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An exclusive new exhibition showcasing more than 190 multi-disciplinary works, including Asian art deco paintings, prints, design and fashion created during the first half of the 20th century in Japan opened at the National Gallery of Victoria on February 28. *Continued - Arts Precinct, page 13.*

## Lino lifts the lid at Southgate

WORDS BY *Sean Car*  
LOCAL NEWS

La Camera Southgate restaurant owner Lino Scidone says his business's fate has already been determined by Southgate's owner ARA Australia, which he alleges is hiding major plans to redevelop the precinct from its tenants.

Mr Scidone has operated his Italian restaurant in Southgate for 21 years and said recent uncertainty surrounding the precinct's future was making it difficult for he and other tenants at Southgate to run their businesses.

With "nothing left to lose", Mr Scidone told *Southbank News* that he had decided to speak out against his landlord after claiming to have been told "categorically" in a meeting with ARA representatives that his business was not part of its future plans.

Since purchasing Southgate from Dexis in 2016 and assuming management in 2018, the Singaporean-listed ARA Australia has yet to publicly reveal any plans to redevelop its asset, which includes the two Herald Weekly

Times (HWT) and IBM office towers, a three-level retail and hospitality plaza and a basement carpark.

However, Mr Scidone said that it was only as a result of "pure luck" that he claimed to have recently overheard details of a "future demolition" of the precinct at a real estate function. He also claims to have seen architectural plans, which he said included a new high-rise tower, footbridge and hospitality plaza.

He said that after "contacting every single tenant by walking into every shop," to inform them about what he knew, he was called into a meeting with an ARA representative and a representative of a property developer associated with the alleged redevelopment.

"I sat and asked questions about whether what I had found out was true and they were annoyed that someone had told me," Mr Scidone said.

"Yes, it was true that 2020 was to get planning through and 2021 would be to organise leases and move to have everyone out by the end of 2021. I also asked if they had

*Continued on page 3.*

## Southbank celebrates new parks

*On March 21, Southbank will celebrate the official opening of much-needed green space at both Boyd Park and Melbourne Square.*

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
LOCAL NEWS

As one of the city's most densely populated suburbs where 96 per cent of the population live in apartments with little access to open space, the day represents a step forward for locals and will be recognised with community events at both parks.

The new \$3.5 million neighbourhood park at Boyd opened to the community in late 2019 and features a playground, new lawn areas, a temporary half-basketball court and communal garden.

The park outside the under-construction Melbourne Square, spanning over 3000sqm and billed as the suburb's biggest, features pedestrian pathways, a tree-lined boulevard, pocket gardens, water features and a collection of sub-tropical plants, Australian natives and exotic species.

Both parks sit within touching distance of each other at Kavanagh and Balston streets, respectively.

Southbank Residents Association (SRA) president Tony Penna said the dual openings were of utmost importance for nearby residents.

"In one of our community surveys, the number one issue raised by our residents was lack of green open space," he told *Southbank News*.

"It is a delight to have these new parks available to the community, and accessible to the densest residential block in Australia, between City Rd and Kavanagh St. Southbank Boulevard will also add to this in the coming year and we are looking forward to that being completed too."

Mr Penna said that while there was excitement with the new parks, there was still a way to go for the unique area.

"The City of Melbourne is still a long way off its own target of 20 sqm

per resident and this target only becomes more distant with every new high-rise tower that is built," he said.

While the new park at Boyd opened to the public late last year, the March "official" launch was designed to give the new lawn and trees more time to establish themselves.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the green space was a "new backyard" for thousands of Southbank residents.

Speaking to *Southbank News* in 2018, Paul Curry - one of Cox Architecture's leading visionaries behind Melbourne Square - said the design and use of green space at Boyd influenced the vision for developer OSK Property's new park.

"The Boyd Park site has more of an active use so that was factored into the design of our park, and how it will link with Boyd and have some synergies and differing uses."

While the Melbourne Square project is years from full completion, stage one - which alongside the park includes a supermarket and a range of other facilities - is due to be finished later this year.

OSK Property chairman Tan Sri Ong Leong Huat expressed his excitement in delivering much-needed open space for Southbank.

"Our new park at Melbourne Square is envisaged to be a lively community connector for residents and visitors of Southbank. It spans over 3700 sqm which makes it Southbank's largest green space, and it has been designed in a way so it is programmable for a range of community events," he said.

"We approached urban design specialists, Taylor Cullity Lethlean, to create the new park at Melbourne Square for us. We really admire their previous work including Birrarung Marr and the Australian Garden, and we are delighted they could be part of

*Continued page 3.*

ENVIRONMENT, PAGE 05

### A Protecting nature in our city



EVENTS, PAGE 07

### B Exclusive insight into new winter festival



PLANNING, PAGE 09

### C A look at Fishermans Bend in 2020



ENVIRONMENT, PAGE 12

### D Researching Australia's smallest bats



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**CONTACT**  
Suite 108, 198 Harbour Esplanade  
Docklands 3008  
southbanklocalnews.com.au  
Tel: 8689 7980

**EDITOR**  
Sean Car

**PUBLISHER**  
Hyperlocal News Pty Ltd  
ABN: 57 623 558 725

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**“Work with us,” Arts Centre asks council**

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Arts Centre Melbourne said ongoing construction work in Southbank has impacted their customer base, and wants the City of Melbourne to better inform them about future disruptions.

After the council approved plans for demolition and expansion works on Southbank Promenade, including replacing failing pavements, inefficient lights and dying trees, a representative from Arts Centre Melbourne said it wanted to avoid the problems associated with the nearby Southbank Boulevard project.

Addressing councillors at the February 18 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, executive director of customer experience at Arts Centre Melbourne Beau Vigushin asked the council to work with them better during times of change.

“Strength in collaboration is what will deliver the best outcomes for our shared community, particularly during periods of change and disruption,” he said.

“The Southbank Boulevard project has impacted us not only financially but more importantly it’s impacted our customers. And it’s still impacting them, due to limited directional signage and traffic light sequencing that’s not working efficiently.”

As reported in last month’s *Southbank News*, works to complete the current stage of Southbank Boulevard’s new linear park could continue for another 12 to 18 months.

*Southbank News* understands other institutions within the arts precinct such as the Melbourne Recital Centre, Melbourne Theatre Company and Buxton Contemporary have all expressed frustration with the impact works have had on customers.

Mr Vigushin said that while it “could not be more thrilled” with investment within the arts precinct, they wanted a more collaborative on-going plan to soften the effects of disruption.

“It’s of high value to us that we can communicate with our customers proactively and



*The Southbank Boulevard project has impacted us not only financially but more importantly it’s impacted our customers.*



effectively so we can stay one step ahead. The Southbank Boulevard project has proven the longer-term impact of not being one step ahead for us. So, we want to make sure we get on the front foot with this project.”

Lord Mayor Sally Capp expressed sympathy with Arts Centre Melbourne, and admitted recent delays had been frustrating for all.

“These are issues we are aware of every day given our Southbank Boulevard experience. For lots of good reasons and some not so good, we’ve seen almost everything happen that could delay that [project], and there have been a lot of learnings.”

Arts, culture and heritage portfolio chair Cr Rohan Leppert said he wanted to give groups and businesses greater understanding of the Promenade plans.

“As proponents, I want to make sure that we are being as consultative as possible and providing the Arts Centre and others with every bit of certainty as possible around a construction plan, especially given all the other disruption that’s going on in the area.”

The start date of stage one of Southbank Promenade works between Evan Walker and Princes Bridges is still to be determined. ●



**Transformation continues**

WORDS BY *Tamara Clark*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The transformation of Southbank Boulevard kicked off for 2020 last month with council resources being poured into the stretch between Dodds St and City Rd.

The City of Melbourne said that as it currently stood, works were complete on the City Rd intersection, Southbank Boulevard roadway, green tram track and the Sturt St super stop.

The Arts gateway, outside the Melbourne Recital Centre and Melbourne Theatre Company (MTC), is under construction and is expected to be complete by the end of March.

Stonework and landscaping has begun to turn this area into a welcoming open seating space in the Arts Precinct. Installation of public lighting across the boulevard and new power supplies to traffic lights on Sturt St (at Southbank Boulevard and Kavanagh St intersections) has begun and is estimated to take six weeks to commission.

The ABC open space is next on the timeline and building is expected to start in April this year, including the introduction of stonework outside the Recital Centre and MTC, removal of the disused roadway and installation of lawn areas, seating, plants and trees.

Projects starting later in the year include the creation of a play space on the Boulevard between Fawcner and Kavanagh streets and neighbourhood parks between Fawcner St and City Rd. Five new public spaces, 300 new trees and over a kilometre of new bike lanes are promised by 2021. ●

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# Lino lifts the lid at Southgate

From page 1.

any plans in keeping us as tenants. I was categorically told 'no'. This has been on the cards for years."

"These are tenants that have been here for decades building businesses, employing people, having a go seven days a week, 16-hour days for some of us paying close to \$700k in rent for 20 years and to be treated like this as one of its major tenants is disgusting."

"Why after paying these huge rents on time every month, never late and being here for over 20 years would a landlord say that they have not thought or would look at giving me a spot in their future development?"

"Someone is not up to speed with what's happening in this industry, restaurants like ours with this longevity are rare and there are over a dozen that are here in Southbank they will all be gone if they have their way."

While it wouldn't respond to questions relating to the claims made by Mr Scidone, head of asset management at ARA Australia Rohan Neville told *Southbank News* that it was looking at various ways to improve the precinct.

"Since taking ownership of Southgate, ARA Australia has explored a range of opportunities to improve the precinct for our tenants, customers and visitors," he said.

"Southgate occupies an important site within the context of Southbank and Melbourne more broadly – we have a responsibility to better connect our precinct to our neighbours and to enhance the overall experience for all users."

"As our investigations continue, we look forward to engaging with our existing tenants, neighbours and the wider community."

While he has seven years remaining on his lease, Mr Scidone said a demolition clause in his lease agreement wasn't able to be activated by ARA for a further two years. He told *Southbank News* that it was his understanding that no other tenants in Southgate had been issued with leases beyond 2021.

Mr Scidone said the growing uncertainty was proving stressful for other tenants that he had spoken with, as well as his team of more than 70 staff.

"The precinct [Southgate] has become my whole life since I have been living in Southbank for the whole life of La Camera and living at Eureka for the past 15 years," he said. "I hope I have been part of what Southbank has become considering we have been serving over 3000 people a week."

"We have had economic stress, bushfires, coronavirus and the hospitality sector is in a mess and these guys behind the scenes are trying to screw us. It hasn't been fun in the past five months but we are all working hard to employ the thousands of staff that it takes to keep Southgate what it is."

Paul O'Brien, who operates venues PJ O'Brien's Irish Pub, Hophaus Euro Bar Bistro and BearBrass in Southgate, said that while he wasn't privy to any redevelopment plans, it was important that all tenants were kept in the loop by ARA Australia.

"It's important that if there are plans, tenants need to be made aware. It's important that we're told as soon as possible," he said.

Opened in 1992, Southgate occupies an important place in Southbank's history. As the first retail and dining com-



▲ La Camera Southgate restaurant owner Lino Scidone.

*"Why after paying these huge rents on time every month, never late and being here for over 20 years would a landlord say that they have not thought or would look at giving me a spot in their future development?"*



plex to kick off development along the Yarra River, it has played an important role in Southbank's evolution as hub linking the Arts Precinct, St John's Southgate, as well as major hotels The Langham and Quay West.

Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) president Tony Penna said that while the complex was due for a makeover, he hoped the community would be engaged as part of any future redevelopment process.

"Southgate has played an important part of the Southbank retail precinct and while we acknowledge it is in need of a little love, we would hope that any future works would be transparent and all stakeholders consulted," he said.

"There are many businesses which have been part of the Southbank fabric for a very long time. La Camera would be one such business which has always taken an active interest in the local community. It would be sad to see Southgate, as we know it now, disappear without any warning or consultation." ●



Sean Car  
EDITOR  
SEAN@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU



David Schout  
JOURNALIST  
DAVID@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU

# Southbank celebrates new parks

From page 1.

our creative project team."

"We are also excited to be running our Melbourne Square Open House event series throughout March and April, in which the park will play a key role."

## Community celebrations

Mr Penna said the March 21 community day at Boyd (from 10am to 4pm) had been envisioned for several years, and they wanted to ensure it had a "family focus".

"It will be a great day for residents to get to meet a number of their community organisations, no doubt many that they didn't realise existed," he said.

The day, run in conjunction with the City of Melbourne, Boyd Community Hub and the SRA will feature:

- Opening opening of the park by Lord Mayor Sally Capp
- Children's activities
- Performances by Southbank-based cultural and artistic organisations
- Presentations and talks at Boyd Community Hub's Assembly Hall, and;
- Displays by the Southbank Fire Brigade, Victoria Police, and local community groups

Across the road, the celebration at Melbourne Square will have a similar family feel, and (at time of publishing the March edition) was set to include:

- Planting talk with The Plant Society
- Cooking demonstrations with Miele appliances
- Meet the park designers, with Taylor Cullity Lethlean
- Styling seminars with Carr Design
- Masterplan vision sessions with Cox Architecture
- Good Cycle rent-a-bike pop-up
- Live acoustic music performance(s)

For more info on the upcoming community days, visit [southbankresidents.org.au](http://southbankresidents.org.au) and [melbsquare.com.au](http://melbsquare.com.au)



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# Needless new record set for declaring conflicts of interest

WORDS BY *Stephen Mayne*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

While former Federal sports minister Bridget McKenzie and City of Casey councillors put on a masterclass when it comes to failing to declare or act upon conflicts of interest, the City of Melbourne councillors have gone to the other extreme.

At the February 4 Future Melbourne Committee (FMC), nine of the 10 councillors declared arguable conflicts and vacated the room when it came to voting on planning scheme amendment C278, which proposes much stronger protections for sunlight over public parks.

The amendment process was kicked off by a notice of motion from Greens Cr Cathy Oke in 2015 after a development was approved which overshadowed Gardiner Reserve in North Melbourne.

The CBD is already well protected and Development Victoria disappointingly persuaded the Planning Minister to carve our Docklands from the review, presumably to protect the value of large residual state government land holdings in Docklands.

Reflecting the significance of what is being proposed for the rest of the municipality, there were 119 submissions to council including from institutional heavyweights such as the AFL, Cricket Australia, Melbourne University, AFL clubs Carlton and Richmond, Lend Lease, the Department of Transport, Urbis, VicTrack, the Red Cross, Invest Victoria, the Property Council and the Royal Society.

However, none of these could be debated, commented upon or backed up at the February 4 committee meeting because every councillor with the exception of Nicolas Frances Gilley declared a conflict (Cr Jackie Watts was an apology) and left the room. It's worth watching the webcast starting 21 minutes into proceedings and seeing how it played out over nine minutes as the councillors declared their conflicts and

then the officers explained how they would progress the proposal to an independent planning panel using officer delegation powers.

Frankly, while the law is the law, the councillors have been too conservative here. It's like when you set rates, everyone who owns property in the city is impacted but sometimes you do need to be a little pragmatic on conflict declarations.

Apart from the two councillors (Reece and Oke) who work for Melbourne University, none of the councillors explained the detail of the conflict, namely who the donor was and why it caused a conflict. So, I asked them all during public question time at the February 18 FMC meeting.

Speaking on behalf of Team Doyle, deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood explained that it was Brendan Sullivan, the husband of former Team Doyle councillor Tessa Sullivan, who made the donation which triggered the conflict. He owns an affected property in East Melbourne.

