

The voice of Southbank, South Wharf & Montague

SOUTHBANK Local NEWS

■ Sustainability wins!

Page 3

■ Yarra River strategy released

Page 4



■ Inked in Southbank

Page 12

■ Feedback Loops @ ACCA

Arts Precinct Supplement



Jump Afloat a winner!

Arbory Afloat has been recognised as Melbourne's premier summer venue after receiving the City of Melbourne's prestigious Melbourne Award for hospitality.

Having completely reimagined the way Melburnians embrace the Yarra River, Arbory Afloat has become the city's summer go-to, hitting the water again now for its fourth seasonal incarnation, which for the first time includes a swimming pool!

For more on Arbory Afloat's award and to find out what it has in store for New Year's Eve head to page 12.



The management team at Arbory Afloat celebrate by their new pool this month.

Unpopular plans rear their heads

By David Schout and Sean Car

Two controversial developments in Southbank Village have re-emerged with updated plans for larger towers than what were originally approved.

The owners of properties at 135 Sturt St and 22-24 Wells Place/31 Coventry St, which both hold existing planning approvals for towers more than 60 metres high, each submitted amended plans last month.

Evolve Development has applied for additional height and reduced setbacks on its approved building, formerly owned by architecture firm Hayball, metres from the heritage Malthouse Theatre, while Headland Properties has returned with a 70-metre proposal for its laneway site on Wells Place behind the Guilfoyle.

In October, Evolve applied directly to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) to raise the already-approved 18-storey building to 19 storeys and to reduce setbacks on the side and front of the building by one and two metres respectively.

If approved, the changes would see the mixed-use building rise from 206 residential apartments to 216.

Local lobby group Save Dodds Street's Eileen Vamos said the new developer's move was a further slap in the face for local residents who had long campaigned to keep the Southbank Village area low-rise.

"The developer's action of going to VCAT is really disappointing. It is sheer greed and a lack of insight into the cultural value of the Melbourne Arts Precinct," she said. "There is nothing visually appealing about a 19-level wall of glass towering over Sturt St, Dodds St and the Malthouse Theatre."

Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) president Tony Penna said, "Most disappointing that after much effort by the community to have this unwelcome tower's built form to at least attempt to comply

with the planning scheme, the new owner appears to have total disregard to the impact on the local environment and community."

Meanwhile, in what was originally labelled by City of Melbourne councillors in 2016 as a "gross overdevelopment" and "one of the worst ever planning outcomes in the city," Headland Properties is finalising its plans to redevelop land at 22-24 Wells Place and 31 Coventry St.

Its original proposal, begrudgingly approved by the council in what former Cr Stephen Mayne described as being "boxed in" by VCAT, included a 20-storey tower on a 202 sqm laneway site at 22-24 Wells Place that received 33 written objections from locals.

Continued on page 2.

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Victor Chung



Sergio Lopez

Unpopular plans rear their heads

Continued from page 1.



A render of 22-24 Wells Place and 31 Coventry St.

which is now seeking an overall 396 sqm increase in gross floor area.

Notably, Evolve's website already lists the project as comprising its desired 216 apartments, despite the current permit allowing for 206.

A practice day hearing has been scheduled at VCAT for December 13 and a merits hearing is scheduled for March 23 next year.

Early in 2018, the state government introduced new planning controls which forced developers with live applications on Sturt St to include arts and cultural uses as part of their buildings' first four floors.

While the controls were a step in the right direction according to locals, many from the Save Dodds Street group expressed frustration with the lack of protection against high-rise towers.

Minister for Planning Richard Wynne opted against reintroducing mandatory height controls along Sturt St as part of planning scheme amendment C270 in 2016.



A render of 135 Sturt St.

In 2018, a new permit was issued by the council for a 21-storey tower for 22-24 Wells Place and the adjoining site at 31 Coventry St following another VCAT order, which included 120 apartments, a retail showroom and 121 car parks.

While its latest plans have removed the showroom and reduced apartments to 27 and car parks to 78, the developer has instead added 26 commercial offices while maintaining an overall height of 70 metres at 20 storeys.

Speaking on behalf of Headlands Properties in its application, planning consultants Urbis stated: "Since the issue of this permit, the market has changed, and our client has reviewed and decided to reposition the approved development so that it provides a better mixed-use offer given its location adjacent to Melbourne's CBD, the St Kilda Rd corridor, surrounding public open space areas and community facilities."

"This was already described as one of the worst planning applications and for good reason," Tony Penna said. "This is a high-rise development in a small laneway."

"How anyone believes this development can possibly be fitting to the area, let alone liveable, is beyond us and should never have been approved in the first place."

While bordering a special character zone, Sturt St is subject to a discretionary 40-metre height limit that has been exceeded in recent

years by both the development in question at 135 Sturt St, as well as nearby at 153 Sturt St.

Both cases won approval at VCAT, despite council planning chair Cr Nicholas Reece last year describing the former as "stretching the envelope" for the unique Southbank area.

Another property, at 151 Sturt Street, has been on the market for some time but as yet, remains unsold. The developer of the 19-storey approved tower at 153 Sturt St Rothelowman, which also put its site up for sale with a permit, is also understood to be struggling in its pursuit of a buyer.

The current 18-storey permit for 135 Sturt St was issued to architecture firm Hayball, which still occupies the site for use as offices. Hayball sold the property last year to Evolve,

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Deadline for edition 93 is February 30.

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L-R: Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood, Artemis Pattichi, Jenny King and Lord Mayor Sally Capp.

March launch for Boyd Park

The City of Melbourne has confirmed that the new \$3.5 million Boyd Park on Kavanagh and Balston streets will be officially launched with a community event in March.

The new neighbourhood park, which features a playground, new lawn areas, a temporary half-basketball court and communal garden, is now open to the Southbank community.

To be held on March 21, the council will celebrate the park's opening with a Southbank Expo in partnership with the Southbank Residents' Association once the new lawn and trees have been given more time to establish.

"Boyd Park provides a new backyard for the thousands of residents living in Southbank," Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

"The park is a fantastic community space for picnics and gatherings. It includes a 1300 sqm 'village green' area, barbecue and picnic facilities, new seating and a new playground. It also features 70 new trees including beautiful Illawarra flame trees and nine Mexican fan palms."

Other trees planted include river birch, blueberry ash, honey locust, southern silky oak, jacarandas, Chinese pistachio and crepe myrtle.

Chair of the City of Melbourne's environment portfolio Cr Cathy Oke said Boyd Park provided flexible spaces for a range of activities.

"Southbank is one of the fastest growing suburbs in Melbourne and is home to thousands of residents who live in



apartments. Boyd Park will provide the community with a green refuge," she said.

"Along the expanded park we have also include a new bicycle connection along Kavanagh St."

The park is part of the ongoing development of the former school site, which is being transformed to accommodate mixed-use residential and affordable housing, a boutique hotel and retail and community facilities.

"We're going to expand the services offered at the Boyd Community Hub including the library, maternal and child health services and creative spaces," the Lord Mayor said.

"Affordable housing is one of the most important priorities for our city - so the development will include 40 affordable housing units."

The joint project between the City of Melbourne and PDG Corporation is expected to be completed by 2022.

Never in doubt!

In what came as no surprise to Southbank Local News, the Southbank Sustainability Group (SSG) claimed top honours in the environment category at the Melbourne Awards last month!

Our passionate group of local green thumbs and sustainability advocates, who first established from a group of 11 in June 2017, has come a long way in a short time.

Now boasting over 130 members, the group holds a special place in the heart of the Southbank community off the back of connecting locals under important shared issues of waste management, sustainability and climate change.

And their efforts were duly acknowledged by the City of Melbourne at a special awards ceremony at Melbourne Town Hall

on November 16, claiming the win ahead of fellow finalists Beaconsfield Dental and Pony Up for Good.

One of the group's leaders Artemis Pattichi said it was great recognition of both the work that all of the group's members had put in, as well as the importance of the values that it stood for.

"We obviously felt good about the work but it was so wonderful to be recognised for what we're doing," she said. "It's given everyone great motivation to continue turning our passion for sustainability into action and we're really excited for the year ahead."

The Melbourne Award is one of a string of recent successes for SSG, which also picked up two \$5000 grants from the council to host six sustainability-focused education workshops in 2020 and establish a new composting hub at Boyd.

To read more about the group's activities, read Artemis Pattichi's regular column on page 27.

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“We’ve turned our back for too long” - river strategy released

By David Schout

The city section of the Yarra River would “finally get the attention it deserves” under a 15-year City of Melbourne plan to revitalise the prominent waterway’s banks and promenades.

In a move that garnered widespread support from community, business and maritime groups, the *Yarra River - Birrarung Strategy* aims to turn the city section of the river into a “world class urban riverfront.”

A 66-page document presented to councillors on December 3 outlined a plan that would celebrate Aboriginal culture, maritime heritage, environmental quality and local character along the city’s waterway.

The document notes that in recent decades, the river has “evolved from a working industrial waterfront to a vibrant recreational area” but that the river’s potential “remains unrealised.”

More specifically, the strategy includes plans to introduce new walkways, floating green space, bars and cafes, while remaining open to the idea of a floating swimming pool.

In particular, this represented a shift from the draft plan earlier this year, which did not include the possibility of a swimming area.

Not-for-profit group Yarra Pools tweeted its pleasure at the result: “a swimmable Yarra is now one step closer.”

A three-month community consultation period earlier this year framed the strategy, where opinions were canvassed online, in-person along the river and at ideas forums.



A render of a reimagined Banana Alley Vaults on the Northbank taken from the council’s river strategy.

Nine in 10 people supported the direction of strategy, including Southbank Residents’ Association (SRA) president Tony Penna.

“The Yarra River is a defining part of Southbank and it plays an integral role with its connection to the residents,” he said.

“Yet the river and what it offers has often been an overlooked asset that has always had so much potential.”

Mr Penna said that the strategy might ensure the river “finally gets the attention it deserves,” which was reinforced by Lord Mayor Sally Capp.

“Absolutely we’ve turned our back on this river for far too long and it should be something that is central to the city,” Cr Capp said.

Planning chair Cr Nicholas Reece said, “I think we all agree Melbourne has not made enough of the Yarra River Birrarung and

tonight we’re really drawing a line in the sand,” he said.

“Going forward, we’ve got a plan, we really want to elevate the importance of our river to our town.”

Birrarung is the traditional name of the Yarra River, meaning “river of mists” in the Boon Wurrung and Woiwurrung languages.

The council’s original plan was titled the *City River Strategy*, but was later changed to reflect this name.

In September, *Southbank Local News* reported a push from some parties to rename the river the Birrarung.

The council does not own or independently manage the river’s promenades and any plans to revitalise these areas, such as Banana Alley Vaults (owned by VicTrack), would be done in conjunction with land owners and the state government.



Bernadene Voss and Tim Baxter.

Bernadene is back!

Councillor Bernadene Voss is again serving as the Mayor of the City of Port Phillip.

A councillor of the Gateway Ward, which includes Fishermans Bend and South Melbourne, Cr Voss was voted in for a fourth time as Mayor at a special council meeting at St Kilda Town Hall on November 13. She previously served as Mayor from 2015-18

Greens Cr Tim Baxter, who serves in the Canal Ward, was elected as Deputy Mayor. Cr Voss replaces Cr Dick Gross as Mayor, while Cr Baxter replaces Cr Louise Crawford as deputy.

Speaking at the meeting, Cr Voss said that while there was more work to be done, she was proud of the council’s achievements over recent years.

Cr Voss foreshadowed “big decisions” would be made on high-profile topics such as childcare, parking and waste management, as councillors entered the final year of their four-year term.

“As we come into the final straight, this year is going to be a tough one. As a Councillor group, we will have to be brave and courageous,” Cr Voss said. “We will need to be connected and listening to our communities as well as looking at what the evidence and research show us.”

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Wellbeing in a heating city

Advertorial by Meg Hill

Melburnians look forward to summer every year, but for some groups within the community high temperatures can pose serious health risks.

The CBD environment adds its own complexities to heat health. As climate change escalates, the City of Melbourne has prioritised heat health.

Between 1981 and 2010 Melbourne experienced, on average, 8.3 days per year above 35 degrees. In 2018 there were 10 days above that temperature. CSIRO modelling suggests that by the 2050s this could increase to between 13 and 21 days on average.

Marina Rahovistas, a senior environmental health officer at the council, said there were a number of groups which council action particularly focused on.

“Some of those are senior members of the community – 65-year-olds and older, and infants and children,” Marina said.

“But there’s also groups like international students, residents and visitors who don’t know the local weather, as well as low socioeconomic groups that of course includes those experiencing homelessness.”

Marina also highlighted how the residential



Marina Rahovistas using one of the council's 60 drinking fountains.

nature of the CBD complicates heat health.

“With a heat wave there are often power outages, so people in apartments really need to know who their neighbours are,” she said.

“People need to know if there are elderly people there, or someone else who’s vulnerable, who needs assistance so they can check on them. They could also engage with body corporate groups to discuss the risks and what to do when a heatwave event occurs.”

Going into summer, the council has engaged in pre-emptive communication with vulnerable community members and aims to ensure that all resources are available while urging people to plan ahead.

When bad days hit, alerts go out to different channels and create a “ripple effect”.

“Once I send out all those messages to all the relevant work areas, all the service agencies, then they put their plans into action,” Marina said.

That might mean, for example, service providers going out to check on the people they care for. Another example is a collaboration between CoHealth and the council to deliver a homeless brokerage program.

