

The voice of Southbank, South Wharf & Montague

SOUTHBANK Local NEWS

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Sustainable September

Sustainability has taken over South Melbourne Market this month.

Now in its third year, Sustainable September has returned to our local market with a month-long program of fun and informative workshops, activities, cooking demonstrations and tours, with plenty of ideas to inspire sustainable living.

And to kick-start the month, City of Port Phillip Mayor Dick Gross and councillors Tim Baxter and Bernadene Voss (pictured) helped launch a new *BYO Cup Campaign* on September 1 by unveiling new takeaway coffee cup recycling stations, adding to the market's long list of sustainable practices.

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It's time to return river to Birrarung

By Sean Car

"We renamed Uluru from Ayers Rock. I would love us to rename it [Yarra River] Birrarung, but that's my personal view" - Kate Nagato, Melbourne Water.

While an unsurprising number of big ideas emerged out of the Yarra River "Big Ideas Forum" last month, there was one pertinent theme that rang true among an overwhelming number of its participants on the day.

Presented by the Yarra River Business Association (YRBA) in partnership with planning firm Arup on August 15, the river's major stakeholders all converged on

Melbourne Town Hall to contribute to its future vision.

Having expressed her own desire for "big ideas" for our city at a YRBA function last year, the Lord Mayor Sally Capp's sense of passion and ambition for reimagining what our river could offer Melburnians was largely what inspired last month's forum.

Since being elected Lord Mayor, the

development of her "Greenline" vision - an initiative aimed at linking green spaces along the river's banks (particularly Northbank) - has gained growing notoriety.

It's an initiative that the City of Melbourne has adopted as part of its new City River Strategy and the kind of thinking that underpinned the forum's central purpose. Sharing some of her own insights in a typically uplifting opening address, Cr Capp

set the tone for an afternoon of more "big ideas."

Moderated by Arup's Mark Rowland, a panel featuring the City of Melbourne's director of city strategy Claire Ferres Miles, Parks Victoria CEO Matthew Jackson and Melbourne Water's manager of innovation and resilience Kate Nagato helped kickstart discussion.

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Security works

Preliminary works to improve public security on Southbank Promenade have commenced, after the City of Melbourne conducted "service proving" this month.

According to the Yarra River Business Association (YRBA), the works involved investigation of underground services at specific sites along the promenade, to prepare for imminent upgrades.

In the coming months the council, working closely with the state government and Victoria Police, will begin installing long-term security measures along the popular walkway.

According to the state government, security works include physical protections that will:

- Turn the whole promenade into a protected zone;
- Mostly consist of bollards, to provide protection while enabling people to move freely; and
- Will consider the needs of local businesses, tram passengers and others.

The state government launched a \$50 million CBD security upgrade project following the Bourke St incident in 2017.



Angled parking is to be removed from Kavanagh St.

The City of Melbourne is proposing to remove all diagonal car parking from Kavanagh St and replace it with parallel parking - a move questioned by the Southbank Residents' Association (SRA).

The decision to remove 50 car parks is part of the council's transport strategy for Southbank, which will see new separated bicycle lanes installed on both sides of Kavanagh St.

The plan to transform Kavanagh St has long been earmarked as part of the council's master plan for City Road, in an effort to divert cyclists from Southbank Promenade via Balston St and through to new designated bike lanes on Southbank Boulevard.

The Melbourne Bicycle User Group (MBUG) last year surveyed local residents in Southbank on the new bike lanes, which resulted in a proposal to remove 15 diagonal parks between Power St and Southbank Boulevard; a proposal supported by SRA.

However, council's new proposal, which it started consulting residents on this month, would see all angled parking removed between Balston St and Southbank Boulevard - a move questioned by SRA president Tony Penna.

"I am not sure a 50-park reduction is beneficial to the community's needs," he said. "While I am in support of a safer cycling experience for our cyclists, I would like to hope there is another way forward."

With Boyd Park and stage one of Melbourne Square to be completed later this year, Mr Penna said removing all parking was not consistent with the community's vision to transform Kavanagh St into a central street.

He said SRA believed it would be beneficial to keep angled parking available on the southern side of Kavanagh St out the front of Melbourne Square.

"We will probably start to see the ground floor apartments become spaces of boutique consulting and retail business. If this is the case, then more rather than less street parking would be needed," Mr Penna said.

To read Tony Penna's full insights into the proposed changes, read his regular column on page 26.

What do you think? Send your thoughts to news@southbanklocalnews.com.au

HYPERLOCAL NEWS

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Reece: key precinct needs a plan

The City of Melbourne's chair of planning Cr Nicholas Reece has started an important discussion around the future management of Southbank's riverfront precinct between Southbank Promenade and City Rd.

Referencing the area incorporating Hamer Hall, Southgate, Riverside Quay and Freshwater Place, Cr Reece has flagged his intentions to establish a plan that manages and coordinates development in the precinct with all stakeholders.

He said that between its extensive public works program, which includes upgrades to Southbank Promenade and Southbank Boulevard, more private development and the state government's transformation of the Arts Precinct, there was a lot on the horizon.

"In terms of the riverfront, we do know that there are a number of development applications that the city is likely to see over the next 12 months and that could include Southgate, ESSO House, the Beulah site and Queensbridge Hotel," he said.

"That amounts to almost one kilometre of prime riverfront in the centre of Melbourne and that is something which the City of Melbourne will be looking very carefully at."

"We'll be doing everything we can to ensure that postcard view of the river and that precious promenade is protected and enhanced because it's hard to think of a more important place in all of Melbourne."

While the Southbank Structure Plan 2010 already addresses many of the issues Cr Reece is keen to manage, such as disconnection to the river, high-quality public realm, green space and unsustainable buildings, he said the riverfront required special attention.



The City Road Masterplan, which is now three years behind schedule, also provides an important foundation for addressing connectivity and a desirable public realm - areas Cr Reece said had previously been overlooked in Southbank.

"I think that Melbourne is famous for its streets, whether it's the bluestone footpaths, street trees, high-quality street furniture and leading design in our public spaces and I think that, historically, Southbank has been underdone on that front."

With Southgate's owners ARA understood to be preparing its own new masterplan, ESSO House being recently sold and the Freshwater Place precinct expected to see a number of new developments, Cr Reece is keen to tie them all together.

"Any development applications will have to be appropriate for a river setting, will have

to be mindful of the context in which they sit with the other buildings around them whether that's the galleries or the parks and promenades," he said.

"The city would certainly like to see more pedestrian links from City Rd through to the river's edge to make it as porous and pedestrian-friendly as possible. If we and the developers get it right we can make that stretch one of the most beautiful river promenades in the world."

While acknowledging that state government was largely responsible for managing development, as well as the Arts Precinct transformation through Development Victoria, Cr Reece the precinct would benefit with more open dialogue.

What shape this new planning initiative takes is still unknown but many stakeholders agree with Cr Reece in principle. Managing

director of developer Beulah International Jiaheng Chan, whose development on the corner of Southbank Boulevard and City Rd is currently before the Minister for Planning for approval, suggested that the establishment of a special planning committee might be appropriate.

"A coordinated approach to the improvement of the precinct is key in the future success of the whole city and state," Mr Chan said. "A master planning committee with representation from all key stakeholders and a robust consultation programme will lead to creative ideas for the improvement of the precinct."

"We have commenced a similar process with neighbours but would happily play a leading role in any future committee. We think this will help to gather and focus all key stakeholders, opening up direct discussion with the right people to continually improve this important precinct."

Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) president Tony Penna said that there was good logic to Cr Reece's vision for the precinct, and that residents looked forward to playing an active role in how the area's future planning took shape.

"In principle SRA supports any such initiative," he said. "Owing to the massive projects and expected upcoming works in Southbank, we question why it is only now that such an initiative is being spruiked."

"Any such plan, however it may look, needs to ensure that all stakeholders have a say, especially the residential community. There are some real opportunities to bring all these projects together under one planning umbrella."

"Southbank has experienced poor planning in the past, as evident in its lack of open space, oversubscribed community spaces and poor street level interaction. We would ask council to acknowledge this to give such an initiative the space it need to flourish."

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It's time to return river to Birrarung

Continued from page 1.

Representing the three key stewards of the lower Yarra, the three leaders were each prompted on their roles and responsibilities, as well as major challenges and opportunities they saw in the river.

A need to balance commercial activation with social responsibility was one notion shared by everyone in the room. How do we as a city reconnect and reengage people with a river that has for many years been maligned?

Claire Ferres Miles was quick to point out that language was important: "Over the next 12 months you're going to hear the City of Melbourne talk more and more about Melbourne as a 'water city,' she said. "Like Sydney celebrates its harbour, how does Melbourne celebrate its river and its waterways and its catchments?"

Matthew Jackson then reinforced this through the usual acknowledgement of our first peoples. "Parks Victoria is very privileged to work with traditional owners across 20 per cent of Victoria and that is a very significant part of what we do."

However, it was Ms Nagato who was first to refer to the river by its traditional name. "Increasingly we're starting to not talk about the Yarra as the 'Yarra' but we're starting to talk about it as the 'Birrarung,'" she said. "It's really important that we do recognise our first people. They were here a long time before we were and that they've got some fabulous knowledge to contribute in terms of how we manage the river."

Ms Ferres Miles had also pointed out that a key pillar of the council's city river strategy was focused on recognising and celebrating our Aboriginal heritage. In fact, the document makes a point of referring to the river as "Birrarung" rather than "Yarra".

And it was Ms Nagato who would eventually put the topic on the agenda ... "We renamed Uluru from Ayers Rock," she said. "I would love us to rename it [Yarra River] Birrarung, but that's my personal view."

According to the Koorie Heritage Trust, while Birrarung was a major food source for the Aboriginal peoples of the Kulin Nations, Birrarung is of spiritual and cultural significance to its people for connecting to the past but also as a means of "shaping our future".



A group brainstorms around a map of the river.

This theme seemed to resonate strongly among participants on the day, as teams broke off into tables with a map of the river, sticky notes and highlighters to work together and come up with big ideas of their own.

Teams were asked to identify locations on their maps that they deemed both desirable and undesirable. While Arbory, Southbank Promenade and the green spaces along Alexandra Ave ranked highly, further downstream Batman and Enterprize Parks, Queensbridge Square and sections of South Wharf didn't bode so well.

So, how do we fuse the good with the bad? What makes the desirable locations desirable? Why are some sections of the river so good, yet others so bad? What are some of the missing links that may tie it all together?

These were some of the many questions the nine groups would have posed to one and another as they began articulating their "big ideas". And interestingly, out of those nine groups, five would incorporate "Birrarung" in the title of their final pitch.

The rationale behind embracing the river's history for many was about stopping people from turning their backs on the river, celebrating its heritage as a food bowl and cultural centre and creating more spaces to linger and reflect.

Claire Ferres Miles had previously highlighted the longstanding governance issues, which too have plagued the river. Between state government, council, Parks Victoria and Melbourne Water, one could trip from the banks of the river and into the water and fall through four layers of bureaucracy.

It was, therefore, unsurprising that some groups even built on the idea of the existing Birrarung Council to establish a central Birrarung governance authority to manage the river, provide education and help drive a balanced commercial and ecological future.

But what is it all worth if we don't fully acknowledge our history by continuing to refer to it as "Yarra"? It's a name understood to refer to "The Falls" next to Queens Bridge, where saltwater met freshwater.



Lord Mayor Sally Capp addresses the forum.



L-R: Kate Nagato, Matthew Jackson and Claire Ferres Miles.

Koorie Heritage Trust CEO Tom Mosby thinks we should start by renaming the river.

"Renaming Birrarung will be a recognition of the continuing journey of our Aboriginal people and a statement of Aboriginal culture and history as a fundamental part of contemporary Victorian life," he said.

"The Koorie Heritage Trust encourages and supports the use of traditional language as a means of connecting and reconnecting our people to country, but also acknowledging the First Nations history of Melbourne and the spiritual and cultural significance of the river."

So, while we might have many "big ideas" for our river, we should truly recognise its past before trying to shape its future. From years of turning our back on the "Yarra", which was long perceived as a sewer, we as a city continue to try and shake off those perceptions without fully acknowledging what it once was: a cultural and spiritual oasis. Language IS important.

Let's start again and let's really reimagine. Let's return to Birrarung.

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Council's call to action on waste

By Sean Car

While local councils across the state continue working behind the scenes to resolve our recycling crisis, the City of Melbourne is encouraging its residents to play an active role in being part of the solution on waste.

City of Melbourne recycling program officer Ian Clarke caught up with *Southbank Local News* last month to shed light on the many different ways the community could still make a significant impact in reducing its waste to landfill.

Mr Clarke said the council's transfer station at Dynon Rd in West Melbourne was now open for residents to drop off their regular recycling items. However, he said it was important that glass was kept separate from other recycling.

"All of the cardboard and paper gets bailed at Dynon Rd and goes to Visy Recycling for processing," Mr Clarke said.

"The broader public perception is that everything is going to landfill but that's not the case. We put actions in place to divert different streams that we can still recover."



Recycling program officer Ian Clarke.

While a solution is being sought to recycle plastics following the closure of recycling company SKM, Mr Clarke said locals could still recycle other forms of waste such as organics, e-waste and hard waste.

In the first instance, he said it was important for community members to continue recycling as usual, while trying to limit how much plastic they purchase every day.

"My role is to encourage people to continue recycling but the best thing to do is to try and change your purchasing habits," Mr Clarke said. "When you go to the supermarket, don't buy over-packaged goods."

"Consider what you're doing with food because food scraps and organics make up approximately 50 per cent of our landfill bins. So, ask yourself: 'do I have the capacity to compost that at home?'"

"We need people to stop throwing small

items of e-waste in the bin. Most people won't throw phones in the bin but it's all the accessories - headphones, chargers, cables and batteries - that we can also recover."

With around 75 per cent of the municipality's residential bins located in high-rise buildings, he said these messages were particularly crucial for those living in communities such as the CBD, Docklands and Southbank.

The council has for several years run a tailored waste management program in high-rise towers. Many residents would be well aware of the different e-waste and charity bins (managed by Diabetes Victoria) that are already accessible in around 150 buildings.

"We're constantly working with building managers to try to encourage them to reduce contamination in their recycling bins and to educate residents as they move in as to how waste works within their building," Mr Clarke said.

"We're also trying to reduce the amount of hard waste. When Diabetes Victoria goes into the buildings now, they go through the hard waste and take out any good furniture to sell on at their stores."

In another example of residents taking action, he said that some buildings had even set up "reuse" areas where people could swap larger items with their neighbours.

As part of the awareness efforts, Mr Clarke was keen to remind locals that they could

cash in on discounts of up to 50 per cent for compost bins and worm farms via its partnership with social enterprise The Compost Revolution.

He said he was also constantly encouraging high-rise residents to hassle their building managers and Owners' Corporations to find space on rooftops or in communal areas to build raised garden beds for vegies and composting.

"If you can keep compost on your property and use it on the garden then happy days," he said. "Get a group of residents together who are keen to get the space. It could be on the roof or in a communal area. Get a raised garden bed in there and grow some vegies!"

City of Melbourne has also established a permanent drop off zone for e-waste at Kathleen Syme Community Centre in Carlton, as well as battery collection services at City Baths and City Library.

