Todesbanden"*
Early Voices (Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, University of Melbourne)
St Johns Bach Orchestra directed by Stephen Grant

Every Sunday

9am Traditional worship with communion
10:30am Sunday School during school terms
11am Informal worship with communion
6pm Sunday Night at St Johns
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Metro Tunnel



Global search begins for Metro Tunnel artworks

A local, national and international search is underway for artists, painters and sculptors to create permanent public art for Melbourne's new Metro Tunnel stations, with some of Victoria's greatest creative minds enlisted to help select the artists.

Six large-scale artworks, including five works within the new stations at North Melbourne, Parkville, State Library, Town Hall and Anzac and one line-wide commission, will become new landmarks for the city.

A mix of Victorian, national, international and indigenous artists will be commissioned – either via expressions of interest or by invitation – to create iconic artworks that will complement the architectural design of the stations.

Expressions of interest to create permanent art for the new North Melbourne Station on Arden St, State Library Station at the northern end of Swanston St and the line-wide commission are now open.

Commissions for Parkville, Town Hall and Anzac stations will be via invitation, with shortlisted artists to be contacted in coming months.

Each piece of permanent art will have distinct links to the area's character and heritage.

The Metro Tunnel Arts Advisory Panel, a highly credentialed group featuring leaders from Victoria's creative industry, will be responsible for shortlisting and interviewing artists for all legacy pieces.

For more information visit metrotunnel.vic.gov.au/about-the-project/creative-program/legacy-artwork

Acoustic shed for St Kilda Rd

As works progress to build the new Anzac Station, a temporary acoustic shed will be installed over the northern end of the St Kilda Rd work site from mid-year.

The shed will serve as the launching site for two tunnel boring machines, to help minimise noise from the 24/7 tunnelling operations scheduled to start next year.

Once the shed is built, the tunnel boring machines will be lowered into the excavated station box later this year and start tunnelling towards South Yarra as they create the twin tunnels.

The acoustic shed will measure 16 metres high, 30 metres wide and 74 metres long, and feature a eucalypt base colour that is sympathetic to the surrounding environment.

The acoustic shed that will be built over the Anzac Station site is one of six sheds that will be used to minimise noise, dust and disruption as we build the Metro Tunnel Project's five new stations and twin 9km tunnels.

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

Owners' Corporation Law

Work faster and work smarter

Recent cases studies from the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) in water damage claims highlight the need for owners' corporations (OCs) to work faster and work smarter.

Two recent decisions from VCAT (the decision of Guy, and the decision of Dunn) involving claims by lot owners for compensation from water damage to their units has highlighted the risks that OCs are exposed to.

In both cases, the claimants reported water damage, but the OCs dragged their feet in investigating the causes of the water damage.

Pausing for a moment, a number of committee members and strata managers are under the misapprehension that if the OC's strata insurance policy declines a water damage claim, then that is the end of the matter.

Of course, that position is wrong in law. If the insurer declines the claim, all that means is that the OC is unable to obtain insurance coverage for the loss.

If the lot owner has suffered loss and damage, then the OC is liable at law for that loss and damage.

In both of these cases, the OCs' defence in VCAT was that the expert evidence was inconclusive as to the exact cause of the water ingress and potentially, on an interpretation of the strata plan, there was an argument that the water damage originated from lot property, rather than common property.

These legal arguments failed in VCAT and the OCs were hit with massive bills for fixing the apartments and compensating for rental losses and damage to furnishings and personal effects.

Some important lessons that OCs should take away from these two cases are:

- Failure to take proactive action to properly investigate and address issues concerning the maintenance and repair of common property may result in significant financial penalties as the tribunal is as concerned with the conduct of the parties in attending to the matter quickly and will not rescue the OC on technical legal arguments; and
- Supporting expert evidence (especially where there is countering evidence available) or delay caused by the conduct of another party cannot be solely relied upon to absolve the OC of its liability set out in the relevant legislation and case law.
- If your OC receives a complaint about an issue with water ingress from the common property into lot property, it is important to first thoroughly investigate the issue, source advice from a reliable expert (and where there is doubt if the issue has arisen because of the common property, then consult a specialist lawyer also) and follow the recommendations provided.
- Above all it is important that the OC does not delay in responding and acting on a complaint as this is the most common way an OC can open itself up to liability and be found in breach of its duty.



