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Sustainability wins again Photo by John Tadigiri

In another victory for the community, the Southbank Sustainability Group's impact on the environment and the local community has been recognised again with yet another award. *Continued on page 8.*

Community loses Boyd Park battle

The City of Melbourne has endorsed a planning application for a development on the edge of Boyd Park, marking the beginning of the end of the contest over the site while a broader debate over green space in the suburb is sure to continue.

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*
PLANNING

Councillors unanimously voted in a Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting on December 1 to endorse the application from developer PDG for a 42-storey tower on the western edge of the park with proposed conditions.

The application will now await approval from the Minister for Planning Richard Wynne.

There were 128 written submissions to the meeting, the overwhelming majority of which requested that the council oppose the development.

There was strong opposition from local residents to giving up a portion of the park, currently occupied by a basketball court and pop-up orchard, that they said was cherished by a community deprived of open green space.

Artemis Pattichi from Southbank Sustainability Group addressed the meeting to oppose the application.

"That activated green space has become the heart of our community, and something you know very well has been missing in Southbank for so long," she said.

"It's not going to be a park anymore if you take away that part."

The application has been long foreshadowed by the council's plans for the site, but its submission in September reignited opposition from residents to the plans.

The council originally purchased the land – which includes the Boyd Community Hub, the Boyd Park and the development site – in 2007, with plans to sell off a portion for development to fund the creation of the

Boyd Park.

Multiple deals with a previous developer, Mackie, fell through. It was only last year that PDG was unveiled as the new buyer, but the Boyd Park was built and funded by the council in the meantime.

Although multiple councillors declared sympathy with the sentiment expressed through community opposition, they said the framework for the development was created by previous councils.

Cr Nicholas Reece said it was a challenging application to consider.

"On the one hand I'm very sympathetic to some of the submissions we heard from our submitters tonight who represent residents in Southbank; on the other hand I think it needs to be said that there is a lot that is very commendable about this particular proposal," Cr Reece said.

Cr Reece commended the building's six-star green star rating, the inclusion of 40 affordable housing units, and 920 sqm of community facility space at ground and level one of the proposed building.

"In terms of the development and financial framework, that was a decision made by council many, many, many years ago," he said.

"What we're considering this evening is the planning application and in that regard the planning controls are reasonably clear."

Cr Rohan Leppert said it was apparent that Southbank lacked open space.

"This is one of our urban renewal areas that didn't adequately plan for open space, and retro-engineering some open space into one of the most dense parts of the country is

Continued on page 2.

Crown backed down on new taxi system

WORDS BY *David Schout*
SAFETY & SECURITY

A new taxi system designed to alleviate late-night traffic chaos on Clarendon St was shut down at the last minute by Crown Casino, according to Southbank Police.

The proposed new "feeder station" under the Kings Way overpass, where drivers would pick up a ticket before presenting it at the casino's western-end taxi rank, was designed to reduce the gridlock on busy Friday and Saturday evenings that was causing congestion, safety and noise issues.

But according to the police Crown pulled out of the trial system late last year.

"Crown ultimately were reluctant to do it," Southbank Station Commander Senior Sergeant Alexandra O'Toole told *Southbank News*.

"We had members rostered and it was all set to go, and then Crown pulled the pin on it," she said.

In what has previously been labelled a "20-year issue"

by police, fare-searching drivers travelling north on Clarendon St seek to turn right into the Crown taxi rank. However, as the rank fills up, and given only a small number of cars can turn on a green arrow, the resulting congestion can see taxis banked back to the Whiteman St intersection and beyond.

Residents in nearby high-rises have reported a "nightly cacophony from 10pm to 4am" due to frustrated drivers using their horns.

A new "feeder" system sought to alleviate this issue by ensuring a more even flow of traffic.

Drivers who had not collected a ticket from the proposed underpass booth would have been swiftly moved on.

While much of the now redundant cab rank underneath Kings Way is the subject of plans for new community space as part of the City of Melbourne's City Road Masterplan, the council was understood to be supportive of the police's trial measures.

"They [Crown] didn't believe the taxi drivers were

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Crown backed down on new taxi system

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actually going to put themselves in that taxi feeder as they reckon it might deny them a fare. So, they didn't think there was going to be co-operation," Senior Sergeant O'Toole confirmed.

Crown did not respond to a request for comment from *Southbank News*.

The issue has not surfaced since March 23, when Crown closed their operations due to COVID-19 restrictions.

On November 25 the casino reopened its gaming floor, but to just 1000 patrons.

However, Senior Sergeant O'Toole said police expected the taxi issue to return when casino operations returned to pre-pandemic levels, and were currently working through another new system to ease the local issue.

The plan, which is still being developed, could involve closing the troublesome right-turning lane, forcing drivers instead to travel north on Clarendon St across the Yarra River towards Flinders Street, before turning around and returning to the casino for a fare.

"Hopefully that would mean it wouldn't have the impact on that intersection, because it's a longer stretch of road going back to Flinders St than having taxis turning [right]," Senior Sergeant O'Toole said.

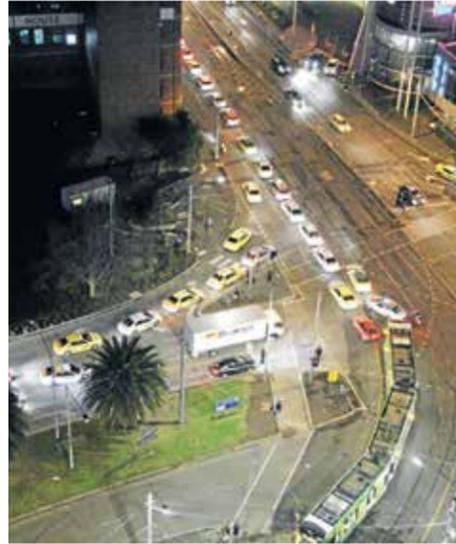
"They [taxis] then won't be relying upon an arrow, it would obviously just be a green light as opposed to just five or six cars coming through on an arrow. It would be green for a lot longer, so we would hope that would improve the traffic flow.

"There's actually not even 1500 people in Crown at the moment so it's not the beast it normally is. So, we won't be able to test [the new system] properly until we've got it operating at a much larger capacity.

"We're definitely looking at an alternative when the COVID restrictions are lifted and we can do something."

Another Southbank location that has dealt with taxi issues in the past is Riverside Quay.

For years, scores of taxis are have parked



▲ Taxis blocking Clarendon St: a regular sight.



▲ The proposal for Boyd Park.

Community loses Boyd Park battle

Continued from page 1.

exceptionally difficult, expensive and challenging," Cr Leppert said.

"The question is: does this application align with the planning scheme and should a permit issue? The answer is yes; that doesn't mean that no-one in this room doesn't believe that we need to work a hell of a lot harder to leave a greener open space for Southbank."

In light of the disappointment of Southbank Boulevard, which will deliver less green space than what many residents had hoped, attention now turns to the proposal for a green park over CityLink which was originally touted in the 2010 Structure Plan.

The City of Melbourne is expected to meet with the Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) in the new year to discuss opportunities for more green space in Southbank.

For more, read Southbank Sustainability Group's column on page 29, and SRA president Tony Penna's column on page 27 ●

illegally outside Eureka Tower in what the City of Melbourne has said is part of a "serious policy issue" and an "intractable problem".

In the past, readers have told *Southbank News* of overcrowding on Riverside Quay and even the complete blocking of nearby Cook Street, which at times has sparked angry confrontation.

Similarly, to Crown, the issue has softened for much of 2020 due to the pandemic according to Senior Sergeant O'Toole.

She said enforcement of that issue mirrored the casino.

"That was causing a lot of issues. The highway patrol and our members were down there fining people almost daily. But it's the same problem; it's fine when we're sitting there in our [police] car, but as soon as you leave, bang, the issue returns. If you're not there, it's just chaos."

In October, the council resolved to undertake a review of the rank that had been a source of contention for a number of years ●

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Locals play down risk of hotel quarantine

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge
HEALTH

Convention Centre Place at South Wharf has become an epicentre in the ongoing fight to prevent the coronavirus (COVID-19) from once again breaking out into the community.

When the first international flights arrived at Tullamarine on the morning of December 7, at least three SkyBuses were destined for South Wharf.

By noon two buses had offloaded around 30 returning nationals to the Pan Pacific Hotel and a third was parked outside the Novotel.

Police and Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel blocked off sections of Convention Centre Place to escort passengers into these quarantine hotels, redirecting shoppers from DFO using the pedestrian crossing to the car park.

With around 170 ADF officers expected to monitor the area as part of the new hotel quarantine program, the Novotel is one of two hotels in the city designated to accommodate those with symptoms.

On October 1, Victoria Police took over the security of the hotel after *The Age* reported a breach in the security.

When the proprietor of the Urban Hub Foodstore opposite arrived to open his shop he found 30 police cars on his doorstep.

Since then the precinct has settled into an uneasy peace and locals are taking the latest developments in their strides, hoping that the resumption of flights will bring in much-needed business.

"We're used to it," a worker at the Urban Hub said about the latest drama. "It's been that way for many months."

James Thass, a worker at Timberland in DFO, said he had been feeling safe since police took over the security of the hotel.

"People listen to police, not security guards," he said in relation to an incident back between lockdowns when people in quarantine came into DFO for some "retail therapy".

"They had a chat [with sales staff]. They said they'd just come from the hotel. They'd come to browse. That was during the period Daniel Andrews said retail was still open. The place was a ghost town."

James has worked through the various stages of lockdown, from being open to having to drive in by car and enter through one entrance on level two.

"Between April and June we were open in small periods," he said. "That's when all the stuff happened. In the second lockdown we had to sign in."

Taxi driver Alusine Bundu was at the airport on the morning the first international flights



▲ The first international travellers return to hotel quarantine.



▲ Timberland retailer James Thass.



▲ Taxi-driver Alusine Bundu.

arrived. He got there at 4am and had to wait until 9am before he got a fare.

"There was not much happening at the airport," he said. "This was my first job from the airport in four months."

He said his income has dropped by 95 per cent since the pandemic hit, with rides by country people from Southern Cross Station to Melbourne hospitals keeping him going.

The local economy depends on tourists, traders say, and they are playing down the risk of hotel quarantine.

"Many people [customers] are tourists and

they might not know where the hot spots are," Mr Thass said.

Meanwhile, it's expected that neighbouring Southbank hotels at Crown Casino will act as a quarantine hub for Australian Open tennis players in the new year, with *The Age* reporting the news in November.

It's understood that negotiations between Tennis Australia and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will see Crown – most likely Promenade and not Towers – as one of two or three hotels used to house tennis players ●



▲ A render of a basketball court underneath Kings Way.

City Rd space needs more work

PLANNING

Southbank Police Station commander Snr Sgt Alex O'Toole has said a lot more work needs to be done by the City of Melbourne on its plan to transform the Kings Way undercroft into a new community space.

A vision of the council's 2016 City Road Masterplan, the unused space currently housing a redundant cab rank is set to be turned into new space for the community with basketball courts and other recreational facilities under the plans.

But following a briefing with Southbank Police and Crown Casino on December 8, Snr Sgt O'Toole told *Southbank News* that both police and Crown would require a number of safety issues to be addressed before giving their support.

"It's about the security of the people using the space," she said. "There are some complexities with it."

"From a policing perspective, opening it up to people doesn't always help. Offences occur in busy areas as well."

"Crown were very much of the same opinion. The City of Melbourne will have to put some measures in place around adequate lighting, CCTV and security to make sure it doesn't become an attractive place for people to commit offences."

Progress on the City Road Masterplan has been delayed for nearly three years, with the only action carried out to date being a new pedestrian crossing at Alexandra Avenue between Princes Bridge and Linlithgow Avenue.

Plans for the undercroft area also including a new dog park on Moray St, and an upgraded park on the corner of Queensbridge St and City Rd, and a number of stakeholders, including Yarra Trams and the Department of Transport, are affected by the project.

"Southbank is devoid of a lot of open space so I can definitely see the merit in it," Snr Sgt O'Toole said. "They [the council] need to do a lot more consultation but I can't see this happening for another two years." ●



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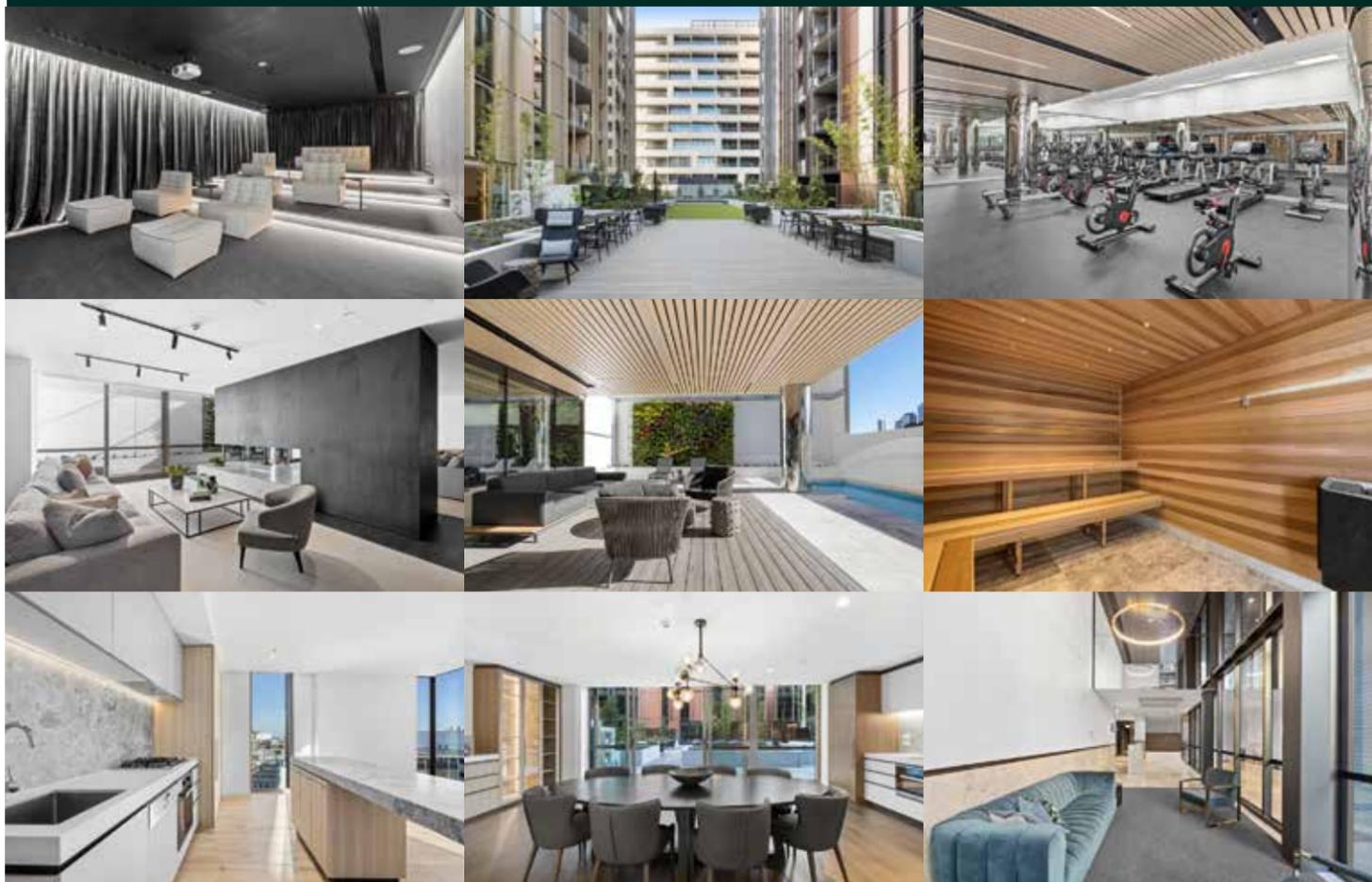
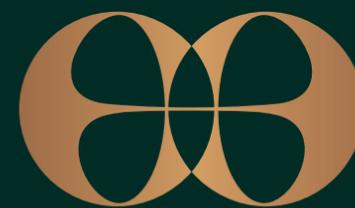


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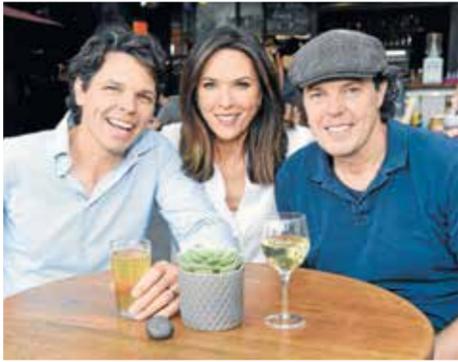
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▲ Brendan, Jennifer and Adam Keyte at Blondie.