On September 21, it will also host a free e-waste recycling day in partnership with Tech-Collect at Argyle Square in Carlton, where residents can save their old phones, computers or appliances from landfill.

City of Melbourne also supports businesses and the community to produce less waste. Its small business grants program provides up to \$100,000 for proposals that focus on reducing waste, with a new series of grants to open in October.

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- Recycle your e-waste
- Support sustainable businesses

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Faine flags Fischer for veterans' art

ABC Melbourne radio presenter Jon Faine got a local conversation started last month in the aftermath of former Deputy Prime Minister Tim Fischer's death on August 22.



The late Tim Fischer. Image: ABC.

Speaking on radio about his friend, a former Vietnam veteran who served for Australia between 1966 and 1969, Mr Faine proposed that Mr Fischer's legacy might lend itself nicely to a local initiative that continues to fight for government support.

The Australian National Veteran Arts Museum (ANVAM) continues to lobby the Department of Defence and all levels of government on gaining access to the former repatriation clinic at 310 St Kilda Rd in Southbank, which has been empty for more than 20 years.

Defence maintains that the property remains "surplus to requirements" and has made continuous efforts to try and offload the building to the state government and, more recently, the City of Melbourne.

"In accordance with this policy, Defence is working with the City of Melbourne to explore its interest in an off-market sale of 310 St Kilda Road," a Defence spokesperson told *Southbank Local News* last month.

While the situation continues to cause frustration to the ANVAM board, which is still seeking to establish an arts museum, studios and community space for the support and rehabilitation of veterans, Mr Faine sought to boost spirits through a new idea.

Following the sad loss of Mr Fischer, whose death at 73 has been directly linked with

exposure to chemical agent orange during his service in Vietnam, Mr Faine suggested that ANVAM's future home at 310 St Kilda Rd might be named after the former veteran.

ANVAM's director Mark Johnston told *Southbank Local News* that it was certainly interested in exploring the prospect of naming rights in some capacity with Mr Fischer's family

"Tim has a lot of relevance to what we do," Mr Johnston said. "Obviously he is a veteran and a war veteran at that. He went on to high office so his post service experience was very positive."

"His death can be attributed to his service, so the suffering that he endured particularly later in life due to his service is part of our message that we exist to relieve suffering. And, his creative writing as an artform certainly resonates very well so he becomes a very good figure from the particular generation."

"I have actually spoken to a very close friend of his about it and we've tried to put it to the Minister for Veterans Darren Chester that this is something that we could do as one of the elders of his National Party but we're still waiting to hear back."

Crown takeover

Crown Resorts has confirmed that it has purchased now former development partner Schiavello's 50 per cent stake in the site of its controversial Queensbridge Tower proposal.



A render of the old proposal One Queensbridge.

The corner site at 1 Queensbridge St, which is still home to the former Queensbridge Hotel building, was the subject of Crown and Schiavello's two-billion-dollar approved One Queensbridge project.

The controversial plan, which received circumvented planning approval from the state government as a "state significant" project in March 2017, ran to the end of its two-year permit without having started construction.

Ongoing financing issues meant that the project, which included more than 700 apartments and a new luxury hotel, never saw the light of day. Minister for Planning Richard Wynne confirmed in March that the government wouldn't be issuing the development partners with an extension to carry out the project.

The minister's decision, which was met with widespread support from the Southbank community, has forced Crown and Schiavello to return to the drawing board.

Following a City of Melbourne review in 2018, the site now also has a heritage overlay for the historic Queensbridge Hotel meaning that any future development will have to incorporate some aspect of the current building within its plans.

Crown Resorts announced at its annual general meeting (AGM) on August 21 that it had agreed to purchase Schiavello's stake in the site for \$80 million.

Its chief financial officer Ken Barton told the meeting there was a "significant opportunity" to increase Crown's hotel capacity in Melbourne, with the previous

project having been hampered by the nation's property downturn.

"We now have a luxury of time," he said. "We can look at what the right solution is and that will depend on what is going on in the market at the time."

The failure of the previous project has also caused frustration to the City of Melbourne, with upgrades to Queensbridge Square, Southbank Promenade and Sandridge Bridge having been tied up in a "public benefits" package as part of the approval.

Despite the setbacks, council's planning chair Cr Nicholas Reece told *Southbank Local News* in March that he welcomed the decision and he hoped Crown's next proposal would adhere to the normal planning process.

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

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



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New tram push for Fishermans Bend

By Sean Car

A new alternative tram route to Fishermans Bend from the Domain interchange via the Montague Precinct is being pushed by the Fishermans Bend Business Forum (FBBF).

It comes amid the state government's current planning work for "potential" tram services between Fishermans Bend and the CBD, for which it allocated \$4.5 million towards in its 2019/20 budget.

While the government's preferred option is a connection from Collins St over the Yarra River through Yarra's Edge in Docklands, the state's current infrastructure squeeze and tighter timeframes mean that all options are back on the table.

The government's Fishermans Bend framework legislated last year forecasts 80,000 residents and 80,000 workers in the precinct by 2050, however it is still yet to confirm any new public transport initiatives.

The FBBF this month submitted a proposal to the Minister for Transport Infrastructure Jacinta Allan and the Fishermans Bend Development Board, which would see a new tram route from the Domain Interchange where Anzac Station is being constructed.

The "Wirraway Service" would travel along the existing tram route on Park St currently used by tram 58, but would continue across Kings Way along Park St to connect with existing tram 1 lines. 300 metres of new tracks would be required for this section.

The tram would then continue along Park St up to Montague St, turn right and continue along to Dorcas St before turning left and continuing up to Ingles St and past the western end of the Montague Precinct.

From here it would intersect with the existing 109 tram between the CBD and Port Melbourne, where the FBBF proposes the establishment of a "major interchange" for passengers travelling to Spencer and Collins streets.

"The tram would continue along Ingles, crossing Williamstown Rd and turning left into Fennel St," the FBBF proposal continued. "This may require a slight



The proposal calls for a major interchange to be constructed at the 109 tram intersection on Ingles St.

realignment of the property on the corner of Fennell and Ingles to take of the sharpness out of the turn."

"From this point on the route would follow the current proposed Plummer St route."

While FBBF executive officer David Weston acknowledged that the proposal didn't provide a direct connection with the CBD, he said it did eliminate the need for the "significant cost of a West Gate Freeway overpass."

"The introduction of the Melbourne Metro Tunnel offers a realistic alternative for the Plummer St tram that would not add to congestion on Collins St," he said.

"Savings would be achieved by removing the need for the costly overpass over the West Gate Freeway and the required acquisition of a number of privately-owned properties."

The FBBF proposal also highlights the benefits of connecting with the "multi-modal" Domain Interchange at the future Anzac Station, with a significant portion of employees in Fishermans Bend currently commuting daily from Melbourne's south-east suburbs.

The \$4.5 million allocated in the budget to planning and the developing a business case for active transport and tram connections between Fishermans Bend and the CBD has been largely focused on exploring a "Yarra River crossing".

However, with the state government having forecasted delivery of a new tram route to Fishermans Bend by 2025, the construction of the costly tram bridge over Yarra's Edge

appears increasingly unlikely to meet that timeframe.

In response the FBBF's proposal a spokesperson for Minister Allan said: "Planning work for a tram link to Fishermans Bend continues as part of overall precinct planning."

"Fishermans Bend is Australia's largest urban renewal project and this process will help us explore the most appropriate solution for the people who will work, study and live in the area."

Member for Albert Park Martin Foley said the state government welcomed the constructive engagement from the business community on the preferred route to Fishermans Bend, but that its proposal was missing a "key objective".

"As valuable as the southern route into Anzac station is (and integrated planning of southern tram routes into and across the existing communities is underway) the proposal misses the key objective of linking the University of Melbourne's engineering campus and other areas of the employment and future industries precinct into the public transport grid," Mr Foley said.

"That university and knowledge industries project remains the state's priority as we look to provide certainty and security to the management of Fishermans Bend's future."

"We will continue to work with all groups in the community to land the best solution for the public transport/accessible future of the biggest urban renewal project in the nation while ensuring the interests of the local community remain paramount to that project."

While describing the proposal as a "clever idea", Montague Community Alliance convener Trisha Avery said the creation of a major interchange at Ingles St would only add to existing strain on 109 and 96 tram lines.

"We support building greater infrastructure for the growing areas, but this route won't do much to us, as Montague is already well served by public transport."

"As the 109 and 96 are already among the busiest tram routes in Melbourne, adding another major interchange would just add to the busyness and noise."

news@southbanklocalnews.com.au

Councillor fires off on Metro 2

By Sean Car

City of Melbourne Greens Cr Rohan Leppert has questioned whether the state government is serious about Fishermans Bend.

His comments followed the announcement of the state government's preferred route for its Suburban Rail Loop project last month.

Cr Leppert fired off at the government on Twitter this month stating that it was "completely neglecting" rail to Fishermans Bend by choosing to invest all of its energy into the Suburban Rail Loop project.

"State government announces new Suburban Rail Loop authority, with construction to commence by 2022 (election year! Surprise!) - meanwhile Fishermans Bend rail continues to be completely neglected," he wrote.

"Fishermans Bend WILL FAIL without public transport investment now. Docklands population is 11,000 but at least has some tram access and edges are walkable from Southern Cross."

"Fishermans Bend planned for 80,000 residents and 80,000 jobs but zero public transport is funded."

"The government cannot leave precincts half-planned and expect them to succeed. This will be the Andrews Government's legacy of failure as Fishermans Bend is left to develop without any public investment in infrastructure."

The state government has maintained its position that construction of the next stage of Metro cannot start until Metro 1 and a rail connection to the airport are complete. The City of Melbourne continues to advocate for the project as part of its transport plan.

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Council creates special committee to progress new gambling policy

By Stephen Mayne



Robert Doyle has been gone from Town Hall for more than 18 months but the impact of some of his decisions lives on – particularly in relation to conflicts of interest arising from campaign donations.

Team Doyle no longer formally exists but there are still five serving councillors who are not able to make decisions related to donors who Robert Doyle secured to support his 2016 campaign.

This came into sharp relief at the July 30 council meeting when council was unable to make a decision in relation to Planning Scheme Amendment 307, a tough new poker

machine policy which had been three years in the making.

Team Doyle councillors were ruled out by a \$40,000 donation to Team Doyle from the Australian Hotels Association in 2016, along with the decision by wealthy advertising man and Crown Resorts director Harold Mitchell to donate \$10,000.

After raising about \$300,000 from property developers for his 2012 re-election campaign and successfully winning five seats for Team Doyle on council, the next four years saw a number of examples of quorum being lost and decisions being delegated to the officers.

A quorum is six of the 11 councillors, so

for this to happen in the 2012-16 council it always required one additional councillor to be either absent or conflicted to reduce overall numbers to just five.

When Team Doyle briefly got to a majority of six councillors in the second half of 2017, the November 2017 decision to send the new gambling policy off to panel had to be made by officers under delegation.

The election of Sally Capp as Lord Mayor last year was hopefully going to ensure council could make gambling decisions but she then opted to accept a \$4000 donation from Ann Peacock, a long-time marketing employee at Crown Melbourne, which rendered her personally conflicted on gambling matters.

As all this became apparent at the July 30 council meeting, some quick thinking saw the councillors opt to establish a dedicated committee, the Gaming Planning Provision Committee, to progress the planning scheme amendment.

The new special purpose committee held a 15-minute meeting on August 6 when the five non-conflicted councillors – Rohan Leppert, Cathy Oke, Jackie Watts, Philip Le Lui and Nic Frances Gilley – gathered together and endorsed sending the panel

report on the proposed tough new gambling policy off to Minister for Planning Richard Wynne.

The council has asked the minister to go a little harder than the panel recommended as it does not wish to encourage new poker machine venues, preferring a harm minimisation approach.

One of the reasons City of Melbourne only has eight pokies venues – for instance there are none in suburbs such as Docklands, North Melbourne, East Melbourne or Parkville – is that council has one of the best records of any Australian council when it comes to resisting pokies applications at VCAT and before the gambling regulator.

The Queensberry Hotel in Carlton, The Victoria Hotel behind Town Hall and the Francis Hotel in Lonsdale St are just some of the venues which have tried and failed to install pokies over the years.

The adoption of Planning Scheme Amendment 307 will make it even tougher, which is a good thing.

Stephen Mayne is a former City of Melbourne councillor who has long campaigned to reduce gambling harm in Australia.

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Domain Precinct vision a step closer

The City of Port Phillip will adopt its new masterplan for the Domain Precinct at a council meeting at St Kilda Town Hall on September 18.

The adoption of the final masterplan follows an extensive period of consultation, which saw the *Draft Domain Precinct Public Realm Masterplan* exhibited online for feedback, while a series of public workshops with the community were also held.

The City of Port Phillip confirmed that it had received 57 submissions during the exhibition period, which were considered as part of the final vision.

The Domain Precinct, which is an immediate continuation of Southbank Village, is an area of land bordered by St Kilda Rd, Dorcas St and Kings Ways (up to St Kilda Rd and Toorak Rd intersection).

Described by many as somewhat of a "sleeping giant" given its proximity to the CBD, Botanic Gardens and Port Phillip Bay, the area has been the subject of an influx of planning applications with increased building heights in recent years.

The area is also under considerable strain at present as a result of the construction of the new Anzac Station as part of the state government's metro tunnel works. The project has seen traffic in Wells and Park streets double during peak periods as a



result of construction works and new raised tram lines along Park St.

According to latest Census data in 2016, the precinct was home to more than 4500 residents, and the masterplan found that around 23 per cent of households did not own a car.

The masterplan doesn't provide guidelines or recommendations on building heights and setbacks on private land as the area is already regulated by the *St Kilda Road North Precinct Plan* planning scheme amendment C107, approved by the Minister for Planning in 2015.

Rather, the masterplan seeks to pedestrianise the precinct by providing wider footpaths, better walking connectivity, green space and greater infrastructure for commuter cyclists. Key projects include managing street parking, a new Park St link, an upgrade to Kings Way Reserve (between Bowen

Crescent and Queens Rd), creating better pedestrian connections and streetscape improvements.

While the City of Phillip said it would be incorporating all feedback into the final vision, not all residents were happy with the master plan and expressed some frustration at the plans to *Southbank Local News*.

Local Park St resident Boriana Statelova said that she was "massively concerned" with the proposed changes.

"I have written tonnes of e-mails and comments about that plan and have received absolutely no consideration from the council," she said.

"Our building has suffered hugely from the new tram stop and the tram tracks kerbing. We have been left without access to Kings Way north and the south of Kings Way ... again I have written many complaints and

questions and have heard nothing."

Among Ms Statelova's concerns, which she said were shared by many of her fellow residents, include widespread loss of street parking, loss of footpath space on Park St, decreased access to Kings Way and the new bike path along Park St.

"We don't need the bike path ... It is not for us!" she said. "We have many people walking but very few commute to work by bike because we live close to everything ... it is not worth it to ride for such short distances. However, we still need our cars."

City of Port Phillip Mayor Dick Gross was quick to reassure that the masterplan didn't suggest modifying or removing access to private car parks or laneways in the precinct. He also said the loss of access to Kings Way from Little Bank St, as shown in the draft plan, would be amended in the final vision.