Tom Bacon

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More trains, more often



An African-fusion adventure

African-inspired CBD bar polépolé (meaning relax, slowdown and take it easy, in Swahili) presents a new two-level dining space wrapped in safari-style canvas: an exquisite full-service dining experience downstairs and a fun and energetic themed bar, *Glamp*, upstairs!

Behind the red door (located above Lorna Jane at 267 Little Collins St), is an inner-city African themed dining oasis decorated with beautiful African artworks throughout. Go up another floor and you're met by the stunning *Glamp* cocktail and function space, featuring two indoor tents similar to what one might experience on a real African safari.

Through extensive travels in Eastern Africa, owners Dean and Jeanelle Mariani fell in love with the vibrant cuisine and rich culture of Tanzania and Kenya, where the adoration was poured out on both the décor and curated dishes.

"The ethos behind polépolé was to blend our love of African flavours with Melbourne's stylish food and wine culture – the result has been something incredibly unique in Melbourne's thriving restaurant scene," Dean said.

Mixing modern Australian cuisine and traditional African recipes and ingredients, guests at polépolé (pronounced pol-eh pol-eh) are instantly drawn to the exquisite flavours of each thoughtfully-crafted dish on the menu – hand-crafted from spices sourced around Australia and throughout Africa.

Head chef Felipe Bley has led the venue's



The stunning *Glamp* cocktail and function space.

new chapter, evolving from a bar serving delicious, African-inspired snacks to the double offering it is today – with two lively and cohesive venues in one – offering everything from after-work drinks to unique

restaurant dining and events.

Chef Felipe will be busy smoking many of his meats in-house, including the wildly popular smoked goat curry. With each dish designed for sharing, polépolé provides

the perfect opportunity to take yourself on a culinary safari through the plains of East Africa, across the Nullabor and back to Little Collins!

By bringing a fusion experience, the polépolé team has been able to get creative and be inspired by places and ingredients.

For the more adventurous diners, polépolé also offers a rotating special menu featuring African-inspired game dishes scarcely available outside of the Serengeti.

Each week an exciting star dish graces the specials board – featuring unique ingredients such as fresh crocodile, roasted ostrich and char-grilled wild boar, to name a few.

The attention to detail doesn't stop at the delicious food. Dean and Jeanelle have sourced 12 of the best native African beers to match the menu, along with the crafty cocktail list.

To finish off the night right, diners can wander up to the wonderland venue *Glamp Bar* upstairs. The oasis of the city is the perfect spot for a post dinner cocktail or as simple as an after-work drinks. The *Glamp Bar* truly is like nothing else in Melbourne and is an experience not to be missed.

polépolé is open Tuesday to Saturday from 5pm to late.

polepolebar.com.au

Giving back in more ways than one

The Jumbo Early Education centre has quickly become a cornerstone of the community in South Wharf.

Established by long-time friends Samantha Ludbey-Stynes, Kirsty Fletcher and Tahmaya O'Malley at DFO South Wharf three years ago, the facility has helped to drive a sense of community in the precinct that it had long been lacking.

And it has not only helped to build the community by educating and caring for its youngest people, Jumbo's business model is entirely based around giving back to those less fortunate.

Widow of the late Melbourne Football Club legend Jim Stynes OAM, who passed away in 2012 from cancer, Samantha continues to drive Jim's legacy as founder and director of the Jim Stynes Foundation.

The foundation is a public auxiliary fund, which distributes funds to specifically chosen charities where every dollar makes a difference. These include the Lighthouse Foundation, Helping Hoops, The Confident Girls Foundation, as well as Jim's own charity REACH Foundation.

Having once owned a number of childcare centres with Jim, Samantha joined forces with Kirsty to establish Jumbo as a means



Samantha Ludbey-Stynes with children from the Jumbo Early Education centre.

of providing income for the foundation to continue its work.

"Sam wanted to find money to keep Jim's legacy going so it was like two separate things driving it and it just sort of organically became what it is," Kirsty said. "It's just been built from love and a lot of different people's passions joined together."