But Brendan Sullivan knew nothing of the amendment and didn't even do a submission, so why did five councillors needlessly declare a conflict?

Cr Wood claimed they took a conservative position on advice.

Planning chair Nicholas Reece admitted to being "frustrated" by the loss of quorum but there didn't seem much enthusiasm, from officers or councillors, to the proposition that they bring it back a second time for public debate with the councillors being more pragmatic and staying in the room.

C278 is a far-reaching amendment impacting on around 1400 properties, mainly by reducing future development potential. For instance, if the amendment passes, the Victorian Government would never be able to develop above Jolimont Station because this would overshadow the northern edges of Yarra Park.

There was only one request to speak (from Rupert Myer of Myer family fame) and 29 items of correspondence lodged before the February 4 meeting. It would have been much more but

“

*The CBD is already well protected and Development Victoria disappointingly persuaded the Planning Minister to carve our Docklands from the review, presumably to protect the value of large residual state government land holdings in Docklands.*

”

for the fact council officers contacted all 119 submitters a week earlier alerting them to the likely loss of quorum.

While campaign donations were a factor in eight of the nine conflict declarations (Cr Cathy Oke being ruled out solely because her employer Melbourne University did a submission), it is reassuring that none of the donors were property developers.

In the case of Cr Philip Le Liu, it was a donation from Sue Morphet, the former Pacific Brands CEO who ran for deputy Lord Mayor on his ticket put together by former planning chair Ken Ong.

Cr Rohan Leppert didn't name his donor but said the conflict was triggered by a Greens party member who donated time to his 2018 Lord

Mayor by-election campaign and was now on the owners' corporation committee of an apartment block adjacent to Flagstaff Gardens.

That's pretty tenuous stuff to warrant a councillor to leave the room, particularly if the councillor is not proposing any amendments to the officer report which would benefit the donor.

Ever since Robert Doyle foolishly accepted more than \$300,000 in donations from property developers for his 2012 campaign, loss of quorum has been a regular feature at City of Melbourne and this has undermined confidence in the council as a decision-making body.

Sure, it is better to lose quorum from conflict declarations than having conflicted councillors voting. But, for example, the current council is unable to make any decision on Crown Melbourne or broader poker machine matters because both Team Doyle and Lord Mayor Sally Capp have accepted campaign donations from Crown personnel (Harold Mitchell and Ann Peacock), the Australian Hotels Association, AHA members or a combination of all three.

I'm not aware of any council anywhere which has lost quorum more than 10 times due to conflict declaration over a seven-year period. Sometimes, such as on February 4, it was unnecessary because councillors took the "if in doubt get out" mantra too far.

In light of this, compromising campaign donations should be avoided by all candidates as much as possible in the upcoming election campaign so that the 2020-24 council doesn't suffer the same regular loss of quorum ●



*Stephen Mayne*

JOURNALIST AND FORMER CITY OF MELBOURNE COUNCILLOR

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# Tallest tower a step closer

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*  
PLANNING

The City of Melbourne is likely to endorse a proposal to build Australia's tallest tower – at 40 metres higher than the unfinished Australia 108 – in Southbank.

Property developer Beulah International applied for a planning permit to build the two-tower project on the corner of City Rd and Southbank Boulevard, to cost \$395 million, in August last year.

Councillors were yet to consider the matter at the time the March edition of *Southbank News* was published, but a report from management had recommended supporting the proposal at a Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting on March 3. It would then require final approval from Minister for Planning Richard Wynne.

The proposal includes a mix of retail, residential, office and hotel space across its two towers at 102 and 49 levels at the site currently occupied by the BMW showroom.

A report from council management said the proposal would comply with planning controls subject to some conditions.

“Subject to minor amendments secured through conditions, the proposal will comply with the modified requirements of (planning policies) including setbacks, street wall heights,

overshadowing and wind impacts,” the report said.

Those conditions included the consideration a pedestrian link through the development and asked that public access to a proposed running track be provided.

Beulah proposed to meet public benefit requirements partly through the inclusion of a 24/7 publicly accessible podium level open space, a 100-place childcare centre, and a “community conference and entertainment facility” for not-for-profit organisations.

The developer has also agreed to contribute \$5 million toward the City of Melbourne’s Southbank Boulevard upgrade.

The height of the building still requires separate approval from aviation authorities ●



*Meg Hill*  
JOURNALIST  
MEG@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU

# Protecting nature in our city

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Did you know that the City of Melbourne is home to fluffy-pawed spiders, pobblebonk frogs and matchbox-sized microbats?

In fact, hundreds of different birds, reptiles, mammals, frogs, insects and fish species call our city home, along with a vast array of plants.

But climate change is placing significant pressure on our precious native animals and plants. That’s why it’s more important than ever to take care of our urban wildlife and vegetation.

Councillor Cathy Oke, chair of the environment portfolio, said the City of Melbourne had recently declared a climate and biodiversity emergency.

“We’re leading the way on ambitious and urgent action on climate change. We know that rising temperatures mean we could lose 35 per cent of our trees in the next 20 years,” Cr Oke said.

“Some species of elms and indigenous eucalypts won’t survive – and these eucalypts are crucial habitat for many of the animals that live in our city.”

“That’s why we’re greening the city. Every year, we plant at least 3000 trees to grow our urban forest. Not only does this help keep our city cool, but it also provides our wildlife with much needed habitat.”

“We’ve also installed hollows in several trees across the city and over the past two years we’ve planted 16,000 sqm of new native grasses, shrubs and wildflowers. Both of these measures create more homes for our native animals.”

Cr Oke said City of Melbourne had achieved a lot but more action was needed.

“We need to work at a faster pace to prevent irreversible damage to our city, people, plants, animals and economy. We need to work together,” she said.

“We need to protect our beautiful and important native plants and animals. Healthy ecosystems are vital for the liveability of our city: we need nature and nature needs us.”

As part of this, the City of Melbourne is encouraging residents to help look after their urban wildlife, even if they only have a balcony.

From planting native wildflowers in pots and gardening organically, to installing bee hotels and nesting boxes in your garden, there are lots of easy ways to make your home more wildlife-friendly ●



*“We need to work at a faster pace to prevent irreversible damage to our city, people, plants, animals and economy. We need to work together,” Cr Oke said.*



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Emmi van Harten Lesser long-eared bat  
(Nyctophilus geoffroyi)\_CC BY-NC-SA 4.0

## We can all play a part in protecting native wildlife and plants

### What is City of Melbourne doing?

From tiny microbats to soaring peregrine falcons, thousands of different animals call Melbourne home. However, we're currently facing a climate and biodiversity emergency. That's why we're taking action to protect our precious native plants and animals. We do this by creating homes for wildlife, growing native grasses and wildflowers in our streets and parks, and planting trees better suited to a drier and warmer climate.

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# New 12-day winter festival coming in August

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*  
EVENTS

An epic 12-day arts festival will descend on the banks of the Lower Yarra this winter, with Southbank and the Yarra River playing a major part of its operation.

Running from August 19 to 30, the currently unnamed festival will see an end to the 35-year-old Melbourne International Arts Festival and the popular White Night festival.

Speaking exclusively at the Yarra River Business Association YRBA luncheon at Hamer Hall on February 27, joint artistic director Gideon Obarzanek said the winter festival would showcase an immersive experience unlike anything Melbourne had ever seen.

“This is not a merger of those two festivals, this is actually the end of those festivals and beginning of a new entity, which is going to become one the largest arts and cultural events we will see in the south-east Asia and Pacific region,” Mr Obarzanek said.

“Going from a largely presented festival, we are moving to a producing festival. We are making a lot of works and commissions here in Melbourne, with both local and international artists.”

“Using Melbourne as a canvas and highlighting Melbourne itself. The festival will be a place of destination, not just for people around Australia and overseas, but for Melbournians themselves.”

The festival will feature and operate within three distinct precincts; the Yarra River between Princes Bridge and Swan Street Bridge, Parliament House and Chinatown.

The Yarra River component of the festival will see *Wandering Stars*; a 400-metre interactive light installation, running east of Princes Bridge and will be open to the public from twilight to approximately 10pm.

Festival producer Alison Harvey said the river installation would become the true beacon work for the entire festival, marking the



beginning of a wondrous night of entertainment in Melbourne and encouraging visitation to Southbank.

“International artists, local artists, local communities and local businesses will engage in this project and celebrate what the river is,” Ms Harvey said.

“The river is not just what’s on the water or in the water; it is what’s around the water. It will be the start of the conversation around the festival and what it means to you and the river.”

Ms Harvey expects the flow-on of customers to businesses throughout Southbank to be immense, particularly in the quiet months of August in the festivals first year, then May in the years after that.

Over the first four years, the festival will explore the significance of the river to Melbourne and its people, from the Yarra Valley to Fishermans Bend – with intentions to expand their creative presence further and further

*“Using Melbourne as a canvas and highlighting Melbourne itself. The festival will be a place of destination, not just for people around Australia and overseas, but for Melbournians themselves.”*



upstream.

From the Yarra, festivalgoers will be encouraged through the city to the steps of Parliament House.

“The steps of Parliament are a very interesting place for concerts and music because it is known as a place of protest and we are very mindful of the works that we put in there that cross that bridge and ask those similar questions,” Mr Obarzanek said.

“Regarding traffic, we will be shutting down Spring St and the top half of Bourke St completely for pedestrian traffic as we will be holding around 15,000 people at a time.”

“The use of Parliament House is not limited to its steps. We’re using the Lower House, the Upper House, Queen’s Hall, the dining area, the back and steps of Parliament to do an extraordinary one week of commissioned works.”

From Parliament, you will then be led to the streets of China Town, which will see the precinct transform into a sensory wonderland with canopy lighting, video art and music to complement the existing array of enchanting eateries.

The precinct will be open from from 9pm until the early hours, with Mr Obarzanek in preliminary discussions with live venues in the area to keep their doors open for the duration of the festival.

With the only funding currently allocated coming from the pockets of the Victorian Government, Mr Obarzanek and his team are searching for corporate sponsorships intending to expand the festival beyond Melbourne and its surrounds.

The festival name and further information will be released in late-April ●



*Jack Hayes*  
BUSINESS EDITOR  
JACK@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU



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# A look at Fishermans Bend in 2020

WORDS BY *Sean Car*  
PLANNING

*Southbank News* caught up with Fishermans Bend Development Board chair Meredith Sussex last month to check in on how things in Australia's largest-ever urban renewal precinct were shaping up for the year ahead.

A peninsula of land two-and-a-half times the size of Melbourne's CBD, there has never been any doubting the monumental challenge of transforming Fishermans Bend from industrial precinct to a new city.

But with these challenges come incredibly exciting opportunities not only for Melbourne, but Australia. With four new mixed-use precincts and a world-leading Employment Precinct dedicated to creating the jobs of tomorrow in the likes of advanced manufacturing, engineering and design, the potential of Fishermans Bend is game-changing.

The recent political history is well-understood. Beginning under the former Liberal state government, planning got off to a false start under the leadership of then-Minister for Planning Matthew Guy. Rezoning the precinct to "capital city", the precinct would see a flurry of private development applications submitted before planning of key infrastructure had begun.

A renewed focus on proper planning under the current Labor government beginning back in 2014 saw the assembly of a new ministerial advisory committee drive a recast vision for the precinct, bringing the community back into the picture.

However, with the new framework forecasting 80,000 residents and 80,000 jobs by 2050 finalised in 2018, many have questioned the progress since. With Fishermans Bend shifting from planning to a new priority precincts portfolio under Minister Gavin Jennings, recent efforts have seemingly moved away from urban renewal to job creation.

And while the state government recorded another election win largely off the back of a record infrastructure spend across the state, a ballooning net debt has followed, casting doubts on a much-needed rail connection to Fishermans Bend by 2025 as projected.

But Meredith Sussex, who has been



▲ Meredith Sussex in Montague last month.

at the coalface of Fishermans Bend since 2014, assured *Southbank News* that despite the state's current challenges, her board had all the support it needed to carry out the vision.

"I think the commitment has been there," she said "If you look at the school, the park, the secondary school, the community hospital. It's very much on the agenda. And indeed, the purchasing of the GMH [General Motors Holden] site."

"We know the government is financially constrained and we know that's going to be even more tricky given the impact of the bushfires and we know what needs to happen. Our job is to get the funding and finance strategy up and the next level of the developer contributions plan in place and frankly, to engage the Commonwealth."

With the University of Melbourne purchasing a large chunk of the GMH site for a new engineering and design campus, Ms Sussex said discussions with a second university, understood to be RMIT, rested on the delivery of a tram connection.

While the state government committed \$5 million towards exploring options and a business case for a river crossing between Collins and Lorimer streets in last year's budget, she said the board would like to see a firm commitment as soon as possible.

"With the tram it's a question about when, not if," she said. "The government has not made a firm commitment about when that will be but in the meantime it's absolutely essential that the bus services and active transport be dramatically improved."

Premier Daniel Andrews' shock announcement of a more than \$50 billion Suburban Rail Loop in 2019 left many wondering about when a train connection to Fishermans Bend would be delivered.

When Metro 1 is completed in 2025, it's been widely suggested that tunnel boring machines should be immediately shifted to start work on Metro 2, linking Mernda to Werribee via Parkville and Fishermans Bend. It's a project that many transport experts have deemed just as, if not more, crucial in the short-term for Melbourne than Suburban Rail.

However, Ms Sussex said government talks of a more recent proposal to build a tunnel underneath Sunshine as part of a new airport rail link had the Board more concerned.

"At the moment there is discussion around tunnelling under Sunshine and it is the board's view that the tunnel through Fishermans Bend is an alternative to a tunnel under the Sunshine corridor," she said.

"By taking the Werribee and Geelong trains off that route and bringing them faster into the city you can free up even more capacity on the Sunshine corridor, which already has enough capacity for the airport rail corridor."

"Sandridge is the next office precinct for Melbourne and it has to have a rail connection. It is one stop from Southern Cross in the planning rail so that's a real imperative. The other real imperative is that we're talking about the Employment Precinct having 40,000 jobs and being one of the great design, engineering, advanced manufacturing centres in the world and we want to make sure that the people of the west have access to that in terms of jobs and that future as early as possible."

"Our view is that the connection between Newport, the Employment Precinct, Sandridge and Southern Cross is absolutely essential to the future of Melbourne, and not just Fishermans Bend. That will allow more services from Werribee, fast services from Geelong as well as the connections that are essential in terms of the inner-city connections."

Having looked to other employment and innovation clusters around the world such as MaRS Discovery District in Toronto and the Brooklyn Navy Yard in New York, Ms Sussex

said detailed strategic framing of the Employment Precinct was a high priority for 2020.

A key part of that process is continuing to foster the hundreds of innovative businesses already active in the precinct in addition to supporting the University of Melbourne's effort to drive a co-location of research and vocation in the precinct.

"It's how you attract a mix of research institutions, entrepreneurs, start-ups, scale-ups, venture capitalists and how you actually bring that together to do what we don't currently do well which is commercialise the great research outputs of our institutions," she said.

"We're in the top five in the world in terms of research output but we're in the bottom five for commercialising it and that's what we're addressing."

Other key milestones for 2020 include finalising the all-important funding and finance strategy, reviewing and strengthening current governance arrangements and placemaking and community engagement in Montague.

While the uncertainty around public transport has meant a lessened focus on urban renewal in the more distant precincts of Wirraway and Sandridge, development activity in Montague, and to a lesser extent, Lorimer, continues to increase.

"In Montague in particular, the development is going gangbusters," she said.

