

The voice of Southbank, South Wharf & Montague

SOUTHBANK Local NEWS

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Star-studded South Wharf

The Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) hosted a rare coming together of sport and cinema on August 1 for the opening night of the Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF).

NBA Philadelphia 76ers superstar Ben Simmons joined the cream of Aussie rules football and Australian film, television and entertainment as the festival celebrated the opening with the world premiere of the highly-anticipated Adam Goodes documentary *The Australian Dream*.

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L-R: Former AFL player Michael O'Loughlin, journalist Stan Grant, former AFL player Adam Goodes and NBA Australian basketballer Ben Simmons on opening night.

Cyclists on notice in promenade overhaul

The City of Melbourne has released its long-awaited plans to revamp the 300-metre section of Southbank Promenade between Princes Bridge and Evan Walker Bridge.

The \$5.1 million stage one overhaul of Southbank Promenade will introduce a suite of new pedestrianisation measures in a bid to force the breaks on speeding cyclists.

Results of a council cycle speed study conducted earlier this year showed that around 95 per cent of riders using the promenade travelled above 15km/h despite council implementing 10km/h speed limit signs and other measures to encourage slower speeds.

While the plans will still allow for recreational cyclists to use the promenade,

new street furniture and trees will be used to improve safety and accessibility for pedestrians by encouraging cyclists to slow down.

The renowned *Dervish* sculpture, which is owned by Arts Centre Melbourne, will also be removed from the promenade and reinstated on the terrace near Hamer Hall to provide more green space.

With the project to start early next year and completed over stages to minimise disruption until 2022, Lord Mayor Sally Capp

said council wanted to turn the promenade into a "riverside park".

"Southbank Promenade hasn't had a major upgrade in more than 25 years so we're investing \$5.1 million this financial year to make some major improvements," the Lord Mayor said.

"We will replace the concrete paving with new bluestones, improve public lighting to increase community safety, and install new seats and garden beds."

"The stage one works are designed to create

more public open space outside Hamer Hall between Princes Bridge and Evan Walker Bridge."

"The configuration of the stairs and ramps will be changed to maximise use of the riverbanks."

The Lord Mayor said new trees would be planted with a variety of species including Smooth-Barked Apple Trees, Melaleuca (paperbark trees), and *Washingtonia robusta* (Mexican Fan Palms).

Continued on page 2.



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Cyclists on notice in promenade overhaul

Continued from page 1.

“We will plant 29 new trees with better access to soil and water to increase the canopy cover. The current plane trees were planted in the 1980s but are in a state of decline because they have limited access to soil and moisture,” the Lord Mayor said.

Deputy chair of the City of Melbourne’s major projects portfolio Cr Nicholas Reece said council would be encouraging faster cyclists to use an alternative route via 1km of new bike lanes being implemented as part of the transformation of Southbank Boulevard.

“We want to prioritise the river banks as a destination rather than a through route,” Cr Reece said. “This is based on a study earlier this year which showed that around 95 per cent of cyclists at Princes Bridge were travelling above 15 kilometres an hour.”

“I’m a regular cyclist at Southbank Promenade and like everyone else I’ll be slowing down to take in the wonderful city views.”

Southbank Residents’ Association (SRA) president Tony Penna welcomed the news, stating an overhaul of the “tired” promenade had been long overdue, but was sceptical as to whether council’s cycling plan would work.

“We are delighted to see investment in Southbank Promenade,” Mr Penna said. “As residents, one of our big concerns has been the speed of cyclists.”

“As outlined, as a recent study by the council



identified that 95 per cent of cyclists exceed the 15km/h speed limit. This is of no surprise to the residents. We have continually raised this issue with council for over five years.”

“It is disappointing it has taken this long for any meaningful action. The speed of cyclists has been an accident waiting to happen. Our observations are not the recreational cyclists as being the main problem, but the

commuter cyclists.”

“While we are certainly grateful for the separated cycling lanes proposed for Southbank Boulevard, we are sceptical of this proposed solution as council has not provided any evidence to the community to suggest this solution will work.”

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Australia 108's towering complaints

By Meg Hill

Tenant complaints of cracking noises and disturbances in Australia 108 created a scare over the building's structural integrity in July – with parallels drawn in the media to Sydney's crumbling Opal towers.

But Geoff Hanmer, an adjunct lecturer in architectural structure and construction at UNSW and managing director of architect company ARINA, told *Southbank Local News* scrutiny should fall primarily on rushed residential processes.

Mr Hanmer said it was unusual for residents to be moved into a tower while it is still under construction, but especially at the heights currently occupied in Australia 108 – which will be the southern hemisphere's tallest building once completed.

"I'm appalled by it," he said.

"Occupancy shouldn't be allowed while construction is still going on. I just don't think it should be happening full stop. The government should say this is an unacceptable way of dealing with people in a residential situation."

Residents have been occupying the tower, which won't be finished until 2020, since mid-2018. They've complained of loud noise, construction defects, power outages and wall cracks.

Mr Hanmer said if a building's financial model doesn't allow for construction to be finished before moving tenants in, the building shouldn't be approved.

"It does seem to me that it exposes the people in the building to all sorts of risks and impacts that they wouldn't normally be exposed to," he said.

"As a building is constructed it does



move. It's just unusual to have people in there. Really a building operation of that magnitude can't help but spill in to the common spaces of the building below."

Mr Hanmer said unacceptable levels of noise would be created by the concrete pumped through the centre of the building, among other things.

He also said problems with lifts, for example, would be a logical occurrence in these

situations where the building is designed in separate sections with some operational and others not.

A resident told *The Age* power outages and lift malfunctioning was regular and that he was trapped in the downstairs foyer for five hours on one occasion.

Although it is unusual, other towers have been occupied at similar heights while still under construction, including Aurora

Melbourne Central in the CBD and Eureka Tower here in Southbank.

But there doesn't seem to be a similar level of dissatisfaction within these buildings. The City of Melbourne told *Southbank Local News* they had received only nine complaints in total regarding the Aurora development, with most relating to noise.

Australia 108 is being developed by World Class Global and built by Multiplex. A Multiplex spokesperson told *Southbank Local News*: "there is categorically no risk to the safety of occupants or the structural integrity of Australia 108, and we are doing all we can to assure residents of this".

"The reported noises have occurred during the periods of extreme wind that Melbourne has experienced recently."

"Like any building, Australia 108 has been designed to move in windy conditions and the noise being generated is indicative of the building adjusting to the prevailing weather conditions and behaving as it should."

"While some of these noises cannot be completely eradicated, we do expect them to reduce once we complete the structure and are able to install damper tanks on top of the building, as per the engineers' design."

"Where minor defects such as hairline cracks are reported, which are typical of all new buildings, we have a system in place to address these directly with the residents with minimal impact on them."

But part of the issue suggested by reports is a lack of forthright communication of the likely impediments of living in a tower that is still under construction. Residents who spoke to *The Age* said they were told they wouldn't be inconvenienced by construction.

Australia 108 was approved under former Liberal planning minister Matthew Guy. It was dropped to 100 levels from the approved 108 after it was revealed it would breach the airspace of Essendon Airport.

RECOGNITION FOR RISING STAR

We're excited to announce that Thomas Tregonning has been nominated as a 'Rising Star' of the real estate industry in the upcoming national 2019 Real Estate Business Awards, to be held in Sydney in September. We congratulate Thomas on this fantastic achievement.

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Council addresses recycling and climate emergencies

City of Melbourne (CoM) moved to fast-track its waste strategy on August 5 in response to Victoria's escalating recycling crisis, less than a month after councillors adopted the strategy and in the same meeting declared a climate emergency.

More than 30 Victorian councils have been sending their recycling to landfill since July 25 when recycling firm SKM announced it would no longer accept them. The CoM has sent 45 tonnes a day since then.

10 days earlier, the council adopted the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030 and moved an urgent item of business by formally declaring a "climate and biodiversity emergency".

The waste strategy includes an independent feasibility study into the establishment of a new large-scale recycling centre that would service multiple municipalities.

Announcing the strategy's fast-tracking, Lord Mayor Sally Capp said it would involve both short- and long-term aspects.

"We want to stop recyclables going to landfill as soon as possible and deliver long-term improvements for our residents and businesses," the Lord Mayor said.

"We are going to increase the number of shared waste hubs for businesses in the central city and work with businesses in the central city and work with businesses to reduce the amount of waste they produce."

"Our team is examining international best practices and will run an expression of interest process looking for technologies that could be used in Melbourne's inner-city laneways. This could include using everything from mini-compactor bins, to specialised vehicles, and collection of source separated materials such as glass, organics, paper and cardboard."

CoM also joined other Victorian councils such as the City of Frankston, the City of



Darebin and the City of Port Phillip in calling for the state government to introduce a state-wide container deposit scheme (CDS) – a recycling cashback plan for individuals and community groups.

The council's July 15 climate emergency motion was moved by environment portfolio chair Cr Cathy Oke and endorsed unanimously, declaring that climate change and mass species extinction posed serious threats to the people of Melbourne and should be treated as an emergency.

While noting its ongoing commitment to mitigating climate change through a range of initiatives such as the Melbourne Renewal Energy Project and the Climate Change Mitigation Strategy, Cr Oke said she felt frustrated that more wasn't being done.

"We are on track to far exceed the 1.5 degrees increase that thousands of scientists acknowledge that, pass that point, and we are in dire circumstances. We need far more action at all levels of government," she said.

Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood said that all councillors had engaged in a "robust discussion" about the use of the word "emergency" and how that would help curb climate change in the municipality.

"It's not about scaring people but it's actually about how you resource things and push towards targets. It sends a message to our community that we take this very seriously," Cr Wood said.

"We're actually on track by 2030 to be responsible for 13 per cent of global emissions so that's no longer the get out of jail free card that people use to say that 'we're not much of the problem' and 'we shouldn't move on this.'"

Cr Wood also slammed the lack of leadership from the federal government on the issue, noting that if it wasn't going to act then it should not "stand in the way" of those wanting to do so.

Cr Jackie Watts also gave an emotional address in support of a section of the motion, which acknowledged the action that young people were taking across the world in demanding more from their governments.

"We are in a very dire situation. We have an obligation to tell it how it is, and we are," Cr Watts said. "This motion actually shows respect for the young people who will actually have to deal with the mess we are fighting."

Next layer of living standards

The state government has released the second phase of its Building Better Apartment design standards for community consultation.

Two years on from the introduction of its first set of apartment design standards, which legislated new rules to ensure apartments have things like adequate daylight, storage and ventilation, the focus has now broadened to look at building exteriors.

The proposed changes will affect landscaping, external walls, vehicle access, site servicing, wind effects and the management of building construction impacts.

Announcing the changes on August 2, acting Minister for Planning Lily D'Ambrosio said the new standards were designed to lower the costs of maintenance through the use of better-quality materials.

"As more and more people choose apartment living, we need to ensure these buildings are high-quality and ready for 21st century challenges such as climate change and our growing population growth," she said.

"Melbourne leads the world in liveability and that should be reflected in our apartments – by increasing green space and wind protection and creating safer, more attractive neighbourhoods."

"Our buildings and public spaces are a defining feature of our city – it's vital that we get the planning right now to make sure it stays that way."

Consultation is now open at engage.vic.gov.au/building-better-apartments-in-neighbourhoods

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Audioplay grant

By Meg Hill

Southbank start-up Audioplay was awarded a \$25,000 grant from the City of Melbourne in July as a round one winner of the council's small business and social enterprise grant program.

Audioplay is an immersive audio experience for kids. Founded by sisters Gemma and Zoe Pepper, Audioplay is a "new kind of way of experiencing entertainment".

"Kids put headphones on and then step into the story and become a character," Gemma Pepper said.

"They physically play it out in the real world, so they might use cushions and blankets or something in the living room, like old school imaginative play, but with a blockbuster soundtrack, a sound score and all the sound effects you might hear in a movie."

Audioplay is based in ACMix, where Gemma and Zoe secured an ongoing spot after taking part in ACMI's 12-week intensive program for creative businesses. Gemma and Zoe both come from a theatre



Gemma Pepper outside ACMix in Southbank.

background and evolved Audioplay out of a theatre production they made a few years ago.

"We've both worked in theatre and the arts our entire careers," Gemma said.

"We did circus together when we were young, but we started working together when Zoe was working on tours to Edinburgh and I helped her getting stuff together, we worked really well together."

Gemma said Zoe is in charge of all things creative - from script development, overseeing sound components, working with composers, sound engineers and actors - while Gemma is in control of the business side.

"Creating Audioplay has been an interesting transition from us working in theatre to thinking 'how do we see this as a digital product?'. It's been a really interesting new adventure."

Beulah submits

Developer Beulah International has submitted its long-awaited plans for Australia's tallest development in Southbank to Minister for Planning Richard Wynne for approval.

Located on the BMW site on the corner of City Rd and Southbank Boulevard, the *Southbank by Beulah* project is refinement of the UNStudio and Cox Architecture's twin tower design, underpinned by "creativity and cultural innovation".

A proposed mixed-use lifestyle precinct of 270,000 sqm, the updated design includes:

- Four collections of private residences;
- 35,000 sqm of commercial offices;
- A 220-key five-star urban resort;
- 6600 sqm of conference and entertainment centre;
- A children's play centre;
- A health and wellbeing precinct;
- 30,000sqm of world-class retail including a new BMW experience centre; and
- 7250sqm of public green spaces, including the Future Sky Garden.



"We have worked closely with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DEWLP) and the City of Melbourne and we are inspired by their vision for Southbank," Beulah International managing director Jiaheng Chan said.

"We believe this project will significantly support the wider transformation of the area by creating a green, active, connected urban environment that invites and encourages an enjoyable experience for both residents and visitors."



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Council settles its park dispute

The City of Melbourne and developer OSK Property have settled their dispute over open space contributions in the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT).



Above and inset: renders of the future high school in Fishermans Bend.

While the matter was settled some months ago, details of the outcome, of which council described as a “successful mediation”, only recently emerged.

The dispute related to the developer’s new public park on Kavanagh St as part of its current development at Melbourne Square. The park is due to open this year.

Despite providing nearly three times the amount of open space required as part of its six-tower mixed-use development, the City of Melbourne last year requested an open space contribution on top of the developer’s land contribution.

Approved in 2015, the Minister for Planning Richard Wynne had 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 would remain under the developer’s private ownership and maintained at its own cost to council standards.