"Sam and I had gone to uni together as teachers and then Sam wanted to do it again and she asked for my help. So we were just

bouncing ideas around until Sam found this place. Then it just sort of grew."

While the facility's location within DFO South Wharf had presented some early challenges, Sam said that its proximity to the Jim Stynes Bridge, located across the river in Docklands, was an opportunity too special to pass on.

Since establishing, she said that early education facilities in high-rise buildings had become the norm for inner-city families.

Located on level 1 at DFO, the boutique long day care and kindergarten is fitted with a range of spacious simulated outdoor play spaces and learning facilities, providing access to natural light and ventilation overlooking the Yarra River.

Run by a team of dedicated and qualified educators, Samantha said sustainability was a major focus throughout Jumbo's curriculum, with the kids regularly taken out into the community.

"We go on regular outings all the time," Samantha said. "They are inner city kids because they live here or because mum or dad work around here. The kids are regularly catching trams going to Federation Square, the Wheel, the aquarium, the market so we're always out and about in the local community."

"It's been about adapting to the community rather than trying to put something in that we assumed would work. We've really had to mould with the environment and the community."

The pair said that Jumbo had established a strong "family" like relationship with all of its children and parents and they hoped the facility could one day become a hub run by the local community.

Jumbo Early Learning is located on level 1, DFO South Wharf - access from Wright Walk via lift or escalator.

jumboearlyeducation.com.au

Business

Melbourne Square recognised

OSK Property's \$2.8 billion six-tower Melbourne Square mixed-use development on Kavanagh St has been selected as a double finalist in the highly-acclaimed 2019/20 Asia Pacific Property Awards.

Although still under construction, the development has impressed judges, who have shortlisted it under two categories for the best "mixed-use development" and "residential high-rise architecture" in the Asia Pacific Region.

The winning projects are to be announced in Bangkok, Thailand in May, after which the top award winners go on to compete for global recognition as part of the International Property Awards.

The international awards recognise the best projects globally, with previous winners including London's landmark Kings Cross Gasworks apartments, the Royal Academy of Music and Heathrow Airport.

Melbourne Square scored its finalist spot thanks to its approach to creating a truly integrated precinct within an urban regeneration zone, with the precinct to feature public open space, residential, office, hotel, childcare and retail.



A render of the new park at Melbourne Square, which will front onto Kavanagh St.

Chairman of OSK Property Tan Sri Ong Leong Huat said he believed the abundance of integrated public space along with the architectural response had particularly captured the attention of the awards panel.

He said Cox Architecture were to be commended for creating a pair of buildings in stage one that will enhance the beauty of Melbourne's skyline.

"We have done everything that we can to create the best public realm in Melbourne within our development and it's right in the heart of Southbank," he said.

"The Melbourne Square public park will be the largest architecturally significant green space to be delivered in Southbank to date. It's also the last large format site in Southbank that has the capacity to provide public open space of this scale."

"The park will significantly assist with the suburb's new green-focused network of public open spaces including Boyd Park, and the green spine works leading from the NGV along Southbank Boulevard to the river, both of which are under construction."

"We are thrilled to be recognised by our peers and nominated for two categories in these prestigious awards, up against some of the best names in the industry globally."

To span 3745 sqm, the park will include cascading water features, European-inspired piazzas, belvederes and an elevated outdoor terrace.

It has been designed by multi-award winning firm, Taylor Cullity Lethlean (TCL) and will build on the practice's work delivering landmark public areas including Birrarung Marr, the Australian Garden in



A render of one of Melbourne Square's residential towers.

Cranbourne, Sidney Myer Music Bowl and the National Arboretum in Canberra.

The park will be delivered by late 2019, as part of works being completed in the project's first stage, which will also deliver two luxury apartment buildings, childcare, retail and a new full-size Woolworths supermarket.

Melbournesquare.com.au

Montague Community Alliance

April showers are not coming our way

Have you had a look at our parks recently?

They are dustbowls, trees are dying and the grass has turned to straw, while Kirrip Park is looking green and lush with proficient and working sprinklers, a sparkingly new park, with very few residents around it.

What message is this giving the long-term residents and businesses in Montague and the Port Melbourne interface, that their parks are literally dying ... this is open space, allegedly designed and planted in the 1800s.