“When we send those heat health alerts out, CoHealth issues resources like movie passes and pool passes to people experiencing homelessness in the City of Melbourne, so they can have respite in some cool spaces.”

Council prioritises giving advice and making sure community members think ahead, as it’s often small things that can make a big difference.

“We try and make sure people do keep their homes cool, that they do simple things like close curtains, hydrating themselves, knowing where cool places are around the city if they have to go out,” she said.

Council’s head of the people city portfolio Cr Beverley Pinder said the City of Melbourne is well prepared for extreme summer conditions this year.

“Extreme heat is a danger we face every summer here in Melbourne,” Cr Pinder said.

“We want to educate people on the risks associated with extreme heat and provide practical advice and services to help them respond.”

For more information, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/heatwaves



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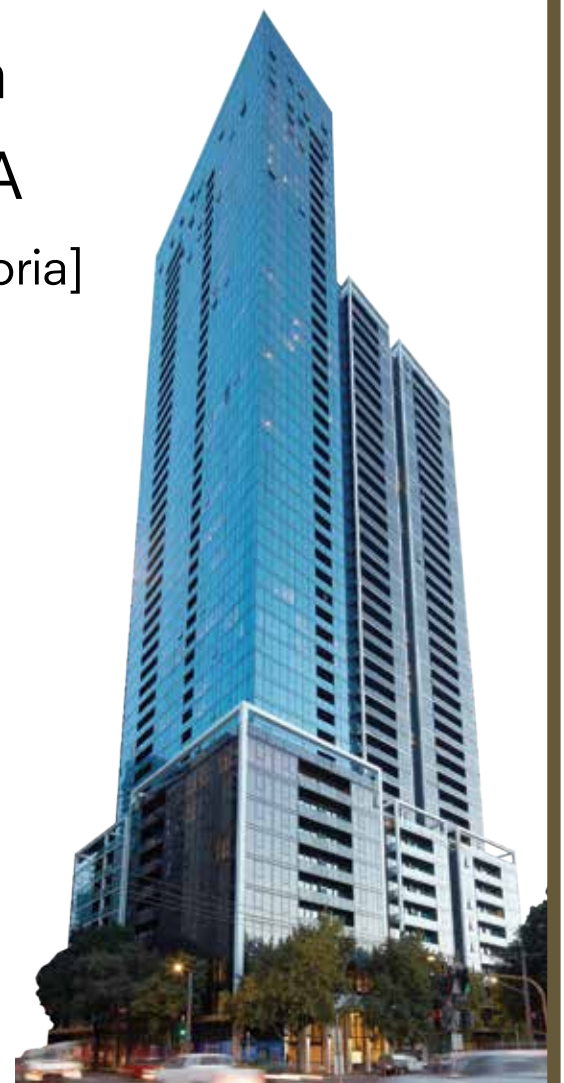
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- Join your local pool or recreation centre.
- Look out for vulnerable people in hot weather.
- Stay cool and hydrated by drinking tap water.
- Sign up for heat health alerts.

melbourne.vic.gov.au/heatwaves



The Ray that keeps giving

Ray White Southbank | Port Phillip is once again teaming up with the Rotary Club of Southbank to support disadvantaged people this festive season.

Our local real estate agency is continuing its popular tradition with the return of *A little Ray of giving*; a gift drive for Launch Housing that calls on support from everyone in the local community.

"This is the fifth year that we've run *A little Ray of giving* and we want 2019 to be our biggest year yet," Ray White principal Andrew Salvo said.

"All you need to do is drop a present into our office and we can place it under the tree in our office reception."

Those who wish to donate a gift just need to inform the Ray White team if the gift is for a male or female and nominate an age group. Gifts that have not been opened and can be re-gifted are also welcome.

Ray White Southbank | Port Phillip is located at 111 Clarendon Street, Southbank and its special giving tree is now up in the reception area.

It will also host its final in-room auction event on Wednesday, December 11, which will include an ice cream cart outside the office and a visit from Santa! All funds raised on the night will go to STEPS Outreach Service.



Inside Australia 108's starburst levels overlooking its new neighbours at Eureka Tower.

Inside Australia 108

Australia 108 celebrated the external completion of its landmark "starburst" in November while workers constructing the building's core reached level 100.

Southbank Local News toured the supertower on December 10 to view the top levels and the inside of the starburst on levels 70 and 71.

Multiplex's construction of the starburst took six months and involved new techniques developed specifically for the project, including purpose-built platforms from where workers installed the protruding starburst's golden panels.

The starburst's structure consists of 24 golden trusses, each weighing 12 tonnes and measuring 15 by 3.3 metres.

The design by architects Fender Katsalidis is a tribute to the Commonwealth Star and as a sister to the firm's earlier landmark - the nearby Eureka Tower. The starburst is intended to complement Eureka's golden crown.

Multiplex regional managing director Graham Cottam said the installation of the starburst was a key milestone.

"We're delighted to have completed it safely and to an exceptional standard of quality," he said.

"It's a very proud moment for the entire Multiplex team to see Australia 108 and its starburst now standing tall on the Melbourne skyline."

Work on Australia 108 began in November 2015 with extensive ground works and bored piles 47 metres underground.

In the next few months owners of the "cloud residences" between levels 72 and 83 will begin moving into their apartments overlooking most of Southbank's existing towers.

CEO of developer World Class Global David Ng said Australia 108 would reach its full height early next year, with the building expected to be fully completed in mid 2020.

"I think many Melburnians will look back one day and struggle to remember a time when this golden star wasn't twinkling on our cityscape," he said.

Magic 21 for YRBA

The Yarra River Business Association (YRBA) celebrated its 21st birthday last month with a special luncheon for members at Belgian Beer Café at Riverside Quay.

More than 50 members attended the celebrations on November 29, including past presidents Andrew Hughes and Stan Liacos, who is currently working as CEO of the Queen Victoria Market.

Current president John Forman thanked members and key stakeholders for their ongoing support of the association, while executive officer Tim Bracher, who has served in the role since the group's establishment, provided a presentation on the history of the YRBA.

From everyone at *Southbank Local News*, we wish the YRBA a happy 21st birthday and say thanks for its constant backing of local businesses and our Yarra River.

The YRBA will return with its next networking luncheon in February 2020.

Yarrariver.melbourne



Andrew Hughes, John Forman and Stan Liacos.

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A committee meeting to remember

By Stephen Mayne



As the nation collectively groaned over petty partisan finger pointing about bushfires and climate change in recent weeks, there was a political ray of light emanating from the Melbourne Town Hall.

The marathon 3 hour and 49 minute Future Melbourne Committee on November 12 will go down as one of the best meetings ever.

This paper has lamented the lack of meaty topics coming before council in the post-Doyle period, with councillors reluctant to put up controversial notices of motion and a surprising lack of substantive policy debates coming forward from the administration.

Well, that all changed on November 12 when there were three issues which dominated – inclusionary zoning policy, pill testing at music festivals and the Melbourne Cup Parade – all of which could have been completely left alone.

If you weren't there or missed the live

webcast (a commendable transparency measure in itself), I encourage readers to visit the City of Melbourne website and have a listen to all three debates, which were conducted with passion, honesty and powerful arguments. The inclusionary zoning discussion ran for 24 minutes (starting one hour and 32 minutes into proceedings), pill testing went for 43 minutes starting at (1 hour and 56 minutes) and the horse racing debate went for 55 minutes (starting two hours and 50 minutes).

Town Hall did not necessarily need to weigh in on the state government's policy review on tackling housing affordability but landed with what planning chair Nicholas Reece declared was a "momentous" policy shift towards supporting inclusionary zoning to mandate a slice of affordable housing in new major developments on private land.

Whether Spring Street agrees is another matter but the councillors shirked making this change when they last looked at this policy in late 2014 and, with Melbourne having the lowest amount of affordable housing of any capital city, the switch is well overdue.

The support for inclusionary zoning was particularly noteworthy for the Lord Mayor Sally Capp, given her strong opposition to such a policy in her previous role as CEO of the Property Council.

The submission supporting a pill testing trial at music festivals was another state government issue that many councils across

Victoria just ignored. But this council was up for the debate, unafraid to buy in.

The reports by the officers supporting both a pill testing trial and the policy shift to embrace inclusionary zoning were well argued progressive positions, which both prevailed, although some remnants of the old Team Doyle (Cr Susan Riley and Bev Pinder) plus the solitary Liberal councillor Phillip Le Liu opposed the pill testing position.

However, there isn't a lot of factionalism or party politics amongst the current councillors, which actually leads to better debate, independent thoughts and good decision-making.

Cr Rohan Leppert's motion to withdraw council's support for the Melbourne Cup Parade down Swanston St on the Monday before the Melbourne Cup was the most ambitious and contentious push by the Greens councillor that we've seen. It attracted 170 overwhelmingly supportive written submissions and five oral presentations on the night but ended up going down 6-3 with only Cr Nic Frances Gilley supporting the two Greens.

The Lord Mayor, backed by Cr Le Liu and all the former Team Doyle councillors came up with a much softer alternative motion which gave the racing industry a minor whack over the animal welfare issues highlighted on ABC TV's 7.30 program but then ultimately backed the parade, albeit with a nudge to bring forward the banning of the whip.

There has never been a debate like this about racing, gambling and animal welfare inside Town Hall. Passions ran high with Cr Cathy Oke in tears over the poor treatment of animals. Ultimately, it was rare defeat for Cr Leppert but was nice to hear Cr Le Liu commend him for bringing forward a motion that reflected the concerns of many of his constituents.

At the end of the evening it was apparent that the Capp council has certainly become more progressive than the previous Robert Doyle-led councils – witness the earlier support for declaring a climate emergency and the ambitious transport plan to reduce car access in the city. But taking on the Melbourne Cup was a bridge too far as the Greens suffered an increasingly rare defeat.

The conservative *Herald Sun* newspaper responded to all this with a highly critical article suggesting the Lord Mayor has become too left wing and anti-business.

The anti-business line is patently unfair but Victoria is the most progressive state and it becomes more progressive the closer you get to the City of Melbourne, so why shouldn't the council reflect this shifting ground?

And if only our state and federal politicians could conduct respectful public debates on tricky policy questions without reducing it to an unedifying slanging match. Let's hope we see a lot more of this in the period ahead as November 12 was quality democracy in action.

Merry Christmas!

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In Docklands, next to the Melbourne Star



New planning guidelines endorsed

By David Schout

The City of Melbourne has adopted tighter regulations to improve streetscapes in Southbank and the CBD.

Planning scheme amendment C308, which outlines rules for better urban design in new developments, will now be sent to the Minister for Planning for approval.

Among the changes in Southbank, building services must occupy less than 40 per cent of the ground floor and, within special character areas, 80 per cent of the frontage of buildings must display windows to "active uses".

Parking for new buildings would also need to be "sleeved"; that is, external edges would require active uses such as office or residential units.

The new guidelines are intended to raise the bar on urban design and maximise the city's attractiveness and amenity.

Cr Rohan Leppert said the move was "one of our most rigorous and comprehensive amendments considered in this city" while planning chair Cr Nicholas Reece said the move was vital going forward.

"The changes that come with planning scheme amendment C308 will make very significant changes to how planning and projects proceed in Melbourne," Cr Reece said.

After a period of public consultation last year in which 41 submissions were received, the council asked Planning Minister Richard Wynne to appoint an independent panel to review and hear submissions.

The panel met in March before it reported to the council in May.

The Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) employed a planning consultant at its own cost to assist with preparing its own submission to the panel.

SRA president Tony Penna said residents were pleased with the amendments, but



External loading lifts, like that at Banque 88 on Clarke St, are now a thing of the past under C308.

feared it may have come too late.

"We are very, very pleased that this council has taken the initiative and driven this, we certainly hope it sets an example for other councils," he said.

"The residents of Southbank have long been concerned about the direction their community was destined to take, especially the impacts of liveability and amenity through never-ending development of epic proportions. While this amendment certainly goes a long way to addressing many of these issues, we feel it is too much, too late for Southbank. At least 80 per cent, probably 90 per cent of Southbank is already developed ... so we're not sure as to the real impact this planning scheme will have on Southbank."

Speaking at the November 19 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, Lord Mayor Sally Capp said that the move would contribute to setting a "valuable legacy".

"Good design has tangible and intangible benefits and challenges," she said.

"What we do when we walk around this city every day is we know those streets that aren't active, that aren't friendly, that don't embrace people become wind tunnels that become unsafe and unpleasant. So, it's great to see a policy that's actually going to make sure our streets are friendly and active and safe and that embrace people rather than turn their backs on people."

"We do really understand that the more thoughtful we are, the more clarity we provide and the more ambitious we are around design in the city then the more valuable our legacy is going to be."



Exhibition explores Montague's history

By Spencer Fowler Steen

Locals can catch a glimpse of what life was once like for Montague residents at an exhibition at Carlisle Street Arts Space running until late-January 2020.



92-year-old former Montague resident Elva Keily with City of Port Phillip Mayor Bernadene Voss last month.

City of Port Phillip Mayor Bernadene Voss said the exhibition was an "invaluable resource" and a "fascinating journey back in time."

"This exhibition brings to life the triumphs and struggles early residents of our city faced," she said.

"Montague was a bustling community and it's interesting to see that as much as South Melbourne has changed, so many streets are instantly recognisable."

Montague was a small but distinctive enclave within the former City of South Melbourne where a close-knit community helped develop Melbourne's early dwellings.