The dispute evolved when an application, submitted by the developer to council last year, sought 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 issued a permit for the subdivision, it did so on the condition that the developer paid an open space contribution equivalent to 7.06 per cent of

the site’s land value as per the Melbourne Planning Scheme.

Following mediation at VCAT, a City of Melbourne spokesperson said it had reached a successful outcome.

“The outcome, following VCAT proceedings, resulted in 858 sqm of total area of the site being vested in council as a reserve. The reserve is located at the front of the site and equates to 4.23 per cent of the total contribution. It is now unimpeded by private infrastructure such as basements, pathways or drains,” the spokesperson said.

“The remaining 2.83 per cent public open space contribution will be made as a financial contribution to the City of Melbourne’s public open space fund.”

A spokesperson for OSK Property said: “We’re thankful that we were able to work closely with council through the settlement process to find a mutually beneficial outcome. More importantly, the outcome won’t impact the overall size of the 3745 sqm public green space that will benefit our residents, tenants and the local community,”

“With construction progressing well we are on track to deliver this public green space by the end of 2019.”

The financial contribution is understood to be in the area of \$4 million. The result means that more green space will be included as part of the new park.

School designs unveiled

By Alex Dalziel

The state government has released designs for the new Fishermans Bend Secondary School to be built at 477 Graham St.



Construction is expected to start soon on the four-storey school after an additional \$3.8 million was provided for planning works in the latest state budget. Architects Billard Leece Partnership designed the 7947sqm building.

The proposed design pays homage to the area’s maritime history, specifically to the Spirit of Tasmania ferry, which the building resembles.

The school will be built to cater for 650 students, with a future fit-out for 1100 students. The design features state-of-the-art STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and maths) spaces with a robotics workshop and a fabrication lab.

Facilities will also include a competition-grade gymnasium, a commercial-grade kitchen and canteen, a 200-seat lecture theatre, outdoor terraces, an urban garden with recreational ball sports areas and a kitchen garden.

The building is as part of the state government’s commitment to building 100 new schools between 2019 and 2026, which saw an allocation of \$624.8 million towards it in the 2019 – 2020 state budget. The school will open in 2022.

Fishermans Bend Secondary School is an interim name for the school during the planning and construction stages. A school advisory group will decide on a final name for the school that, reflects its unique identity, inspires local pride and makes the school easily locatable.

Enrolment information will be released, and a new principal appointed in 2021.

schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/schools/Pages/FishermansBendSecondarySchool

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Caring for the creative wellbeing

Arts Centre Melbourne announced the launch of a new pilot program last month aimed at supporting the mental health and wellbeing of those working within the creative industries.

As part of its suite of mental health and wellbeing initiatives, the Support Act Wellbeing Helpline was launched in Southbank on July 18; a new support service tailored to those who work in the performing arts.

Partnering with music charity Support Act to provide a free and confidential wellbeing phone service, the Support Act Wellbeing Helpline is particularly targeted at those who may not have access to professional support such as independent theatre makers and those working in small to medium arts organisations.

It is also especially targeted at those for whom and employee assistance program (EAP) is cost prohibitive, though the Wellbeing Helpline does not replace an organisational EAP or ongoing professional clinical support.

Arts Centre Melbourne CEO Claire Spencer said that she was “absolutely thrilled” that



Greta Bradman, Claire Spencer, Matt Heyward and Tracy Margieson at the launch.

the service would be made available to those who worked in the performing arts industry.

“This much needed helpline is staffed by qualified clinicians who understand the performing arts sector,” Ms Spencer said. “We recognise that our community faces particular challenges and stresses from the unique nature of our work, which can include being curtain ready under pressure and the demands of touring and its effect on mental health and wellbeing when away from routine, family and friends.”

“Whether a person is in production, performance, or arts management, a life

working in the performing arts can be challenging and at times stressful. The helpline will offer a free and confidential phone service to any person who would not ordinarily be able to access this type of service – particularly those who work in our thriving independent and small to medium sector.”

Support Act CEO Clive Miller said that it was delighted to be partnering with Arts Centre Melbourne and Worksafe on the program.

“It is a great resource for anyone who works in music, and now the performing arts, to access if they are concerned about any aspect of their mental health or wellbeing,”



Claire Spencer addresses guests at the launch.

Mr Miller said.

“The helpline provides a wide range of counselling support from depression, anxiety, addiction, suicidal feelings through to loneliness, relationship breakdown, financial worries, illness and workplace conflict. We hope it becomes a widely used resource for people working in the performing arts.”

The Support Act Wellbeing Helpline can be accessed 24 hours, seven days a week on **1800 959 500** within Australia. For more information about The Arts Wellbeing Collective visit artswellbeing.com.au



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Hotel plans revealed

A new hotel project at 63-69 City Rd, which is slated for completion in 2022, was announced by a Malaysian developer and British-based hotel group last month.



Currently home to the Photography Studies College (PSC), the site will see a 30-storey tower comprising 244 hotel rooms and commercial office space constructed in its place.

Malaysian-based integrated hospitality asset owner and developer Cornerstone Partners Group (CPG) announced its maiden mixed development project in Melbourne in partnership with UK hotel group Yotel.

CPG chief executive officer (CEO) Jason Chong said the company was thrilled to introduce its story to Australians, with a project "Southbank has never seen in the past."

"Leveraging on our project development capabilities, Cornerstone Partners Group is focused on fulfilling gaps in hospitality markets across Asia Pacific," Mr Chong said.

The project will also see the first Yotel, a "pioneer of sleek, technology-driven accommodation," delivered in Australia.

Yotel is renowned for taking essential

elements of luxury hotels into smaller, smart space, while incorporating a sense of community with areas for co-working, social gatherings and exercise.

"We are truly honoured to embark on a solid partnership with Yotel as we believe in Australia, there is an avenue for disruptive brands such as Yotel, which offer something completely new to the market," Mr Chong said.

"We were also impressed by Yotel's global development pipeline, focused on key gateway markets, which fits perfectly with our strategy. Therefore, it was only natural to join forces on our first project in Australia in Melbourne, one of the country's most cosmopolitan and urbanised cities."

The signing ceremony of the hotel management agreement between Chong and Yotel CEO Hubert Viriot was held in Sydney recently.

Residents talk art

Development Victoria provided a briefing to the Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) on the state government's arts precinct transformation last month.



The project's director Hannah Clement presented at SRA's annual general meeting (AGM) at the Malthouse Theatre on July 25, providing insight into the progress that has been made to date.

With the project still in its early stages, the presentation was largely an overview of what was to come, but Ms Clement told residents that planning was well advanced.

"This will not be another Federation Square," Ms Clement said. "It will be a garden space that Melbourne doesn't currently have and will be lots of things to lots of different people."

Development Victoria has also established its project office at the former Carlton United Breweries building on Southbank Boulevard, which will be home to the new National Gallery of Victoria Contemporary (NGV) as part of the transformation.

The AGM was well attended by locals, with president Tony Penna providing a detailed account of what had been another busy year for SRA. With submissions made to

the City of Melbourne on a number of initiatives over the year including the draft budget, amendments 308 (urban design) and C305 (heritage) and council's transport and waste strategies, the SRA continues to provide a strong voice for our community.

The response from locals was so positive that the new committee received a total of 12 nominations for the 2019/20 financial year, with positions to be determined at a meeting on August 7. The new committee consists of Tony Penna, Dan O'Keeffe, Marcus de Rijk, Artemis Pattichi, Joanne Vanselow, Ciaran Ashe, Jennifer Fletcher, Mike Gaertner, Clair Richards, Renee Russell, Richard Drew and Laszlo Kucharszki.

Long serving member Lynne Lumsden was awarded life membership on the night for her efforts with researching and writing the association's history. Unfortunately, with Lynne absent through illness her husband David received the award on her behalf.

southbankresidents.org.au

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Government takes lead on cladding

By Sean Car

The state government ended years of speculation last month when it pledged \$600 million of taxpayers' money to remove high-risk cladding from apartment buildings.

Premier Dan Andrews and Minister for Planning Richard Wynne made the announcement on July 16, which followed recommendations from the final report of the government's Victorian Cladding Taskforce.

The taskforce also recommended the Victorian Government seek a contribution from the Commonwealth to help fund rectification, mounting the case that cladding was a "national problem".

However, the federal government was quick to quash any speculation that it would pitch in, with federal treasurer Josh Frydenburg stating that his government would not be "picking up the bill" for what he labelled "a state responsibility".

The Andrews government will instead directly fund half of the rectification works and will introduce changes to the state's building permit levy to raise the other \$300 million over the next five years.

The program will be overseen by a new agency, Cladding Safety Victoria (CSV), which will manage funding and work directly with owners' corporations (OCs). The state government appointed former head of Incolink Dan O'Brien as CEO of CSV on August 2.

The government's decision to use tax-payer money to rectify buildings with high-risk cladding ends years of discussion in Victoria around how removal should be funded, with the government set to recoup costs from "dodgy builders".

"This isn't just about safety, it's about fairness for people who bought apartments in good faith and were let down by dodgy builders or dangerous building products," Minister for Planning Richard Wynne said. "The Commonwealth is shirking their responsibilities when it comes to helping fix combustible cladding."



L:R: Richard Wynne, John Thwaites, Ted Baillieu and Dan Andrews at the cladding announcement on July 16.

While it welcomed the government's plan for rectification, the Property Council of Australia warned that a "700 per cent increase" in building levies would add untenable costs to new construction projects in Victoria.

The Property Council's Victorian deputy executive director Matthew Kandelaars said he was "deeply concerned" about the impacts of the proposed increase.

"The Government is proposing a 700 per cent increase in the levy for new buildings valued at more than \$1.5 million," he said. "For works as low as \$800,000, it is proposed the levy rate will double. These are not big building projects by any stretch."

"The increases which are being proposed for new projects are disproportionate and unreasonable when you consider that the buildings being targeted for rectification have previously been lawfully approved under the Victorian building code."

"We understand and support the imperative to strengthen public confidence in construction and building safety and address the looming insurance crisis. However, a unilateral and massive increase in construction costs is not the answer."

The government's taskforce, headed by former Victorian Premier Ted Baillieu and former Deputy Premier John Thwaites, has

worked with the Victorian Building Authority (VBA) to identify 15 buildings that will have their cladding fixed first.

The government has said that CSV would soon start contacting OCs and property owners, starting with those buildings that had been identified by the taskforce as the greatest risk, while the VBA continues to audit buildings across the state.

The taskforce's final report, released on July 16, stated that of the 2227 buildings audited in Victoria to date, 1069 were found to have combustible cladding. Of those, 72 were deemed to be extreme risk, 409 high risk, 388 moderate risk and 200 low risk.

Federal Greens MP for Melbourne Adam Bandt welcomed the government's decision and urged it to begin funding the removal of dangerous cladding immediately.

"This is a victory for all the residents who have pushed for action. This is what happens when people speak up and demand that governments act," Mr Bandt said.

"Once this cladding is removed, the government should pursue those responsible in court and implement a new levy on developers to recoup the costs."

The announcement would also appear to draw an end to the government's failed cladding rectification agreement (CRA) loan scheme. *CBD News* reported in July that not

a single loan had been issued in Victoria under the scheme since it was introduced last year.

The complicated scheme involves a three-way loan between owners, council and a lender, which allows an owner to pay off a loan through their council rates.

Lannock Strata Finance CEO Paul Morton, whose company funded the Lacrosse building in Docklands to enable the OC to commence rectification and pursue litigation, said that the government's scheme was never commercially viable.

"The market for lending to owners' corporations is mature and competitive. There is no reason or justification for government intervention," he said. "Lannock will lend 100 per cent of the amount required to fix all cladding rectification on strata buildings in Victoria."

"From a lender's point of view there are lots of practical problems with the CRA. It's uncommercial. There is no arrears management process in place and council has to set up all of these new systems, which they don't normally do."

The government's announcement was also followed by the news of a landmark agreement being struck between states, territories and the Commonwealth on July 18, which will see a new national taskforce funded to pursue nationally consistent building standards.

Held at the Building Ministers Forum held in Sydney, Minister for Planning Richard Wynne said the agreement would mean that the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) would be expanded, better resourced and force greater engagement from the building industry. The ABCB will now be tasked with preparing a national framework to guide implementation of recommendations from the Shergold Weir *Building Confidence* report.

States and territories also agreed to work towards a coordinated approach on professional indemnity insurance.

To view the Victorian Cladding Taskforce's final report:

planning.vic.gov.au/building-policy/victorian-cladding-taskforce

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Locals shape hospital vision

By Alex Dalziel

The state government has established a community consultative committee to guide the development of the proposed new Fishermans Bend Community Hospital.

The committee will consist of 13 members and will be chaired by the local member for the Southern Metropolitan region Nina Taylor.

“We are getting on with building the Fisherman’s Bend Community Hospital because locals should be able to easily access the care they need, close to home, when they need it,” Ms Taylor said.

Members of the committee include: Ms Juliet Cooper, Ms Simone Cresp, Mr Dan Ferguson, Mr Spiros Fourlanos, Mr Paul Grant, Ms Debra Holland, Ms Sheryl Maher, Ms Esther Margalit, Mr Schlomo Nathanson, Ms June Sorbi, Ms Jennifer Stone, Mr Ruth Taylor and Ms Gillian Wood.

Professor Andrew Way from Alfred Health and Damien Ferrie from Star Health are also advisors on the committee.

It is hoped that the committee will assist the state government tailor the hospital to the needs of the local community.

“It is critical these hospitals are shaped by their communities. We understand how important it is that locals get a real say on what health services they need and that is exactly what this advisory group will do,” Ms Taylor said.



The community hospital will offer services such as day surgery, renal dialysis, specialist appointments, allied health including physiotherapy and speech pathology, after-hours health care with access to pathology and imaging, women’s and children’s health and chronic disease management.

Services may also include community mental health, alcohol and drug services and public dental, as well as counselling and treatment services, respite and recovery services.

The hospital is part of a \$675 million election promise by the Andrews Labor government to build or upgrade 10 community hospitals across the state.

Alfred Health will manage the Fishermans Bend Community Hospital, with other potential partners including the City of Port Phillip, South East Melbourne Primary Health Network, and other NGOs.

While a site is yet to be announced for the hospital, *Southbank Local News* understands that the preferred location is within the Wirraway Precinct.

Construction is expected to begin in 2022 and completed by 2024.



Cr Nicholas Reece presents to the Yarra River Business Association on July 12.

Reece talks river

The Yarra River Business Association (YRBA) was given a presentation by Cr Nicholas Reece last month on the City of Melbourne’s draft city river strategy.