Just as we want to keep our bluestone lanes to link Montague and South Melbourne to our history, surely maintaining these precious open spaces, with elms and Moreton Bay figs, as areas for walking, children to play, dogs to be walked and fauna and flora to flourish is worth getting angry about.

Montague and Port Melbourne locals, have started a petition to reinstate the watering systems in Page Reserve and the other parks along the 109 tram line. If you want to express your concerns please contact City of Port Philip on **9209 6777**.

The Docklands Representative Group invited me, as a representative of the Montague Community Alliance, to speak at its Community Forum on March 20.

The subject matter was "that the tram

bridge will impact liveability". I was asked to speak for having the tram bridge, which is odd - as I don't know that we're for, or against a bridge, or a tunnel.

But what we do know is that the 109 tram is overflowing, the growth of Fishermans Bend has started and the proximity to the CBD means more and more people need to access the city via public transport.

Having transport links over or under the Yarra River is essential and inevitable. Most of the attendees were from Yarra's Edge, a beautiful (albeit windy) part of Docklands and I can understand why they are very annoyed that the beauty of the area and the amenity of the marina may be lost.

However, we did not ask to be made into a high-density development area and as we are neighbours, Yarra's Edge like us will suffer the short-term pain for long-term gain and hopefully great liveability and amenity.

I'm sure the federal election will be called imminently. And as development and liveability of the Montague Precinct is a state- and council-controlled issue, we are not holding a meet the candidates forum. The Southbank Residents Association is holding a session on April 16 at South Melbourne Primary, in Montague. Another is being hosted by Unchained on April 30 at the Memo Hall in Acland St, St Kilda.

However, in the lead-up to the election, we are hoping to ask each candidate their views on the Montague Precinct, which is the

electorate of Macnamara. We start with Josh Burns, the ALP candidate:

Who are you, tell us a little about yourself?

I'm Josh Burns, the Labor candidate for Macnamara, which is the new name for the old seat of Melbourne Ports. I was chosen to contest the seat following Michael Danby's retirement after 21 years.

I was born and raised in the area which is now Macnamara. I studied at Monash University and have worked in a variety of jobs, most recently as an adviser to our great Labor Premier Daniel Andrews.

I'm married to Zoe, and we have a beautiful baby daughter, Tia.

What brought you to be interested in the Montague Precinct (MP) of South Melbourne?

As Labor candidate for this very diverse area I am naturally interested in the issues facing all its communities. I was already aware of the Montague Precinct of Fishermans Bend from my time as an adviser to the Premier. And, I have enjoyed getting to know the precinct better.

What do you consider are the best and/or most interesting things about the MP?

The Montague Precinct and those who live there face unique challenges of rapid development and large numbers of people moving in. It is a fantastic place that is so

close to so many great parts of our city but the transition from suburban Melbourne to a place that resembles Manhattan needs to be managed.

How do you think living or working in Montague affects the quality of life/work, for the current residents and businesses? and

What would you consider are the challenges of living or working in MP?

The Montague Precinct faces the same challenges of all inner-city residential areas, except on a much bigger scale. Things like increased traffic congestion, crowded public transport, poor planning decisions leading to inappropriate high-rise development and constant construction activity with its associated noise and disruption.

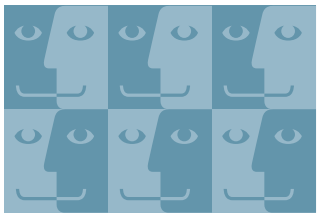
Many of these are state or local government issues, but if I am elected, I will be happy to take up these issues on behalf of the local community with the relevant levels of government.



Trisha Avery

Trisha Avery is the convener of the Montague Community Alliance.
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FACES OF SOUTHBANK



JASON RACKLEY, 45, FINANCE

The project is a great idea. I think it will be an inconvenience for a while but it's worth it in the long run.



PATRICK HONAN, 30, RESEARCHER

I think the idea is good but it seems like its taking incredibly long time to finish. And it seems like everyday, you come here and there is going to be a new inconvenience or a new way you have to walk.



DORIAN JONES, 48, CEO

I think it is a little bit of pain but it is going to be incredibly amazing when it's finished. I am really looking forward to all the work being completed.



