

SOUTHBANK NEWS

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The Importance of Being Earnest: February 14 - March 8.

The Malthouse Theatre is celebrating its 30th year as Melbourne's most provocative theatre company and its 2020 season will kick off on February 14 with an adaptation of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. For a preview and to find out what else is in store - *The Arts Precinct*, page 13.

Resident wins short-stay battle

Residents living in Southbank's Platinum Tower at Clarke St continue to battle issues with short-stays in their building despite the recent landmark victory of one.

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
VCAT

For the first time since the new *Owners' Corporation Amendment (Short-stay Accommodation) Act 2018* came into effect on February 1, 2019, a resident has won compensation in the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) for "loss of amenity".

It came after the resident, who requested not to be named by *Southbank News*, lodged an application to VCAT in May last year against the owner of an apartment (located immediately above them) and its short-stay tenant Melbourne Serviced Apartments Pty Ltd.

The application was the result of a number of incidents, which included guests vomiting off the balcony and cigarette butts being thrown into the resident's lot. The application to VCAT would be followed by an "out-of-control" party in July, which police attended and evicted guests.

The resident also listed several other incidents where sufficient evidence was unavailable, including drug use and bloodied towels, drinks and rubbish being thrown from the apartment.

Following a directions hearing in October, the owner of the apartment agreed to a range of preventative measures with the resident, which included vetting of guests, proactive communication and balcony doors and windows being locked. Once satisfied, the resident dropped the owner as a respondent to the case.

The building's OC, which had also lodged a prohibition order claim in

VCAT against the same respondents, would too drop its case against the owner on the condition they never engaged the services of Melbourne Serviced Apartments again. The company previously operated more than 50 apartments in the building, all of which have since been taken over by Experience Hotel Apartments - a company connected to the building's developer Salvo.

Having allegedly made no attempt to resolve the case, Melbourne Serviced Apartments owner Luke Mellor was taken to a compulsory conference in December by the resident, who settled for a payment of \$1000 under a consent order. Mr Mellor did not respond to *Southbank News* for comment.

While settling for only half of the maximum compensation provided for a breach under the Act, the resident said doing so under a "non-confidential" consent order was a deliberate tactic, and one that other residents could use.

"We need to start naming these people because the worst thing for them is publicity and nothing else seems to work," the resident told *Southbank News*.

"We've got about 120 short-stays out of the 437 apartments in this building. They occupy nearly a third of the building, do 80 per cent of the damage and cause 90 per cent of the problems."

"For \$70 odd for a [VCAT] case, it's very achievable. Providing you collect adequate evidence to prove those events occurred and don't just rely on

Continued on page 3.

Delays set to continue at Southbank Boulevard

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Works to complete the current stage of Southbank Boulevard's new linear park could continue for another 12 to 18 months.

The City of Melbourne's near \$50 million transformation of Southbank Boulevard was first struck by delays early last year as issues arose between a number of agencies involved in the project.

While the roadway between St Kilda and City roads is now reopen, it is understood landscaping and construction of the park and recreational spaces could continue well into 2021.

Speaking to *Southbank News* in September last year, the City of Melbourne's director of city design Professor Rob Adams had said that while the delays weren't ideal, the council had been "ambitious" with the project from the outset.

"We're running four to five months behind. Do I like that? No, I hate it," he said.

"But what happened there, and we have to take some of the responsibility for this, we were ambitious to get the project started and we had all the documentation ready. We didn't have all the approvals there but we had put all the approvals in. There was sufficient time for those to happen."

"Unfortunately, VicRoads is in a bit of a mess, CitiPower is unreliable and we hit latent conditions. But we've rescheduled the program. Now all of those [other] niggling projects are out of the way and this project has momentum again."

"We've still got landscaping to go but that will happen in stages. Where we hit problems was dealing with tram infrastructure. Part of our problem has also been all the private development happening on our doorstep."

Having to coordinate with developments at Australia 108 and the Adina Apartment Hotel has, as Professor Adams pointed out, presented challenges to completing the project on schedule. However, with road works now complete, a council spokesperson said the construction of the new

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The deadline for the March edition is February 28.

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Your new look *Southbank News*

As we enter a new decade, we thought it was high time that we refreshed your Southbank News.

My team and I at Hyperlocal News are proud and humbled to be able to use this valuable community asset to keep our readers abreast with what's going on each month in postcode 3006, Montague and Fishermans Bend.

While our original mastheads have served *Southbank News* and sister publications *CBD News* and *Docklands News* well for many years, we've gone with a fresh look that we feel more accurately matches the quality and keeps in tune with the changing needs of our city.

Same *Southbank News*; different look and feel.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the team at Studio Hi Ho for guiding us through our redesign. It's been a great journey and we look forward to seeing where it continues.

And to our readers, contributors and advertisers; thank you for your continued support of *Southbank News*. We hope you enjoy your new-look newspaper.

Sean Car
 Publisher - Hyperlocal News

A message from the Lord Mayor of Melbourne Sally Capp ...

Melbourne is Australia's fastest-growing city and will be the biggest by the end of the decade. More people than ever before are choosing to live close to where they work and near the best places to unwind. And this is driving development throughout our CBD, Docklands and Southbank. Melbourne's economy has just reached a turnover of \$100 billion annually. Our workforce is brimming with skilled workers and entrepreneurs, teachers and nurses, artists and performers. We welcome a community with diverse skills, experiences and interests to support a bright future.

As our city changes and continues to grow it is important that we have effective ways to communicate and connect. Our local media has a significant role to play in meeting the changing needs of local communities.



In Melbourne we are lucky to have active and committed local publications that cover the CBD, Docklands and Southbank in depth.



I'd like to welcome readers to the new-look *Southbank News*.

A great city is the product of long-term decision making based on evidence, listening to the ambitions of our residents and workers and understanding what makes each local community distinct.

In Melbourne we are lucky to have active



and committed local publications that cover the CBD, Docklands and Southbank in depth. The cares, concerns and pulse of our communities are recorded each month and this allows local issues to be debated and ideas to be presented.

These publications also create connections for people to get involved in issues and activities that they are interested in and enjoy. These connections build strong and vibrant communities.

I'd like to thank everyone who reads and contributes to *Southbank News*, fostering a strong connection to their community.

Cr Sally Capp - Lord Mayor of Melbourne

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HAILEYBURY



▲ Southbank Residents' Association president Tony Penna.

A day to celebrate community

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
LOCAL NEWS

Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) president Tony Penna is urging locals to come celebrate the opening of the new Boyd Park on Saturday, March 21.

Running from 10am until 4pm, Mr Penna said the Southbank Community Day would be a true showcase of Southbank, with community groups, arts organisations and a range of local services to be present on the day.

Following a traditional Aboriginal smoking ceremony, the Lord Mayor Sally Capp and Member for Albert Park Martin Foley will help to officially unveil the new park to the community, which Mr Penna said was an event not to be missed.

"Come out and meet your neighbours, be part of your community and help us welcome this new park to Southbank," he said.

"Southbank Community Day has been a work in progress for the last four or so years and we've found a perfect opportunity to host the day now because of the new park we've got at Boyd."

"This vision has always been to try and get a good number of our 20,000 residents out of their apartments to meet each other but more importantly to meet the community groups that operate within Southbank."

Mr Penna said locals could expect a range of activities on the day, including static displays from local police and fire brigade, community workshops, live entertainment, food and kid's activities.

He said that he was also hopeful of luring the ABC into running a live broadcast from the event.

You can find out more information on what's in store for the Southbank Community Day in the March edition of *Southbank News* ●

Resident wins short-stay battle

Continued from page 1.

heard information it was actually a very easy process."

"If our government will not deliver real change to protect residents then we need to continue to pursue cases like these to name and shame these unscrupulous operators."

Despite the operator being removed from the building, residents say that issues surrounding short-stays continue. Less than one month after the VCAT ruling, an apartment rented out by Experience Hotel Apartments, was the scene of another party on January 11 that allegedly saw around 50 youths "take over the building".

"They checked in at around 9pm and at some point, they flooded our building with 40 to 50 more youths. These individuals flooded the foyer, level 30 and various floors with loud, drunken and abusive behaviour. Our lifts were full of these youths attempting to gain access to floors without access fobs," the resident said. "At approximately 2.30am a group of around 15 entered my supposedly secure level, screaming abuse and yelling."

"At around the same time my son was returning home and was temporarily unable to enter the building due to not wanting to allow another large group from the same party to follow him through the doors. When he entered, he observed an individual exiting the building and dropping a number of letters, presumably stolen, from our mail room."

"The lifts were littered with alcohol containers and people were making out in the mail area like we were in a nightclub. Used condoms were found in the stairwells."

After being evicted by building security and police at around 3:30am that morning, it is alleged that the same group managed to re-enter the building in an attempt to gain access to the apartment.

Experience Hotel Apartments general manager Cameron Jeffrey said that incident was "regrettable" and that management had met with the OC to identify additional security measures.

"Our onsite staff attended to the guests with a security officer and police. They were evicted within 30 minutes of us being notified. Access to the building was removed and they were not permitted to re-enter," he said.

"The guest (two individuals) checked in at 2.30pm in the afternoon, had valid ID and no prior history with us."

"We met with the OC chairman and the OC manager that week to discuss this event, and they were satisfied with the action taken by Experience Hotel Apartments to have the situation under control and the guest removed from the site."

"Unlike AirBnB, Experience Hotels is run by staff who are onsite 24 hours a day to handle any issues that may arise in the three [Southbank] properties" ●



The lifts were littered with alcohol containers and people were making out in the mail area like we were in a nightclub. Used condoms were found in the stairwells the next day.



Police hunt cowards over serious assault

CRIME

Detectives from Melbourne Crime Investigation Unit detectives are appealing for public assistance as they continue to investigate a serious assault in Southbank earlier this month.

It's believed a Footscray West man was approached by an unknown group of males about 1.35am on the corner of Clarendon St and City Rd on Sunday, January 19.

The Footscray West man was punched and he fell to the ground, hitting his head on the concrete.

The 28-year-old was taken to hospital with life-threatening injuries where he remains in a critical condition.

Detectives believe there would have been a large number of people moving through the area at the time of the assault and are appealing to anyone who was in the area between 1:30am to 1:45am to contact police.

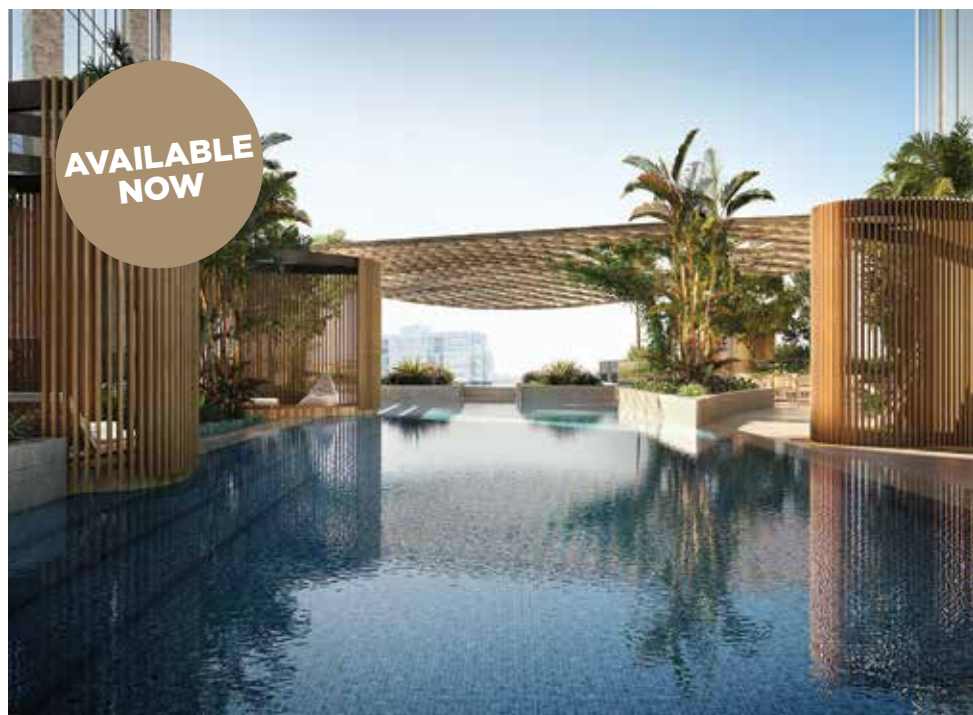
Investigators are particularly keen to hear from motorists who may have dash-cam footage around the time of the assault, and are appealing to any taxi, ride share drivers, cyclists or any other motorists who were in the area to also contact police.

It is also believed a tram was stationary at a tram stop on Clarendon St at the time of the assault; detectives would like to contact any passengers who were on board the tram in the hope of identifying further witnesses.

The Clarendon St and City Rd intersection is renowned for late night activity on weekends, with Xe54 nightclub underneath Urban Central hostel, a 24-hour McDonalds and Crown Casino all within close proximity.

No arrests have been made at this stage and the investigation is ongoing ●

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MSQ PROPERTY

Crown's tower back in the spotlight

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
PLANNING

A Channel 7 interview with Crown Resorts boss James Packer last month has brought the company's ambition to redevelop 1 Queensbridge St in Southbank back into the public domain.

It comes after the state government's decision last year to refuse an extension to Crown and then-development partner Schiavello's two-billion-dollar approved plans to build what would have become Australia's tallest building on the site.

Given planning exemption in 2017 as a "state significant" project, the original plans bypassed normal planning process based on its economic contribution to the state and promises to upgrade Queensbridge Square and Sandridge Bridge.

A condition of its permit had required it to start construction within two years of approval. However, financing issues meant that never happened and Minister for Planning Richard Wynne refused its bid for an extension.

Following the news, Crown Resorts announced that it had bought Schiavello's 50 per cent stake in the site and hadn't yet revealed any further information until Mr Packer's public outing last month.

Much like its previous plan, Mr Packer said that Crown wanted approval by the end of the year to create a new hotel, residential and commercial space, along with the footbridge linking the skyscraper to the casino. He also wants to transform Queensbridge Square.

"We envision it being one of Australia's best buildings," he said.

Having called the developer's previous plan "an unmitigated disaster", Member for Albert Park Martin Foley was keen to assure the community last month that any new plan from Crown would face proper planning scrutiny.

"Any development application in Southbank is subject to the normal process of public scrutiny and review and assessment of its merits," he said.

"This applies as equally to any possible Queensbridge St application by Crown as it does to for any other



▲ A render of an upgraded Queensbridge Square under a former proposal.

application. This will allow community, industry and council interests to be heard and considered."

Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) president Tony Penna said he was excited to see that project was "back in the limelight."

"Something needs to happen with that space," he said. "However, we're hopeful that when they relook at these plans that they will consider the community's needs that were overlooked with their previous plans."

"Let's hope they will have a lot more respect for the C270 planning scheme and they will try and comply with that. Certainly, they must consider the community amenity, where their contribution is going to go to and be fair with their contribution."

The former Queensbridge Hotel, which still sits on the site along with a series of empty buildings, received a heritage overlay under a City of Melbourne heritage review of Southbank in 2018.

Retrospective to Crown and Schiavello's original approval, the government's decision to refuse an extension means that Crown would have to consider the building as part of its next proposal.