Montague residents were employed in local industries, served in two world wars and survived the highs and lows of Melbourne's fledgling economy.

The exhibition showcases archival material including a series of 1930s photographs from the Port Phillip city collection as well

as a film weaving together 10 interviews with former residents.

According to the City of Port Phillip, Montague was well known for its community ties, with its own school, church, police station, kindergarten, football team, hotels and shops.

Established in the late 1860s, Montague had around 560 houses by 1875 with that number swelling to more than 2000 by 1900.

But in the 1920s, many houses were damp and decaying, with the whole area earmarked for demolition by the Victorian Government's Slum Abolition Board in the late-1930s.

Today, Montague is being reimaged as one of the fastest-growing residential precincts in Fishermans Bend.

Montague: A Community Lost and Found will be on display at Carlisle Street Arts Space until January 29 2020 free of charge.



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Inked in Southbank

There are plenty of hotels around the city centre, but few that are built to make you feel at home. Southbank's new Ink Hotel is set to shake the scene up.

Ink Hotels believe "life is better when we colour outside the lines and do things differently", and Southbank's Ink is vibrant, playful and, most importantly, comfortable.

The hotel's ground floor lobby space - with a bar and café - has been purposefully designed to contribute to the Southbank community as ground floor activation of its central location at 167 City Road - formerly home to the Melbourne Towing Service building.

Designed for travellers with a "Gen Z mindset" the hotel's comfortability doesn't just translate to nice rooms and plush beds. Ink aims to host, connect and inspire a new wave of curious, plugged-in explorers who thrive on new experiences. Like that audience, Ink is socially and environmentally conscious.

Hotel manager Alice Sampson said the team would love to get to know the locals.

"We're extremely excited to bring the Ink brand to Southbank and be a part of the local community," she said.

"Ink is the place to come and relax and experience your favourite collection of Melburnian breweries, distilleries and wineries."

"We hope that you make Ink your neighbourhood hangout - come and say hello."

An interior design partnership with world famous Melbourne street artists Blender Studios created Ink's cool but relaxed lobby, while rooms are adorned with art commissioned from New York-based artist Broлга.

Southbank scored the brand's first hotel, with a second opening in Singapore in 2021 building off the brand's core elements:

Urban commons - social public spaces for guests to chill, dine, work or hang out with fellow travellers.

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"Funked-up" eccentrics - big on personality and style.



Jump Afloat a winner!

Continued from page 1.

A venue completely unlike any other, the floating bar and restaurant has this year embraced a new summer vibe, inspired by the colours and cool vibes of 1960s Miami with a menu showcasing the tastes of Latin America, the Caribbean, Cuba and Mexico.

Each summer Arbory Afloat celebrates its Northbank location, inspiring guests with a heightened awareness of the Yarra, its beauty, environmental struggles, history and indigenous significance.

At the Melbourne Awards ceremony, held at Melbourne Town Hall on Saturday, December 16, the local business won the award ahead of fellow finalists Metropolis Events in Southbank, The Winter Village (Federation Square) and Dans Le Noir in Carlton.

Arbory Afloat marketing director Daniel Manly said, "it is really special to be recognised by the City of Melbourne for our contribution to the evolution of the Yarra River precinct as a dynamic and progressive world-class entertainment hub for all."

For locals looking to stay close to home this New Year's Eve, Arbory Afloat will once again be hosting a celebration to remember featuring a Miami Vice-themed New Year's Eve party on the Yarra!

General release tickets to attend the best local party under the fireworks are now live and provide an all-inclusive package of champagne, premium house spirits, tap beer, a selection of rosé, white and red wine, roving canapes and food stations.

Chef Nick Bennett's Latin-American-inspired menu will include wood-fired pizza, pulled pork tacos, ceviche, oysters, prawn cocktails, choripanes and coconut and caramelised white chocolate magnums!

Tickets to the pool deck will include the addition of three spritzers: Four Pillars Gin x Miami spritz, Ketel One Botanical Spritz and Aperol spritz!

The event will run from 7pm until 1am and tickets can be purchased online: arboryafloat.com.au/event/new-years-eve-2019/



L-R: Adrian Doyle, Sophie Torrens, Sophie Van Haalen, Laura Gleich and Natasha Potter at the Ink Hotel opening.



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An orchestra and an office building

By Meg Hill

After losing its Albert Park home in 2016, Orchestra Victoria was without its own concert hall. That was until it found the Joan Hammond Hall inside an old Southbank office building.

A replica of the State Theatre was built inside the head office of Carlton & United Breweries (CUB) at 77 Southbank Boulevard decades ago as a rehearsal space for the Victorian State Opera.

After the opera disbanded in the late 1990s the space went unused. But it remained in the minds of some.

“When it was used by the opera, Orchestra Victoria had some rehearsals in the space,” said Orchestra Victoria artistic director and chief conductor Nicolette Fraillon.

“I’ve worked at The Australian Ballet for 17 years and have worked with Orchestra Victoria all of that time, so for many years I had heard about this mythical space inside an office building.”

“When the orchestra lost its home a few years ago the building was still being used by



Southbank’s secret performance space Joan Hammond Hall inside 77 Southbank Boulevard.

CUB. But soon I heard that the building was going up for sale.”

In the end, the state government acquired the building. Orchestra Victoria managed to get inside to do a test of the space, unused for orchestral performances for years, and it worked wonders.

“We then worked with the Victorian

Government and CUB to turn the office building into a sort of home for us and other artistic organisations. It’s not a permanent home, but for the moment it’s really become a new arts hub.”

Since March 2019 Orchestra Victoria has performed its *Five at 5* series from the hall.

“It’s lovely to have the full series in our still

relatively new home. It’s really grown in profile over the year and people like coming. The venue and the series have gained a real following and momentum,” Nicolette said.

The last instalment, *Corelli’s Christmas* on December 21, will come full circle from the loss of its previous home.

“Last year, while we were homeless, we were hosted by St Luke’s Church in South Melbourne and we had a program that ended with *Corelli’s Christmas Concerto* but due to bad weather and flooding we had to cancel the concert,” Nicolette said.

The baroque piece contains a melody that recalls the shepherds of Bethlehem. Although performed on strings, it imitates shepherd’s instruments like flutes and panpipes.

“We had rehearsed this beautiful piece by Corelli and had to cancel it, so we’re really excited to perform it and know there’s an audience waiting for it.”

“That whole experience sort of drove this programming and the piece itself bears the inscription ‘made for the night of Christmas.’”

“We’re not performing it on Christmas night, but it’s pretty close.”

Book here: [eventbrite.com.au/e/orchestra-victorias-2019-chamber-music-series-five-at-5-tickets-55145110510](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/orchestra-victorias-2019-chamber-music-series-five-at-5-tickets-55145110510)



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 - » Answering phones and planning office events and activities as required
 - » Providing admin support to team as required for client meetings, activities, events

For the full position description visit <https://think-hq.com.au/news-and-commentary/post/bookkeeperoffice-support>

Salary negotiable, dependent on experience.
Start date is negotiable, but ideally mid-Jan 2020.

Contact Susan Belza, Finance and Operations at accounts@think-hq.com.au or (03) 9682 0259.

Through the eyes of art

By Rhonda Dredge

The Shrine of Remembrance is turning towards art in a bid to connect with its audience and to promote fresh ideas on the nature of war and its aftermath.



The first of three exhibitions that take a less historical view on Australia's battles opened last month.

Through the Eyes of the Son tracks the thinking of one photographer over the past 50 years.

John Williams has never been to war but has dealt with it through his father's attitudes and a photographic record of key events and sites.

There has been and will probably always be conflict between the aims of the armed forces and those of families left to deal with the dead and afflicted.

This exhibition is memorable because it gives space to a son to reflect on the fact that his father wanted nothing to do with commemorative events and histories written by others.

His father, a veteran, had no time for the "rubbish" in newspapers, books or patriotic events, according to the exhibition blurb. In other words, he believed that experience is lived and not constructed.

This idea spurred on the son on to develop his own vision which he did by attending Anzac Day marches from 1964 to 2003 with his camera, taking up an artist's residence in Europe where he photographed memorials and bullet holes in buildings and by looking for hidden narratives using photomontage techniques.

His black and white photographs are on exhibition at the Shrine of Remembrance in a retrospective, which focuses on the artist rather than a topic.

Williams went on to be head of the Department of Photography and Film at the Sydney College of the Arts. During his life span he reflected on war and the exhibition maps attitudes, trends in art, as well as places and people.

Yet the strongest image, despite all of this

thinking, belongs to a recalcitrant, jaw-jutting, pugnacious digger with a cigarette in his mouth from a 1964 Anzac Day march in Martin Place.

By 2003, according to Williams' small anecdotal study of the march, diggers were looking older and more haunted by their memories. Changing attitudes towards war suggested that the story had become more complicated.

Even in 1975 ex-soldiers still appeared to be playing the role of war hero, with medals on their jackets and a sense of pride in their accomplishments but the later montages reveal that it was becoming increasingly impossible to ignore German and French versions of the story.

"This is one of our special exhibitions," said curator Kate Spinks. "We've tried to do something a bit different."

She said that while most of the main exhibitions at the Shrine were essentially historical relating to particular conflicts, this exhibition allowed for a more artistic interpretation.

"This is a great opportunity to explore different questions about the way people communicate not just soldiers," she said.

She said that Williams was interested in unpacking the theme of ANZAC Day and looking at it with a critical eye.

"I think art gives you a sense of freedom to explore alternative narratives and aspects of history that you can't explore through traditional artifact-based history displays."

If this is the case, then why does the image of the 1964 veteran lord it over an exhibition of varied and more nuanced responses to war?

"For me, the more I looked at it the more it changed," Kate said. "I saw real emotion in the eyes and face the more I looked at it and thought about the themes."



Midsumma Festival

By Spencer Fowler Steen

Midsumma Festival, Australia's premier 22-day queer arts experience celebrating LGBTQIA+ journeys and communities will kick off in January.

Running from January 19 to February 9, Midsumma will host a variety of performances, exhibitions, talks and social events, showcasing preeminent queer arts and cultural festivities with leading international and domestic artists.

Local venues that will host events include Arts Centre Melbourne, Hamer Hall, Melbourne Recital Centre, Testing Grounds, Beer Deluxe at Federation Square and the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA).

Midsumma Festival CEO Karen Bryant said festivals were important because at their core they shared stories which were the "keepers of our history."

"Midsumma Festival is about celebrating diverse communities, in their own voice, and letting new voices move us, challenge us and most importantly entertain us," she said.

Crowds of over 285,000 are expected to attend 194 events across 98 venues around Melbourne's CBD and outer suburbs.

The program boasts 163 open-access events made for and by queer communities who live with shared experiences around diverse gender

and sexuality, including the "Midsumma Presents" program highlighting the unsung and unheard voices within queer intersectional communities.

Midsumma will also unveil its 2020 major project, *QUEER UNSETTLED*, exploring themes of colonisation through live music, multi-disciplinary moving-image installations and other new exhibitions.

The Midsumma lineup includes LGBTQIA+ stars Bob Downe, Kirsty Webeck, Tom Ballard, Nath Valvo, Dolly Diamond and Drag Race Thailand's Pangina Heals.

With seven festival venues across Melbourne including the Arts Centre, Theatre Works and Chapel Off Chapel, revelers will enjoy events every night of the 22-day festival.

The popular Midsumma Carnival, a one-day, 11-hour festival in the Alexandra Gardens, is set to start festivities on January 20.

Midsumma Pride March will party and parade in Fitzroy St, St Kilda on February 2 celebrating Pride March's 25th anniversary, with after pride celebrations being held on the foreshore of Catani Gardens.

Midsumma Festival was also won the City of Melbourne's prestigious Melbourne Award on November 16 in the arts and events category.

The festival beat fellow finalists Royal Melbourne Show, Pause Fest and Melbourne Symphony Orchestra's Sidney Myer Bowl Free Concerts for its ability to "strengthen cultural voices and broaden the language of allies by creating inclusive safe spaces and increasing visibility."

For more information visit midsumma.org.au



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THEARTS PRECINCT

FEEDBACK LOOPS

Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA) is opening its summer season exhibition *Feedback Loops* in December and will exhibit until March 22.

FREE ENTRY

December 7 – March 22 at ACCA

TUE – FRI 10AM – 5PM

SAT – SUN 11AM – 5PM

Tianzhuo Chen and Andrew Thomas Huang, Exo-Performance 2019.

The exhibition presents six immersive artworks from Australian and international artists using a mix of video, installation, interactive gaming, artificial intelligence and live performance alongside material practices of sculpture, textiles, drawing and painting.

Having been born in the generation of the 1980s, exhibiting artists drew from their experience of growing up in an age of developing technology, popular culture and art history, using aesthetics of the internet and ethics of new materialist philosophies.

Themes of mythology, spirituality and philosophy have been merged with new media, computer and virtual life expressed as disrupted approaches to narrative, time, space, value, power and considerations of empathy towards both human and non-human forms.

The show is curated by Miriam Kelly and includes new commissions and recent works by Madison Bycroft (Australia), Tianzhuo Chen (China), Lu Yang (China), Sahej Rahal (India), Justin Shoulder (Australia) and Zadie Xa (Canada).



Madison Bycroft's live performance work, Antihero.



Justin Shoulder, Carrion 2018.



Lu Yang, Material World Knight 2019.



Zadie Xa, Iridescent interludez 2018.