BILL THOMSON, 62, ENGINEER

It should be really good when it's finished but it's a bit of a nuisance while it's undergoing. I park at the arts centre and it's a little problem getting in and out.



IAN FORTH, 56, ADVERTISING

I work at Southbank and I should be able to drive straight there. But it's incredibly complicated. I have given up driving and now just take the public transport. I haven't seen a schedule of when it's meant to be completed. You have to tell people how long it's going to take so we can make plans.



ANDREW BROWN, 54, SELF-EMPLOYED

I do have an apartment here and we come down every month or so. I thought it would have been finished by this visit but not yet.

Question:

What do you think about the on-going construction at Southbank Boulevard?

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SOUTHBANK SUDOKU

Last month's Sudoku solution

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

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 HARD!
Good Luck!

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

Southbank Sustainability Group

Planting the new and maintaining the old

The long-awaited open Southbank Community Garden is finally here!

Our group's core members met with the council and its consultants in March to fine-tune details of the upcoming permanent, open community garden at Boyd.

The vegetables, herbs, flowers and trees we'll be planting for the season have been decided and the planting will start in early April!

The planting workshop took place on Saturday, April 6 at 10am and many from the local community attended.

The workshop was run by a horticultural specialist from the team installing the new garden beds. Participants learned how to plant and care for young plants; which plants thrive next to each other; and how to build a natural, organic, nutrient-rich ecosystem for pest control and to maximise yield.

If you are interested in being part of future gardening workshops and leaving your mark on creating our neighborhood's community garden, contact us via email or visit our Facebook page for more details and to express your interest.

We are also working hard to bring more CO²-collecting plants to our city and reduce our food's carbon footprint in the process.

Outside of Melbourne our existing forests, which hold off tonnes of CO², are unfortunately being logged irresponsibly, releasing that CO² back into the atmosphere, according to a new damning logging report made public by *The Guardian*.

The report has been collated by an independent expert panel, following an inquiry ordered by Environment Minister, Lily D'Ambrosio.

The panel exposed massive flaws in Victoria's logging regulations, resulting



(Top) Locals plant seedlings on April 6 (below) the new community garden.

in years of logging in protected rainforest areas, in endangered species habitat and the cutting down of entire forests outside legally allocated logging zones.

It also highlighted that there was currently no clear enforcement, compliance and prosecution policies.

It is especially important that we are aware of these issues. With federal elections

coming up, we can apply pressure to candidates and sitting politicians to take decisive action to preserving our forests and, by extension, reduce the effect of climate change.

We have a unique opportunity to show the strength of our voices and affect positive change.

As tedious and hopeless voting sometimes

feels, it is one of the most powerful and effective ways to effect change and turn the tide.

This is our planet and all of our futures are affected. So, we each must express to candidates what's important to us and what we expect from them by asking them in public forums or via email what is their climate change agenda and action plan and then by voting for candidates who show clear intentions to tackle this issue decisively.

Asking the question alone conveys the message that this is an issue important to us that we need them to take seriously for the common good.

The time of "someone else will take care of it for us" and the debunked myth of "it's either the economy or the environment" is over. It's now time to take action on individual, community and national levels.

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.

For details go to [facebook.com/southbanksustainabilitygroup](https://www.facebook.com/southbanksustainabilitygroup), or email us at southbanksustainability@gmail.com



Artemis Pattichi

Southbank Sustainability Group
southbanksustainability@gmail.com

Health & Wellbeing

The science of compassion

The definition of compassion is the feeling that arises when you are confronted with another's suffering and feel motivated to relieve it.

Although it is often confused with empathy or altruism, compassion is different, because it has the added element of having a desire to alleviate or reduce the suffering of another or oneself.

Evolutionary psychologists and scientists suggest that there is a deep evolutionary purpose to compassion. Studies show that when we feel compassion our heart rate slows down, we secrete the "bonding hormone" oxytocin and regions of the brain linked to empathy, caregiving and feelings of pleasure light up, which often results in our wanting to approach and care for other people.

In evolutionary terms, compassion has helped us to survive and thrive.

Why is compassion good for us?

Reduces inflammation: The link between increased psychosocial stress and increased inflammation in the body is clear, with increased inflammation being linked to a range of diseases including cardiovascular disease, cancer, and Alzheimer's disease.