"We're now into the next stage of placemaking in Montague and that will be very small things like naming the lanes, celebrating the heritage and the naming and communication of what Montague is. This involves the existing community, existing businesses and new community so that we really build on the strengths on the area." ●

**For more information:**  
[fishermansbend.vic.gov.au](http://fishermansbend.vic.gov.au)

## Fears over helipad removal

WORDS BY *Tamara Clark*  
TRANSPORT

Helicopter operators have spoken out against the City of Melbourne's Yarra River Strategy, which looks to phase out the helipad at Batman Park to provide for greater amenity along the Northbank.

In its strategy, the council states that the river is an essential part of indigenous history and contemporary Melbourne advancements and the sound and wind from the pad compromises "the park experience."

The purpose of the plan is to embrace the natural environment, history of the river, enhance connectivity and improve enjoyment of the space.

However, the bid to make the Northbank more desirable has not been received well by everyone in the community.

CEO of Skyport and representative of the Melbourne helicopter community Clem Newton-Brown said that Melbourne was in a unique position in having its own helipad so central to the city.

"There are enormous benefits to the platform," he said. "Twenty thousand tourists use the service yearly to travel from the CBD to regional areas. The event space increases tourism across the state."

While he said that the helicopter movement created intermittent noise in the park, the service more importantly provided excitement and attraction.

He said the landing and taking off of aircraft on a floating helipad was not only one of the safest methods of operation but also brought an air of exhilaration and liveliness to the park.

"The helipad does not compromise the park experience at all," he said.

"Just because it is an urban park does not mean it needs zero activity."

With Melbourne to be a test-bed for Uber Air's vision for hundreds of flying taxis, multiple sky ports would be necessary for operation, according to Newton-Brown.

He said the council needed to realise that the helipad was an enormous asset, which had thrived for more than 50 years on the Yarra and would be very difficult to replace.

The Batman Park helipad is the final inner-city helipad left in Australia after the removal of the North Wharf pad in 2018 ●

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# Council unhappy with Gurner plans

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*  
PLANNING

A proposal by property developer Gurner to build three towers and a "town square" in Fishermans Bend has been criticised due to a lack of detail and concerns regarding sea level rise and flooding.

At its planning committee meeting on February 26, the City of Port Phillip recommended the state government reject the application to build three mixed-use towers at 2-28 Montague St and 80 Munro St.

The proposal seeks to develop much of the project's details during the life of the development.

As a result, a council report said that the current plans did not yet "fully describe and detail what is proposed".

Plans for the development by Cox Architecture said the development would "create an inviting and lively interface for the broader South Melbourne area".

But council officers raised concerns over a host of issues, including tower heights, inconsistency with standards for the area and surrounds, lack of differentiation among the tower designs and a lack of communal open space.

Overall, the application did not achieve full compliance in seven out of 10 policy areas.

Melbourne Water opposed a previous version of the application on the grounds that it was inconsistent with floor levels guidelines, drainage and floodplain management and would be affected by sea level rises.

Council said the new application did not show that all floor levels had been amended to comply with Melbourne Water's recommendations ●

*But council officers raised concerns over a host of issues, including tower heights, inconsistency with standards for the area and surrounds, lack of differentiation amongst the tower designs and a lack of communal open space.*



▼ A render of Gurner's proposal for 2-28 Montague St.



# Fresh vote on affordable housing

HOUSING

City of Melbourne councillors will vote on a new draft strategy that aims to increase the supply of affordable rental housing in the municipality.

The strategy includes advocating for inclusionary zoning across Victoria and a commitment to deliver an affordable housing project in the municipality within the next five years.

Councillors had not yet voted on the *Draft Affordable Housing Strategy 2030* at the time March edition of *Southbank News* was published but were due to consider the matter on March 3.

On March 2, Lord Mayor Sally Capp told the fifth annual Affordable Housing Development Summit that affordable housing was central to Melbourne's liveability.

"We need thousands more affordable homes to ensure a wide range of people have the opportunity to live close to where their job is based," the Lord Mayor said.

"As housing becomes less affordable, people on very low to moderate incomes are being pushed out of the inner city. We have a responsibility to make sure our city is inclusive, fair and liveable for everyone."

"The good news is that investing in affordable housing makes sense. Economic modelling shows that for every dollar spent on affordable housing more than three dollars of economic benefit would be generated."

A housing needs analysis referenced by the council found there was a current shortfall of at least 5500 affordable homes in the city, which would increase to 23,000 by 2036 if no action was taken ●

# Philanthropic and media identity given AO

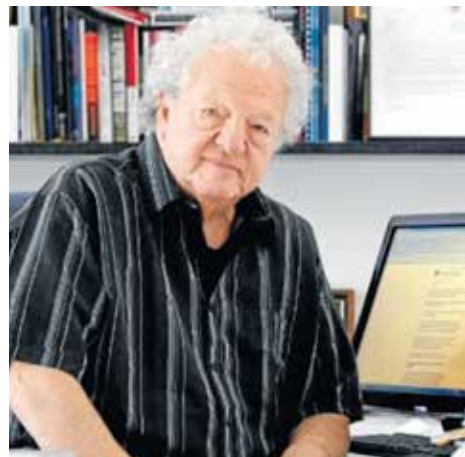
WORDS BY *David Schout*  
LOCAL NEWS

Recently departed CEO of the Pratt Foundation, Southbank's Sam Lipski was earlier this year made an Officer (AO) of the Order of Australia.

The former journalist and commentator was given the distinguished honour, limited to just 140 people nationally each year, for "distinguished service to the community through the promotion of strategic philanthropy, to education, and to Australia-Israel relations".

Mr Lipski's 21-year tenure as chief executive of the Pratt Foundation, headquartered on Southbank Boulevard, ended in December.

Visy chair Anthony Pratt paid tribute at the time to "his magnificent work on behalf of the foundation's philanthropic activities in Australia, Israel and internationally".



▲ Southbanker Samuel Lipski. Photo: The Australian.

A long-time advisor to business heavyweight and Visy founder Richard Pratt, Mr Lipski has kept ties with the foundation, where he remains involved as an advisor.

His AO also recognised a host of other philanthropic endeavours, including as founding director of Australian Jewish Funders (2008-2018) and Australia-Israel Scientific Exchange Foundation (1999-2010) and as the former chair of the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation at Monash University.

His extensive CV also includes six years as the president of the State Library of Victoria (2000-2006) and the 2016 Prime Minister's Literary Award for *Let My People Go*, co-written with Professor Suzanne Rutland Rutland, which detailed the struggle of Soviet Jews during the Cold War.

Mr Lipski's career started in the mid-1960s as

a journalist when he joined the Parliamentary Press Gallery in Canberra and would become the first political commentator to appear nightly on network television.

Later that decade he was appointed Washington correspondent at *The Australian* before returning to Melbourne in 1973 to become the Australian correspondent for the *Washington Post*.

Later he would become a columnist for *The Australian*, *The Age* and the *Sydney Morning Herald* and take up senior roles in television with Channel 9 and the ABC before becoming editor-in-chief of *The Australian Jewish News*.

Upon receiving an honorary degree from Monash University in 2008, then vice-chancellor Richard Larkins said Mr Lipski was "one of the outstanding Australians of his generation" ●



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## Clean-up confusion on bridge

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
LOCAL NEWS

Graffiti on the infamous Montague Street Bridge will be removed by the Department of Transport and Yarra Trams after a local resident alleged that “no one wanted to take responsibility” for it.

Brian Kelly, who lives directly next to the bridge in Montague Towers, said he had been “given the runaround” from various bodies about longstanding graffiti on the bridge, which he said was constantly “tagged and re-tagged”.

After reporting damage of the bridge and surrounding walls in November, Mr Kelly claimed he was hand-balled between Yarra Trams and VicRoads, before he eventually asked the City of Port Phillip about the matter.

“No one wants to take responsibility for the bridge,” he said.

When contacted by *Southbank News*, Gateway Ward councillor Marcus Pearl said he was aware of issues at the bridge, and had asked council officers to organise a clean-up.

But the council later confirmed it was not their asset, and would not be cleaning the area.

It was eventually confirmed that the bridge was managed by Yarra Trams.

A Department of Transport spokesperson said the defacement would be addressed.

“We’ll work with Yarra Trams to remove graffiti from the bridge,” the spokesperson said.

“Any graffiti which could be considered racist, offensive or have road safety implications is removed as soon as possible from our road network or any of our assets such as bridges and signs.”

The bridge itself has been subject to media scrutiny for years, as its low height clearance of three metres has often seen trucks and larger vehicles collide with it.

But for locals like Mr Kelly, it has become an eyesore.

## Out on the frontier

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*  
BUSINESS

Down on Munro St a little patch of blue-green leaves set against a modest hacienda-style entrance says welcome in an industrial frontier land that is changing slowly.

There are great plans afoot for Fishermans Bend but, so far, Adam Wright-Smith is just hanging out not that far from the Charles Grimes Bridge.

There is little passing foot trade in this low-rise district of factories and development sites.

For some that is an attraction. Adam has designed the entrance to his restaurant Half Acre as a lazy reminder of a stopping place on a long journey.

“I lived in New York for seven years,” he said. “One thing I love is how entrances can change the perception of things. The unexpected always creates energy.”

“If you’re walking past on the outside there’s minimal signage. You pop your head in and don’t know what to expect. The first thing you see is a wood stack.”

There are five main areas in this conversion of an old fashion mill – a cosy bar, an open kitchen, the restaurant, a large function room and a courtyard. All have exposed bricks or peeling paint, recycled timbers, arched doorways and original timber-lined ceilings.

Atmosphere is everything. The chefs are on display. “The concept is having friends over and chatting with the chefs. I want people to think of home,” he said.

Adam is planning a Mother’s Day menu and he is thinking of sourcing all of the ingredients from female farmers and growers.

It’s a neat, if not romantic, idea that has emerged from his use of Gippsland produce after the bushfires – porterhouse steak, John Dory from Lakes Entrance, vegetables such as native greens, and cheeses.

The menu features single vegetable dishes as mains – roasted carrots with myrtle, whole roasted cauliflower and grilled cabbage, natural elements of an earthy approach to hospitality.

“I couldn’t speak the language of the high-end swishy place,” Adam said.

He did concede that even though Half Acre was not that far from the city, it was quite difficult to get to the restaurant by foot.

You have to cross the river on the Charles Grimes



▲ Adam Wright-Smith.

Bridge then duck under flyovers to the Westgate freeway with trucks hurtling down at you from every direction.

On arrival in the Montague St area you pass vast empty spaces due for development, an electricity sub-station and the Port Phillip depot.

The untamed quality has a certain allure after the pampered parts of town. “A lot of people are happy to get out of the hustle and bustle.”

This is Adam’s first hospitality venture: “it’s definitely a challenge. You don’t always get a second chance.”

He’s confident about the future of this new food and beverage precinct.

“The area has a lot of hidden gems. You don’t know that a building’s occupied. You open the door and there’s a media agency. A renowned whisky distillery is nearby and Colonial breweries.”

You can also buy tools across the road, engage pest control specialists and find a parking spot ●

## Researching Australia’s smallest bat

ENVIRONMENT

“Citizen scientists” were enlisted by the City of Melbourne and the University of Melbourne to help survey populations of microbats in Southbank in February.

Sixteen “bioblitz” events occurred across the City of Melbourne, including in Kings Domain, focusing on microbats. Participants assisted in catching the bats and recording their calls.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said microbats played a unique role in the city’s ecosystem.

“There are only five species of microbat in the City of Melbourne, but we know there are around 16 different species across greater Melbourne, many of which are listed as threatened species under state and federal legislation,” the Lord Mayor said.

“These little nocturnal creatures play an important role in our city by helping to regulate



and control insect populations. During summer microbats go into feeding frenzies as they fatten up for winter, with one microbat capable of eating up to 600 insects an hour.”

“It’s important we learn as much as we can about these microbats, with recent technological advancements making tracking them easier than ever. Citizen scientists can help us monitor our local populations and even capture

high-quality bat calls on their smart phones.”

Microbats differ from Melbourne’s famous “flying-foxes” by exclusively eating insects, using ultrasonic calls and weighing only a few grams. The smallest bat in Australia, the Little Forest Bat, can fit into a matchbox.

The microbats are dependent on tree hollows to survive and are sensitive to threats such as light at night, pollution, loss of tree habitat and the effects of climate change.

The City of Melbourne declared a climate and biodiversity emergency last year and is committed to stepping up action on climate change to avoid the severe impacts of global warming.

There are at least 90 species of plants and animals at risk of extinction that occur in the Greater Melbourne area including the yellow-bellied sheath-tail bat, the grey-headed flying fox, the swift parrot and the growling grass frog.

Chair of the City of Melbourne’s environment portfolio Cr Cathy Oke said the bioblitz events helped people understand the importance of biodiversity.

“We want to help educate the general population about the plight of some of our city’s smallest and most threatened species,” Cr Oke said.

“The more people know about these microbats the more willing they will be to help preserve their habitat and ensure their survival. I’d encourage everyone to sign up for the event to better understand these interesting and cute little creatures.”

Dr Pia Lentini from the University of Melbourne’s School of Biosciences led the events in partnership with the City of Melbourne’s urban forest and ecology team ●



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# The Arts Precinct



## Preparing to go out: the story of *Japanese Modernism*

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*  
ARTS & CULTURE

The National Gallery of Victoria's (NGV) free-entry art spaces are now showing the major new exhibition *Japanese Modernism*.

The exclusive new exhibition will run until October 4 and showcases more than 190 multi-disciplinary works – Asian art deco paintings, prints, design and fashion – created during the first half of the 20th century.

NGV director Tony Ellwood AM said the show was the culmination of five years of collection at the gallery.

"*Japanese Modernism* offers exclusive insight into an era of Japanese art that is yet to be widely discovered by Australian audiences," he said.

"With all of these works being exhibited in Australia for the first time, this vibrant collection of modernism captures the spirit of a rapidly evolving country and its exuberant youth."

The period was culturally formative in Japan, situated between the 1923 Kanto earthquake and the devastation of World War II.

Japan underwent major redevelopment in the 1920s and '30s and its cities were filled with department stores, cafes, teahouses, movie theatres, ballroom dance halls and modern transportation.

With an increase in international travel, the influence of new technologies from abroad and a lively consumer culture took hold of the country.

In Tokyo, the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Imperial Hotel – which survived the devastation



of the Kanto earthquake – provided the backdrop for the reconstruction of a modern capital that delivered a new-found sense of optimism to its younger generation.

It filtered into the art world as a juxtaposition between traditional Japanese motifs and modern designs.

The exhibition focuses on work by exceptional, but under-recognised, women artists, leading avant-garde designers and illustrators.

Taniguchi Fumie's trailblazing 1935 work *Preparing to go out (Yosouu hibobito)* is a highlight of the exhibition. Taking inspiration from the 17th century Matsuura screens, the artist created a large sixfold screen capturing changing attitudes towards women, consumerism and fashion.

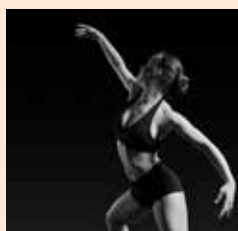
Fumie's burgeoning career was cut short after she evacuated to the countryside to escape the final bombing raids of World War II. Leaving Japan in the early 1950s, she was never known to paint again.

The period saw mass migration from the country and the city, women moving into secure jobs and increased freedom in lifestyle, and the transformation of social norms. Artworks from the time – like the featured *Tea and coffee salon, Sabō* 1939 by Saeki Shunkō and *Waiting for Make-up* 1938 by Negishi Ayako – captured the self-assured, fashionable women of the modern era.