▲ DJs provide entertainment for patrons.

Blondie does things differently

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Jim Lee*
BUSINESS

Favourite Southbank local Blondie Bar has like many Melbourne businesses “pivoted” back towards its local community in 2020.

The family-owned business of brothers Adam and Brendan Keyte, who have operated Blondie and adjoining Script for the past eight and 12 years, respectively, has become a much-loved go-to for many locals, workers and visitors to the Arts Precinct.

But with COVID-19 forcing both of their Southbank venues to close during the height of the pandemic, Adam Keyte told *Southbank News* that while Script was looking forward to returning in the new year, Blondie had already sought to change its business model since re-opening in November.

With Script forming part of the Melbourne Theatre Company’s (MTC’s) Southbank Theatre and Blondie part of the Melbourne Recital Centre (MRC), Mr Keyte said his pre-COVID clientele had largely been those attending theatre and concerts.

But with both MTC and MRC having been closed since April, he said the restrictions had given the business a chance to slow down and connect with local residents.

“We’re not completely rushed anymore,” he said. “We’re adapting the businesses to what locals want.”

“When someone is coming to a show they’re often tense because they want to get to the show on time. Whereas now we have tables throughout the night and the pace is different and we don’t have time limits on how long you can stay. As owners we can wander around and meet everyone.”

Serving up a delicious French Asian menu, in addition to a pizza menu served out of the Script kitchen, Blondie is quickly transitioning into a place for Southbankers to call their own.

The recently-completed Arts Gateway outdoor space as part of the council’s Southbank Boulevard upgrade has also given Blondie and Script more room for outdoor seating that they never had.

Known for its regular live entertainment offerings, the new outdoor space gives them even more room to move and Mr Keyte said locals could expect regular DJs on Thursdays and Saturdays, as well as its popular “Jazz Jams” on Fridays.

With MTC reopening for its first show on January 29 and the MRC returning in February, the precinct is set to come alive in a whole new way in 2021.

Blondie Bar is open Tuesdays to Saturdays. For more information visit blondiebar.com.au ●

Owners’ corporations left in the dark about new COVID guidelines

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
STRATA

Despite Premier Daniel Andrews announcing the easing of restrictions on December 6, many residential buildings have yet to open their communal facilities out of fear of being fined.

Recreational areas, swimming pools and gyms are still subject to density quotas and cleaning protocols which many owners’ corporations (OCs) have found unclear.

Southbank Residents’ Association (SRA) president Tony Penna said that OCs were frustrated that the impact of restrictions on residential towers had been ignored and that building managers had been left on hold for prolonged periods of time while trying to clarify the guidelines.

“You can ring [the Department of Health] three times in one day and get three different answers for the exact same question,” Mr Penna said.

During a Southbank Owners Corporation Network (SOCN) meeting with the Department of Job’s Industry Coordination and Recovery director Daniel Slusarek on December 8, members attempted to clarify the rules around communal spaces.

Mr Slusarek said that for gyms in residential buildings, patrons would still need to obey the four-metre square rule if staff were present, or an eight metre-square rule if the gyms were unstaffed.

To increase the number of patrons during peak times, he said that OCs could have a COVID-safe marshal to monitor the space, which could take the form of a resident who has undertaken the free online training.

“The reality here is it’s just balancing out the risks and if you do have a COVID-safe marshal who is actively monitoring and cleaning the spaces that provides risk mitigation which

means you can have more people,” Mr Slusarek said.

“We understand that in multi-dwelling facilities there could be peaks and troughs in the use of the facilities so it’s up to the discretion of individual OCs to decide how they want to implement the guidelines.”

Gyms and pools will also require an electronic registration system so that there is a record of who has used the space, as well as thorough cleaning twice a day.

Across all common spaces in buildings and elevators, the two-metre square rule still applies.

“There is still a need to have electronic records management in residential buildings for contract tracing,” Mr Slusarek said.

Mr Slusarek also said the government was working on creating a dedicated channel of communication with residential buildings to ensure that the guidelines were clear and constantly updated.

“We’re in the process of opening up a specific channel of communication for multi-dwelling buildings and the government so that we can up the ante on simplifying the messages and getting them to you more often,” Mr Slusarek said.

Although many residents were eager to have full use of their building’s facilities back, Mr Slusarek said further easing of restrictions in residential buildings would be subject to health advice.

“The reality is that until we get a vaccine and even post-vaccine we’re going to have to continue to be vigilant,” Mr Slusarek said.

In July, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) released guidelines for residents and OCs to limit the transmission of COVID-19 in multi dwelling buildings, which followed two roundtable meetings conducted by the Department of Job, Precincts and Regions.

Many OCs have already called for the guidelines to be urgently reviewed and updated ●

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NGV Contemporary to transform Southbank Arts Precinct

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
ARTS & CULTURE

Southbank will soon be home to Australia's largest gallery of contemporary art and design with the construction of NGV Contemporary now underway.

The new gallery will sit behind the existing NGV on Southbank Boulevard amid a new 18,000 sqm public garden, linking Arts Centre Melbourne and NGV International on St Kilda Rd to Sturt St.

Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) president Tony Penna said the project had been "a long time coming" since it was announced by ex-Minister for Creative Industries Martin Foley in 2018.

"We were sceptical after the original announcement about how much traction it would get, but now the government has made significant progress the community is very excited," Mr Penna said.

As part of the project, the new public gardens will transform the densely populated Arts Precinct into a greener space with vibrant plants that change with the seasons.

It will also include a collection of spaces for performances, gathering, installations and festivals that will attract visitors from all over the country.

Melbourne architects HASSELL and New York practice have already begun work on the gardens, which involve decking over Sturt St between City Rd and Southbank Boulevard.

Yarra River Business Association (YRBA) president and Arts Centre Melbourne executive officer Jeremy Vincent said the transformation project would provide "a new meeting and gathering space" on the other side of the Yarra River which would aid Melbourne's economic recovery.

"The Arts Precinct has been evolving for the past 40 years and after a lot of haphazard planning, this is a chance to put the icing on all of the existing elements," Mr Vincent said.

"It's a great opportunity for all the Southbank organisations to come together and provide a wonderful community asset both for Melbourne and Victoria and complement what goes on at Federation Square on the other side of the river."

NGV Contemporary is part of the first stage of the \$1.4 billion Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation project funded by the 2020/2021 Victorian budget.

Later stages of the project will include upgrades at Art Centre Melbourne's Theatres Building, which will create more than 5000 local construction sector jobs and help drive Victoria's economic recovery.

Arts Centre Melbourne will also run a new Centre for Creativity, which will house spaces and facilities for Victoria's small to medium and independent arts sector, a new performing arts gallery and an expanded Australian Music Vault.

Mr Vincent said the Art Centre Melbourne upgrades would elevate the space to a new level and provide support to Melbourne's artists.

"These new facilities will provide a great



▲ A render of the future NGV Contemporary and the new linear park connecting Southbank Boulevard to Hamer Hall.



▲ A render of the new public open space in Southbank.

“

The Arts Precinct has been evolving for the past 40 years and after a lot of haphazard planning, this is a chance to put the icing on all of the existing elements.

”

creative hub in the city and create a linkage between NGV's new building, the ballet and the performing arts centre to create a harmonious space," Mr Vincent said.

When completed, NGV's new gallery is expected to employ 200 people and bring in thousands of visitors every year.

Minister for Creative Industries Danny Pearson said the project as a whole would reinstate Melbourne as the cultural capital of Australia.

"NGV Contemporary and the new 18,000 sqm public garden will transform our Arts Precinct into one of the most exciting creative and cultural destinations in the world," Mr Pearson said.

NGV director Tony Ellwood said, "NGV Contemporary will be a dynamic cultural hub that all Victorians will be proud to call their own. It will present unrivalled opportunity to showcase Australian and international art, design and architecture to the world." ●

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New heritage controls revised

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*
HERITAGE

The City of Melbourne will consider deleting a number of buildings from proposed heritage controls in Southbank due in part to recent demolitions and redevelopments.

The proposed Melbourne Planning Scheme Amendment C305 was drawn from a 2017 review into Southbank heritage. But the council's recommendations have had to undergo changes to reflect development in the area and recommendations from an independent planning panel.

The amendment originally proposed to apply a heritage overlay to 17 new individual places as well as a new heritage overlay precinct along City Rd and two new group listings for laneways and substations.

But the new recommendation that will go before the council on December 8 proposes the heritage overlay apply to 14 new places, dropping the recommendation for a new overlay on a City Rd "Industrial and Warehouse precinct" and a number of other places.

"The panel recognised that Southbank has undergone substantial change since the review was undertaken in 2017," a report from council management read.

"The panel did not support Heritage Overlay HO1214 City Road Industrial and Warehouse Precinct, finding that while it may have once been a cohesive precinct it now lacked the

requisite degree of cohesion."

"Further, the panel did not support the Heritage Overlay proposed for places in circumstances where the buildings had been redeveloped since the review was conducted or for two places for which it determined the threshold for local heritage significance had not been met."

A number of sites within the proposed City Rd precinct had been demolished or redeveloped, resulting in "substantial fragmentation" according to the report.

The report said council management supported all of the independent planning panel's recommendations either in part or in full, except a recommendation to remove the Crown Chemical Company building at 63-65 City Rd from a heritage overlay.

The planning panel recommended that the building be removed from the amendment due to a live permit for demolition and redevelopment on the site.

But council management said it did not support removing the heritage overlay while the heritage fabric still remained.

Sites that are proposed to be removed from the proposed amendment due to demolition or redevelopment of buildings under consideration include the Krosky Bros building at 67-69 City Rd and parts of the former PMG postal workshops at 45-99 Sturt St.

If endorsed by councillors on December 8 the recommendations will be submitted to the Minister for Planning for final approval ●



Sustainability wins again!

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
SUSTAINABILITY

The Southbank Sustainability Group's (SSG's) impact on the environment and the local community has been recognised again with yet another award.

Following its success in the 2019 City of Melbourne's Melbourne Awards, taking out the win in the environment category, the passionate group of sustainability-focused locals was last month acknowledged as part of the Sustainable Cities Awards.

An initiative of one of Australia's oldest environmental groups Keep Victoria Beautiful (KVB), the Sustainable Cities Awards recognise and celebrate positive actions taken by communities in urban areas to protect and enhance their local environments.

SSG co-founder Artemis Pattichi said the group was honoured to have won the community environment award ahead of so many other incredible finalists, such as the Yarra Riverkeeper Association.

"It's a great honour and we understand that our work is more visible within our city, but to win an award at a state level it's a huge honour and we weren't expecting it. It goes to show that all the seemingly small steps we take add up over time and do make a difference," she said.

"It's really encouraged us to keep going and pass on our recipes of success to other communities. Any win for SSG is a win for Southbank and a win for sustainability in general because it gives people a chance to see things done differently and that it can be effective and work."

The group continues to inspire positive change in the community from its home at the Boyd Community Hub. Having convinced the City of Melbourne to establish a community garden as part of Boyd Park, the group now has



“

It's really encouraged us to keep going and pass on our recipes of success to other communities.

”

its sights set on a new composting hub in the precinct and continues to hold regular meetings and workshops ●

For more information:
facebook.com/SouthbankSustainabilityGroup

Councils polarised on housing

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*
HOUSING

The City of Melbourne has sought to lift its affordable housing benchmark while neighbouring councils moved in an opposite direction following the state government's announcement of a \$5.3 billion social housing program.

City of Melbourne councillors will consider plans to increase the supply of affordable housing in their municipality on December 8. A strategy proposed by council management would mandate up to 25 per cent of all future residential development on land owned by the council be dedicated to affordable housing.

The policy is a step up from the council's 2014 housing strategy which committed to providing up to 15 per cent of dwellings on council-owned land available for affordable housing. The policy resulted in the expected 40 affordable apartments in Southbank's Boyd redevelopment and 48 at the Munro development next to Queen Victoria Market.

The boost is an explicit nod to the state government's recent social housing announcement. A report from council management said the strategy was updated following the announcement "to reinforce council's commitment to partner with the Victorian Government, community housing providers and industry to deliver more affordable housing within the

municipality".

The strategy's framework contrasts sharply with comments from representatives of the neighbouring Cities of Stonnington, Boroondara and Bayside following the state government announcement.

The Age reported that Boroondara Mayor Garry Thompson, Stonnington chief executive Jacqui Weatherill and Bayside Mayor Laurence Evans complained councils and local residents were sidelined by the fast-tracked initiative that gave the state government – not local councils – the final word on development proposals.

But City of Melbourne Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the current lack of affordable housing puts pressure on our city's housing options and impacted key workers and people who were underemployed or unemployed.

"Independent analysis shows that Melbourne had a shortfall of at least 5500 affordable rental homes in 2019," the Lord Mayor said.

"We recognise that a vibrant and inclusive city relies on a diverse community and a range of housing options.

"It's expected that the COVID-19 pandemic will lead to an even greater demand for affordable homes in the short term."

The proposed strategy would also commit council to leasing one of its owned sites to develop an affordable rental housing project ●

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Should council step in to regulate short-stay operators?