It is fascinating therefore, that studies have shown that individuals who have higher levels of self- and other-compassion experience less inflammation in the body, whereas individuals who are lower in self-compassion and compassion for others may be especially vulnerable to the adverse effects of stress.

A buffer against negative emotions: People who are self-compassionate and experience compassion for others are less likely to catastrophise negative situations, experience anxiety following a stressor and avoid challenging tasks for fear of failure.

Increased life span: Given the aforementioned positive effects on the brain and body that compassion has, including its capacity to increase psycho-physical wellbeing, and reduce stress levels, it is

no surprise that being a compassionate individual could increase your lifespan.

Studies show, for example, that individuals who volunteer regularly and for large periods of time in their life live longer than those who don't.

Cultivating compassion

The key to developing compassion in your life is to make it a daily practice. There are so many ways to do this, so here are just a few tips that can aid you in your journey towards more compassion towards yourself and others:

Make it a morning ritual: Greet each morning with a mantra/phrase/gratitude sentence or affirmation of your choice. Stating something about how grateful you are to be alive, how you will use your energy wisely to love yourself and others, and how you wish to live to your fullest potential and help others around you is a good place to start;

Commonalities practice. When you find yourself struggling to be compassionate towards someone, instead of recognising the

differences between you, try to recognise what you have in common. Eg: "Just like me, this person has known sadness, loneliness and grief"; and

Have an evening compassion routine: I recommend that you take a few minutes before you go to bed to reflect on your day. Think about the people you met and talked to, and how you treated them, think about your affirmation from the morning, how well did you do? What did you learn from your experiences today? What is your intention for yourself and those around before you go to sleep?



Rajna Bogdanovic

Clinical psychologist
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History

Under the mound

The Habitat-Filter Park in Sturt St, with its six multi-coloured shards, is a distinctive and prominent design that today anchors the run-off from the freeway.

But before it was created, the large plot of land played a central role in the military and recreational life of Southbank.

It started life in the colonial period as a timber orderly room called the South Melbourne Remount Depot and Drill Hall, eventually spreading out over five acres and serving as the recruiting centre for the Great War, as many young Australians (including John Wren) flocked to join up.

Many of those who returned were demobilised at the same centre.

Over the years, the large site was a busy bustling place, close to the barracks in St Kilda Rd, used for a variety of military and training purposes, including the Military Wireless Society, a centre for signals, veterinary services, stables for the Light Horse Brigade, parades, rifle clubs, military sports, lectures on weaponry and social events.

It also became the centre for a "new citizens force" in the 1920s, the forerunner of the Citizens Military Force, and sometimes served as a temporary home for the unemployed in the early 1920s.

As war clouds gathered over Europe in the 1930s, a number of new drill halls were



The drill hall on Albert Rd, now home to South Melbourne Park Primary School.

constructed across Melbourne, including one facing Sturt St and another in nearby Albert Park.

The red brick hall, in distinctive Art Deco style, served as a centre for activities such as

dances, lectures, and training.

The stylish building stood out from the rest of the facility, with other buildings around it (largely wood and corrugated iron sheds) regarded as eyesores, constantly being patched and painted.

With advent of WWII, it was again used as a recruiting centre and for many other military uses, including accommodation for troops on leave.

Like other parts of South Melbourne, the continued use of the hall and its surrounds was contentious, as the council resented the occupation by the military of valuable public land.

Many locals have fond memories of it in the 1950s, as they attended classes on Friday nights run by Legacy for children of deceased military personnel and enjoyed sports such as volleyball, basketball and trampolining. (Legacy girls had a similar centre in the city).

In the 1950s, those undergoing national service recall being stationed there.

The drill hall was a victim of the massive changes arising from freeway construction but long-term Southbank residents have fond memories of many fun times at the site.



Habitat Filter on Sturt St.



Robin Grow

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

Pet's Corner

Training a therapy dog

By Sakshi Agrawal

While we may have only heard or read about therapeutic dogs, Rachel Lawrence is training her dog Milo to be one.

She said that since she had started studying occupational therapy, she understood the importance of a therapy dog.

"They are every affectionate and very beneficial for people who have anxiety and problems like that. And that's probably the main thing I would want to work with him on because I would want to help people with mental health issues," she said.