The exhibition's fashion showcase includes playfully designed kimonos and accessories embracing art nouveau and art deco design elements. Interior designers are presented across beautifully crafted glassware, lacquerware and bronzeware.

More than 100 pieces of Japanese cut glass, with geometric and nature motifs inspired by traditional Japanese design, are on display.

*Japanese Modernism* will be on display at NGV International until October 4, 2020. Entry is free. For more visit [ngv.vic.gov.au](http://ngv.vic.gov.au)



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CRITIC

## Still alive in '20

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

Each generation of artists has to make its own way through the mire of prejudices confronting it and Melbourne's young intellectuals are taking notes from the *Basquait and Haring: Crossing Lines* exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV).

Madeleine Border and Honor Webster-Mannison are posing in front of one of Keith Haring's definitive illustrations.

Both are studying writing and developing their voices against the background of the past.

"There are still deep divisions between cultures – pop art cultures and contemporary art in galleries," said Madeleine, who just graduated with a Masters in Writing from the University of Queensland.

"It's cool to see them bridge the divide."

Both writers admire the daring and the danger in this exhibition of work by two famous US street artists from the '80s.

"When both started in graffiti the bravery was not just in the message but in the act," Honor said. "They were both willing to be arrested. They were reclaiming public spaces."

The Melbourne thinkers make a distinction between work that is done in the moment and work that pushes a political cause because the artist has a platform.

"They began to act first and the aesthetic emerged," Madeleine said. "When you're well-known it's not brave but important to make art. Your voice becomes a platform."

Even though they could have been caught by the police, there was "no redaction of the art," she said. They were brave enough to make an



▲ Madeleine Border (left) and Honor Webster-Mannison at the Crossing Lines exhibition.

instant mark.

Madeleine, who began a Masters of Playwriting at the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) last month, said the work of these two radicals was still relevant today.

"The Haring piece about Ronald Reagan could easily have been written yesterday about Trump," she said.

One of Haring's most moving illustrations is of a bunch of writhing bodies in a gay bathhouse with crosses on their chests to indicate their coming mortality under the heading *Still Alive in '95*.

In today's political times these works shine like beacons for their early commentaries on racism, AIDS and gay rights.

Keith Haring was illustrating from the inside of the movement, having abandoned his Christian upbringing.

Early notebooks and diaries indicate how both artists were actively engaged in their pertinent

commentaries from youth.

Jean-Michel Basquait's word experiments spread across the pages in typological poetry that shows his early obsession with spatial politics. Some words are crossed out, drawing attention to themselves.

Haring wrote short stories. One was typed in a single column in 1980.

He had come home one night at 4am to find a crashed vehicle outside his house.

Opposite was a bar. There was a flyer on the street and he stuck it under the windscreen.

The flyer was an eight-and-a-half-inch piece of yellow cardboard with the words "Gin & Tonic, Beer, Wine, Rum & Coke, Vodka and Bloody Mary" printed on it.

The next morning when he came out a woman called him over, pointed at the car and said, "See he was drinking."

*Basquait and Haring: Crossing Lines, NGV until April.*

▼ In the Year of the Quiet Sun (film still), 2013, by The Otolith Group. Courtesy and copyright the artists



## Buxton's exclusive Xenogenesis premiere

Buxton Contemporary will launch the Australian premiere of a new Afrofuturist art exhibition by London-based collective The Otolith Group on March 6.

Inspired by radical '80s fiction, *Xenogenesis* will weave together strands of speculation and imagination, possible pasts and futures, references to science fiction, postcolonial histories, music, philosophy and scientific discovery.

Buxton Contemporary curator Mellissa Keys said the exhibition was a timely piece by compelling artists.

"*Xenogenesis* critically and seductively explores many of the cultural, environmental and political structures of the status quo," she said.

"These highly regarded long term collaborators are internationally recognised for their experimental moving imagine essays and installations that seamlessly fuse fictional and documentary modes of filmmaking."

Kodwo Eshun and Anjalika Sagar of The Otolith Group's work on the exhibition was inspired by the African American science fiction writer Octavia Butler.

Butler's fiction transcended the conventions of genre, exploring social issues of empathy, climate catastrophe, hybridity, conservation and tribalism. It inspired a legacy of feminist and Afrofuturist fiction.

It's through this prism that *Xenogenesis* can be experienced.

The large-scale exhibition, comprised of five works from 2013 to 2018, pictures a society in which screens have become part of the natural world, communication is global, culture is political, human identity is crucial, but fluid and history has not ended.

Buxton Contemporary secured the exclusive through an international partnership. Annie Fletcher (Van Abbemuseum in Netherlands and the Irish Museum of Modern art) has come on board as curator of the show.

*The Otolith Group: Xenogenesis* opens on Friday, March 6 2020 until Sunday, June 21 2020 at Buxton Contemporary, the University of Melbourne Cnr Dodds St and Southbank Boulevard. Entry is free.

[buxtoncontemporary.com](http://buxtoncontemporary.com)

▼ The Otolith Group. O Horizon, 2018 (film still)..



## Welcome to campus

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

It was O-week in February and the art students were back in town to begin their long and tortuous journey towards a career.

At noon on February 20, indigenous students were there to welcome them to campus.

The courtyard of the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) was filled with smoke.

"It's used for healing, cleansing mostly," said Gheran Yarraman Steel, a representative of the Boonwurrung people.

"We use it to respect the welcome to country," he said. "It cleanses all the bad energy."

Students exposed themselves to river red gum and wattle smoke and danced around the courtyard.

Mr Steel said it would help if the smoke of local plants was in their bodies so they were recognised by country.

Among the students hoping for a bit of recognition was Jamieson Doyle who is doing a science degree but has opted for a breadth subject in songwriting.

"I'm allowed to keep doing it as a side passion," he said.

Jamieson and his friends arrived an hour early

▼ Boonwurrung smoke ceremony welcomes back art students.



for the lunch and looked cool hanging out on the lawn on bean bags.

Jamieson's first VCA lyrics will be about the warm welcome at the orientation week lunch.

Mr Steel took a more historical view of events at the campus. He said that this area of the

riverbank used to be filled with the waters of the Yarra.

"The Birrarung used to flow out to where Point Nepean is now," he said. "When the bay filled up the waters came up to St Kilda Rd. It used to be underwater here."

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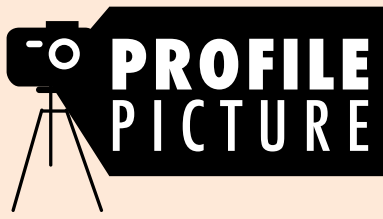
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PROFILE PICTURE



SIMON DOW



▲ Trio.



▲ Trace series.

# Unremembered

*With a career in the arts already under his belt, Simon Dow was still enticed to enrol in a Photography Studies College (PSC) course.*

As a performance artist and choreographer, Simon made a film with PSC alumni Aaron Walker. It was based on a Japanese art form called Butoh and shot by lakes and in mountains.

"Butoh is a really interesting artform performed by humans, I really wanted to use nature as a metaphor for the human body and landscape. The film's length is about 25 minutes and it showed continuously during its installation."

"Looking at Aaron's work, being involved in the film project and talking about photography got me really excited to further explore visual arts," Simon said.

"I've been in performing arts all my life and I've always loved photography and I felt I should dive in, so I dove in."

Although Simon had spent years in performance art and choreography, engaging in photography was "waking up" entirely new aspects of creativity.

"I've always been very visual, so I feel an affinity with photography. I work in visuals, with lighting and costuming and narrative work and making things communicative and photography contains all those things," he said.

"But every photographer also has a completely

unique voice because their experience of reality is based on a completely different experience. We have really deep-thinking lecturers at PSC and that experience has been really remarkable in changing my way of seeing the world."

One of his favourite photography projects was *Tried*, a folio he worked on with a group of young people creating a set of portraits that were "open, available and real".

Simon has balanced studying part-time at PSC with continuing to work in the arts at the Australian Ballet in Southbank. But his ongoing involvement in the arts, and the flexibility of PSC, has helped him avoid a style of work that's too structured or predictable.

"I love the human face, so I'm very interested in portraiture, environmental portraiture, the question of what it is to be human," he said.

"I'm also interested in things you almost can't wrap your mind around – the inexplicable. But I see photography as an incredible process of discovery, and I don't think I'm going to develop one particular style or way of looking at things."

Simon is currently working on *Unremembered*, a project that epitomises his unstructured style. When he showed his tutor his proposal, they told him to "photograph nothing".

"It feels like a Zen riddle because it's really challenging to wrap any sense of anything into that. It's been really brilliantly freeing creatively."

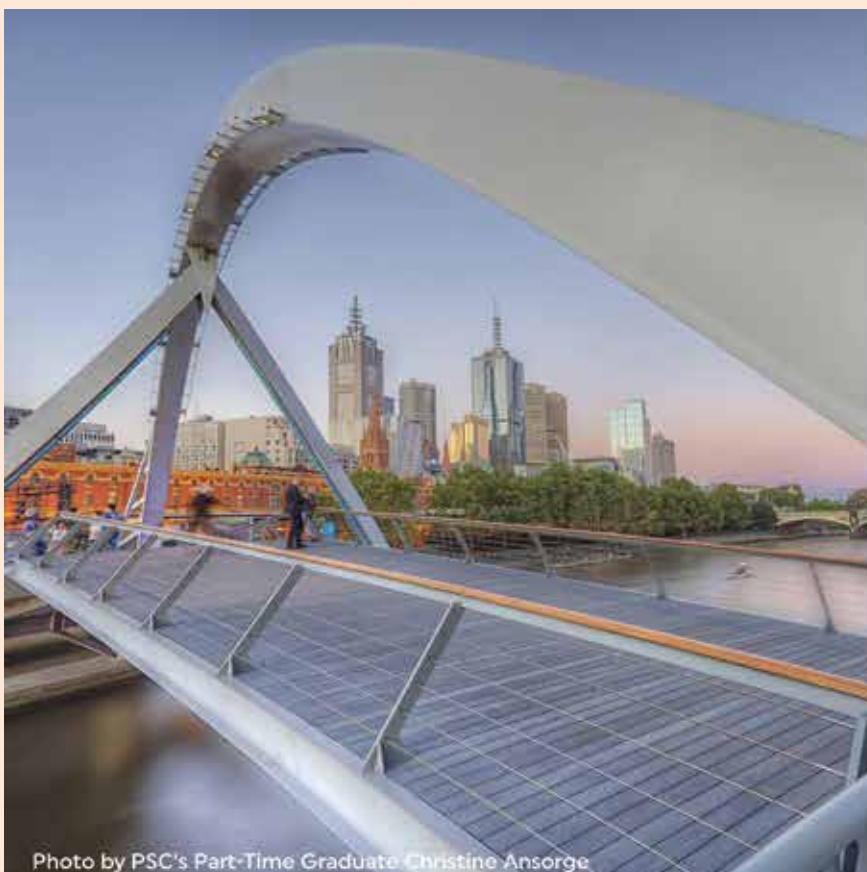


Photo by PSC's Part-Time Graduate Christine Ansoorge



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# Events: March 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



## EMERALD CITY

March 6 – April 18  
The Sumner

Celebrate 50 years of David Williamson's works on our stages with this iconic Australian play starring Ray Chong Nee (*Noises Off*), Marg Downey (*Fast Forward*), Nadine Garner (*The Blake Mysteries*) Megan Hind (*Secret Bridesmaids' Business*), Jason Klarwein (*A Streetcar Named Desire*) and Rhys Muldoon (*House Husbands*).

mtc.com.au



## WERK IT

April 9 – 19  
The Famous Spiegeltent

*Werk It* is an all-star, high-energy, circus comedy romp. From the creators of *Neon* and *Can't Face* - you can expect equal parts skills and thrills from this over-the-top ensemble who will be hip thrusting their way into an acrobatic fever dream for 10 shows only.

artscentremelbourne.com.au



## SWAN LAKE

April 17 – 18  
State Theatre

Queensland Ballet is delighted to present Ben Stevenson's traditional production of *Swan Lake* from 17-18 April. Perfect for the whole family, this classic story of good versus evils is considered one of the greatest ballets of all time.

artscentremelbourne.com.au

## AUSTRALIAN MUSIC VAULT

Ongoing  
Arts Centre Melbourne

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

australianmusicvault.com.au

## METROPOLIS 2020: HAKAN HARDENBERGER

April 8  
Melbourne Recital

Join the MSO at the new-look Metropolis, an innovative one-night-only event headlined by Swedish trumpet virtuoso and new music pioneer, Håkan Hardenberger. All corners of the Melbourne Recital Centre will come alive in a journey of sound.

melbournerecital.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



## CIEL METALLIQUE

April 22  
Melbourne Recital Centre

Aarti Jadu presents a unique use of the terms progressive and theatrical music. With an ensemble of hypnotic vocals interwoven between ambient electronic and instrumental arrangements, the stage becomes a space to actualise and experiment with the strengths of the incredibly versatile and diverse scene.

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

Until 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



## F\*CK FABULOUS

April 7 – 18  
Fairfax Studio

This is a protest party. Say farewell to cabaret's conventional glitter and sequins and embrace the real and raw. Hosted by queer, fat, femme cabaret icon Yana Alana, this cabaret variety show boasts a fierce line up of dance, circus, drag, comedy and performance art.

artscentremelbourne.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

Until 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



SOUTHBANKER



# One snotty Southbanker!

WORDS BY *Sean Car*

Locals, meet Mr Snotbottom, aka Southbank resident Mark Trenwith!

Mr Snotbottom is a disgusting comedian for kids, who loves a good old-fashioned fart joke and a booger or two. Mark Trenwith is just a regular guy who enjoys life in Southbank!

With a background in film and animation, Mr Trenwith's journey in stand-up comedy began back in his hometown of Adelaide where like most comedians, he was working hard, going gig-to-gig.

Moving to Melbourne more than seven years ago to chase more work as a stand-up, he said he reached a point where he began to "hit a ceiling" with comedy, which is when a completely new character began to take shape.

Having also worked as Captain Starlight for the Starlight Foundation for more than 10 years, as well as in jobs in children's theatre and TV, he said his combined skill sets in comedy

and working with children had been the catalyst for the rise of Mr Snotbottom!

"I had started at Starlight and then a friend asked me if I could perform at a party," Mark said. "She had no idea that I had a background in children's theatre; she just knew me as a stand-up."

"I'd learned a few magic tricks at Starlight and making gags and creating material spontaneously at the hospital so I strung it all together. Then she said she wanted me to be disgusting and make fart jokes but I initially ignored it."

"Then two days before the party word got around that someone was coming to make fart jokes so I realised that they were serious and had to re-write it all with this gross undertone and came up with a name for the character and it really worked out!"

What started at a birthday party, Mr Snotbottom has grown into fully-fledged stage show for kids, which Mark described as the "R-rated Wiggles." Performed everywhere from

schools and libraries to sold-out shows at comedy festivals and theatres, Mr Snotbottom has become a major hit with families. He even has his own podcast called *Busy Bodies!*

"It's not necessarily about making a fart joke but the gross undertones come in more weird scenarios," Mark said. "I'm writing a song at the moment about a slug who's in love with a human and all the weird undertones you can make about the fact that he's such a good kisser because he's the shape of a tongue and just being able to make slurpy, slug noises."

"It's largely about what makes me laugh and because I've got a fairly child-like humour anyway, I find that funny as well."

"It's just all the weird stuff in the human body, which is also about making learning fun. I think the parents enjoy that aspect of the show too."

Mr Snotbottom will appear at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival at Melbourne Town Hall from April 3-5.