"Those buildings are an eyesore and it is exciting to know the heritage of the Queensbridge Hotel will be protected because there is an overlay now active," Mr Penna said ●



▲ Construction materials fill Southbank Boulevard between Kavanagh and Moore streets.

Delays set to continue at Southbank Boulevard

Continued from page 1.

open space outside the Melbourne Recital Centre would be completed by March.

Construction of the project's largest new space outside the ABC is also expected to get underway soon, which will include a hardstand and lawn areas, along with seating, planting and trees.

Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) president Tony Penna said the delays were unfortunate.

"It is very unfortunate with the delays we have there. I understand that a lot of that was out of the City of Melbourne's control but I believe there were a lot of lessons learned there with how they manage projects of this magnitude," he said.

"It is great to see the boulevard now connecting back to City Road and the majority of the works very inconvenient to the residents, along with the noise, now finished. We look forward to it being completed but we believe that sadly, it is still another 12 to 18 months away."

Once the section between St Kilda and City roads is completed sometime next year, the project will move onto the section of Southbank Boulevard between City Rd and Southbank Promenade, as well as Dodds St, between Southbank Boulevard and Grant St.

As first reported in the March 2018 edition of *Southbank News*, the project is also tied up with a multi-million-dollar public arts project, which was driven by renowned Irish arts academic Vaari Claffey.

Ms Claffey spent two weeks in Southbank in August 2017

“

We're running four to five months behind. Do I like that? No, I hate it.

”

undertaking research to inform her strategy for the program. Having put four major public artworks for Southbank out to tender, the council had originally said details of the winning artist for the first major art installation in Dodds St would be released in August the following year.

However, with the transformation of Southbank Boulevard having fallen behind schedule, a council spokesperson last month said all details of the major art commission remained "commercial in confidence."

"The public art commissions will be integrated where possible with the landscape works throughout Southbank, in accordance with the Public Art Strategy," the spokesperson said.

"During extensive public consultation, the Southbank community identified public art as a critical component of the project. Council is committed to delivering this project to meet these expectations." ●

Cheeky thief

CRIME

Melbourne East police nabbed a well-equipped thief stealing coins outside the National Gallery of Victoria on January 27.

It is alleged a man wearing a wet suit, flippers and snorkel jumped into the water outside the gallery on St Kilda Rd at around midday.

The thief stole a small amount of coins when police arrived and arrested him.

The 57-year-old South Yarra man is expected to be charged on summons with theft and going equipped to steal ●



▲ Police with diving equipment used by a man attempting to steal coins.

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Building a lead on climate change

ADVERTORIAL BY *Sean Car*
 PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Sean Car*
 ENVIRONMENT

The City of Melbourne continues to demonstrate the urgency in reducing carbon emissions in our city, both through its own actions and influencing others to act in the community and other levels of government.

Thanks to major initiatives such as the Australian-first Melbourne Renewable Energy Project (MREP), 100 per cent of the council's electricity comes from renewable energy. The project, a partnership with 13 other organisations, enabled a new wind farm to be built in Ararat to power our city's infrastructure. The council's operations are also certified as carbon neutral along with a number of events it delivers including Fashion Week, Melbourne Knowledge Week and Melbourne Music Week.

Through its Act Now campaign, environment portfolio chair Cr Cathy Oke said the City of Melbourne was part of a local and international movement of cities acting to reduce emissions and address climate change impacts.

"The City of Melbourne is already investing in renewable energy, green buildings and in better pedestrian and cycling infrastructure," Cr Oke said.

"The everyday choices we make in our cities and communities can affect the health of our environment, and we can all take meaningful action towards a more sustainable, resilient future."

"This could be purchasing 100 per cent GreenPower for your home or business, switching your superannuation or banking to a provider that has divested from fossil fuel, committing to reducing meat in your diet and sourcing your food locally, or choosing sustainable transport options."

"Melbourne is globally recognised for its credentials in environmental sustainability and through our Climate Change Mitigation Strategy we will continue to lead and inspire



▲ The City of Melbourne's co-director of climate change action Krista Milne on the rooftop of Positive Energy Places, 490 Spencer St.

ambitious and rapid climate change action among our residents, community organisations, businesses and beyond."

With its own Climate Change Mitigation Strategy setting a zero emissions target by 2050, council's co-director of Climate Change Action Krista Milne told *Southbank News* last month that it couldn't achieve this goal without action by the community and government.

With 60 per cent of the emissions coming from the commercial buildings sector, and 18 per cent of emissions coming from transport, Ms Milne said action across these sectors is a particular focus.

"We're already experiencing the impacts of climate change in our city, so we need to accelerate action now. We need leadership and everyone acting together to contribute to the global efforts to reduce emissions," she said.

"Programs such as CitySwitch which work with office-based businesses are a key way to drive change to business-as-usual. We help

participants measure and report emissions, and develop and implement environmental action plans to reduce energy consumption, emissions and waste production and improve staff wellbeing. CitySwitch participants saved more than \$5 million from reduced energy consumption alone and avoided more than 23,000 tonnes of carbon emissions in the last reporting year."

As well as working with businesses to support the transition to renewables through programs such as MREP and now MREP2, the council has for many years required sustainable design outcomes and energy efficiency in new buildings through the planning scheme ●

For more information:

melbourne.vic.gov.au/climateaction



▲ The footprint (red) at 21-35 Power St and 38 Freshwater Place.

Key site gears up

PLANNING

The developer of a long-standing vacant site in Southbank's Freshwater Place precinct is understood to be preparing for construction of a new high-rise tower.

Developer GL InvestmentCo Melbourne Pty Ltd c/- SJB Planning Pty Ltd has approval to build a 76-storey tower at 21-35 Power St and 38 Freshwater Place.

Plans for the \$400 million project, which include 534 apartments and 286 hotel rooms, were endorsed by Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) in May last year. However, conditions on the permit stipulate that construction must commence by March 25, 2020, and be completed within two years from the beginning of construction, according to a DELWP spokesperson.

In 2015, the former Singaporean owner of the site, M&L Hospitality, had received approval from Minister for Planning Richard Wynne to build a 73-storey tower. Construction was originally due to commence in 2016, however the developer sold the site with an approved permit.

Wedge between Prima Pearl, Hanover House and developer Beulah International's proposed mega twin tower project on the corner of Southbank Boulevard and City Rd, the Power St block represents one of Southbank's few remaining key development sites ●



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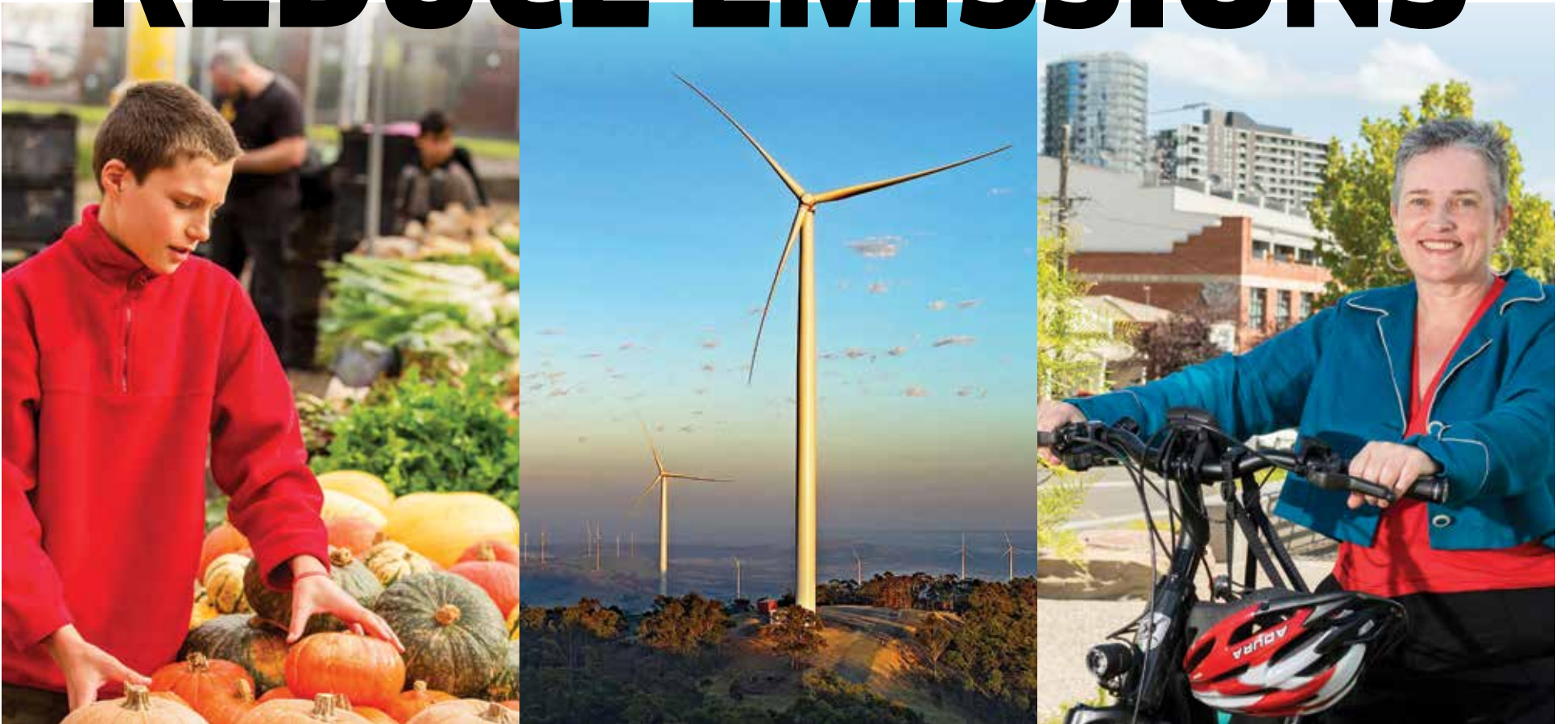
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We can all play a part in tackling climate change

What is City of Melbourne doing?

We've made great progress in reducing our emissions. The City of Melbourne's operations are now powered by 100 per cent renewable electricity from our award winning Melbourne Renewable Energy Project. A second project is now underway to support seven organisations across the city switch to renewable energy.

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- Join CitySwitch to take action at work.
- Switch to renewable energy by choosing GreenPower.
- Look for more energy efficient appliances - they'll cost less to run too.
- Head to the Sustainable Living Festival in February to learn more about reducing your impact.

melbourne.vic.gov.au/climateaction



Locals rally for bushfire relief

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
 PHOTOGRAPHY BY *City of Melbourne*
 LOCAL NEWS

Major institutions and businesses within postcode 3006 provided tremendous support to those affected by the East Gippsland bushfires last month.

The City of Melbourne opened a disaster relief centre at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) at South Wharf for people evacuated from Mallacoota.

The relief centre offered essential services including food and water, medical support, pet services and provided off-site emergency accommodation for evacuated residents.

The Department of Health and Human Services, Victoria Police, Ambulance Victoria, St John's Ambulance, the Salvation Army, Red Cross and RSPCA were all on hand to assist evacuees.

"Our role is to provide support and relief to people and organisations impacted by this unprecedented bushfire crisis, which has taken a huge toll with lives lost and properties destroyed," Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

MCEC chief executive Peter King said: "We have all been shocked and saddened by the devastating bushfires that are affecting so much of our country. Like all Australians, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre has a desire to help in any way possible."

"Our thoughts go out to those who have been affected by these catastrophic events."

One source of major local support came in the form of Crown Resorts and the Packer Family Foundation, which provided \$5

million to support the bushfire relief, as well as accommodation for those evacuating to MCEC's relief centre.

"Australians are digging deep to support each other in these tough times, it's truly inspiring. My family and Crown are eager to do more and the best way we can help, is to significantly increase our donation," Packer Family Foundation founder James Packer said.

"We hope these funds play a small part in helping our firefighters, and easing the suffering of people who have lost their homes and the poor wildlife caught up in the blaze. We just want to do our bit."

Vicinity Centres also supported evacuees by providing \$25,000 in gift cards to victims for purchasing new clothes and supplies from stores within DFO South Wharf.

"We were proud to partner with the City of Melbourne and MCEC to support Victorians affected by the recent bushfire crisis," DFO south Wharf's centre manager Jess Harney said. "We have been heartened and humbled by the way our city, and the broader community, came together to help those in need during times of crisis."

A number of local restaurants and businesses supported relief efforts in their own ways throughout the crisis, with the likes of La Camera Southgate donating \$1 from every coffee sold in February ●

To donate:
emergency.vic.gov.au/relief-and-recovery/921



▲ Lord Mayor Sally Capp with Salvation Army volunteers at the MCEC Bushfire Relief Centre last month.



▲ A render of PSC's new-look campus on Thistlethwaite St in the Montague Precinct.

PSC on the move

EDUCATION

The Photography Studies College (PSC) will soon relocate from Southbank to the Montague Precinct as the site of its former home prepares to be redeveloped into a new hotel and commercial office tower.

Having long called 63-69 City Rd in Southbank home, the tertiary institution is preparing to open a new facility at 37-47 Thistlethwaite St in the Montague Precinct in time for the 2020 school year.

Serviced by the 96 and 109 tram routes, PSC's new position within the Fishermans Bend urban

renewal area will serve it well within a precinct which is touted by the state government as a future hub for the creative industries.

The new facility will feature new flexible tutorial rooms, state-of-the-art studios, a library, breakout study spaces and a café.

Its former home at City Rd will soon be redeveloped by Malaysian-based integrated hospitality asset owner and developer Cornerstone Partners Group (CPG) into a 30-storey tower comprising 244 hotel rooms and commercial office space.

For more information on PSC's new campus read a full report in the March edition of *Southbank News*. For a sneak peak, watch PSC's video at psc.edu.au/study-with-us/facilities/psc-2020-campus ●

Police investigate attempted abduction

CRIME

Melbourne Crime Investigation Unit detectives are investigating an attempted abduction of a woman in Southbank on January 18.

An unknown male followed a 23-year-old woman for at least two blocks to an apartment building on Kavanagh St just after 2am.

The woman entered her building via the carpark, the male entering the building behind her.

The woman was unaware of the male until he got into the lift with her.

She got out at her floor and walked toward her door when the male grabbed her from behind, covering her nose and mouth with one hand and had the other around her waist, pulling her away from the door.

The woman was able to grab her door handle and fall into her apartment where her housemates came to her aid and the offender ran off.

The man is described as being aged in his 20s, thin build, brown eyes, dark eyebrows and clean shaven.

He was wearing a black hooded top, blue



▲ CCTV footage of a man police wish to speak to.

jeans, black runners with white edges and a black cap with a white logo.

Investigators have released CCTV footage of a man they believe may be able to assist with their enquiries ●

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A big summer break but your councillors work hard

WORDS BY *Stephen Mayne*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Being a City of Melbourne councillor can be a time-consuming job but one thing that tends to happen over the silly season is that you get a decent break from public meetings.

Summer has certainly been a frenetic time for councillors in bushfire zones and they've even received a modest pay supplement from Spring St given the huge workload to help rebuild their communities.

At City of Melbourne, the last public gathering was the December 10 council meeting and the councillors won't be back together again in public until the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting on February 4.

That's a break of seven straight Tuesdays, but don't worry, when it comes to public meetings, City of Melbourne councillors are close to the hardest working group in the country with three meetings a month for 11 months of the year.