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

With the majority of the City of Melbourne's (CoM) 180,000 residents living in apartments, residents' groups across the city are proposing that the council forms a dedicated unit focused on the needs of apartment-dwellers.

One of the major concerns cited during a Resident's First meeting in October was the lack of regulation around short-stay operators, which has resulted in decreased amenity and security in apartment buildings around Melbourne.

Docklands resident Dr Janette Corcoran, who recently ran for the CoM as a councillor candidate on the Residents First ticket, said that without council intervention, residents remained powerless to stop short-stay operators from over-running residential buildings.

"We don't have a unit that understands our way of living and our challenges," Dr Corcoran said. "This can make representations on our behalf to other levels of government difficult. The City of Sydney has [addressed the issue]," Dr Corcoran said.

"Residents have the right to feel safe and secure in their home, get a good night's sleep and not subsidise the business operations of others."

CEO of Strata Title Lawyers Tom Bacon said that councils around Australia and the world had short-stay regulations in place for years and the CoM "needs to be doing more".

"As we come out of COVID every government is going to be wanting to cut the red tape, stimulate the economy and get rid of bureaucracy – particularly in Melbourne," Mr Bacon said.

"But in this space, we do need some bureaucracy, databases, and for short-stay operators to pay commercial rates and obtain town planning permits, upgrade their fire safety plans and go through the proper process."

In New South Wales, the state government has a database which requires all short-stay

"Residents have the right to feel safe and secure in their home, get a good night's sleep and not subsidise the business operations of others."



▲ Strata lawyer Tom Bacon.

operators to register and residents are able to consult the government if they have any issues.

This regulation also exists internationally, with London requiring a planning permit for short-stays in residential buildings and New York having banned them outright for stays of less than 30 days.

But Mr Bacon said as the CoM didn't require short-stay operators to have a land-use permit, it's difficult to keep track of how many there were and how they operated.

"The regulation here is very light-touch and basically endorses short-term letting so you can do it 365 days a year and you can have one night minimum stays," Mr Bacon said.

"It's very disappointing regulation compared to other cities around the world."

With regulation decided by individual building managers and owners' corporations (OCs), there is no uniform policy for how many short-stays can operate.

Residents also have no peak body to consult when breaches occur, including building damage, noise complaints and suspicious activity.

Barbara Francis of resident lobby group We Live Here said that this was particularly an issue from a public health perspective, as short-stays could be a breeding ground for COVID-19 in residential buildings.

"Short term letting is completely at odds with having a COVID-safe plan, it actually creates a potential health hazard," Ms Francis said.

"When residents were concerned in the past about short-stays spreading the virus, COVID-19 and police hotlines were of little help because they did not have the authority to step in." Although short-stays were badly hit by Melbourne's lockdown, Ms Francis said that with restrictions easing now was the time for the council to step in and strengthen apartment communities post-COVID-19.

"Permanent residents, owner occupiers and long-term tenants who have been putting up with the rampant, out-of-control, short-stay industry for so long are now rediscovering the

amenity and security of our homes that we thought we had lost forever," Ms Francis said.

"The challenge now is to reclaim the title of the most liveable city in the world and make sure all stakeholders have a say as things go back to normal."

Currently, the CoM doesn't have the power to issue land use permits to short-stay operators.

To do so, the Minister for Planning would need to amend the Victorian Planning Division to distinguish between different types of residential accommodation.

Although it would present a significant task for the council, Cr Rohan Leppert said that The Greens fully supported amending the legislation to better regulate land use.

"Council has an important role to support owners' corporations and apartment residents navigate a complicated legal framework, and I support the creation of a dedicated 'apartment living' team or function in the council," Cr Leppert said.

"This cannot, however, be a substitute for genuine reform. We are never going to address the tensions between short and long stay accommodation until we clearly distinguish between them in planning and building law."

"That needs state government intervention, and redefining types of accommodation in law is an enormous undertaking. But with interstate and international visitation at record lows, now is the least worst time for the state, council and strata community to tackle genuine reform and work with all property owners fairly." ●



Katie Johnson
JOURNALIST
KATIE@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU

Melbourne City Council elections

Declaration of results



The following candidates were elected to the Melbourne City Council at the general elections held in October 2020:

Leadership Team

Lord Mayor
CAPP, Sally

Deputy Lord Mayor
REECE, Nicholas

Councillors

LOUEY, Kevin (1st elected)
LEPPERT, Rohan (2nd elected)
CHANG, Jason (3rd elected)
GRIFFITHS, Davydd (4th elected)
CAMPBELL, Roshena (5th elected)
BALL, Olivia (6th elected)
LIU, Philip Le (7th elected)
HAKIM, Jamal (8th elected)
DOIDGE, Elizabeth Mary (9th elected)

Further details about the results are available at vec.vic.gov.au

Bill Lang
Election Manager
Wednesday 4 November 2020

vec.vic.gov.au | 131 832

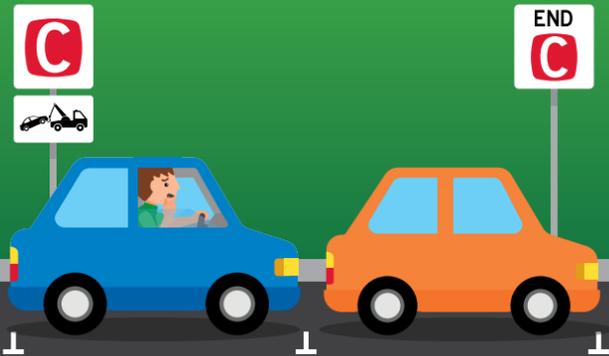
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Authorised by W. Gately, AM, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

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Visit: The VicRoads website and search 'Clearway and tow-away zones'

Email: clearways@roads.vic.gov.au







Free trams should extend into Southbank: Inquiry

WORDS BY *David Schout*
TRANSPORT

Melbourne's Free Tram Zone (FTZ) could extend into Southbank after a parliamentary inquiry recommended free travel to the Arts Centre, Casino and Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC).

The proposal, which would add the "Arts Precinct St Kilda Road" and "Casino/MCEC" tram stops to the FTZ, would see non-fare paying commuters avoid having to disembark on the Yarra River's north side and walk across into Southbank.

Currently, only the CBD and Docklands are part of the zone which was introduced by the Andrews Government in 2015.

While the minor changes (if endorsed by the state government) would only extend the entire zone just two stops, it would represent a win for tourists, workers and locals.

In a report presented to Parliament on November 26, the Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee said extending the FTZ would boost tourism.

"These small extensions would benefit Melbourne's visitor economy and help promote Melbourne as an attractive destination," committee chair Enver Erdogan said.

"As we look to recover from the impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic, every competitive advantage will help draw people from interstate and overseas."

There was disappointment in some circles, however, that the inquiry's recommendations did not go far enough.

The committee opted against advising that the FTZ include major destinations such as the MCG (and Sports Precinct), Melbourne Zoo, Melbourne Museum and key institutions like the Alfred and Royal Children's Hospitals.

A submission from the Department of Transport is likely to have played a significant role in the committee's final report.

In July, the department concluded that a wholesale extension would not only leave the state government \$15 million out of pocket but cause further congestion on trams.

Former head of transport services Jeroen Weimar said at the public hearing that modelling indicated extending the FTZ move would increase patronage by around 13,700 a day.

And he said it could worsen periods of the day that were already "beyond capacity".

"It would of course potentially lead to a busier tram service," Mr Weimar said.

"We would generate new patronage. People who are currently either walking or cycling or taking alternative transport modes are now



As we look to recover from the impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic, every competitive advantage will help draw people from interstate and overseas.



choosing to use a tram and displacing therefore people who are relying upon the normal tram service. I think that we will see an increase in congested and busy travel."

Perhaps surprisingly, the Public Transport Users' Association agreed, and said issues with overcrowding, a lack of benefits to paying public transport users, and a disincentive for "active" modes of transport (walking and cycling) meant the zone should be scrapped altogether.

However, others, such as Lord Mayor Sally Capp and the influential Committee for Melbourne, said the zone should be extended to include important precincts beyond the CBD and Docklands.

The zone's extension was a pre-election pledge in 2018 from Cr Capp, who vowed it would cover the entire municipality if elected.

But the move has seen repeated pushback from the Andrews Government and Capp has since put the issue on the backburner.

Transport Matters MP Rod Barton, who last year passed an upper house motion to consider extending the zone, said the inquiry's scope was limited and its recommendations did not reflect the views of submitters.

"The inquiry received 405 submissions, with 329 indicating their support for the free tram zone extensions as well as free fares for students and the elderly," he said.

"Sadly, none of the public hearings heard from interstate or international examples and nor did we hear from a single vulnerable member of our society. This was a missed opportunity that does not reflect Melbourne's growth and the opportunity to encourage the use of more public transport."

The government has six months to respond to the recommendations ●



▲ One of hundreds of green roofed bus stops in Utrecht, the Netherlands (Picture: the City of Utrecht).

Tram stops for bees?

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*
ENVIRONMENT

City greening has become an influential idea in recent years. But what can it look like in Melbourne? How can we green our built-up CBD and its unique spaces?

A focus group set up by the Committee for Melbourne (CfM) is pushing for the greening of tram stop roofs to make new homes for bees.

Dr Clare McCausland is a member of the "MelBees" focus group – a project aiming to install green roofs on tram stops to assist the regeneration of the stingless honey-generating bee population in Melbourne.

"When we first got together to form the group, we had about 24 ideas floating around and one of my colleagues in the group pitched the idea of the green roofs – he said it would be a 'bee superhighway' along the city," Dr McCausland said.

"Imagine the entire transport network with the greenery and the native plants to bring the bees back into the city and help restore that part of the ecosystem."

"We knew it had been done successfully before and we really wanted to give it a Melbourne identity, which is why we're looking at tram stops."

Dr McCausland said the idea was based off a project that was successfully completed in the Netherlands.

The city of Utrecht in the Netherlands completed wide-scale installation of green roofs on its bus stops last year. The initiative was taken to help cool the city and promote biodiversity, including bees and other insects.

Colony collapse disorder and varroa mite

have affected bees in every continent except Australia. The havoc wreaked on bee populations, and by extension the ecosystem, has been severe.

But Dr McCausland said our cities still posed problems for bees, and Australian populations were vulnerable to the same threats as bees elsewhere through the overuse of pesticides, habitat loss and climate change.

"Australia has over 1600 species of bees and eleven species of stingless native bees," Dr McCausland said.

"We know that the bees are dying, we know that populations are collapsing, and urbanisation plays a significant role in that. There's a lot of concrete in any CBD and that's just not appealing, so getting the plants in is a real priority," she said.

"In addition to attracting the bees they have other benefits. For example, they help to filter the water – storm water that moves too quickly isn't cleaned by vegetation."

"And all greenery in the city reduces that heat island effect that we get in built-up areas."

The MelBees project is in the process of finalising designs and aims to wrap up in the middle of June. In May 2021, during which World Bee Day is scheduled, the project aims to launch a demonstration shelter.

"I think it would set us apart," Dr McCausland said.

"It would really highlight to people outside of the city what a progressive, liberal, sustainable city we are. It would be a nicer city, transport shelters would be nicer to look at, people would have a stronger understanding of the value of insects to the ecosystem and of what the Melbourne ecosystem looks like." ●

Connect with your local community

The **Southbank Community Hub** is a free online space to connect with fellow Southbank locals, stay in the know, post requests for help, share skills and local knowledge, ask for recommendations, discover local services, classes, retailers, events and more!

This Facebook group is owned by **Southbank News**.

If you're a local resident or business you can join up here:

www.facebook.com/groups/southbankcommunityhub/

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Community Hub



Expanded riverside outdoor dining

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*
BUSINESS

Southbank has had its riverside outdoor dining expanded with two new precincts.

Mirvac's Riverside Quay precinct is hosting a series of pop-up al fresco spaces, and Southgate is turning its section of the Yarra Promenade into an outdoor dining venue until mid-2021.

In an announcement in November, Mirvac said it had worked closely with the City of Melbourne on its open dining initiative to encourage people back into the city.

Mirvac has used modular pop-ups to expand outdoor operations for five of its tenants – Left Bank, Hopscotch, Ludlow, Soho and Breslin.

The quickly-built modular structures were created by Spacecube and allowed fast and flexible expansion of the existing outdoor terraces at Riverside Quay.

Kate Beech, a Mirvac national manager, said the activation was a chance for Mirvac to support its retailers and the broader city recovery.

"The lockdown has been challenging for the entire community in Melbourne, particularly retailers. We're excited to be able to create something really special and uniquely Melbourne for Riverside Quay this summer that will encourage workers and visitors out, and support our tenants," she said.

"As we emerge from lockdown, we know people are looking for outdoor, open-air spaces to enjoy. Riverside Quay already has an abundance of outdoor seating and terraces, and it's fantastic to be able to extend out these al fresco spaces along the Yarra."

Southgate's outdoor dining precinct includes dining options and seating stretching over 800 sqm between the Evan Walker and Princes Bridges.

Restaurants on offer at Southgate include Pure South, Waterfront, BearBrass, PJ O'Brien and La Camera.

Founder of Pure South Group, Philip Kennedy, said the new outdoor dining offering at Southgate was the best in the CBD.

"The riverside seating is going to be a game-changer for the precinct - restaurants will be positioned beautifully under tree line shade with unrivaled views of our great city," Mr Kennedy said.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the increased capacity involved in outdoor dining was vital.



"It's great to see more outdoor dining coming to life across Melbourne because it allows restaurants and cafes to increase capacity and welcome more diners. This means more money going through cash registers and more Melburnians getting back to work," the Lord Mayor said.

The launch of outdoor dining at Southgate is the first of many exciting plans to roll out at the precinct with a "Southgate Summer Series" event program to be announced in December, which will include Melbourne Music Week celebrations and new partnerships with GoBoat Melbourne.

Supporting Southgate's COVID-safe practices is the installation of various sanitisation stations throughout the precinct and limitations on dining capacity in-line with state government policy. Additional cleaning programs have also been implemented and restaurants activating the new pop-up spaces along the river will support Southgate's broader COVID-safe strategy through various contact tracing technologies ●

For more information:
southgatemelbourne.com.au



▲ A render of the new outdoor dining spaces at Southgate.



▲ Mirvac's outdoor dining spaces at Riverside Quay.



▲ Maker Filipe Reynolds Arena films the miraculous inflation of a chimpanzee on Hamer Hall.

"Good Morning" from David Greybeard

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*
ARTS & CULTURE

The figure of David Greybeard became a flagship for the forest and its chimpanzees in Tanzania 60 years ago.

Now Melbourne will be under the patronage of this large but modest chimp.

A model was inflated just after 9am on the Hamer Hall on December 3.

David gradually appeared, bent forward and held out a friendly hand, his eyes turned down in a puzzled yet submissive glance.