"Council has been made aware of a discrepancy which makes it appear that access to Kings Way from Little Bank Street is removed," he said. "This is not part of the plan to create a safe and enjoyable pedestrian link, with a potential drop-off parking area for servicing, deliveries and visitors, and will be corrected in the final masterplan."

"The aim of the draft masterplan is to respond to our city's increasing density and facilitate a community where a selection of travel choices - such as walking, driving or bike riding - are available, safe and accessible."

Is Southbank about to lose its secret rainforest?

Hidden behind glass walls at 12 Riverside Quay - right opposite the Evan Walker Bridge - is a genuine rainforest, complete with a mini waterfall feeding a burbling creek.

The building was owned by ExxonMobil until it sold to Macau casino king Loi Keong Kuong in 2017. Since then it has been empty.

Local resident and photographer Anders McDonald said he was concerned the secret rainforest would be destroyed by the new owner.

"Unverified sources have it that the new owner is about to renovate the whole building before repurposing it, and the ground floor will be deforested as part of the upgrade," he said.

Mr McDonald said the forest was consisted of all of the plants that were in Melbourne before Europeans arrived, and was therefore a kind of time capsule of Melbourne flora.

"It's the whole ground floor, it's huge and there are fern trees that are 12 feet tall and



The rainforest in the ESSO building at Riverside Quay.

a waterfall. The whole forest - ferns, stream and tall trees will be destroyed."

"As a photographer, I have been lucky enough to shoot some exquisite images in the forest and I would hate to see it go."

"We need as much green in Southbank as we can get. I hope the council, or someone, will step in to preserve Southbank's green oasis for the whole community."

A City of Melbourne spokesperson said there were no current planning applications for the property.

Blissful bridge again

By David Schout

Evan Walker Bridge is noisy no more, after the footbridge connecting the CBD with Southbank was finally fixed by the City of Melbourne.

The half a million-dollar upgrade included the installation of new support blocks and steel fasteners to quieten what was colloquially known as the "noisy bridge".

Users had become accustomed to the "click-clacking" on the pedestrian passage - named after the former Victorian planning minister - which was caused by a flaw in the design.

The noise produced by the bridge's decking had become particularly loud at the northern end near Flinders Street Station.

"The geometry and popularity of the pedestrian bridge had caused the planks to flex and make noise," Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

"This upgrade will deliver a much quieter walk for anyone who uses the Evan Walker Bridge."

It is estimated that around 20,000 pedestrians use the bridge each day.

In June 2015, the council invested \$150,000 to refurbish and re-deck the former timber



bridge, forcing its closure for nearly a month while maintenance works were carried out.

But once re-opened, a surge of complaints followed about the new fibre-reinforced polymer decking, a composite material that produced a clattering sound when walked on.

Popular bar Ponyfish Island, which operates beneath the bridge, told *Southbank Local News* at the time that the noise was directly affecting its business.

The council is also investing \$250,000 to repaint the bridge early next year, alongside upgrades to its blue LED lights.

The works on Evan Walker Bridge were just one of three footbridges the council recently announced it would upgrade.

Nearby Sandridge Bridge also received \$165,000 worth of waterproofing upgrades, while Cr Capp announced \$390,000 to replace timber decking with fibre reinforced polymer decking on the Birrarung Marr footbridge between Flinders Street Station and Melbourne Park.



Ben Anderson.



Cameron Taylor.

Melbourne Fringe in search of truth

This year the Melbourne Fringe has turned to truth, 37 years into its life.

For its truth-themed year the Hub has relocated from North Melbourne to the "People's Palace" Trades Hall, while the rest of the festival branches out to 140 different venues, 2718 participating artists and 455 events.

Two Southbank locals are on bill.

Ben Anderson, an independent producer living in Southbank's Arts Precinct, has produced four shows in this year's Fringe - *PISCA*, *WRATH*, *Just Us Girls* and *Somebody's Somebody*.

He said a fringe festival was a particular space in the arts.

"A Fringe Festival allows people to try more experimental work, but it also allows people to try new work that might still have a really wide appeal," he said.

"It can be a really good platform to showcase a new and upcoming artist like I think *PISCA* is, and then shows like *WRATH* - which is kind of an absurd play - is by a writer who is very new but I think will one day be writing for Malthouse and Melbourne Theatre Company."

Ben originally moved to Melbourne from Auckland to go to clown school. He said the shows he's produced for the Fringe Festival all shared some commonality with that background.

"*PISCA* is clowning based, *Just Us Girls* is a character comedy from that world, *Somebody's Somebody* is a drag performance which obviously partly comes out of the world of masks, and *WRATH* is a very absurd high energy heightened realism," he said.

PISCA is showing at the Fringe Hub from

September 21 to September 29. It's a mix between clowning and French Cabaret. Southbank writer and performer Cameron Taylor sings, dances, clowns and improvises with the audience all while playing the role of a newborn duck.

"When you're clowning, the show is completely about the audiences you get, and with a fringe festival you get an eclectic crowd - there's so many different things that can happen," said Cameron.

"The interaction between the character and the audience is more exciting."

This will be Cameron's third Fringe of the year, after Perth and Sydney. The show has been in a process of development since 2014.

"It started originally as a performance piece I created just after Robin Williams passed away," Cameron said.

"The original piece was based on what's in *Behind Closed Doors* - comedians having anxiety - and the original character was a depressed clown and it was his job to go to work and be a duck."

Since then, *PISCA* has transformed itself and Cameron's life.

"Every time I do the show it changes. Every night there's sections of improvisation and with different audiences, different things work, so it's constantly changing," he said.

It won him funding from Stonnington City Council to write a kid's show, two Green Room Award nominations, won him one of his first big paid roles, and a successful audition for *Cirque Du Soleil*.

"I started at Victorian College of the Arts and my first year out was like a slap in the face, but since then I've started to figure out where my place in the arts is and *PISCA* has done a lot of that for me."

melbournefringe.com.au

Change afoot at the Guild

By Rhonda Dredge

Workmen were busy at the Creative Spaces Guild last month converting the prominent co-working space at the front of the Arts Precinct into some form of office for the University of Melbourne.

Hot desks had been advertised at \$80 a week at Creative Spaces for more than two years but have not been taken up by the arts community.

Workers at nearby offices said they had never seen anyone in the glass-fronted office on Sturt St.

The City of Melbourne, which administers the co-working space, has announced it is negotiating with a new tenant.

Why haven't the desks been taken up when other co-working spaces have prospered?

Some see the space as too sterile and too visible. Not every arts entrepreneur wants it known they are paying \$80 a week for the chance to have a foot in the door into one of the city's prime arts precincts.

The terms and prices of the co-working space are embarrassingly plastered across the front window in large letters.

The arts community prefers a messier, more subtle approach. You only need to visit the popular Café Godot to pick up a bit of gossip and mingle with the up-and-coming.

Among those down at the Guild when *Southbank Local News* visited was Zara

Sully, whose self-portraits burst cheekily out of a vitrine for an upcoming exhibition.

"There's such an arts focus here it de-institutionalises itself," she said about the precinct, which includes NIDA and the Fringe Festival offices.

Ms Sully is a student at the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA), across the road, where the problems of getting around as an artist in an institution are dealt with early on in the curriculum.

"Artists don't want to fit into the world," she said. "They are taught to be critical instead. You have to be inside a discipline to critique it."

The self-portraits were made by squeezing her cheek onto a flatbed scanner, a technique pioneered at the VCA for recording parts of the human body.

In one print she has made herself up with a beard to challenge the binary of gender.

Artists prefer messy places, said Anna McDermott, a Masters student, who has taken advantage of the constraints of her vitrine to video herself walking around the outside of it.

"Walking is a process. You're doing something. Something will come of it," she said.

Artists hate having to go through gatekeepers to get their work out and about.

They keep their ears to the ground about cheap studio space, often released in places that are down at heel and need some life.

"It's difficult to write applications," Ms McDermott said. "By the time you make the work it has changed."



Anna McDermott challenges art's showcase mentality.



Melbourne Uni is taking over the lease of the Guild co-working space.



Zara Sully and her Rock Your Body self-portrait.



Cyclists are forced on the footpath or on the road without a bike lane on Clarendon St.

Clarendon St is “dreadful” for cyclists

By Alex Dalziel

Committee members of the Southbank Residents’ Association (SRA) have raised concerns over the lack of clear direction for cyclists at the Clarendon St, Normanby Rd intersection.

The bike lane that follows Normanby Rd from the 109 tram route from Port Melbourne abruptly stops at the intersection. The result is that cyclists have to either co-mingle with pedestrian foot traffic or share the road with cars on the already narrow Clarendon St.

Local Haig St resident Jennifer Fletcher raised the issue at a Southbank SRA’s August committee meeting with Lord Mayor Sally Capp. She said that the area was notorious for reckless cyclists.

“The cyclists all come scooting down around the Tea House [28 Clarendon St] and it’s a blind corner,” she said.

Twice cyclists have knocked over Jennifer, and she said that she now avoids walking in the area at peak times because of it.

She said that she once saw a child get knocked over onto the road by a cyclist on that same corner.

“It is a blind corner both ways. A lot of people I know who live in our building are always whining about it.”

Further up along Clarendon St bike access is almost entirely blocked off; a situation that has drawn criticism from cycling groups.

“The City of Melbourne has totally dropped the ball on the connections in that area,” Melbourne Bicycle User Group member Nik Dow said.

“There is no way of getting even as far as the river, and crossing the river there is either illegal or very dangerous. Cyclists either have to choose the footpath or a four lane road with cars.”

The Bicycle User Group is highly critical of bicycle accessibility in the area, which Mr Dow believed was unavailable due in part to the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) blocking any proposals for bikes out the front of their building on the Clarendon St interface.

The group is instead advocating for a secure bike lane down Whiteman St that would allow access up Queens Bridge and into the city.

“Clarendon St is dreadful,” Mr Dow said. “The prospect of getting the City of Melbourne to agree to implement a bike lane on Clarendon St is pretty remote.”

Lord Mayor Sally Capp told residents at the August 7 SRA meeting that she would take the issue on notice.

A City of Melbourne spokesperson said: “Clarendon St provides a strategic connection between the Main Yarra Trail at the northern end, Cecil St and the well-utilised 109 tram shared path.”

“The City of Melbourne is currently investigating how separated bike lanes could be introduced to boost safety for cyclists riding along Clarendon St between the Yarra River and Whiteman St. This involves ongoing discussions with the Department of Transport.”

Walkway STILL closed

The wood-decked extension of the Spencer Street Bridge remains closed due to issues relating to an engineering assessment, according to its owner.

Southbank Local News first reported the closure of the bridge overlooking South Wharf in July 2017, which was at least six months after it was originally closed.

At the time, the walkway’s owner Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) said that it was waiting for an engineering report to be completed and was ultimately unable to provide a timeframe for when the decking area would be re-opened.

Last month, after reporting on issues relating to cycling on Clarendon St, Southbank Local News couldn’t help but wonder how that timeframe could have blown out to nearly three years!

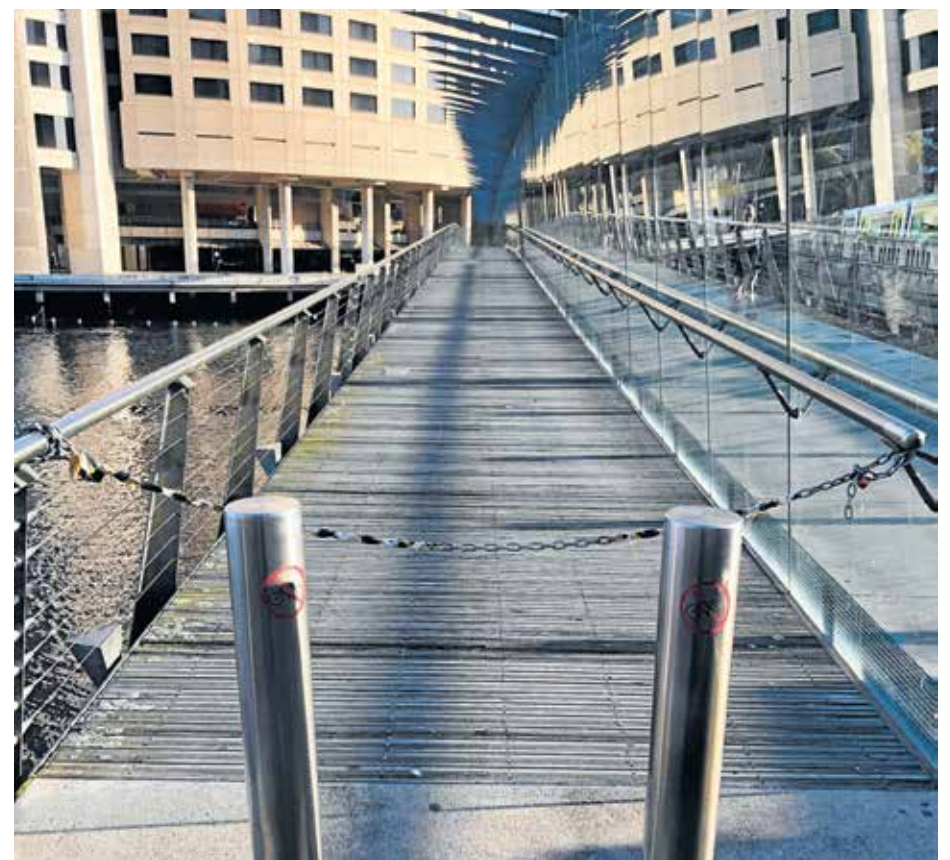
In chasing an update on the situation, a spokesperson for MCEC said: “The bridge is closed off as a number of the wooden boards have lifted, causing an uneven surface and thus a tripping hazard.”

“Once the issue was identified we commissioned an engineering assessment of the entire bridge which has taken a considerable amount of time and involved a number of stakeholders. We are working to resolve this as quickly as practicable.”

“The bridge itself is structurally sound and still safe for pedestrians to walk across on the concrete side of the glass wall.”

The western side of the bridge between Crowne Plaza and MCEC currently has three separate walkways for pedestrians; one being the footpath which runs immediately alongside the roadway, one concreted and the notorious wooden neighbour.

However, none of these spaces provide a dedicated area for cyclists and with bicycle user groups and many in the community requesting a safer solution for cycling over the bridge, one can’t help but feel there is an obvious solution here ...



The walkway along Spencer Street bridge remains roped off to the public.

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“Different
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with
different
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The Sedergreens. L-R: Steve, Mal and father of the two boys Bob.

Paul Lewis.

By Edward McLeish

This month, the Melbourne Recital Centre (MRC) is collaborating with Melbourne jazz royalty The Sedergreens, international classical pianist Paul Lewis, and Ludovico's Band, who will be performing Monteverdi's *Vespers of 1610*.

Jazz Hall of Fame inductee and father Bob Sedergreen raised his sons Mal and Steve on a jazz diet, so it isn't surprising they've grown up to be prolific jazz composers and musicians themselves.

"I don't get a chance to play with Steve and Mal very often because I'm playing with other bands," Bob said.

Bob usually plays at The Horn in Collingwood, but is teaming up with his

boys at the Primrose Potter Salon, a more intimate MRC venue that inspires a formal and classical approach.

Bob said punters could expect to see three blokes who didn't play together that often.