Adopted by Rachel and her partner last month, Milo was just 11 weeks old at the time of meeting *Southbank Local News*. They had taken a weekend away to New South Wales and adopted Milo from a breeder.

"I have always wanted a dog and that weekend was very successful," she said.

Rachel describes Milo as a playful and hyperactive pet who loves to be around people and wants to eat shoes and everything else in sight.

"I always hand him to my partner when he is hyperactive because he loves it," she laughed.

Even though she only adopted Milo recently, she loves her new dog very much. She takes him for a walk at least twice a day and is always beside him.

"We don't ever leave each other's sight at the moment. He is always looking for me and

I love that," she said.

Milo is a male poodle crossed with Labrador. According to Rachel, he sleeps about 16 to 20 hours a day. And the rest of the time he spends playing or taking walks with her.



Rachel Lawrence with Milo.

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We Live Here

Owners' corporation law – time's up

The state government is under increasing pressure to amend the outdated *Owners Corporation Act 2006*.

Its long-awaited review of the Act is now more than a year overdue, based on its own promises. The government's self-imposed target date to release an "exposure draft" is now June this year.

We Live Here hopes that the draft is released soon because the issues that the Act fails to address are critical.

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." If only this had been the case for the past two or three years. Up until now, the government has been consulting in private and only with commercial groups – businesses that make money from strata residents and owners.

How about the forgotten stakeholders – the residents and owners? It's time we had a voice.

We Live Here will be representing the interests of residents and owners and we hope to have a big impact on the reformation of the outdated legislation that, to a large extent, governs our lives. We have several recommendations:

Reflect today's landscape. The current Act is a "one size fits all" piece of legislation that fails to distinguish between 50-storey skyscrapers and suburban blocks with two units for example. The legislation needs to be far more nuanced;

Control proxy-farming. Many owner-occupiers are simply overruled by

commercial interests who corruptly exploit proxies to rip-off owners. The unethical practice of developers colluding with strata managers to lock in long-term contracts must be stopped. The government should also introduce retrospective clauses that restore justice to owners who have been lumbered with 25-year management contracts disgracefully awarded to mates of the builder on the eve of settlement.

Make a level playing field. Short-stay operators are being protected by the *Residential Tenancies Act* even though some of them are multi-million-dollar businesses.

Multi-tiered lot liability. Short-stay operators also increase maintenance costs for all owners. Expert opinions of quantity surveyors and engineers in documents tabled in the NSW Parliament provide evidence that short-stays push up costs significantly. There is a strong argument to allow a higher levy rate for lots used for short-stays. The single-tier lot liability system simply does not work. For example, security costs will continue to rise with the increase in short-stays. Even Victoria Police has had to create a special squad to deal with out-of-control Airbnb parties. And if wild parties were not enough, the increase in home invasions and burglaries linked to Airbnb bookings has been the subject of many media reports.

Restore powers. Justice Riorden's 2016 Supreme Court judgement took away self-determination powers of owners'

corporations. These powers need to be restored.

Clarify who pays for brigade attendance. Owners are being hit with massive fire brigade bills often caused by short-stay guests. VCAT has a record of ruling in favour of short-stay guests, forcing innocent owners to cough up thousands of dollars to pay for the stupidity of others.

Who pays for cladding? The owners!

We Live Here was invited to comment on the state government's cladding rectification agreement (CRA) – the loan scheme touted by the government as a solution to funding the costs of cladding remediation. We offered feedback that the government appears to have declined to take on board.

The CRA scheme is onerous for owners' corporations and owners. Every owner in a building must be assessed financially for the CRA loan. If a building has one owner who is not strong financially, or an owner who does not provide financial data in time, the loan application stalls. Coupled with the special resolution required to get the loan accepted, it is difficult to see how this scheme could work. Plus, it has the potential to create an STD – a sale-transmitted debt – because, when the property is sold, the new owner would inherit the debt.

Is Planning Minister Richard Wynne still scratching his head wondering why nobody is taking up the offer?

We Live Here has been told by some buildings that a line of credit is far easier to

obtain.