David Greybeard is the first animal named rather than numbered by a scientist, Lisa Roet, his artist, said. "He's a mirror to ourselves."

Jane Goodall, the pioneering ecologist, met him in the forest and recognised the individuality of animal consciousness in the chimpanzee.

He stopped to show her the way after she spent four months trying to make contact with his group.

She stretched out her hand and offered him a nut but he wasn't hungry so he squeezed her hand instead.

This, his latest incarnation, appears to be signalling a desire to learn from

“
He's a mirror to ourselves.

”

those crossing the Princes Bridge.

Arts Centre Melbourne and City of Melbourne dignitaries gathered for the "unveiling" of the sculpture, as well as artist Lisa Roet and maker Filipe Reynolds this month.

Filipe documented the four-minute inflation on his phone.

"This is the biggest in volume. I've done about six, one a year. This has a lot more detail," he said.

The polyester and metallic lurex chimpanzee has been waiting in the wings since April, making it the first live performance at Arts Centre Melbourne since the pandemic hit.

"It's nine-and-a-half-months since we said good morning," Arts Centre CEO Claire Spencer said.

David will move on to other cities on December 22 ●

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▲ Construction workers celebrate the topping out of Australia 108.

Southbank boasts highest homes in the Southern Hemisphere

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
BUILDING

The completion of Melbourne's newest skyscraper, Australia 108, has officially put Southbank on the map for having the tallest residential tower in the Southern Hemisphere.

Located in the heart of Southbank, the tower reaches 319 metres tall or 100 storeys – well surpassing Eureka Tower's 88 storeys.

Chief executive of the building's developer World Class Global David Ng said the topping out of Australia 108 was a special moment for Melbourne's skyline.

"Over the past five years, Australia 108 has steadily been growing on Melbourne's skyline. Now, we are immensely proud to announce the project has officially gone where none of its neighbours have been before – we have completed the structure," Mr Ng said.

"We could not be prouder of our entire team and external project partners who helped us realise our dream to create a twinkling new landmark for Melbourne's amazing city skyline."

Beginning construction in 2015, the building was completed in late November after the remaining Cloud Residences at the top of the building were finished.

The amenities within the Starburst – the Commonwealth star-inspired golden structure from levels 70 and 71 – were also completed.

These include the 2800 sqm Star Club where residents can enjoy infinity pools, dining rooms, gyms and lounge areas.

Karl Fender, founding partner at Fender Katsalidis, which designed Australia 108, said the Star Club was designed to create community within one of the city's biggest buildings.

"We imagined the Star Club as almost like a town hall where residents come together like a community and indulge in the style of facilities you would expect in one of the world's greatest hotels," he said.

"Nothing of this scale has been created in a residential setting in Australia before, which echoes the boldness of Australia 108 as a whole."

“

It is wonderful to be able to look at Melbourne's skyline and see the hard work of so many hundreds and hundreds of people.

”

Building the Starburst required new techniques spearheaded by Multiplex, including creating purpose-built platforms used by workers to install the golden panels that were delivered by crane in the middle of the night.

The tower also had to be fitted with a 300,000-litre damper tank under level 100 to act as a counterbalance to the gale force winds up to 140km/h which blow in from Port Phillip Bay.

Multiplex regional managing director Graham Cottam said the build from many metres below ground to the top had required innovative thinking.

"This is a build that has never been attempted in Australia before—the challenges in getting people and materials to such height required innovation, as did the construction of the cantilevering Starburst," he said.

"It is wonderful to be able to look at Melbourne's skyline and see the hard work of so many hundreds and hundreds of people who have worked so tirelessly in all manner of conditions to bring this icon to life."

Although many residents have been living in the tower since 2018, those who have purchased the apartments from levels 72 onwards will soon be moving into their new luxury homes.

Those lucky new Southbankers will now be perched higher than their neighbours and enjoy unparalleled 360-degree panoramic views of Melbourne ●



Melbourne Square tops out

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*
BUILDING

Developer OSK Property has unveiled Melbourne's first wellness-enabled lifestyle apartments as it marks the topping out milestone of its first two towers at Melbourne Square.

The city's largest new precinct under development, Melbourne Square is now a recognisable landmark on the Southbank skyline, with its first two towers topping out at 236.7m and 184m, respectively.

The topping out comes as the finishing touches are being placed on the precinct's latest completed apartments, featuring interiors by Carr Design, along with its village-style shopping centre comprising Victoria's first double-storey supermarket as well as a range of new eateries.

Melbourne Square sales and marketing director Scott Jessop said the apartments would be the first in Victoria to incorporate world-first wellness technology that aimed to make spaces healthier places to live.

New apartments at Melbourne Square will feature an integrated wellness ecosystem by Delos, which controls the quality of air, water and light in apartments to improve the health of residents.

The Delos technology includes air quality sensors and high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) air filtration systems that detect and remove impurities like pollen, dust and smoke; water purifiers that reduce levels of chlorine, heavy metals and particulates; and smart lighting that mimics daylight patterns in order to improve daytime performance and sleep cycles.

"Since the launch in 2017, it is incredibly satisfying to see Melbourne Square occupy its place on the Melbourne skyline," Mr Jessop said.

"Precincts like Melbourne Square can play a role in the health of our communities, providing connection opportunities and important amenity. Buildings are also a critical tool in health and wellbeing, as Delos' 10 years of scientific research has found."

"To be able to offer apartments fitted with science-backed technology that improves the internal environment is a game-changer that

The completed apartments feature a range of internal flourishes by Carr Design that reflect the external pleating design created by COX Architecture.

Carr Design's director of architecture Chris McCue said the interiors encouraged personalisation while allowing the precinct's 360-degree views to take centre-stage.

"When we design for luxury, we think beyond a floor plan or materials palette and use the interiors to create mood and emotion. These spaces elicit a feeling of calm and escape atop the city below," Mr McCue said.

The first stage of the project will be completed over December and January, with the first stores within the precinct's urban shopping village to open prior to Christmas.

Of those stores included is Southbank's first full-line Woolworths supermarket, which has already assigned store and department managers (pictured).

Speaking to *Southbank News* last month, Woolworths Melbourne Square store manager Ragu Raguvaran said, "We're pleased to be able to offer a beautiful new store at Melbourne Square for our apartment residents and local customers that will make grocery shopping easy and more convenient."

"Being part of the local landscape is very important to us. We have been able to create nearly 100 new jobs and we are also looking forward to supporting a number of community groups in the area over the coming months."

The new Woolworths store will open on Thursday, December 10 at 93-119 Kavanagh St ●



▲ The MSQ Woolworths management team.



▲ Melbourne Square's first two towers join Southbank's skyline.

fits with our vision to create an integrated wellness precinct here."

Melbourne Square will work with Delos on a retrofit offer to residents whose apartments were completed before the technology was available.

Delos general manager Anthony Scarff said the apartments would help occupants cope with environmental challenges such as asthma, allergies to dust, pollen, pollution and even bushfire smoke.

"Given we now spend more than 90 per cent of our time indoors, it is vital that we explore new ways to engineer our indoor environments, so they become ecosystems for improving physical and mental health. We firmly believe the latest inclusions at Melbourne Square make this development a leader in the movement towards wellness in apartment living," he said ●



▲ Inside an apartment at Melbourne Square.

Arts Precinct



Malthouse's big comeback

After months of closure Southbank's Malthouse Theatre has released a multidisciplinary artistic and cultural program for the New Year, launching a new outdoor stage with the help of several high-profile partners.

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*

In an announcement in early December, the Malthouse Theatre said the outdoor stage would reinvigorate Melbourne's cultural scene by providing vital opportunities for artists and art workers, and create new cultural experiences that encourage visitors to return to the Arts Precinct.

A program of live music beginning in January features local artists Milldlife (main featured image), RVG, Kaiit and Emma Donovan & The Putbacks, while streams of other events – including comedy, talks, cabaret, theatre and workshops – have been curated with the help of partners including the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, Midsumma, YIRRAMBOI and the Wheeler Centre.

The comedy program features Lano & Woodley, Eddie Perfect, Anne Edmonds, Lloyd Langford, Judith Lucy and Denise Scott.

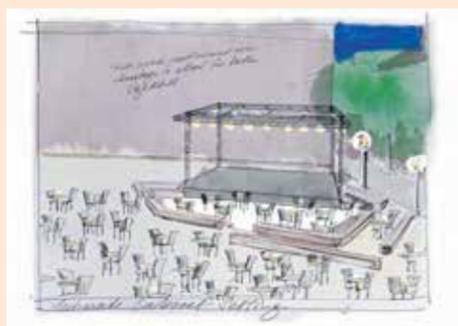
The space will also be shared with the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA) and dance company Chunky Move.



▲ Emma Donovan & The Putbacks.



▲ RVG.



▲ An illustration of the outdoor stage at the Malthouse.



▲ Sarah Mary Chadwick

Malthouse Theatre co-CEO and executive producer Sarah Neal said the creation of the outdoor stage was vital.

"The Malthouse Outdoor Stage will be a vital way for our company to extend performance opportunities to the precinct and the wider sector, and importantly, for Malthouse Theatre to reopen earlier than is possible for indoor performances," she said.

"We are immensely grateful to our supporters, the Sidney Myer Fund, the state government and to the Federal Office of the Arts for their support of this new performance hub."

The Malthouse said the construction of the stage and seating – which has a capacity of up to 312 – was made possible by the Sidney Myer Fund. The state government's contribution will provide greater weather and hospitality amenity – which would allow for programming opportunities beyond the summer season and "establish the stage as an exciting new part of Melbourne's cultural calendar".

Malthouse Theatre will seek to program new works for the stage in late 2021 through the support of the Federal Office of the Arts RISE fund.

Andrew Myer AM, Sidney Myer Fund chair, said the fund was "thrilled" by the prospect of supporting the initiative.

"The Malthouse Outdoor Stage will reactivate Melbourne and provide vital opportunities for artists in an exciting new space. It will be a landmark performance hub for Melburnians to enjoy live performance under the stars in our city's centre," he said.

Minister for Creative Industries Danny Pearson said the initiative was an example of the state government supporting the creative sector in adapting and getting back to work.

The stage will open on January 22, tickets became available to the general public on December 7. The full summer lineup will be announced in January ●

For more information:
malthousetheatre.com.au

Visitors return to the Arts Precinct

It wasn't a rush but a trickle as visitors returned to the Arts Precinct in the first week of December as galleries and museums gradually re-opened to the public.

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

Most Melburnians, including artists, are still catching up with friends they haven't seen for months.

A few were out and about, including a couple who spent their lockdown in Sydney.

"We went home in March and came back two weeks ago," Alice Clark of West Melbourne said. "We left our furniture and clothes here."

Within an hour of ACCA opening its doors on December 5, Alice and Celeste Vestige were scanning the QR code and preparing for *Overlapping Magisteria*, an exhibition that uses installations to refute the logic of empiricism defined by biologist Stephen Jay Gould.

"I love art," Celeste said. "It challenges you." Three days earlier Buxton Contemporary opened with *Exogenesis*, an exhibition of work by the Otolith Group formed in London in 2002.

The exhibition explores various alternative realities connected to the feeling of being an alien.



▲ Celeste Vestige (left) and Alice Clark visit ACCA on the day it re-opened.

All four works are screen-based.

The biggest disappointment of the re-opening was that only arts industry people were allowed into the Grad Show at the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) in specially-organised tours.

The first week of December is usually the biggest for the Arts Precinct in terms of visual art visitors because of this show, which attracts thousands who love to read the culture of the next crop of artists entering the scene.

This year the show was smaller because many students deferred. It went ahead however, against the odds, with 154 students expressing their views on the pandemic and matters close to the heart.

Simone Slee, head of VCA art, said that VCA

students were actually lucky. They were allowed to return to campus on October 23 in time to install the show.

"It's a miracle we went ahead," she said. "We just got permission to open on Monday."

Monash and RMIT graduate shows, by comparison, could only be viewed online.

Art has to be seen in person and directors of galleries are aware that they offer havens to visitors, not just members of exclusive clubs.

ABC radio has been dealing with the flak, with Virginia Trioli taking up the issue of parents being unable to view the work of their offspring in graduate shows.

Educational institutions have different rules to galleries, Simone said. At RMIT, all visitors

to the campus are required to wear masks even when they're outside. At least this does not apply to the VCA.

The range of rules has not stopped all visitors to the Arts Precinct but numbers are down.

The bar at the Malthouse is open and a choir was practicing in the courtyard in early December, Betwixt has a good trade at lunch time and drama students are visible.

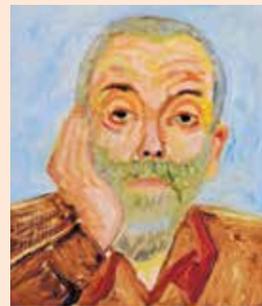
NGV International will open on December 19. In the meantime, both Buxton and ACCA have mounted exhibitions that deal with global ideas, not just those disconnected to the pandemic.

It was encouraging to see visitors finally returning to the precinct with the opening of these institutions to view their museum-quality work ●

CRITIC



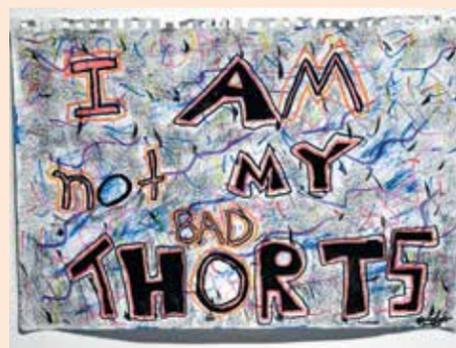
▲ Of Self by Ebony Hickey.



▲ Prayers, Gardens & Voices Arranged by Al Pomroy.



▲ Portraits (Film Director Series) by Paul Barnes.



▲ Untitled 4 by Patrick Staley.



▲ Rumble Rupture Tear Track by Thandiwe Bethune.



▲ The body is meat/the mind is unlimited by Georgie Halliwell.

The Grad Show is something else

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

Expression made a return to the Grad Show at the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) this year with a strong noir undercurrent, hinting at mysteries unsolved.

The more accomplished photographic and material experiments seemed less connected to the times.

Ebony Hickey showed disdain for the colonising impact of the English language in her suite of paintings *Of Self*.

Al Pomroy responded to the tragic beauty of paint in *Prayers, Gardens & Voices Arranged* and Georgie Halliwell to the spatial dimensions of

line in the impressive *The body is meat/the mind is unlimited*.

In previous years genres such as fantasy or hard edge painting have formed a cluster of influence but this year students, stuck in isolation, were more likely to follow their own bent.

In the past few decades the concept of the brilliant artist working alone in his or her little cell has been rejected by experiments in collaboration.

For some the C word has been put on a holy pedestal.

The pandemic has forced artists back into their own crazy worlds and the result is honest and true to the times.

Everyone has spent a lot of screen time and filmic influences are apparent but not stifling.