Sahej Rahal, Walker XV 2018.



Coffee Cart moves indoor!

ACCA's beloved coffee cart is offering Southbank residents and workers \$3 coffees all summer long.

The team at ACCA is moving its coffee cart indoors and setting up an inviting new relaxed seating area alongside it to help locals beat the heat, with cold brew coffee by St Ali now available!

And locals who show proof of their postcode 3006 (residents or workers) are entitled to \$3 coffee all summer. BYO cups will also receive a 30-cent discount, while purchasing an ACCA keep cup scores you a free coffee. Student discounts are also available.

The coffee cart will be open over the festive season except for public holidays.
acca.melbourne

Asia TOPA returns!

By Aphrodite Feros-Fooke

Asia TOPA (Asia-Pacific Triennial of Performing Arts) is returning to Melbourne in 2020.

From January to March the festival will present a collection of multi-form artworks from the Asia-Pacific region to Melbourne audiences as well as facilitating intercultural collaborations.

The program includes 54 works spanning music, dance, theatre, contemporary performance, film, digital, visual art and public talks, with 30 of these works newly commissioned by Arts Centre Melbourne and Asia TOPA. This is the second iteration of the festival after it was founded in 2017 as a joint initiative of the Sidney Myer Fund and the Arts Centre.

Over the three-month festival, works are presented across various local venues including ArtPlay, Arts Centre Melbourne, Australian Centre Contemporary Art (ACCA), Federation Square, Immigration Museum, Melbourne Museum, Melbourne Recital Centre, MPavilion, National Gallery Victoria (NGV), Sidney Myer Music Bowl, SIGNAL and Union House Theatre.

World premiere shows include *Metal*, by Lucy Guerin Inc and Ensemble Tikoro (Feb 24-27). The contemporary dance work was created in Melbourne and Indonesia and features heavy metal music and traditional throat singing, too, in a meeting of cultures, art forms languages and belief systems.

Samsara (March 5-7), another world premiere, is a dance work merging the histories, philosophies and cultures of China and India and brings together international dance artists Aakash Odedra and Hu Shenyan.

Both performances will show at Arts Centre Melbourne.

Dancehouse will host a range of Japanese focused works including *Pollen Revolution* (February 21-22), a mix of classical Japanese dance, hip-hop and butoh by Japanese butoh legend Akira Kasai and performed by his son, Mitsutake Kasai.

A O Làng Pho (February 27-29) translates to "from village to city" and combines acrobatics, circus and storytelling. The Vietnamese bamboo circus is directed by *Cirque du Soleil* choreographer Tuan Le.

All are welcome to join the Chinese Square Dancers at Melbourne Museum (daily at 9am from February 24-28) for a combination of dance and exercise.



A O Làng Pho.

Photo: Nguyen The Duong.



Oedipus Schmoedipus.

The program also includes a range of theatre and contemporary performance works such as *Oedipus Schmoedipus*, (March 18-28), a show about death – real, fake and as portrayed by the theatre classics. Four shows will be performed in English and four in Cantonese at Union House Theatre, University of Melbourne. Performances will include 25 local volunteers, with volunteer callouts beginning this month.



Chinese Square Dancers.



The Mysterious Lai Teck.

Photo: Park Suhwan.

The Mysterious Lai Teck (March 4-7) will be shown at the Victorian Collage of the Arts (VCA). Lai Teck was the leader of the Malayan Communist Party from 1939 to 1947, however after his death it was discovered he worked for the French, British and Japanese secret police. Created by Singaporean artist Ho Tzu Nyen it will be performed in Mandarin with English subtitles.

The music program includes a return of the ASIA POP FEST at Sidney Myer Music Bowl (March 13), featuring K-pop, C-pop and South East Asian stars.

Sufi singer and female pioneer, Abida Parveen will perform at Hamer Hall (February 29). The Pakistani spiritual singer specialises in two forms of Sufi poetry – Ghazals and Kafis.



Joe Hisaishi.

Following on from four sold-out shows in 2018, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (MSO) will be returning with *Music from the Studio Ghibli Films of Hayo Miyazaki*, conducted by composer-conductor Joe Hisaishi.

Another MSO feature -

Chinese conductor Yi Zhang, conductor of the 2008 Beijing Olympics, is making his MSO debut for the *Chinese New Year Concert* (January 31) at Arts Centre Melbourne with works by composers Wanghua Chu and Jingjun Yu.

SIGNAL will host a night of Indonesian-Australian musicians with the release of Komang Rosie Clynes's EP *Mythologies* (February 28).

As part of the visual art program, NGV International exhibits Iranian video artist Shirin Neshat (until April 19) and *Turning Points: Contemporary Photography From China* (January 27).

The MPavilion will also host free lunchtime talks and performances every Wednesday to Sunday (February 19 to March 15 2020) as part of the public program.

For the full program visit asiatopa.com.au



Abida Parveen.

Photo: Mobeen Ansari.

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NEEN MAGRO



Work from Neen's Fall Into Me collection.

Falling into flowers

Neen Magro used to be a bookkeeper at a sheet metal company. Now, she photographs flowers underwater for a living.

A multi-award-winning photographer at Southbank's Photography Studies College (PSC), Neen developed a love of photography after meeting her second husband in her 40s.

"As part of his courtship, he bought me flowers that I didn't want to die, so I

photographed them, which turned into a career of taking photos," she said.

Her latest exhibition titled *Fall Into Me* features large multiple exposure images of flowers floating in her swimming pool. "My husband told me to 'fall into me' - to trust him in where we're going in our relationship - so that's the name of my folio," she said.

"It's very feminine and it's about believing and trusting in men, which I know is sometimes hard in this day and age." A two-time silver medal winner at the Victorian Institute of Professional Photography (AIPP), Neen also won silver at the Australian division too.

But she said she hadn't always been an avid photographer.

Neen began her career as a bookkeeper at her first husband's concreting business helping him understand how GST worked, eventually growing the business to employ

many more people.

From there, she found another job bookkeeping at a sheet metal company for 10 years.

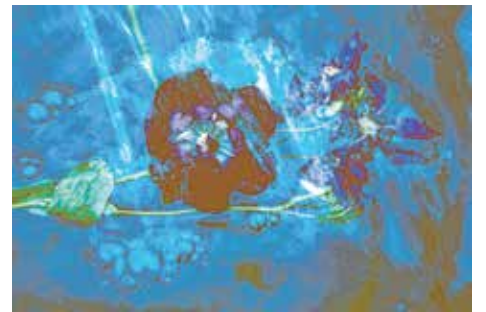
After another successful venture running Lost and Found bar in Kensington with her second husband, Neen decided to study the advanced diploma of photography in 2016.

"Over the past four years I've made some really great friends - it really pushes you to be creative," she said

"I did try photographing weddings and rock concerts, but then I tried photographing flowers and realised how easy they were to shoot."

Neen said photographers Isabelle Neenan, Ysabel LeMay and Margriet Smulders - three middle-aged women her age who have also had other careers apart from photography - provided her with inspiration.

"They've all changed in their later life to do something different," she said.



Although Neen has had a lot of people tell her how "lovely" the photos in her recent exhibition are, she said she hoped to sell more of them.

"My idea is to contact interior designers because my art is classified 'over the couch art,'" she said.

"It's for interior designers who may want to brighten up a lounge room."

Neen said she planned on going back to study the bachelor of photography at PSC next year.



Photo by Part-Time Student Brian Rossi



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A mantra for our times

By Rhonda Dredge

The chill factor won out in the great, rambunctious event that signalled the end of the art year for 164 students last month at the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA).

Thousands of visitors spilled out onto the new courts after viewing 685 works in this uber *Graduate Exhibition*.

It was hard to remain casual with so much talent on display at once.

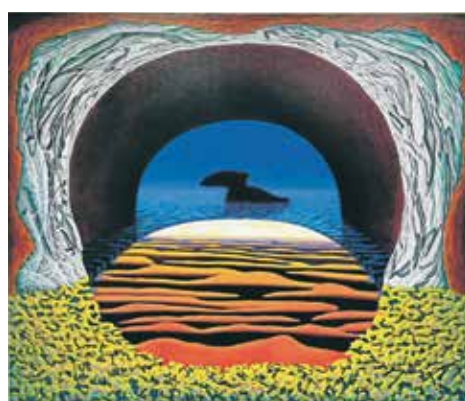
Most works are for sale and students are hoping to launch their careers after a passage through the much-loved hothouse environment of the VCA art faculty.

Michael McCafferty was one graduate who managed to stay cool with his series of nicely-paced abstractions on wood.

"They're just a bunch of lines," he said modestly of *Painting 3*, a loosely-painted work on a homemade frame with the nails showing through in a nod towards anti-aestheticism.

"It's the best way to communicate more than something specific," he said of the abstractions, which he has taken up after playing a bit of music and doing a bit of writing. "They give you more bandwidth."

A video installation by Elliot Green, *Wonderland in Alice*, also managed to hit the



Proscenium, 2019, oil on linen, by Jason Willers

note, filling a small dark room in the painting department with footage of a group of friends also sitting in a small dark room. There was popcorn for sale.

Self-deprecating narratives can be viewed as a form of creative minimalism, as small pockets of resistance to all of the hype that surrounds art.

Gone were the more studied spatial experiments that preoccupied students for a decade or so and present, instead, were some neat little fast food fantasies by Steven Song with tributes to ketchup and Burger King.

Installations also tended towards the informal, with collections of objects, rather than anything too architectural; fans and battered busts being apparent.

There was an inspiring looseness to the portraits of the VCA academic greats by Jacq Wylestone and in sculpture Yunyang Cen attracted quite a crowd of revellers to watch her *Anti-Party Machine*.

Some commentators were giving her work a political interpretation but Yunyang's elaborate exercise with inflated balloons had a personal element.

"I hate everyone at a party performing themselves," she said. "In a childish way I want to destroy the party."

Philosophising is one of the great pleasures of the art scene and Jason Willers

gave it a go in relation to his lusciously painted *Proscenium*.

"It's like a stage set, many different worlds within a world," he said. "I like ideas that make a claim on what art is."

He said that art is colourful because it wants to grab our attention. "It makes a totalising claim when art is always an endless mystery."

This year the masters graduation exhibition was combined with honours and undergraduates, stretching the limit of the viewer.

Masters' work tended towards the traditional in terms of painting technique, messages and installations.

Noni Drew stood out with her great little Instagram simulations. "If he doesn't like art don't f... him" got 11,898 likes. You can't argue with that!

Graduate Exhibition, Victorian College of the Arts, until December 15.



Crossing Haring and Basquiat

The National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) is host to the world premiere exhibition *Keith Haring | Jean-Michel Basquiat: Crossing Lines* over summer.

Although the two artists' symbols, iconography and style have become instantly recognisable, and fans are familiar with the friendship between them, the exhibition reveals new insights into the intersections between their lives, practices and ideas.

The NGV water wall was transformed for

the exhibition with a striking vinyl graphic display based on an original mural Haring painted on the wall 35 years ago.

Art historian and guest curator of *Crossing Lines* Dr Dieter Buchhart said the two men were giants of the art world.

"Haring and Basquiat are among the most influential artists of not only the 1980s but more broadly of our time and relevant to global youth culture," he said.

"While Basquiat anticipated today's 'always-on' culture of communication and contemporary knowledge spaces, Haring foreshadowed emojis with his image-word alphabet."

"This universal system of communication remains a positive, humanistic meme in the collective struggle against ignorance, fear

and silence."

Crossing Lines surveys both artists' tragically short yet prolific careers through more than 200 artworks, including works created in public spaces, painting, sculpture, objects, photographs and more.

Beginning with examples of Haring and Basquiat's work from the streets and subway stations of New York City, the exhibition presents early collaborations and highlights alongside some of their most proclaimed pieces.

It also explores the creative circles they moved in alongside icons such as Andy Warhol, Madonna and Grace Jones.

Crossing Lines is running December 1–April 12.