Addressing members at the July luncheon at Left Bank on July 12, council’s chair of planning gave an insight into what council had proposed in the strategy as part of its long-term vision for the Yarra River/ Birrarung.

As to be expected, businesses were mainly interested as to how the strategy would help open the precinct up to greater activity on and along the river. The team at Yarra Pools, which has long proposed to construct a pool at the turning basin near Enterprize Park, also quizzed Cr Reece on whether its idea was being seriously considered as part of the final plan.

Public consultation on the draft strategy has now closed and the final report is expected to go before councillors at the

Future Melbourne Committee in the coming months.

Earlier in his address to the YRBA, Cr Reece also raised the perennial issue that has plagued Southbank for many years; trucks carrying placard loads along City Rd.

Cr Reece’s comments, in which he said he was keen to act on banning large trucks from using City Rd, were picked up by *The Herald Sun* in a follow-up story published on July 18.

While there is a strong desire for a solution to the issue, which is the result of larger trucks being banned from using the Domain Tunnel and diverted via City Rd and Power St, *Southbank Local News* has learned many times that there is no quick fix.

Due to safety and animal welfare concerns for trucks carrying petrol or livestock, for example, VicRoads doesn’t permit larger vehicles using the tunnel. However, it is understood that discussions surrounding modifications to larger trucks and changed traffic conditions are forming part of the current pitch to the roads authority in an effort to get the vehicles off City Rd. Watch this space!

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Heritage review

By Alex Dalziel

The City of Port Phillip has begun consulting the community on its draft local heritage policy.

The council said that the heritage review, which will also consider previous studies undertaken in Fishermans Bend, was a response to the “community’s growth and changing needs.”

Since the gazettal of the original *Port Phillip Heritage Review* in 2000, the council has conducted a number of additional assessments of heritage areas, with the last being a review of Port Phillip’s heritage overlay in 2011/12.

The draft heritage guidelines provide information to support new heritage policies, which include updated protocols on how to accommodate environmentally sustainable features, such as solar panels, on heritage buildings.

At present, the review doesn’t suggest adding or removing any buildings from the heritage overlay, but to provide a basis to conduct work on a site listed in a heritage overlay area.

Key changes to policy involve the demolition of part or all of a heritage-listed place, additions and alterations, new buildings in the heritage overlay,

significant trees, sustainability and services, subdivision, car parking and fencing.

The policy proposes to conserve heritage places in accordance with the procedures of the *Australia International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) Burra Charter 2019*; a set of principles that sets out the philosophy, terminology, methodology and techniques of cultural heritage conservation.

Demolition would be allowed if the building was found to be structurally unsound or in poor condition, and proposed to be immediately rebuilt to the original appearance.

The guidelines also aim to avoid “facadism” where demolition results in the retention of only the façade or exterior walls, and encourages developers to use and maintain as much of the original building as possible.

Attention is also paid to Aboriginal cultural heritage with the policy endorsing a strategy of using interpretive infrastructure and indigenous plant species for areas of Aboriginal archaeological or cultural heritage significance.

The City of Port Phillip is currently requesting feedback from local residents and aims to finalise the policy and guidelines by early 2020.

haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/heritage-policy-update



Looking for the perfect square

By Rhonda Dredge

The Arts Precinct is trying to preserve small squares of public space in the face of rampant high-rise development all around.

At least two residential towers are on the drawing board in Sturt St, both around 60 metres high.

Residents are worried about the visual impact of more glass towers on a ground-level community.

But it was business as usual when *Southbank Local News* visited the Malthouse courtyard last month, a popular meeting place for students, artists, residents and theatre-goers.

The square, flanked as it is by the majestic forms of ACCA and Chunky Move, is more of a rhomboid than a perfect shape.

Issues such as sunlight, shadows, food, room to move, protection and carefully-designed glimpses of other landscapes interact here.

One worker in the Malthouse expressed concern about the impact on future parking of more development in the area but squares are primarily aimed at pedestrians.

The best squares appear suddenly out of nowhere, providing punctuation in a pedestrian’s predictable journey along grey footpaths.

A good square can transform a visitor, offering a haven in winter and inspiration in summer.

Nearby, on Dodds St, a new square recently opened between the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) and the Ian Potter Southbank Centre, following

the redevelopment of the Melbourne Conservatorium by architect John Wardle.

One section of the conservatorium juts out jauntily over the new public space, defining it vertically, offering visual protection from more intrusive towers.

Some are critical of the way the ground level of the square has been landscaped in that the VCA’s art school has given up its casual dreaming space to make way for the clutter of cedar benches, instant lawn and conifers.

Arts communities around the world are conservative about the places they love. In Barcelona, Café Marcello, which was frequented by Picasso and Hemingway, hasn’t changed since. Even the dust is original.

One art lecturer said he had never seen anyone sitting on the new benches. He said the square was more of a statement than a place to hang out.

Others are more optimistic. Jon Cattapan, director of the VCA, said the square had only been open five weeks. “Wait until the warmer weather,” he said.

A student was sighted by *Southbank Local News*, sitting on one of the benches while checking his phone, while a group was perched on top of the circular lawn eating lunch.

Melbourne’s students can be quite pragmatic about their lunch options, seeking out good deals in out-of-the-way places that are not quite squares.

An unobtrusive space across Sturt St beside the Guild Apartments was attracting attention where great baguettes were available from Café Godot for \$9.

This square is more of an oblong with display cases running along its northern perimeter for creative types.

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Living the Bend's innovative dream

By Sean Car

As the state government continues in its quest to establish a world-class employment and innovation cluster in Fishermans Bend, organisations like the Australian Road Research Board (ARRB) are already leading the way.

Southbank Local News caught up with ARRB CEO Michael Caltabiano last month to get a taste of the sort of cutting-edge innovation that the precinct can look forward to seeing even more of in the future.

Last year, the ARRB established the nation's leading transportation science research facility at Turner St right in the heart of the future Employment Precinct in Fishermans Bend, relocating from its previous headquarters in Vermont.

While Michael said that the move was largely inspired by a desire to move his staff closer to the CBD, being central to the state government's vision for a National Employment and Innovation Cluster (NEIC) in Fishermans was also a factor.

"Fishermans Bend was attractive because of the industry that was here," Michael said. "The overlay of the Fishermans Bend planning that really did have this as a transport cluster and the university [of Melbourne] moving down the road meant that it all fitted really well with our vision of where we wanted to be."

"We have an opportunity here in Fishermans Bend to reimagine mobility, and how people live, and what that transportation looks like."

ARRB is a not-for-profit private company limited by guarantee, whose shareholders are the road agencies of Australia and the federal government. It is the national transport research organisation. Employing scientists, geologists, engineers, IT and technology experts, economists and even psychologists, it is the source of independent expert transport knowledge in Australia.

Working with road agencies, all levels of



ARRB CEO Michael Caltabiano inside one of the ARRB laboratories at its Fishermans Bend headquarters.

government, academia, companies and the private sector, Michael said the ARRB mission was to help shape a better transport future, which meant "opening our eyes to new ways of thinking."

This means providing up to date research on everything from pavement materials to road user behaviour, data for managing and designing our current road assets and developing the strategies and technologies for new intelligent transport systems (ITS). However, going a step further, it also means exploring all possible future mobility needs and technologies such as autonomous vehicles and solar roads, for example.

The ARRB collects the entire nation's road systems performance data using a combination of means such as intelligent pavement assessment vehicles, traffic monitors and information gathered through smart phones.

Up to date information on everything from average speeds, traffic volumes, road roughness and flood damage can be monitored by ARRB's mapping and modelling teams to save governments time and money; something not being done so well in Victoria.

"Victoria is behind the times," Michael said. "It doesn't use the intelligent pavement assessment vehicles we use in all of the other states because they choose not to. They think they know the answer based on a visual observation of the road. It's just not possible."

"We can overlay that roughness data with the speed data to find out if there are some linkages, for example. You can then overlay the decision making about which sections [of road] need upgrading and if they're not upgrading those that make an economic impact you need to say why?"

The ARRB research laboratories, open to universities or the private sector to come and play, provide the facilities capable of testing next generation road materials to suit any condition and climate.

The multi-million-dollar facility is also home to the National Interest Service Library for road and rail and provides meeting rooms, workspaces and conference spaces purpose built to host a range of different transport agencies and organisations from around the country.

"There are no other laboratories in the world where you walk in and there are no lines on the floor, there's no 'you can't touch this, you can't do that'. There's not a sign in this building. I treat everybody like an adult," Michael said.

"This is the hub for infrastructure in the nation so we will have people come in here and do projects for six months and we'll have teams of a dozen people to sit down and work with our people for a year. We have the space for all of them."

He told Southbank Local News that ARRB was in active discussions with government to implement a Smart Mobility Lab in the precinct - the world's largest test bed for next

generation mobility solutions.

"That does a number of things," he said. "It will be the only one in the country. It will be the biggest in the world because it's 450 hectares of space and because it's got industry, port, residential, new schools, it has the combinations of all of the ways in which we live for the future."

"With a smart mobility living lab overlay, we can really deliver next generation mobility solutions."

The work that ARRB do is the sort of innovation that the government is looking to attract more of in Fishermans Bend with a focus on advanced manufacturing and engineering. The Fishermans Bend taskforce is looking to global case studies, such as the Brooklyn Navy Yard in the United States or the MaRS Discovery District in Toronto, to see how it's being done elsewhere.

The government has also established a new priority precincts portfolio, which is overseen by minister Gavin Jennings. Fishermans Bend is one of a number of other precincts which include Sunshine, Werribee, Monash, Parkville and Latrobe.

With the University of Melbourne's establishing its new engineering and design campus 200 metres from the ARRB headquarters in the early 2020s, the scope for collaboration presents mouth-watering potential for innovators.

However, when it comes to keeping up with the times, Michael said he believed Australia was a decade behind the modern world when it came to embracing and adopting new mobility technologies and exploring artificial intelligence (AI); something it had to change.

"The AI economy future is the new economy and it's a multi trillion-dollar economy," Michael said. "So is the mobility of the future, it's the crossover. Mobility of the future is AI, personalised mobility, it's a different way of doing business. It's a different way of working and living."

"This is the place at Fishermans Bend to actually explore and to play and to try and to do. With University of Melbourne and RMIT down the road, 80 per cent of all AI graduates come out of China. We have to be fixated on delivering the next generation of skills."

Arrb.com.au



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Leading our local sustainable future

By Sean Car

South Melbourne Market's operations manager Adam Mehegan has completely transformed the market's sustainable practices in his five-and-a-half years in the role.

In the midst of the waste and recycling crisis currently plaguing Melbourne, it's leaders like Adam and his team who provide an important source of hope for the community.

Determined to help the market's traders and customers limit their impact on the planet, Adam is continuously looking to implement new measures that force changes in behaviour.

Taking *Southbank Local News* on a tour through the market's loading dock last month, the impact that his passion is having on the market's operations was both fascinating and inspiring.

"This backyard is like my university," Adam told *Southbank Local News*. "I work on the premise that I don't ask for permission, I ask for forgiveness."

"Our contract is cleaning and waste management. A cleaning contractor would engage a waste company and when I started there were specific components required from a contractor."

"It included things such as reduction of waste to landfill but we're not educating the cleaners, improving our waste and finding new ways of doing things so I thought who is going to do it? I'm going to do it, aren't I? I'll take ownership of it and do it myself."

Open four days a week and operating on a modest footprint, streamlining and enhancing its waste management systems has been vitally important in ensuring the community market remains the thriving space that it is today. Here are just some of the innovative ways it is making a difference.



Separated organic waste.

Organic waste

The market has installed a machine, known as the GG1200, which processes about 470 tonnes of organic waste annually. Twice a day, about 600kg of product, which includes fish offal, coffee grounds, sushi, greens and orange rinds from juicers, is processed through the machine at 175 degrees and broken down.

The moisture is extracted over nine hours and after cooling down, is then processed into bags of **soil food**, which the market then sells to customers as slow release fertiliser, which Adam said was fantastic for the garden.



Soil food and, once processed (below) bagged for sale.

"Smells alright doesn't it? When you have heaps of citrus and coffee in it you get a bit of a Christmas cake smell sometimes!" he said. "The beautiful thing about our product is that because of the seafood it has a 25 per cent nitrogen content. It's a slow release and it's 100 per cent organic concentrated and super-rich in nutrients."

Adam said the market was also collaborating on a project with food rescue charity FareShare by providing it with soil food for its community projects.

The market is the only one in Australia that has a **worm project** of its size: approximately 150 tonnes (or six cubic metres) a week to be exact. Partnering with Wiggly Recyclers in Werribee, everything from paper, lawn clippings and green scraps are converted into compost.

Adam said he would soon be implementing working worm farms in the market to show the public. It will also soon sell the worms to customers, which according to Adam, fed off very special mix ... "Our product is mixed with rhino poo from the Werribee Zoo I've been told!"



Recycling

Using its own recycling partners Vanden and Australian Paper Recovery (APR), the market hasn't been impacted by the current dramas gripping its council thanks to the closure of SKM.



Oyster shells are given their own bins in the market.

Oysters

This project, which was entirely thanks to Adam's self-described "stalking" of a not-for-profit organisation called **The Nature Conservancy**, has been one of the market's most transformative changes to date.

Going through around 3000 dozen oyster shells a week, Adam said the shells had previously created a massive by-product, which would previously go to landfill. Instead, the market has to date contributed 28 tonnes of oyster shells to the Nature Conservancy's program to restore decimated reefs in Port Phillip Bay.

"In nature, oyster shells or scallop shells when they die that shell is used as a foundation for new shellfish to grow," Adam said. "So, they establish the sandstone and drop the shell on and once it's actually established with the seaweed and algae, they'll go and plant the oyster spat. To date there is about 1100 sqm of reef that they've established. There is a beautiful, healthy, ecosystem out there now."

Energy and water

The market's roof has turned into an incredible resource for its traders. Not only does it currently hold 34kw of solar capacity, with another 200kw to be added soon (reducing energy bills by around \$60,000 annually), the rooftop carpark acts as a water catchment that feeds a half-a-million-litre water tank.

This water is used for washdowns throughout the market and by the likes of the market's florist for potable water. This combined with sub-metering the 76 stalls holders who actually use water at the market, bills have been slashed.

What's next?

While the market runs a range of other initiatives, Adam said that new initiatives targeting items such as coffee cups, egg cartons and heating were next in line. And, of course, those notorious plastic soy sauce fish were on notice!