Of course, this debate about how to get a loan ignores the real injustice in the cladding debacle – why are owners paying for the incompetence of others? The government had a hand in this fiasco every bit as much as the builders, architects and building surveyors. It was the government's regulatory oversight that allowed the flammable cladding to be installed.

Our reminder: 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

SKYPAD Living

Future-proofing vertical villages

Are our vertical villages becoming obsolete?

Anticipating forthcoming trends and developing ways to minimise their shocks while maximising their benefits is a process called future-proofing.

Widely used in industries such as industrial design, electronics and climate change, future-proofing techniques have also been applied to historic buildings to help direct major refurbishments. In these cases, careful consideration is given to how a historic structure can be "sustainably" altered, such as improving its energy efficiency, while also protecting its historic fabric and preventing further deterioration.

And increasingly there is talk of the need to future-proof our "younger" vertical villages as they rapidly head towards their 20s.

While it is clear that a lot of things have changed since our vertical villages were originally conceived, it comes as somewhat of a surprise that many previously state-of-the-art features are now spoken about in terms of their obsolescence.

Admittedly there are different types of obsolescence with some demanding more immediate attention than others. There

is physical obsolescence which is when the entity itself deteriorates and requires replacement. There is also functional obsolescence which occurs when the entity can no longer fulfil its intended purpose, while aesthetic obsolescence refers to when the entity is no longer in style. And there is sustainable obsolescence which is when an entity is unable to meet resource efficiency goals.

However, while obsolescence is an important characteristic of future-proofing as it emphasises the need for continued viability, a more challenging component of future-proofing is the ongoing need to anticipate yet-to-arrive changes and their potential impact upon our vertical villages.

Take the very mundane topic of car spaces. Two futures are immediately apparent.

On one hand, there is the scenario of the rise of the electric car. Here, owners' corporations will need to consider the demand for power charging facilities for residents' cars. Issues include whether there will be central bays where people "plug and power" or whether each car space owner will need to install points (at their cost) in their own bays.

With the central bay option, consideration will need to be given to payment methods, while the owner installation option needs to consider the case of tenants (i.e. if the owner

won't install such a facility). And just to add to the mix, with many residents deciding to age-in-place, there will likely be an increase in mobility scooters and, with this, an additional demand for recharge points.

On the other hand, there is the scenario that individual car ownership will decline in tandem with the rise of car-share schemes, ride-share services and pedal-power. This may lead to an overall decline in demand for parking spaces and requests for these spaces to be repurposed.

For example, in many villages there is already growing interest in having more dedicated space for bike storage, along with additional facilities for their repair. Might an owners' corporation consider purchasing or leasing (long-term) a group of bays from their owners and offering these as communal bike spaces?

And if it is agreed that an owners' corporation can purchase and/or lease (long-term) a group of bays, how else might this space be used?

Additional recycling facilities comes immediately to mind.

However, some designers in the USA are already creating parking spaces with an in-built capacity for future conversion. For example, in Cincinnati three floors of an internal car park have been designed to convert into additional office space.

However, this degree of retrofitting is more difficult for us as our car spaces have not been designed for human habitation, meaning that they typically have low ceilings and sloped floors.

This said, there are some other suggested uses for unused car spaces. Beddown for instance, has partnered with Secure Parking with the aim of creating pop-up accommodation for the homeless. They will do this by using car spaces that are empty at night and setting these up to offer safe, secure and comfortable overnight accommodation. Currently Beddown is conducting a trial of this pop-up accommodation in selected Brisbane CBD car parks and is running a GoFundMe campaign to enable this.

This option will, undoubtedly, have little appeal or realistic application to our own residential parking. However, what these types of initiatives might do is help us start rethinking the "DNA" of our vertical villages and contemplate how we might reconfigure ourselves to extract benefit in the future – and so begin our future-proofing journey.



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

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



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



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MEET THE CANDIDATES
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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 Atila 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: **atilaakguner@gmail.com**

FIRST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH
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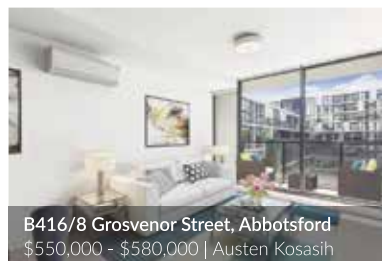
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