Ngv.vic.gov.au

Feedback Loops

Madison Bycroft
Tianzhuo Chen
Lu Yang
Sahej Rahal
Justin Shoulder
Zadie Xa

7 December 2019 – 22 March 2020

Australian Centre for Contemporary Art
111 Sturt Street Southbank
VIC 3006 Melbourne Australia
acca.melbourne



Image: Justin Shoulder *Carrion* 2018 Courtesy the artist. Photography and image Liz Ham and Tristan Jalleh

acca

EVENTS

DECEMBER 2019 / JANUARY 2020



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Dec 15 - Elisabeth Murdoch Hall

Featuring outstanding soloists from Australia's "first and finest" choir for boys alongside one of the country's premier all-male vocal ensembles, The Vocal Consort, artistic director Nicholas Dinopoulos leads nearly 200 singers of the Australian Boys Choral Institute on stage in this traditional festive gala event.

melbournerecital.com.au



FEEDBACK LOOPS

Until Mar 22 - ACCA

Feedback Loops invites viewers into the worlds of six Australian and international artists whose practices sample images and ideas from our past and present to speculate on the future.

acca.melbourne



PHOTOGRAPH 51

Until Dec 14 - Fairfax Studio

A massive hit on the West End, Anna Ziegler's *Photograph 51* relives the chase to find "the secret of life" amid all the inherent ambition, sexism and isolation of the 1950s, while shining a spotlight on an unsung hero. This intriguing new play is a moving portrait of a brilliant British scientist, and a delicate exploration of what is sacrificed in the pursuit of science, love and a place in history.

mtc.com.au



HOME ALONE IN CONCERT

Dec 13 - 14 - Hamer Hall

Conducted by Benjamin Northey and complete with a full choir, experience the beloved comedy classic featuring renowned composer John Williams' charming and delightful score performed live to picture by the MSO.

mso.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

CROSSING LINES

Until April 13 - NGV

In an unprecedented, world premiere exhibition, the National Gallery of Victoria presents the work of two of the most significant and influential artists of the late 20th century - Keith Haring and Jean-Michel Basquiat.

ngv.vic.gov.au

LIVE - 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY

Jan 25 - Plenary

Experience a spectacle of sight and sound this January when the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra performs the score to Stanley Kubrick's 1968 ground-breaking masterpiece *2001: A Space Odyssey*. This powerful screen and sound concert event will showcase the film's bold use of classical concert music.

mso.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



ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE

Feb 14 - Hamer Hall

This is a show that treats The Beatles' songs with the love and respect they deserve - four brilliant singers accompanied by The Day Tripper Band and Strawberry Fields orchestra. With more than 40 musicians and singers on stage, All You Need Is Love is a grand show in a grand setting.

artscentremelbourne.com.au



CHICAGO

From Dec 14 - State Theatre

A true New York City institution, *CHICAGO* has everything that makes Broadway great: a universal tale of fame, fortune and all that jazz; one show-stopping song after another; and the slickest dancing in town. Created by the musical theatre talents of John Kander, Fred Ebb and legendary choreographer Bob Fosse, *CHICAGO*'s sexy, sassy score includes *All That Jazz* and *Razzle Dazzle*.

artscentremelbourne.com.au



TURNING POINTS

Until Jan 27 - NGV

Since the 1990s, there has been an extraordinary flourishing of contemporary photography in China. This exhibition brings together photographs from the turning point of the 20th and 21st centuries and includes artists who have examined subjects as diverse as identity, traditional culture, and the rapidly changing face of Chinese cities.

ngv.vic.gov.au



STORYTIME BALLET: THE NUTCRACKER

Dec 11 - 15 - Playhouse

Experience the world's most famous ballet live on stage in a brand-new production of The Nutcracker created especially for children aged three and up. Storytime Ballet is an interactive, educational ballet production that encourages kids to learn, practise making magic and explore their love of dance!

artscentremelbourne.com.au

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Voluntary housing measures have failed

By Meg Hill

Both the City of Melbourne and the City of Port Phillip have told the state government that voluntary affordable housing measures are ineffective and need revising.

The City of Melbourne called for state-wide mandatory affordable housing provisions due partly to the fact the current developer-incentive policy had not secured any affordable housing in the city since it was adopted in 2014.

City of Port Phillip councillors called for mandatory measures to be introduced alongside existing voluntary measures at its November 20 council meeting.

"There is a shortfall of at least 5500 affordable rental homes in the City of Melbourne and that is anticipated to increase to approximately 23,000 by 2036," planning chair Cr Nicolas Reece said at the November 12 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

"That is simply an unacceptable situation for a civilised society and a world's most liveable city like Melbourne."

"It is also the case that the current mechanisms in the Melbourne Planning Scheme which seek to encourage affordable housing are yet to deliver any affordable homes."

Affordable housing refers to rental housing costed at under 30 per cent of a low- or medium-income household's income.

The City of Melbourne's submission to the state government included modelling by SGS Economics that suggested a mandatory inclusion mechanism could be used to deliver 10,000 affordable housing dwellings in the city.

The submission recommends a minimum

state-wide requirement to be determined by modelling, but flexibility for local governments to increase it where needed.

It also recommends a cash-in-lieu option for developers to fund affordable housing elsewhere if it can't be included in a development.

Mandatory affordable housing has been implemented to different extents in South Australia and the ACT, as well as overseas in the UK, Canada and the US.

Tamlin Gorter, a researcher at the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI), said the submission was a significant moment.

"I think it's a very strong statement to come from the council, but I think it reflects the level of need in Melbourne for increased affordable housing," she said.

"The fact that it has been recognised not only in Melbourne but across Australia is very significant."

"Perhaps there's just a bit of momentum there."

Ms Gorter said AHURI had a strong body of research that suggested mandatory affordable housing was an effective measure. AHURI research includes a report on South Australia where there is now a 15 per cent requirement in new developments.

Cr Rohan Leppert said the call was a response to a housing crisis in Australia.

"I've been here seven years now and it's been distressing that we have not been able to get a consensus on a strong position as to where we need to move, not just as a local government but in collaboration with other levels of government as well," he said.

"I believe we are very much in a housing crisis at the moment. It is such a big problem because the levers are pulled by three levels of government."

"Advocating for a regime that is not just inner-city or urban renewal based, but it a state-wide provision that you can build on top of, I think is very much the correct starting point.



Local students introduce NEMRAC

By Spencer Fowler Steen

Every student at South Melbourne Primary School (SMPS) in Southbank performed in the NEMRAC production on November 28 as part of a collaborative effort involving everyone from parents to grandparents.

NEMRAC was about the school's principal Miss Carmen being jealous of her students having all the fun in the school's "awesome" specialist program, according to teacher Paul Creasey.

In the play, Miss Carmen goes in disguise as a grade two student for the day. She attends all of the school's programs: robotics, art, STEAMN, Mandarin, P.E and music.

"Six main actors played multiple roles of the staff members at SMPS," Mr Creasey said.

"In NEMRAC, each time Miss Carmen (played by lead actor) in disguise arrived at a specialist class she was greeted by the teacher of that class and eventually the class turned into a performance item."

"The production was a huge community effort with more than 350 students performing, a whole staff effort and the support of around 60 parent helpers to bring the show to an audience of 700 school community members."

A post on the school's Facebook page following the production said that audiences were treated to students singing, dancing, playing live music and acting, complete with tie-dyed costumes and props made by grade one students.

"Our school production, NEMRAC, would not be possible without the amazing support of our parent/grandparent volunteers," the post said.

"They have been hard at work the past few weeks preparing costumes and props for the show."

Six girls from grade four and six were selected to be the lead actors, with students prepared for the production as part of the curriculum during their weekly music lessons as well as rehearsals with their teachers.

The performance was held at the community auditorium at Planet Shakers church in Southbank, with tickets costing \$20.

Monty strikes again

By Spencer Fowler Steen

The Montague Street Bridge has been hit yet again, bringing the tally to six this year.

A truck collided with the infamous three-metre clearance bridge in South Melbourne on November 6 at around 3.15pm. As a result, the two right-hand lanes were closed for about one-and-a-half hours before both were re-opened, according to VicTraffic.

"Unfortunately, Monty's been hit again," VicTraffic said in a Facebook post.

The driver appeared to have hit the bridge despite driving through an overhead height

warning system consisting of dangling gantries, installed by VicRoads two years ago.

The controversial bridge even has its own website: *How Many Days Since Montague Street Bridge Has Been Hit*, where it's been dubbed "Monty Balboa."

The website tracks the number of "days as champion," information about each "contestor," photos of the "aftermath" and the "bout" date.

It also has its own Twitter page, which has over 4000 followers, dedicated to documenting each crash.

Bus driver Jack Aston recently had his prison sentence overturned after successfully appealing a five-year jail term for hitting the bridge in 2016, injuring six.



Business

Celebrate Christmas at Eureka 89

By Jack Hayes

Take a moment to relax from all your festive season frivolities with a Christmas Eve dining experience like no other at Eureka 89.

Located on the top floor of Southbank's Eureka Tower, breathtaking 360-degree views of Melbourne's iconic cityscape will provide the perfect backdrop to your carefully curated three-course feast.

To accompany your heavenly meal, served with all the trimmings, diners can expect a host of festive speciality cocktails, quality wines and premium beers.

Eureka 89's Christmas Eve celebrations will take place from 12.30 pm to 3.30 pm. The cost is \$175 per adult, \$125 per child 13 to 17 years and \$55 for 12 years and under.

If you've already set aside Christmas Eve to do your last-minute wrapping, but haven't organised your work Christmas party, Eureka 89 has you sorted.

Groups large and small can enjoy a spectacular set menu, beverage package and bonbon decoration.

Team Christmas celebrations will take place for either lunch or dinner on Thursday, December 19. A three-course set



menu with a three-hour beverage package will cost \$150 per person for lunch and \$200

per person for dinner. Bookings for both Christmas Eve and

Team Christmas Celebrations are essential. For more visit eureka89.com.au

Central Equity wins

Prominent local Southbank developer Central Equity recently took out the Housing Industry Association's (Victoria) 2019 Apartment Complex of the Year award for its new Southbank Place development.

Central Equity has been setting the benchmark in Melbourne inner-city housing with over 80 projects delivered as promised during the past 32 years.

Central Equity is proud to announce that its landmark apartment tower, Southbank Place (located on the corner of Power and Kavanagh streets) has won the prestigious Housing Industry Association (HIA) 2019 Victorian Apartment Complex of the Year Award at a ceremony at Crown Casino on November 8.

Central Equity is HIA Victoria's most awarded apartment developer having won this award five times in the past nine years.

Southbank Place Apartments were designed by long-established Melbourne Architects Guilford Bell and Graham Fisher.

The 52-level tower has an impressive entry foyer and approximately 1500 sqm of resort style facilities. The Horizon Club on level 41 is home to a cinema, lounge and dining areas, an outdoor barbecue dining terrace and a multipurpose room for meetings, games or relaxation. Level nine houses an impressive gymnasium, indoor heated swimming pool and a large outdoor terrace with four additional barbecues and seating areas.



At the presentation of the award the judges said: "the excellent design of the complex as a whole, and the individual apartments, as well as the very high standard



of build quality throughout, the attention to detail and the extensive scope of amenity on offer: from the generously appointed and sophisticated internal common areas to the

visually appealing roof garden areas."

"The apartments all have an inviting, aesthetic appeal. The complex as a whole presents an outstanding offering for today's modern urban lifestyle, where spaces need to be visually welcoming and provide flawlessly appointed stylish design."

When Central Equity began development in Southbank more than 30 years ago there were less than 100 residents in the area. Southbank now houses around 20,000 people. Reports commissioned by the City of Melbourne estimate that the number will increase to around 50,000 by 2037.

Central Equity has been credited with changing the face of Southbank, developing more residential properties than any other developer in the suburb. The 2019 HIA award is testament to Central Equity's 32-year history of building as promised.

Southbank Place Apartments sold out very quickly and the project has been integrated into the Southbank community. The building is now effectively fully occupied.

Southbank Place is situated at 60 Kavanagh St, Southbank (corner of Power St).

See more at southbankplace.com.au

St Johns Southgate

Memory

Memory is a funny thing.

The things we remember aren't necessarily what once happened, but nevertheless, we remember them. It seems that there are stories we need to tell ourselves – even when their meaning remains somewhat obscured.

I have a memory from childhood that's very brief – it's more like flashes of vision without any discernible context – but I must have retained it for a reason. It was just after a downpour of rain. I see myself gently, ever so carefully, sliding a fallen gumleaf with fresh droplets of water on it onto the palm of my hand, and then slowly, softly, cradling it in such a way that the beads of water wouldn't leak away, and then I finally slip it into the freezer in the kitchen. The next image is of retrieving it sometime later to find it transformed – the little droplets having become frozen half spheres, like jewels adorning the leaf.

Why remember that? Why do I need to remember that which isn't really even a story? Perhaps because it speaks to fragility, beauty, and the fantastical. Those three things are a powerful combination that can concoct a potent aperitif. Which might be why, still, 2000 years later, we remember the birth of Jesus.

The incarnation, as Christians refer to it – the divine becoming human – is one of the great collective memories. Not that any of us remember it in the sense of having seen the manger, heard the angels, or having watched young Mary cradling her newborn. But the story of the Christ-child has all of those ingredients – the fantastical, the beautiful, and most certainly, the fragile.

Amid the hustle and bustle of the festive season, the fragile can get pushed aside as our focus is on the beauty and fantasy of Christmas – the lights, the tinsel, a newly Instagram'd recipe, or the fat guy in the red suit. But without the fragile, Christmas just doesn't pack a punch. The thing that

has made Christmas celebrations endure over the millennia is that the Christmas miracle itself was carried by a vulnerable young woman, delivered in uncertain circumstances, even became a refugee, and was finally brutalised and killed.

That watery leaf that I carefully carried inside and which froze itself into something fantastic, it didn't last forever. It thawed. Its special beauty melted away. But its memory remains, I think for the same reason that the ponderings of that very vulnerable Christmas birth remain devastatingly impactful for so many – because it was real, and it was so special, but it couldn't live on forever, it had to mature, it had to die into another way of living.

Memory is quite a thing. The things we remember, the stories we remind ourselves of, have significance even if we can't always put a finger on precisely what it is. With the baby Jesus, yes, the story may remain mysterious and beyond our complete historical and scientific comprehension,

but it will always be remembered because it spells good news. The birth of Christ proclaims that the divine stands in vulnerable solidarity with a struggling people and a groaning world and seeks to set things right. The nativity's star highlights that God is with us, and for us, and will remember us, even when our memories fail.

May this Christmas set down for you some profound memories – of beauty, transcendence, and even a touch of fragility so the memory-cut might be a deep one.



Tom Hoffmann

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



Montague Community Alliance

Reasons to be cheerful

Well 'tis the season to be jolly (now there's a word we don't use anymore), and jolly we will be!

Here are just a few things that make us happy about living here in Montague ...