There are still many councils across Australia which only meet once a month in public with all councillors attending, let alone have four separate 15 minute public question time sessions each month at the beginning and the end of the two FMC meetings.

So, what has been happening over summer?

In an election year, it's no surprise that the biggest point of consideration has been the jockeying and juggling around who is contesting the 2020 elections. Everyone is remaining publicly tight-lipped.

However, deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood has continued to canvas support for a Lord Mayor tilt among councillors and potential media backers and, if he commits to the biggest challenge of his political career, would be expected to line up a ticket with the old Team Doyle rump comprising some but not all of Susan Riley, Kevin Louey and Bev Pinder.

I reckon it would be a mistake for Arron

to run because it is time to move on from the Doyle era and incumbent Lord Mayor Sally Capp is doing a good job. There's no substantial case for her removal. However, he's giving it serious consideration.

The Lord Mayor is also believed to have been canvassing potential members of a Team Capp ticket and will want an injection of new talent with at least one incumbent on the team to demonstrate that she can work well with existing councillors. Nicholas Reece and Philip Le Liu are the two most likely incumbent councillors to get on board, but neither is assured or committed.

So, with council in recess, what else is there to write about?

As a former councillor, I thought we'd finish this month's column with a couple of nuggets from days gone and some predictions:

CEO Justin Hanney

The new boss is performing well. In light of this, one of my biggest regrets is not poaching him from the state government for the job earlier in 2015 when he was available. Indeed, don't be surprised if this class act CEO ends up emulating the great Elizabeth Proust who rose from CEO of City of Melbourne to secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet during the latter half of the Kennett era.

A new broom: The City of Melbourne executive ranks have long featured lots of long-serving officers. They are well paid too with 143 of them earning more than \$148,000 from ratepayers in 2018-19, according to the 2018-19 annual report. They are the best paid council staff in the country, a trend which first emerged during Andy Friend's period as CEO in the 1990s. Given this history, why would you leave? After a period of relative stability in the early months of the Hanney reign, he spilled a significant number of positions towards the end of last year. Never easy, but probably the right call to inject some new blood.

Citywide profits and leadership

Few people realise that Citywide is a business 100 per cent owned by City of Melbourne which provides a variety of services to councils, universities, state governments and the likes of VicRoads up and down the eastern seaboard. John Brumby was first appointed to the Citywide board in 2012, partly because then Lord Mayor Robert Doyle wanted to send then Premier Ted Baillieu a message after he overlooked the former Labor Premier for a position in the health sector. Brumby later succeeded Mark Birrell as Citywide chair in 2015 and has done an excellent job stabilising the place after the departure of long-serving CEO Kerry Osborne four years ago. The 2018-19 annual report reveals a pre-tax profit of \$6.8 million on revenues of \$235 million which was a solid result in a competitive operating environment.

“

I reckon it would be a mistake for Arron to run because it is time to move on from the Doyle era and incumbent Lord Mayor Sally Capp is doing a good job. There's no substantial case for her removal. However, he's giving it serious consideration.

”

Reducing pay disclosure

One disappointing development at Citywide was the decision to no longer precisely reveal the pay details of its board and management, something it did in the annual report from 2015 until 2018. CEO Chris Campbell is a former BHP executive who was paid 332k in 2015-16, 434k in 2016-17, 665k in 2017-18 and an undisclosed sum in 2018-19, although he was presumably the person disclosed as earning somewhere between \$600,000 and \$700,000 in council's annual report. Citywide should have kept following the lead of council, which for the past six years, has published the contract terms and pay details of its five most senior executives, something no other council outside Victoria does.

Dramatic drop in councillor motions

There was close to 150 motions from councillors over the previous council term from 2012-16 and I'll confess to being responsible for around 50 of them. However, a little tweak of rules early in the current term saw this number plunge, partly because you now need two councillors rather than just one to get a motion on the agenda. That said, in an election year you should expect a few more councillor motions in the months ahead, provided the proponent can find a fellow councillor to back the proposal so it is listed for debate ●



Stephen Mayne

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Southbank
Residents Association

Southbank Community Day

You are invited to celebrate the official opening of Boyd Park!

Southbank Residents Association (SRA), the City of Melbourne and Boyd Community Hub will be holding a Southbank Community Day.

The day's events will include:

- Boyd Park opening by the Lord Mayor Sally Capp
- Performances by local arts/cultural organisations
- Presentations and talks in the Assembly Hall
- Displays by local community groups
- Activities for children

Date: Saturday 21st March
Time: 10am to 4pm
Location: Boyd Park and Boyd Community Hub
207 City Road, Southbank 3006



Contact: info@southbankresidents.org.au, www.southbankresidents.org.au
This free community event is an initiative of the Southbank Residents Association
Event is held with assistance of a City of Melbourne Council community grant



Claire's rightful honour

LOCAL NEWS

Arts Centre Melbourne CEO Claire Spencer was awarded a member (AM) of the Order of Australia for her outstanding contribution to the field of performing arts on Australia Day.

Having previously worked in leadership roles at Sydney Opera House, she has held the mantle of CEO of the Arts Centre since 2014 and our beloved home of the arts continues to go from strength to strength under her direction.

Some of her major achievements have included establishing the Arts Wellbeing Collective, leading major consortium projects such as Asia TOPA, the regional TECH CONNECT program and the opening of the Australian Music Vault.

She also volunteers her time as a board director of the Pinnacle Foundation, which supports LGBTQIA+ students, and a member of Chief Executive Women, representing Australia's most senior and distinguished women leaders.

"When I arrived in Australia [from England]

21 years ago, I could never have imagined this honour," Claire said. "I am truly humbled by it."

"I have never been more honoured to have first become an Australian citizen and, then second, to serve the Australian performing arts industry and community."

"I thank the Governor General for this honour. I also acknowledge that all of my opportunities for services to the performing arts and the community have happened on the lands of the Eora and Kulin Nations and I pay my respect to elders past and present."

Another Southbanker in the form of local resident Samuel Lipski was acknowledged as an Officer (AO) in the General Division of the Order of Australia.

Mr Lipski was rewarded for "distinguished service to the community through the promotion of strategic philanthropy, to education and to Australia-Israel relations".

You can read more about Mr Lipski and his achievements in the March edition of *Southbank News* ●

Southbank theft

CRIME

Melbourne Crime Investigation Unit detectives are making an appeal for information following thefts from a Southbank apartment building last month.

Investigators have been told a man and a woman stole items from a storage cage and the mail room of the building on Southbank Boulevard on November 26.

The man is perceived to be Caucasian in appearance, about 40 years old with dark hair.

The woman is perceived to be Caucasian in appearance, about 40 years old with a medium build and dark hair.

Police have released images of a man and a woman they believe can assist them with their enquiries.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report online at crimestoppersvic.com.au ●



Public views sought for Yarra River plan

WORDS BY *David Schout*

ENVIRONMENT

For the first time ever traditional owners, local councils and government agencies have come together to form a future plan for the Yarra River, and the pioneering effort is now seeking public input.

The draft Yarra Strategic Plan, a 10-year framework that sets the foundation to achieve a wider 50-year vision, is open for public comment until March 22.

Traditionally many stakeholders (including the City of Melbourne) have managed the river, which runs from the Yarra Ranges to Hobsons Bay.

But since May 2018, lead agency Melbourne Water has sought to de-clutter the complex government, park and agency boundaries of the river corridor, recognising that management in one area has a flow-on effect in other parts.

In particular, it has worked in collaboration with representatives from the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, plus 15 state and local government entities towards an overarching plan for the river, which is traditionally named Birrarung.

Specifically, the 10-year strategic plan has sought to:

- improve the river's water quality and protect its land, floodplains and billabongs;
- acknowledge, protect and commemorate the river's rich heritage and its stories;
- improve the rivers parklands for a growing population; and
- protect the natural beauty of the Yarra River corridor.

Melbourne Water spokesperson Gavan O'Neill said the community's feedback represented an important aspect of forming the strategy.

"The Yarra River, Birrarung, has shaped the Victorian landscape for 100 million years and holds great cultural, spiritual, social, recreational and economic value to Victorians," Mr O'Neill said.

"Community feedback on the current draft will help inform the shape of the final plan."

Late last year the City of Melbourne released its own Yarra River – Birrarung Strategy specific to its boundaries; one it said aligned with the holistic Melbourne Water plan.

In passing the strategy through council on December 3, Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the river was finally getting the attention it deserved.

"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.

The Yarra/Birrarung is making somewhat of a resurgence on the radar of Melburnians.

In recent months Arbory Afloat, a floating bar and restaurant on the river (Northbank side) won the 2019 Melbourne Award for hospitality.

Not-for-profit group Yarra Pools has gathered strong support around bold plans for a riverside pool and wetlands area.

And while it was cancelled due to poor weather, the river's popular "Inflatable Regatta" on February 1 was expecting 1500 participants ●

But since May 2018, lead agency Melbourne Water has sought to de-clutter the complex government, park and agency boundaries of the river corridor, recognising that management in one area has a flow-on effect in other parts.



Read the draft plan and offer feedback:
engage.vic.gov.au



David Schout
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▲ A render of Southbank by Beulah.

Beulah hunts for hotel operator

DEVELOPMENT

Southbank by Beulah, proposed for construction at the corner of City Rd and Southbank Boulevard, announced a global search for a luxury hotel brand to operate the hotel component of its project late last year.

“Set to transform the city’s landscape,” developer Beulah International said the hotel would revolutionise Melbourne’s hospitality scene by speaking to the future of both domestic and international travellers.

It comes after the developer submitted its plan for what would be Australia’s tallest tower at the BMW site on City Rd to the Minister for Planning Richard Wynne for approval in August.

The 356-metre Southbank by Beulah project is a refinement of architects UNStudio and Cox Architecture’s twin tower design, underpinned by “creativity and cultural innovation”. The proposal includes a 270,000 sqm mixed-use lifestyle precinct, which includes apartments, commercial offices, conference and entertainment centre and 7250sqm of public green spaces.

The vision for its five-star hotel includes more than 150 rooms, a health and wellness precinct, a rooftop Michelin star restaurant and bar and multiple event spaces.

Looking to Melbourne’s existing hotel landscape, Beulah managing director Jiaheng Chan said traditionally these overseas brands would look to Collins St as the city’s key hotel destination.

“Brands that are very selective and careful in choosing both cities and locations for their hotels have expressed strong interest in being part of our development,” he said.

The chosen hotel brand for the project is expected to be revealed in May ●

Looking after backpackers

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

LOCAL NEWS

There are many pairs of eyes down at the backpackers’ hostel on City Rd, most facing distant horizons as young travellers on working visas head off for rural adventures.

Juan Hairabedian is feeling pleased with himself. He’s just landed a job on a chicken farm in New South Wales.



▲ Juan Hairabedian on his way to a chicken farm in NSW.



▲ Mariona Gonzaliz on her way to Tasmania.

Mariona Gonzaliz is off to Tasmania on her second visit to Australia. Last time she packed tomatoes in Queensland.

Teresa Amler and Taylah Bush are waiting for an Uber to take them to a café after staying for two days to catch a Bastille concert.

“They’re time poor,” Sue Snelling said as she takes a break from her duties at Southbank’s iconic hostel, Urban Central, to philosophise about the modern backpacker.

Gone are the days when you find bodies lounging around the corridors at all hours of the day. By 9.30am most have had breakfast and are off on their duties.

“They’re always in a rush, brushing past you to get to a phone,” Sue said.

Most are looking for rural work through recruitment labour agencies.

Juan thought he had a job on an almond farm. “The pay rate was great,” he said. Instead they gave him another role, not quite as good, to assemble a chicken farm in Temora.

As the cleaner at Urban Central, Sue is not that fussed about backpacker destinations. Her pair of eyes is focussed on the smaller picture -

the mess left behind.

It’s Thursday morning and she’s sweeping the footpath after the regular happy hour sessions at the bar.

“I do the public area cleaning,” she said. That includes the kitchen after baked beans have been heated and peanut butter toast created.

“Most wash up but I put the plates through a sterilising process anyway.”

One traveller came to her for assistance with a pan. “I showed him how you put soap in it and wait 15 minutes. ‘It’s magic’, I said. He thought he had to throw out the pan.”

She said many of the travellers had never left home before. “They have no idea how to cook rice. They burn it regularly.”

The hostel used to provide free breakfast but now they provide rice and pasta so at least the travellers have something to eat.

“I learn from them,” Sue said. “They’re healthy eaters. They’re good kids. They’re actually really caring. If anyone needs salt and pepper they share.”

She laughs and admits they also know all the short cuts and tricks.

“One guy said ‘my son took off and went to Brisbane. I’m not paying \$500 for an airfare.’ ‘Try Sky Scanner’, they said. It compares all the prices of flights.” ●



▲ Taylah Bush (left) and Terea Amler (right) waiting for an Uber.



▲ Sue Snelling: cleaning up the mess.



Forman says farewell

WORDS BY Sean Car

LOCAL NEWS

The man who has been central to helping put Southbank’s Eureka Tower on the map is moving onto an exciting new tourism venture in Melbourne’s west.

The now former executive general manager of Eureka Skydeck and Eureka 89 John Forman said farewell to his team late last year after a decorated 14 years working atop Melbourne’s tallest landmark.

Also president of the Yarra River Business Association (YRBA), John’s tireless efforts to promote Southbank and the Yarra River as a key tourist destination of Melbourne has been unwavering.

And while he is moving on from Southbank, his next venture - an immersive foods concept called Grazeland - will also be focused on driving people to Melbourne’s waterways, but this time out west in Spotswood right next door to Scienceworks.

“It was a journey of 14 years, which I’m very proud to have been a part of with the team and it went from strength to strength every year,” he said. “There are some exciting times ahead for the team and I would love to be part of that excitement but I’m moving on.”

John left no stone turned throughout his journey at Eureka. Whether it was getting Batman and Catwoman to scale the building, organising a 21-metre tightrope walk 300 metres high, suspending a giant King Kong gorilla hand or providing the platform for the world’s highest motorcycle backflip, he leaves a lasting legacy behind.

While he said he was most proud of his team, he said he also took pride in watching how Melbourne and in particular, Southbank, had grown over the years from Eureka Tower, of which he remains a resident.

And in being at the centre of the growth of Melbourne’s west, Grazeland will have a similar focus. Sprawled over 10,000 sqm out of bespoke shipping containers in Spotswood, it will offer food and live entertainment on a scale never seen before in Melbourne.

“It has been a dream for many years. For me to connect Grazeland to the river is paramount and hence why the major focus of getting people to and from will be by water via ferry services.”

Grazeland will launch at the end of March.

For more visit grazeland.melbourne ●



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The government thinks it has fixed Fishermans Bend. We've only just begun.

WORDS BY *Cr Rohan Leppert*
City of Melbourne
OPINION



In July 2012, former Liberal Minister for Planning Matthew Guy shocked locals, politicians and planners everywhere when he rezoned Fishermans Bend from industrial to the generous "capital city zone".

The zone allows residential and commercial uses without a permit, and applications to construct new buildings are exempt from public oversight. Land values instantly soared, gifting extraordinary wealth to landowners.

No land was purchased in advance to secure sites for schools, civic buildings and parks, and no controls were put in place to require even the tiniest part of the windfall gains to be returned for public benefit. It is a matter of public record that some of those landowners happened to be Liberal party donors. Fishermans Bend instantly became the textbook example of what not to do in urban planning.