Instead of fiddling excessively with the technology, Paul Barnes has used film directors as models for his *Portraits* (Film Director Series).

All look intensely at the viewer sharing a moment of intelligence and slightly crazed introspection.

Patrick Staley takes this to an extreme in *Untitled 1-4*, renditions in charcoal and pastel of being trapped in a room.

The self and its confines is a topic true to the heart of the times and to the European Expressionists.

No one is going quite as far as Munch or Fair-

weather and mess has been rejected in favour of constraint.

The best work is about itself, not an easy task. Georgie Halliwell practised her spatial designs on small Tarot cards before scaling up.

Al Pomroy's works on paper show similar exquisite looseness to his painting but his material experiments are less convincing.

Those works that allow you in, either in a genre or spatial sense, and show the distress of the speculative age we inhabit, aren't really about materials.

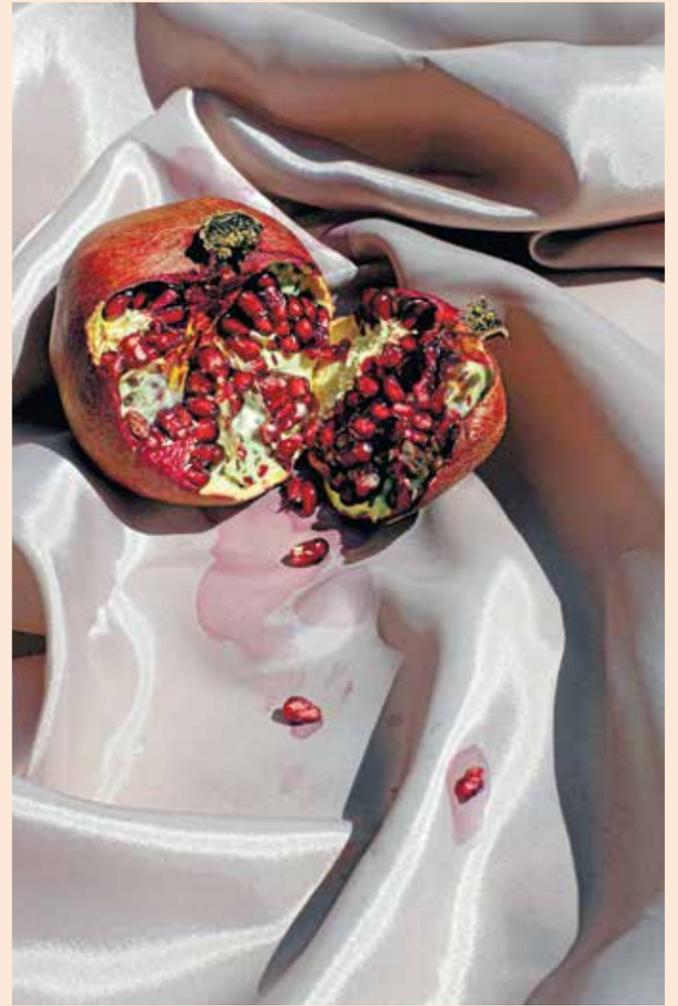
Unless it's an office chair which Thandiwe Bethune found difficult to sit on in *Rumble Rupture Tear Track* ●



JO KALINOWSKI

Always learning

Looking back on 2020, Jo Kalinowski believed she made the right choice to enrol in Photography Studies College (PSC) to pursue photography at this extraordinary time.



WORDS BY *Wing Kuang*

The 54-year-old part-time photography student has recently completed her first semester at PSC, where she attended lectures every Friday and explored creative ways to approach photography.

"It's interesting. I couldn't have done the course at a better time, even if I didn't sign up to do it in my own home," Jo said. "Every Friday was such a joy."

Having previously worked in hairdressing as an artistic director, Jo has appreciated photography throughout her life and in her free time, she said she had always played around with her iPhone and taken photos.

And it was only four years ago when she got her first digital SLR camera that she got serious about photography.

Jo taught herself photography by practice and she enjoys minimal and documentary photography.

Before attending PSC, she even created a documentary project about her daughters in

summer. She later decided to systematically study photography to catch up with things she had missed and was recommended to sign up for a course at PSC.

While she had been excited to start the course, COVID-19 and the first lockdown in March disrupted her plans. She deferred to the second semester in July, but then the second lockdown kicked in so she decided to just jump online and begin her photography studies virtually.

Jo said she found the Friday Zoom classes at PSC were helpful to soothe the second lockdown.

"We had to create things that I would never have tried creating. That was an interesting process doing it from home, because of a lot of bad things wrapped around you in the lockdown," Jo said. "We had a beautiful class and two amazing teachers. It definitely provided a bit of light at the end of the week."

In her final assessment for the course, Jo was asked to create a piece of personal expression of a series of 12 images. She created a fictional

photography project using dolls to express her personal feelings. "I just created something I never thought I'd create during lockdown," she said.

Since 2018, Jo has hosted several exhibitions and was selected as a photographer as part of the Australian Association of Street Photographers' 2020 Street Beats Exhibition.

She also recently selected as a finalist as part of the 2020 Australian Photography Awards in the open/illustrative category for her image *Pomegranate*.

As 2020 approaches its ending, Jo already has a bucket list for next year.

As her project for her final assessment continues, she said that completing it would be her first goal for 2021, but she also wanted to continue growing her portfolio as a photographer. Otherwise, she said she looked forward to going back PSC in February.

"I think it's a really interesting journey," Jo said. "You never stop learning."

jokalinowski.com ●



© Cassidy Chappell PSC Part-Time Student



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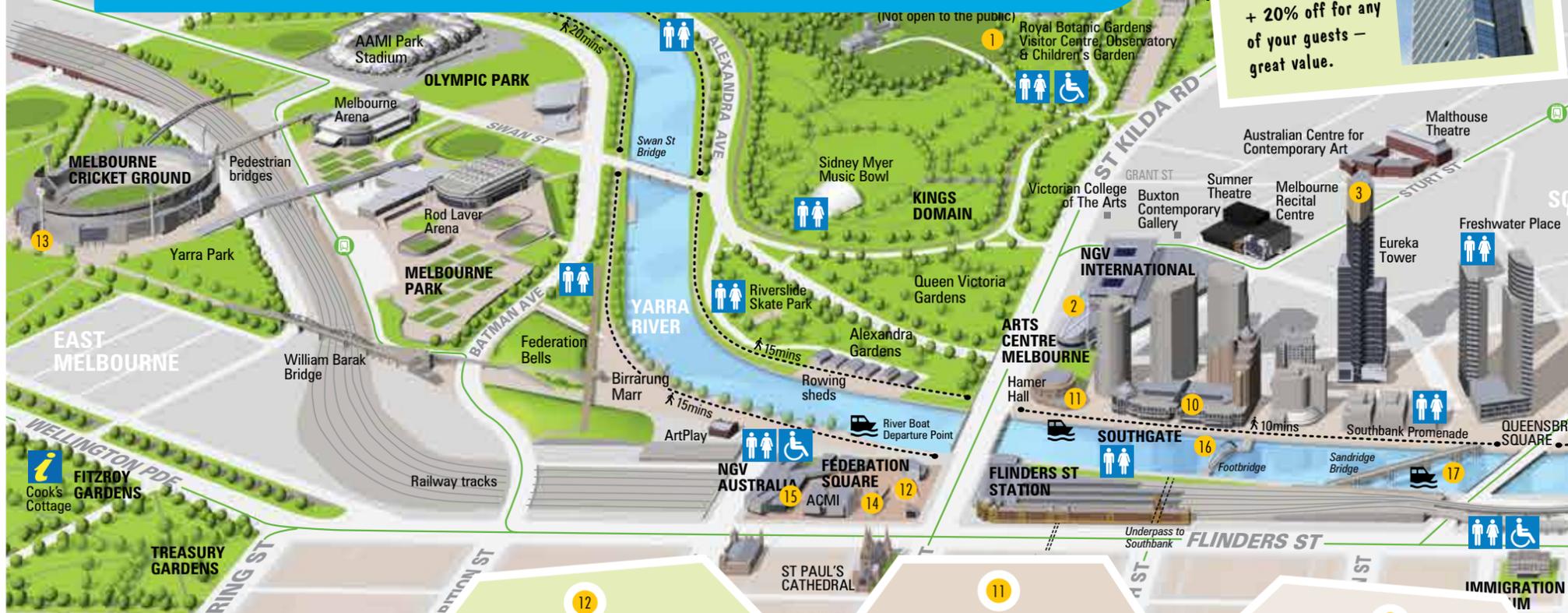
I'm a Southbanker

Southbank residents live in probably the best place in Australia for the range and quality of holiday entertainment – and much of it is free!

Here's a checklist of 18 things to do and see, right on your doorstep – that's almost one activity every day for three weeks. So from pre-Christmas to 'back to work' in January, you can enjoy a relaxing holiday at home.

Better still, invite some family or friends over to give them a glimpse into the enviable Southbank lifestyle.

Melbourne looks like Legoland from Eureka Tower's level 88. Buy a Skydeck membership for \$60 and get unlimited visits over 12 months + 20% off for any of your guests – great value.



13
You don't need to love sport to enjoy the Australian Sports Museum at the MCG. It's an interactive space exuding 'Aussieness', including life-sized holograms, climbable objects, avatars and priceless artefacts spanning 95 different sports. Take a guided tour of the 'G' while you're there.



12
Just turn up at Fed Square because there's usually something happening in Melbourne's meeting place. 'Fed Oasis' opens on 15 January: luscious grassy zones, bean bags, deck chairs, umbrellas. Order food from your spot and watch sport and films on the Big Screen.



11
The Arts Centre's weekend markets start on 12 December for a unique handmade gift. In January, the free Australian Music Vault exhibition re-opens and the 'Live at the Bowl' festival kicks-off with exciting performances at Melbourne's iconic outdoor venue. For your coffee fix, Café Protagonist is open daily.



10
Have you visited the free photographic gallery on the upper level in Southgate, featuring work from Photography Studies College? Eclectic shops sit among great dining options – budget to high-end. Indulge at Damon Bradley or Lindt Café for afternoon tea.



14
Step back 65,000 years when you experience Koorie artefacts, pictures and photographs at the Koorie Heritage Trust, located in Fed Square.

Take a guided Indigenous walk along the riverbanks for a truly immersive insight into the ancient culture of pre-Melbourne.

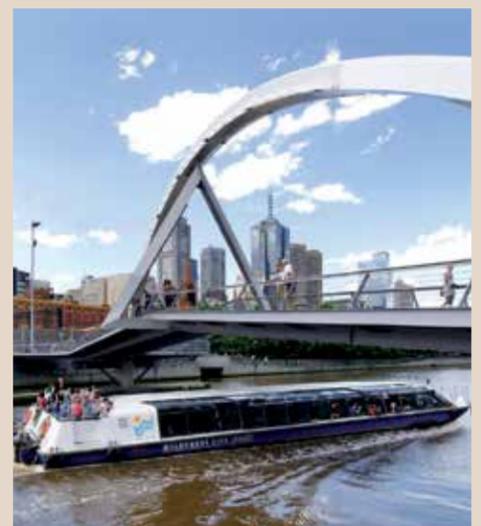


15
ACMI's \$40 million facelift opens in February – new permanent interactive galleries that trace the history of the moving image in Australia, plus heaps of temporary exhibits. Watch for its screenings of classic and contemporary films.



16
You haven't really seen Melbourne until you view it from a boat. Daily narrated tours, a floating restaurant, ferry trips to Williamstown. Catch a water taxi to the tennis. Enjoy a floating cabaret show.

- 20% discount on all cruises for Southbankers on Melbourne River Cruises.
 - 15% discount on all Classic Steamboat Cruises for Southbankers.
 - Yarra River Cruises – Bottomless Cocktail Cruise \$55 special – discount code YRBASS.
- One hour sightseeing cruise, inc tea and coffee, \$20 – discount code YRBA20.



2

NGV International is reopening 19 December. Dedicate a different gallery to explore each week and book a free tour to really appreciate the artworks + the NGV Triennial is back – what a sensory feast!



1



The Gardens is the perfect spot on a 30 degree day. Take an Aboriginal heritage walk, a punt trip on the lake, check out the new Arid Garden or just lie on that sumptuous grass! 'The Wind in the Willows' 19 Dec - 24 Jan Moonlight Cinema on the lawn in January

4

It's hot, but who cares when DFO has 180 shops under one roof in airconditioned comfort + an interior décor wonderland in DFO Homemaker. Drive right in and ask for a 50% off parking voucher when you buy something. Stroll over to South Wharf for a riverside lunch.



5



Maritime heritage brought to life for sublime riverside dining at modest prices.

From cafes and wine bars to a German beerhaus – 22 choices plus the magnificent tall ship Polly Woodside to explore.

9

Another hot weather retreat, when you enter the underwater world of SEALife. Get among the creatures of the deep and waddle with the King and Gentoo Penguins. Get 20% off admission – use promo code 'southbank' when booking online.



8



It's the 'cool' side of the river, so escape those 30-40 degree days on the Wharf Hotel's riverside beer deck or in WTC's two restaurants – Byblos and Man Mo.

7

We call it 'The Mish' and the 1917 domed building is a beautiful piece of old Melbourne.

Wander in during the day, enjoy its cool interior, have beer or wine, book the Spanish-style courtyard and bbq for a group of friends (free for Southbankers).



6



Right on your doorstep. Take a Microflite sightseeing tour from Batman Park over the city, to the Yarra Valley, Phillip Island or the 12 Apostles. It's cheaper than you might think and the memories will last a lifetime.

17

Cast-off on your own river voyage when you hire a quiet, electric, self-drive boat to explore the river's nooks and crannies. No licence needed. Grab a group of friends to make it a surprisingly cheap activity: Melbourne Boat Hire, GoBoat, On a Boat. 10% off any mid-week January GoBoat rentals – use promo code SBANK10JAN when online booking.



18

Italy maybe off the travel agenda for the moment, but taking a Venice on the Yarra gondola up and down the river is the next best thing. Order a gourmet platter and champagne. It's the ultimate in romance, especially at sunset or when watching the city lights in the water.



yarrariver.melbourne

Published by the Yarra River Business Association, with support from the City of Melbourne. December 2020. Enquiries: exoff@yarrariver.melbourne

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Your City of Melbourne Community Update



The City of Melbourne has welcomed its newly-elected Council.

Here is a brief introduction to the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and councillors at the City of Melbourne. To find extended biographies and contact details for councillors, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/aboutcouncil



**Lord Mayor
Sally Capp**

Re-elected in November 2020 after having previously been elected in May 2018

Sally began her career as a solicitor and was the first woman to hold the post of Agent-General for Victoria in the UK, Europe and Israel. She has also served as the CEO for the Committee for Melbourne and COO of the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Sally has held senior roles at both KPMG and ANZ, and she took the small business she co-founded to the ASX. Most recently she was Victorian Executive Director of the Property Council of Australia. A passionate Magpies supporter, in 2004 Sally made history as the first female board member of Collingwood FC. She is involved in a number of charities.