Location, location, location

Located on the edge of the city, we are three stops from the CBD Free Tram Zone and the beach. We are also walking distance to and from South Melbourne Market and have three great pubs and a micro-brewery.

Great schools

We have an excellent state primary school in the precinct in South Melbourne Primary School, as well as a brilliant state secondary

school only a 20-minute walk away in Albert Park College.

Port Melbourne

We have close links to our neighbours in Port Melbourne. We are closely linked to Port Melbourne and can access all the open space along the 109 tram route.

Community

The most important reason to be jolly is that, here in Montague, we know each other, we are a close-knit community, we care about each other and our precinct and we love our little village.

So, before you all think I've allowed sentimentalism to affect my hitherto cautious approach, here are some things we in Montague look forward to seeing changed or developed in 2020 ...

- Bringing back the Montague working group that included the Fishermans Bend Taskforce.
- Finally getting the City of Port Philip to discuss neighbourhood agreements with developers and builders.
- Putting in traffic lights at the intersection of Buckhurst and Montague streets to ensure safety for pedestrians crossing Montague St.
- Formally recognising in the marketing descriptions that there is an existing community of residents and businesses.
- Caring about the impact on locals of the constant development, loud noise and dust. Unlike the CBD, Southbank and Docklands we still have single- and double-storey buildings that are profoundly affected by large and small scale development.

So, there we are; some reasons to be

cheerful (with a nod to Ian Drury and the Blockheads) and five more to look forward to.

Have a safe and peaceful end of year rest and thank you to all who read this column and are interested in our little precinct of South Melbourne. We are so grateful to Sean Car and his team, and all at the *Southbank Local News* as the voice of Montague.

A special thank you goes to the Montague community. To all the residents and businesses who make up our village we wish you all a peaceful and restful Hanukkah, Christmas and New Year. See you in 2020.



Trisha Avery

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



christmas



St Johns
Southgate

9am Traditional worship with communion
11am Informal worship with communion
6pm Sunday Night at St Johns

Sunday 22 December

9am Worship with Bach Cantata
Christum wir sollen loben schon BWV121
and GP Telemann's **Missa Brevis**
on "Ein Kindelein so löblich" TWV9:5

11am Informal Worship with Communion

Christmas Eve

7:15pm Outdoor carolling with
brass ensemble, followed by
7:30pm Worship with poetry and carols

Christmas Day

10am Worship with Communion

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

Christmas

Guess what's in the box this Christmas?

By Aphrodite Feros-Fooke

Over December, a giant present box can be found at Southbank as part of the 2019 City of Melbourne Christmas Festival.

Now in its 18th year, the festival will host a range of events, activities and installations through to Christmas Day.

The program includes Santa's House at Federation Square, Gingerbread Village by Epicure, an eight-metre tall reindeer at Docklands, a Gravy Day sing-along with guest singer Clare Bowditch and Christmas projections.

The Princes Bridge will be part of the Christmas projections program for the first time this year alongside the State Library and Melbourne Town Hall. The State Library will host the feature show, *A Very Melbourne Night Before Christmas*, written by Marieke Hardy and narrated by broadcaster Lee Lin Chin.

The city will be decorated with 500,000 LED lights, 2000 giant baubles, 20 giant nutcracker statues, four neon Christmas installations and a giant present box at Southbank. Federation Square's Christmas tree will stand at 16 metres tall and be decorated with 30,000 LED lights.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said that council had introduced a Christmas Collective initiative for the first time as part of this year's festival.

"This year we have chosen to showcase our local talent by having businesses and groups share how they celebrate Christmas, which will provide a uniquely Melbourne experience for our visitors and locals," Cr Capp said.

"People will be able to take part in Christmas cooking masterclasses, join a festive silent discos as it winds through the city and peruse pop-up markets in some of our iconic buildings and laneways."

Chair of the City of Melbourne's small businesses, retail and hospitality portfolio



Cr Susan Riley said: "December is the most important period for our retail and hospitality businesses and the increased number of city visitors coming to enjoy our Christmas Festival generates an economic uplift of \$73 million."

"By supporting our retailers and community groups through funding the Christmas Collective, we aim to show off all that's on offer here in Melbourne and promote our city's hidden gems."

She said the council was expecting the Christmas Festival program to attract record numbers into the city centre.

Highlights:

- Christmas Projections at State Library, Melbourne Town Hall and Princes Bridge - until Christmas Day.
- Santa's House at Federation Square - until December 21.
- Christmas Compass virtual reality (VR) at Melbourne Town Hall Visitor Hub - until Christmas Eve.
- Gingerbread Village by Epicure at Level 1 St Collins Lane - until Christmas Eve.
- Gravy Day Sing-along at Federation Square - until December 21.

For more information melbourne.vic.gov.au/christmas

Metro Tunnel



New road alignment on St Kilda Rd

It can't be seen from the road, but 22 metres beneath St Kilda Rd the new Anzac Station is fast taking shape.

Over the past year, crews have been busy building the station box, including pouring the base concrete slab at the southern end, while continuing with excavations at the northern end.

Following the realignment of St Kilda Rd and the tram lines in October, construction is now underway on the walls and roof of the middle section of the station box.

This will create the full 300-metre station box under St Kilda Rd, where around 400,000 tonnes of soil will be excavated.

As the excavation works continue, crews will start assembling two tunnel boring machines (TBMs) on site next year.

The Metro Tunnel project's third TBM, *Millie*, named after Victoria's first female MP Millie Peacock, began arriving at the site before Christmas, with pieces of TBM *Alice* - named after wartime hero Alice Appleford - to arrive in the new year. The TBM parts will be stored on site until assembly starts.

Construction isn't confined to underground, with the installation of the temporary acoustic shed nearly complete.

This 72-metre-long shed is being built over the site to minimise dust, light and noise during 24-hour tunnelling and excavation works.

Once construction is complete, it will house three gantry cranes that will be used to assemble the TBMs. The TBMs will be launched towards the eastern tunnel entrance in South Yarra next year.

The Metro Tunnel project would like to thank residents and businesses, motorists, commuters and the local community for their patience during 2019, as we deliver a new station to the Domain Precinct.

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday and look forward to achieving more project milestones in the new year.

Open for business

OTC Vintage Clothing: 238B Flinders Street

During construction of the new Town Hall Station, OTC is open for business. OTC is a vintage clothing store that has been serving up funky threads and accessories to Melbourne retro shoppers for over twenty years.

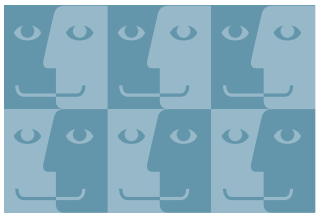
Mention this ad in store and receive 10% off!

For more information visit metrotunnel.vic.gov.au



More trains, more often





FACES OF SOUTHBANK



HENRY, 20, BARTENDER

To be honest, I find summer a bit too hot. Having said that, I enjoy relaxing by a pool.



JESSICA, 23, WAITRESS

I've just moved here from Glasgow, so this is going to be my first summer in Australia. I'm excited to see the city buzzing - I've noticed a big change once the weather starts to get a bit hotter.



JORDAN, 24, STUDENT

Better nightlife, going to the beach and getting away.



RYAN, 24, LOGISTICS

I'm really looking forward to the beaches and getting outdoors. I moved here from Auckland a few weeks ago, so it's all still pretty new.



JACK, 24, OPTOMETRIST

Grabbing an Esky and speakers, and heading down to the beach.



ELENA, 25, TEACHER

I'm excited to get tanned. I'm on holiday here from Germany, and there isn't much sun there at the moment.

Question:

What are you most looking forward to about the festive season?

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SWA113E

SOUTHBANK SUDOKU

Last month's Sudoku solution

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

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

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

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

Southbank Residents' Association

Pick up the poo!

You may recall last month that I commented on how great the new Boyd Park was looking.

As the weather has been warming, I have continued to see significant use of the park, the play equipment and its barbecue.

However, there is a small section of our community which doesn't appreciate that the grass is not there for their dogs to defecate on. I have seen a significant number of irresponsible dog owners failing to pick up after their pooches.

Although I can appreciate that in some cases they may not have been aware as they have allowed their dog to run around off-leash and they may not have noticed. In any case, it isn't an off-leash dog park.

There is planning for an off-leash dog park on the western side of the Kings Way undercroft. However, I question whether dog owners who would need to cross over/pass Boyd Park would bother doing so to make their way to an off-leash park no more than 50 metres away. Wouldn't it just be too convenient to stay and use Boyd Park?

In any case, the park signage advising to pick up after your dog and that they must be on a leash is inadequate. I have reached out to the City of Melbourne to see what improvements can be made there. I have seen in other parks council installed doggie bag stations, but I am not sure they work. Anecdotally, I have heard that when the



station is out of plastic bags then the attitude of many dog owners is that it is the council's fault for not stocking the bags, therefore it is okay not to pick up after their dog.

I can appreciate that such a circumstance may create such thinking. Out of concern for such thinking, in the interests of making dog owners be responsible for their own dog, I would be against the installation of doggie

bag stations. Moreover, council have better things to do than employ someone to travel to all the parks in the municipality to restock doggie bags. All good dog owners should expect their dog to go to the toilet when going for walkies and as such should take an appropriate item to collect and dispose.

Let me clarify, I am not against dogs, only irresponsible dog owners and sadly, judging

by the evidence left on the grass footpath verges and now Boyd Park, there seems to be quite a number of these irresponsible owner types around.

While on Boyd park, we would like to invite the entire Southbank community to the Southbank Residents' Association *Community Expo* where the park will be officially opened by the Lord Mayor Sally Capp. The expo will showcase our community groups and organisations. Please mark Saturday, March 21 in your diary. We will tell you more about it in the February edition of *Southbank Local News*.

On behalf of the whole Southbank Residents Association committee, we wish our entire community an enjoyable and safe festive season. We look forward to engaging with you all next year as we have so much planned. It will be another big year and we welcome your continued support. Remember if you are not a member you can join via our website southbankresidents.org.au. Remember, it is because we have members that we have a voice in the community.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Tony Penna

Tony Penna is the president of Southbank Residents' Association.

southbankresidents.org.au



Southbank Residents Association

SkyPad Living

Vertical dwelling is now mainstream

In Australia, the past three years have seen high-rise residential apartments (ie builds greater than nine stories) comprise 32 per cent of all new dwellings.

This change is well-evidenced in our major cities with the City of Sydney now having more than 80 per cent of its residents living in apartments while the City of Melbourne pips this by having more than 83 per cent of residents being "high-risers".

In view of this, one would think that our vertical living preferences should – and I'm not saying will – have close attention paid by those involved in apartment design and increasingly, redesign.

Indeed, with many existing apartments already aged in double digits, and with a sizeable proportion of these fast approaching their twenties, many vertical villages are in need of some "refreshing".

So the question is, what apartment trends might we see our fellow vertical villagers incorporate when refreshing their abodes in the year ahead?

Here are three trends that are likely to make an appearance:

In-built, multi-function and adaptable spaces: We vertical dwellers have long appreciated the benefits of furniture that pulls double duty, like our coffee console that converts into a dining table.

But the bar has been raised and what is increasingly demanded are more integrated facilities which can transform a space to what is needed at a particular time. IKEA's latest response to this takes the form of a robotic wall called, Rognan.

The transformational power of this automated wall comes from its ability to move (thereby providing up to an additional eight sqm of living space), and its capacity to incorporate different facilities on each side. One side, for example, may have a desk (which requires the wall to be in one position), while the other side might have an entertainment system (requiring the wall to be in another position).

The idea is that when you are working, you do not need to see your TV, and vice versa. While not yet in Australia, the promise is that it is "definitely" coming down under.

Downsized facilities: In direct contrast to the ground-bound (ie house) sector, which are seeking banks of double ovens in their over-sized kitchens, we vertical dwellers are increasingly opting for a simpler kitchen layout.

This is not merely because we have less space but that we are also preferring to

exert less effort when preparing our food. This claim is supported by the tremendous growth in services such as Hello Fresh which delivers pre-portioned fresh ingredients and recipes, Lean Cuisine which delivers prepared frozen meals, and Uber Eats which delivers ready-to-eat restaurant meals.

Combined with our proximity to actual restaurants, this ease of access to prepared food is seeing apartment dwellers demand less of their kitchen spaces and a preference to reallocate any excess space to entertainment activities.

Shared amenities: To date, new builds have sought to offer an increasing array of in-house amenities – multiple pools, theatrettes, specialised gyms, diverse entertaining areas, etc.

However, these amenities come with significant and ongoing maintenance costs. In addition, it has come as a surprise that many residents do not frequently use these in-house offerings, often preferring to socialise outside their buildings.

This is prompting a rethink of about in-house amenities and we are seeing the emergence of two distinct approaches.

One approach is towards a user-pays option which requires monitoring "who uses what" and for how long.

The other approach involves negotiating reciprocal access arrangements with

nearby facilities (including neighbouring apartments). For example, one apartment building may offer the use of its theatre in exchange for access to another building's conference facilities.

However, both these scenarios require significant changes to common property access (and existing by-laws), and so this trend is more likely to manifest in sites undergoing major redevelopment.

If sufficient numbers of residents embrace these trends, the coming year may see some vertical villages fundamentally reinvent themselves, while others (with low adoption rates) may start to be regarded as "fading".

However, installing robotic walls and changing floor layouts requires the involvement of an owners' corporation. And this brings into play both possibilities in terms of benefits from group procurement as well as challenges in terms of regulations and permissions – both of which are topics to be explored in 2020!