Fast forward to the 2014 State election and Labor came into government with a mission to fix Matthew Guy's mess. Like many, I was relieved that a new Minister for Planning Richard Wynne, and the highly engaged local member, were back in charge and committed to fixing the disaster.

Minister Wynne acted quickly to appoint an advisory body to create a vision for what Fishermans Bend could be and created a rigorous process of introducing planning controls to shape building form and density. The Cities of Melbourne and Port Phillip threw resources into the exercise as we knew that sound planning would make all the difference between a liveable precinct or an unhealthy one. To his credit, the Minister pushed the new controls through a hostile and litigious process, and today we have built form controls where previously there were none.

But we've only just started the Fishermans Bend urban renewal adventure. A plan is one thing, but implementing it is another entirely. For starters, 80,000 new residents

“
And the Mickey Mouse "Mayors Forum", the body for coordinating the work of the two Councils with the State, has had meetings cancelled due to lack of business. Absurd.

”
and 80,000 new workers need some way to get to and from, and around, the precinct.

Political leadership over Fishermans Bend shifted from the Minister for Planning to the new Minister for Priority Precincts after the 2018 election. The new Minister Gavin Jennings has not issued a single press release dedicated to Fishermans Bend since taking over, and the impression emanating from Spring St is that fixing Fishermans Bend was an exercise that started and finished in the last term.

The Cities of Melbourne and Port Phillip have been pushing for years to clarify a governance arrangement with the State to oversee construction of basic infrastructure and public spaces in Fishermans Bend, but the State won't have a bar of it and we still have no idea how most infrastructure is going to be paid for. A new Fishermans Bend Secondary School is on track to open by 2022, but we're going to need multiple schools for a community of 80,000, and the government will struggle to purchase the necessary land if it waits for population thresholds for

each new school to be reached.

The Fishermans Bend Board, led by the brilliant Meredith Sussex, are experts in their fields, but are overseeing a severely under-resourced Fishermans Bend Taskforce that clearly doesn't have sufficient political backing. And the Mickey Mouse "Mayors Forum", the body for coordinating the work of the two Councils with the State, has had meetings cancelled due to lack of business. Absurd.

The state government's new attitude towards Fishermans Bend was clarified again in September last year, when the Premier unveiled Victoria's "Future Rail Network" map. It reflected Labor's 2018 State election promises, with regional rail upgrades and a new \$50 billion Suburban Rail Loop, and was a representation of the government's intentions for future rail projects through to 2050. Those intentions did not extend to Fishermans Bend, with rail through the precinct conspicuously absent. \$4.5m worth of tram route planning is committed and underway, but not a cent for construction can be found in the forward estimates. New tram routes aren't quick to build. The University of Melbourne wants to open a new campus in Fishermans Bend in 2024: how will its staff and students get there?

There is no doubt that the state government is under intense financial pressures at the moment, exacerbated by bushfire recovery and major transport projects with nebulous budgets. But it simply can't leave precincts half-planned and without public transport and expect them to succeed. Matthew Guy's initial decision that kicked off this mess is always going to be seen as the most disastrous moment in the history of Fishermans Bend, but Labor will also leave a legacy of failure if it doesn't stump up with a timeline and funds for basic infrastructure and public transport to service the 80,000 new residents and 80,000 new workers that private land owners can build for at any time.

The government had optimism and vision for a sustainable, connected and liveable Fishermans Bend when it came to office five years ago. We need that momentum back ●



▲ Member for Albert Park Martin Foley (left) and Minister for Education James Merlino (right) turn the sod.

High school under way

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
EDUCATION

Construction has begun on a brand-new secondary school in Fishermans Bend. Minister for Education James Merlino turned the sod on the new facility on January 16, which will service the growing communities in Fishermans Bend and its surrounds, including Southbank.

The four-storey school will open in 2022 and cater for up to 1100 students. The state government has invested \$3.8 million in planning works for the school, while it's also sharing in the \$624.8 million in school builds upgrades announced in the 2019/20 state budget.

Mr Merlino said that Fishermans Bend Secondary School – the school's interim name – was one of a growing number of vertical government schools being rolled out in Victoria to help meet increasing demand.

"I'm excited that the community's vision for a Fishermans Bend Secondary School is now becoming a reality and students will get to attend a modern and innovative school with first-rate facilities," he said.

Its architecture and materials honour the area's unique identity, including its proximity to the ocean, and maritime and industrial history. Informed by local community consultations, it will showcase environmentally-sustainable design and feature high-tech amenities, including a fabrication lab and robotics workshop.

There will also be an array of arts, food technology, sports and learning resource centre spaces that can be shared with the community.

Mr Merlino said that it would also have a strong focus on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and maths). Once completed, it will include a high-tech robotics workshop, digital technology and fabrication lab, which will expose students to career pathways that align with Fishermans Bend's proposed design, engineering and manufacturing precinct.

While urban renewal in Fishermans Bend has slowed in recent times, the state government's focus on creating a world-class employment precinct centred around advanced manufacturing and technology continues.

The University of Melbourne's investment in part of the state-government-owned former GMH Holden site will soon house the university's new engineering and design campus. RMIT University is understood to still be in talks with the state government about establishing its own campus in Fishermans Bend.

The news of construction beginning on the new high school was followed by the state government announcing a grant to the new South Melbourne Park Primary School, which is now in its second year of operation on Albert Rd.

Member for Albert Park Martin Foley said the school received the grant from the Inclusive Schools Fund initiative to build an indoor inclusive learning space.

"This funding will ensure that all students at South Melbourne Park Primary have access to the required assistance, equipment and learning environments to support their learning and behavioural needs," Mr Foley said. ●

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▲ Nick and Katie from Progressive Podcast Australia.

A dialogue hobby

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Meg Hill*
LOCAL NEWS

People's hobbies often tend to be starkly differentiated from the rest of their lives – an escape from their everyday responsibilities toward their real interests.

But for Nick and Katie, the hosts of Progressive Podcast Australia, podcasting is the culmination of the rest of their lives – their relationship, their politics and worldviews, and to an extent their work.

“When we got together in a relationship we were always talking about political kinds of stuff,” Nick said.

“And we liked podcasts,” Katie added.

The couple moved to Melbourne from Perth four years ago for work – Katie now works as a social justice lawyer and Nick teaches anthropology and sociology at the University of Melbourne.

And they record their podcast from their apartment on Albert Rd, overlooking the sprawling parkland around the Shrine of Remembrance where they walk their dogs.

Their show discusses current events and political issues from a “progressive perspective”: pro-animal liberation, anti-racist, pro-feminist, pro-queer, pro-environment and anti-capitalist.

But, politically, they had very different starting points.

“I was a pretty apolitical teenager, but my parents were quite progressive, so I was always on that side of things. It was punk music that made me more active and political,” Nick said.

Whereas Katie came from the opposite background. “My mum loved John Howard and Pauline Hanson,” she said.

“But I always had a strong sense of justice and I saw a lot of racism growing up in Darwin and having a best friend from a mixed-race background.”

“I got into feminism in early high school and then gay rights and then animal rights was the last thing to come.”

Both Nick and Katie are long-term activists,

and said the podcast gave them a chance to bring their different political interests together – and to respond in real time to the world around them.

Climate change, for example, became a topic of heavy discussion as a bushfire crisis that raged on a national scale was also brought directly into their lives with air quality plummeting to hazardous levels and tens of thousands protesting in the city.

Having started in 2011, partly due to a lack of Australian political podcasts, Katie and Nick think they might be the only one that's stuck around for such a long time.

But the longevity seems due, at least partly, to the talking.

“With my mum's politics, and a bunch of different stuff, podcasts really helped,” Katie said.

“When you don't have people around you who are into the same stuff, it's hearing people with the same views as you that makes you feel less isolated.”

Their archive includes in-depth episodes on refugees, Syria, Palestine and Indigenous politics, but the talking isn't only about issuing a solid or static position.

“It's often about educating ourselves and growing our views. We've done episodes on topics where we try to work stuff out, go through different positions, and get feedback from listeners and change what we think,” Katie said.

progressivepodcastaustralia.com ●



Meg Hill
JOURNALIST
MEG@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU

More than street fitness

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*
HEALTH & WELLBEING

An innovative form of exercise is gaining popularity among Southbankers, precisely because it's about more than just getting fit.

Parkour is usually associated with the ultra-fit and those with nerves of steel.

But Kel Glaister, a parkour coach with Melbourne in Motion, said the popularity of their classes in Southbank was largely drawn from a sense of reclamation.

“It's a good way to get to know the city you live and work in in a new way and feel a greater sense of ownership over public space and a connection to that space,” she said.

“While it's a great means to develop your strength, endurance and general fitness, it's also a way to reengage with space you know well but in a completely new way.”

“You develop an ability to look at space you've seen a hundred times, like a footpath or a bench, but see ways to play and engage with that.”

It's that side of parkour that also makes it particularly compatible with Southbank. The high density of the inner city, and the particular diversity of Southbank's landscapes, means Kel's classes only have to run for five minutes before finding themselves in a completely new environment.

Classes meet at the floral clock and explore the area within a five- or ten-minute jog radius.

There's everything from stock standard streets, the quirks of arts precinct architecture, the riverbank and parklands in the one suburb.

Kel was introduced to parkour while studying in Glasgow nine years ago, training over and through Victorian architecture hundreds of years old.

“I adored it, it put me in good stead for training in Melbourne because it's often rainy and wet with no notice,” she said.

“I became a coach in Glasgow partly because there were no women coaching in Scotland at all and I was trying to organise the women's community there.”



▲ A parkour adventure at Sidney Myer Music Bowl.

“It was a natural step to move into a coaching role when I was trying to build space for women and gender diverse people to engage with parkour.”

“It's something that is for everybody and all our classes are accessible for everyone to come, it's not just something for teenage boys on YouTube.”

Melbourne in Motion has been running classes “for everybody” since it started up a year ago but has recently begun providing specific classes for kids and families and mature ages.

“We get all sort of people turning up,” Kel said.

“Often the first time people are just genuinely curious, they've seen something on YouTube or in movies and they want to have a go and see what it's like.”

“And we get a lot of people that want to include fitness and exercise in their lives but find going to the gym difficult because they find it boring.”

For more info visit melbinmotion.com ●

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- 2 Queen Victoria Market
25 Jan 2020 (11:00-13:00)
- 3 TheDistrict Docklands
08-09 Feb 2020 (11:00-20:00)
- 4 Melbourne Museum
08-09 Feb 2020 (10:00-14:00)
- 5 Dragon Boat Regatta
The Waterfront Docklands
08-09 Feb 2020 (08:00-17:00)

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The Arts Precinct

Malthouse 2020

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*

ARTS & CULTURE

This year, Malthouse is celebrating its 30th year as Melbourne's most provocative theatre company.

Its 30th season includes five world premieres, three Australian new works, three literary adaptations and four new works from the US and the UK.

It opens with an adaptation of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

Wilde's "most famous comedy of lies" was reworked by UK theatre company Ridiculusmus in 2005. It struck a chord in both Australia and the UK, hence a second run revival.

Ridiculusmus proclaim the "oxymoronic" aim of being both serious and funny. Actor and co-director Jon Haynes said the adaptation was the only show the company has performed using an unoriginal script.

The exception was made for a natural fit.

"Both the other director David Woods and I went to the same drama school in London where we met, and the approach there was a kind of serious heightened naturalism," he said

"That was our background and that's always been our approach with comedy, however ridiculous something is, we approach it with utter seriousness."

"Wilde gave his play the subtitle 'a trivial comedy for serious people' and when we first adapted it, we changed it to 'a trivial comedy performed by two serious people.'"

The play, Wilde's most popular, is based on interrogating and satirising Victorian era society. There are lines, Jon said, that strike you with an image of a gasping response from 19th century audiences.

"What's different between when it was first performed and now, and whether the satire had the same effect it did then, we can't really know," he said.

"There are a lot of themes, but I suppose one is appearances or lying, are people what they appear to be, that hinges a lot on the plot development."

And when the show opens at Malthouse on February 14 audience members may notice the cast reduction.

"We're just two people playing nine characters between us," Jon said.

"We do lots of costume changes. Early on I change from a man in full evening dress to a woman in full dress, and then back."

"It takes a considerable amount of time so the audience might think 'are they going to do the whole play like this' but we it goes on we start speeding things up and we're less meticulous."

"So, we end up representing a character only by a hat or something like that."

Following the Wilde adaptation is the world premiere of *Grey Arias* – a performance of a multiplicity of identities between a gay, black, English-Nigerian man and drag artist and a cis white feminist American performance artist.

Third up is the world premiere of *Macbeth (This Ignorant Present)* featuring the return of Zahra Newman to the Malthouse Theatre. Last year, she stunned audiences as the sole star of a *Wake In Fright* production on the Beckett stage.

And provocative Australian writers and directors Patricia Cornelius and Christos Tsoilkas will both run shows at the Malthouse – the former with *Do not go gentle ...* and the latter with *Loaded* ●

malthousetheatre.com.au



▲ Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Photo: Zan Wimberley.



▲ *Grey Arias*.



▲ *Macbeth (Scott Shepherd)*. Photo: Maria Baranova.



▲ *Do not go gentle*. Photo: Zan Wimberley.

Moon Duo

WORDS BY *Nick Obst*

Psychedelic rock band Moon Duo will perform at the Melbourne Recital Centre (MRC) on February 11.

Made up of Sanae Yamada and Wooden Shjips' Erik 'Ripley' Johnson, the band has found success with its combination of dreamy cosmic soundscapes and a down-to-earth attitude.

Following on from its 2017 album *Occult Architecture*, the Portland-based pair will perform in Melbourne after the release of *Stars Are the Light*, its seventh album.

The album takes disco as a groove-oriented starting point before combining elements of '70s funk and '90s rave music. The band's performance at Elisabeth Murdoch Hall will combine Johnson's signature guitar sound and Yamada's synth and vocals with *Lightship*, a light play of live visuals created by Manchester-based visual projection artist Emmanuel Biard.

Melbournerecital.com.au



CRITIC

The joy of winning

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*

Melbourne writer and academic, Amanda Johnson, won the prestigious Peter Porter Poetry Prize last month and she was present at a Southbank ceremony to read her winning poem.



The poem *My Father's Thesaurus* is addressed to her dad who contracted Alzheimer's.

Ms Johnson makes light of the topsy-turvy world he created for his family and carers.

"You watched the piano and played the sunset," she read. "The district nurse was trying to poison you."

When she and her mother drove him home from the test among paddocks and cattle, "we hung our heads and hid the report in the glove box."

Ms Johnson said she would use the \$9000 prize money to help bushfire victims or reforestation in the Otways.

Short-listed poets and their friends from around the country gathered quietly in the Assembly Hall at Boyd Community Hub for the announcement.

The prize is donated annually by the Australian Book Review (ABR), which has offices in Boyd.

The ABR poetry editor made a speech then the short-listers read from their work.

The poems were modest, possibly to suit the mood of the moment, for poetry, according to John Hawke, the ABR poetry editor, is in institutional decline.

He cited the threat to UWA Press and the removal of the chair of Australian literature at Sydney University.

"We're seeing poetry disappear from Saturday newspapers," he said.

Despite these gloomy observations, ABR received more than 1000 submissions for the annual prize.

Mr Hawke compared reading the submissions to listening into a national conversation.