"We've tried to get rid of the plastic soy sauce fish by putting bottles on the tables," he said. "Some of the shops still sell them but it's a slow education process. Same with wasabi packets; we've started putting that in bottles too."

"I come from the generation of convenience. Like the plastic bags, which we were the first to ban. It's lazy and it's convenient. We need to actually change the behaviour."

"There's always more to come. We're not resting."

South Melbourne Market will host its annual *Sustainable September* campaign starting from August 26. To learn more visit southmelbournemarket.com.au/about/sustainability



This small bailer can crush 1000 milk bottles at one time.



Air compressed polystyrene compacted into blocks.

A few key changes in this space under Adam's leadership has been the installation of a bailing machines for **polystyrene** and **milk bottles**. As he said, in a 100 sqm waste management area, space was key.

Having previously been bailed into large 200kg loads, the new machine now air compresses polystyrene into neat bricks, resulting a significant reduction of volume. The change has seen collection go from three times a fortnight to once every five weeks, limiting truck movements and softening its carbon footprint.

Locals are also invited to bring their milk bottles to the market anytime, according to Adam. With the market using around 750 bottles of milk a week of its own, its bailer machine can compact 1000 in a single bail. Made from high-density polyethylene, milk bottles, like polystyrene, are both highly sought-after products for the building industry which use it for the likes of installation panelling and foundation pads for new developments. As a result, the market now earns money for what was once just considered waste.

It also runs a range of other recycling initiatives for other things such as glass, oil and ...

WILLIAM BARTON

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE



“It’s a great honour to be an artist in residence here,” William said. The first conversation with Marshall Maguire was to just do whatever I want within reason but do the things that I would have wanted to do and explore across all of the different program ideas.”

“It will be great to be able to work with musicians of great esteem and ability because you get to hang out and workshop your ideas musically as well.”

Barton grew up around music and began playing didgeridoo from the age of seven in his hometown of Mt Isa, Queensland, where he was taught by his uncle Arthur Peterson. He also recounts memories of listening to his mother’s “operatic” singing with the birds at their home on a cattle station as a young boy.

“The spirit of my uncle or mum resonates through the next generation of storytellers and how we further develop that conversation through our artform,” William said.

“It was a privilege to be taught by my uncle. He taught me with traditional techniques and then that gave me the foundation to explore and ride that wave into different genres and adapt other techniques outside of the traditional techniques.”

It’s that same sense of cultural exchange and education that inspires and motivates William’s music. Describing himself as a “generational storyteller,” he said he felt that it was vital for everyone to be able to share the power of language and identity through the medium of music.

“The language is an important part of your identity and how you have to have it in our education system,” William said. “When I was here recently for International Jazz Day with Herbie Hancock and James Morrison, one of the hot topics was peoples’ style; where do they get their magic from?”

“It’s a linear. There’s a linkage of who they looked upon to get to where they are. Music is a basis of my contemporary expressions.”

Melbournerecital.com.au

By Sean Car

Kalkadunga man and didgeridoo virtuoso William Barton has moved into the Melbourne Recital Centre (MRC) in August to become its 2019 artist-in-residence.

“An Australian giant in every sense of the word. A musician at the very top of his game, he’s broken more barriers and glass ceilings than you can count,” Limelight magazine’s Clive Paget wrote of Barton in 2016.

Upon meeting William at MRC last month, *Southbank Local News* could not agree with Paget’s take more. The same kind, thoughtful and compassionate emotions one receives through his music are the same as those received in person. William cares deeply

about his music and his culture.

Those who tuned into the memorial service for former Prime Minister Bob Hawke recently would recall William’s mastery on the didgeridoo, when he collaborated with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra in delivering a moving rendition of Men at Work’s *Land Down Under*.

A proud indigenous man, William is widely celebrated as one of Australia’s greatest living artists and he continues to tour the world sharing his talents and his passion for his country. That passion was on display for those lucky enough to witness his *Contours of Songlines* performance in the Elisabeth Murdoch Hall at MRC on July 18, which featured his mother Aunty Delmae Burton and violinist and pianist Paul Grabowsky.

However, this month, he moves into MRC to work alongside the likes of its director of programming Marshall Maguire to explore new ideas across a range of mediums all aimed at enhancing the MRC program.

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Sex and the city will save you

By Rhonda Dredge

The quirky imagination of art student Kaijern Koo stood out last month among the finalists for the Majlis \$15,000 travelling scholarship.

15 third-year students from the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) were in the running.

Kaijern didn't win but her philosophical paintings performed their rituals to an appreciative audience.

The sensitive 20-year-old from Adelaide finds Melbourne overwhelming. "People are restless here. Everyone is trying to grab your attention."

Sometimes she seeks solace in *Sex and the City* re-runs.

"I love that show. It's an image of simplicity. Carrie Bradshaw is like a god, someone to turn to when everything else is confusing."

Kaijern likes the character of Carrie not because she is sexy or gets to wear great clothes but because she is omniscient. She deals with life's vicissitudes with a voice-over that turns them into a compelling story.

In her painting *Sex and the city will save you*, Kaijern uses a graphic style to represent Carrie at her laptop in her lounge room where she writes her column.

In the lower part of the painting are sketchy images of the city with all kinds of



Kaijern Koo: proud of the exposure for her paintings

mindfulness and horoscope sayings people tell each other to keep on track such as "fill your mouth with marigolds."

"They try and offer wisdom but they don't make sense," Kaijern said.

Her paintings are a way of finding

certainty in a world that feels unstable.

"I hope to track these things that are overwhelming. I like to juxtapose the chaotic with the still."

In *Every morning I rearrange our toothbrushes so we stay happy* she has

outlined the simple, straightforward images of the toothbrushes as a form of voodoo.

"You have to arrange the toothbrushes in a certain way so that life will emulate them."

Her work provides insights into the reasons one might perform these toothbrush rituals. "If I see they've been disturbed I have to put them back. It's a small opportunity for control over fate."

She denies that her paintings provide solutions for some of life's existential problems. "They're quasi-solutions."

If she'd won the scholarship she wanted to visit the *Hungry Ghost* festival in Hong Kong where the dead are allowed back among the living. Rituals and offerings are given so they don't meddle.

"They put food out for the dead so they'll be appeased and don't bring bad fortune. Ghosts are a magnification of regrets with old loved ones."

She praised Francis Carmody who won the Majlis scholarship for her video *Waiting for Tear Gas*. The award was presented by Angela Wood at the Margaret Lawrence Gallery.

Jewish arts come to Southbank

By Sarah Bartlett

Melbourne Recital Centre (MRC) presents the Festival of Jewish Arts and Music (FOJAM) in September.

The festival, which takes place on September 8, is a contemporary international music and arts festival celebrating the diversity and essence of Jewish identity, culture and life.

Taking place over one day across four stages, 30 performances will feature over 140 international and local artists.

The festival will be under the artistic direction of the founders of music and events agency Hear Them Hollar, Lior Albeck-Ripka and Jesse Lubitz.

Mr Albeck-Ripka said that that the festival was an opportunity for diverse artists to collaborate.

"We are bringing together critically acclaimed and emerging artists working across music, dance, drag, comedy, theatre and moving image from Australia, Israel, Russia and England," said Mr Albeck-Ripka.

Featured artists include international headliners Israeli beat maker and producer Noga Erez, as well as American singer-songwriter Chris Cohen, from the band Deerhoof.

Multimedia artist and LGBTI activist Zackary Drucker will speak in an Australian exclusive of her work as a producer on



Gabriella Cohen.

the TV series *Transparent*, as well as the meeting of Jewish and queer identities on one of the festival's panel discussions.

The festival opens with a performance by poet, musician, educator and First Nations' community activist Neil Morris with *Why We Stand*. The performance is a celebration of Yorta Yorta man William Cooper. Mr Cooper led a protest to the German Embassy in Melbourne in 1938, objecting to the treatment of Jewish people.

The festival's headline performance is *Transformer - A Tribute to Lou Reed*, a performance of Reed's iconic album *Transformer*. The tribute performance is directed by Indie pop-artist Gabriella Cohen and Kate "Babyshakes" Dillon (Full Flower Moon Band) and features artists including Chris Cohen, Alex Grow (Oh Mercy), Emily Lubitz (Tinpan Orange), Bella Venuti (IV League), Spike Fuck and ARIA-winning post-



Willy Zygiel and Deborah Conway.

punk legend Deborah Conway.

Ms Conway will also collaborate with her spouse Willy Zygiel to curate and perform in the festival choice pick *Songs of Songs*, which is a tribute to Jewish lyricists and composers such as Leonard Cohen, Paul Simon and Carole King. Artists featuring in this line up include: Paul Kelly, Vika Bull, Kate Ceberano, Clare Bowditch, Harry James Angus, Lisa Mitchell, Alma Zygiel, iOTA, Benny Walker, James Henry, Alice Skye and Jacek Komen.

Other prominent performances include Gabriella Cohen and her band, 22-piece ensemble YID!, Australian contemporary classical film and television composer George Dreyfus, Russian-Israeli avant-garde artist Mary Ocher and many more.

The program closes up with Gideon Obarzanek's creation *Circle Dance*, which is based on an Israeli folk dance, as well as choreographer Israel Aloni's solo dance



YID.

performance *My Body, My Nation*; a colourful performance that contains a full nudity warning, and Asis D'Orange's *The Carrot*, which explores the parameters of genre and gender.

Asis's passions cover a multitude of themes that include fashion, feminism and veganism. The themes gradually develop to become similar in dark and alluring ways.

Festival producer Jesse Lubitz said that the festival paid homage to Jewish culture and identity.

"The festival is a celebration of Jewish identity, history, culture and arts - an expression of freedom," Mr Lubitz said.

"We hope artists and audiences walk away from FOJAM delighted, inspired, and maybe even challenged to reconsider their idea of the Jewish experience."

For more information visit fojam.com



If these walls could speak.. Sally Watson.



Unnaturally Common by Anna Luscombe.

All paradise is not love

By Meg Hill

An exhibition of third year students from the Photography Studies College (PSC) is running at a pop-up gallery at Southgate until September with a central focus on surrealism.

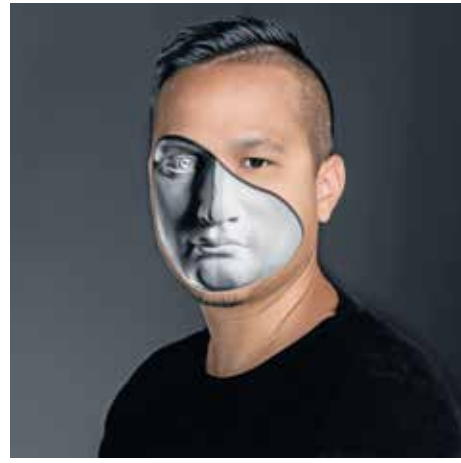
The exhibition is called *All Paradise is Not Love*. André Breton, the author of two of the three *Surrealist Manifestos*, wrote a poem of the same name.

It's the first time third-year advanced diploma students have exhibited as part of their course. Lecturer Mark Harper said the format of the exhibition allowed students to embrace their differences.

"Their work varies a lot, it's a really diverse show," he said.



I am by Sheena Mukundan.



Selfie Dysmorphia by Guillermo Carvajal.



Image from Matthew Law.

"The thing I like about the show is that it's different from what you'd see normally at PSC."

He said the pop-up gallery allowed an outside-of-the-box approach and a break from the continuity that's required of work exhibited inside the college.

The exhibition comprises folio work that students have completed during the first half of the year. Part of that is client-oriented folios, and the other is surrealism.

"You don't really have any boundaries, so you really get to explore your creativity," said Sally Watson, whose work *If these walls could speak...* features in the exhibition.

"I did a series of images from my surreal folio. I was inspired by a house and so that

was where it all began and I wanted to create a story that may have happened within the walls of that house," she said.

"I like dark, dreamy, fairy-tale sort of content. I'm inspired by the imagination."

Gary Tate, another student in the exhibition, used his client folio in the exhibition. His photos were taken to promote a burlesque show at the Butterfly Club.

"Basically, I tried to capture images that showed a little bit of movement so people could see the show was vibrant," he said.

"I love a lot of the others' work because we get to see how it develops. We have 23 weeks to develop these themes, our client folio and our surreal folio."

"They photograph a lot differently to the way I do, so they inspire me, and hopefully I inspire them."

Other contributions include *Selfie Dysmorphia* by Guillermo Carvajal, *I am* by Sheena Mukundan, and *Unnaturally Common* by Anna Luscombe.

Selfie Dysmorphia is an exploration of technology distorting aesthetic perception, as opposed to celebrating true individuality. *I am* is an artistic exploration of the Myer-Briggs theory.

Unnaturally Common is inspired by the way unnatural elements seep into remote natural landscapes.

The exhibition is running at **Shop 5, 3 Southgate Avenue.**



Image by PSC graduate Aaron Walker



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Grappling with our existential dramas

By Sean Car

The Australian Centre for Contemporary Art's (ACCA) current exhibition asks all of us, including its own artists, to explore some of our greatest personal challenges in new and inspiring ways.

ACCA's artistic director and exhibition curator Max Delany guided *Southbank Local News* through the gallery last month to experience *On Vulnerability and Doubt* through the vision of its brainchild.

Featuring the work of eight artists, three of whom are international, Delany said the themes of the exhibition had initially been inspired by the artists themselves, whose works all shared something in common.

In a world defined by movements such as #MeToo and #BlackLivesMatter, related questions of vulnerability and doubt have been exposed and reimagined in a wide range of public and academic contexts.

While the exhibition poses many questions of individuals and of society, conveyed through a diverse range of creative expressions, Delany said that the works bore just as much weight for the artists in their own contemplations of these themes.

"Vulnerability as an arts sense is believing in yourself or not. There are some very nice links that happen through each of the works," Max told *Southbank Local News*. "None of the artists are shrinking violets but they grapple with these existential dramas like we all do."

"Doubt is one of the foundation stones of philosophy and scientific thought but also has a very poetic register. These are things that we can all identify and improvise with. It's okay to feel uncertain and people are a lot more vulnerable in their own situations."

In rethinking vulnerability as a productive, critical term, away from ideas of victimhood



Max Delany with Andrea Büttner's series *Beggar* at ACCA last month.

and a lack of agency, Max said the exhibition presented vulnerability as a concept helpful in destabilising categories of normality.