"They hate being called my sons of course; you don't want to live in your old man's shadow," Bob said with a laugh.

"They're men, fathers and musicians in their own right."

When it comes to style, their works range from traditional to the most contemporary; and on an individual basis, each Sedergreen brings their own instruments to the table.

"It's just a matter of us getting together and presenting a different sort of program, because the Recital Centre brings a different vibe to a hotel, restaurant or jazz club," Bob said.

"We're going to display the empathy that we share having listened to jazz music together over many years."

But, the feeling Bob gets when he takes the stand with his sons is no different to when he

plays with anyone else.

"I'm just Bob and he's Mal and he's Steve - we're all different musicians with different ideas," Bob said.

"When I play with strangers and people who I work with, it's like family for me anyway and it's no different from playing with them."

Their compositional directions are broad, including ground breaking "jozz" music, a blend of jazz with Celtic and Aboriginal influences.

This concert is a unique event for MRC, where they will mainly play original compositions, but also blend in "jozz" and funk, with Stevie Wonder elements to mix up old and new.

Paul Lewis, the English pianist, will be returning to Melbourne as part of the MRC *Great Performers* series, and will play at Elisabeth Murdoch Hall.

The MRC's director of programming Marshall McGuire said he encouraged aspiring pianists to come and see Lewis play

the greatest works of all.

"Completing his epic survey of the great works of Haydn, Beethoven and Brahms, Paul Lewis once again displays his extraordinary gifts in this grand program of masterpieces," McGuire said.

The concert will take place on Tuesday, September 24 at 7.30pm, but will be giving a free pre-concert talk from 6.45pm.

Classical themes continue in September, with one of the most beautiful pieces of music ever written, Monteverdi's *Vespers of 1610*, to illuminate Southbank as a part of the MRC's *Southbank Series*.

Monteverdi's seamlessly unaccompanied choral church music combined with the Baroque's theatricality elements demonstrates his mastery of both the old and the new.

Ludovico's Band joins forces with Ensemble Gombert under the direction of John O'Donnell for this performance of Monteverdi's much-loved and sacred work.

Mrc.com.au

The seeds of the outsider

By Rhonda Dredge

The Bauhaus movement in Germany has been one of the world's most influential, particularly in the way it taught students how to combine logic and intuition in their artwork.

You can still visit the original school in Weimar and see the design experiments set by Master Kandinsky.

Students were required to combine two formal elements with one informal.

Kandinsky colour coded geometric shapes but these were just the starting points for students' own experiments.

Buxton Contemporary has staged an exhibition for the centennial of the movement's inception in 1919 called *Bauhaus Now!* that revisits this point in history.

The exhibition, which includes contemporary responses and historical works, attempts to be both formal and informal in line with the ideology. First a phenomenon was analysed logically in terms of its distinct qualities then it was synthesised widely with other phenomena.

"An exhibition inevitably simplifies a complex story," said director Ryan Johnston, but this is one of the pleasures of the Buxton experience. Curators are not afraid to take a position.

One moving aspect of the story told, by Sydney curator Ann Stephen, is that of the thistle.

The story goes that Walter Gropius, head of the Bauhaus school, likened their principles to the thistle; a plant that is present when everything else has died back. The marginalised thistle resists when seasons pass.

Students were encouraged to feel the prick of a thistle on their skin before imagining its dispersal. The thistle was a metaphor for how the ideas of the Bauhaus would travel and what a successful concept it turned out to be.

Gropius's collaboration with industry, beginning with the construction of modular houses near the school, led to a revolution in



Ludwig Hirschfeld-Mack, Composition, 1960, National Gallery of Victoria, (c) Chris Bell.

architecture and design based on materials, functionality and repeatability.

The argument was that everyone should benefit from the new way of thinking and clean, functional housing units were one of the most pervasive responses.

Stephen has chosen to ignore the dominant strand of the Bauhaus in this exhibition and has returned to history. Before Gropius's collaboration with industry, the school had a more mystical bent with theatrical performances related to the moon and the occult.

Master Itten, now known for his canonical book on colour, was a sorcerer and the large contemporary ceremonial figures of Mikala Dwyer and Justene Williams, with their amusing lights, whistles and buckets, connect to the spiritual world.

Was the more informal, intuitive aspect of art suppressed by the architectural model that eventually led to the concrete uniformity we now know today? Is it too late to go back?

Included in the exhibition is a moving essay by Pam Hanford about the original meaning of technology.

"In the popular imagination technology

is associated with change and moving forward into the future, the digital age and space travel come to mind. But in his famous essay on the subject Heidegger says that its purpose was the opposite of that," she said.

Technology in the old days protected humans from change by freeing the human dependency on nature, place, accident and fate with things that harnessed sun, water and so on.

Paul Klee's original thistle painting is on display at Buxton and is apparently the only Klee work in Australia. It was bought by the NGV in 1953. Beside it is a watercolour and monotype by Ludwig Hirschfeld Mack, who was deported here in 1940 as an enemy alien.

Mack did the rendition of a thistle seed in Australia in 1960 almost 30 years after Klee painted his thistle, a fusion between a fairytale and the plant's life cycle, providing a moving tribute to the school which was eventually closed down by the Nazis in 1933.

"It appears to be a response," writes Stephen. "As the seeds of the outsider are scattered."

Bauhaus Now! Is on at Buxton Contemporary until 20 October.

Orchestra Victoria celebrates 50 years

By Alex Dalziel

Orchestra Victoria's year-long anniversary celebrations continue next month with a new show coming to Joan Hammond Hall on Southbank Boulevard on October 5.

The 50th anniversary celebration music series, called *Five at 5*, features five different chamber music events, which started in March earlier this year.

The latest performance, *Grand Septet*, will debut on October 5. The show will feature Kreutzer's *Grand Septet in E flat Major, Op.62*, Hindson's *Light Music for Wind Quintet* and Shostakovich's *Two Pieces for String Octet*.

Orchestra Victoria's artistic director Nicolette Fraillon said that the concert would offer patrons the perfect end to a Saturday afternoon, or entrée for an evening post-show.

"We are delighted to invite everybody into Orchestra Victoria's Southbank rehearsal venue. Bearing the name of one of Australia's foremost opera singers, it is a fitting space for the orchestra, which often accompanied her, to now use as rehearsal and performance space," she said.

"It is a lovely and intimate space and, as the orchestra for all Victorians, we look forward to opening the doors and inviting everyone to experience the power and joy of the finest music making."

Later this year on December 21 Orchestra Victoria will deliver its final performance of the series, *Corelli's Christmas*.

The Christmas concerto will feature Corelli's *Concerto gross in G minor Op.6 No.8*, Kats-Chernin's *Redgum Suite for Trumpet, Trombone and Double Bass* and Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition arranged for Wind Quintet*.

Tickets are available online via eventbrite.com.au by searching "Five at 5."

ORCHESTRA VICTORIA

Program Features:
KREUTZER. HINDSON. SHOSTAKOVICH

FIVE AT 5 Grand Septet

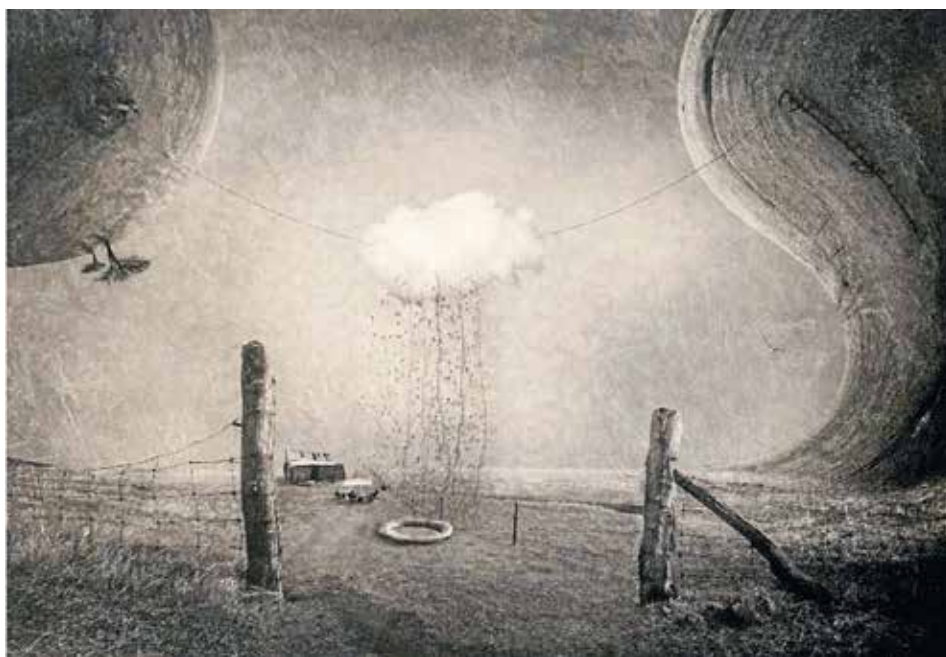
SATURDAY 5 OCTOBER, 5PM
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Credit: 'Tree of a Lucid Dream' ©Vitor Schietti



MANDARINE MONTGOMERY



Mandarine Montgomery - surrealist landscape print *Waiting for the Rain*.

Hosted by the Australian Institute for Professional Photography (AIPP), the Ilford Trophy is awarded to the highest-scoring print of the event and was taken out by Mandarine Montgomery with her surrealist landscape print *Waiting for the Rain*.

Mandarine is PSC's communications and future students coordinator, and like most who work at PSC, has a storied background in photography.

She said that her creativity was a product of her mother, who was a fashion illustrator in Melbourne. Photography became her passion when she was given an Olympus OM10 camera at the age of 15.

"I used to lock myself in the darkroom in year 12 while everybody would be out at lunch, just doing prints," Mandarine said.

Mandarine won her first photography competition when she was 20 and was presented with the \$600 prize by then Victorian Premier Joan Kirner. She boldly asked the Premier if she could do a portrait of her, which she agreed to. Mandarine said that the experience gave her confidence in her photographic ability.

"It showed me that I could earn money from photography and that I could access people and opportunities that I wouldn't normally be able to," she said.

Since then, Mandarine has won over 50 awards at various AIPP events, as well as several international competitions and the

Australian portrait photographer of the year in 2013.

Her winning print *Waiting for the Rain* is a monochrome surrealist landscape piece that depicts a desolate landscape in the middle of a drought. Like a lot of her photography, the image is a photomontage composed of multiple different elements in the vein of American photographer Jerry Uelsmann.

The idea and pictures for the print came from a trip to Kangaroo Island.

"When I went to Kangaroo Island the landscape was very parched and dry, it looked like a moonscape in parts. So, I took a lot of landscape photographs as well as different elements that I knew that I might use later on," she said.

"I always like to do something a bit surreal, so I wanted to create something that was a visually thought-provoking expression of drought."

The AIPP awards use a scoring system out of 100, with a panel of judges assigning scores to photos without knowing the photographer. Photos given a score over 80 are given awards, with photos scoring over 90 receiving a gold award, and photos over 95 receiving a gold award with distinction. *Waiting for the Rain* received a score of 97.

During the category judging, which happened from August 9 - 12, Mandarine was in the hospital with her mother who was ill at the time.

Initially Mandarine was supposed to be on a judge's panel but had to live stream the event in the hospital room, sitting on her mum's hospital bed.

"When the image came up and I scored gold straight up I started crying. It felt like I was in a dream," she said.

"On the Awards presentation night, I was unaware that my image had scored the highest as there were a few other gold distinctions too. One of my friends saw the look on my face when I won and said it was absolute disbelief, I couldn't get out of the chair for a minute."

In total, PSC students won 18 awards between them, with students Susan Brunialti and Kim Nguyen scoring gold.



Kim Nguyen - Gold Award winning image *Goldfish*.



Susan Brunialti - Gold Award winning image *Solitude*.

Fourth-year advanced diploma student Susan Brunialti scored 91 for her print *Solitude*, inspired by Australian painter Jeffery Smart. She said that winning the award helped consolidate her learning and gave her confidence to spring from.

"It felt quite exciting. I was squealing, never in my wildest dreams did I think that I would win gold at an AIPP event," Ms Brunialti said.

PSC wins

By Alex Dalziel

Photography Studies College (PSC) staff and students cleaned up at the 2019 AIPP Australian Professional Photography Awards (APPA) last month, winning 19 awards including the coveted Ilford Trophy for highest scoring print.



Image by PSC graduate Elli Bardas



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New face at ACCA

The new executive director of the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA) was named as Claire Richardson last month, four months after the position was made vacant.

Claire is currently managing the visual arts program at the City of Stonnington and will start in her new role in October.

Claire's resume includes exhibitions manager at TarraWarra Museum of Art and senior exhibition coordinator at the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV).

ACCA chair John Denton said: "Claire has great passion and an excellent knowledge of the Australian visual arts sector, with extensive experience in the administrative, financial, exhibition management and team-leadership aspects of arts management."

"Her passion for the visual arts and her excellent track-record are sought-after attributes, and we very much look forward to welcoming her to ACCA when she takes up the role in October," he said.

Claire will replace Linda Mickleborough who concluded her role at ACCA in April to take up consultancy work and undertake a period of extensive travel.

Look out for the October edition of *Southbank Local News* for a feature on ACCA's new executive director.

Australian Realness

Review by Meg Hill

To say a show is about class today could mean almost anything.

Often it means the contemporary non-existence of class, in various ways. That class lines are increasingly blurred, or that society now consists of different classes to what it previously did, are common directives.

It's this that could make Zoey Dawson's play *Australian Realness* the unpopular cynic of the theatre world, a lone voice preaching that the world is still irreconcilably divided - if the audience sees beyond the entertaining genre blend and façade of irony.

The play, which ran last month at the Malthouse Theatre, is based on the experience of one middle-class family over Christmas, as adult children visit home and discover their parents are short on money.

It's the volatile experience of the middle layer - drawn down into economic crisis without losing their class status.

Melbourne icons are part of the early settings and references, the ones that make us feel like the city is a community with a shared history - Piedmontes, Edinburgh Gardens, Helen Garner.

But the feeling is set up to be shattered, as it becomes apparent the city is not in fact unaffected by class divides but is literally torn apart by them.

Its working-class characters are blue collar brickies and wharfies. They talk about the union and are locked out of work sites.

They blame Keating for a lack of industrial power, set out to restore it and end up undertaking an insurrection that - for one middle-class character in particular - is a descent into madness.

The working class are portrayed in a variety of overdone stereotypes, but this is part of the realness. The subject is the middle class, and the workers are portrayed through their eyes.

And particularly through the eyes of the daughter, a photographer and bleeding-heart liberal, who is set up initially as the most politically correct character.

She's pregnant via sperm donor with her "wog" wharfie girlfriend - the only real character in the play and the realistic



Emily Goddard and Greg Stone Photo - Pia Johnson.



Emily Goddard Chanella Macri

Photo: Pia Johnson.

representation of the modern working class.

It's through the daughter's perspective that the audience watch the insurrection, and the insurrection is her worst nightmare - her family melt into the bogan characters, her girlfriend leaves her, her baby is stolen.

The daughter cares about the disadvantaged only when they're helpless victims, and particularly if they pose well for her photographs.

When they take control of their lives and then society, she'll do anything to go back to the status quo.