"There is certainly an evident attention to pressing social issues, but the approach is deeper," he said. "It's not just polemic. In the best poems we received every detail is saturated with lived experience."

Ross Gillett read from *South Coast Sonnets*, a series of poems in which the narrator and a friend were buffeted by winds in a coastal setting. "Call it the eternal southerly."

They took a dusk walk. "Above us clouds were turning into scraps of themselves."

Mr Gillett told *Southbank News* the poem was about Peterborough.

Julie Manning read *Constellation of Bees*, an informational and didactic poem about a beekeeper who visited her to capture native bees.

Others on the short list were Claire G. Coleman with *That Wadjela Tongue* and Lachlan Brown with *Precision Signs*.

Asia TOPA

Asia TOPA (Asia-Pacific Triennial of Performing Arts) is in full swing and there's still plenty to see.

WORDS BY *Nick Obst*

The festival, running throughout February and March, will showcase some incredible multi-form artworks from some of the Asia-Pacific's most talented artists.

Samsara (March 5-7) is a world premiere inspired by the histories, philosophies and cultures of China and India. International dance artists Aakash Odedra and Hu Shenyan developed the piece, which combines ballet, contemporary dance, Chinese folk dance and classical Indian kathak dance to reframe traditional cultural practice.

"The way we're collaborating is new and inviting for audiences," Shenyan said. "This collaboration is a statement of that and breaking down these barriers." *Samsara* will run at Arts Centre Melbourne's Playhouse.



▲ *Samsara*.



▲ *The Metal*.

Metal (February 24-27) is another world premiere running at the Playhouse. Co-created by Lucy Guerin and Ensemble Tikoro musical director Robi Rusdiana in Melbourne and Indonesia, *Metal* combines heavy metal, traditional throat-singing and contemporary Australian dance for a unique experience.

"There's this intense crazy wild energy from the choir and a more refined, precise, disciplined approach from the dancers," Guerin said. "These two coming together can add up to something extraordinary."



▲ *Abida Parveen*. Photo: Mobeen Ansari.

The music program for the rest of the festival features a performance from legendary Pakistani spiritual singer Abida Parveen. Parveen specialises in two forms of Sufi poetry – Ghazals and Kafis – and has played a crucial role in the evolution of a traditionally male-dominated art form.

Asia TOPA and SalamFest teamed up to bring Parveen to Melbourne for a rare concert for Western audiences. She will perform at Art Centre Melbourne's Hamer Hall on February 29.



▲ *The Planet*.

The Planet – A Lament (February 21-22) is a world premiere from Indonesian film director Garin Nugroho. Commissioned by Asia TOPA, Nugroho's staged song cycle merges film, live street dancers from Papua, a 16-voice choir from Kupang and renowned Javanese dancer Rianto.

The performance tells a moving story of creation against the backdrop of environmental disaster, featuring both striking visual effects and a relevant message. Nugroho's work will premiere at the Playhouse.

For the full program visit asiatopa.com.au

Feedback Loops

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

7 December 2019 – 22 March 2020

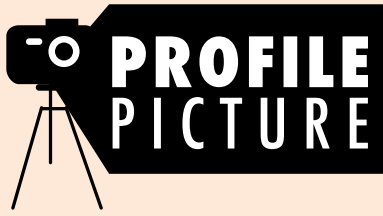
Australian Centre for Contemporary Art
111 Sturt Street Southbank
VIC 3006 Melbourne Australia
acca.melbourne



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

acca

PROFILE PICTURE



GEOFF WEBBER



▲ Breaking Barriers 11.

Breaking barriers

When graduating students at Southbank's Photography Studies College (PSC) exhibited their work late last year, a select handful of first- and second-year students also had their work shown.

One of those was first year student Geoff Webber, whose image *Breaking Barriers 11* made the exhibition.

"It's an image of a friend named Anna breaking through a plastic film barrier," Geoff said.

"It's an image from my folio subject which we did in second semester. Part of my genre was about façade and the face you put on public display."

"It's about what kind of barriers exist between representing yourself as your true self and what's expected of you."

Geoff began studying at the college after a long career in "corporate life".

"I was a finance and IT person. I worked in banking for 10 years, for an American company for 16 years, had a couple of years overseas," he said.

After establishing a settled life in Melbourne

with kids in school tension arose.

"They wanted me to move back offshore but I didn't want to keep doing that," he said.

After a few years in different roles, including a deliberate "wind down" through working in the not-for-profit sector, Geoff moved back to an old passion.

"My wife goes on long bushwalks and bought a camera but didn't use it for long before she gave it to me," he said.

"I was always looking for stuff to do to unwind after work, to help with mental health more than anything."

"I took it on walks along Southbank and experimented with long exposures at night."

"I'd been into it in my undergraduate years, but I got back into that way, and then I became more serious about it and decided to do a course in it."

Geoff said he had enough degrees and went for PSC's Advanced Diploma because it was more vocational and taught by working industry professionals.

And he had to move from his habit of photographing "things" developed in wind-down time.

"I was working full time during the day, so doing night exposures, Milky Way pictures and that sort of landscape stuff – things you could do on your own," he said.

"But I thought I better get out of my comfort zone and work with other people, and I love it."

Since then, Geoff has had a focus on portraiture and creativity in studio contexts – which is how he ended up with *Breaking Barriers 11*.



Image by PSC's Graduate George Poulakis



Part Time Night Course in 2020

If you enjoy the city at night and love taking photos, join our evening part time photography courses starting Tuesday February 11 at 6pm.

Practical learning in class and on location. Learn to master your camera skills and creativity in a fun 20 week or 40 week course.

Only a handful of places left. Enrolments closing. Go for it!

All ages and skill levels welcome. Day Time Courses Available.

psc.edu.au/courses/part-time-courses

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Find out more

PSC.EDU.AU +613 9682 3191



info@psc.edu.au | 65 City Road, Southbank VIC 3006

Events: February 2020



KAWS

Until April 13
National Gallery of Victoria

Contemporary American artist KAWS, a.k.a Brian Donnelly, is one of the most resonant artists of his generation. In an Australian first, *KAWS: Companionship In The Age Of Loneliness* is a comprehensive survey of 25 years of KAWS's oeuvre, full of humour, hope and humanity, celebrating his ability to connect with broad audiences.

ngv.vic.gov.au



HOME, I'M DARLING

Until February 29
The Summer

Following a sold-out run at London's National Theatre in 2018, Laura Wade's piercingly funny Olivier Award-winning play about one woman's quest to be the ideal 1950s housewife makes its Australian premiere. With plenty to say about our penchant for nostalgia and society's relentless pursuit of perfection, *Home, I'm Darling* offers a dreamy mix of exquisite 1950s style and sharp social observation from start to finish.

mtc.com.au



CHICAGO

Until February 23
State Theatre

A true New York 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



DEVA PREMAL & MITEN THE MANOSE

February 12
Elisabeth Murdoch Hall

World renowned chant artists Deva Premal & Miten with Manose return to Australia with their unique mix of the healing power of mantras from the East with heartfelt songs of awakening, creating space to centre in the cyclone of daily events, to slow down, turn in, and come home to the deep peace of our inner spirituality.

melbournerecital.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

BLACK TIES

February 21 – 29
The Pavilion

BLACK TIES is a hilarious and heart-warming immersive theatre experience by ILBIJERRI Theatre Company (Australia) and Te Rēhia Theatre (Aotearoa/New Zealand). This groundbreaking collaboration between major First Nations performing arts companies is set to showcase the rich talents of a wide array of theatrical artists.

artscentremelbourne.com.au

SOUTHBANK DAWN RAGA SERIES

Until March 20
Arts Centre Melbourne Main Lawn

These Dawn Ragas will take place outdoors on the Arts Centre Melbourne Main Lawn and are designed to elevate your mental state with blissful Indian classical music from local and international musicians. A raga is the melodic framework for improvisation and composition.

artscentremelbourne.com.au

BACKSTAGE TOUR

Sundays at 11am
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



THE NEW PORNOGRAPHERS

February 20 – 21
Melbourne Recital Centre

For the last two decades, *The New Pornographers* have been delivering infectious hooks, sweet harmonies and a pile of power-pop riffs every time they take the stage. The critically acclaimed Canadian supergroup takes to the stage off the back of its brand-new release, *In The Morse Code Of Brake Lights*.

melbournerecital.com.au



FEEDBACK LOOPS

Until March 22
Australian Centre for Contemporary Art

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



TORCH THE PLACE

February 8 – March 21
Fairfax Studio

Celebrated TV writer, Benjamin Law (*The Family Law*) is one of this country's brightest literary stars. For his hysterically funny and moving stage premiere, Law employs his effortless self-deprecating wit to spark joy in the clutter and find truth in those chaotic moments that bring families closer together.

mtc.com.au



MELBOURNE ART BOOK FAIR 2020

March 13 – 15
National Gallery of Victoria

Over three action-packed days, the NGV's Great Hall will be transformed into a hive of activity as more than 100 publishers showcase books, magazines and zines, and an extensive public program of lectures, workshops and performances is rolled out to celebrate art and design publishing on a global scale.

ngv.vic.gov.au



KEITH HARING | JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT: CROSSING LINES

Until April 13
National Gallery of Victoria

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.

ngv.vic.gov.au

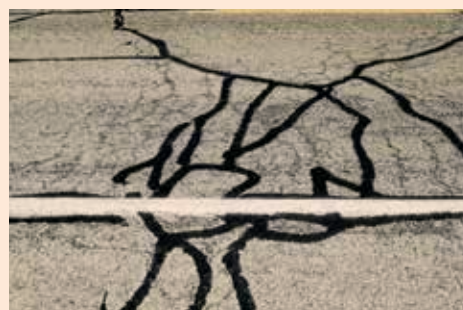


BEETHOVEN 9, CRICA AND CHEETHAM: SEASON OPENING GALA

December 10 – January 23
National Gallery of Victoria

The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra will open its season with an emotionally-charged program featuring a breathtaking performance of Beethoven's climactic *Ninth Symphony* featuring Circa Contemporary Circus.

mso.com.au



THE OTOLITH GROUP: XENOGENESIS

March 6 – June 21
Buxton Contemporary

Through an international partnership the Van Abbemuseum of Enidhoven, Netherlands and Buxton Contemporary, University of Melbourne present the London-based collective The Otolith Group. It features compelling film narratives and installations weaving together strands of speculation and imagination exploring possible pasts and futures referencing science fiction, postcolonialism, music, philosophy and scientific discovery.

buxtoncontemporary.com



JAPANESE MODERNISM

February 28 – October 20
National Gallery of Victoria

During the first half of the 20th century Japan's traditional art and aesthetics interacted with European life and culture, resulting in a pulsating era of Japanese modernism and the creation of Asian Art Deco architecture, paintings, prints, design and fashion. This exhibition is the result of a collecting strategy to build the NGV's holdings of visually inspiring art and design from this fascinating and little recognised era of Asian art.

ngv.vic.gov.au

BUSINESS



Australian first hits DFO South Wharf

WORDS BY JACK HAYES

Described as Australia's first "edutainment" theme park, the newly opened Dream City at DFO South Wharf is pushing the conventions of traditional childhood learning.

Dream City takes children aged from three to 16 on an immersive journey where they met with the opportunity to experiment with over 80 careers.

From piloting a simulated flight or producing their own podcast to performing a faux laparoscopy with medical-grade technology, Dream City provides children with a level of learning rarely seen outside university campuses.

According to founder and Dream City

visionary, Kajal Pala, her idea started with a research project which she undertook as part of her MBA in 2015.

"What I found during this research was that children around the world, not just in Australia, are not exposed to high-quality, career-specific, learning until a much later age. At Dream City, we are trying to provide this high-quality learning as early as possible," Ms Pala said.

"All activities are designed by experienced educators to provide quality, hands-on science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics (STEAM) learning."

Dream City's team of industry experts includes co-founder Michael Hiscock, performance music and production leader Karen Kim, and executive director and head of strategy Craig Lovett.

Along with her team, Ms Pala worked with principals, professors and other specialist educators, to create a state-of-the-art learning environment, like few others.

Studies into learning habits have shown

that the most effective method of teaching is "practice by doing" as 75 per cent of information is retained compared with less than 50 per cent in other methodologies, such as rote learning.

As one-third of all university students either drop out or change courses, Ms Pala hopes Dream City will help open up new career possibilities for young children.

"The brain of a four-year-old is 150 per cent more active than an adult-sized brain," Ms Pala said.

"We are tapping into a child's natural desire to create, explore and collaborate, where they have the opportunity to learn about different careers, the inner workings of a city and the concept of managing money, through assuming common professions in a role play setting."

"Not only are children learning technical skills, but they are also learning soft skills like socialising, co-operating and organising."

As "one of the most effective ways to learn is by imitation and immersive activities" Dream City has tailor made 35 "pods", miniature

businesses designed for children to develop essential life skills and abilities.

Included in these pods are 18 miniature flight simulators, 24 virtual reality goggles and industry-level news broadcasting, medical and robotics equipment.

Located in the homemaker centre at DFO South Wharf, Dream City open to the general public, as well as schools and kindergartens.

Ticket prices for a two-hour session are \$28 for children aged between three and 13 and \$11 for a compulsory supervising adult. Tickets are transferable between supervising adults for each individual session. Entry for children under two is free ●

For more information:
dreamcity.com.au

HISTORY

Building with Wunderlich



▲ Wunderlich Limited on Hanna St (now Kings Way).

No other company played such a key role in providing building materials (across Australia) as the Wunderlich company.

It had a major presence in South Melbourne, with a long-term office, showroom and depot on the western side of Hanna Street (renamed as Kings Way in 1961), at the corner of York

St. Other factory sites in Melbourne were in Sunshine and Vermont, both established in 1925.

Ernest Wunderlich had arrived from England in 1885 and opened a factory in Sydney (with brothers Alfred and Otto) in 1890. They entered the Melbourne market in 1904 with a

city factory and showroom before moving to South Melbourne in 1925.

Famous for manufacturing pressed zinc ceiling panels and decorative work, their products were used on most city office buildings up until the 1960s, particularly terracotta tiles and faience. In the suburbs, their terracotta roofing tiles adorned many houses, to an extent found nowhere else in the world, and complimented other company products such as Durawall, aluminium windows and sliding doors, contemporary-style metal ceilings, ceramic glazed fireplace surrounds, kitchen units and ice refrigerators.

They could make ANYTHING, including asbestos cement strips to fit under a corrugated iron roof to keep sparrows out of the eaves. They were also major producers of "modern" asbestos-based products, such as Durabestos.

The extensive South Melbourne premises included a classic saw-tooth roofed factory, and a fleet of trucks used to deliver and install Wunderlich products. The company was a major employer of locals from South Melbourne, and many older residents could recall family members engaged in one of the numerous occupations – assemblers, carpenters, electricians, roof tilers, metal workers, estimators, welders and so on, who were engaged in selling and assembling building products. But building could be dangerous, and one local recalled her father being almost fatally injured when he fell through a roof.

Wunderlich was a major contributor to the built form of Melbourne and played a major role in the industrial history of Southbank ●

“Wunderlich was a major contributor to the built form of Melbourne and played a major role in the industrial history of Southbank.”