This is apparent in indigenous artist Archie Moore's photographic work *Under my Skin*, for example, which presents the bare-chested artist in the company of others wearing t-shirts adorned with the image of his own torso.

"He's very interested in the whole idea of empathy and seeing something from someone else's perspective," Max said. "His identity is both indigenous and European and then, equally, he has an even more sort of darker undertone which is about skin colour and identity, legitimacy and Aboriginality being conferred by the colour of one's skin."

The exhibition features some extraordinary and humorous takes on the

idea of vulnerability. None more as unusual than Charlie Sofo, for example, whose work *Chocks* showcases a series of real-life blocks or wedges found in the street. As Max said, a humble material "put on a pedestal" and given new, monumental "gravitas".

Linda Marrinon's *Rock with Underpants* is also sure cause for a smile. The work is presented exactly how the title suggests, as a bluestone rock dressed in underwear, and expresses an anti-heroic message referent to the human torso.

Then there is the work of German artist Andrea Büttner, whose series *Beggar*, is "particularly foundational" to the exhibition, according to Delany. Using a "poverty of means" through woodblock printmaking, she conveys her messages of vulnerability, shame and judgement as much through the materials as she does through her subjects.

"She looks at these works on one hand as representations of beggars who are normally shunned or not given a dignified stance and she attempts to elevate them and give them a certain dignity," Max said.

"She also sees these images of artists before their viewers. Everyone's head is covered and that also relates to the question of shame. It's equally like an artist putting up their work for judgement."

The question of doubt is addressed centrally by the likes of Brent Harris's series *Borrowed plumage*, a number of which present the probing fingers of Saint Thomas the Apostle - Doubting Thomas - plunging his fingers into the resurrected body of Christ.

"He [Thomas] doesn't believe his eyes," Max said. "So, he has to put his fingers into Christ's wounds to tell the truth. What that suggests is that we have to rely on senses other than the purely visual."

"So, questions of touch. When you walk through the exhibition you'll also see that there are references to touch and to the finger and to the hand and senses other than the purely visual, including emotional affect and sensation."

Prevalent in all of the works and presented in a range of mediums, the exhibition lends itself to deeper questions of intimacy and desire, shame, love and awkwardness and, of course, fear. It is a journey not to be missed.

On Vulnerability and Doubt is on at ACCA until September 1.

Acca.melbourne

Supersense Festival

By Alex Dalziel

Supersense: Festival of the Ecstatic will return to Arts Centre Melbourne in 2019 from August 23 to 25.

In its third year, the immersive program will host a range of performances across the weekend, collaborating with premiere artists from Australia and overseas.

In 2019, the festival will be set within the underground maze of Arts Centre Melbourne's buildings, venues and walkways. The program will bring together elements of music, theatre, dance and performance ritual.

The festival is the creation of Arts Centre Melbourne and Australian New York-based performer and curator Sophia Brous. An artist of diverse interests, Brous has commissioned a number of large-scale productions and concerts both in New York and Australia.

Ms Brous told *Southbank Local News* that this year's festival would be bigger than ever, with elements everybody could enjoy.

"*Supersense* this year is broader and the most ambitious festival yet, with some of the



Marlon Williams will perform on August 23.

most stunning artists, icons and agitators coming together across music, theatre and dance. There is something in the program for everyone."

"Go along to see an artist you love and admire but then expect to be blown away by an altogether different artist playing behind door number two."

From 2016 to 2018, Brous was an artist-in-residence of National Sawdust; an arts institution and venue in Williamsburg, New York. She was also a former resident artist of Robert Wilson's Watermill Centre and the Red Bull Studios New York.

Brous said that audiences should be



Curator Sophia Brous.

excited by the diverse line-up, which promised to surprise.

"*Supersense* is special in that it brings together artists from all around the world, ranging in ages from 20 to 80, across generations, culture and art forms. From icons of music, dance, theatre and performance to emerging visionary contemporary artists," Ms Brous said.

"Audiences will leave with a feeling of curiosity, inspiration and maybe even revelation."

The 2019 program line-up includes American theatre icon Robert Wilson who is performing and directing John Cage's

A Lecture on Nothing in an Australian exclusive.

Also featuring will be New Zealand songwriter Aldous Harding and avant-garde jazz group The Art Ensemble of Chicago, led by Roscoe Mitchell and Famoudou Don Moye, celebrating their 50th anniversary dedication to Lester Bowie, Shaku Joseph Jarman and Malachi Favors Maghostut.

"Expect to have your mind blown and heart opened. *Supersense* is all killer no filler," Ms Brous said.

For more information on the full line up visit artscentremelbourne.com.au/supersense-festival



Melbourne Art Fair returns

By Sarah Bartlett

Melbourne Art Fair has found a new home at Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) in South Wharf and will return in June next year.

Southbank's biennial art fair will take up permanent residency at the MCEC for its 16th edition displaying new works by artists from over 50 of Melbourne's best galleries.

Last held in Southbank's Arts Precinct in 2018, the art fair commemorated 30 years after a four-year hiatus. The return of the June event sees the continuation of its contribution as a progressive forum for contemporary art for Australasia.

Melbourne Art Foundation CEO and fair director Maree Di Pasquale said that the new residence would upgrade the art fair's scaling on an international level.

"After a temporary home in 2018, Melbourne Art Fair is ready to be elevated to a fair of international standing taking up residence at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre," she said.

"With proximity to the Melbourne Arts Precinct and world-class institutions NGV International, ACCA and The University of Melbourne, we look forward to continuing our partnerships to further position the city as the art and ideas capital of Australia."

The new residence will see Melbourne Art Fair join the numerous international art fairs that take place in convention and exhibition venues around the world.

Melbourne Art Foundation chair Charles Justin said that MCEC was the perfect setting for Melbourne Art Fair.

"The Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, designed by architecture heavyweights Denton Corker Marshall, is the

ideal, long-term home for Melbourne Art Fair," he said.

"With world-class exhibition facilities, central CBD access and proximity to the Melbourne Arts Precinct, it provides the best possible setting for an art fair of international standards."

Ms Di Pasquale said that the fair's new program would showcase the region's most "exciting artists".

"Melbourne Art Fair 2020 signifies a key moment in the evolution of the event as a platform for contemporary art and ideas. With strong curatorial affiliations we are developing a bold artistic program that will embrace galleries at the forefront of the contemporary art market – galleries with a rotating program of the region's most exciting artists," Ms Di Pasquale said.

The event will run at the same time as Melbourne's annual design fair DENFAIR. The co-timing will assist with tailoring and welcoming an audience of architects and interior designers.

The Art Fair will have two main exhibition sectors, which will display *Galleries*, presenting noteworthy galleries, as well as *Accent*, which features the works of upcoming artists from 10 of the region's most forward-looking young galleries.

Melbourne Art Foundation Commission will return for the eighth time with its support for artists' work, which will be unveiled at Melbourne Art Fair and subsequently gifted to a notable Australian Institution.

Melbourne Art Fair has been running biennially since 1988 at the Royal Exhibition Buildings, presenting works from up to 90 Australian and international galleries, drawing sales of \$8 - \$10 million.

Melbourne Art Fair and DENFAIR will run as separate events, from June 18 to 21 in 2020 at MCEC. For more information visit melbourneartfair.com.au



Mimir Chamber Music Festival returns to Southbank

Curt Thompson founded the Mimir Chamber Music Festival in Texas 22 years ago. He decided to start a Melbourne leg after he moved here to become associate professor of violin and head of strings at the Melbourne Conservatorium seven years ago.

But the story really begins in the USSR. "My teacher in the US was a very famous Soviet violinist who defected after a concert in the early '80s in West Berlin," Mr Thompson told *Southbank Local News*.

"She was hiding for a period of months and found her way to Melbourne via a visa who someone called Sir John Hopkins arranged for her."

"She moved to the States where I met her, but when she retired, she moved back to Melbourne. I visited her before her death and met Sir John Hopkins who thought I should apply for the job I now have."

Now the festival is in its seventh year in Melbourne and has some of the world's finest chamber musicians descending on Southbank again from August 24 to September 1.

Mr Thompson said the festival will feature the "cream of the crop" of chamber music from the US.

The festival, held at the new Ian Potter Southbank Centre, will feature guests including Joan Derhovsepian, viola (USA), Jun Iwasaki, violin (USA), Joh Novacek, piano (USA), Stephen Rose, violin (USA) and Brant Taylor, cello (USA).

Mr Thompson said one of the differentiating parts of the festival was its "dual focus" on performance and education. As part of the festival, Mimir guest artists will also mentor young musicians from the Melbourne Conservatorium and secondary schools from across Victoria.

"On the one hand I'm looking forward to watching the lights go on for the students who will be so excited to work with these artists," Mr Thompson said.

"But I'm also really thrilled to be in our new facility at the Ian Potter Southbank Centre, it will be hard to hear better performances in Melbourne."

For more info finearts-music.unimelb.edu.au/events/mimir



EVENTS

AUGUST 2019



BJÖRK: INTERPRETED

Aug 16 - Primrose Potter Salon

The music of Björk defies categorisation. Her 30-year career has produced a catalogue of works that cement her as an experimental creative force and one of the most important artists of the last century. Examining art-pop as a canvas to which electronica, classical, trip hop, jazz and dance converge in the avant garde – her unique sonic portraits inspire and challenge audiences.

melbournerecital.com.au



TURNING DIGITAL GEOLOGY INTO ART

Aug 21 - 30 - Testing Grounds

An underground journey into Melbourne's arts precinct, Tarryn Handcock responds to 3 million years of geologic data unearthed through core sampling at Testing Grounds. With a fashion practice that explores dress at an urban scale, she will be populating the site with soft rocks, faux minerals, precious dust, and plastiglomerate propositions for the new geological age.

testing-grounds.com.au



GREASE

Aug 14 - 17 - Southbank Theatre

University College Theatre Company is proud to present their 2019 production of *Grease the Musical*. This musical has been entirely created and produced by the students of University College by arrangement with ORiGIN™ Theatrical.

mtc.com.au



MY DEARWORTHY DARLING

Until Aug 18 - Malthouse

In modern day Australia, a marriage is pulled apart by mistrust, paranoia and violence. A woman breaks apart in the turmoil. In medieval England, a woman has mystic visions. The patriarchs write them off as female madness, but she knows her truth. These visions allow her to be heard—maybe even to connect across centuries. What new worlds might open?

malthousetheatre.com.au

AUSTRALIAN MUSIC VAULT

Ongoing - Arts Centre Melbourne

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

australianmusicvault.com.au

TERRACOTTA WARRIORS & CAI GUO-QIANG

Until Oct 13 - National Gallery of Victoria

In a dual presentation of Chinese art and culture past and present, the Melbourne Winter Masterpieces series at the National Gallery of Victoria presents China's ancient terracotta warriors alongside an exhibition of new works by one of the world's most exciting contemporary artists, Cai Guo-Qiang.

ngv.vic.gov.au

BANDITS LIVE COMFORTABLY IN THE RUINS

Aug 12 - ACCA

Join us for a special lecture by Irish artist Sean Lynch presented by the City of Melbourne. Lynch is visiting Melbourne to carry out research into creative practice in Australia with Arts Melbourne and will speak about his practice and recent work in terms of the public realm.

acca.melbourne.com.au

BACKSTAGE TOUR

Sundays - Arts Centre Melbourne

Over 90 minutes, specially-trained guides reveal the secrets of Arts Centre Melbourne's theatres. You will gain unique access to backstage rooms, hidden passageways and technical contraptions unknown to anyone but our production crews and performers.

artscentremelbourne.com.au



SINCE ALI DIED

Aug 13 - 17 - Fairfax Studio

Using the death of his hero Muhammad Ali as a lyrical springboard, Omar Musa dives into a furious torrent of poetry, story and song, confronting everything from suburban violence to lost love to his Malaysian heritage and the dark realities of growing up as a brown-skinned Muslim boy in Queanbeyan, Australia.

artscentremelbourne.com.au



BLOOD ON THE DANCE FLOOR

Aug 20 - 21 - Fairfax Studio

Explores the legacies and memories of our bloodlines, our need for community, and what blood means to each of us – questioning how this most precious fluid unites and divides us. A choreographer, dancer and writer from the Narangga and Kaurna nations of South Australia, Jacob Boehme was diagnosed with HIV in 1998. In search of answers, he reached out to his ancestors.

artscentremelbourne.com.au



VCA MUSIC THEATRE SHOWCASE

Aug 19 - Hamer Hall

Performed by the next generation of Australian stars, the Victorian College of the Arts graduating alumni invite you to celebrate works spanning the early days of Rodgers and Hammerstein to modern day composers. This highly anticipated program, created exclusively for Morning Melodies, will remind you why musical theatre is such a beloved art form.

artscentremelbourne.com.au



STAINING WITH KATIE WEST

Aug 14 - ACCA

Join artist Katie West in a practical making workshop to explore different ways of leaving marks, stains and traces on fabric using natural dyes from plants. In this hands-on workshop you will experiment with and learn about different natural dyeing techniques, using silk and an array of botanicals to create unique textiles.

acca.melbourne.com.au

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Jeff's Shed thriving after expansion

By Alex Dalziel

One year on since the 20,000 sqm expansion to the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) at South Wharf, business is booming.

Last month, MCEC celebrated its 10th anniversary, as well as one year since the unveiling of its new expansion space built in partnership with the state government.

Last year's \$205 million expansion project brought the building's capacity to 70,000 sqm, adding new meeting rooms and banquet rooms, as well as expanding the size of the exhibition hall.

Since the official opening in July 2018, MCEC's new venue has hosted 247 events.

According to the state government, MCEC's economic impact has grown by 12 per cent year-on-year, with business events becoming the highest yielding sector for event bookings.

MCEC chief executive Peter King said that the expansion had been a great addition to the exhibition hall.

"In the 2018/19 year, we have contributed more than \$1.10 billion in economic impact to the state of Victoria," Mr King said.

"The expansion has exceeded all expectations, we've been inundated with interest and our golden expansion has already become an iconic addition to the Melbourne skyline."

"In the last seven years we've more than doubled our revenue and we are on track to exceed \$100 million next year."

MCEC itself hosted around 1300 events last financial year, with the biggest in terms of attendance being the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal event, which saw 85,000 people flock to South Wharf.

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Martin Pakula visited MCEC on July 11 to celebrate the anniversary, where he also announced that the CODA 2020 healthcare conference would be coming to MCEC bringing an expected 3000 delegates and \$14



million to the economy.