**For more information:**  
[mrsnotbottom.com](http://mrsnotbottom.com)

SAFETY & SECURITY

# Community safety

*On Saturday November 30, members from Southbank Police Station, Melbourne Proactive Policing Unit and Melbourne Highway Patrol held the inaugural Southbank Community Safety and Security Day at Boyd Community Hub. The day was a huge success!*

The most popular activity was the bike engraving. Engraving your bike with your driver's licence number improves the chances of it being returned to you if it is stolen and handed in to a police station.

Members from the Proactive Policing Unit spoke with Southbank apartment residents about crime prevention specific to their living arrangements. Did you know that there is a self-assessment tool available online for vertical living? It is available on the Victoria Police website: [police.vic.gov.au](http://police.vic.gov.au).

There is also a residential security kit. If you are unable to locate these online, please email the Proactive Policing Unit at the following

address and a copy will be supplied to you: [ND1-PROACTIVE-POLICING-UNIT-OIC@police.vic.gov.au](mailto:ND1-PROACTIVE-POLICING-UNIT-OIC@police.vic.gov.au)

Police members were kept busy answering questions regarding road safety and bicycle/motorcycle safety. One-way anti-theft screws were supplied to residents to fit to their private vehicles to reduce the risk of number plates being removed and used for illegal purposes.

If you are disappointed that you missed out on the chance to liaise with your local police, you have another opportunity! Police members will attend the Southbank Community Day, which includes the official opening of Boyd Park, on Saturday, March 21 from 10am until

4pm. There will be kids' police uniforms and kids' activities so bring the entire family along. Don't forget to bring your bikes to be engraved. See you there! ●



Senior Sgt Alex O'Toole

STATION COMMANDER AT SOUTHBANK POLICE STATION

[SOUTHBANK-UNI-OIC@POLICE.VIC.GOV.AU](mailto:SOUTHBANK-UNI-OIC@POLICE.VIC.GOV.AU)



BUSINESS

# Hockingstuart becomes Belle Property

*In what has become Australia's largest known consolidation of agencies, Melbourne real estate heavyweight Hockingstuart has merged with Sydney-based agency Belle Property.*

The two companies began joint operation in late 2019, with 21 Hockingstuart offices now operating under the Belle Property brand, including their Albert Park and South Melbourne agencies.

While the Hockingstuart brand will continue to operate in several locations across Victoria, director of Belle Property Sandringham Jenny Dwyer said the decision to operate under the Belle Property brand in the Bayside and inner Melbourne region would offer great opportunities for local clients.

"Belle Property has a national reach of more than 120 offices across the eastern seaboard of Australia. Plus, international connections through Leading Real Estate Companies of the World, which is a global property platform," Ms Dwyer said.

"This means we are now uniquely positioned to use this extensive network to sell homes for more – not to mention connecting buyers to property all over the country and abroad."

The merger marks Belle Property's induction as one of only three truly national agencies alongside Ray White and LJ Hooker.

Despite combining more than 40 Victorian offices and 600 employees, no redundancies are expected.

Belle Property and Hockingstuart CEO,



▲ Belle Property Bayside directors.

Peter Hanscomb, said the Bayside area was a lifestyle market with unique opportunities for buyers and sellers and aligns strongly with the premium brand of Belle Property.

"We know the experienced teams in Albert Park, Brighton, Sandringham, St Kilda, Bentleigh and Caulfield will continue to service the community with dedication and professionalism to achieve superior results," Mr

Hanscomb said.

Belle Property was founded in 2000 in alignment with *Belle* lifestyle magazine, then relaunched in 2007 which saw the agency grow to more than 80 offices operating across New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory.

Speaking with *The Australian Financial*

*Review* last year, Mr Hanscomb said Belle Property's migration to Victoria was inevitable.

"We have had our sights on Victoria, but as a mature and sophisticated market, we needed to ensure we aligned with the right brand. Hockingstuart are a well-respected agency with a long tradition in the core premium markets in Victoria, and it's a brand of astounding innovation with many 'firsts' under its belt," Mr Hanscomb said.

As part of the merger, and in conjunction with existing partner and lifestyle publisher Sitchu, Hockingstuart and Belle Property have also launched a refreshed property magazine, *Sitchu Living*.

"*Sitchu Living* is a lifestyle-focused property magazine that includes editorial content as well as property listings from across Belle Property, Hockingstuart and Luxury Portfolio – our network's international property partner. Sitchu Living is a unique way to advertise property and promote local suburbs and businesses," he said.

The Albert Park, Brighton, Sandringham, St Kilda, Bentleigh and Caulfield offices will all remain under the leadership of their longstanding directors. Their respective teams of agents and property managers remain unchanged ●

**For more information:**  
[belleproperty.com.au](http://belleproperty.com.au)

# Throwing support behind our new winter festival

*The birth of a new idea for the river is a special moment, especially when it is delivered by someone as talented as Gideon Obarzanek.*

At the February 27 Yarra River Business Association (YRBA) luncheon, we were privileged to be among the first in Melbourne to learn about the city's new winter festival.

It was appropriate to be delivered at a Yarra River function, because the lower Yarra River is going to play a major role in the new event.

What we can expect is a series of illuminated installations floating along the Yarra's banks for between 300 and 400 metres, plus projected illuminations onto the river side of Hamer Hall. What's more, the installations and illuminations will be there for 10 days and nights, during late-August.

This event wants Melburnians to revel in our winter weather. You might have to rug up and bring an umbrella to see them, but Melburnians are very resilient, especially when it comes to international-quality cultural events. After all, we happily sit in the cold and wet of the MCG to watch a three-hour football match! By the way, did you know that visitation to cultural tourism events far outstrips football attendance in this city?

We are assured that within two to three years, this new festival will be the talk of the Southern

Hemisphere. It is heavily backed by the state government, which wants to give Hobart's Dark Mofo something to compete with.

The winter festival is yet another sign that the river is being better activated, thanks to a new attitude at Parks Victoria, and a recognition by the state government that the lower Yarra River is the "shop window" for the Melbourne tourism experience.

The City of Melbourne also seems to have a new attitude towards the lower Yarra. Late last year, it adopted the Yarra River-Birrarung Strategy. It's a far-sighted, visionary document for what needs to happen along our stretch of river and its banks, with particular relevance to the much-neglected Northbank.

The YRBA had a major hand in assisting the council team, and we have now called upon the CEO to create an overseeing committee to keep the momentum going. Because Northbank involves multiple state and private stakeholders, it is a complicated task, especially getting government departments and authorities to put aside their territorial instincts and work collaboratively to bring ideas to fruition.

*The vision for Northbank is for it to be a very relaxing green spine, which allows the CBD to open out to the river and to provide a democratic space for residents, workers and visitors to enjoy the water vistas. Southbank will always be the bustling commercial hub, and Northbank will be its quieter, less flamboyant cousin.*

The start of a new business year is always a good time to remind the many thousands of businesses located in Southbank that they have a 21-year-old, active business association on their doorstep. For as little as a \$70 membership per year, they can be plugged into what's happening and the opportunities that arise all the time. Membership details can be obtained from the executive officer at [exoff@yarrariver.melbourne](mailto:exoff@yarrariver.melbourne) or on 0412 502 931 ●



**John Forman**

JOHN FORMAN IS THE PRESIDENT OF YARRA RIVER BUSINESS ASSOCIATION  
[YARRARIVER.INFO](http://YARRARIVER.INFO)

## HEALTH & WELLBEING

# Post-traumatic growth - bouncing forward after difficulty

*Many of you will know the old adage: if it doesn't kill you, it makes you stronger.*

We now have a name for this phenomenon in psychology: post-traumatic growth (PTG), which is defined as the positive psychological change experienced as a result of adversity. In other words, in certain circumstances, our minds can grow from difficulty.

### What does post-traumatic growth look like?

These are just some of the areas that researchers have found can change for the better after adversity:

#### Relationships

Some individuals describe that they come to value their friends and family more deeply after a traumatic event, and don't take people for granted as much. Serious challenges can also give us an increased sense of compassion and longing for more intimate relationships. Ask yourself: who helped you get through a traumatic experience?

#### Emotional growth

After adversity, some people find that the challenge gave them a deeper inner wisdom, personal strength, and gratitude. Trauma can even help people be more accepting of their own vulnerabilities and limitations. What did you learn about yourself or the world after a difficult experience?

#### A better outlook on life

Adversity can cause individuals to re-evaluate their life purpose and mission, becoming less materialistic and more able to live in the present. Ask yourself: What do you really want to do with your life?

#### What contributes to post-traumatic growth (PTG)?

Research suggests the people who can successfully bounce forward after difficulty are those who define themselves not by what has happened to them, but by what they can make out of what has happened. These are the people who actually use adversity to find the path forward.

This isn't true for everybody however. So, what distinguishes the people who find growth

in these experiences from those who don't? There are a number of factors involved, and here are two of them:

#### Mindset

People's ability to grow from adversity rests largely on how they view the cards they have been dealt, so the strategies that most often lead to PTG include: reinterpretation of the situation or event, optimism, acceptance, and coping mechanisms that include focusing on the problem head-on rather than trying to avoid it.

#### Personality

Specifically, high openness to experience and high levels of extraversion. People who are more open are more likely to reconsider their belief systems and extroverts are more likely to be more active in response to trauma and seek out connections with others, both of which lead to a greater likelihood of experiencing PTG.

#### How to: post-traumatic growth

Many of us experience deeply challenging or traumatic events in our lives. Try these the next time you experience a challenge that has the capacity to knock your resilience:

#### Feel deeply

Don't diminish your response to the adversity itself. It's really important to feel the tough emotions before bouncing forward. Psychologists can be great for supporting you with this.

#### Constructive self-disclosure

It's important to share and talk about our adversity to process it fully, it's called constructive self-disclosure. Find a safe space or person where you can share your story, or a professional who can help you make sense of it.

#### Personal strengths

Look at how your personal strengths got you through the trauma. How did you handle it, and what have you learned from the experience? ●



**Rajna Bogdanovic**

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST  
[BODGDANOVICRAJNA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BODGDANOVICRAJNA@GMAIL.COM)

## Sunday 8 March

9am **Worship with Bach Cantata**  
Also hat Gott die Welt geliebt (BWV68)  
for 2 soloists, choir, strings, 2 oboes,  
oboe da caccia, violoncello piccolo,  
4 trombones and continuo  
St Johns Bach Choir and Orchestra  
directed by Graham Lieschke

8:30am **Cantata in Context:** pre-service talk

2020 featuring the nine  
JS Bach cantatas with texts by  
Christiana Mariana von Ziegler



## 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

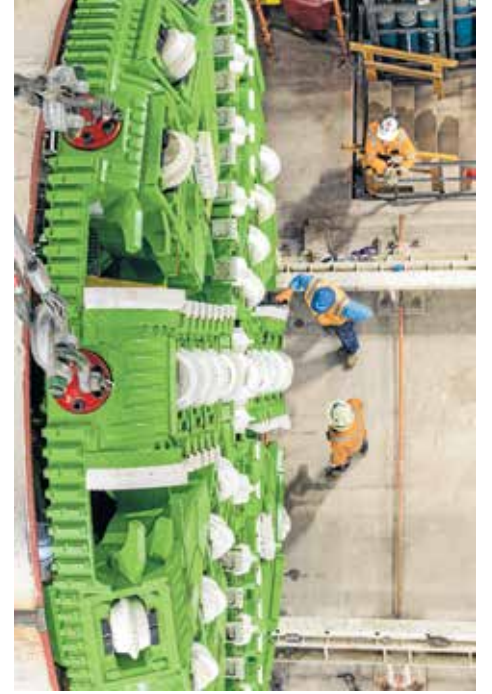


## St Johns

Southgate

20 City Road Southbank  
Telephone 9682 4995  
[www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au](http://www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au)

METRO TUNNEL



# Tunnel on the move

*The first section of the Metro Tunnel is now complete – with the first tunnel boring machine, TBM Joan, breaking through to complete the journey from Arden Station to the tunnel’s western entrance in Kensington.*

Since her launch in August 2019, Joan has travelled 1.2 kilometres and installed 4200 curved concrete segments to create 700 rings lining the walls of the tunnel. The segments, each weighing 4.5 tonnes, are among 56,000 being manufactured at a purpose-built manufacturing plant in Deer Park.

The second TBM, Meg, has been travelling on a parallel route to carve out the second tunnel from Arden to Kensington.

In the east, at the site of the new Anzac Station on St Kilda Rd, the excavated station box is acting as an assembly site for the project’s final two TBMs, Millie and Alice.

Pieces of the tunnelling machines began arriving onsite in November 2019 and over the past few months have been individually lifted by a gantry crane inside the acoustic shed and lowered 20 metres underground, where they are being assembled.

TBM Alice’s vibrant green 100-tonne cutterhead, the heaviest piece of a TBM, was installed recently while Millie, with bright yellow cutterhead in place, has been pushed into a launch ring in preparation for tunnelling.

The launch ring is a common feature of tunnelling and provides the required pressurised environment and support as the TBMs begin

tunnelling through the station box towards South Yarra mid-year.

Once fully assembled, tested and commissioned, the TBMs will act as underground factories with a crew of 10, an operator’s cabin, offices, a kitchen and space for concrete tunnel lining segments.

Elsewhere on site, work is continuing to build the Domain Precinct’s new station, with the walls and roof now complete in two sections and construction of station walls in the middle section expected to be completed in March ●



**For more information visit:**  
[metrotunnel.vic.gov.au](http://metrotunnel.vic.gov.au)

ST JOHNS SOUTHGATE

# Depth perception



*“It’s gone! Where is it? What’s going on? Actually, do I care?”*



Those were some of the thoughts that ran through my mind when I came home to find that a painting that had hung on our living room wall for five years was gone and had been replaced with something else.

“I knew you didn’t like the other one, so I didn’t think you’d mind,” my wife explained. “Yeah, sure, no problem,” I replied. But in truth, I was a little rattled.

Yes, she was right. I didn’t like the old painting. In fact, I had a real problem with it! If I was feeling less than charitable, I might have said I hated it. Even though it was a stunning artistic achievement, I had such strong feelings about it because every time I looked at it, I was taken back to a very difficult time. I’d be watching TV, look up, see the painting and sigh. I’d walk past it, catching a glimpse of it in my periphery, roll my eyes and let out an, “ugh!” And yet, there it had hung for as long as we’ve lived in our current home.

You might be wondering why anyone would live like that? Yes, it does sound like some weird

form of self-flagellation, but leaving it hanging was probably just laziness or demonstrative of our lack of interest in finding a cohesive domestic aesthetic.

Now that it’s gone, though, and I’ve had a week to get used to its absence, I feel a strange sense of disquiet. I’d become accustomed to living with the difficult memories. That beautifully awful painting had forced me to confront them – or at least to march onward without pretending that the past hadn’t happened. Some might call it an inadvertent form of exposure therapy, but I think it’s just an example of what we all have to do – and that’s live with our scars. Sure, we can cover them up, we might even try to tattoo over them, but they’re still a part of us.

Perhaps claiming our scars – displaying them like a painting on the living room wall, or at the very least not hiding them – can help us to find lasting healing. To be sure, sometimes our hurts are more like open wounds than scars, and they need to be bandaged tight and given bed rest, but there is a pretty good precedent for letting even one’s newest scars see the light of day.

We’ve just entered the Lenten season of the Christian calendar. It’s the time of the year when we journey with Jesus on the path toward

his suffering and death. By the time Easter rolls around, yes, we put on our happy faces, because Jesus is alive again! But even then, the scriptures reveal something very telling. When the risen Jesus appeared to his disciples, he wore the scars of his torturous execution – and not just that, he openly displayed them and even invited the doubting to touch them.