Robin Grow
PRESIDENT - AUSTRALIAN ART DECO AND MODERNISM SOCIETY
ROBINGROW@OZEMAIL.COM.AU

Sustainable strata

WORDS BY THE KNIGHT – OWNERS' CORPORATION (OC) MANAGERS

With "sustainability" being the buzz word of property development lately, more new buildings are equipped with innovations to help reduce their environmental footprint.

Traditionally, existing strata complexes have had few available options, but as technology improves, these options are increasing.

Here are the easiest (and most cost-effective) ways to go green at your property.

Common Area Lighting

Simply switching to LED lighting within common areas could be enough to drastically reduce your energy consumption and save your OC significantly on energy bills.

It makes sense financially, with many projects able to pay back initial costs over just a few years.

Benefits also include protecting yourself against rising energy costs and potentially allocating more of your levies to pay for larger sustainability projects, like solar installation, in the future. You could also investigate installing timers or sensors on your common area lighting.

Water use and heating

Water and energy use are closely linked - to reduce water consumption also reduces the energy used to heat and pump the water around your building. While the best way to reduce your footprint when it comes to water is to simply use less, in an OC this is near impossible to enforce.

Simple things the OC can do to reduce water use are:

- ensure there are no leaks within common areas;
- install timed watering systems for shared gardens (use between 10pm and 6am will reduce evaporation); and
- consider replacing foreign plants with native alternatives requiring less water.

Installing individual water meters on apartments can incentivise saving water, enabling the OC to charge owners for usage, not just based on lot liability.

You can also look at installing a heat pump hot water system, which is estimated to be more efficient even than electric boosted solar hot water and can be run off solar electricity if your building takes that step in the future.



Recycling and waste

An OC can play a role in encouraging best-practice behaviour from all residents when it comes to recycling and waste management.

Ensuring that bins are easily accessible by all residents, and clearly marked to avoid contamination is the simplest way to encourage good habits. Other ways to reduce the waste going to landfill include:

- providing a green waste bin;
- establishing composting bins on unused/under-used common property; and
- setting up a "library" where unused items can be rehomed to other residents ●

For more detail on these topics, plus more ideas on how you can help create a more sustainable building, head to:

theknight.com.au/sustainable-strata

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

Happy New Year!

Welcome to the Montague Precinct in 2020. It has been eight years since we became rezoned and we hope that the Year of the Rat will bring fertile ground for communications, collaboration and community engagement.

Our precinct of Fishermans Bend is growing exponentially. We have many new businesses and residents moving into the area and it's now clear that the foot, bicycle and vehicle traffic has grown significantly.

The apartment buildings and townhouses in and around Ferrars and Thistlethwaite streets are nearing completion, and just like Gladstone St, every evening and weekend the streets will be full of newly parked cars.

There's talk of new cafés opening in and around the community and education precinct and even some shops may come along soon. We are hoping to know within the next few months what the Fishermans Bend Taskforce is planning for the precinct. What roads will become green wedges, and where traffic lights will go on Montague St. Other questions we'll be contemplating are; will we finally get to name our wonderful bluestone lanes and will we finally create a template for neighbourly connections between existing residents and

“

If you haven't wandered around our precinct recently, please do so. There is so much change to notice ...

”

businesses and builders and developers? All of this is up for discussion.

The Montague Working Group, which includes residents and businesses and the Fishermans Bend Taskforce, will reconvene in the next month to discuss this, and many more things, including when we will hold our next Community Forum, to which you are all invited.

If you haven't wandered around our precinct recently, please do so. There is so much change to notice ... other than the new primary school and Kirrip Park, we have the beginnings of two hotels that are being built on Normanby Rd and fabulous boutique breweries. There are new owners at the Golden Fleece (corner of Buckhurst and Montague streets) with great pub food and a very cute beer garden and pin ball room! There has also been a change of ownership at Wayside Inn (corner City Rd and Ferrars St), which has turned it into a very cool café and bar. It's wonderful to see experienced hospitality professionals starting to invest in the precinct and providing a service to our neighbourhood. There is also a Brazilian café and new homeware stores just opened on City Rd and a new law firm and counselling service moving in on Boundary St. We really are starting to see the growth of the precinct.

With this growth of course come challenges. As we are becoming a business and residential precinct of choice for many, we do need to consider mindful growth, ensuring a mix of homes, businesses and amenities. Some buildings, like the one on Gladstone St that is a single home of up to five storeys with a

swimming pool, as well as the townhouses that start at \$1.9 million on Boundary St can change the face of the precinct. We would like to see at least some social housing and more street level community engagement that honours the legacy of the area, not just the future. And, we sincerely hope that we don't just become an area for the wealthy!

We here in Montague move into another new year with hope and optimism that we can all work, live and play together in an inclusive and dynamic community. As usual if you have any comments or ideas for this column or our community group, please get in touch.

Facebook: @MontaguePrecinct and Twitter: @MontComAlliance ●



Trisha Avery

TRISHA AVERY IS THE CONVENER OF THE MONTAGUE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE.

TRISHAVERY@ME.COM



Welcome to St Johns Church Southgate
A place for worship, prayer and community
located on the upper level of Southgate

Every Sunday

- 9am Traditional worship with communion
- 10:30am Sunday School (during school terms)
- 11am Informal worship with communion
- 6pm Sunday Night at St Johns
Informal contemporary worship
hosted by Lutheran Students and Friends

The chapel is open daily
for private prayer and reflection

St Johns
Southgate

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

Tunnel boring machine assembly underway at Anzac Station

Construction of the Metro Tunnel Project is moving into the next exciting phase with assembly of two tunnel boring machines (TBMs) underway in Domain.

Pieces of TBMs Millie and Alice – named after Victoria’s first female Member of Parliament, Millie Peacock, and wartime medical hero Alice Appleford – began arriving at the site of the new Anzac Station on St Kilda Rd late last year. TBM Millie is already taking shape 20 metres underground inside the excavated station box, where assembly is expected to take several months.

Following assembly, commissioning of the electrical, hydraulic and mechanical systems will take place before the TBMs are launched towards the eastern tunnel entrance in South Yarra in the first half of this year.

The acoustic shed constructed over the work site will contain tunnelling operations once they start, minimising noise, dust and light.

The TBMs will travel approximately 10 metres per day and will feature distinctly coloured cutter heads – yellow for Millie, and green for Alice.

In the west, TBMs Joan and Meg have been tunnelling from North Melbourne to Kensington since mid-2019 and TBM Joan is expected to break through at the western tunnel entrance in February, completing the first leg of her journey.



Metro Tunnel HQ open all summer

Metro Tunnel HQ – the project’s visitor centre on Swanston St – is open all summer.

A popular spot in the heart of the city, Metro Tunnel HQ has clocked more than 100,000 visitors since it opened in mid-2018, with numbers expected to top 200,000 by the end of the year.

January was a busy month for the HQ team, with more than 600 visitors recorded in a single day.

Current attractions include the latest archaeological display featuring Chinese artefacts from the Victorian mining boom including teapots and opium pipe bowls.

Artefacts were discovered during archaeological investigations in the CBD before Metro Tunnel construction.

The 2018 dig yielded interesting finds

including an assortment of old teeth, children’s toys and jewellery.

Visitors can also enjoy a virtual reality tour inside a tunnel and interactive activities for kids, including a Mini Melbourne Minecraft game.

The HQ team is on hand seven days a week to answer questions about the project with maps and brochures to help illustrate progress to date.

Metro Tunnel HQ is located 125-133 Swanston St across the road from the Melbourne Town Hall.

Open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm Saturday and Sunday ●

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



ST JOHNS SOUTHGATE

The pain of true beauty

One morning, late last year, I was driving in the car with my nine-year-old daughter, Eliza, and my six-year-old boy, Theodore, when a familiar piece of music started playing on the radio.

It was *Ave Maria*. As soon as it started, I found myself, involuntarily, taking one hand off the steering wheel, putting it to my chest, and letting out an, “Ooowf!” When I made that gesture and sort of grunted that noise, Eliza, mildly alarmed, asked, “Dad! Are you okay?” To which I replied, “Yeah, yeah, I’m fine ... It’s just, well ... Have you ever heard or seen something that’s so beautiful that it just breaks your heart?” To which, both Eliza and Theodore, in a hushed and solemn sounding unison, replied, “Yeah ...”

There are things that have such beauty that they can bring us a special kind of joy – a joy that is so potent that it is heartbreaking in a way. Maybe you’ve looked up – and I mean, up and up – at an old-growth tree in Tasmania; or

been transfixed before an evocative watercolour or oil painting; or, like me, you’ve heard an ethereal piece of music, and its beauty has fired some kind of joy-cylinder inside of you, but at the same time the experience of it almost hurts.

This phenomenon seems to be an inversion of the stared-into abyss staring back. It’s more like being drawn to something so warm and bright that it burns and blinds. And yet, the wounding and scarring is somehow tender and welcome.

Speaking of *Ave Maria*, we’ve just come through the glorious Christmas season, in which, of course, Mary plays a starring role. And as the nativity narrative draws to a close in the scriptures, we hear one last crucial

snippet describing Mary’s experience. We’re told that when the angels and the shepherds had gone on their way – the fanfare being done with – that Mary “treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.” For me, this remains one of the simplest but richest verses of all the scriptures. It writes a whole novel in a single sentence. It paints a picture of one of those chest-grasping and breath-gasping moments. It tells of a woman, a new mother, who is overwhelmed by something profoundly beautiful, and is joyful, but at the same time is ponderous of what it all might mean. What cost, what price, what heartbreak might she have to pay for this love – this love given through her for a world that God so loved?

True beauty may come at a price, but in the Christian tradition we believe that Jesus paid it, in full, for us. And so, any pinch of pain we might feel when confronting beauty could almost be said to be vicarious. Because through the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus, we can trust that pain is perishable, while love lasts forever.

May you, in 2020, have some chest-grasping, breath-gasping experiences of heartbreakingly joyful beauty. And may you see, even in the blindingly bright painful parts, a vision of eternal hope ●



Tom Hoffmann
TOM HOFFMANN IS THE PASTOR AT ST JOHNS SOUTHGATE CHURCH.
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**More trains,
more often**



Not all a bed of roses

Books dominate the life of Peter Rose, waiting in piles to be reviewed in his nice wood-panelled office on City Rd, and he takes those books very seriously, patting them gently like favoured friends.

When it comes to reviewing one of those books, he will read it twice and familiarise himself with the genre before developing an angle.

Yet Rose, the editor of the Australian Book Review (ABR), challenges others to take a few risks.

"There's not enough individuality in reviewing," he says. "This is something I've spoken about and lamented in public. There's a certain unanimity."

He cites the case of Beejay Silcox who was on his case for a year to review Margaret Atwood's *The Testaments*.

She loved *The Handmaid's Tale*. So, Rose finally relinquished and gave her the book for the November issue.

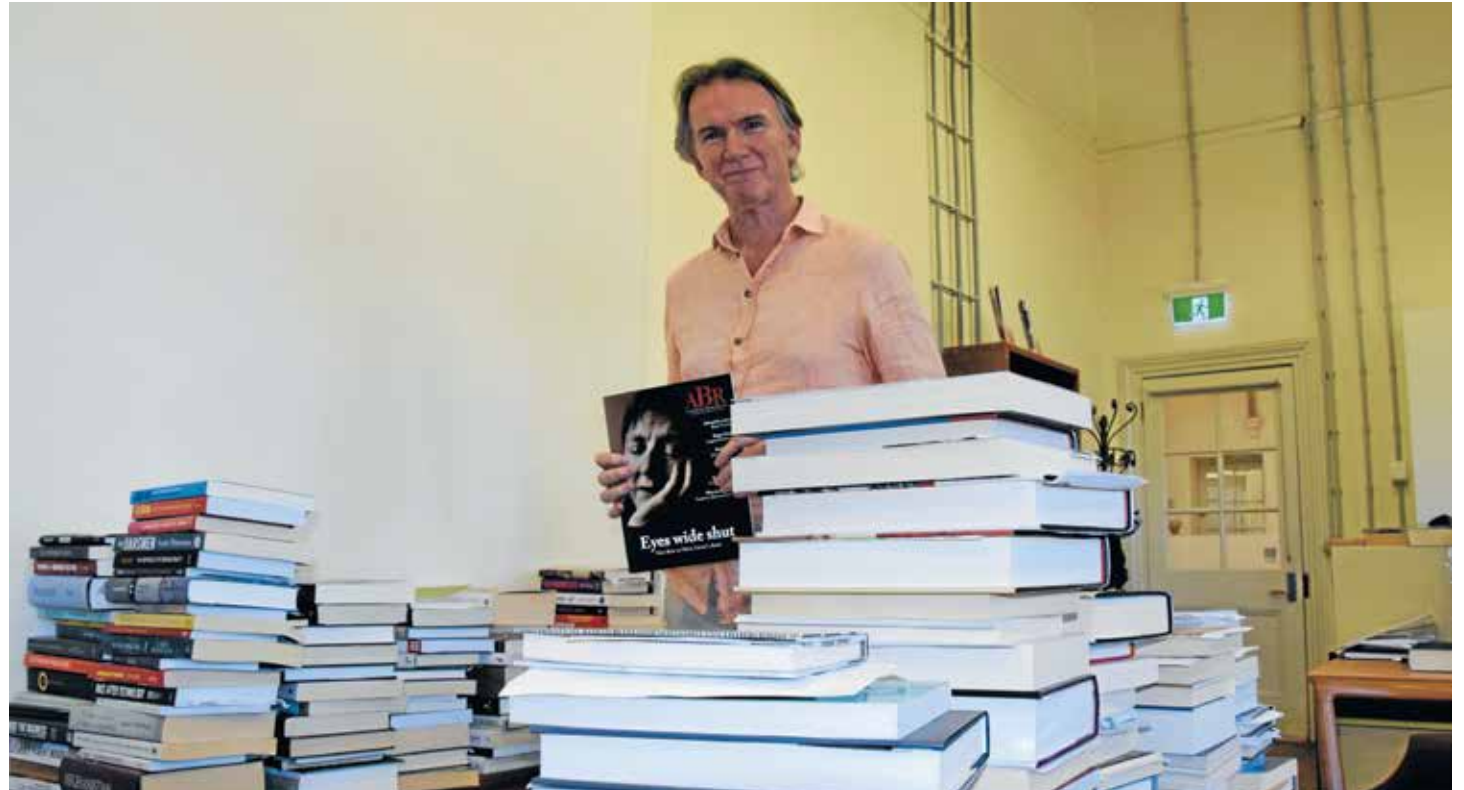
"She was disappointed and said so," Rose said. "Having the confidence and courage to criticise an immensely popular author takes guts."

The ABR produces 50,000 words of criticism and analysis a month from its Southbank office.

You could call the office quite a significant manufacturer of text. Rose copy-edits every article and his assistant and deputy editors do all the rest from layout to selling ads, delivering 7000 copies in print 10 times a year.

Rose is upbeat about the magazine which increased its circulation by 10 per cent last year and its advertising revenue by 30 per cent, but it's not all a bed of roses.

Book reviewing could be a daunting



▲ Peter Rose.

profession, he said. "I never wanted to. My predecessor Helen Daniel broke down my resistance."

His first reviews took a month then he got them down to five hours. Now he reads a book twice and has his ideas up and running by the time he reads it a second time.

His latest review was of Helen Garner's *Yellow Notebook: Diaries Volume 1: 1978-1987*, a topic quite close to his own heart since he writes up to 80,000 words per annum on his own life. He said he'd even summarise the interview with *Southbank News* in 100 words.