The play's complexity escalates as layers

are added and the daughter's middle-class life is literally dismantled. It ends with a display of wilful ignorance - given truth, the middle class would rather play "pretend".

She finds it impossible to accept that her layer is not the driving force of the play (or history) and to keep pace with a world quickly overtaking her.

It's this insight that's needed to appreciate the work, but it may be obscured by thick perspective. Without an understanding of liberal hypocrisy and capital C class, an audience might just see a lot of stereotypes and abrupt transitions.

Testing Grounds to close for upgrades

By Ed McLeish

Having got the most out of its cubic arts spaces for a variety of creative uses since its last renovation in 2015, Southbank's Testing Grounds is temporarily shutting for three weeks for an internal renovation.

When the public space re-opens on October 1, it will comprise new shared artist

studios, which 15 new artists will move into over a six-month period, according to Testing Grounds curator Arie Rain-Glorie.

"Exhibition visitors can expect to see freshly painted walls and new interior décor," Mr Glorie said.

The artist application process started in August and will be welcoming both local and international artist displays.

Mr Glorie said Testing Grounds' community outdoor grounds would remain a place of interdisciplinary practice, experimentation and courage.

"Testing Grounds is a place where people at all levels can test, develop and share their work; we encourage both creative and education-related activities," Mr Glorie said.





PHOTOGRAPHY PRINT AUCTION

Sep 13 - Southgate Centre

Rare opportunity to purchase prints by some of Australia's finest photographers including John Gollings and Samantha Everton, as well as PSC students and instructors. A wide selection of fine arts prints are available for purchase. Help raise funds for PSC students' Fresh 19 exhibition in November. Drinks and finger food provided.

psc.edu.au



BLACKIE BLACKIE BROWN

Until Sep 14 - Malthouse

The hilarious, arse-kicking comic-book superhero returns. She's raining down vengeance again, so every descendant of the men who killed her ancestors is doomed. Sold-out seasons in Melbourne and Sydney saw Blackie Blackie Brown rally audiences to laugh, cheer and bay for blood. In the process, she became our nation's favourite indigenous superhero.

malthousetheatre.com.au



GOLDEN SHIELD

Until Sep 14 - Southbank Theatre

A stunning new legal drama from a trail-blazer of contemporary theatre, Anchuli Felicia King. Loyalty, family and language clash in this NEXT STAGE priginal production, directed by MTC's award-winning associate artistic director Sarah Goodes.

mtc.com.au



DARA O BRIAIN

Sep 16 - Hamer Hall

One of Ireland's funniest comedians Dara O Briain is returning to Australia in 2019 with his new show Voice of Reason. This is the chance to see one of the most charismatic, intelligent, fast-talking and downright funny live performers working today back in his natural environment!

artscentremelbourne.com.au

AUSTRALIAN MUSIC VAULT

Ongoing - Arts Centre Melbourne

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

australianmusicvault.com.au

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

THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ACT

Sep 14 - Nov 17 - ACCA

Haroon Mirza's first solo exhibition in Australia, in collaboration with a crew of other artists. His diverse artworks are linked through the medium and manipulation of electricity, and share an interest in modes of perception that go beyond the ocular-centrism inherent to the visual arts.

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



LASER BEAK MAN

Sep 19 - 21 - Playhouse

Exploding with the offbeat humour and wit of award-winning artist Tim Sharp, enter the hyper coloured world of Laser Beak Man. Jam-packed with a kaleidoscopic cast of characters, this ingenious adaptation is coming to Melbourne. See the cult-classic artwork come to life with full-stage animations and over 35 original puppets by Dead Puppet Society.

artscentremelbourne.com.au



THE NUTCRACKER

Sep 17 - 28 - State Theatre

The artistic director of Birmingham Royal Ballet has created a gold-standard production of this beloved party piece, remaining faithful to the feel of the 19th century original. Tchaikovsky's last great score for ballet, with its lively motifs and bewitching melodies, draws us into the story of Clara, a young ballet student celebrating with her family on Christmas Eve.

artscentremelbourne.com.au



CONSCIOUS INTUITION

Until Oct 5 - Margaret Lawrence Gallery

New sculptures by Brisbane based Eugene Carchesio and new paintings by Melbourne-based Diena Georgetti. Since they emerged in the 1980s both highly influential artists have continued to make work that connects contemporary art, art history and human experience in profound ways.

mlg.finearts-music.unimelb.edu.au



CHANCE COMPOSITION

Sep 16 - ACCA

Artist Haroon Mirza in conversation with collaborator James Rushford, a composer and performer. Mirza and Rushford will provide insight into the exhibiton and practices, through the lens of their shared interest in the aesthetic and spatial possibilities of sound, sampling and experimental approaches to collaboration.

acca.melbourne.com.au

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Action taken on dangerous ramp

Arts Centre Melbourne divided opinion last month after installing yellow barriers on the ramp from St Kilda Rd to Southgate Ave alongside Hamer Hall.

The ramp, which is designed for mobility access and not cycling, has long been a dangerous hotspot for pedestrians as a result of cyclists who consistently ignore/miss the signs ordering them to dismount.

Following many complaints and collisions over the years, Arts Centre Melbourne (Hamer Hall) finally took the matter into its own hands last month by installing yellow cycling barriers, which force cyclists to either slow down or avoid the area completely.

While the decision was lauded widely by local residents, the width between the barriers was met with some concern, with some arguing that the space wasn't sufficient for people with larger prams and mobility scooters.

"How does one with a large mobility scooter or a double pram navigate this? Seems like a massive overreaction," one local wrote on a post shared by the Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) last month.

However, a spokesperson for Arts Centre Melbourne said in a statement that the width between the poles was the standard door width, which provided access for all pedestrians whether they had a pram, a wheelchair, or a mobility scooter.



The new barriers at Hamer Hall.

They said that for anything larger, there was 24-hour lift access next to Princes Bridge from the Hamer Hall podium down to Southbank Promenade.

"We want everyone to be able to access the surrounds and our buildings so the barriers were put in place earlier this month after signs and line marking encouraging cyclists to dismount were not being followed," the spokesperson said.

"As the ramp is steep and it's a shared zone for walkers, runners, prams and cyclists alike we needed it to be available for all to use safely."

In sharing the news on its Facebook page last

month, the SRA received positive feedback from many locals.

"I live and work in Southbank, I think they are necessary," one person wrote.

"Fantastic idea. We have avoided walking this way due to frequent near-misses," another wrote.

Southbank Local News history columnist Robin Grow also weighed in: "Have often encountered cyclists along here who totally ignore dismount signs. Well done."

However, not everyone welcomed the news.

"How about a real solution, this is just short sighted and impacts the mobility impaired and others," one person wrote.

"Balancing the needs of pedestrians only. Complete over reaction," another wrote.

While the area in question is privately owned, the issue raises a broader discussion about cycling in that section of Southbank, which the City of Melbourne is currently focusing on in its upgrade to Southbank Promenade.

The current cycling lane which runs outside the Arts Centre and Hamer Hall continues along Princes Bridge into the city, however offers no direct connection from St Kilda Rd to Southbank Promenade.

It is worth noting that the new Southbank Boulevard will offer a new dedicated cycling route from St Kilda Rd to Queensbridge Square once completed. In the meantime, cyclists must get used to dismounting!

What do you think? Send your thoughts to news@southbanklocalnews.com.au



La Camera turns 20!

La Camera is celebrating 20 years as a Southgate, and Melbourne, institution with a month-long OctoberFESTA!

La Camera started off as a humble little cafe in Chapel St, South Yarra.

Since it has grown into a Melbourne icon and local Southbank institution with an aim to give diners an experience worth sharing.

La Camera's *OctoberFESTA* promises to showcase the very best in Italian cuisine and hospitality, with the festivities beginning September 30. Events include:

- Jazz and Shiraz: September 30;
- Old School La Camera: October 9;
- Aperitivo Sunday: Sunday, October 13, 20 and 27;
- Monday Mania: October 14, 21; and
- Caffeeoholic Brekky Month.

lacerasouthgate.com/event/octoberfesta or its Facebook page @ [lacameramelbourne](https://www.facebook.com/lacameramelbourne)



Lord Mayor Sally Capp (fourth from left) meets with the SRA committee at Prima Tower last month.

Sally meets SRA

Sally Capp continued to cement her reputation as a "Lord Mayor of the people" on August 7 after attending the Southbank Residents' Association's (SRA) first committee meeting of its new term.

Having held its annual general meeting (AGM) on July 25 at the Malthouse Theatre, the SRA received a record 12 nominations for its new committee, in a sign of strength in the Southbank community.

While the Lord Mayor was unable to attend

the AGM, she made good on her promise to SRA president Tony Penna to attend the new committee's first meeting, which was held at Prima Tower.

Following a quick presentation by the Lord Mayor to the committee on her current agenda and a briefing of local council activities in Southbank, she then heard directly from the SRA committee on issues affecting the community to take back to council.

The meeting also saw the 2019/20 office bearers positions finalised, with Tony Penna returning as president for a seventh consecutive year. Marcus de Rijk was elected vice-president, while Richard Drew and Laszlo Kucharski became secretary and treasurer, respectively.

Moray office proposal

A striking \$14.5 million project may soon appear in South Melbourne in place of a two-storey office building as part of regenerating the area next to Southbank.

A planning application for 144 Moray St sought to demolish the current building and replace it with a 10-storey commercial office building designed with an "angular building form which increases in height away from Moray St".

The area is part of the Eastern Business Precinct of the South Melbourne Central Activity Centre - where the City of Port Phillip has outlined a regeneration strategy.

The building was designed by Rothelowman Architects and had a focus on sustainable internal spaces. It would include a two-level basement carpark, 5221 sqm of office space and a ground floor day care centre.

Another 10-storey office development was recently approved nearby in Montague.

Another South Melbourne planning application sought to increase a \$3.9 million accommodation plan for the



A render of 144 Moray St.

Montague Precinct of Fishermans Bend to the tune of \$5.25 million.

The property at 156-162 Thistlethwaite St is currently occupied by office and warehouse buildings.

The previous plans to build two rows of townhouses were submitted and approved prior to the adoption of new planning controls for the Fishermans Bend Urban Renewal Area.

A new owner purchased the site following the approval and submitted the new planning application in August as a result of a review.

Changes included a number of design changes and a reduction from 12 to 11 total townhouses.

The next Silicon Valley in Fishermans Bend

Since forming 18 months ago, the Fishermans Bend Business Forum (FBBF) has provided a voice to some 400 forward-thinking businesses already operating in the urban renewal precinct.

While it has maintained a strong focus on the policy and planning issues associated with the state government's vision for Fishermans Bend, addressed through the Fishermans Bend Taskforce, it has also been determined to make a positive contribution for future business growth.

With the state government ambitiously forecasting 80,000 jobs in the future Employment Precinct by 2050, the FBBF has been actively engaging with current businesses having developed a new database with support from the taskforce.

While development across the other four precincts – Montague, Sandridge, Wirraway and Lorimer – has been relatively stagnant, FBBF president Richard Blackman told *Southbank Local News* that the forum had been keen to help keep things moving for industry.

"We are aware that the Taskforce was engaging with some of the larger employers in the Employment Precinct such as General Motors, Boral, Boeing and the Defence Science and Technology but many of the small to medium enterprises were not becoming involved, and there was a sense of uncertainty about the plans for the future and how that might affect local businesses," Mr Blackman said.

"In building our database we became aware of a number of clusters of similar businesses that had located in Fishermans Bend for historic reasons," he said.

One of the drivers behind the cluster analysis is David Weston – the group's executive officer. In a former life, Mr Weston has worked in various roles across business, government and tourism and was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in January 2019.



Toyota representative demonstrating the hydrogen fuel-cell electric vehicle now in production in Japan and undergoing trials in Fishermans Bend

"We are all aware of the power of the industries that have clustered around well-known areas such as Silicon Valley, but clustering of industries goes right back to the craft guilds of the early industrial revolution," Mr Weston said.

According to David, the original concept of a "business cluster" was described by American academic Michael Porter as "a geographically proximate group of interconnected companies and associated institutions in a particular field".

"As we move into the what researchers call the fourth industrial revolution, the concept of clusters of innovation that generate new employment has evolved. Silicon Valley is one example, but other local examples include the bio-medical hub around Parkville," Mr Weston said.

A published paper in the *California Management Review* defined clustering as "global economic hot spots where new technologies germinate at an astounding rate and where pools of capital, expertise, and talent foster the development of new industries and new ways of doing business."

Educational and research institutions, in particular universities, can foster innovation as knowledge creation and



ARRB national strategic leader Samantha Taylor (right) provides FBBF representatives with a tour of the research centre.



FBBF president Richard Blackman with David Weston, Cr Bernadine Voss, ARRB CEO Michael Caltrabiano and Stephane Fayd'herbe the former Chair of FBBF at the National Transport Research Centre.

diffusion centres, providing companies with valuable background expertise and skilled workers. They can also act as a source of entrepreneurial activity.

Richard Blackman said the decision of the University of Melbourne to locate its school of engineering at the former General Motors Holden (GMH) site would provide a catalyst for innovation.

"We are encouraged that the government is looking to locate at least one other technical university in the area," said Mr Blackman. "The development of a master plan for the whole GMH site is the next important step."

Other factors that support Fishermans Bend's future as a national employment and innovation cluster (NEIC) are; support from government and public institutions, the presence of multinational companies and collaboration of players with a common interest.

Having developed a deep understanding of the businesses that are located in Fishermans Bend through its database, the FBBF has proposed three industry sectors as existing dynamic clusters: mobility and automotive, heavy construction materials and digital creative technology.

With cars, progressively over time, transitioning to electric or hydrogen fuel cell technologies, autonomous driving and shared use vehicles, General Motors and Toyota are both currently increasing their design and engineering teams in Fishermans Bend.

Also located in Fishermans Bend is the Nation Transport Research Centre operated by the Australian Road Research Board (ARRB) and iMove, which is the Cooperative Research Centre for Transport and intelligent transport systems (ITS). ITS Australia delivers safer, more efficient and environmentally sustainable transport solutions and is part of a global network.

Other commercial businesses include, Sensys Gatso Australia – a Swedish based company that is the leading provider of traffic safety solutions delivering systems, software and services primarily for automatic traffic enforcement globally such as red-light cameras and speed monitoring systems.

The heavy construction materials industry is vital to our building and construction industries and underpins the development of Australia's physical infrastructure. It generates approximately \$15 billion in annual revenue and employs approximately 30,000 Australians directly, and a further 80,000 indirectly.

The Melbourne Cement Facilities at Wharf 26 and 27 on Lorimer St each day welcomes ships to discharge their loads of raw cement. New silos for holding and transshipping this are currently under construction in order to fulfil the current and future infrastructure projects undertaken by local and federal governments to cater for the rapidly growing population of Victoria.

Fishermans Bend is also home to over 30 companies involved in film and digital postproduction, studio hire, camera equipment hire, outside broadcast equipment and set design. The advent of digital effects offers an opportunity to expand including the further expansion of the digital games industry.

FBBF is assisting government to identify the opportunities through the creation of the "Creative Tech Hub" concept.

Doggy donation

By Jack Hayes

They were the words that no Southbanker, or wider lover of dogs, wanted to hear: the annual Dachshund Race would not run in 2019.