"We're seeing clear dividends from our investment in the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, boosting the visitor economy and supporting thousands of jobs,"

Mr Pakula said.

"It's one thing to have ambition but we need to be able to provide world-leading facilities to attract big events from around the globe – and that's exactly what the new MCEC does."



Montague site sold with plans

A site at 2-14 Thistlethwaite St with lodged plans in the Montague Precinct was put on the market last month.

Subject to approval from the City of Port Phillip, expressions of interest for the 14-storey mixed use development site, marketed by agents Lemon Baxter, closed on August 1.

"2-14 Thistlethwaite St has a diverse appeal given its suitability for developers, owner-occupiers and investors, thanks to its outstanding development potential but also attractive existing improvements," Lemon Baxter's Chris Curtain said.

The building plans for the 909 sqm site, currently home to a two-level office building fronting Thistlethwaite St and Buckhurst Lane, were designed by Ammache Architects.

Walk in the Park

By Sarah Bartlett

Parkinson's Victoria's annual fundraising event A Walk in the Park returns along the banks of the Yarra River on August 18 this August for its 11th year.

The flagship Melbourne walk raises awareness for individuals that are forced to adapt to the progressive and lifelong chronic condition while they continue with their daily responsibilities of working and raising their families.

Parkinson's Victoria CEO Emma Collin said that the walk was important for a multitude of reasons.

"It creates a sense of belonging for people living with Parkinson's, of being part of a community who understand and support each other. It also improves community awareness of the condition and raises vital funds so that we can continue to deliver our much valued services and support," Ms Collin said.

There are two non-competitive walks offered for the fundraiser with routes of either 2km or 4km. Both routes are mobility friendly. The walk begins at Federation Square at 11am and will cover the area along the banks of the Yarra River. Dogs are also welcome to participate with a registration fee of \$10. Registrations for adults are \$45, seniors \$30, children 5-15 years \$15 and children under 5 are free.

Participants will each receive a walk bib, which can be personalised with their reason for taking part in the walk. They will also receive a medal that recognises their support for the fundraiser, as well as serving as a



memento for their experience.

A variety of fun filled family activities will also be held prior to the walk at 9.30am.

MFB firefighter Steve Watts will be the face for this year's A Walk in the Park.

Steve Watts is a father of five children aged from 12 to 23 years old and he has been living with Parkinson's since 2017. Because of his condition, Steve is no longer able to hold a front-line position and has recently been made community resilience commander. The MFB is supportive of Steve's journey and is committed to working with him into the future.

As the 2019 ambassador, Steve will lead the annual fundraiser and assist with raising awareness for Parkinson's.

Currently there are 27,000 people in Victoria that are living with Parkinson's. The condition is the second most common neurological condition seen within the community, with 20 per cent of individuals living with Parkinson's before they are 60.

Symptoms can be managed through medications and support offered from healthcare professionals. There is currently no way to slow progression or cure the condition.

A Walk in the Park will take place on August 18. Register online at parkinsonswalk.org.au or on the day from 8.30am.



Film director Daniel Gordon and Stan Grant.

Star-studded South Wharf

Continued from page 1.

Simmons' (who is also an executive producer on the film) joined Goodes and a host of sporting stars including fellow NBA superstar Patty Mills, Michael O'Loughlin, Nathan Buckley, Paul Roos and Leigh Matthews.

Entertainment guests included Hugo Weaving, Baker Boy, Briggs, Remi and Anthony LaPaglia, with other notable guests including Victorian Governor Linda Dessau, Minister for Creative Industries Martin Foley, MIFF artistic director and journalist Stan Grant.

The Australian Dream is a moving and powerful exploration of race, identity and belonging, as told from the perspective of champion AFL footballer and Indigenous rights Adam Goodes. The screening on opening night was followed by a standing ovation from the audience.

The film festival runs across various venues until August 18.

miff.com.au

Owners' Corporation Law

10-year caretakers' agreements

Joint owners' voting rights have been put under the microscope by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT).

There is a very interesting proceeding winding its way through VCAT presently, and once determined, it will no doubt have seismic consequences throughout Victoria for owners' corporations (OC) and their relationships with caretakers, building managers and concierges.

The proceeding involves two OCs in the same large development in Mount Alexander Rd, Travancore, alleging that agreements to appoint a building manager entered into by the developer (initial owner Bensons Property Group) at the Inaugural AGM, are invalid.

The OC claims that the terms and conditions of the contracts were most disadvantageous to owners. Principally, that a 10-year duration for the contracts is excessive, and that the fees and charges payable to the building manager under the

contracts are also excessive.

The OC alleges that Bensons Property Group breached its duties under the Owners Corporation Act to act honestly and in good faith with due care, skill and diligence in the OC's interests, and acted in breach of fiduciary duties owed to the OC and all original owners.

It is indeed very common for developers to act on behalf of OCs to enter into service contracts on non-competitive terms and bind the OC to potentially long-term inequitable arrangements. And, not just for building management services. Bulk electricity, gas and hot water service contracts, as well as essential services and fire service maintenance contracts are all now under the microscope with this proceeding.

Some bulk electricity agreements that I have seen from clients can run for terms of up to 25 years, and the longest caretaker contract I have come across sought to bind an OC for up to 55 years to the caretaker.

In an interlocutory decision recently handed down by senior member Vassie, Bensons Property Group had its application for summary dismissal of the proceeding

dismissed, meaning the matter may now proceed to a final hearing.

Bensons Property attempted to have the proceeding dismissed on the basis that the two OCs were unable to pass interim special resolutions to bring the claim in VCAT.

In Victoria, an OC must pass a special resolution (or interim special resolution) in order to bring a legal proceeding in the OC's name.

In this case, the OC passed the interim special resolutions by ballot. The chairperson nominated himself as the returning officer to count the ballot forms and to declare the outcome of the ballots. Interestingly, by doing so, the decisions made by him as chairperson were only amenable to challenge if (i) a decision was made in bad faith, or (ii) the chairperson made an error of law by reaching a decision that was so unreasonable no other chairperson could reach.

In this instance, there were multiple ballot forms filled out by owners where only one of the co-owners of the lot signed the ballots. However, the chairperson declared the votes as valid, and counted them towards the final outcome of the special resolution.

Bensons Property contended that if these votes were invalid, then the interim special resolutions did not pass and the proceeding against them could be dismissed.

In ruling against Bensons Property, VCAT backed the chairperson's declaration, finding that "there is no provision in the Act about how a vote for a co-owned lot is to be treated, other than section 90 [which directs that joint owners of a lot have only one vote between them]".

VCAT found that "there is no general principle that a document signed in respect of a co-owned lot must be signed by all owners in order to be effective."

While it is always best practice for joint owners to sign a ballot form or proxy form, this case shows that a ballot or proxy will not be invalid even if signed by only one owner, unless the chairperson declares it so.



Tom Bacon

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Yarra River Business Association

Sharing our "big ideas"

The Yarra River *Big Ideas* Forum will be held on Thursday, August 15 in Melbourne Town Hall.

All places at the forum were quickly subscribed, so people obviously see it as a great opportunity to sit down for a few hours to discuss the key issues and opportunities facing this section of the city and its waterway during the next 10 to 20 years.

With the ever-changing pace of life, it's not often that we get the chance to pause and review just what is important to us; what we need to protect; what needs to be fixed or improved; and what new ideas might there be to increase the amenity and recreation of the area.

While the river precinct may look "complete" as a result of much private and public sector effort over the years, there are still key things that need to be done. Things that readily spring to mind are the pedestrian access to the river under Flinders Street Station, the entire question of better access to Northbank along Flinders St, enlivening Freshwater Place, the huge potential of Banana Alley Vaults, the arts plaza concept for Sturt St and its connectivity with the river, better presentation of our beautiful bridges at night, separation of cycling on Southbank, etc, etc.

No doubt these and many other issues will be aired on August 15, but we hope that there will also be many new ideas that can inject new life and vigour into the lower Yarra River. Just one project idea - Yarra

Pools - has been discussed for some time and, if planned and executed correctly, it could transform the long-neglected Northbank.

The question of helicopter access also needs to be resolved, not to mention better storm water management and litter entrapment. I imagine that the three hours devoted to the forum will not be long enough, but it will be a major start to what we hope will be ongoing master planning.

What we need is a document that can be picked up by anyone who needs to know the state-of-play at the moment, what the short-to-medium-term plans are for the future, and what opportunities might be for them. Such a report needs to balance the needs of major user groups, especially business, residents and visitors.

This Yarra River Business Association is in its 20th year of operation. When we look back over that time, we can see the results of our many years of promoting and advocating. Key agencies are starting to share our passion and vision, especially Parks Victoria (PV). In recent times PV has embraced the river's potential and is now working to assist rather than hinder some great ideas, as well as overhauling its governance of the waterway.



John Forman

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



St Johns
Southgate

Sunday 18 August
9am Worship includes, from
JS Bach's Mass in B Minor
Sanctus and Eucharistic Liturgy
and GP Telemann's Missa Brevis
on "Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr"
St Johns Bach Choir and Orchestra
directed by Graham Lieschke
8:30am Cantata in Context: pre-service talk

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

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

St Johns Southgate

A place with that certain something

One day, when I was a teenager, I snuck into an abandoned factory. It seemed like it would be a bit of a naughty adventure and, as it turned out, it was a bit of a thrill.

There was a really creepy vibe to the place. While it was totally deserted and deathly quiet, the low lighting, graffiti-collaged walls and broken-glass-covered concrete floor gave the building eyes and made it feel like someone was breathing down my neck. In the end though, it wasn't a scene from a horror movie, so I got home in one piece.

But why did that old factory feel the way it did? Maybe it's because, if the walls could talk, they'd have stories to tell. Perhaps it's not about the aesthetic of the building at all, but rather the people and their stories that have seeped into the mortar.

While there are truly unnerving places, or places like historical battlefields or concentration camps that seem to have a residual exhalation of pain and suffering floating in the air, there are also places that harbour a positive presence. In the same way that the scary can hang around, the sacred can be felt in a place just as profoundly.

Sacred spaces, like the church I serve at, do have a feeling of presence. Not primarily because of sad, bad or difficult happenings, but because baptisms, weddings, funerals and everything in between have taken place there. It is the life-giving-meaning stories of individuals, couples and families that make the space what it is. But the real potency and holiness comes from what the faithful would call the presence of God. Interestingly, it's the presence of God – the God who died on the cross as Jesus of Nazareth – that intermingles the air of the spooky with the atmosphere of the sacred. In other words, it's the costliness that gives a place its colour.

Whether it's the sweat of the factory worker that has stained the concrete, the lash of the prison guard that has marked

the wall, or the joyful baptismal waters that have splashed the carpet, the ingredient that gives spice to the recipe is cost. It is the price of something that gives a place its profundity. It's the sacrifice that makes something sacred. And the sacred space that is the church, is stained – not just in its glass – but by the blood of Jesus shed on the cross. At St Johns Southgate, you can't help but notice it. The huge river redgum cross – that ancient instrument of torture – demands your attention as soon as you walk in the door, making the cost of God's presence among us abundantly clear. The sacrificial gift of Jesus mingles with every personal story that scribbles a paragraph at St Johns, and together they make the space sacred.

The next time you find yourself either awed by a place that has that certain intangible thing, or find yourself a little creeped out somewhere, take a moment to think of the lingering storied presence – be it human or divine – that gives it that quality.



Tom Hoffmann

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



Metro Tunnel



Anzac Station construction update

Major construction is continuing on St Kilda Rd at the site of the new Anzac Station.

Construction of the roof slab is nearly complete at the northern box where, over the past few months, more than 1600 tonnes of steel and 4200 cubic metres of concrete has been used.

Excavation of the station box continues through the void (or hole) in the station roof. This technique minimises noise and dust impacts for the surrounding community. Underneath the roof, support beam installation is under way to support the site during excavation under St Kilda Rd. Excavation of the northern box will continue until the depth reaches approximately 22 metres deep, then a one-metre base slab will be poured. This concrete slab will support the assembly of the tunnel boring machines.

In the southern section of the station, roof slab construction is well underway with steel reinforcement and concrete pours taking place.

For the more information on Anzac Station visit metro.tunnel.vic.gov.au

What's happening at Edmund Herring Oval?

While works are underway on St Kilda Rd to build the new station, construction of the tunnelling support site at Edmund Herring Oval is ramping up with civil works nearing completion.

Tunnelling in the Domain Precinct will commence following excavation of the station box and the construction of a concrete base slab to support TBM assembly. An acoustic shed will also be built over the site to minimise disruption during 24-7 tunnelling operations.

During this time, a bentonite mix (or slurry) from the Edmund Herring Oval site will be transported through fully enclosed pipes to the TBM excavating the twin tunnels, and then sent back through another set of fully enclosed pipes to the support site for treatment.

The treatment plant will then separate the spoil (excavated material) from the bentonite where, after separation, the treated bentonite is sent back to the TBM for re-use.

Two TBMs, Alice and Millie, will be launched from Anzac Station where they will work their way towards the eastern tunnel entrance in South Yarra. They will then be lifted out of the TBM retrieval shaft and returned to Anzac Station to continue their journey towards the CBD.



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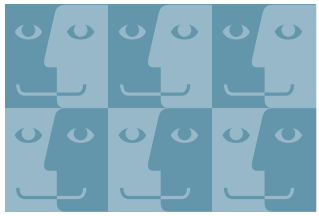
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FACES OF SOUTHBANK



ANNA, 26, STUDENT

100 per cent. I think anyone who has ever worked in hospitality would answer the same. You only really know if you've worked in the industry.



BRIDGET, 57, ART TEACHER

I think they should be paid more. I think that Melbourne is a huge food capital and if we are undermining the excellence of our service industry then I think it's going to affect Melbourne's reputation. Also, as a mother I have seen my children be abused in terms of power with employers who abuse staff.



FAIHAN, 25, STUDENT

Companies should listen to their workers to make people trust in the companies. People should get extra money to be creative, to be productive, to produce something nice with their skills.



JOSEPH, 35, CHEF

I definitely do. Because we put in a lot of effort, long hours and there is a lot of pressure.



PAUL, 22, RETAIL

Yes, I do. I think all the hard work they do should be acknowledged. Overall they should be paid the correct amount and not be left out in the dark.



STEVEN, 49, PROJECT MANAGER

I don't think that they get paid enough. Long hours, very physical. Whether the industry can support hospitality workers getting paid more is very questionable.