Sally is the first woman to be directly elected as Lord Mayor.



**Deputy Lord Mayor
Nicholas Reece**

Elected Deputy Lord Mayor in November 2020, after having previously been elected Councillor in 2016

Nick is an executive in Chancellery at the University of Melbourne and holds an academic position of principal fellow and teaches at the Melbourne School of Government. Nick is the chairman of global men's health charity Movember and, for more than 10 years, he was a director for the street newspaper *The Big Issue*.

Nick has considerable experience in government and policy making, having worked as a senior adviser to Prime Minister Julia Gillard and Victorian premiers Steve Bracks and John Brumby. He is a commentator for SKY News and a regular columnist for *The Age*.



**Councillor
Olivia Ball**

Olivia has lived, worked and studied in the City of Melbourne for most of her life. With a Masters and PhD in human rights, and experience working in women's, children's, refugees', workers' and older people's rights, she brings human rights expertise to the diverse activities of Council, from the affordability of housing to the accessibility of our city and democracy.

A published author, Olivia also has a science degree, giving her skills in assessing evidence and applying research. Most recently, she has been studying urban planning.



**Councillor
Roshena Campbell**

Roshena is a barrister with expertise in commercial law and corporate governance. Prior to that she was a solicitor with a leading national law firm for nearly a decade. She has represented some of Australia's largest companies as well as state and local government bodies.

Roshena has put down deep roots since moving to Melbourne as a 20 year old and has lived, worked and studied in the City of Melbourne. She has three young children. She is passionate about contributing to Melbourne's re-emergence as a vibrant, thriving city. Her priority is ensuring that Melbourne is Australia's greatest city to do business in and the destination of choice for families to live and visit.

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Your City of Melbourne Community Update



**Councillor
Jason Chang**

Jason is co-founder and CEO of Calia, a restaurant-to-retail brand created in Melbourne specialising in quality products and ingredients. His hospitality and retail group employs hundreds of people across his stores in Melbourne and Asia, and for his online store operations.

Born and raised in Melbourne, Jason knows all too well the devastating impact that COVID-19 is having on Melbourne's beloved hospitality, retail, international student and tourism industries.



**Councillor
Elizabeth Mary Doidge**

Elizabeth was born, raised, and has lived her entire life in Melbourne. She has a proud career in the trade union movement, playing a key role in communication and stakeholder engagement. Elizabeth currently works in the construction sector engaging with a diverse range of industry and community stakeholders.

Elizabeth recognises the important role Council will play in the recovery of our city and the opportunity presented to Council to contribute to the design of a more productive, inclusive and enriched city for all.



**Councillor
Davydd Griffiths**

Davydd moved to Melbourne to study in 1993 and since that time has lived or worked in the City of Melbourne. Davydd worked as a school teacher for many years and remains passionate about the power of education to transform lives and connect communities.

After leaving teaching he worked as a policy advisor in both education and health with a particular focus on community health provision, men's health and mental health. Addressing the impact of loneliness, particularly in rapidly transforming urban communities, is another of Davydd's key interests. In recent years, Davydd has owned and operated hospitality venues in Kensington and West Melbourne and has experienced first-hand the impacts of COVID-19 on business.



**Councillor
Jamal Hakim**

Jamal is Managing Director of a national health non-profit that has safely and successfully navigated COVID-19. Having worked in complex, challenging global organisations his entire career, he is both an entrepreneur and business person at heart. Jamal is a GAICD and holds a number of board roles, including with Democracy in Colour, Marie Stopes PNG and previously with Midsumma Festival.

A resident of Docklands for 12 years, Jamal is passionate about ensuring a thriving community that is physically, emotionally, culturally and environmentally safe for everyone. Jamal is also an advocate for representative and evidence-based decision making.



**Councillor
Philip Le Liu**

Re-elected in November 2020 after having previously been elected in 2016

Philip is a local resident and a long-time worker within the City of Melbourne. With more than 10 years of experience across a variety of sectors, including government, utility, telecommunication, and financial services, Philip is a trusted adviser to many in the community, business, and government sectors.

Philip is a regular speaker at conferences and on panels across Australia and Asia, and he speaks on key issues in the media. In 2019, he was recognised as one of 40 Under 40 Most Influential Asian-Australians and winner of the Public Sector/Government category. Outside of council, Philip is an entrepreneur and heavily involved in helping local communities.



**Councillor
Rohan Leppert**

Re-elected in November 2020 after having previously been elected in 2016 and 2012

Rohan is a member of the Victorian Greens. He has lived in the City of Melbourne his entire adult life and currently lives and works in Kensington. He has worked as a musician and teacher for more than 15 years, and more recently as an urban planner.

Rohan is a board member of the Municipal Association of Victoria, where he also chairs the Planning Committee, an associate of the Planning Institute of Australia and a member of the National Trust (Victoria).

Rohan's priority and passion as councillor is planning Melbourne in the public interest, for a more economically just, environmentally sustainable, accessible and creative city for future generations.



**Councillor
Kevin Louey**

Re-elected in November 2020 after having previously been elected in 2016, 2012 and 2008

Kevin has extensive experience across the business, government and community sectors and spent seven years at the City of Melbourne as Chief of Staff to the former Lord Mayor John So, before being elected as a councillor in 2008.

Kevin has been the City of Melbourne's appointment to the advisory committees including Enterprise Melbourne Pty Ltd and Business Partner City Network.

Kevin is passionate about working with small business and activating the city to increase visitation.



ABOUT COUNCIL

To find out more about the Council, including meeting dates and decision-making, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/aboutcouncil

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“Christmas is not cancelled”

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
EVENTS

The City of Melbourne’s annual Christmas Festival will help bring Melbourne back to life with a range of COVID-safe events and entertainment for all ages.

From socially-distanced photos with Santa to a Christmas-themed picnic area at Argyle Square, the 2020 festival will run from November 27 to December 25 with the help of the \$100 million Melbourne City Recovery Fund.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said that this year’s festivities would encourage Melburnians to safety rediscover the city and support local businesses.

“Christmas is not cancelled in 2020,” the Lord Mayor said.

“I am absolutely delighted to announce this program of Christmas offers and events that will be irresistible in enticing people back into the city for their Christmas shopping, celebrations and family traditions.”

The festival will kick off on Black Friday with the “Shop the City” event which will run in partnership with Melbourne Fashion Week.

The Lord Mayor said the four-day shopping festival would provide an opportunity to support local businesses while taking advantage of great deals and enjoying the Christmas events.

“It’s been a challenging year for retailers, and residents across Melbourne can show their support by shopping local in the city, and enjoying the pop-up street runways, food and drinks, freebies and music while they’re at it.”

Last year the festival generated more than \$64 million to the city’s economy and the council is predicting city retailers will enjoy a much-needed boost again this year.

One way this will be achieved is through the



▲ Lord Mayor Sally Capp strolls down Hosier Lane with Santa and Mrs Claus on November 18.

Christmas Collective business grant initiative which supports 24 events throughout the city.

These include Christmas markets in Docklands, the 12 films of Christmas at Kino Cinemas, and “A Very Victorian Christmas” which will celebrate local producers and wine-makers at a pop-up cellar door at Garden State Hotel.

To get into the Christmas spirit, the city will also light up with Christmas projections, including a “Thank You” to the city’s frontline workers at the State Library Victoria.

Christmas Square will again pop up at Federation Square, with a 16-metre tall Christmas tree adorned with 30,000 energy efficient lights and a COVID-safe Santa’s workshop.

The Lord Mayor said protocols would be in place to ensure families could meet Santa in a socially-distanced way.

“Everybody will be able to tell Santa what they want for Christmas, walk around the workshop and take photographs, but you won’t be sitting on Santa’s lap,” the Lord Mayor said.

To avoid large crowds and queues, this year’s festival is “always on” instead of having events on at specific times.

“Whenever you turn up, we’re offering as range of events than are always on so we can avoid queues and ensure people don’t feel pressured to come into large, crowded environments,” the Lord Mayor said.

“We are also holding most events outside to make it more COVID-safe.”

Along with old favourites, the city has also organised new events including Deck the Streets, which will see Melbourne-based artists paint a series of festive murals in Hosier Lane, Carlton, North Melbourne and Kensington.

One featured artist is *CBD News* Street Art columnist Adrian Doyle, who said that street art was a great way to express the Christmas spirit in a uniquely Melbourne way.

“It’s outdoors, you can bring your kids and enjoy the city and all the Christmas artwork it has to offer,” Mr Doyle said.

Argyle Square in Lygon St will also be transformed into a Christmas-themed picnic area in partnership with Piazza di Natale, and there will be a range of augmented reality experiences displayed throughout the city.

The Lord Mayor said that as the city ended a difficult year, Melburnians deserved to come together and celebrate Christmas with the ones they loved.

“It’s a celebration of the resilience and community spirit of Melbourne, and we hope that Melburnians will join us in the city to enjoy all that it has to offer,” she said ●

For more information:
melbourne.vic.gov.au/Christmas



▲ Susie Garcia with prizes for the treasure hunt.

Treasure hunt for school holidays

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*
COMMUNITY

Mary Martin Bookshop in Southgate has a box full of gifts for those who can follow a treasure map and pick up clues along the way.

There’s a big insect living on the side of Eureka Tower, for example.

If you can figure out the name for its home, you’ve completed the first step.

Next, you’re required to cross the Evan Walker Bridge over the river to count the number of clocks above Flinders Street Station.

The treasure map has been funded by a City of Melbourne small business transformation grant to bring people into the city and celebrate the end of lockdown, according to bookseller Susie Garcia.

“We’ve had 20,000 viewers on Facebook. If you finish it you get a prize,” she said.

So far there’s only been a trickle through the shop. “We’re waiting for the school holidays.”

The bookshop initiated the project with illustrator Mitchell Toy whose book *The Midnight City* shows these places at night.



The book tells the tale of a little boy who travels on a magical flying tram exploring Melbourne landmarks.

The treasure hunt begins and ends at Mary Martin Bookshop and is aimed at children between five and 12 years.

The route takes around an hour to complete and is all within the city’s free tram zone.

Those who solve the riddle will also a small prize and go into the running to win a Christmas hamper of books ●

More office workers to return in New Year

WORDS BY *David Schout*
BUSINESS

Private companies can welcome back half of their workforce from January 11 in a boost for local Southbank businesses that rely on their presence.

From the same date, the Victorian public sector can also move to 25 per cent of staff.

The absence of office workers due to COVID-19 has been particularly felt by hospitality and retail businesses, where a busy corporate environment helps stimulate their trade.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the move was welcome heading into Christmas.

“Having half of our city’s private workforce and a quarter of public state government workers back in their offices from 11 January will provide a major boost to our economy,” she said on December 6.

“Each city worker that returns means another coffee bought in our local cafes, an after-work drink in our bars and pubs and extra customers for our retail stores.”

“City workers make up a critical component to our economy and we know that the recovery will take time and will need ongoing support to be sustained.”

In a further boost for hospitality, the Andrews government also announced that from December 7, density limits (of one person per two square metres) would replace across-the-board caps on cafes, restaurants and pubs.

This would allow larger venues to welcome more patrons both inside and outside.

The news followed a pledge from some of Melbourne’s largest employers of returning 70 per cent of their staff when “work from home” guidelines are further lifted.

In a meeting with the City of Melbourne, representatives from entities like ANZ, Metro Trains, PwC, Telstra and NAB vowed to return more than two-thirds of their workforce when safe to do so.

The mass exodus of inner-Melbourne workers and the associated decline in foot traffic since March has crippled many businesses.

Council data from November revealed that spending at restaurants, cafes and pubs in the

“Each city worker that returns means another coffee bought in our local cafes, an after-work drink in our bars and pubs and extra customers for our retail stores.”



CBD, for example, was down by 90 per cent compared with February levels.

While the pledge is a targeted number rather than a binding agreement, it represents an indication that big businesses plan to return a majority of their workers back post-pandemic.

Cr Capp said the city needed some form of reassurance for when work from home guidelines were lifted by the state government. But while this predicament meant they were keen for workers to return as soon as possible, she said things would be done safely.

“We of course don’t expect 100 per cent of workers to come back to work on day one; it’s unrealistic and it’s unsafe ... [it is] about coordinating staggered days, staggered start times and ensuring an orderly and safe return for workers. It’s in everyone’s best interests to see that happen.”

The next easing of restriction for office workers is due on February 8 when, barring a rise in COVID-19 cases that altered public health advice, the public service would welcome back 50 per cent of staff ●

Living with a loved one's dementia

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*
HEALTH

According to Anne Fairhall, whose husband of 60 years is living with advanced dementia, the one thing most people need to understand about the disorder is that you can live well with dementia, but the person living with it cannot change – so the people around them have to.

“A lot of people, even when they get to the point of having their loved one go into care, don't understand that,” she said.

Anne lives in a Southbank apartment, where she moved after a long period home-caring for her husband Geoff had come to an end. Geoff had entered a residential aged care home because of Anne's own health burn out.

The couple had lived together in an apartment in the CBD for more than two decades. Geoff was an academic, spoke many languages, flew light planes and loved offshore sailing.

But 30 years ago, aged 51, he began developing frontotemporal dementia.

“He maintained functionality for quite a long time until he eventually deteriorated very badly and needed more support than I could provide, going into care nine years ago,” Anne said.

“But he was going through behavioral changes that whole time. It was really very hard for him because he had a brilliant mind. He experienced a gradual whittling down, a reducing of what he was capable of, and lost a lot of what he loved.”

Geoff and Anne had what she described as a very fulfilling life together, but Geoff – who had always been kind and calm – became harsh and temperamental. He began lashing out as he gradually lost capacity to function in the ways he'd always been able to.

And none of it was helped by a lack of proper diagnosis for more than 10 years.

“He had an early onset of frontotemporal dementia, which is not so much about memory loss, but loss of executive function, anger, frustration, control, behavioral and personality change,” Anne said.

“The person they really are never fully goes



▲ Anne Fairhall.

away, their core persona is always there to find, but it can be very difficult.”

Anne's recollections of Geoff's changes follow the loss of executive function, on the one hand, and his changing, out of character behaviours, on the other.

When they visited their country home once, Anne was pleased that the man she once knew to teach himself new languages, fly planes and sail on his days off could still manage to pick lemons from their lemon tree.

But after asking him to help rearrange the garage, she was met with an outburst and locked inside.

“It was too complex for him and I didn't realise that at the time,” she said.

“He would do something he would have never done in his life before, out of frustration or anger. I've now heard from so many other family carers of stories like that, too, but at the time I felt very alone when that happened to me.”

Although Anne said was unavoidable that if your loved one developed dementia, you must change for them – and make sacrifices in the process – her second lesson seems to be one about independence and maintaining interests of her own.

It's what led her to her apartment in Southbank and, along with Geoff's wellbeing, has guided most of her decisions over the past 30 years.