Maybe we don’t have to hang reminders of our worst nightmares on our walls, or constantly be telling people to check out our scars. But, like Jesus, if we can be honest with ourselves, we might be able to find self-acceptance, and even the courage to open ourselves to others, saying, “I’m not hiding. This is who I am. This is what I’ve died through. And this is the new life that I can show you, and share with you, precisely because my scars have made it possible.” ●



**Tom Hoffmann**  
TOM HOFFMANN IS THE PASTOR AT ST JOHNS SOUTHGATE CHURCH.

[STJOHNSOUTHGATE.COM](http://STJOHNSOUTHGATE.COM)



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# Vertical villages - an owners' corporation manager's view

Our vertical villages employ a host of workers – concierges, window washers, gardeners – but when it comes to the owners' corporation (OC) manager, some of us are less clear about their role, often asking “what's the difference between an OC manager and a building manager?”

OC managers play a distinct role in the high-rise ecosystem with Consumer Affairs Victoria describing their role as the management and administration of an OC's common property. This includes maintaining financial records, preparing budgets, organising insurance, arranging legally required audits and reports, collecting fees and generally ensuring compliance with the Owners' Corporations Act. A building manager is more hands-on, taking on the operational side of these activities, such as actually organising maintenance and repairs.

In view of the OC manager's central role in the vertical living sector, I thought it interesting to see how these administrators view our world of vertical villages.

For such a perspective, I spoke with Mr Cas Lukauskas, a senior OC manager with MICM Property and a 14-year veteran of the OC world.

Our chat started by my asking Cas what he saw as the best features of vertical living.

Somewhat surprisingly, Cas nominated a sense of community.

This surprised me because vertical villages are typically criticised for lacking community. But Cas disagrees, noting that there are many lonely people living on quarter-acre blocks who couldn't even identify their neighbours by sight.

In Cas's view, people in high-rise abodes can more easily – if they so choose – connect with other residents as there are many points for potential interaction.

“You can get to know people if you want – they are (literally) in arm's reach,” Cas said.

Changing gear, I asked about what he saw as his biggest challenges when operating in this sector.

In terms of on-going issues, and somewhat unsurprisingly, Cas said that by far the biggest challenges he routinely encountered involved people, specifically, negotiating a large network of human relationships.

OC managers directly interact with building staff, insurers, legal advisors, suppliers, contractors and their staff, council and government departments, property managers, tenants, investors and, most importantly, the OC committee! And within this mix, Cas spends a great amount of time in mediating between people with disputes. As we well know, close proximity living coupled with shared amenities brings to the fore fundamental differences. Cas operates on the basis that strong opinions often spring from good intentions (e.g. a desire for sustainability), but these well-meant goals can get lost in how people try to execute their visions.

Regarding a more recent bugbear, Cas sighed, “short-stays”. As is well appreciated in vertical villages, Cas too is of the opinion that current legislation leaves OCs as “toothless tigers” with the available redress channels not dealing with the actual problem.

“Often times when owners attempt to enforce their rights, the application is left to the OC manager and our key tool is issuing breach notices – after the event,” he said.

The biggest problem group he sees are the new entrants into the short-stay market. Often these people just want a bit of quick cash without the overheads and so they take a “do it yourself approach”. But Cas warns that he has seen some severe consequences visited upon these short-term landlords, most especially in terms of insurance. When things go wrong, which according to Murphy, they do, these unprepared short-stay landlords find that the building's insurance may not cover damages. But the real danger, Cas further warns, lies in their liability exposure from injury to their “guests” and/or residents.

So, how does he handle this?

In Cas's experience, by far the best way to resolution starts with talking directly to the owners – “face-to-face is best”. Also crucial is developing good working relations with property managers. This he sees as essential – “we must be on the same page”.

For the final question, I asked about the changes he sees on the “vertical” horizon.

Regarding changes already happening, Cas observed that the nature and composition of committees was becoming more sophisticated. This he attributed to the retirement of the Baby Boomer generation and their move into the “high-life”. This group brings with it an array of workplace skills and valuable insights and it

is also quite keen to have a say in how its home affairs are managed. I asked Cas's opinion about the need for targeted training for committee members as many have previously learned “on-the-job”, which has fuelled many misperceptions about actual roles and the operation of an OC. However, ever the diplomat, Cas reframed my question in terms of a more general observation about managing diverse interests and his sense of satisfaction in devising workable solutions which cater for these differences.

In terms of an emerging trend, Cas pointed to shifts in design preferences, specifically a notable demand for green amenities. In previous years, owners have looked for pools, gyms and tennis courts. Now he observes a strong and growing desire for rooftop gardens, courtyards and generally more relaxing (and even nurturing) spaces. This he attributes to the need of city dwellers for places of quiet enjoyment in the midst of a noisy concrete jungle.

So, take note developers and designers – it's not all about activation! ●



Dr. Janette Corcoran

JANETTE CORCORAN IS AN APARTMENT LIVING EXPERT

LEARN MORE ON FACEBOOK.COM/SKYPADLIVING/

## SOUTHBANK SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

# Action and positive momentum

*February might be a short month but this year it was a big month for sustainability action and landmarks. And March seems to be following in that same trajectory.*

Apart from a myriad of activities that the Sustainable Living Festival brought us - re-energising, expanding knowledge and motivating people in all things climate change and sustainability - we saw our council take an important step, becoming a global leader by turning its climate and biodiversity emergency declaration into an action plan with clear priority areas.

We also enjoyed many key speakers and talks on the issue at the National Climate Emergency Summit on February 14 and 15 (check the website for podcasts of talks), attracting people from across Australia to Melbourne Town Hall. While our group had the opportunity to participate in these activities, we also got to move the dial on a few Southbank-specific actions.

Last month, we met with council regarding the exact location of the upcoming communal composting hub our group will be delivering at Boyd, ironing out details to make this a reality for residents as soon as possible. While there are some more details to sort out, we are hoping that we'll be launching the composting hub in late March. If you'd like to be involved or want to know more about this project, reach out on email or Facebook.

We were also present on February 18 for council's Future of Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting, making a submission in support of its action plan and the 10 priority areas. Among other things, this plan proposed the net zero emissions goal be brought forward by 10 years to 2040, included a push for council and businesses to transition out of fossil fuels into renewable energy and bold advocacy for greater climate action. Some of our recommendations, like the involvement of Traditional Owners into biodiversity restoration, will apparently be included in the more detailed action plan to follow. The evening's highlight was the shift in perception and thinking by our councillors on climate change. Following this summer's devastating bushfires, being face-to-face with climate change's effects has shifted the mindsets of our councillors and the broader community. Now, finally, more people are joining the conversation and agree that immediate action is necessary.



On Saturday, February 22, Southbankers of all backgrounds came to Boyd for our plants giveaway, while giving a second chance in life to food-producing plants brought over from Melbourne Town Hall's recent display. Two hundred veggie, leafy green, herb, and flower plants earmarked for composting found their way to our group and then to new homes across Southbank. Eighty per cent of plants were gone in just 15 minutes with all plants gone in just 35 minutes, demonstrating Southbankers' desire for food-producing plants. The best part was seeing many conversations started over the plants, neighbours connecting, kids learning about plants and people leaving with big smiles on their faces and new plants in their arms. Thanks to one of our longstanding members, Jenny King, some plants made it to North Melbourne's River Nile School, helping women with an asylum seeker or refugee background instantly grow their own food on their new rooftop garden.

A big “thank you” goes to Boyd Community Hub officer Anita Paganoni for reaching out to us straight away to take in the plants. Many thanks to horticultural asset supervisor Sam Davis, head gardener Ryan Brown and assistant gardener Luke Dugan from the City of Melbourne's parks and gardens maintenance contractor Serco for organising the delivery. You have made many locals very happy! We will stay in contact with these wonderful people so that Southbank is included in the next round of plants.

On February 29, we delivered the first of six community educational days, A Melbourne Practical Guide to Zero Waste Living. It was greatly received by the community, with all 55 seats sold and a very excited and receptive crowd on the day. They took home plenty of information on where to shop package-free and how to reduce waste output through easy, small changes. Email us if you missed it but want to receive the Resources Pack.

### Coming up in March:

Apart from our scheduled meet-ups on Saturday March 3 and 21 at 10am (Boyd foyer) ...

March 21: Southbank Residents' Association's Community Day & Boyd Park Opening. Southbank Sustainability Group (SSG) will be present with an information stall, where we might have some seedlings and upcycled goodies for you to take home. We'll also give a 30-minute talk in the Assembly Hall.

March 23: Federal Climate Change Bill. Independent MP Zali Steggall will introduce a Private Member's Bill to parliament and call for a vote. If passed, this Bill will enable Australia to make an immediate, positive, and nationally supported response to the risks, challenges, and opportunities of climate change. Keeping the momentum up from our council's action plan, this is an opportunity to spill that passion over and push Federal government to adopt a national framework for climate change adaptation and mitigation, with more transparent monitoring, reporting, and accountability on emissions, a fair economic transition, and an independent Climate Change Commission formed. Showing that many Australians support this can be the difference between the Bill passing or staying in debate for years, wasting valuable time. It's time we moved past making our species' survival a partisan, political issue and get on with it. 56,000 people already added their voices, signing in support. To see the Bill and add your voice, go to [climateactnow.com.au](http://climateactnow.com.au)

March 25: Private tour of the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG). As part of our Melbourne Award win, we'll get a private tour of



the MCG and find out about their sustainability practices. This is only available to our members. You can still join the group and join the tour.

About the group: A solutions-focused 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. Environment Melbourne Award winner 2019 ●

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



Artemis Pattichi

SOUTHBANK SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

SOUTHBANKSUSTAINABILITY@GMAIL.COM

# More short-stay abuse - with no recourse for residents

*Residents across Melbourne are reporting more horror stories of short-stay abuse – with little chance of any meaningful redress and still less of any resolution.*

In our previous column we reported the case of an enterprising resident who won a victory in the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) – albeit pyrrhic.

This month we report three more stories of ongoing abuse where the current law provides no recourse for residents.

## Resident story one – Older couple feels unsafe

“When we moved into our apartment we enjoyed our new lifestyle - until our peace and enjoyment started to erode as more and more short-stays took over our building.”

“Eventually one third of the building became short-stay. Our lives changed dramatically for the worse – lifts, foyers and corridors were taken over by large groups of noisy guests with luggage. Large cleaning trolleys caused damage to the lifts and corridors, all paid for out of owners’ corporation (OC) levies.”

“There was no sense of community or caring for the building or its residents. Some of the guests made us, as older residents, feel unsafe.”

“We felt we had no choice but to put our apartment on the market and move away. This meant a large financial loss.”

## Resident story two – Damage, abuse, burglary

“The effects of Airbnb in my apartment building include an increase in cost for extra security and extra maintenance of the common areas of the building. Body corporate fees were increased to cover these extra costs.”

“The swimming pool area and the change rooms, sauna, and spa area were damaged and gym equipment misused. Entrance was limited to residents only, which resulted in the security guards being abused and one guard spat upon by a disgruntled Airbnb guest. Key fobs were copied and sold on E-bay.”

“Airbnb guests used this unauthorised access to burgle an apartment. This matter was handled by the police. We have been forced to upgrade all fobs to deal with this security issue.”

## Resident story three – Abuse, rubbish, sexual services

A resident in a third apartment tower reported a series of disturbing incidents occurring over the previous four-year period as an owner occupier. This resident always suffered from at least one Airbnb apartment on his floor and one directly above which constantly leaked water through his ceiling, the result of poor maintenance of the Airbnb apartment.

“One owner bragged at an annual general meeting (AGM) about operating 20 apartments as short-stays and wanting to add more to his portfolio,” the resident said.

“Drunken short-stay guests banged on my door mistaking my apartment for their short-stay because the floor layouts are similar - and became abusive when told of their mistake.”

“Bottles, rubbish and dirt are routinely left all over the lobbies and corridors, especially bad on party nights – Friday, Saturday, Sunday - and on every holiday or long weekend.”

“Lobbies and lifts are perpetually clogged with bags and suitcases; there is a constant stream of strangers moving in and out of short-stay apartments every day of the week.”

“Short-stay apartment cleaners, going from floor to floor, apartment to apartment, carrying racks of swipe cards and keys can access virtually any floor of a supposedly ‘secure’ building; In all likelihood these cleaners are paid cash-in-hand without any background checks. The building is basically a free-for-all hotel. The basement storage cages are frequently burgled and damaged.”

“The lack of consequences for the anti-social short-stay industry seems to have emboldened the worst elements in our society – apartments in this building are used as illegal boarding houses and even as brothels”.

## Meanwhile, local councils take the lead

While the state government continues to bury its head in the sand about the dire impact of short-stays, two local councils have responded to community outrage and introduced new laws to regulate the industry.

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council has introduced a comprehensive Local Law that requires short-stay operators to register and pay an annual fee and to follow a code of conduct, with a provision for heavy fines and banning delinquent owners. The law covers communication with neighbours, noise limits and anti-social behaviour.

The Council says it has a zero-tolerance approach to party houses and will prosecute anyone who breaks the new rules.

Since the new law was introduced in 2018 more than 3000 owners have registered their “homes” as short-stay properties and 111 infringement notices have been issued.

In 2019 the first two owners were successfully prosecuted: one guilty of four offences was fined \$1500 and another guilty of 19 offences was fined \$2700 and compelled to sign a court undertaking.

Mornington Peninsula Shire Mayor David Gill said, “Council takes this kind of act very seriously and will deal with property owners failing to comply with the Short Stay Rental Accommodation Local Law”.

“These businesses operate in our residential neighbourhoods and anti-social and rowdy behaviour is not acceptable.”

Neighbouring Frankston City Council very recently passed its own local laws to regulate short stay rental properties, to allow the Council to “ensure an appropriate standard of management for short stay rental accommodation, to minimise the risk of nuisance to neighbouring properties.”

Frankston short-stay owners will be charged an annual registration fee of \$150 and failure to register could result in a fine of up to \$2000. An owner’s registration may be cancelled after three substantiated complaints or a single “severe” complaint.

Frankston City Council Mayor, Sandra Mayer, claims the Local Laws were needed to give the council remedies “currently not covered under any other legislation.”

That both Frankston and Mornington Peninsula Councils have been compelled to introduce their own Local Laws because the state laws are so inadequate is a ludicrous situation, and the state government has to step up and stop passing the buck to local councils.

We Live Here will continue to lobby for regulation of the short-stay industry until the government is shamed into doing something about it, and catch up with the rest of the world.

Thank you to those of you who have contributed the stories included in our previous two columns. We shall include more on short-stays in later columns, but next month we shall turn our attention to the rorts perpetuated by developers and others, and concerns that even if the proposed new legislation sees the light of day it will deal adequately with many of the issues highlighted by our readers.

## 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 donate please visit our website at welivehere.net. We Live Here does not accept donations from commercial tourism interests ●



Barbara Francis & Rus Littleton

EMAIL: CAMPAIGN@WELIVEHERE.NET

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## SOUTHBANK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

# Community day!

*I make no apologies for writing about our upcoming community day again. Your committee has been hard at work and this day is really starting to take shape. It is going to be a real blast!*



Southbank Police Station’s commander will be present at the police stand, along with the fire brigade. There will be static displays with a fire truck and police car for the children to climb around. We are delighted to have the Rotary Club of Southbank cooking a sausage sizzle and many displays from many of our local community groups, such as Zoomba and Tai Chi.