And until then, I wish all vertical dwellers a Merry Christmas.



Janette Corcoran

Apartment living expert

[facebook.com/SkyPadLiving/](https://www.facebook.com/SkyPadLiving/)

“An animal out of control”

Merv Harris said his days as a policeman and former detective in the fraud squad had prepared him well for a successful career in owners' corporation (OC) management.

The long-time Southbanker, who is well renowned locally for his days managing the likes of Clarendon Tower and Flinders Wharf, currently serves as the chair of the Southbank Owners' Corporation Network (SOCN) – a bi-monthly initiative of the Southbank Residents' Association (SRA).

While his days of managing apartment buildings appear to be behind him, he has largely made his name in the industry over the past 10 years for having founded the OCguide – an online one-stop-shop for all things strata management.

With an impressive track record of establishing strong management systems in the likes of Clarendon Tower, his expertise is now widely sought after by OCs and others within the industry as a consultant.

And while he has personally been able to impart a lot of positive changes in his own career as an OC manager since 2003, he described the OC industry generally as an “unlegislated cash cow.”

“It's an animal that is still out of control. The whole industry is still out of control with different pressure points. Everyone is poking



Merv Harris.

the bear,” Merv said.

“I've walked into buildings a few times and all I do is I have a whiteboard and I draw a bag of cash and say ‘you're the OC, you're the bag of cash and everyone wants a piece of the action.’”

He told *Southbank Local News* that it was for this reason that his former career as a

policeman and detective for Victoria Police had served him well for embarking on a career as an OC manager.

He said that largely, OC management was simply “conflict resolution” and being able to deal with “adversarial situations.”

“What I learned from my days in the fraud squad, when I was in uniform in the early days you'd often look at a guy in the gutter with a couple of tats who is boozed and you'd go ‘that's a crook,’” he said.

“Then I learned as I became a detective when I went to the fraud squad – the person that you do not trust is the one in a suit with a pen. Far more damage is done with the man in the suit.”

His approach of taking all systems of management from staffing and security to maintenance and software in-house, had bode well for the likes of Clarendon Towers and Flinders Wharf.

However, for an industry that he said was too “heavily under-regulated,” this style of management is not the norm for a lot of buildings. And given the diverse range of interests between developers, OC managers and those on the committee, he said that good management was not always in the interest of the building.

“No matter how much you try sometimes the structures that are in place corrupt the system and I have been, from my policing angle, exposed to, and dealing with committees who are absolutely corrupt in this town. This is committees; not just developers or OC managers. They are corrupt. And their behaviour is that they

think they can get away with it,” he said.

“There has to be major legislative change within the OC Act. There has to be no tokenism and minor changes and now that is born out of conflicts, perceived or real, that exist within the industry.”

“There has to be a proper method of reporting. The only option I really have as an OC manager is to resign when I can see there is corruption swirling around me. Otherwise I have to prove criminal offences – and I can say, that I can prove it and I have seen it.”

While buoyed by the state government's recent moves to stamp out proxy farming, he said major change was still required to mitigate issues such as short-stays, long term contracts, “\$2 companies” and formative/handover periods of OCs. In addition, he said that greater powers needed to be provided for taking contractual matters to the Magistrates and County Courts, rather than VCAT.

“In criminal law you've got case law,” he said. “You can always quote it and you're reasonably expectant that an outcome will flow from that. VCAT is a different kettle of fish as VCAT members can make their own decision.”

“Where the future goes? You'd like resolution about short-term [accommodation] and my personal view is that if you want a hotel room you book into a hotel.”

“A third of Australians supposedly now live in a strata-like scheme. So, we've got to protect their rights.”

theocguide.com.au

Owners' Corporation Law

Embedded electricity networks are ripping off consumers

A new study by the Victoria Energy Policy Centre has found that customers in apartment buildings in Victoria on embedded networks are paying up to \$439 a year more than the best deal they could get if they were able to access the free market.

Put another way, the study, which was commissioned by the state government, found that a typical customer on an embedded network was paying 36 per cent more than the best publicly-advertised deal.

In an embedded network, an owners' corporation (OC) buys its electricity in bulk and on-sells the electricity to residents.

In theory, residents on embedded networks should get a better deal, thanks to bulk buying their electricity.

However, this study has found that this is not always occurring, and in fact, residents end up paying more.

The developer often decides at the time of construction of a building as to whether to enter into an embedded network with a private company that operates embedded networks. If they do, the embedded network company will usually install the meters and connections on behalf of the developer, in return for the developer agreeing to a five- to

20-year embedded network agreement.

The developer gets to save money because it doesn't have to pay the costs of installing the meters and connections and having this infrastructure classified as common property. The embedded network company gets to save money because it has the guarantee of a long-term service agreement and can buy the electricity in bulk at a cheaper rate while on-selling the electricity to the residents for a profit.

Some embedded network companies offer a lower cost for electricity for the common property areas and for owner-occupiers, and charge a higher rate for tenants, meaning the tenants are effectively paying too much and subsidise the owners and the OC.

I have seen some agreements from embedded network companies that also restrict and restrain the OC from installing solar panels on the rooftop because the developer has made the embedded

network company responsible to provide all electricity generation for the building and its residents.

Sarah McNamara, the chief executive of the Australian Energy Council said in an interview to the ABC: “We are aware that there has been some frustrations experienced by customers who feel that the embedded network framework doesn't allow them enough flexibility. We simply encourage them to ring their retailer, or ask their strata committee to ring their retailer, and talk to them about whether an embedded network is the best available deal.”

These comments aren't particularly helpful when considering that the embedded network companies use contracts that are so one-sided that it is impossible to break the contract before the five- to 20-year term expires.

The state government has not sought

to regulate or otherwise restrict the operation of these embedded networks in its new draft OC Bill that is currently before parliament. That is a great shame and a missed opportunity for residents and OCs. In New South Wales, an amendment to the strata legislation was inserted last month to regulate the embedded networks.

When this matter next comes before parliament, and now that the state government has received this study by the Victoria Energy Policy Centre, it will be interesting to see whether the government seeks to take a stronger position on this for the benefit of the community.



Tom Bacon

Tom Bacon is the principal lawyer of Strata Title Lawyers.

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Southbank Sustainability Group

Bringing win after win to Southbank!

It's amazing what a group of passionate residents can achieve.

Driven purely by willpower and a positive environmental vision for our suburb, we've managed to bring four incredible wins to Southbank, making 2020 a very exciting and promising year ahead.

We are still riding the wave of excitement from bringing the inaugural environment category Melbourne Award to Southbank! Announced during the formal award gala event on November 16, our group became the first-ever winner of this prestigious award. It was great recognition of the wonderful change our volunteers' work has brought to our neighbourhood and education we've provided to the wider community, which is all in an attempt to tackle the climate emergency from different and creative angles. The heartfelt congratulations and words of encouragement have been pouring in. We thank you all for your support!

2020 will bring even more educational opportunities and workshops. Especially as we just won a 2020 *Connected Communities* grant for six sustainability-themed educational workshops to be spread throughout the year. Each workshop will aim to reduce individual waste and our use of virgin resources, providing participants with practical solutions to use at home.

Shortly after that, we recorded another win, with a spot in the coveted Melbourne Knowledge Week in May 2020! We'll be doing guided garden tours where we'll talk about how it all started, how we operate, challenges we've faced and how it provides educational opportunities in a variety of



sustainability topics. It will all be aimed at inspiring more people to start communities like ours wherever they are and take positive, organised climate action. The tours will end with a free upcycle workshop where participants will learn how to either turn a plastic bottle into a planter or a newspaper into a gift bag.

And the wins didn't stop there! A couple of weeks later we found out we won another grant under council's waste minimisation and innovation fund to finally establish a community composting hub in Southbank, which is something we've been trying to get off the ground since our group's very first meeting in 2017. The red tape kept it static for all these years so we weren't going to miss the opportunity as soon as we found out about this grant. Now we'll finally have a space where Southbankers can close the loop and dispose their food scraps responsibly, learn about different composting methods, help pave the way for the council's organic waste collection system and even help nearby businesses learn how to set up large volume composting and reduce their landfill waste and harmful greenhouse gas emissions. We know this is something many Southbankers have been looking forward to, as this is a solution our neighbourhood desperately needs when it's dominated by small apartment living. Keep an eye out in the first half of the year for this



and email us if you'd like to get involved.

Even with all these wins, we weren't too busy to participate in Boyd's Christmas Celebration event on December 5 and teach community members upcycling solutions to cover their Christmas needs without buying anything new. Replicating the success of our November *Upcycled Xmas* workshop, our amazing volunteers showed about 100 adults and children how to upcycle old newspapers, magazines and even toilet roll tubes into useful festive items such as bonbons, gift tags, tree ornaments and Christmas cards. Everyone had fun and left with some easy solutions to practice at home. We even got a visit from Santa!

Staying in the theme of waste reduction, but once again tackling it from a different angle, on December 7 we organised a well-received talk with council's waste education officer, who spoke to Southbankers about waste and recycling in Southbank, the council's new recycling system and how locals can reduce waste in general.

To celebrate an incredible 2019 and the amazing year ahead, we are having a social barbecue on Saturday, December 21 at 11am at the newly opened Boyd Park and everyone is invited to come along and celebrate with us! Bring your own food to grill and drinks if you wish and come find us in the barbecue area next to the new playground to say cheers and celebrate with us. Please keep

in mind this is a zero waste event so think reusable and unpackaged instead of single-use items to bring.

We'll return to our regular fortnightly meet-ups on Saturday, January 11, 10am at Boyd. As usual, everyone is welcome to join!

When 11 of us met over coffee in 2017 to see how we could bring ongoing sustainability activities to our neighbourhood and build a sense of community around this very important issue, which felt too challenging to try and tackle individually, we never imagined that we would get this far. 136 members, a permanent community garden, 108 planters, 400+ seedlings, a harvest of 100kg of organic vegies, 25-plus educational activities, 70-plus meet-ups, and countless diverted kilos of waste and greenhouse gas emissions later, we can't believe the change we've managed to bring to our busy neighbourhood. At the same time, we are starting to realise that this is only the beginning and we are fired up more than ever to transform our suburb's environmental footprint and help more and more people in their sustainability journey. Here's to a great year ahead!

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

Health & Wellbeing

Attaining (and maintaining) wellness

The last few (and first few) weeks of the year tend to be packed with non-stop activities.

Although this is quite often a stressful time, it is also one filled with joy and happiness at being surrounded by loved ones. We can sometimes continue the over-indulgence into the new year or on the other side of the coin perhaps feel a sense of emptiness or loneliness once it's over.

Tips for maintaining wellness post holidays

Moderate your expectations: Instead of striving for perfection (getting straight back into shape, being fully motivated, keeping strictly to your new year goals) instead strive to be present and in the moment for whatever you do. Attempting to control and be strict with yourself will lead to you feeling uptight and frustrated when the reality does not meet the vision you have created. Instead, be present, be kind to yourself and enjoy January!

Make healthy choices: After the many indulgences over the holiday period, it can leave you feeling a little out of shape and worse for wear in the health and fitness department. Aim to return to eating healthy food, drinks and ensuring that you keep getting a good amount of exercise as regularly as possible.

Make sure you rest: Proper sleep and relaxation will help keep your immune system strong, as well as relieve stress. Choose activities that truly give you joy. Being driven by your new year to-do list will likely cause stress and worry, so delegate tasks, take breaks, and moderate expectations.

Plan your partying beforehand: It can be tempting to want to over-indulge during the summer months, so plan beforehand for how to moderate your behaviour during this time. Know how many drinks is too much, and how you are going to get home!

Get your finances in order: The damage that Christmas has done to your finances can cause significant worry for some, but rather than worrying about it, sit down and sort out your financial situation. See what shape you are in financially and, if necessary, set yourself a budget for the next few months.

Plan things that you can look forward to: Revive the excitement of anticipation by arranging fun activities, such as having dinner with friends, starting a new class, hobby or attending a sporting event regularly. Choose activities that meet your budget and interests, and that you know will give you a thrill.

Maintaining the joy of the holiday season into the new year

Practice gratitude throughout the year: Share how grateful you are for your loved ones with them throughout the year. Take a

few extra moments when you are with them to tell them how grateful you are and how much meaning they bring to your life.

Maintain the spirit of giving: small gifts (handmade or baked goods) given to colleagues, friends or loved ones as a gesture of appreciation or good will, will bring you joy and maintain the spirit of generosity.

Have regular get-togethers with family and friends when possible: Maintaining strong relationships is not only good for your stress levels, it also supports your overall health and will help keep you connected to loved ones throughout the whole year.



Rajna Bogdanovic

Clinical psychologist
bogdanovicrajna@gmail.com

Pet's Corner

The bulldog blogger

RZA (pronounced Rizza), is a six-year-old English Bulldog with an appetite for lounging.

His owner Andrew, a photographer/videographer, named RZA after the American rapper and founding member of Wu-Tang Clan. Much like his namesake, RZA struggles to walk down the street without being noticed.

"He's excellent in the apartment. Typically, English Bulldogs are really lazy; they are very much indoor dogs and don't like to do much - which is why we got him," Andrew said.

"RZA is a bit of people magnet; we get stopped all of the time on the street. He has friends that are his solely. They aren't interested in hanging out with us."

RZA has lived in Southbank for close to six years with Andrew and his other owner Latoya, and their three-year-old daughter Amaya.