Question:

In the aftermath of the George Calombaris saga, do you think hospitality workers should get paid more?

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SOUTHBANK SUDOKU

Last month's Sudoku solution

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

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

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

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

Montague Community Alliance

Is Fishermans Bend stalling?

In the past month, we've been fortunate enough to have had discussions with senior members of the State Government, the City of Melbourne and the City of Port Phillip.

It appears that development in some of the precincts in Fishermans Bend is stalling. This, of course, is not the case in Montague, which has about seven developments going on right now.

One is the first tower of Fifteen85's three-tower project in Gladstone St and RCorporation's towers on the old Oxford University Press site at Normanby Rd. There are also some mid-range high-rise and townhouses under construction.

The other precincts - Sandridge, Wirraway, Lorimer and the Employment Precinct - are not developing as fast as Montague for a number of reasons, but surely one of the most important reasons is public transport. It appears that until this is solved and the business case for the new tram line over (or under) the Yarra River is successful, it will be difficult for the Fishermans Bend Development Board and the various levels of government to assuage the concerns of the developers, the universities, local businesses and residents.

Metro2 is too far away to be relevant for current developments, however, some type of good public transport must be provided. As it appears to be the policy of the state government to reduce parking and access for cars in this area, it would be difficult to live or work in the Employment Precinct or parts of Wirraway and Lorimer.



Montaguan Jen Sharpe.

Let's hope federal, state and local governments can collaborate on finding the budget to start building this much needed infrastructure as soon as possible.

And now, introducing a Montaguan ... Jen Sharpe:

Tell us a little about yourself?

I am founder/director of Think HQ and Lumin and director of CultureVerse. I have been running my business for nearly nine-and-a-half years and our team comprises 30 people. I am also happily married and have two beautiful daughters aged three and five. My business Think HQ is committed to only working on projects that lead to positive social benefit. I am at heart an optimist.

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

My previous office was also in South Melbourne, but over the other side of

Clarendon St. We ran out of room, so I moved in to Thistlethwaite St. What attracted me in the first instance is that our building that we rent used to be a post-production film studio, so we have two fantastic studios that we use for all our in-house production.

What do you find are the best and/or most interesting things about living or working here?

I love that the area is a blank canvas and that it will change significantly over the next few years. I always like to be a part of change. I love that there is so much access to public transport and am delighted that Harry from Industrie is taking over the Wayside Inn (our closest pub), because he does such great food.

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

My younger daughter attends kinder in Middle Park and my elder daughter attends the new South Melbourne Park Primary

school. Working where I do means that I have quick and easy access to either of them at any time. I think the team love working in the area too.

Are there any challenges with living or working in the MP?

I think the ongoing construction will provide some challenges. A recent demolition of a building was so impactful that it continually shook the foundations of our building and was a very stressful experience for my team and any visiting clients. It felt like an ongoing earthquake for days. I would also be really worried if I was the landlord in terms of structural damage. Car parking is also a massive issue. I understand the push for a car-free city, however, for the working parents in my team who live in the outer suburbs, it is simply not practical to jump on a train and then tram once they have dropped their kids off at school/childcare. The all-day parks are, of course, taking up by all the trades that start earlier in the day.

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

If I could change that to "somethings", it would be more parking, more street cleaning and greater consultation around construction activity.

Thank you, dear readers, and as usual if you have any ideas for this column, or feedback for us, please don't hesitate to contact me - trishavery@me.com or our Facebook page [@MontaguePrecinct](https://www.facebook.com/MontaguePrecinct) or Twitter [@MontComAlliance](https://twitter.com/MontComAlliance).



Trisha Avery

Trisha Avery is the convener of the Montague Community Alliance.

trishavery@bpca.com.au



Southbank Residents' Association

An exciting year ahead

At the end of last month, Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) held its annual general meeting (AGM) at the Malthouse Theatre.

It was well attended by our members and also some interested non-members from the wider community. We were delighted to have Creative Victoria as guest speakers to provide us with a first-hand overview of the proposed Arts Precinct upgrade. The team was well received by the audience and informative. Thank you to Martin Foley (Minister for Arts, our local member for Albert Park) for putting us in contact with the team.

I hear you ask "why is the year ahead going to be exciting?" Well, that's because we received 12 nominations for our new committee at the AGM! This will be the

largest committee we have had in my six years as president and will allow for more people to focus on a number of improvements and projects over the next year.

Our biggest project will be a Southbank "Expo" which we are hoping to hold later this year. The vision is to invite every organisation and business in Southbank to join us for a community day. We will also be launching a book on our 20-year history, researched and compiled by a passionate Southbank resident and ex-SRA committee member, Lynne Lumsden. We extended life membership to Lynne at our AGM for her tremendous efforts. It really was a mammoth task. We anticipate an update to our website and streamlining our membership processes.

Finally, and most exciting, is the development of an app to connect our community in a way it has never been connected before. As you can see, there is certainly a lot planned, and this will certainly

need the efforts of our entire committee. You will hear about these initiatives in further detail as they evolve.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp has taken a keen interest in Southbank since her success in being elected and she engages with SRA frequently. Sally will be attending our first committee meeting early this month to meet our new committee and hear first-hand the plans of our committee for the next year. We are delighted to be able to engage with the Lord Mayor in such a personal capacity. It is also pleasing to hear Sally has decided to relocate to Docklands and actually live in the municipality. Sadly, only a small number of our councillors live in the municipality. I think this is a travesty to the community. I am confident Sally will be pleased with her decision, but of course Southbank would have been a better choice!

Finally, SRA would like to extend its congratulations to Sean Car, the editor and now owner of this newspaper. Sean has represented Southbank well over the past

five years as editor and we can think of no better person to take ownership of this newspaper. We would also like to wish Shane Scanlan all the best with his retirement and thank him for providing this newspaper as a conduit for our residents to connect and keep abreast of what is happening in our community. We certainly look forward to continuing to work closely with Sean with telling the monthly Southbank story.

If you are keen to support our organisation, want to know more about what we do or keen to become a member please visit our website southbankresidents.org.au



Tony Penna

Tony Penna is the president of Southbank Residents' Association.

southbankresidents.org.au



The physics of community

Retired physics teacher Dan O’Keeffe OAM has dedicated his life to giving back to his communities.

Having received a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 2018 for service to physics education, Dan has also become very active in our local community since moving to Eureka Tower with wife Terry six years ago.

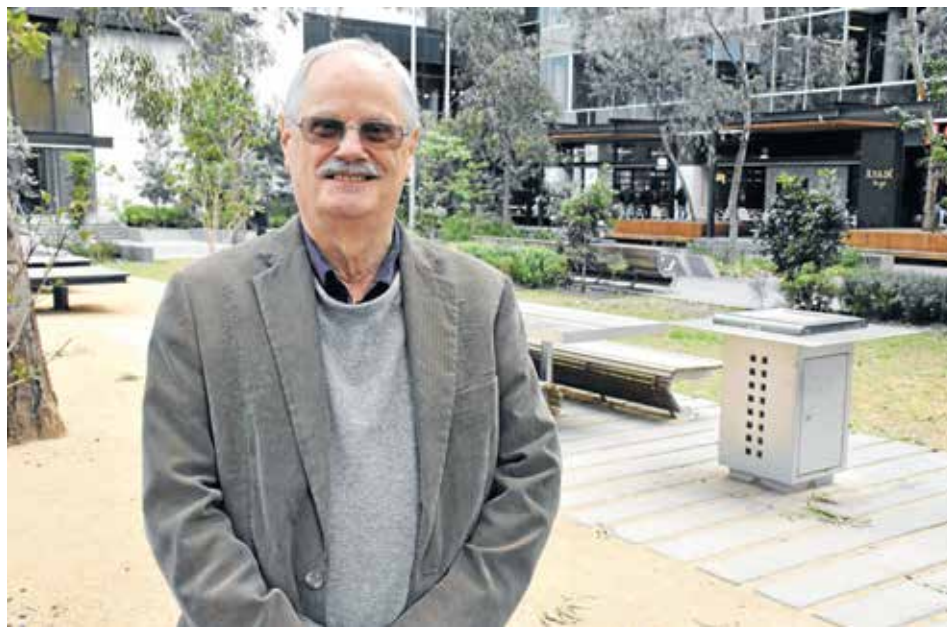
Dan has proved himself to be a highly valued member on the Southbank Residents’ Association (SRA) committee over the past three years and serves as its representative on the Southbank Safety and Security Committee.

And it’s that same sense of service to community that defined a decorated career in physics education; an area that he still dedicates much of his time to despite being retired. It’s also what earned him the “surprise” honour on Australia Day last year!

“I was quite surprised at it [the OAM] actually because a friend and former colleague of mine had been working on it unbeknownst to me,” Dan said. “It was a big effort for him to nominate me, which of course, I only found out after receiving.”

Entering the field of physics education based largely on a curiosity about “the big questions”, Dan spent most of his teaching career at Camberwell Grammar and Chadstone High schools.

Through his ongoing involvement as secretary of the Vicphysics Teachers’ Network, Dan has been central to establishing a range of initiatives for educators and students of physics alike over



Dan O’Keeffe.

the years.

As well as helping organise an annual physics teachers’ conference, he also continues with efforts to encourage more women into physics through the Girls in Physics Breakfasts, providing students the chance to connect with women working in science and engineering.

“Physics doesn’t have a strong female presence as opposed to other sciences like chemistry and there are reasons for that,”

Dan said.

“Many engineering and science courses, say, require chemistry, whereas hardly any require physics so that means that as far as chemistry is concerned, half the students are female. For physics there are hardly any tertiary courses that require you to study it so it’s only about 25 per cent female.”

“One of the things that motivates and moves me in a sense is how one of the students at breakfast once saying that they

had been talking to a guest at their table about what she was doing and was amazed. She said that she realised that in eight years’ time that could be her and that’s the result you want to get out of it – giving them focus to their ambition.”

Having relocated from their previous home in Wheelers Hill six years ago, Dan said the move to Southbank had been largely sparked by he and Terry’s shared love of music. Between attending events at the Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM) in South Melbourne and, of course, the Arts Precinct, he said Southbank provided the perfect location for music lovers.

And his attachment to Southbank continues to strengthen. Whether it be through social events he and Terry have helped to organise with neighbours at Eureka Tower or through his work with SRA, there is no doubting that Dan is a Southbanker!

“I had been to a couple of [SRA’s] AGMs (annual general meetings) and I was impressed with what it was doing and I felt that being a local resident I should get involved,” he said.

“It would be true to say that the City of Melbourne is keen to do things properly but the good thing about the SRA is that it is a good source of advice and an effective means of consultation. There is a good two-way exchange there.”

Health & Wellbeing

Emotional intelligence

Emotional intelligence, or EI/EQ, describes a person’s ability to recognise emotions, to understand their powerful effect, and to use that information to guide thinking and behaviour to influence that of others.

Emotional intelligence is absolutely essential in the formation, development, maintenance, and enhancement of close personal relationships. Unlike IQ, which does not change significantly over a lifetime, our EQ can evolve and increase with our desire to learn and grow.

Signs that you have “high EQ”

If you have ever been conscious of your own emotional state and been able to identify and manage those emotions, empathised with a co-worker, have a deep conversation about your relationship with your significant other or attempted to manage an unruly or distraught child – chances are that you have a high level of emotional intelligence.

EQ is generally said to include at least three skills: emotional awareness (the ability to identify and name one’s own emotions), the ability to harness those emotions and apply them to tasks like thinking and problem solving, and the

ability to manage emotions, which includes both regulating one’s own emotions when necessary and helping others to do the same.

How to increase your EQ

The best thing about emotional intelligence is that it is a skill that can be honed to help you to better understand yourself and others. Below are some tips on how to increase your EQ:

1. Reflect on your own emotions

Take time to identify the emotions and reactions you have to particular situations in your environment. For example, think about how you typically respond when: Your significant other blames you for something you feel is unfair, or a close friend or associate begins to cry unexpectedly.

2. Manage your negative emotions

When you’re able to manage and reduce your negative emotions, you’re less likely to get overwhelmed. Take stock of what stresses you out, what triggers you in certain situations and be proactive to understand

how you react in those situations.

3. Use “the pause”

This may be as simple as taking a moment to stop and think before you act or speak. Factors like added stress or a bad day can inhibit our ability to manage our emotions, and sometimes we are tempted to jump on opportunities that look really good at the time but that we haven’t really thought through, so take a minute to pause before you act.

4. Practice being assertive and expressing difficult emotions

The ability to effectively express and validate emotions is essential to maintaining close personal relationships. Practice this by sharing your feelings with someone you trust and if it appropriate to your relationship. If someone shares difficult feelings with you, practice responding to them in a kind, compassionate and caring way.

5. Ask others for perspective

By asking those close to us about our interactions with them, we can learn from

their perspective. Often, we don’t realise that other people view us/a situation much differently than we view ourselves, and vice versa. By sharing perspectives and emotional experiences, you are learning how others relate to the world.

6. Practice, practice, practice

Improving your EQ won’t happen overnight. However, consistently practicing these steps will allow you to begin harnessing the power of emotions and use that power to work for you, instead of against you.



Rajna Bogdanovic

Clinical psychologist

bogdanovicrajna@gmail.com

Southbank Sustainability Group

Open House with environmental flair

July 27 marked the start of Boyd Community Hub's first participation in Open House Melbourne and with that, our group's first Open House as well!

Some of our more creative members volunteered for this event, creating engaging activities and beautiful mini prizes out of repurposed materials like bookmarks and seedling starter-packs in beautifully hand-painted eggshells.

We also organized a self-guided garden tour, walking visitors through how we manage and operate an open community garden and orchard area, along with a mini-garden scavenger hunt where participants had to guess plants correctly.

Inside Boyd we created a mini sustainable living exhibition, promoting environmentally positive and easy zero waste practices for everyday life, and shared with visitors our group's activities and history. Our group is tightly intertwined with Boyd having been established there in March 2017. The space has become our home where we meet new friends and neighbours. And, of course, our veggie garden, now a permanent fixture at Boyd that so many Southbankers stop and interact with every day, has become a casual teaching ground for children and is a direct



result of our group's advocacy and work with the City of Melbourne.

Organising these activities took plenty of work from new and older group members alike, each contributing a different skillset and creative point of view. We had about 40 visitors trickle in and interact with these activities on the morning of Open House. Some children were even inspired to create garden-themed drawings for us, on reused paper printouts and coloring pencils the Boyd team lent us. Overall, the team at Boyd

has been very supportive and helpful with these activities and have been a delight to work with. A big thank you goes out to all of them, as well as all our group members who helped.