If you are a basketball player, here is your opportunity to get a few mates together and register for a short three-on-three basketball competition! Our very own Southbank Sustainability Group will be present showing us how to live sustainably and will be tending to their garden at the front of Boyd Community Hub. Oh, and I shouldn’t forget the array of talks in the Assembly Hall! From a short history of Southbank to public speaking, there will

be plenty to keep locals engaged on all things Southbank. All through the day we are hoping to have a selection of entertainment on the main stage by many of our local arts institutions.

From noon, the formalities will get underway with a smoking ceremony and welcome to country, followed by the official Boyd Park opening by Lord Mayor Sally Capp, as well as an address from our local Member for Albert Park Martin Foley (oh, did I mention he will have a marquee too?). The formalities will be followed by a book launch covering our 20-year history as a community organisation, thanks to local resident Lynne Lumsden.

As you can see, the day is really shaping up to be something Southbank has never seen before. So please mark Saturday, March 21 from 10am to 4pm in your diary. I hope to see you there.

If you are not a member of our organisation and you would like to support the good work your volunteer committee does, then please sign-up on our website southbankresidents.org.au. It is only \$10 a year. We really need all the community support that we can get.

See you on March 21! ●

**More information:**  
[southbankresidents.org.au](http://southbankresidents.org.au)



Tony Penna

TONY PENNA IS THE PRESIDENT OF SOUTHBANK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION





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MATTHIEU, BUSINESS

It is important. In France we have a bin for clothes. Old clothes go in this bin for recycling. Sometimes in France I take them to the depot.



JULES, CONSTRUCTION WORKER

It is but I hate seeing stuff thrown out. We throw out brand new off-cuts of steel in 10-metre bins all the time. It could be recycled. The Men's Shed could use it.



ROBERT, OFFICER-IN-CHARGE, PORT PHILLIP RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTRE

People are getting a lot better. We've got to do it. Unfortunately, we're running out of space in landfill. I'm encouraging the local community. Soon we'll be having four bins.



PAUL, STATIONERY

That's why I'm here (at the depot). The stuff comes from my home. I store it away. That's an old shredder.

# Faces of Southbank

Question:  
*How important is recycling?*

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# Southbank Sudoku

Last month's Sudoku solution

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

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 VERY HARD, good luck!

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

HISTORY

# Pandemic in Southbank

The recent outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19) comes just over a century since the worldwide pandemic called the Spanish flu, which cost an estimated 20 to 40 million lives, more than the Great War. The two outbreaks are eerily similar.

Both started in densely populated areas (the first, despite the name, in Kansas, USA, and the second in China). The Spanish flu was particularly virulent and could strike with amazing speed and spread rapidly, generally transmitted by sneezing and coughing.

In Melbourne, the spread was uneven and more likely to occur in suburbs with large populations, such as Footscray, Brunswick and St Kilda. One of the hardest hit was South Melbourne and at the South Melbourne Orphanage, 80 young people were infected (some critically) in a 24-hour period.

Just like today, initial information was restricted, with wartime controls still in place in Europe. Australia was relatively isolated, with little international travel being undertaken (except for military returning home), and there were few of today's extreme precautions for treating the outbreak. Dedicated hospital

wards were established in places like the Melbourne Homeopathic, Exhibition Buildings, and Caulfield Racecourse. Medical and nursing staff were at high risk of being infected. Treatment was rudimentary, generally consisting of complete bed rest and inoculation using the "A" vaccine, although the medical profession was divided about its effectiveness. Some companies, such as Aspro, claimed that their products were the most effective treatment and advertised that "Two Aspro Tablets a day should keep Spanish influenza away."

In response to the outbreak, Victoria was placed in virtual quarantine. The New South Wales government prohibited rail traffic between the states, with some visitors unable to return to their home state. People were encouraged to wear masks in shops, hotels, churches and on public transport. Authorities banned meetings of more than 20 people and closed theatres, schools, racetracks, billiard halls and even hairdressers, but large crowds continued to gather at VFL football matches. Publicans were incensed when restrictions were placed on pubs within 24 kilometres of Elizabeth St, but not on churches, a reflection of the control



that the wowsers were able to exert on public policy in those days. Bottled beer could be ordered by phone and delivered to houses.

South Melbourne Council equipped a temporary hospital at the Montague School, provided free inoculations at the Town Hall, employed nurses to visit affected families, and established a fund to support 60 families where the breadwinner could not work.

Information flow is virtually instant these days, via mobile devices and television screens. Today's authorities had learnt some hard lessons from the outbreak of SARS in 2013, so

were able to swing into action quickly to try and minimise the spread of the latest outbreak. The Spanish flu pandemic eventually ran out of puff – now we wait with trepidation to see the outcome of the Coronavirus ●



Robin Grow

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

OWNER'S CORPORATION LAW

# VCAT rules termination payment was unlawful

*In an order published by VCAT at the end of 2019, Your Body Corporate Pty Ltd (YBC) and its directors, were ordered to repay the sum of \$192,465 plus interest for fees it unlawfully deducted from an owners' corporation's (OC) account upon termination as OC manager.*

The proceedings concerned an OC located at Wyndham Harbour, a community of over 800 residential lots.

YBC was appointed as OC manager to take over from a previous manager for an initial period of 12 months. Its appointment was renewed for a further two years.

However, during the period of YBC's management, it became apparent to owners that there were problems with YBC's handling of the accounts and records and administration of the development. An independent auditor's report confirmed that the accounts could not be verified and that the financial reports did not represent a true and fair view of the financial position of the OC.

When it became apparent to YBC that it would be terminated at an upcoming special general meeting, and that an overwhelming number of votes would support its termination, YBC prepared an invoice for the sum of \$192,465 representing the balance of its management fees and future disbursements. Be-

cause it still operated the OC's trust account, the manager made the decision to immediately pay itself that sum from the OC's maintenance fund.

It did not inform the OC of the invoice, nor did it disclose that it had transferred the funds. It did not have the approval of the OC to make this payment to itself.

In addition, at the time YBC made the payment to itself, the OC had not yet given a notice to terminate the management agreement.

It can also be revealed that YBC then transferred the \$192,465 payment from its business account to its directors one week later.

Three weeks later, YBC advised the OC that it could collect its accounts and records from its office and that it had ceased to provide services to the OC. This was strange because the OC still had not terminated the agreement.

Nevertheless, the secretary collected the books and records and funds from the manager's office. The payment of the \$192,465 by YBC to YBC was not contained within the financial records provided to the OC. YBC maintained in

the VCAT position this was an "oversight."

Two months after the transfer to itself, YBC applied to be de-registered as a company.

YBC returned total funds of \$325,423 to the OC. This represented a \$500,000 loss of OC funds in a two-year period.

VCAT found that the manager was in breach of its statutory and contractual duties to act honestly and in good faith with due care and diligence.

VCAT also found there was a gross failure to maintain proper financial records and to manage the financial affairs of the OC.

The payment by YBC to itself was all the more egregious because it was from the maintenance fund, which is a protected trust fund for the benefit of the owners for the capital repairs to common property.

VCAT also found that the removal of the OC's funds were without any legal entitlement authority or consent was unconscionable conduct under the Australian Consumer Law, and found that the OC was permitted to join the

directors of YBC to the proceeding in their personal capacity for their role in participating in the unconscionable conduct.

This decision should act as a precedent to stop any other manager from deducting or paying itself fees upon termination of the contact. Even if there is a clause in the agency agreement which permits the payment, it is likely that such a clause is invalid and in breach of the Australian Consumer Law.

OC managers all across Victoria should familiarise themselves with this decision ●



Tom Bacon

TOM BACON IS THE PRINCIPAL LAWYER OF STRATA TITLE LAWYERS.  
TOM@STRATATITLELAWYERS.COM.AU

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

# Does that make me crazy?

*... with apologies to Gnarl's Barkley!*

As you would assume dear readers, I have numerous conversations with Montague residents and workers about all sorts of things in our precinct.

And as we are now fully back into the working year, many, many developments have begun. In fact, the most construction we have experienced yet and this, it seems, is the topic of choice for the neighbourhood. That is - how are we being affected by living and working with constant construction? Those conversations have got me thinking a lot about how living or working around numerous developments affects people's quality of life and, in particular, their mental health.

I know many people are affected by constant noise, those of you living and working in Southbank know exactly what we mean. But does living in a long-term construction zone have an

effect on mental health? I've been trying to find some research about this, but the data seems to be more about mental health and built forms, or mental health and city-living e.g. loneliness, isolation, etc.

As Fishermans Bend is the largest urban renewal area in Australia, the development and construction will be constant for at least the next few decades. We in Montague, as the first precinct to be developed, are already experiencing this phenomena. Completely anecdotally, these discussions with local Montaguans, seem to suggest that there may well be a mental health effect. This appears to be manifested in people having raised anxiety about the noise they experience each day. This anxiety seems to have a performance effect on workers and increased stress levels for residents. There appears to be a frustration, which some have said "has become

like depression" about not knowing what is happening next, or what building is going to be pulled down next.

Out of hours working in some areas has made residents angry and in one case (only) a person said they got so angry about that, that it affected their family's life. We are aware of one resident who has had significant mental health challenges due to a significant construction close to her home. She sadly required hospitalisation. And there are a small number of workers who have chosen to leave jobs due to the impact of the construction on their working life.

One of the other factors, that could add to people's anxiety and frustration is the traffic movement around the precinct. Every week there are some roads closed or partially closed to accommodate the trucks and cranes and last month both major arterials, Montague St and City Rd were closed, along with parts of Boundary, Gladstone and Thistlethwaite streets. Essentially, the precinct was closed!

So, having said of all this, what is the solution? Well firstly, if anyone is aware of research in this area please let us know and secondly,

planners at all levels of government need to consider the mental health effects on residents and businesses in long-term construction areas.

VicRoads, along with the Fishermans Bend Taskforce and the City of Port Phillip, must consider how to co-ordinate with state infrastructure, developers and builders regarding road closures. This affects not just the locals but those using these arterials to access the freeways and the city. It must be attended to as soon as possible, so we don't drive everyone crazy!

We would love to hear from you with any comments or suggestions.

Thank you ●



Trisha Avery

TRISHA AVERY IS THE CONVENER OF THE MONTAGUE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE.  
TRISHAVERY@ME.COM



# Pet's Corner

## A pet-friendly place

“

*Leonie Devonport admits she is not an innovative pet owner. She called her cinnamon-spotted tabby oriental Kitty.*

”



▲ Leonie and Kitty.



They live together at Sutherland Place and have adapted their personalities to each other.

At first Kitty ignored Leonie. She was a rescue cat.

“She hid under the bed for two weeks holding onto the carpet then she came out and sat in my lap. Now she’s a nut. She’s very obsessed with me.”

Leonie works as the building manager and is an avid protector of pet rights.

“For some residents, pets are their only companions. I personally think animals have a good sense of judgement for people. They can sense if you’re an animal-lover. She sits gazing at my face.”

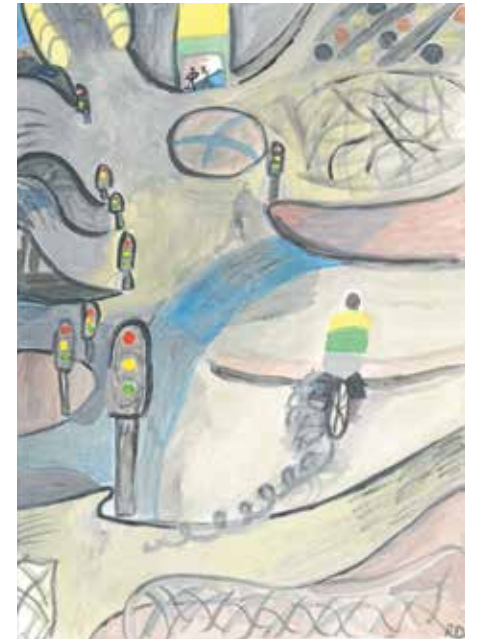
Kitty spends most of her time inside their ground-floor apartment.

She pops out to the small yard when Leonie is having a smoke.

“I had a lot of animals as a kid. They were forced on me,” she said. “The norm is to have a pet.”

Leonie moved into Sutherland Place 18 months ago and is proud of its pet-friendly philosophy.

“Dogs are welcome, but you have to keep them on a lead.” ●



# Lunch break

“Looks like lunch is late again.”

*Montague St*

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Boulevard of broken dreams

While we are not opposed to the staged development of the Arts Precinct and Southbank Boulevard, we are opposed to the lack of accountability while spending ratepayers’ hard-earned money on projects which have seemingly been plagued with incompetence and inefficiency. How is it that the council’s director of design employed by the City of Melbourne can justify extraordinary delays in the completion of the transformation of the Boulevard by saying, as quoted (issue 93, *Southbank News*), that the council had been ambitious from the outset? If as suggested the council was ambitious, then why was the project undertaken in the first place and how was the budget approved?

Local residents and ratepayers were not privy to the budget details when they attended the so-called community consultation meetings which were conducted more than two years ago now.

We were asked to comment on mock drawings depicting vast areas of green spaces the entire length of the Boulevard. The drawings depicted established ornamental trees interspersed with recreational spaces, outdoor performance platforms and suchlike.

We were assured at the time that the entire project would be completed within a 12- to 18-month timeframe.

Furthermore, how can the director justify a spend to date of near \$50 million with the entire project virtually at a standstill for more than six months now? Expensive hired equipment remains idle on site as the costs escalate by the day.

Are these delays and additional costs also being funded ultimately by ratepayers and taxpayers alike without any consultation?

Tonnes of Bamstone pavers (yet to be laid) can be seen among the rubble interspersed

with, most recently, discarded household items of furnishings and suchlike.

One could be forgiven for thinking that the Boulevard is being transformed into a new space for waste management - a far cry from the promised land of green spaces and recreational paradise.

In the meantime, resident ratepayers and visitors alike watch on in disbelief while the blame is shifted elsewhere and the goal posts keep moving.

*Dorothy Mahony and Geoff Tucker*

#### Keep up the good work

On one of my rare visits to city with my Chinese wife (to buy face masks to be sent to relatives in Guangzhou) I luckily came across a copy of your newspaper.

Although I’m a Doncaster resident, I found it very interesting.

I certainly enjoyed quality articles by the likes of Stephen Mayne, whose views I do not always agree with, but get great enjoyment out of reading.

I think my wife even enjoyed the Chinese part which was beyond me to understand.

As an infrequent visitor and then generally at night to the Arts Centre and Melbourne Recital Centre how can I get a copy of the newspaper?