German Bier Hall Hophaus and Southgate have had a wonderful tradition of bringing the Dachshund race to life since 2015, and in that time raised over \$13,000 for Dachshund Rescue Australia.

Although there will be no race in 2019,

Southgate has continued its philanthropic ways by donating \$2000 to The Lost Dogs Home. The announcement was made to coincide with International Dog Day on August 26.

And Southgate Melbourne marketing manager Elise Hill shared some exciting news for the future of the race last month.

"While the event has now come to an end, we hope to continue Hophaus' excellent work by supporting groups such as The Lost Dogs Home," she said. "We are planning a brand new event for the dogs of Melbourne to enjoy in 2020."

Since its inception, the "Tecklerennen" has attracted runners from all corners of the country and gained global notoriety.



Ted Mitchell (Bastion Effect) and Hayley Fowler (ARA) present a donation to their furry friends.

St Johns Southgate

An inspiring legacy

At dawn on April 9, 1945, after one-and-a-half years of imprisonment, Dietrich Bonhoeffer – the German pastor and anti-Nazi dissident – was hanged at Flossenbürg concentration camp.

Bonhoeffer has an enduring and inspiring legacy, but depending on who you ask, you might get a different answer as to what exactly that legacy is. One thing is for certain though; Bonhoeffer was intellectually and spiritually curious. In the letters he sent from prison, we can certainly see that curiosity, but also revealed in them was his beautifully ordinary humanity.

One of the things Bonhoeffer took to doing while in prison, he writes, was to memorise the hymns of Paul Gerhardt. Why, you might wonder? Well, why not!? After all, committing words to memory can do something profound to us. In my experience, learning something by heart almost changes one's DNA, or at least adds some chromosomal definition or shading.

When I was a young man, I saw a certain film – the title of which I'll keep to myself. Over and over again I watched it. It had such a profound impact on me (and still does), that I truly don't know if the film means so much because it captured who I was, or because it made me who I would become. Every image, every note, is plastered like wallpaper on my mind's room, providing a sort of gift-wrapping to my thoughts, and I wouldn't have it any other way.

I'd like to imagine that during his incarceration, the glorious hymns of Paul Gerhardt might have helped to frame Bonhoeffer's darker days with some creeping light – even when, in his own words, he sometimes felt “restless, yearning, sick, like a caged bird ... too tired and empty to pray, to think, to work, weary and ready to take my leave of it all.”

We are complex and inevitably contradictory beings, but having some memorised touchstone truths that you can consciously, subconsciously, or even unconsciously draw upon, can help you to

set the light-level in each moment's room. Bonhoeffer himself wrote poetry that would be turned into hymns – some of which are still sung today, and would have been committed to the memories of many. The final stanza of one of his hymns, has the singer proclaim the following:

“By powers of good so wondrously protected, we wait with confidence, befall what may. God is with us at night and in the morning and oh, most certainly on each new day.”

Yes, Dietrich Bonhoeffer was hanged at dawn on April 9, 1945, just two weeks before Flossenbürg concentration camp was liberated. I have no idea what would have comprised his thoughts that morning. But I hope that the wallpaper of Dietrich's mind had some of his favourite Paul Gerhardt lyrics scrawled on it. Perhaps these words, in his task of memorisation, had marked the contours of his morning's mind:

“Awake, my heart, with gladness, see what today is done; Now, after gloom and sadness, comes forth the glorious sun; My saviour there was laid, where our bed must be made; When to the realms of light, our spirit wings its flight.”

May we all be fortunate enough to have things of deep beauty written on our hearts when the time comes, so that we don't need to think them, or say them – so that just by being who we are, a light might shine.



Tom Hoffmann

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



Health & Wellbeing

How to connect with your grown-up child

Connecting with grown-up children can be difficult.

As children grow up, they can become disconnected from parents due to distance, changes in lifestyles and schedules. Or simply they grow into adulthood, and the nature of the relationship changes.

Although cell phones and texting have made sharing information inexpensive, easy and more immediate, these methods of communication can sometimes be the only ones used between the busy child and parent, sometimes leaving one or both sides longing for more connection. Regardless of the mode of communication between you and your adult child/children, it is important to understand that as your child grows and develops, so too will your relationship.

Understand your needs as a parent

The needs of a parent and those of an adult child are different. Which of the below best fit you?

1. You want to maintain a connection with your child: you want to be a part of their lives.
2. You want to spend time with their child: You just want to see them.
3. You want to feel reassured that their child is doing well, and is happy.
4. Your sense of who you are, your identity, your sense of self and your purpose is tied to you child and so when those same children become distant and detached, it can feel like losing your sense of self.

Know what “unhealthy” parent-child dynamics are

Some relationship dynamics can lead to a strained relationship, poor communication, a mismatching of needs and potential dissatisfaction. Here are just a few:

- Projecting your own values, wishes, or dreams onto your adult child;
- Not respecting them as their own people who make their own decisions and lead their own lives, separate from you and yours;
- Emotional needs, and incorrectly thinking adult children are responsible for meeting them (they're not, and vice versa);

- Guilt-tripping your adult child about the amount of time they see you; and
- Passive-aggressive communication: Including silent treatment, withholding, saying one thing when you mean another, being combative, etc.

Developing a healthier parent-child relationship

There are plenty of things you can do to nurture the relationship you have with your adult child, here are just a few:

- **Listen** if you sense that your child needs to talk to you, make time for them;
- **Respect** an adult child as their own person;
- **Understand** that your adult child is not responsible for meeting your emotional needs;
- **Accept spouses and partners.** Unless you fear that your child is in an abusive relationship, keep your concerns to yourself;
- **Use healthy communication.** Speak clearly and directly, without being passive-aggressive, sarcastic, or saying one thing when you mean another;
- **Praise your child.** Even as adults, your children crave your approval.
- **Set reasonable expectations.** Avoid comparing.
- **Watch your words.** If an adult child asks for advice or opens up a topic for discussion, it's okay to share your opinion, but be tactful; and
- **Set aside adult-only time.** If your adult child has children, try and enjoy some adults-only time, without the grandkids around.



Rajna Bogdanovic

Clinical psychologist

bogdanovicrajna@gmail.com



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Southgate

Sunday 29 September
9am **Worship with Bach Cantata**
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Leipzig University Organist, Germany
2019 St Johns Visiting Music Director
St Johns Bach Choir and Orchestra
directed by Graham Lieschke
8:30am *Cantata in Context*: pre-service talk

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9am Traditional worship with communion
10:30am Sunday School during school terms
11am Informal worship with communion
except 22 September
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Owners' Corporation Law

Refund stamp duty to those affected by flammable cladding

Barely a fortnight passes in Melbourne these days without word that another residential building with dangerous cladding is evacuated by the Victorian Building Authority (VBA). If we aren't already at a crisis point already, we are definitely approaching one.

Of course, people are right to ask, how did it get to this stage? How could the relevant authorities turn such a blind eye to these compliance issues for so many years?

As a lawyer acting for owners' corporations (OCs), my response is, unfortunately, that I've known for years. The best part of a decade I'd say. I've acted for dozens of buildings with these types of issues. Sure, they haven't been as bad as the ones that are now getting evacuated. Those buildings were 10/10 in terms of the threat to life safety. The ones I've been dealing with are further down the spectrum, perhaps a 6/10.

But of course, confidential settlements and deeds prevented my clients and I from going public. And so, the band played on. Nothing changed. Builders and developers continued to build sub-standard buildings. The state government continued to keep "red tape" and "bureaucracy" away from the process, all in order to boost the state's coffers with swollen stamp duty proceeds.

However, by keeping away "red tape" and "bureaucracy" (which are interchangeable terms for "compliance" and "adherence to relevant standards" and the Building Code of Australia (BCA)) the state government created this vacuum, and is now squarely responsible for creating and perpetuating this mess.

The announcement of a cladding fund of \$600 million for affected buildings is a welcome first step towards rectifying the issue. Of course, others have already reported that this fund is actually only

allocated \$150 million in total for affected buildings (as the federal government has declined to put in \$300 million, and \$150 million is already allocated to fixing public buildings affected by the flammable cladding). It is speculated that only the worst-affected buildings will be rectified by the state government, and with some reports that the true cost of remedying the cladding issues on the 1000 affected buildings expected to cost at least \$1 billion in Victoria, then it is clear that not all owners will be compensated by the cladding fund.

The stamp duty issue is an interesting one. Consider this: stamp duty was introduced as a means of defraying the government's administrative costs of transferring a Certificate of Title from one party to another, and to ensure that the property records were properly held. In the modern era of course, this doesn't actually hold true, as there is no possible way that it costs the state government \$30,000 - \$50,000 to transfer a Certificate of Title. In fact, you pay extra for that anyway in the administrative fees charged by Land Victoria and the relevant mortgagors.

And of course, in NSW the state government sold off its Land Titles Office two years ago to private interests, so stamp duty really shouldn't be charged at all anymore in NSW.

So, my argument is simple. The state government ought to clearly and succinctly articulate why it should keep affected owners' stamp duty payment when it has actively removed most of the consumer protections that were in place in developing and constructing a residential building? It should answer the question as to why it failed to properly administer and enforce building regulations and standards, and failed for over a decade to properly fund and resource the VBA to act as its watchdog?

I won't hold my breath for an answer.



Tom Bacon

Tom Bacon is the principal lawyer of Strata Title Lawyers.

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Metro Tunnel



Anzac construction update

To enable the next stage of construction to build the new Anzac Station, buses will replace trams on St Kilda Rd between the Shrine of Remembrance and Commercial Rd from October 13 to 27.

Crews will work around the clock as they realign the road and tram lines so that excavation of the middle section of the Anzac Station box can commence.

During this time, replacement buses will run to the tram timetable, with a frequency of one to two minutes during peak periods.

St Kilda Rd will continue to remain open to motorists, cyclists, pedestrians and public transport users, with the relocation of the road and tram lines designed to ensure people move safely around the worksite during station construction.

Visitors to the area will soon notice a new acoustic shed, 75 metres long and 20 metres high, taking shape as shed

construction works get underway.

The shed, coloured eucalypt green, is designed to blend into the nearby Shrine of Remembrance grounds and, once constructed, will minimise noise, light and dust impacts on the surrounding community during 24-hour tunnelling operations.

Inside the shed, inbuilt gantry cranes will be used to assemble two tunnel boring machines (TBMs) once excavation of the station box is complete.

As tunnelling begins, the cranes will also move concrete tunnel lining segments from the surface onto the machines underground.

The TBMs launching from the Anzac Station site are named Alice and Millie, after wartime medical hero Alice Appleford and Victoria's first female MP Millie Peacock and will feature a yellow and green cutter head.

When completed, the new Anzac Station - located under St Kilda Rd near the Domain Albert roads intersection - will improve access to the Domain Precinct and be an important interchange between train and tram services on St Kilda Rd.

For more information please visit metrotunnel.vic.gov.au



Open for business

Flora Indian Restaurant: 238 Flinders Street

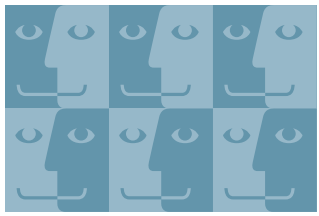
During construction of the new Town Hall Station, Flora will remain open for business. Flora is a no-frills counter-service diner serving delicious and authentic Indian cuisine. Try the local favourite Butter Chicken or grab yourself a popular small combo dish for under \$11. Open everyday until late, come in for lunch, dinner or even a late-night snack!

For more information visit metrotunnel.vic.gov.au



More trains, more often





FACES OF SOUTHBANK



FELICIA, 26, TEACHER

I like them, on men obviously. When you have a man with a beard, it's nice to hold it, cuddle it.



TAYLOR, 26, PERSONAL TRAINER

I love them. I've got a small head so my beard makes it look bigger. I feel sorry for the people that can't grow them.



ABDULHAMEN, 23, STUDENT

I think hair grows on every part of your body ... so, why should you show it off to people on your face?



CHARIS, 23, NURSE

They're a bit fun. I'd say I'm probably a bigger fan of the short stubble. But then again, the long ones are quite fun too ...



EMILY, 28, SOCIAL WORKER

They're sort of like the makeup for men, aren't they? I agree with beards - everyone needs something to hide what's going on underneath.



HARRY, 21, STUDENT

I think they're pretty great. I mostly have one because I'm a fundamentally lazy person so I kind of just trip into them. But when I have one, it's a good time.

Question:

In the lead-up to World Beard Day on September 7, what do you think of beards?

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SWA113E

SOUTHBANK SUDOKU

Last month's Sudoku solution

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

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!

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

Southbank Sustainability Group

Highs and lows, yet always in action

It's impressive how many highs and lows a month can pack.

From the heartbreaking Amazon fires and avoidable deforestation about to happen in Victoria, to our little group getting to the next stage of the prestigious Melbourne Awards!

In doing so, we hope to be recognised for our efforts to bring practical education and environmental solutions to Southbank, while also seeing many members wanting to act and get more involved.

One of the things I love most about this group is how members are always ready to spring into action and focus on solutions rather than staying stuck on the problem; one that feels too-big-to-handle at times, leading to denial and inertia. It's well established by now that in order to not reach the point of no return, every one of us needs to take action and reduce our footprint, while applying pressure to government bodies and companies to do better.

We as a group have decided to participate in the Global Climate Strike, on September 20, 2pm-4pm outside Treasury Gardens. While acting on an individual and community level is important, it's just as important to work in solidarity and show in great numbers that we are demanding immediate action to mitigate this crisis before it's too late.

The City of Melbourne has already taken a significant step, declaring a state of "climate and biodiversity crisis". We now need state and federal governments, along



with industries, working hard to reduce our country's carbon emissions and polluting practices to do something about it.

We hope to see more of you join the strike, and even get your company to pledge support for workers that want to participate at notbusinessasusual.com.au. After all, if the "big four" banks and giant Atlassian can make that commitment, surely other companies can too.

Another way to lend support is by helping the Djab Wurrung embassy (dwembassy.com) protect 3000 old-growth trees (some 800 plus years old and of great cultural significance), from getting unnecessarily cut down. Apparently, experts identified another solution to expand the Western Highway, which will cost far fewer (younger) trees' lives and thus, releasing less CO2, cost less money, and still address driver needs.

We'll keep posting a range of actions and activities on our Facebook page to help counterbalance the massive amounts of CO2 released from the Amazon fires; fires that scientists predict will continue for months.

Onto some good news!

Our group is proceeding to the next stage of the 2019 Melbourne Awards! These awards are City of Melbourne's highest accolade for contributions made by Melburnians to our city by helping to make it a world leader. It humbled us to find out that we were in the running for the environment category award. It provides us an opportunity to share the knowledge of a garden functioning as a place to "gather-round-the-fire", creating a vibrant community where environmental solutions are shared, behaviours are changed, where we motivate each other on this challenging journey, and create educational opportunities for the wider community. Not to mention all the local organic vegies produced, reducing our food's footprint and absorbing, instead of emitting, CO2.

September will continue to be a month of gardening, harvesting, and neighbours meeting. As you've probably seen, there's plenty now ready for harvesting. Look for the green rocks that will show you what's harvest-ready and always pick enough for one meal at a time. We'll also have a spring

vegies planting day in late September/early October. Watch our Facebook page for the exact date.