"Diaries are bound in that self-criticism I admire. My diary is not a masterpiece. It's an exercise in reportage. If I go to an interesting party, to summarise that, I have a record of it to go back and revisit the event."

Two major points occurred to him while reading Helen Garner's diaries. She was more concerned with her relationship with her inner writerly self than the men in her life and she did not devote much attention to an analysis of practice.

These insights can help readers understand their own responses to Garner's work and create ways of understanding writing.

Give him the topic of writing to address and Rose comes alive. "I'm a loner," he said, and he enjoys the administrative work in the office with others for its sociability.

At the recent Peter Porter Poetry Prize launch he stayed in the background. Even though he began his writing life in poetry it was as a modernist poet. "I wanted to baffle and mystify," he said.

Then he wrote *The Rose Boys*, a non-fiction account of his brother's accident. "It was illuminating to write in a direct voice, to bring people in," he said.

It's a fact that not many people know that ABR is in the Boyd Community Hub and that its editor eats his lunch under a tree in the newly-formed Boyd Park behind ●



Rhonda Dredge

JOURNALIST

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SOUTHBANK SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

What we each do matters

The start of this year challenged us all by bringing climate change and its devastating effects front-of-mind for all of us with the ongoing bushfires, as smoke enveloped Melbourne to remind us of what is happening hundreds of kilometres away.

If nothing else, these events made it clear how important it is to act in reducing and reversing our impact on the planet. If we don't urgently and decisively act on every level from individual decisions to collective actions and force our decision makers to do something then we are bound to see these catastrophic events repeat until we reach the point of no return. It is a point much closer to us now than previously predicted, making the next two to three years critical.

While it's natural to fall into despair and apathy, feeling that this is too big to handle, we need to pick ourselves up and think "what can I do to reduce my impact and bring positive change while we still have the chance to shift the tide?". Because if we do nothing, we can expect nothing.

We'll just allow things to get worse until we eventually take the right to life away from the next generation of humans and the millions of other species we are sharing this planet with. The bushfires are the big wakeup call we all needed to realise the immediacy of the climate crisis we are currently facing and how we need to act now as if our life depends on it. Because it does.

The Southbank Sustainability Group's philosophy has always been about staying focused on solutions and taking positive action, while building a support system of like-minded people to help us stay motivated and learn from one another. While sometimes what we



What can I do to reduce my impact and bring positive change while we still have the chance to shift the tide?



do seems small in the grand scheme of things, when wondering if what we do matters or makes any difference, we remind ourselves that the solution to this big environmental problem lies in lots of small, compounding actions. That all we can do is do our part. Something that we'll continue to do throughout the year and invite as many of you to join us and participate.

This month, we are kicking off the Community Education Days for which we won a grant to bring to Southbankers throughout 2020, with a Practical Guide to Zero Waste Living talk. The talk will take place on either Saturday February 15 or 29 at 10.30am. We are still ironing out venue details so keep an eye on our Facebook page or email us for the final date and come join this free event. We'll cover the basics of living zero waste and provide a practical Melbourne guide of how and where to purchase to easily reduce your waste output and use of virgin resources.

Apart from this education day, our group will be focused on making a Southbank communal composting hub a reality and ongoing work on our neighborhood's vegie garden for the month. If you want to get involved, email us or better yet come join one of our meet-ups. This month we will meet on Saturdays February 8 and 22, 10am at Boyd.

February as you probably already know is a month dedicated to sustainability through the National Sustainable Living Festival. A month-long event with plenty of activities all around

Melbourne, dedicated to helping us navigate through these difficult times and provide us with the tools to get out of it. You can see all activities at slf.org.au.

Finally, we want to acknowledge and excitedly congratulate *Southbank News* for its beautiful new look and feel! Cleaner, refreshed, and more focused - it represents exactly what we want to see more of this year in everything around us and within ourselves.

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

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Short-stay abuse despite resident's VCAT win

Residents in a prestige Melbourne apartment tower report that they are living in fear of abuse and violent threats from out-of-control short-stay guests – despite a VCAT ruling in favour of a resident who complained.

In a legal first, VCAT issued consent orders against Melbourne Serviced Apartments Pty Ltd for a string of disturbing short-stay incidents. The resident who complained was awarded compensation by the tribunal.

Undeterred, another short-stay operator continues to create havoc in the same building.

Imagine living in a building where short-stay guests repeatedly vomit from balconies, where residents are abused by party-goers at 2 or 3am and where your children find used condoms in common areas the next morning.

This is a nightmare lived by thousands of Victorians who live in residential apartments.

And the so-called "Airbnb Act" has not tamed the terrifying incubus of short-stays.

The *Owners Corporations Amendment (Short-stay Accommodation) Act 2018* promises a puny compensation of up to \$2000 to residents. Residents have Buckley's chance of getting anything like this amount.

The complainant in this case went to VCAT and won \$1000 as compensation for "loss of amenity."

\$1000 is small potatoes for a litany of grievances – recreational drugs, vomiting, blood stains, cigarette butts, condoms, abuse, threats, noise, sleepless nights, mail theft ...

Hypothetically, the Airbnb Act should award the victim up to \$2000 per incident – which in this case, with more than 10 separate incidents, could add up notionally to \$20,000 or more.

With this precedent-setting case and consent orders issued, we know now what the VCAT benchmark is: let's call it \$100 compensation for each time a drunk short-stay guest vomits on your balcony or abuses you at your apartment door or in the lift.

How's that for a reward for taking time off work to negotiate the VCAT legal maze over a period of more than six months?

As a resident you would want to be looking at the strategic advantage of a VCAT consent order and how that would help you stand up to the bully-tactics of unscrupulous short-stay corporations. The monetary compensation is risibly pathetic.

The worst part is the relentless continuation of the incidents that are classified as loss of amenity.

Barely one month after this brave resident won VCAT consent orders, all hell broke loose.

The same apartment building was the scene of a violently abusive, riotous short-stay party.

An affected resident gave us this harrowing report:

"On a Saturday night in January, two apartments were rented out by Bella Manager Pty Ltd trading as Experience Hotel Apartments to a group of youths. About 50 people flooded the foyer and various floors with loud, drunken and abusive behaviour. I was threatened and abused by this group repeatedly. Police were called multiple times by scared residents. Security and police eventually evicted them. At around 5:30am the original group amazingly managed to re-enter the building."

"The safety of my family was compromised on Saturday. I am furious to learn that this group has caused problems in this building before and yet continue to be able to rent apartments with apparently little vetting and no proactive security checks in place."

"I chose to buy an apartment in a secure building, and I expected it to be secure. Short-stay providers operate a business model that blatantly compromises that security and the peaceful amenity of my home, while the managers of these businesses sleep soundly in their quiet beds."

We Live Here fought long and hard against the Mickey Mouse bill that is now enshrined in the OC Act 2018. A government media release on the day it became law stated: "Residents living in apartments next to short-stay accommodation shouldn't have to put up with rowdy parties and out-of-control guests – and that's what these tough new laws will deliver."

This case demonstrates how weak the legislation really is and with no review until 2021 what other recourse do residents have against the might of unscrupulous operators and an out-of-control and unregulated short-stay industry?

We will continue to lobby for regulation until the government catches up with the rest of the world. A good first start would be to actually listen to the voice of residents!

Barely one month after this brave resident won VCAT consent orders, all hell broke loose. The same apartment building was the scene of a violently abusive, riotous short-stay party.



Airbnb memo: how not to pay GST

According to Neighbours Not Strangers (neighboursnotstrangers.com), Airbnb has emailed its landlords to offer advice on how to get out of paying GST on their host fees. GST applies to Airbnb's 3 per cent commission but, given Airbnb's massive turnover, this still represents what some refer to as a major "swindle" on taxpayers and residents.

Short-stay response to bushfires angers users
Users of short-stay platforms such as Airbnb have been posting their outrage over the "no-cancellation" policy of the providers.

Under Australian consumer law, when a "frustration of contract" occurs, guests are entitled to a full refund of all prior payments.

This includes situations where "the authorities have advised that the area is not safe to enter."

Providers have been reported as refusing to allow refunds.

Meanwhile, Airbnb is struggling to appear magnanimous in the face of the national bushfire emergency.

In what seems a cynical gesture, Airbnb is leaning on its hosts to offer free accommodation in areas outside the perimeter of the fire-affected areas. Airbnb's media release makes it clear that other people will cop the bill for its so-called beneficence.

Campaign donations

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

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HEALTH & WELLBEING

Self-soothing: First Aid for when you're stressed and burned out

Whenever you're anxious, sad or overwhelmed or simply need some soothing, it helps to have a collection of comforting and healthy tools to turn to.

Self-soothing refers to behaviours that we use to restore our emotional equilibrium when we've experienced stress or anxiety. Whether it is conflict with a partner, having a bad day at work, or general anxiety about the state of the world around us, we can all benefit from having some "self-soothing techniques" that can help bring calm to your mind and body.

The benefits of self-soothing

Although everyone is different, here are some benefits you may experience from soothing yourself:

- becoming more grounded;
- deeper connection with your inner-self;
- enhanced self-love;
- increased ability to be mindful;
- ability to pause and see the bigger picture;
- getting out of your mind and into your body/

- senses; and
- less anxiety and stress

Below are some examples of self-soothing you can do today:

Take a shower- mindfully!

Taking a shower after a rough day can help to physically "clean" away the days bad events or thoughts. Try doing it mindfully, by being present and in the moment: pay attention to the sights, scents and sounds surrounding you.

Stretch out

Anxiety tends to hijack the body. While everyone stores anxiety in different spots, common areas are the jaw, hips and shoulders, so stand up and do a full-body stretch. Reach your arms overhead then slowly fold forward and slowly open and close your mouth as you do.

Visualise a peaceful image

Try combining positive visualisation with breath, and repeating the sequence several times. As you inhale and reach your arms out in front of you, hold the image in your mind, then exhale and bring both hands to your heart, all the while thinking of the image.

Listen to soothing music

Create a playlist of soothing songs that help you to slow down or connect with memories or positive experiences. Pairing soothing tunes with deep breathing can help too.

Speak compassionately towards yourself

Being self-compassionate boosts mental health. Unfortunately, it doesn't come naturally to many of us. Fortunately, you can learn to treat yourself with consideration and care by working with a supportive therapist or coach or learning how to through engaging in personal self-development.

Ground yourself

When stress strikes, some people feel lightheaded or like they're floating outside their bodies. Making a point to feel your feet against the ground can help, or naming three things that you can hear, smell or touch.

Take some perspective

Look at the situation or stressor from a bird's eye view. When you're in the moment, current challenges seem enormous, but placing your

situation into the bigger picture of your life may help you realise that you may not need to give it so much emotional energy. Ask yourself: "Will this matter in one year? In five years?"

Give yourself permission to feel bad

Remember that you don't have to fix your feelings right away. Although it's important to have a toolbox of healthy strategies to turn, don't feel guilty for feeling bad or fault yourself if you aren't able to be positive or engage in any self-soothing immediately ●

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RUBEN
It's particularly busy on the road. I live in Richmond and ride my bike. I think everyone should ride a bike.



GARY
I'm not overly impressed. There's probably wrong on both sides. I just got here about five minutes ago. There's usually 20-25 minutes between trams. The other inconvenience is that I take the 67. It's supposed to go to Carnegie but the replacement bus stops at Elsternwick Station.

Faces of Southbank

Question:
What do you think of the tram strike?



MICHAEL
We're walking in the street. We've just come from Flinders Street and we're going to 432, an office building. It's not too bad. It's about 36 degrees. I have no problems with people going out on strike.



MEGAN
I think the government is a bit slow in negotiating with them. I'm waiting longer than I would for a tram. I didn't realise there was a stoppage today. I hope the bus will take me there.

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Southbank Sudoku

Last month's Sudoku solution

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

A variation of Sudoku, with the letters SOUTH BANK replacing numbers.

The rules are the same as regular Sudoku, each line must contain the letters "SOUTH BANK" as must each 9-square box. This Sudoku is MEDIUM, good luck!

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

Vertical living views – an agent's perspective

"What we see depends mainly on what we look for" - John Lubbock.

And what we look for in vertical villages is largely related to the role we play in the vertical living sector – developer, building manager, resident, investor, contractor, committee member or concierge – meaning that different things gain attention when viewing the world of vertical villages.

With this in mind, my column this year will seek to share some of these different perspectives of our vertical villages, with the aim of highlighting points of view other than "our" own. Who knows what might be brought to light!

To start this endeavour, I thought it fitting to talk with someone that vertical villagers typically first encounter when entering the high-rise, high-density sector – namely, the real estate agent.

And to see what captures the attention of those that know well the vertical village market (i.e. factors influencing buyers), I spoke with Cary Thornton. Cary is currently of LUCAS Docklands which unashamedly claims the title of vertical living specialists.

My first question to Cary was - what's so special about vertical living? He said the most striking feature of this sector was its diversity. In his experience, traditional suburbs tend to have a noticeable "sameness", largely because birds of a feather flock together. This goes to the point that suburbs tend attract people from the same socio-economic band and who are often on similar life paths. This results in not-a-lot-of-diversity within particular suburbs – there



aren't many backpackers in Toorak! This is not the case in our high-rise neighbourhoods, where most buildings contain apartments varying greatly in price – often starting in the mid-400,000s and reaching several million. Add to this different apartment sizes (one, two or three bedrooms), and it means most vertical villages have a mix of families, solos, retirees and visitors.

This point led nicely on to my second question about the key challenges confronting the sector. Cary then raised a point about the pragmatics of diversity, specifically in terms of challenges encountered by building management. This goes to the point that diversity means that different people value (or

consider normal practice) different things. We know well the differences of opinion regarding, for instance, late night activity where dancing on the ceiling (borrowing from Lionel Richie) becomes all too real for the person living below. Or framed in terms of vertical living - one person's floor is another person's ceiling and differences in lifestyle, combined with too little insulation, means that these differences can escalate to division.

A second area of challenge noted by Cary was the focus of owners' corporations (OCs) and the need for these key decision makers to have a vision for their building beyond just upkeep. According to Cary, "OCs need to be able to articulate what they want out of the building. And they need to have a long-term vision for where they see their building going."

Agreed.

In terms of challenges confronting the wider vertical living sector, Cary's opinion was that too often regulators were caught "on the back foot", meaning that approaches to issues, such as short stays, have been largely reactive. "There is a wealth of experience around - and many issues could have been foreseen and helped by what has happened overseas. But there is a lag time in responding..."

Finally, Cary nominated the great need for tailored energy innovations. While he noted some signs of advances, such as the work undertaken by Lend Lease, Cary believes that greater attention needs to be given to this aspect of vertical living – and it needs to happen now!

With regards to what current innovations have impressed him, Cary noted the advances in communal space design. In the past, many buildings have sought to offer it all, which resulted in a small pool, a half sized court, a tiny gym, a small shared kitchen and a cramped lounge. Trying to offer all these facilities typically meant that nothing was done particularly well and so were underutilised. Cary's advice is to focus on one or two facilities and do these really well. And something done really well, which has captured his attention, is the use of animation (and maybe soon virtual reality?) in in-house sports simulation.

So, from the perspective of someone deeply involved in vertical living buying and selling, our sector has both the appeal and challenge of innate diversity and we are learning more about designing and managing communal space.