*Morris Waters*

SWA113E

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SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:  
[NEWS@SOUTHBANKLOCALNEWS.COM.AU](mailto:NEWS@SOUTHBANKLOCALNEWS.COM.AU)



# 8月推出一个全新节日

一个为期12天的新艺术节将于今年冬季在雅拉河下游沿岸举行，而南岸(Southbank)将发挥其重要作用。

撰稿 Jack Hayes

这个尚未命名的节日将从8月19日至30日，结束已有35年历史的墨尔本国际艺术节和颇受欢迎的“白昼夜节”。

该节日的联合艺术总监吉迪恩·奥巴扎内克(Gideon Obarzanek)在雅拉河商业协会午餐会上专门说道，这个新节日将给墨尔本展示一种从未有过的身临其境之体验。

奥巴扎内克先生说：“这可不是合并以前的两个节日，实际上是结束这以前的两个节日，而开启一个全新的节日。这个新节日将成为东南亚和太平洋地区最大的艺术文化节日活动之一”。

“对于这么一个大型节日的呈现，我们正在与墨尔本当地艺术家和国际上的艺术家积极地制作有关节日活动。”

“用墨尔本作为基础，突出墨尔本的特

点。这个节日将不仅是澳大利亚人和海外人士向往的，也是墨尔本当地人向往的。”

该节日将在三个不同的区域内举行，王子桥(Princes Bridge)和天鹅圣桥(Swan St Bridge)之间的雅拉河，国会大厦和唐人街。

节日期间在雅拉河的部分将会看到奇异的星光，一个400米长的互动灯光装置，将在王子桥以东，从黄昏到大约9点到10点向公众展示。

节日制作人艾莉森·哈维(Alison Harvey)表示，雅拉河上的这个装置将成为整个节日的真正灯塔，标志着墨尔本美妙娱乐之夜的开始，并鼓励人们去南岸观光。

哈维女士说：“国际艺术家、当地艺术家、当地社区和当地商家企业都参与了这个项目，一起来庆祝这条雅拉河的真正意义。”

“雅拉河的意义不仅仅是其水面上或水



中的东西，而是这条河周围的一切，这将是围绕这个节日开始的对话，以及对你和雅拉河都意味着什么。”

在这个新节日的前四年里，我们将探索

从雅拉河谷(Yarra Valley)到渔人湾(Fishermans Bend)，并进一步延伸到雅拉河上游，积极探索和展示雅拉河对墨尔本及其人民的意义，



# 变化不断

2020年的南岸大道(Southbank Boulevard)改建工程于上个月启动，为延伸多德斯(Dodds)街和城市(City)路之间的路段，墨尔本市政投入了很多资源。

撰稿 Tamara Clark

墨尔本市政表示，就目前而言，城市路的交叉口、南岸大道路面、绿色电车轨道和斯图特(Sturt)街超级车站的工程已经完成。

位于墨尔本演奏中心和墨尔本剧院公司(MTC)外的艺术通道正在建设中，预计将于3月底竣工。

石雕和园艺设计已经开始，将这个区域改变成一个受欢迎的、有开放式座位的艺术空间。

南岸大道上的公共照明设施和斯图特街(位于南岸大道和卡瓦纳街交叉路口)的道

路交通灯新电源供应设施已经开始安装，预计需要6周的时间进行调试。

ABC开放空间是施工时间表上的下一个项目，预计将于今年4月开始施工，包括在演奏中心和MTC外面引入石雕、拆除废弃的道路、铺设草坪、安装座椅、种植树木。

今年晚些时候动工的项目包括在福克纳(Fawkner)街和卡瓦纳街之间的林荫大道上建造一个娱乐空间，以及在福克纳街和城市路之间建造一个社区公园。

市政承诺，到2021年将增加5个新的公共空间、300棵新树和1公里以上的新自行车道。

# 又一座“最高”楼

墨尔本市政可能会批准开发商Beulah的项目提案，在南岸建造澳大利亚最高楼，比未完工的“澳大利亚108”还要高出40米。

在本报3月版出版时，市议员们可能尚未讨论此事，但市府管理层的一份报告建议在3月3日的未来墨尔本委员会(FMC)会议上支持该提案。

该项目提案需要州规划厅长理查德·韦恩(Richard Wynne)批准，在位于城市路和南岸大道(Southbank Boulevard)拐角处的宝马车行展厅地块上建造102层和49层的两座高楼。

该项目提案包括有零售、住宅、办公和酒店的组合。

管理层的这份报告称，该提案会符合规划控制的一些条件。

报告称：“在符合条件的情况下进行细微修改之后，该提案将符合(规划政策)修改要求，包括大楼后置、墙高、遮荫和风力影响。”

这些条件包括考虑在整个开发过程中修建一条人行通道，并要求为公众提供一条拟建的跑步道。

为了满足公共福利要求，开发商Beulah还拟建一个24/7全天候公众可进入的平台开放空间、一个可接受100个儿童的保育中心和一个供非营利组织的“社区会议和娱乐设施”。

开发商还同意出资500万澳元用于墨尔



本南岸大道的升级。

这座建筑的高度仍然需要有关航空管理当局的特别批准。

# 保护城市大自然

您是否知道墨尔本市是毛茸茸的蜘蛛、班卓琵琶青蛙和小蝙蝠的故乡？

事实上，数百种不同的鸟类、爬行动物、哺乳动物、青蛙、昆虫和鱼类以及大量的植物都以我们这个城市为家。

作为这个行动的一部分，墨尔本市政鼓励居民来帮助照顾这个城市的野生动物，即使家里只有一个阳台。

在花盆里有机地种植本土野花，或者在花园里安装蜜蜂旅馆和巢箱，有很多简单的方法可以让你的家更加适应野生动物。

“我们正在引领应对气候变化的雄心勃勃的紧急行动。我们知道，气温升高意味着在未来20年中，我们将失去35%的树木。”

“一些榆树和本地桉树物种将无法生

存——而这些桉树是我们城市中许多动物的重要栖息地。”

“这就是我们绿化城市的原因。我们每年至少种植3000棵树来提高我们的城市树林。这不仅有助于保持我们城市的凉爽，也为我们的野生动物提供了急需的栖息地。”

“我们还在城市中的一些树上安置了洞穴；在过去两年中，我们还种植了16000平方米的新原生草、灌木和野花，这两项措施都为我们的本土动物创造了更多的家园。”

奥克议员说墨尔本市已经取得了很大的成就，但是还需要更多的行动。

她说：“我们需要加快步伐，防止对我们的城市、人民、植物、动物和经济造成不

可逆转的损害。我们需要一起努力。”

“我们需要保护那些美丽又重要的本土植物和动物。健康的生态系统对我们城市的宜居性至关重要，我们需要大自然，大自然也需要我们。”

作为这个行动的一部分，墨尔本市政鼓励居民来帮助照顾这个城市的野生动物，即使家里只有一个阳台。

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要想了解如何在我们的城市里保护大自然，请访问melbourne.vic.gov.au/urban-nature



# What's On: March 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](http://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](http://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](http://chunkymove.com)



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



### FIRST AND THIRD SATURDAY EACH MONTH

#### Sustainability Group

A growing group of green and sustainability enthusiasts who live in Southbank looking to bring positive change.

More info: [facebook.com/SouthbankSustainabilityGroup](https://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](mailto:jvanselow@gmail.com)

MARCH 21 @ BOYD  
**Southbank Community Day**  
 You are invited to celebrate the official opening of Boyd Park! Hosted by the Southbank Residents Association (SRA), the City of Melbourne and Boyd Community Hub.  
[southbankresidents.org.au](http://southbankresidents.org.au)



### MPAVILLION - UNTIL MARCH

Every year, an outstanding architect designs a pavilion for Queen Victoria Gardens, in the centre of Melbourne's Southbank Arts Precinct. The sixth MPavilion has been designed by Glenn Murcutt AO and will host over 500+ free events.

[mpavilion.org/visit/](http://mpavilion.org/visit/)



### FRIDAYS 7.45AM - 9AM @ BOYD

#### Community Tai Chi

WULONG TAI CHI offers you the opportunity to enhance your strength, balance, flexibility and well-being in a friendly, supportive environment.

All welcome. [lily@wulongtaichi.com.au](mailto:lily@wulongtaichi.com.au)



### SUNDAYS

#### Arts Centre Market

Meet more than 80 of Victoria's finest artisans first hand. Discover how these unique artworks are made, chat directly about the products, inspirations and techniques.

[artscentremelbourne.com.au](http://artscentremelbourne.com.au)

WEDNESDAYS @ BOYD  
**Free Walking Group**  
 Join local fitness experts Just In Time as they lead a "not just walking group" for Boyd walkers. The program runs on Wednesdays from 9.30am to 10.30am.  
[justintimept.com](http://justintimept.com)



COMMON MAN @ 39 DUKES WALK  
**Autumn 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](http://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  
**Rotary Club of Southbank**  
 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](http://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](mailto:atillaakguner@gmail.com)

FIRST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH  
**Sunrise Probus Club**  
 Over 50, living in Southbank and want to join our vibrant club for activities, events and friendship? Meet at Library at the Dock at 10am.  
 Contact [MSPC.docklands@gmail.com](mailto:MSPC.docklands@gmail.com)

# Business Directory

## Attractions

Open Daily from 10am  
[eurekaskydeck.com.au](http://eurekaskydeck.com.au)  
**eureka skydeck**

## Functions

**St Johns Southgate**  
 Facilities hire Beautiful venue for weddings and memorial services  
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 20 City Road Southbank  
 Telephone 9682 4995  
[www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au](http://www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au)

## Real Estate

**CENTRAL EQUITY**  
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**1800 63 8888**  
[southbankplace.com.au](http://southbankplace.com.au)

## Renovation

**AROM** APARTMENT RENOVATIONS OF MELBOURNE  
 1300 96 86 07  
[edgar@arom.com.au](mailto:edgar@arom.com.au)  
[www.arom.com.au](http://www.arom.com.au)

## Brothel

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## Health

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 OsteoStrong South Melbourne  
 378 Clarendon St, South Melbourne  
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 E: [sthmelb@osteoststrong.com.au](mailto:sthmelb@osteoststrong.com.au)

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 WE KNOW VERTICAL LIVING BETTER THAN ANYONE.  
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**THE LANGHAM**  
 MELBOURNE  
 The Langham, Melbourne 1 Southgate Avenue, Southbank, VIC 3006 Australia  
 T 1800 641 107 [melbarestaurant.com.au](http://melbarestaurant.com.au)

## Church

**St Johns Southgate**  
 20 City Road Southbank  
 Telephone 9682 4995  
[www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au](http://www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au)

## Market

**SOUTH MELBOURNE MARKET**  
 Explore the Market  
 SOUTH MELBOURNE MARKET  
 Corner of Coventry & Cecil Streets, South Melbourne

**MELBOURNE SQUARE**  
 THE LARGEST TERRACES IN MELBOURNE  
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**YASSAS**  
 THE GREEK  
 9690 6205  
 Southgate Plaza  
 4-9/3 Southgate Ave, Southbank  
[eat@yassas.com.au](mailto:eat@yassas.com.au)

## Escorts

**Erotic Elderly** 96503295  
 Mature Sophisticated Affectionate Discreet Genuine Affordable Escorts  
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## Photography

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[info@psc.edu.au](mailto:info@psc.edu.au) | 65 City Road, Southbank VIC 3006

**RayWhite**  
 Ray White Southbank | Port Phillip  
 111 Clarendon Street, Southbank 3006  
 P: (03) 8102 0200  
[www.raywhitesouthbank.com.au](http://www.raywhitesouthbank.com.au)

## Schools

[www.haileybury.vic.edu.au](http://www.haileybury.vic.edu.au)  
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 PHONE: 8640 0328 WEB: [www.elitesportsphysio.com.au](http://www.elitesportsphysio.com.au)

**THE EVERMORE**  
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 Retreat Everyday  
 call 1300 383 766  
 Display suite & apartment available to view, contact us for further information  
[www.theevermore.com.au](http://www.theevermore.com.au)

## Services

**Stop Noise**  
 ADD ON DOUBLE GLAZING  
 NOISE REDUCTION SPECIALISTS  
 1800 880 844  
[INFO@STOPNOISE.COM.AU](mailto:INFO@STOPNOISE.COM.AU)  
[WWW.STOPNOISE.COM.AU](http://WWW.STOPNOISE.COM.AU)

## Entertainment

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 t 0433 930 484  
 e [sean@hyperlocalnews.com.au](mailto:sean@hyperlocalnews.com.au)  
 about how to customise your campaign to our audience every month.



76 Coventry Street, **Southbank**

3 2 1

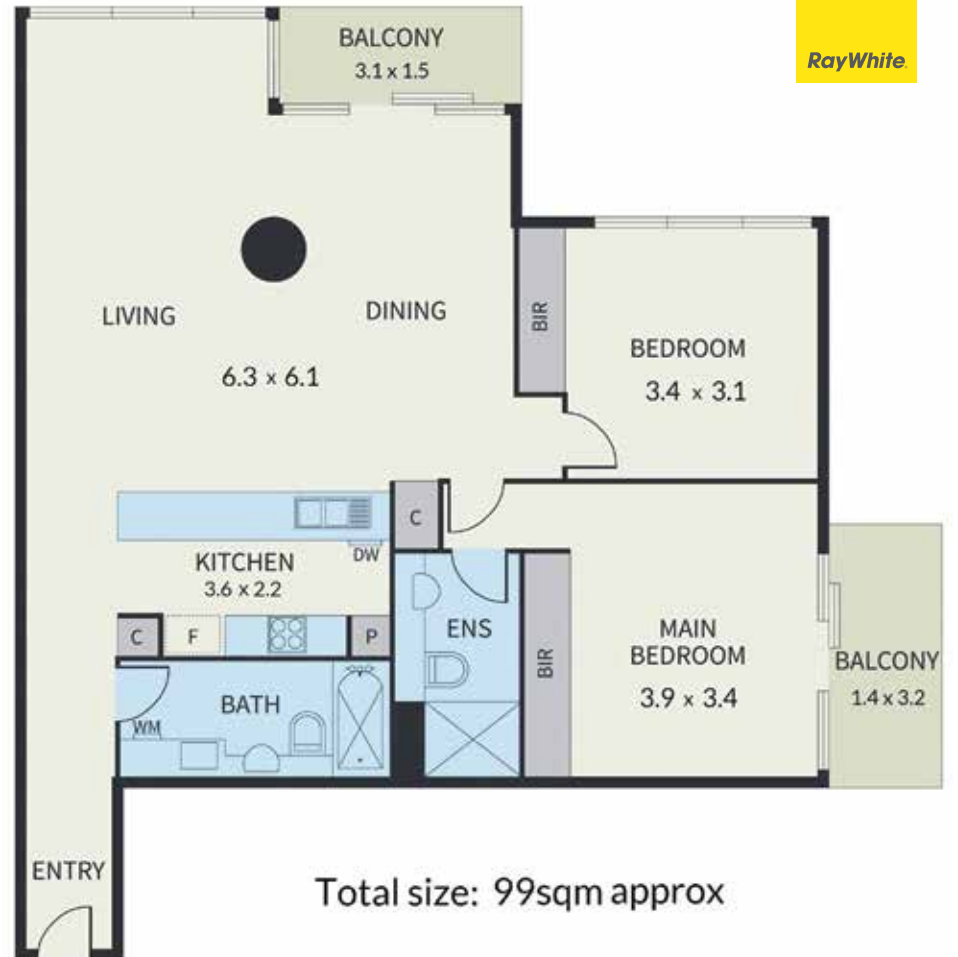
- Coventry Gardens - Boutique Complex
- Extensively renovated townhouse
- 3 Enormous bedrooms with built-in robes
- Master loft with private ensuite and skylights
- Spacious and separate lounge & dining zones with stunning dark floors

**Auction**  
Sat 21st March at 12:00pm

**Michael Pastrikos**  
0404 282 864

**Zara Ebadi**  
0410 871 367

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4/82 Coventry Street, **Southbank**

3 1 1

- Boutique apartment complex
- Beautiful timber floors are a striking feature throughout the property
- Generous living and dining with leafy views
- Large kitchen breakfast bar

**Auction**  
Sat 14th March 12:00pm

**Michael Pastrikos**  
0404 282 864

**Zara Ebadi**  
0410 871 367

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1106/14 Kavanagh Street, **Southbank**

2 2 1

- Spacious and open plan living with great light throughout
- Enormous kitchen with stainless steel appliances
- In the heart of the arts precinct

**In Room Auction**  
Wed 18th March at 6:30pm  
111 Clarendon St, Southbank

**Michael Pastrikos**  
0404 282 864

**Zara Ebadi**  
0410 871 367

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