“We've experienced a huge amount of grief related to loss, because we had a really good marriage. It was anticipatory loss, and it was about loss on top of loss, without actually losing the person you love. But Geoff is well cared for and calm now where he is.”

As for Anne, she's spent the better part of the last year as a member of a new Probus Club – a social club for older people – where she became vice president.

“I'm just on 77 so looking ahead on the next 20 years until my mid-90s. I just want to be able to be independent and stay connected, regardless of what happens with my husband.” ●

For more information:
dementia.org.au/
bearbrassprobus.org

Council U-turn on cars

WORDS BY *David Schout*
TRANSPORT

The City of Melbourne is encouraging motorists back to the inner city during the Christmas period by offering free on-street parking, despite existing policy that seeks to turn cars away in favour of pedestrians and cyclists.

Amid concerns of post-lockdown hesitancy among public transport users, drivers are being lured back with free parking throughout the municipality until January 3.

Motorists displaying a “parking voucher”, available in selected newspapers or the council website, would avoid receiving a fine.

Time limits, disabled parking restrictions, clearways, no standing zones and residential permit restrictions still apply.

It is hoped the scheme, which is set to cost the council \$1.6 million assuming a 50 per cent take-up, will see motorists spend their dollars at struggling retailers and hospitality outlets, providing a “sugar hit” to the local economy at the busiest period on the calendar.

On-street parking within the central city is normally \$7 an hour, and \$4 an hour outside the central city.

Councillors eventually voted eight to three in favour of the cheap parking move; those “for” included Lord Mayor Sally Capp who argued the short-term policy shift was both necessary and justified.

Cr Capp said feedback from CBD small businesses suggested the council should make returning to the city as easy as possible for potential consumers, particularly those apprehensive about the current environment.

“We need to do everything we can do to overcome any barriers, real or perceived, to people choosing to come into the city for their work, for their dining, for their shopping or entertainment,” she said at the November 17 Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting.

The Lord Mayor said that the “extraordinary situation” due to COVID-19 meant they simply had to try new strategies.

“As a city and community, we need to be considering all options, some of which will work, and some may not. But certainly, at the moment, many are worth trying as we try to revitalise our city economy and revitalise our city community.”

The move represents a sharp U-turn for years' worth of council policy that sought to rid the CBD of what it viewed as space-inefficient cars.

Last year the council released a 10-year transport strategy that primarily sought to widen footpaths for pedestrians and drastically increase cycling lanes. To do this, they have already begun reducing and even closing car lanes into and around the Hoddle Grid.

Research for the strategy revealed nine in 10 CBD trips were taken on foot, despite the fact 80 per cent of space was taken up by cars.

Both Greens councillors, Rohan Leppert and Dr Olivia Ball, and councillor Jamal Hakim voted against the cheaper parking move, arguing the city should instead look to COVID-safe public transport, cycling and walking.

Cr Leppert tweeted that it was “hard not to feel like years of hard-won policy is unravelling”.

“I am very concerned that the COVID-induced recession is being used as an argument that the economics of the city have fundamentally changed since the adoption of the Transport Strategy 2030, and that new times call for a temporary car-led recovery,” he added.

“The law of supply and demand hasn't been suspended in a recession. I sincerely hope that before the council adopts a fee structure that may risk the congestion of the Hoddle Grid with people looking for free car parks that just aren't available, compromising the excellent plans for people-focused streets and places in the central city that the council is rolling out, that the economics of parking are genuinely considered.”

Under the move, drivers need to display the vouchers on their dashboard, and will still need to observe the green sign time limit ●

Council passes motion to build a city with Aboriginal focus

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne (CoM) has unanimously passed a motion to implement a new Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) from 2021.

The comprehensive three-year plan outlines strategies to increase awareness of indigenous issues, commemorate the Stolen Generation, and employ more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at the council.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said that the plan would bring Melbourne one step closer to being “a city with an Aboriginal focus”.

“We are absolutely committed to our reconciliation journey here at the City of Melbourne because at its heart reconciliation is about strengthening relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples,” the Lord Mayor said.

“We know that at the CoM we can do better and this plan starts us on that journey.”

The key goals of the plan are to personally engage CoM staff in reconciliation strategies, develop relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders and drive reconciliation through council activities, services and programs.

Some of these activities will include events to acknowledge National Sorry Day on May 26 and a public National Reconciliation Week Oration with a high-profile speaker every year in July.

Director of Aboriginal Melbourne and author of the plan, Hans Bokelund, said that educational events were the key to bringing cultures together.

“We were the first local government to endorse a reconciliation action plan back in 2006, so this is part of our journey to live up to the motto of City of Melbourne and gather strength as we go,” Mr Bokelund said.

“

Everything in Australia starts and ends with us being able to reconcile our past so we can create a better future.

”

The CoM's reconciliation plan is different from others around the country because of its commitment to “truth-telling”.

This involves a series of public talks to enable a greater understanding of Aboriginal people's experiences and their present realities.

Cr Olivia Ball said that truth-telling activities were vital to educate the wider public about Australia's history and would provide an opportunity for Aboriginal people to share their heritage and culture with the broader community.

“Truth-telling can be difficult to do and difficult to hear,” Cr Olivia Ball said.

“But for reconciliation to succeed we need to understand and acknowledge the past and the consequences for the present and work together to end racism and racial inequality in this country.”

Docklands resident and Cr Jamal Hakim also commended the truth-telling activities as an important step in reconnecting to the cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

“Everything in Australia starts and ends with us being able to reconcile our past so we can create a better future,” Cr Hakim said.

Another major focus of the plan is to increase the percentage of Aboriginal staff employed at CoM.

Currently there are only 12 people who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander out of 1400 CoM staff, despite the council setting up a separate Aboriginal Melbourne branch in 2019 to improve this.

The RAP will also involve establishing a Local Aboriginal Secondment Program for four CoM employees to be seconded for a period of at least six weeks to Traditional Owner Groups to better educate council members.

Cr Rohan Leppert said that the plan would serve as an example for the whole city and encourage the community to be active participants in the reconciliation process.

“It's not the easiest document to implement but we're looking to lead by example and make CoM a leader for Aboriginal employment and extend that out to the whole of Melbourne to make it a better place for its first peoples,” he said.

The council will report the progress of the plan to Reconciliation Australia in September each year.

The Lord Mayor said that a major sign of success would be when “Aboriginal people feel that their ambitions can be realised.”

“Our ambitions as a city, a community and an organisation must have Aboriginal Melbourne and Aboriginal considerations at its heart,” Cr Capp said.

“We can do better, we must do better, and we will.” ●

SOUTHBANKER

From sea to Southbank

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*

After a vibrant career that saw him jump from Sydney to Canberra to Perth, Commodore Greg Yorke is happy to be settled in the heart of Southbank.

For the past seven years he and his wife have been living in Mainpoint having traded their four-bedroom house in Western Australia for a city apartment.

"It's nice to be grounded in one place and establish our roots. Particularly with all our children and grandchildren down here, we wouldn't want to be anywhere else," Commodore Yorke said.

"We love living in Southbank, it's a fantastic place to live."

As the Senior Naval Officer of Victoria, Commodore Yorke has had his fair share of adventure over the years.

After joining the Royal Australian Navy in 1974, he quickly moved up the ranks to become the Principal Warfare Officer after training with the Royal Navy in England in 1984.

He then served with the Royal Navy from 1985 as the principal warfare officer of HMS *Liverpool* for three years.

"It was definitely a highlight going to the different places around England and Europe on that ship," Commodore Yorke said.

He has also had two successful Commands, first with HMAS *Gladstone* and then HMAS *Arunta*.

"HMAS *Arunta* was a brand-new ship commissioned at Station Pier in 1998. It was an amazing challenge to bring 160 people together to turn what was a metal box into a living, breathing, operating ship," Commodore Yorke said.

"It was an enormously rewarding experience."

In 2006 he decided to do a decade-long stint as a management consultant at KPMG before coming back to the navy in 2016.

"I was asked to come back to do a particular role in Canberra and that came with a promotion to the rank of Commodore," he said.

"As that role came to an end I was asked if I wanted to take on the role of the senior naval officer of Victoria."

As part of his role, Commodore Yorke engages with state and local government in Victoria, industry leaders and academics to sell the navy message.

He also acts as the reviewing officer in appointment ceremonies for officers and graduating navy sailors.

"I attend all the major commemorative services at the Shrine, Town Hall, Parliament or Government House," Commodore Yorke said.

However, with commemorative services largely cancelled due to COVID-19, Commodore Yorke's work has primarily been from home instead of at Victoria Barracks in Southbank.

"It's a challenge to maintain communication and relationships with people, particularly when you have things like the Remembrance Service done remotely," Commodore Yorke said.

In his spare time, Commodore Yorke is also a member of the Board of the Australian National Veterans Arts Museum (ANVAM), which provides art-based programs to veterans and their families.

Commodore Yorke said the main goal of the non-profit organisation was to enhance the mental, physical and social wellbeing of veterans.

"We support veterans using art as a means to help them work through their experiences and



express themselves after they leave the defence force," he said.

Currently the organisation is trying to procure the former repatriation clinic at 310 St Kilda Rd for use as an arts-focused rehabilitation centre for veterans.

"It was opened in 1937 and provided support to WWI and WWII, Korean and Vietnam veterans until about 1987. But since the mid-90s it has sat idle and is basically falling down with very little maintenance," Commodore Yorke said.

"We want to re-energise the building and turn it into something valuable for veterans."

As a maritime enthusiast, Commodore Yorke

is also part of the Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN) which aims to better coordinate how Melbourne presents itself as a maritime city.

One of the main goals of the network is to have a maritime museum in Melbourne to celebrate Melbourne's maritime history.

"Melbourne is one of the largest ports in Australia and the most containers come across the docks here, yet so few people in Melbourne think of it as a maritime city," Commodore Yorke said.

"We want to change that."

You can learn more about Melbourne's maritime history at mmhn.org.au ●

HOUSING ALL AUSTRALIANS

Housing benefits every level of society



Welcome to the fifth article of our 12-part series which will attempt to explore the role that housing can and should play within Australian society and why it is important to our economy that we house all Australians, rich or poor. This series intends to draw on a range of perspectives centred around housing and homelessness. We will hear a range of views from business, the not-for-profit sector and hopefully government, as to why they believe housing is an important social and economic building block for Australia's future prosperity. This month we have asked Cameron Harvey, a partner at lawyers Norton Rose Fulbright, to share his thoughts around why the objective around housing all Australians should be considered an economic imperative for Australia...



There are many causes for homelessness in Australia but, to date, as a society we have been unable to force the right government policy settings to promote solutions to one of the most pernicious of conditions that plague our society.

The pandemic has shown us that we can move quickly to house the homeless when it is prioritised as a community concern. The speed with which Melbourne's homeless community was temporarily housed in all manner of accommodation throughout the greater CBD, whether it be vacant hotels, emergency accommodation and the like, was revealing.

The drivers for this were a desire to protect a vulnerable group of people from infection, but also to meet the societal need of ensuring there were no gaps in the isolation and lockdown of our community in order to try and manage the spread of the virus.

Those short-term measures are unravelling as I write, but that doesn't mean we cannot still make progress. The government, private sector, local government and the community at large should combine to create solutions. This was shown, at least in the short term, by the response in Melbourne at the time of the pandemic taking hold. The challenge now is to create the appropriate conditions to allow the right government policy levers to be pulled and the engagement of the business community to be encouraged, such that long term, acceptable solutions to homelessness in this country can be implemented.

It is incumbent on any fair-minded, reasonable and considerate community such as ours, to apply itself to delivering solutions to this problem.

To date it is apparent that:

1. The market has failed to provide affordable housing for those at the lower end of the income scale or who are unemployed;
2. There is a chronic shortage of government housing (particularly compared with countries such as the United Kingdom);
3. Data supports the proposition that

long-term homelessness creates a cost in excess of the cost of supporting these homeless people into affordable housing;

4. A stable and safe home environment creates a platform where support systems can be built, and remunerative employment sought; and
5. There is a tension between the federal and state governments as to which government should bear the burden for funding major social housing projects.

Good communities, particularly those with relative high levels of wealth and education, should and must look after those within their community who, for whatever reason, find themselves without the most fundamental of needs, a safe home.

This is a unique moment in our history. We are starting to emerge from a pandemic, we have a government that appears to be willing to engage in Keynesian-style intervention in the market place to force economic growth (in particular through the infrastructure sector) and we have historically low costs of finance which not only provides great investment incentive to the private sector but also allows the government to continue to spend and increase its deficit without major financial risk in the short to medium term.

A structured program between federal and state government should seek to:

1. Increase the stock of public housing;
2. Engage with the private sector to develop appropriately funded public/private partnerships for the construction of affordable blended housing projects which include public housing, the "build-to-rent" apartment style market and private housing at secured long term rental fixed as a percentage of income (with tax incentive to smooth out a market return for private investors); and
3. Active government intervention in the reduction of regulatory delays in the conception and execution of the

development of affordable housing projects.

In late November the Victorian Government announced a \$5.3 billion public housing program of some significance if it is delivered as promised. A substantial number of public houses supporting those on no income and those on low incomes in a regulatory fast-tracked environment is certainly a positive step forward. The economic multiplier effect of this type of investment through the broader community will be very well received as well.

There has probably not been a time quite like this when the political, social and economic environments have collided in a way that allow an atmosphere of genuine collaboration between the public and private sector to ensure that major programs are undertaken to dramatically increase the supply of government and privately affordable housing for not just this generation but for generations to come. The benefits will impact every level of society.

I hope you found the above perspective by Cameron interesting and insightful. While what was said may not align with our own view of the world, we all need to listen and digest what is said by others in order to find common ground.

This is why we are focusing on the fact that the provision of shelter is a fundamental human need (not human right) and without that need being met, we have unintended social and economic consequences that will span generations.

As I said in my first article, doing nothing is NOT AN OPTION! We need to act, and we need to act now. All of us need to be part of the solution so please feel free to write to me with your thoughts ●



Rob Pradolini

FORMER GENERAL MANAGER AT FRASERS PROPERTY AUSTRALIA AND FOUNDER OF HOUSING ALL AUSTRALIANS (HAA)

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Congratulations, celebrations and complications ...

Well, dear readers; here we are in December 2020. Can you believe we did it? What a great achievement that every single person has contributed to.

The sun is shining, and we are mask-less (outdoors) and mobile, how fantastic. Congratulations!

In November's column and in the news content of this newspaper you would have read of the concerns of those Montague residents living adjacent to all of the massive construction in Normanby Rd and Montague St. The main challenges for them was lack of communication about the construction and the disruption to their day to day lives, e.g. incessant noise – blocked carpark access, etc.

These challenges have been a direct result of the Minister for Planning's decision to fast track all the permits that had been held back in Montague. All these sites began demolition and pile driving within weeks of each other, which compounded the noise and levels of dust in the atmosphere and their effects on the community

We were grateful that these residents at Montague Towers contacted the Montague Community Alliance, so we were able to assist.