Onwards to the garden's current state and what's ahead in August. For those of you that walk through Boyd, you'll see many veggies and greens growing tall and lush. It's harvest season!

We've harvested about 20kg of veggies this past month alone (and diverted 12kgs

of organic waste from landfill), with many more veggies becoming harvest-ready every day. From carrots, to beetroots, broccoli and cabbages, there's a variety of organic veggies ready for eating. We invite all community members to come harvest and enjoy eating locally and healthy in the coming weeks, reducing food footprint in the process. Our upcoming meet-ups on August 17 and 31 from 10am at Boyd will be great opportunities to do so, as we'll be focusing on gardening and preparing the soil and seedlings for spring planting. If you can't make it to a meet-up, we encourage you to email us on what you want to harvest for instructions so that the plant remains undamaged. Remember to only take what you need for one meal.

About the group: A solutions-focused community group of Southbank residents working to bring positive change in sustainability practices and education to our neighborhood, while building a wonderful community of like-minded people.

Reach us at southbanksustainability@gmail.com or [facebook.com/SouthbankSustainabilityGroup](https://www.facebook.com/SouthbankSustainabilityGroup)



Artemis Pattichi

Southbank Sustainability Group
southbanksustainability@gmail.com

We Live Here

State government follows UK lead on cladding

Daniel Andrews' pledge of \$600 million to fix half of the 1000-plus buildings in Victoria with flammable cladding is welcome news for some "lucky" owners.

The policy shift by the state government follows the lead set by UK Prime Minister Theresa May earlier this year when the UK government allocated 200 million pounds to address the flammable cladding issue in that country.

The UK cladding fund, announced in May this year, is estimated to pay for the rectification of half of Britain's affected apartment buildings.

The U-turn by the Victorian government follows the release of the final report of the Victorian Cladding Taskforce, headed by former Liberal premier Ted Baillieu and former Labor deputy premier Prof John Thwaites.

The state government now has plans for "risk-tiering" to be applied to determine who gets the golden tickets to have the rectification costs covered.

The Cladding Taskforce deemed 1,069 buildings as having cladding that is a "risk to life".

Of the 1069 buildings classified as dangerous by the Cladding Taskforce:

- 72 are rated as an extreme risk
- 409 are rated a high risk
- 388 are rated a moderate risk and
- 200 are rated low risk

What rating is your building? Good luck trying to find out, because the webpage of the government's newly established agency Cladding Safety Victoria gives scant information, saying simply:

"To be eligible for assistance from Cladding Safety Victoria, your privately owned [sic] apartment building must first be assessed as part of the State-wide Cladding Audit, led by the Victorian Building Authority. Was this page helpful? Yes, No."

That's the site's whole page on eligibility... So you'll have to go into the lottery to find out if you win a prize.

Mr Andrews expects his Cladding Safety Victoria fund to remediate the cladding issues for the top 500 dangerously clad buildings in Victoria.

Of these buildings many are hospitals, schools, aged care or other government-owned facilities. The Taskforce report says:

"The 2019-20 Budget provides \$150.3 for the rectification of State-owned buildings.

We are reasonably certain Ted and the professor meant to say \$150.3 million. That's a big chunk of money that would retrench the \$600 million somewhat.

To be accurate, should Dan have announced a budget of \$450 million to

rectify apartments?

Instead, the Premier has made a media-release appeal to the federal government for matched funding. It seems to be a bid to cover the tens of thousands affected apartment-owners who, as it stands, will miss out.

"There needs to be a true national partnership to put community safety first, to rectify these most dangerous buildings," the Premier said.

However, federal industry minister Karen Andrews flatly rejected Mr Andrews' long-distance supplication.

"The Commonwealth is not an ATM for the states. So, no, this problem is of the state's making and they need to step up and fix the problem and dig into their own pockets," Ms Andrews told Radio National.

It seems to be a clever buck-passing move by Andrews, promising to fix 50 per cent of the problem and blaming Canberra for not being able to fix the whole problem.

At least the ill-fated Cladding Rectification Agreement loan scheme seems to have been put to rest. With its voluble silence on the concept, the Cladding Taskforce effectively damned the loan scheme. The Taskforce report essentially said "A loan scheme was

set up. We recommend funding."

We look forward to seeing how much of the budget relieves affected owners - watch this space!

Finally, to put the cladding disaster in a community context: an apartment resident in an "extreme risk" building told ABC radio: "The great Australian barbeque is under threat...we're concerned that one wrong move and you might burn down all your friends."

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History

High-pressure building boom hits Southbank!

In the 1950s, corporations seeking to construct new buildings in Melbourne began facing difficulties in finding large plots of land in the city and began to look south across the river.

The building industry was highly competitive and active, leading to a "high-pressure building boom" south of Princes Bridge.

South Melbourne had long been a mishmash of factories, workshops, car dealers and small businesses, much of it on Crown land leased from the Commonwealth.

But it was well-served by two tram lines, land was plentiful and cheap and there were fewer impediments to construction than in the city.

Demolition of large buildings to enable the new was not necessary and planning requirements were minimal as the local council, ever keen to attract development, was offering attractive deals on property rates.

In the late '50s, the Vacuum Oil Company (the forerunner of Mobil) commissioned Bates Smart & McCutcheon to design its new



Vacuum building and Pegasus.

Courtesy State Library of Victoria.

headquarters on City Rd, soon lauded as the first "skyscraper" erected immediately to the south of the Yarra.

Known as Mobil House, the 17-storey example of the exciting era of Melbourne modernism was erected on a tight space between the river and City Rd. It opened in 1960, having been completed in 13 months

from the day contractors moved onto the site; a record for building in Melbourne.

How did they build it so quickly? Mainly by erecting a special service tower outside the main structure that provided quick easy access to each floor for the workers (with tea-making and toilet facilities at every third floor!). It showed that buildings firms, such

as Clements Langford, could produce big, impressive enduring structures at a speed undreamed of just a few years ago.

The building was fully air-conditioned, which started to become common in the late 1950s, and the water-cooling relied on water being drawn from the adjacent Yarra River. A highlight of the building was a four-metre-high statue of a winged horse (based on Vacuum's flying red horse logo) that held pride of place outside the building.

Positioned on a rock, the horse reared up as if ready to take to the skies. Made of an aluminium alloy, Pegasus was the work of Ray Ewers, a former war artist. It now resides in the Mobil refinery at Altona.

When the oil company vacated the building, it was sold to developers in the early 1990s, and converted to apartments in 1995 (called 28 Southgate) as part of the massive transformation of Southbank. Other office towers followed the trend of conversion to residential towers, including headquarters for IBM and Astor Radios in Sturt St. But Mobil House led the way!



Robin Grow

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

Letters to the Editor



A patch of green

A patch of green grass in front of Eureka tower was supposed to provide some visual pleasure in the concrete jungle of Riverside Quay to the residents, local workers and tourists.

Unfortunately, it turned into a potty for all local dogs with patches of grass completely ripped out by our furry friends concealing their deeds. Council occasionally replaces the grass, but with current patronage intensity the greenery remains intact only for a few weeks.

Wondering if the council could introduce some dedicated dog patches in less touristic corners of Southbank and keep the Riverside Quay patch, as well as the green patches along the river bank, for people to enjoy?

Max



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Business

Unrivalled inner-city living

Nestled impeccably between city and sea, the streets of South Melbourne are set to welcome Lenny – a unique six-level luxury development in the heart of the buzzing South Melbourne.

Marketed by Eton Property Group, Lenny will stand at 161 Buckhurst St, an easy walking distance to South Melbourne Market, Bay Street shopping precinct, South Melbourne Primary School and the nearby Montague light rail station.

The development is the first of its kind for the suburb, with five full-floor boutique residences, boasting unbridled views of both the city skyline and nearby bay. Each residence has direct and secure private lift access.

With ceiling heights ranging up to nearly three metres, the spaciousness of each apartment is complemented with three bedrooms, two full bathrooms plus a powder room, a substantial open plan living and dining area and two roomy terraces that capture sunlight with ease. Each residence has two car spaces.

Richard Newling-Ward of Bayley Ward Architects said the kind free-flowing attitude to space was rarely seen in South Melbourne



and was perfect for those looking to downsize. “The inspiration for Lenny was to design something targeting a sophisticated buyer. The owner-occupier market really understands what South Melbourne has to bring,” he said.

“From the living room you have clear views of the city, and as you walk through the apartment to the master bedroom, you have a terrace at the back which looks towards Port Melbourne beach where you get a really good sense of space. This is what inspired us to believe one apartment per floor was the path to go.”

Each home’s glamorous, eye-catching form enjoys an entire level. “When you go through the apartment, there isn’t a need for any more space than what you have already got,” Mr Newling-Ward said.

Lenny’s location is recognised with a



Walkability Rating of 94 per cent, which means all the essential amenities such as transportation, shopping, schools, medical and more are all located within close proximity.

Style and luxury have been a keen focus on the design of these five apartments, with lavish bedrooms, superbly serviced by fully fitted robes, and luxe bathrooms complete with modern innovative tapware.

With construction beginning in September, Eton Property Group’s James Burne, said this boutique development was going to gain immense interest from buyers from the South Melbourne area and surrounds.

“Right now, we are taking expressions of interest in our soft launch phase, and it won’t be long before we have our grand launch,” he said.



For all enquiries visit etonproperty.com.au or contact Bradley Dean on **0413 508 866** or Barbara Giannarelli on **0421 666 447**.

New home, new inner-city lifestyle!

Central Equity’s newest Southbank apartment tower, Southbank Place has recently finished and is welcoming residents.

Emma, who works as a podiatrist, was the first resident in Southbank Place apartments. The first morning she woke in her new city apartment, she said: “The feeling was surreal. Waking up to a lovely bright inner-city aspect I thought: Wow, this is really happening!”

“The first thing we did was go to the pool. The kids [aged 7 and 10] loved it. It’s a really beautiful building with a lovely pool with glass rooftop, lit at night. It has a cinema and wonderful facilities. It’s like living in a resort!”

This was the intention of architect Graham Fisher of Bell Fisher Architects, who designed the building to be experienced like a luxury hotel. A grand foyer opens to expansive five-metre ceilings, a wall of glazing overlooking Kavanagh St and there is a 24-hour concierge service and security. Amenities include a gym and yoga studio, and on the 41st floor is the Horizon Club, which residents can use to entertain guests, adjoining their own “gold-class” cinema.

Having never moved to the city before, Emma faced logistical challenges when moving in. “But the Central Equity staff went above and beyond to ensure things



were arranged for me,” she said. “As a single mum I was quite nervous, but I couldn’t be more impressed by the support — absolutely wonderful, an absolute delight.”

“One of the staff members met my removalists at Southbank Place because I got held up. It almost felt like she was family checking I was ok and giving me reassuring hugs. I felt like I was moving into a seven-star hotel.”

Emma is among a growing number of people choosing city apartment living over life in the suburbs. “We had a big, secluded home in Essendon and we’d drive everywhere,” she said. “I decided to adopt a minimalist lifestyle, so I reduced everything. Now we’re not swarmed with all this stuff, we’re experience-focused, we walk to the market and everywhere. I’ve been wanting to take the kids to *Polly Woodside* for so long, and we did!”

With shops, arts, sports and entertainment

amenities all around, Emma finds the family venture out much more. “Southbank is such a nice area. It’s easy and accessible. Everything is here. I now don’t get the car — we walk. City living is a wonderful experience for kids.”

Parks, a library and child-minding facilities are among the many local benefits that Southbank Place residents enjoy, while the building offers a range of resort-style facilities, including two residents’ kitchens for catering, an expansive dining area, a luxury residents’ lounge and a terraced outdoor barbecue area where residents can host dinner parties with spectacular views across Melbourne and Port Phillip Bay. Spacious, light filled apartments feature floor-to-ceiling double-glazing, openable windows and balconies for fresh air and indoor-outdoor living. Kitchens are stylishly appointed with Miele appliances and Hansa tapware.



Observing others settle in, Emma said: “you don’t feel alone — it feels like a community. It’s really early days but I do talk a lot to the staff and the concierges are great. The apartments are really, really beautiful. As with any apartment, you have body corporate fees, but using facilities like the gym, the pool, and the cinema, you end up saving a lot of money in other ways.”

“I’m just so happy with this move. I looked at a lot of apartments, but there was always something missing — the floorplans were wrong, or the place didn’t feel right. Then this one came up — it was just perfect. I bought it and haven’t looked back.”

To inspect a range of fully furnished display apartments and a limited number of brand-new apartments for sale at Southbank Place, visit southbankplace.com.au, the onsite office at 60 Kavanagh St, Southbank (corner Power St) or call Central Equity on **9278 8888**.

Southbank-based businesses wishing to be profiled in this section should email: advertising@southbanklocalnews.com.au

WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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yarrariver.melbourne/events

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Rotary Club of Southbank meets weekly for dinner on most Tuesday evenings throughout the year at Belgian Beer Cafe at Riverside Quay. Visitors welcome.

southbank.org.au

MONDAYS @ BOYD JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

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

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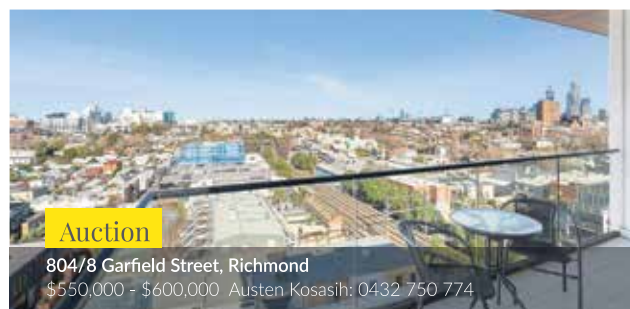
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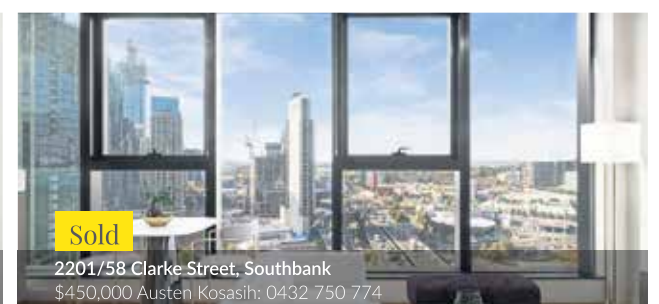
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