But what strongly came through to me from my chat with Cary was the growing need to be more future looking – both the OCs and regulators – with both groups needing to be more "on the front foot." Maybe there could be an in-house simulation for this? ●



Janette Corcoran

JANETTE CORCORAN IS AN APARTMENT LIVING EXPERT.

LEARN MORE ON FACEBOOK.COM/SKYPADLIVING/

OWNER'S CORPORATION LAW

Red tape and further delays to amendments

In December 2013, Consumer Affairs Victoria completed its review into a more robust licensing and certification system for the training and conduct of owners' corporation (OC) managers.

It proposed to amend the *Owners' Corporation Act (2006)* to ensure that OC managers could not be appointed for longer than three years, and had a duty to disclose to the OC any beneficial relationship with the developer that appointed them. It also proposed to strengthen the registration scheme to ensure that persons convicted of certain criminal offences such as fraud offences could not become registered as OC managers.

It also provided that the contract for appointment of OC managers could not include certain unfair terms which made it difficult for the OC to revoke the appointment of OC managers.

In addition, it was recommended that clauses be introduced to expressly provide for the

OC manager to be required to act in the best interests of lot owners (a fiduciary duty) in relation to the procurement of service contracts and other goods and services, and not to accept kickbacks from contractors or otherwise take a commission.

None of this sounds controversial, pretty simple stuff really.

Except for the fact that it was mothballed quietly, and the Bill never made it to parliament. Then, 18 months later in August 2015, Consumer Affairs announced that it was going to review the entire *Owners' Corporation Act*. It was expected that the 2013 review and the 2015 review would be bundled into the same legislation.

Now that made sense at the time, too.

Parliament may as well pass it all at once.

And by the end of November 2016, the Consumer Affairs Victoria review into the entire Owners' Corporation Act had been completed. A Bill was drafted and sent off to the ministers' office to be tabled in parliament.

Instead, there it sat for a further two and a half years, until finally introduced into the Lower House Assembly in September 2019. Now, the Bill is adjourned for further debate, to be discussed at some stage again later this year.

The sad thing about this is that the amendments to the *Owners' Corporation Act* in relation to OC managers were all ready to go over six years ago. If they had been introduced as promised, I can only imagine that the industry would have been cleaned up by now. All of the "cowboy" OC managers would have been run out of town, barred from practice due to past crimes, or unable to get insurance due to poor business practices.

The OC manager contracts of five years' and 10 years' duration would have been a thing of the past, and OCs would have been in a position to terminate early, access an open market to source proper professionals to act as their OC

managers, and obtain better service and value for money.

And of course, all of those allegations of pork-barrelling by OC managers appointing companies for service contracts in return for commissions might have been stamped out.

Of course, Consumer Affairs Victoria can move quickly when it wants to. The reforms to legitimise and enshrine AirBnB and other short-term accommodation agencies by amending the *Owners' Corporation Act* was pushed through the parliament in just two years, and it would have been one year if not for lobbying by We Live Here to trigger an Upper House inquiry.

The cost of inaction is galling. Frankly, the owners of apartments in Melbourne deserve better from Consumer Affairs ●



Tom Bacon

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SOUTHBANK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Welcome to 2020!

I hope our community was able to have a break with their families across the festive season, which sadly, wasn't so pleasant for many in the bushfire affected areas of our country.

Let's hope we have seen the worst of it despite our fire season not being over yet. My thoughts are with everyone in those communities.

I want to use this month's column to promote our "Southbank Community Day". As I mentioned in my last column, on Saturday

March 21 the Southbank Residents' Association, with the support of the City of Melbourne, will be holding a community day at our new Boyd Park.

This has been a vision of mine for probably the last three or four years and I am delighted that finally our committee is able to act on this.

As I mentioned, we are holding this with the support of the City of Melbourne. In years gone by we have applied for a community grant from the City of Melbourne for financial support, but we had always been unsuccessful for various reasons. Finally, we were able to navigate the grants process and last year we were successful with being awarded a grant for this community day.

In essence, the plan was to bring together all aspects of our Southbank community. Our community is broad with a number of arts institutions, schools, government and businesses. There are also quite a few

community groups which many didn't even know existed.

With the recent redesign of the Boyd Park we thought it would also be a great opportunity for the Lord Mayor Sally Capp to use our community day as an opportunity to officially open the park. The Lord Mayor agreed and is delighted to attend.

The actual make-up of the day is still coming together. We are anticipating many of our community groups will be represented. There will be various presentations and entertainment throughout the day with a number of talks in Boyd's Assembly Hall covering a variety of topics. There will be lots of fun for children and food for everyone.

The day will run from 10am to 4pm. I encourage everyone to visit at some time during the day to meet others from our community and learn about our community groups. If this day is truly a success then maybe it could be the first

of an annual event. I will provide more detailed information in my March column.

Remember our organisation relies on membership. Would you like to join and support our group? ●

More information:

southbankresidents.org.au



Tony Penna

TONY PENNA IS THE PRESIDENT OF SOUTHBANK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



Pet's Corner

Some shade for Lashie

The heat has been hitting pets badly and owners have been taking care to stay out of the sun.

Gee has found a tree with shade for his dog Lashie on St Kilda Rd near the Arts Centre.

Lashie is 11 years old and is wilting by 9am. "She's a little bit tired," Gee said. "I'm keeping her wet until we go to the park."

Both Gee and Lashie have been sleeping rough for eight weeks.

"I've come here for a couple of hours, will make some money and come back in the evening," Gee said. "I'll wait for it to cool down."

Gee has been fussing over the pure-bred Maltese since birth.

"I have had her since she was a baby. I had her mother. She passed away two years ago."

She was named Lashie because of her long eye lashes.

"She's with me all the time."

▼ Gee and his pure-bred Maltese Lashie.



“

The heat has been hitting pets badly and owners have been taking care to stay out of the sun.

”



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Lunch break

Jack was a regular

*House of Cards Cafe
Boyd Community Hub, City Rd*



▲ Construction materials fill Southbank Boulevard between Kavanagh and Moore streets.

工程延迟 还将继续

撰稿: Sean Car

南岸大道 (Southbank Boulevard) 沿街修建公园工程可能还要持续12到18个月。

墨尔本市斥资五千万澳元的南岸大道改造工程于去年年初首次被推迟, 原因是几家参与该项目的机构出现了问题。

虽然圣基尔达 (St Kilda) 路 and 市中心之间的道路现在重新开放了, 但据了解公园和娱乐空间的景观美化和建设可能要持续到2021年。

去年9月, 墨尔本市城市设计总监罗布·亚当斯 (Rob Adams) 教授在接受《南岸新闻》采访时曾说过, 虽然工程延迟情况不太理想, 但是市政从一开始就对该项目“雄心勃勃”。

他说: “我们的项目拖延了四到五个月。我对此会满意吗? 当然不会。但是既然已经发生了, 我们只能为此承担一些责任。我们雄心勃勃地启动这个项目, 并且准备好了所有文件。虽然尚未获得所有的批文, 但是我们已经提交了批文的申请。我们本来有足够的时间。”

“不幸的是, 维州路政局添了乱, 市供电局也不省心, 总之工程处处碰壁, 一拖再拖。但是我们已经重新安排了计划。现在一些琐碎的项目都被排除在外, 项目建设重拾势头。”

“我们仍须进行景观美化, 但是这都将分阶段完成。目前棘手的是如何处理有轨电车的基础设施。我们面前的一些私人开发项目也依旧是个问题。”

亚当斯教授指出有关澳大利亚108和阿狄娜 (Adina) 酒店公寓的协调工作也给该项目的按期完工造成了难度。然而, 随着道路工程的完成, 市政的发言人表示, 墨尔本演奏中心 (Melbourne Recital Centre) 外的新开放空间将在三月完工。

位于澳洲广播电台 (ABC) 外的新空间是改造工程中规模最大的一部分, 该空间的建设也即将开始, 包括一个硬地和草坪区域, 并会安装座椅、花圃和树木。

女王桥大厦又成热点

撰稿: Sean Car

上个月皇冠酒店老板詹姆斯·帕克 (James Packer) 被7频道采访, 使该公司重新开发南岸女王桥 (Queensbridge) 街1号的雄心重返为公共关注之处。

在此之前, 皇冠赌场和当时的开发合伙人谢亚维洛 (其Schiavello) 试图利用已经获批的价值20亿澳元的建筑规划方案来建造一座新的澳洲第一高楼, 然而州政府已于去年否决了这一扩建提案。

该规划项目于2017年以“国家重大项目”为由获得规划豁免权, 基于其承诺的女王桥广场和桑德里奇 (Sandridge) 大桥升级工程对国家经济的贡献, 原计划绕过了正常的规划程序。

但是条件是要在规划许可获批后的两年内开建, 然而融资问题导致工程迟迟未动工, 规划厅厅长理查德·韦恩 (Richard Wynne) 便拒绝了招标扩建。

消息传出后, 皇冠酒店宣布他们已经收购了谢亚维洛在该工地50%的股份, 而且直到帕克上月的公开露面之前, 也都没有透

露任何进一步的信息。

帕克先生表示新规划和原规划极其相似, 新建的摩天楼将集酒店、公寓和商务楼于一体, 用一条空中走道连接赌场, 并且全面改造女王桥广场。皇冠赌场希望该规划得以在年底前获批。一旦建成, 帕克说: “我们认为它会成为澳洲最好的建筑之一。”

阿尔伯特帕克区 (Albert Park) 的一名议员把之前的开发计划称为“一场彻头彻尾的灾难”。他上个月还急切地向社区保证, 任何来自皇冠赌场的开发计划都将面临适当的规划审查。他说: “在南岸的任何开发申请都要经过公众的审查, 评估其优点。”

“该申请适用于任何可能的皇冠赌场女王街的申请, 如同其他任何申请。这样才能同时充分考虑到社区、产业和市政的利益。”

南岸居民协会 (SRA) 主席托尼·佩纳 (Tony Penna) 说, 看到该计划重新成为人们关注的焦点他表示十分欣慰。他说: “是时候改变这个空间了, 我们希望那些原计划社区所忽视的需求在重新审视新规划的时候能得到认真的考虑。”



▲ A render of an upgraded Queensbridge Square under a former proposal.

南岸社区日庆典

撰稿: Sean Car

南岸居民协会 (SRA) 主席托尼·佩纳 (Tony Penna) 敦促居民们来参加将于三月二十一日星期六举行的新博伊德 (Boyd) 公园开幕式。

佩纳 (Penna) 先生说这一天还会作为南岸社区日, 展示南岸的社区特色, 庆祝活动从上午十点持续到下午四点, 届时众多社区组织、艺术团体和一系列当地服务机构和大家见面。

佩纳先生表示活动精彩不容错过。庆祝

将以传统原住民烟熏仪式开场, 接下来由墨尔本市市长萨莉·卡普 (Sally Capp) 和一名阿尔伯特帕克区 (Albert Park) 的议员为新公园的开放进行正式揭牌。

他鼓励大家“出来见见邻居, 积极参与社区活动, 也帮助所有人来欢迎南岸这个新公园的到来。”

“我们筹办南岸社区日已经四年有余, 现在借着博伊德公园开放这一契机, 我们终于有了这么一个绝佳的机会来举办这个节日。”

“让越来越多辖区内两万名居民走出他们

的公寓是我们一直以来的愿景, 不仅是让邻居们互相见面, 更重要的是让他们和在南岸的社区组织见见面。”

佩纳还说居民们当天有众多活动可以参加, 包括当地警察和消防队的静态展示、社区讲习班、现场音乐、美食和少儿活动。

他还希望能把澳洲广播电台 (ABC) 也吸引来现场直播庆祝活动。

在三月出版的《南岸新闻》内可以找到更多关于南岸社区日的详细信息。



▲ Tony Penna.



▲ A render of Southbank by Beulah.

开发商急寻酒店合伙人

南岸开发商贝乌拉 (Southbank by Beulah) 提出在城市 (City) 路和南岸大道 (Southbank Boulevard) 的路口新建一座大厦, 其酒店部分将交由一个国际豪华酒店品牌管理, 已经于去年底开启全球招标。

开发商贝乌拉国际 (Beulah International) 声称该项目会“改变这座城市的景观”。该酒店面向的是未来的国内外旅客, 建成后将彻底改革墨尔本的酒店业。

在此之前, 开发商打算在原城市路宝马公司的办公地址上兴建澳洲最高楼, 该计划于八月提交规划厅厅长理查德·韦恩 (Richard

Wynne) 批准。

这个由南岸开发商贝乌拉设计的项目高356米, 在UNStudio和Cox Architecture设计的双塔基础上, 以“创意和文化创新”为主题, 作了进一步完善。该项目包括一个总面积达27万平米的多功能生活区, 包括公寓、商务写字楼、会议中心和娱乐中心, 以及7250平米的公共绿地。

该项目所含的五星级酒店包括150多个房间, 一个医疗保健区, 一个屋顶米其林餐厅酒吧和多层公共活动空间。

贝乌拉的董事总经理陈嘉恒 (Jiaheng

Chan, 音译) 展望了墨尔本现有的酒店, 并称海外酒店品牌通常会首选柯林斯 (Collins) 街为酒店目的地。

他说: “一些在选择城市和地址时都非常挑剔和谨慎的品牌却很有趣加入我们, 他们通常一年都会收到几百个邀请, 但是他们表示贝乌拉项目脱颖而出, 让他们有意向成为项目的合伙人。随着项目的进展, 对我们来说, 这是一次谦卑和激动人心的经历。”

至于最终项目合作的酒店品牌花落谁家, 将于五月揭晓。

What's On: February 2020

Community Calendar



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



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
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MPAVILLION - UNTIL MARCH
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FRIDAYS 7.45AM - 9AM @ BOYD
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SUNDAYS
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artscentremelbourne.com.au

WEDNESDAYS @ BOYD
Free Walking Group
Join local fitness experts JustInTime as they lead a "not just walking group" for Boyd walkers. The program runs on Wednesdays from 9.30am to 10.30am.



COMMON MAN @ 39 DUKES WALK
Summer At South Wharf
From community art classes and yoga to outdoor cinema and sports on the big screen, find out what's on offer at Common Man's pop-up lawn at South Wharf Promenade.
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.
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For further information please visit our website raywhitesouthbank.com.au or call 8102 0200



Auction

1004/58 Clarke Street, Southbank Feb 5 at 6:30pm
\$330,000 - \$360,000 Austen Kosasih: 0432 750 774



Auction

1413/151 City Road, Southbank Feb 5 at 6:30pm
\$590,000 - \$630,000 Austen Kosasih: 0432 750 774



Auction

14/10 Davies Street, Brunswick Feb 5 at 6:30pm
\$700,000 - \$770,000 Max Hui: 0430 238 021



Auction

2406/45 Clarke Street, Southbank Feb 5 at 6:30pm
\$560,000 - \$599,000 David Barber: 0437 980 091



Auction

3606/241 City Road, Southbank Feb 26 at 6:30pm
\$525,000 - \$575,000 Max Hui: 0430 238 021



Auction

3807/568 Collins St, Melbourne Feb 26 at 6:30pm
\$350,000 - \$380,000 Austen Kosasih: 0432 750 774



Auction

301/8 Garfield Street, Richmond Feb 26 at 6:30pm
\$390,000 - \$420,000 Austen Kosasih: 0432 750 774

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Zara Ebadi
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