How to harvest

- Leafy greens (spinach, rainbow chard, etc.) cut leaf low at the base of its stem, only cutting large external leaves.
- Turnips: take them whole and don't forget to eat the leaves which are packed with antioxidants.
- Rocket and broad bean leaves: cut a few leaves sparsely from various parts of the plant.
- Anything else you want to harvest, just email us for instructions.

Upcoming meet-ups are on Saturday September 14 and 28, 10am at Boyd. Come join us and do some gardening, harvesting, and more.

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

Montague Community Alliance

Are you getting to know us?

We hope so.

Over the last few years we have been introducing you, dear readers, to members of our community - Montaguans.

We hope that in meeting our local community, both residents and business owners, we have demonstrated that we are a vibrant 24/7 precinct of South Melbourne. We hope that we offer a welcome to newcomers and we hope for reciprocal respect from our new neighbours and friends.

To bring these hopes to a reality, we not only need a strong community, but we need support and acknowledgement from those that will decide our fate from a planning and design perspective.

We understand that an enormous amount of work is going on in the background and we as a community are not privy to all those outputs. This presents us with challenges and it's as if we are holding our collective breath while this work is being done. When information or discussions are available to us, we can exhale a little more.

It's worth noting, that the Montague Precinct and Fishermans Bend, do not sit with the state planning department any

longer. These days the Fishermans Bend Taskforce falls under the auspices of Gavin Jennings MP, Special Minister for State and Minister for Precincts and Regions. The Taskforce itself seems to be going through a transition and we hope that the intelligence and data we have provided over the last few years will not be lost or discarded in this next iteration.

We had set up a "working group" of residents and businesses from Montague, that met with the Taskforce in June and we were hoping to meet again in October. Let's hope (one more time) that the new team will continue our work together rather than asking us to start again!

These are some of the areas that we have covered over the past few years and specifically at the June meeting:

- Creating a neighbourhood agreement - a way of ensuring that the community and the developers can create a precinct together with the best intention and communications.
- Recognising there is a clear division between east and west of Montague St in terms of heights, design and current foot traffic. Although this is rapidly changing.
- Prioritise intersection upgrades on corner of Buckhurst and Montague streets,

particular putting in traffic lights and a pedestrian crossing. This is vital for access to the South Melbourne Primary School, from other parts of Montague.

- Parking issues and potential need for precinct scale parking - recognising that we have working parents that come in from the outer suburbs, drop their children of at schools or kindergartens and continue to drive to work. Where do they park?
- Keep the fine grain and history of the area as it develops, particularly the bluestone, the industrial heritage, the residential and business history. Ensure that the legacy of the area remains with the locals.
- Local businesses and developers working more closely with residents as development and construction occurs and improving notification to advise locals of activity. Ask each of the developers to create a page on their websites where locals can access information about demolition and building schedules (this can be captured in the neighbourhood agreements).
- Naming of bluestone laneways - this will ensure that the fine grain and history of Montague is preserved.
- Address ageing in place, appropriate

location of transport connections for elderly. If we remove all car parking and movement of vehicles how will those who do not, or cannot ride a bike, or walk long distances get around? It appears that developers are creating larger apartments with more amenity aimed at downsizers with money, often this cohort is older and not as mobile, and as we are an aging population this must be addressed in Montague.

- Create a Montague bridge/street festival - Let's celebrate the legacy and vibrancy of our community and show the greater Victorian community that we are not just a thoroughfare to the and from the freeways.

In hoping that these ideas and discussions become a reality we thank you for paying attention to us and more importantly getting to know us.



Trisha Avery

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



A dream life

By Meg Hill

“Eight years ago, we decided to quit our jobs on the same day and plan an adventure.”

Jeanelle Mariani was describing how she and husband Dean went from working corporate jobs they hated, to living their dream lives.

They live in Southbank and own CBD venues polepole (pronounced pol-eh-pol-eh) and Glamp, which embody both the Melbourne hospitality scene and their East-African inspiration.

In addition, Jeanelle works part time for not-for-profit Plan International.

“We spent a summer in Europe, four months in East Africa and then travelled to the US,” Jeanelle said.

The couple went through Rwanda, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

It was on our last night in Tanzania, on our 10th anniversary, when we had the conversation about what we would do with our lives, what we were going to do when we got home,” she said.

“We asked if there was a chance of us living out our dream life what would that look like, and we wrote it down on a scrap



Dean and Jeanelle inside the communal tent at Glamp.

piece of paper.”

“I said I wanted to work in a not-for-profit and give back, and Dean wanted to open a bar. We just made a deal we would chase that dream.”

Jeanelle said they drew out a mock timeline on the spot and wrote a pretend date that could work if they started working toward the goal immediately.

“The day we got the keys for polepole it was like three days out from that date,” Jeanelle said.

The couple have been living in Eureka for just over a year – but Southbank for five. They made the move from Northcote to set up the venues, and Jeanelle’s day job is in Southbank too.

“Our whole lives seem to be basically

in Southbank and crossing to the city over here,” Dean said.

He said the “novelty” of Southbank definitely hasn’t worn off it – although it is changing.

“In five years, it’s changed considerably and it’s continuing to change a lot,” he said.

“It used to feel residential but kind of go-in and go-out. Now there’s more and more amenities and liveable space, there’s stuff for locals.”

Their African-inspired CBD venues span two levels – downstairs is polepole for dining and upstairs is the more informal Glamp.

“We had this dream of when people walk upstairs, they’re just totally transported, it’s not an extension of downstairs, but an entirely different place,” Jeanelle said.

And they nailed it – Glamp is unlike any other bar around. It’s named after the concept of “glamping” and huge communal tents dominate the space.

“When we travelled through East-Africa we were very much budget campers and we heard about people who were apparently glamping and thought ‘god it’d be nice to do that one day,’” Jeanelle said.

“If you come in here on a Friday or Saturday night, you’ll see groups merge into other groups and people meet new people. It’s a ‘you’re-all-under-the-same-tent’ party.”

Southbank Residents’ Association

The Lord Mayor visits

We were delighted that the Lord Mayor Sally Capp was able to join us at our first committee meeting post our annual general meeting (AGM) last month.

As you may recall, we had an abundance of interest from the community to join our committee. This was a great opportunity for our new committee members to begin to understand the workings of council first-hand from the Lord Mayor.

It also showed the concerns and interest our Lord Mayor has for Southbank. Sally is often reaching out for updates on our interaction with council and any new concerns in our community. We are truly thankful to have such a close relationship with our Lord Mayor and it was a real honour to be hosting her at our first committee meeting for this new financial year.

Good news for some and not so good news for others ... there have been some developments for our cyclists. During the consultation phases of the City Rd and Southbank Boulevard upgrades, it was proposed that Kavanagh St would be a cycling connector between the two. This would also assist with offering an alternative for speeding cyclists that use the promenade, which we know is a constant problem.

Melbourne Bicycle User Group (MBUG) used the public consultation opportunity

to lobby for protected bicycle lanes. It conducted its own surveys by letterboxing a questionnaire to many, if not all, the buildings along Kavanagh St, where the response was overwhelmingly supportive.

Southbank Residents Association (SRA) was also presented with a proposal by MBUG for protected lanes from Power St to Southbank Boulevard, which in its proposal, left Southbank with a net loss of 15 car parks. However, none of them were residential permit car parks. In principle, we endorsed this for the interests of the Southbank cyclists as a potential solution for the promenade. The reason the stretch between Balston and Power streets was not part of its proposal is that it was widely believed that the Melbourne Square developers would be using much of the southern side of Kavanagh St as part of its construction permit. This has not eventuated and instead the developer is using its land to construct its development.

In August, a City of Melbourne traffic and parking officer contacted SRA to advise that works to install protected bicycle lanes were now progressing and soon council would be reaching out to inform residents. However, in its proposal there is now an overall net loss of 50 car parks, although apparently none are residential permit parks. Earlier this month, meetings were held with the owners’ corporation (OC) chairpersons of the immediately affected buildings and the SRA committee, where council provided a briefing on the proposal and its implementation.



Lord Mayor Sally Capp meets with SRA last month.

In short, council is proposing to remove all the angle parking and replace it with parallel parking. While there is a year-on-year reduction in vehicle ownership within the built-up areas of Southbank and the number of unused car parks within towers is constantly increasing (which together no doubt explains the increase in popularity of the car share schemes which are scattered throughout our neighbourhood), I am not sure a 50 park reduction is beneficial to the community’s needs. While I am in support of a safer cycling experience for our cyclists, I would like to think there is another way forward. I am not sure how many of our street parks are actually used by residents for either their personal parking or their visitors parking.

I am cognisant that as Kavanagh St continues to develop, particularly after completion of Boyd Park, Melbourne Square and Southbank Boulevard, that we will probably start to see the ground floor apartments become spaces of boutique

consulting and retail business. If this is the case, then more, rather than less, street parking would be needed. But having said that, while the residential permit parks are proposed to be preserved, if not increased, I question the logic of that. Only older buildings, ready for occupancy before March 2010 are entitled to residential parking permits, yet they are the buildings where it was mandated that every lot has a minimum of one car park, sometimes two. Yet the new developments were rewarded with height for every car park they didn’t include. Many of the newer apartments don’t have a car park, especially the one-bedroom apartments. So, my logic tells me that the properties that would really benefit for parking permits are the newer, post March 2010 properties, yet they are not entitled to them.

SRA is a not-for-profit volunteer lead community organisation. If you support the work we do to maintain the liveability of Southbank through engaging with council and the state government, we would certainly welcome your support through membership. It is only \$10 a year. You can sign-up at southbankresidents.org.au



Tony Penna

Tony Penna is the president of Southbank Residents’ Association.

southbankresidents.org.au



We Live Here

Small print shrinks state cladding fund

Premier Daniel Andrews' cladding fund might be able to help a tiny percentage of apartment buildings with dangerous cladding.

The small print in the recent Victorian Building Authority (VBA) report explained that more than half the headline-grabbing \$300 million fund would be earmarked to fix the cladding on the government's own buildings.

Less than \$150 million will be left over for ordinary folk living in combustible apartments.

At an average remediation cost of \$5 million per building, the fund is just enough to take care of the cladding on perhaps 30 buildings.

That's about three per cent of the 1069 buildings that the Victorian Cladding Taskforce deemed a "risk to life".

This cladding fund seems to be scant propitiation for the government's significant role in this whole scandal - having overseen the disastrous "self-regulation" regime.

And three per cent is long way short of "half" the fire-risk buildings that the state government said it would help.

Meanwhile, another cladding fire in Canberra this month, ignited by a discarded cigarette on a balcony, has once more highlighted the issue.

And Minister for Planning Richard Wynne made the headlines in a case being prosecuted against a building surveyor who signed off on dangerous cladding for several buildings.

Please remember that the state government was the architect and, for decades, the arbiter and enforcer of the disastrous building self-regulation regime. This was a system that sanctioned the

wholesale approval of substandard and dangerous works by government-accredited, private building surveyors.

As a major beneficiary of the runaway building boom, the government's role in the genesis of today's cladding calamity is both intimate and comprehensive.

The state's desultory oversight of a cavalier and corrupt industry over so many years is an unmitigated failure of duty of care that cannot be extenuated with a monthly, hyperbolic sound-bite from Spring St.

We expect much more from our government than empty funding promises and animated blame-shifting.

Mr Andrews and Mr Wynne, how about forgoing the false magnanimity and confected indignation? Just accept responsibility for the mess and do something concrete.

Sadly, so many state governments around Australia are guilty of the same monumentally incompetent supervision of building standards.

Again, we urge the federal government to call a Royal Commission into the building industry and the appalling multi-billion-dollar legacy that ordinary Australians are now paying for.

OC Act reforms fall short

We are very concerned about loopholes in the state government's exposure draft of the proposed reformed *Owners Corporation Act*.

We Live Here has been campaigning for years against blatantly unfair building and facilities management contracts.

Many unconscionable contracts have opaque costs, embedded commissions and irrevocable terms of many decades.

The Financial Review reported this month a case of a 99-year embedded network contract!

This type of inequity needs to be eliminated.

The government has drafted a clause in the proposed draft legislation to prevent onerous long-term contracts that "benefit the applicant for registration of the plan of subdivision", i.e. the developer.

The huge loophole here is that the developer can offer a benevolent gift of a lucrative multi-generational contract to a "mate" who happens to be in effective control of an unrelated company or entity. Different company, different directors - too easy.

This ruse would still be possible despite the draft reforms. Legally, or ostensibly, the developer does not benefit - a fairy tale that we lack the credulity to swallow, despite the legislators' disposition.

Many of the unfair contract examples we are being sent by disaffected owners corporations show that the developers and contracted companies are well known to each other but legally unrelated.

The reform required is simple: just limit the term of all third-party owners' corporation (OC) contracts to three years, renewable at the OC's option - regardless of who benefits. Otherwise the proposed reform will be just ludicrously simple to rot.

This legislation needs to allow owners

to seek a ruling from Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) on fairness and equity principles for all existing contracts of more than three years, not just new contracts signed since 2017.

Many of these unfair "mates" deals for 25, 30 and 99 years obviously still have many years or decades to run.

Developers and building managers have been prodigiously ingenious in forging new constraints to create generational, iron-clad contracts, such as:

- procedural restrictions imposed on the revocation of an appointment;
- contractors renewing the appointment at their option;
- automatic renewal of the contract of appointment if the OC fails to give notice of its intention not to renew; and
- restricting the ability of an OC to refuse consent to the assignment of a contract.

To see the We Live Here submission to the Consumer Affairs Victoria OC Act review, search online for "Owners Corporations and Other Acts Amendment Bill - Exposure Draft consultation".

We Live Here believes these contract inequity issues must be addressed as a matter of urgency before the final version of the Bill is released.



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

SkyPad Living

Vertical living style

Our apartment layouts might be uniform, but our interiors need not be!

Advice abounds about how we, vertical villagers, can decorate our small spaces.

We are advised to delineate areas, go vertical with storage, choose a light colour palette (or alternatively) go bold, add layers for depth - and most important of all - invest in appropriate furniture.

But just what is appropriate for our space-challenged apartments?

Scanning the many guidelines offered by small space stylists, current advice cautions us not to take the "dollhouse approach", meaning that we should not simply shrink our furnishing and outfit our abodes with tiny furniture.

According to course director of interior architecture at Swinburne University Kirsten Day, the best types of furniture to use in small spaces are simple open-framed chairs and tables, furniture with light frames, steel or timber, and open backs. She further advises that fitted living room furniture with

built-in side tables that hug the wall is better than large single units and isolated tables. And Kirsten is also an advocate for flexible space (i.e. multi-purpose arrangements).

To date, flexible space in Australia has focused on transforming furniture - sofas which turn into beds, coffee tables which change into dining tables, etc. The more radical options, such as moving robotic walls, were the stuff of futuristic design fairs.

But things are about to change

Swedish furniture giant IKEA is teaming up with US start-up, Ori, to create such a robotic furniture product.

Ori's current collection includes a "pocket closet" (an expanding and concealable wardrobe) and in conjunction with IKEA, Ori is developing the *ROGNAN* solution which enables a bedroom to transform into a living and working space.

"More IKEA ..." I hear you sigh.