With the opening of the nearby Boyd Park, RZA and his family have relished the opportunity to try out the new green spaces.

"It's been amazing having the new park. RZA loves the grass and Amaya loves the playground," Andrew said.

"He's such a gentle dog. He is great with the little one and pretty easy to look after."

As well as becoming a City Rd celebrity, RZA also features heavily on Andrew's



RZA-Andrew and Amaya.

Melbourne food blog.

You can find them on Instagram at @melb_belly

History

Melbourne goes wild about Harry!

By the middle of another hot February day in 1910, the crowds along Princes Bridge, the main thoroughfare to the south of the city, were starting to grow and soon would become three-deep.

Estimated at about 20,000, they were a mixed lot, young and old, including stevedores, carriers, clerks and office boys.

The rising temperature did nothing to improve their mood after a few days of extreme heat, with pushing and shoving taking place.

They were there to see an extraordinary event, where the famed escapologist Harry Houdini planned to plunge into the Yarra, padlocked, chained and wearing handcuffs, and extricate himself before rising to the surface.

By 1.30pm he had arrived by car, wearing a tight-fitting blue costume. After the chains around his body were checked, there was a hush as he stood on top of the bridge, looked out over the crowd, took a deep breath and dived into the murky waters of the river!

Houdini had been born Ehrich Weiss, the son of a Hungarian rabbi, and landed in the USA at the age of four. He had worked in a variety of roles in the theatre in the States and the fresh-faced young man had developed an act that was based on escapism.

Gradually he became a sought-after star of the circuit and in 1910 he travelled by ship to Melbourne to headline a season of entertainment at the New Opera House, forerunner of the Tivoli.

The long trip was a nightmare for him, as he suffered from seasickness and badly missed his mother. He was part of a long programme of songs, dances and comedic sketches and his routine included escaping from a veiled cabinet while bound, escaping from a tied sack within a trunk, and exiting from a straitjacket.

Acclaimed by Melbourne audiences, he was poised to make another amazing escape after diving into a river. Houdini had plenty of tricks in his bag including false fingers that contained a key, handcuffs that were designed to open when turned over and having a friend slip him a key during a handshake before the jump.

Police boats were patrolling on the river near the bridge, with officers prepared to retrieve Houdini's body if he could not escape in time. The crowd stayed hushed



as the seconds ticked away. Just as things were looking ominous, he broke through the water and was pulled into the police boat.

He had done it, using all the flair and showmanship honed through years of performance and producing another chapter in his illustrious history of escaping. That night he received massive applause at the show.

However, Houdini was not finished with astounding the Australian crowds. He was about to undertake the first powered aeroplane flight in Australia. At the town of Digger's Rest, he had parked his Voisin box-type aeroplane in preparation for the flight in March. But that's another story!



Robin Grow

President - Australian Art Deco and Modernism Society
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Lunch Break



Toby has fond memories of his peanut butter sandwich

The Terrace Courtyard
Shrine of Remembrance

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We Live Here

Short-stay violence spurs action

The short-stay industry is facing regulation on both sides of the Atlantic in Canada and France as city governments try to resolve safety and community concerns.

In Toronto, the city has passed new regulations requiring owners to live at the premises and to register with the local government as a short-stay provider.

In introducing the new rules, the government had argued that the short-stay industry incentivised landlords to remove housing stock from the long-term market.

Toronto mayor John Tory says regulating the industry is a step in the right direction in “keeping our neighbourhood liveable”.

In Paris, the city government has limited short-stays to 120 nights per year and insisted on property registration. Like Toronto, Paris has accused Airbnb of compromising community safety and exacerbating the housing affordability crisis.

Multinational Airbnb has resisted the new rules on both sides of the Atlantic with arguments focusing on “host and guest safety”.

Rocked by increasingly frequent reports of violence and the Halloween deaths in the United States, Airbnb has hit back with a very narrow safety message. Amazingly, the multinational operator makes no mention of “community” safety as it resists global moves to regulate the industry.

The deputy mayor of Paris, Ian Brossat, lashed out at Airbnb, tweeting that it is “totally irresponsible given the disastrous consequences Airbnb has had on our towns and cities. We are dealing with a company that doesn’t have the means to pay its taxes

in France but can find the means to sign a deal with the IOC (International Olympic Committee).”

Paris City Hall is also taking legal action against Airbnb for payment of a €12.5m (AUD \$20 million) fine for failing to remove hosts who failed to register. Globally, the move to have hosts register their properties is seen as an essential measure.

Following the Airbnb Halloween deaths in the USA the company has started a campaign to restore trust in the brand, setting up a hotline for hosts who feel threatened by guests.

What about the neighbours? We don’t figure in the Airbnb economic equation.

If we must argue on economics – a favourite tactic of Airbnb – let’s talk about the tax that is not paid.

In Australia, Airbnb pays about 3 per cent of the GST that any other accommodation provider pays.

NSW taking on short-stay fire risks

An announcement by the NSW state government that it is tackling fire risks associated with the short-stay industry, is welcome news.

We Live Here has met dogged resistance from the Victorian state government even to consider this issue. We have long campaigned on the nexus between short-stays, the infamous cladding debacle and the need to take immediate action, but it has fallen on deaf ears.

A new proposal by the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment will require short-stay hosts to take basic fire safety measure to protect guests and neighbours.

Under the plan, all short-stay premises would be required to have integrated smoke alarms in bedrooms and corridors, heat sensors in kitchens, fire extinguishers, fire blankets, emergency exit lights and

evacuation maps.

These safety measures sound like basic requisites that you would expect to be in place in any commercial accommodation business, including a short-stay apartment.

So, what does Airbnb think of regulations to mandate fire safety in short-stays?

According to *Domain*, Airbnb public affairs manager Julian Crowley says it’s “grossly unfair”.

Victorian residents on their own in the cladding debacle

Unless you live in one of the handful of buildings on the anonymous list of high-risk buildings that will receive government funding, OCs are now being forced to take out loans to remove their combustible cladding. Owners can look forward to increased levies for years to come, resale of apartments will become more difficult and a drop in property prices will be inevitable.

Further, if you don’t take responsibility for removing your cladding you can expect repeated building orders from your municipal council to ensure compliance.

Government report card

Following their resounding success in the 1918 election We Live Here called on the state government to:

1. Amend the *Owners Corporation Act 2006* to regulate the short-stay industry – far beyond the scope of the woefully inadequate pro-Airbnb “party” bill that was shamefully passed just before the election. The Airbnb “party” bill made it even harder for OCs to recoup costs of damage and it completely ignored issues of security, amenity and community development.

No evidence of anything positive has emerged since the passage of the Bill, but one owner was recently reported as keeping

a baseball bat near his front door after a stranger wandered into his apartment!

2. Restore powers to OCs to make decisions about use of a lot, which were lost in Justice Riordan’s Supreme Court decision in July 2017.

Has not happened.

3. Give powers to OCs to determine if short-stays should be permitted.

Has not happened.

4. Revise the proposed (unworkable) scheme for individual owners to take out a bank loan to remediate flammable cladding and repay the loan via their council rates.

A handful of high-risk buildings are to be provided funding by the government. The hundreds of buildings deemed a moderate risk have been ignored – see above.

5. Engage with We Live Here. Talk to us – we represent more than 200 buildings throughout Melbourne and Victoria.

Not much has happened since we were invited to a meeting at the Minister for Consumer Affairs’ Office in June and were invited to provide a submission on the Exposure Draft of the Amendments to the Owners Corporation Act 2006, the deficiencies of which we have previously reported on.

The Bill was introduced into Parliament in September, but has now stalled and there is no indication when debate will resume.

6. Final Report from a disappointing year: *D – could do much better.*

With community support from all Victorians ‘We Live Here’ will continue to lobby the government until it starts to listen to us.



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

Southbank crime wrap



Assault and robbery one

Police are investigating an assault which left a man unconscious in Southbank in October.

Investigators have been told the victim, a 19-year-old Doncaster man, was approached by three men in Blakeney Place near City Rd about 4.45am on October 27.

The three males assaulted the victim, who fell unconscious, before they rifled through his pockets and stole items including his mobile phone, wallet and cash.

The Doncaster man was transported to hospital for treatment.

The offenders are described as aged between 18 and 20 years old.

The first is perceived to be Middle Eastern in appearance and unshaven, with short hair on the sides of his head and tattoos on his left arm.

He was wearing blue jeans, a black jumper, black shoes, a large black watch and carrying a tan and red satchel bag.

The second is perceived to be Caucasian in appearance and was wearing a denim jacket,

black jeans, white t-shirt and black cap.

The third is perceived to be Caucasian in appearance and was wearing a black long sleeve shirt with a white collar, blue/grey jeans and a white cap. He was also wearing Bluetooth earphones at the time.

Assault and robbery two

Melbourne Embona Task Force detectives are investigating a robbery and assault in Southbank in October.

Investigators have been told a 28-year-old Queensland man was in a toilet block within a licensed venue when he was assaulted



by an unknown man on October 18 about 4.40am.

The unknown man then fled on foot with the victim’s mobile phone.

Investigators have released images of a man they believe may be able to assist with their enquiries.

The man is perceived to be of African appearance, mid-20s, slim build and around 173cm tall.

Assault and robbery three

Melbourne Embona Taskforce are investigating an assault and robbery in Southbank in October.

Investigators have been told two unknown men approached the victim on Moray St, Southbank, at about 2.10am on October 31 and asked to use his phone.

The victim removed his phone and said he would hold the device while the men made a call on hands free.

Police believe the two offenders then assaulted the victim, who fell to the ground and lost consciousness.



The victim’s phone and wallet were stolen, with his bank card later used at a convenience store on Clarendon St in South Melbourne.

The 48-year-old man was treated for a concussion and injuries to his face, jaw and neck.

The first offender is described as 175cm tall of skinny build with short black hair and is perceived to be Middle Eastern in appearance.

The second offender is described as 185cm tall of solid build, and with short black hair.

Police have released images of two men they believe may be able to assist with their enquiries.

WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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



INNER MELBOURNE LIFE ACTIVITIES CLUB

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

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



WEDNESDAYS @ BOYD

LIFT ME UP

Looking for friends to chat with about mental health? Get peer support every Wednesday at LiftMeUpAustralia. Be listened to, accompanied and connected.

liftmeup.org.au

TUESDAYS - THURSDAYS & SATURDAYS
CHUNKY MOVE DANCE CLASS
Mondays to Thursdays and Saturdays at 111 Sturt St. Chunky Move dance classes are the perfect way to unwind, get fit and improve flexibility and strength.
chunkymove.com



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



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)



FIRST AND THIRD THURSDAY @ BOYD

TEAHOUSE TOASTMASTERS

Want to take your public speaking to a higher level or improve your English and make some local connections? Join us on the first and third Thursday every month.

Enquiries: jvanselow@gmail.com

SATURDAYS 8AM @ BOYD
YOGA WITH MELIA
Warm up your weekend with a class of Yoga with Melia! Improve your strength, flexibility and mental clarity. All levels welcome, bookings essential.
info@yogawithmelias.com.au



BOYD HOLIDAY OPENING HOURS

The Boyd Community Hub will be closed from 5pm Tuesday, December 24 and re-opens at 8.30am on Thursday, January 2. All normal programs will resume as normal from January. The Boyd Playroom will also close until January 13.



FRIDAYS 7.45AM - 9AM @ BOYD

COMMUNITY TAI CHI

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WEDNESDAYS @ BOYD
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COMMON MAN @ 39 DUKES WALK

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From Australian Open Tennis and the Boxing Day Test to Yoga and New Year's Eve fireworks, find out what's on offer at Common Man's pop-up lawn: thecommonman.com.au



MONDAYS 1.30PM TO 3PM @ BOYD
MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH
A free drop-in service available for families that need additional support between appointments. The sessions run in the Maternal and Child Health area at Boyd. No appointments necessary.

TUESDAYS 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

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

atillaakguner@gmail.com

FIRST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH SUNRISE PROBUS CLUB

Over 50, living in Southbank and want to join our vibrant club for activities, events and friendship? Meet at Library at the Dock at 10am. Contact Verna on 0407 065 910. MSPC.docklands@gmail.com

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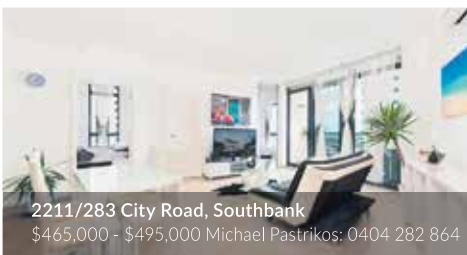
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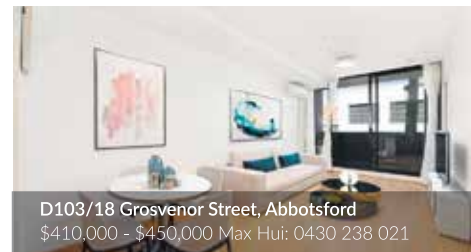
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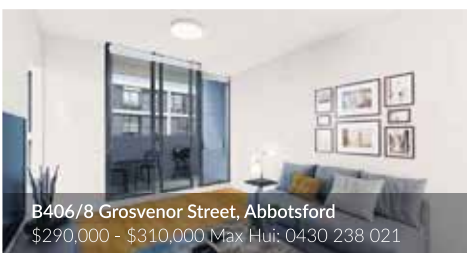
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