And it is a common lament that in being one of the few retailers that offer reasonably priced furniture suited to our space, that many small apartments can look like a page from an IKEA catalogue.

Enter the IKEA hack

As many know, IKEA hacking has been growing in popularity for some time with entire sites now dedicated to sharing tips. Early on, the Swedish retailer "disliked" this idea but they have changed their tune, even offering ideas themselves.

IKEA hacking started with the re-engineering of IKEA pieces to serve another purpose but increasingly, these hacks focus on customising the appearance of the skandi furniture - the decorative hack.

In recognising this desire to customise one's IKEA, the past few years have seen several start-ups emerge which offer different ways of doing this. Among these are Norse Interiors, Reform, Panyl, Hølte and even our own Australian LUX.

At Norse Interiors (USA), they offer "luxurious, custom-made replacement pieces to turn IKEA furniture storage into bespoke works of art." Customers choose the colour and design of pieces which fit over existing IKEA furniture.

Reform's offer is more a swap-out of kitchen fronts and countertops which they promise are easy to combine with IKEA's basic and popular modules.

Hølte, a London-based studio, provides a high-end version of this aftermarket alteration service, offering an array of coloured handles, countertop surfaces and hand-finished cabinet fronts.

Deviating from this refit approach, Panyl and our own LUX offer more accessible ways of customising - no screw drivers needed!

Panyl is a do-it-yourself furniture wrap which comes in multiple colours and wood grain textures.

Meanwhile LUX offers a range of overlay panels along with a selection of handles, legs and feet which can be combined for a "designer look on a flat-pack budget". LUX's products are Australian designed and made, and LUX is Australian owned and operated - which could mark the beginning of an interesting OZ-scandi fusion!

So, before you send your IKEA unit to landfill, think about "hacking out" a second life.



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

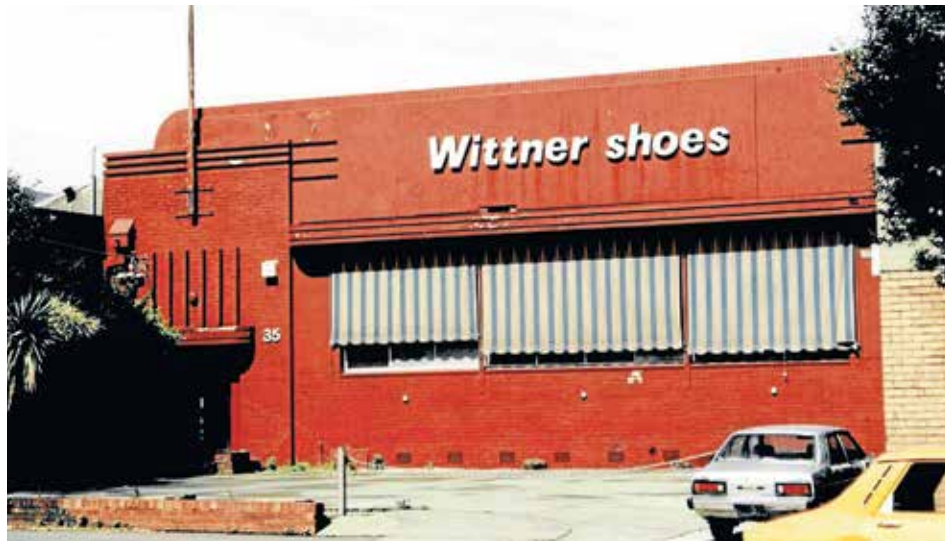
Fashion and Southbank

Among the many galvanised iron factories along Sturt St in the 1930s was a stylish new factory for Lucy Secor fashion designers.

The firm got its start in 1922 and became so successful that by the mid-1930s it needed a new factory to keep up with demand and to maintain quality. A new factory was commissioned at 35 Sturt St not far from Princes Bridge; one of many new factories on this street.

Lucy Secor was one of Melbourne's better-known fashion houses from this period, specialising in striking, beautifully crafted garments sold from highly fashionable shops in Collins St. Noted for quality and attention to detail in workmanship, this was a firm that cared about its staff and took great pride in its training programs over a number of years (typically four). Staff members were paid well and conditions were good, unlike many of the sweatshops in the clothing industry at the time. For those seeking a job in the industry, being trained at Lucy Secor was almost a guarantee of success, and most people seemed to have enjoyed working there.

Designed by prominent architects Alder and Lacy in 1935, the styling of the factory was decidedly Art Deco, with the streamlined building of simple but pleasing design. The swampy ground requiring strengthened foundations and the firm constructed gardens facing Sturt St. Regrettably the garden was destroyed by local vandals a few



The Art Deco 'Lucy Secor fashion house' factory. Wittners Shoes occupied the building from 1980.

weeks after the opening.

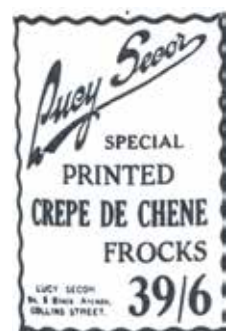
On the inside, the delicate nature of the fabrics and textiles employed in the manufacture of frocks required a high standard of hygiene throughout. Large amounts of natural light were admitted via a saw-tooth roof, lined with insulation, while mechanical ventilation and an air-conditioning plant ensured the constant supply of fresh or treated air, meaning that

the doors and windows could be closed without admitting dust and dirt from other local factories.

As well as the stylish Melbourne shops, Lucy Secor had branches across Australia and New Zealand and by 1950 the company boasted 50 selling departments. The firm closed in 1980 and Wittners Shoes occupied the building before it was demolished in 2007 as part of the massive changes to the

area during its transformation from South Melbourne to Southbank.

But who was Lucy Secor? It appears that no one with that stylish name actually existed and the name was created to give a European/French cachet to the clothes, generally copied from overseas designs. Although advertisements in 1937 stated that Lucy Secor herself was in constant touch with the fashion centres of the world, it seems likely that the key figure was Mr W.C. Cann - the managing director for many years.



Robin Grow

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

Pet's Corner

A seasoned traveller

By Edward McLeish

Students Sarah Nikolayson (25) and Liam Butler (32) are proud owners of Skadi - a two-year-old purebred red brindle whippet.

The Greensborough couple take Skadi wherever she's comfortable going, and this time, their journey passed through Southbank on the way to Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens.

"She just comes with me wherever I go - on the trains and stuff like that," Sarah said. "She's not shy, she's pretty bold."

Usually known as mild-mannered and friendly, whippets are polite with strangers, other dogs and noise from a young age, but Skadi picks and chooses whom she spends her time with.

"If there's anything she's uncomfortable with, it's cars and poodles," Sarah said.

But, when it comes to socialising, Liam said there is nobody better than his and Sarah's young pup.

"If there's a new person [at our front doorstep], she'll be there straight away," Liam said.

But, as all puppies do, Skadi has had her naughty moments.

"She once stole an entire cutlet from the table and then left," Sarah said.



Liam and Sarah with Skadi their purebred red brindle whippet.

"The thing about her is that she knows when she's doing something naughty."

"You can hear it in her steps because she's kind of quick and when those steps speed up you can hear she's excited about something."

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Safety & Security

Travelling safely in Southbank

After a record low road toll in 2018, when 214 people lost their lives in Victoria, there have already been 192 lives lost, an increase of 56 compared to the same time last year.

This is a shocking statistic. What steps can you take to keep yourselves safe on the roads in your local area?

Many residents of Southbank may not own a car and the main method of transport is walking or riding a bicycle. However, pedestrians and cyclists are vulnerable road users, as they have little or no protection in the event of a collision. Pedestrians and bike riders are examples of vulnerable road users, the young and elderly also fall into this category.

So, what steps can you take to keep yourselves safe when travelling away from your homes in Southbank?

Pedestrians:

- Be predictable - follow the rules of the road and obey signs and signals.
- Cross the road safely - plan where you will walk and always choose the safest place to cross. If there is a pedestrian crossing with lights available use it and obey the traffic signals.
- Keep alert at all times - don't be distracted by electronic devices that take your eyes and ears off the road. Many fatalities have occurred when pedestrians have not heard traffic noise and warning signals due to the volume level of earphones. Texting while walking is an unsafe practice.
- Never assume a driver sees you -

make eye contact with drivers as they approach to make sure you are seen.

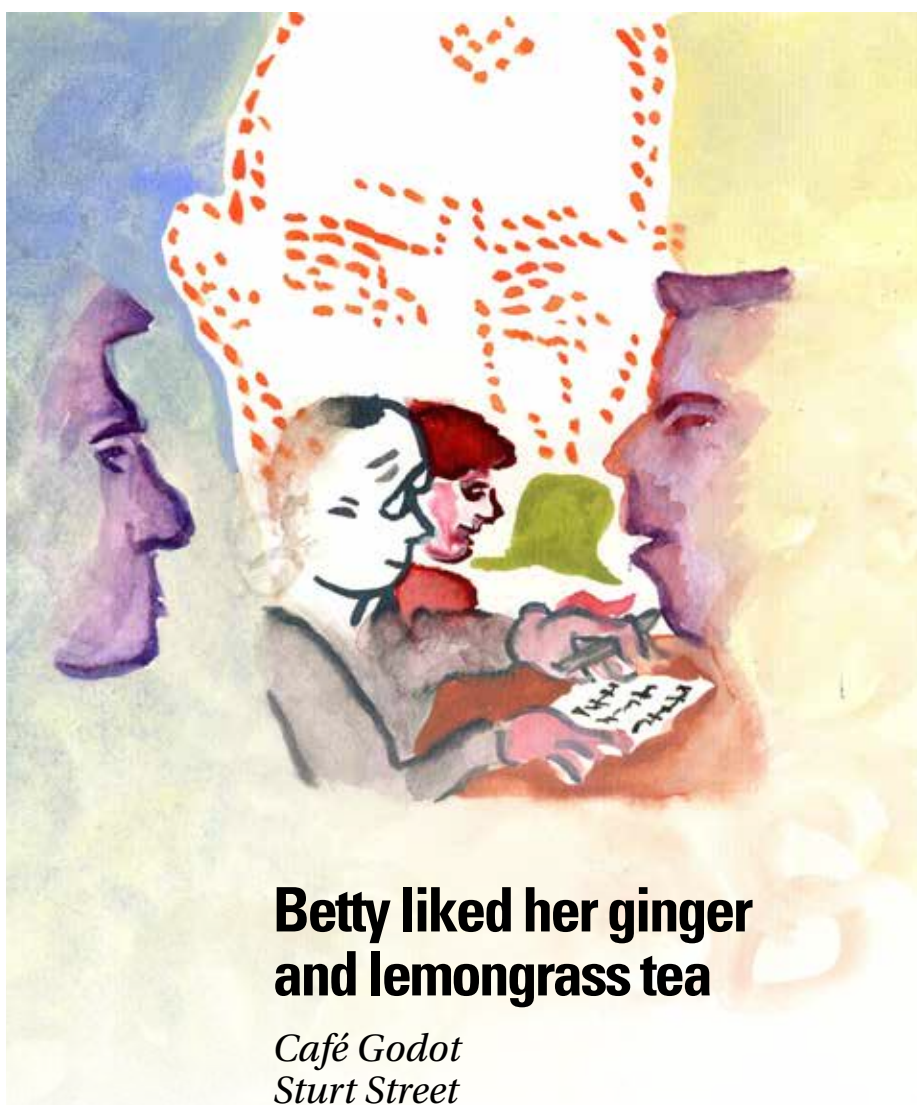
Cyclists:

- Wear a helmet - all bike riders, their passengers and scooter riders are required to wear a bike helmet in Victoria.
- Keeping visible - crashes between cars and bicycles are more likely to occur when light is poor. Wear a bright top day and night. At night reflective strips on a vest or backpack will make you more visible.
- Use lights at night - this is the law. The front and rear lights must be visible from 200 metres and the bicycle must also have a red rear reflector visible from 50 metres. Using flashing front and back lights in the daylight too helps you be seen on the road.
- Bicycles are vehicles - under the law, bike riders have the same rights and responsibilities as car drivers. This means stopping at traffic control signals.



Senior Sgt Alex O'Toole
Station Commander at Southbank Poilice Station
alex.otoole@police.vic.gov.au

Lunch Break



Betty liked her ginger and lemongrass tea

*Café Godot
Sturt Street*

Business



Golden Fleece enters a golden age

By Jack Hayes

It was an eleventh-hour bid that landed, now co-owners Sam Austen and James Robbins, the keys to a South Melbourne icon – the historic Golden Fleece Hotel.

Mr Austen was sick at home on the Mornington Peninsula when he was told “The Fleece”, one of the longest standing buildings on Montague St, was being listed for sale.

The Fleece has been pouring drinks and serving food for locals and travellers for almost 150 years. Now Mr Austen and his team are looking to bring The Fleece back to its former glory.

“For me, it was too good of an opportunity to miss. I’ve run a country pub. I’ve also run a coastal pub, so now it’s time to have a crack up here,” Mr Austen said.

“It is a pub that I, and many other people have known for a long time. I used to have a drink here 20 years ago. Back then, it was pretty rough – a real drinkers’ pub.”

Since assuming control of the pub in mid-June, Mr Austen had a clear direction in which he wanted to take – bringing industry-leading food and service while paying homage to a century-and-a-half of Montague hospitality.

The Golden Fleece has partnered up with Clamms Seafood and Flinders+Co for market-fresh seafood, with Cape Grim and Bass Strait Beef.

“We aren’t trying to be a five-star restaurant; we just want to exceed people’s expectations,” he said.

“We can see a great opportunity to re-engage the locals. That is what it [The Golden Fleece] has lost. We have great support from all the commercial businesses around Montague, but hadn’t been seen as a great dinner destination.”

“We want to be renowned for great food and service, we want to know people’s names, and ultimately drive a lot of repeat business through that.”

If you step into The Fleece today, you won’t find an aging watering hole that was, less than a decade ago, on the brink of closure.



Left to right: Massimo Vasturzo, Sam Austen and James Robbins.

You will find walls adorned with floor-to-ceiling wine racks, a second-storey beer garden upstairs, a revamped bar and bistro, and even an entire room dedicated to eight refurbished pinball machines.

“Sadly, we can’t claim credit for the renovation; that was carried out by the previous owners, who did an incredible job,” he said.

“If it weren’t for them, I feel this pub wouldn’t still be here today.”

For more details and reservations, visit goldenfleecehotel.net.au

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

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chunkymove.com



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



FIRST AND THIRD SATURDAY EACH MONTH

SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

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



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SATURDAYS 8AM @ BOYD
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SOUTHBANK ROTARY
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 Atila Akguner offers two hour sessions every Monday morning from 11am until 1pm at the Principal's Office at Boyd. To book in a time contact: atilaakguner@gmail.com

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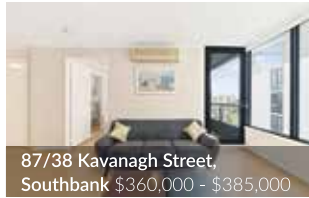
Wednesday 2 October at 6:30pm
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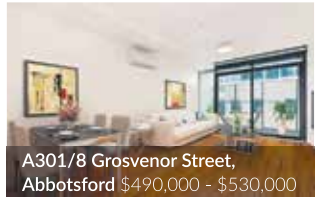
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