And through us, on November 12 a meeting was set up with the chair of the Fishermans Bend Development Board Meredith Sussex, members of the Fishermans Bend Taskforce and the City of Port Philip.

While it was great to have everyone on the Zoom call, it was very frustrating to be talking with those responsible about the very same issues we have been speaking about for seven years. And it still amazes me, in particular, that those in positions of power over the amenity of our part of Fishermans Bend do not understand the precinct well, or how the development affects, on a day-to-day basis, residents and businesses.

One of the key areas of discovery for me from that meeting is that there is still an unconscious bias by the bureaucrats that there is hardly anyone living in the precinct, and that there are similarities to how residents managed during construction in Southbank and Docklands.

There is, and has always been, residents in the Montague Precinct of South Melbourne. And in relation to Docklands and Southbank, those fabulous areas have developed high-rise or low-rise in areas that were industrial or commercial, without existing residents. AND the majority of the buildings are double glazed, something that existing homes and even new builds in this precinct do not have.

What were the outcomes of that meeting?

- Did they say "yes" to a neighbourhood agreement – to work to bring the developers/builders and the community closer together?
- Did they promise that Fishermans Bend, the largest development area in Australia, will have special consideration for the existing community?
- Did they say that they would put in place the proposals agreed by previous incumbents (don't get me started on how each time there are new staff, we have to start our communications again) including putting a staffed office in the Montague Precinct to provide information and communication to the community?
- Did they say they would work with developers and then Development Board to recommend that those marketing this precinct specifically point out they are buying into a high development area?

Well no ... we have received an email from the council saying it would send various staff to check out the precinct – we had assumed this was part of their job and was being done already.

No discussion of a staffed office in the

precinct, and the communications office sent me (rather than communicate directly with the community) some material to put on our Facebook Page ... great work everyone...

I hope if you are intending to move here and you are reading this, please do join this neighbourhood but do so with your eyes wide open and with the knowledge that the next several years will be challenging to your ability to have quiet enjoyment of your home.

As a personal postscript – in 2021, we are leaving Montague as residents. We will be still be commercial residents with an office and studio in Montague and will remain with the Montague Community Alliance – but I am delighted to say that with my partner and dog, we are becoming Southbankers ... we're so excited!

Wishing you all, dear readers, a fun-filled festive season and optimism and good health for 2021 ●



Trisha Avery

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ST JOHNS SOUTHGATE

Sometimes you have to laugh. It's either that or cry!

I found myself having a little chuckle upon hearing, COVID restrictions being what they were, that if churches were to present a children's Christmas play this year, that the children performing would have to socially distance.

I pictured Joseph maintaining his mandated one-and-a-half metres from Mary as she gave birth. I imagined the angels spaced out more like soloists than a choir, and the three wise men visiting one by one, rather than as the traditional trio. It is kind of laughable, isn't it?

At St Johns, being committed to maintaining COVID-safety, but also seeking to involve the children in a meaningful way, we opted to cobble together a video-play. It was shot remotely in each of the children's homes and edited together to present a more intimate picture than the in-person play might have. But you know what? Maybe there is something to considering the nativity – to contemplating the heartrending beauty of Christmas – with social distancing in mind.

The prophecy of Isaiah forecasted that a virgin would become pregnant and give birth to a boy, and that he would be called Immanuel,

which means "God with us". But interestingly, when that prophecy was fulfilled – as we believe it to be in the Christian tradition with the birth of Christ – that God-with-us was initially somewhat removed, or, yes, distanced from his people. He was born not in the comforting surrounds that his parents might have wished for in Bethlehem. There was no guestroom available for them at the house of the folks they had crashed with – they had to go out with the animals!

On one level, it's a strange thing to picture the manifestation of this God-with-us being out the back with the animals while the townsfolk, friends or relatives were tucked up inside. But perhaps the social distance of Jesus' birth speaks to the very nature of our need for that Christ-child to close the gaps that divide us.

Jesus was born in those humble surrounds in Bethlehem, later he would be rejected in the

town where he grew up, Nazareth, and finally, he would find the ultimate physical distancing being raised up on the cross – being distanced from his loved ones by death. He experienced the social and emotional isolation that we've known this year, but to a degree that's beyond imagining, all so that we might know true connectedness.

It may be the case that Christmas services this year will have a limited attendance, and there may be more sharing of hand sanitiser than bread and wine, but what those gatherings will bear witness to is that God-with-us is with us in complete solidarity through our experience of aloneness. Jesus, from his first breath to his last, knew the distance that we've struggled with.

Yes, the solidarity of the incarnation is wonderful to know. But what is even better than that is the hope that Christmas brings. The song of the angels at the birth of Christ expressed

God's will for all people to be at peace, and to know they have God's favour. And the favour of God is expressed in closeness.

Social distancing is temporary. Intimacy with God lasts forever.

May you know peace and favour and God-given intimacy in some form this festive season! ●



Tom Hoffmann

TOM HOFFMANN IS THE PASTOR AT ST JOHNS SOUTHGATE CHURCH.

STJOHNSOUTHGATE.COM.AU



christmas



St Johns
Southgate

For information about the resumption of in-person worship visit stjohnssouthgate.com.au

Outdoor Christmas Carols on Christmas Eve (upper level) refer to website for details

Blessings to you this festive season!

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

ABORIGINAL MELBOURNE

A very merry virtual Koorie Krismas

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*

Although there'll be no sweaty crowds packed into Federation Square this year, the Koorie Heritage Trust's (KHT's) Koorie Krismas will go ahead as a one-of-a-kind online event.

From dance performances by Djirri Djirri Dancers, to a special appearance by Koorie Klaus, the online show will take place on December 12 and will be hosted by award-winning playwright and actor John Harding.

Curatorial manager Gail Harradine said that while the show would look different this year, the Trust was putting in the work to make it as engaging and interactive as possible.

"There's still some anxiety around elders being out in big crowds during COVID, so to meet the challenge we felt it was best to go ahead with an online event," Ms Harradine said.

"We're pre-recording the performances at the River Terrace, so you'll be able to look out over the Yarra too."

The free event will be held online between 11am and 2pm and feature performances from The Merindas, Bumpy, Aaron B and a range of others to be announced later this month.

Ms Harradine also said there would be interactive presentations from elders who would pass on their thoughts to the community during Christmas time.

"It's going to be a full day of activities – we usually get swamped at the end when Santa comes," she said.

The virtual Krismas event will be nothing new for the Trust, as all of their workshops and exhibitions have been online since COVID hit in March.

Ms Harradine said that based on the positive community response, the Trust had decided to continue with the online format going into 2021.

"I'm really pleased with how our collection has been travelling during this time and how we've kept all of our public programs going," Ms Harradine said.

"It's helped people who can't go anywhere, especially when you're used to going to galleries

it's a highlight for a lot of people."

A key event coming up in December is the 8th Koorie Art Show, which boasts a display of 125 artworks submitted by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who reside in Victoria.

The artists range from emerging to professional and all of the artwork will be available to view and purchase online and in the gallery.

"It will be an array of contemporary of traditional styles and mediums including painting, photography, sculpture, fibre and digital mixed media works," Ms Harradine said.

"It will be really interesting to see what people have produced during such a trying year."

Included in the exhibition will be work submitted by artists under 17, as well as work sent in by indigenous offenders and ex-offenders in Victoria as part of a program to reduce the rate of reoffending.

"The Torch is a really amazing program for people who have left prison which encourages the exploration of identity and culture through art," Ms Harradine said.

The show will run from December 5 to February 21 2021 and artists will go into the running to win \$32,000 worth of prizes, including the Creative Victoria Award and the Metro Tunnel Creative Program 2D Award.

As a Wotjobaluk artist herself, Ms Harradine said working as the Trust's curatorial manager for the past two years had been an uplifting experience.

"I used to work at the Trust in the mid-90s, so it's exciting to see how it has evolved and improved over time," Ms Harradine said.

"It has always been about reconciliation so it's great to have a space where indigenous art can be showcased." ●

For the latest information about Koorie Krismas and the 8th Koorie Art show:
korieheritagetrust.com.au



▲ Gail Harradine.

Photo credit Sandy Hodge.

HISTORY

Christmas lunch in Southbank – 1944 style

There has been a long tradition in workplaces in Southbank (as across Melbourne) of Christmas lunches where many of the workers gather to enjoy good food, drinks and enjoy each other's company, generally in a restaurant, café or function space.

These events are sure to take a different form this year but it is worth looking back to see how Christmas lunches took place in previous hard times.

The year is 1944, which would be (thankfully) the last full year of World War II. About 70 of the employees of AP Sutherland (garage and tyre service in Maffra St, now Kings Way) had gathered – not in a posh hotel but in the company warehouse, tricked up for the occasion with tree branches and flags hanging from the trusses beneath the roof.

The company trucks were moved out of the way (or adorned with foliage) and a piano brought in and set up on a platform, to provide entertainment after the meal – a common occurrence in the days before television.

There was always someone who could tickle the ivories and lead a singalong, and maybe some of employees took to the floor for a dance.

The walls and the roof of the space were corrugated iron, relatively cheap and utilitarian and common in industrial buildings. Let's hope it wasn't a hot day as insulation was non-existent!

The lunch guests present a sombre picture, not surprising after enduring war-time restrictions for five years and perhaps still fearful for loved ones in war zones. The guests sat around a U-shaped table and were in groups according to sex and probably status and function within the company.

Seating at the top table was spacious and comfortable and occupied by the top brass. The table to the right includes a grouping of about 15 women, suitably attired in summer dresses, together with men who were probably male members of the office staff, seated on a bench.

The table to the left is fully occupied by men, seated on boxes! Many were young and they were probably the labourers, manual workers

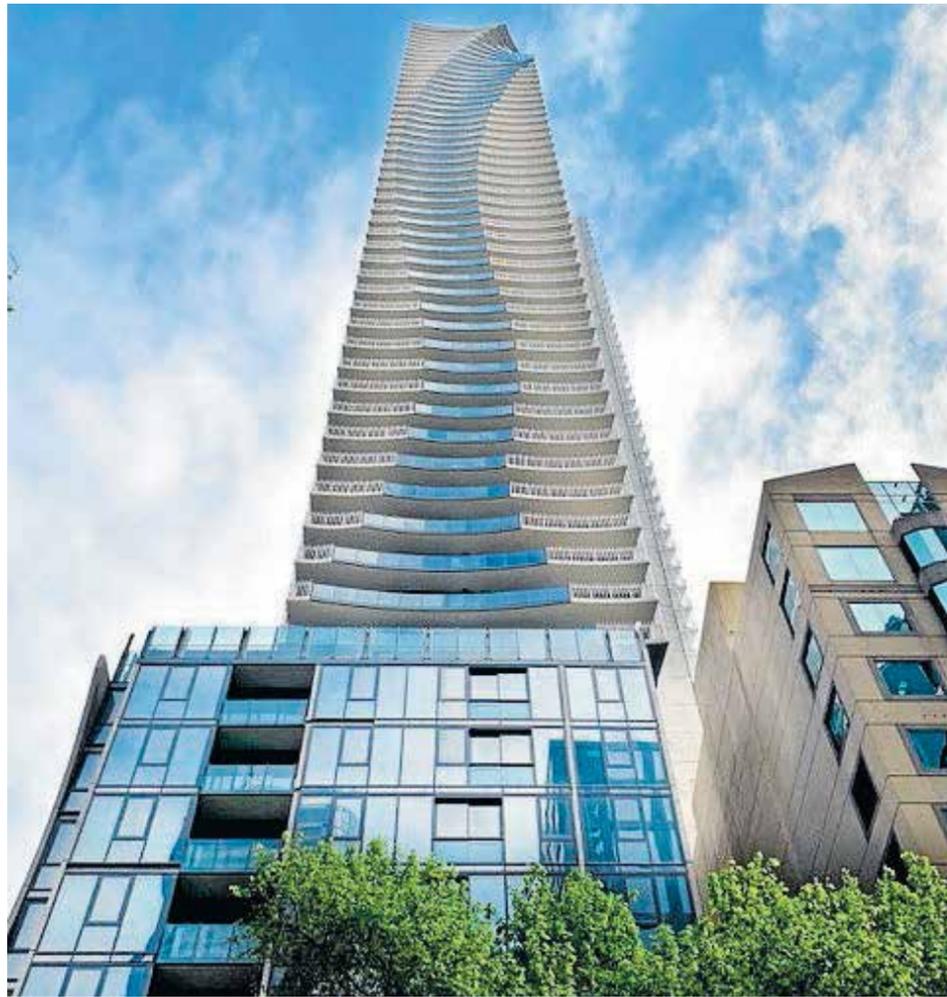


and drivers. Despite the formality of the occasion, a few were not wearing ties – unlike the rest of the men, some of whom were wearing three-piece suits. There is no sign of any alcohol on the tables – perhaps it was early or perhaps management (who were footing the bill) disapproved. Hopefully things livened up during the afternoon! ●



Robin Grow

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Central Equity opens Melbourne Grand

The CBD's latest luxury residential tower is now complete, with the opening of prominent Southbank developer Central Equity's Melbourne Grand.

Carefully and creatively designed in collaboration with Graham Fisher of Guilford Bell Graham Fisher Architects, the 58-level building at 560 Lonsdale St sees Central Equity add to its list of several CBD projects in addition to Southbank, where it has developed more than 30 buildings.

Melbourne Grand offers extensive resident amenities and unparalleled luxury in the heart of the CBD and has been designed for the needs of young professionals and empty-nesters as well as for the growing tide of young parents looking to raise their families in the inner city. Melbourne Grand will greet residents with a sense of "hotel style" luxury as they enter the foyer with an experienced round the clock concierge team assisting their daily needs. The apartments are generously sized and many, whether they be one-, two-, or three-bedroom apartments, have studies which accommodate the needs of busy professionals and offer a space to work from home in this ever-changing office life.

As working from home has become a much-talked-about topic in recent times, the team at Central Equity prides itself on staying ahead of the curve with industry-leading design and residential facilities, allowing occupants to continue life as usual while work continues from home.

The abundance of floor-to-ceiling glazing encourages residents to make the most of the breathtaking views from Melbourne's inner

city and north across to Flagstaff Gardens and south to Port Phillip Bay, with balconies on all apartments to ensure occupants can maximise these views.

Melbourne Grand has been built with resident facilities that are ready for use now and incorporate the customary luxury associated with all Central Equity developments.

The tower boasts around 1700 sqm of facilities, which include banquet rooms for residents, in-house entertaining, a luxurious diamond class theatre and lounges while fostering a sense of community with a coffee lounge for residents to meet and catch up. Residents will have access to a large gym, sauna, yoga room, indoor swimming pool and barbecue areas, while also gaining access to the exclusive "Lonsdale Club" resident facilities.

The project encourages sustainable transport alternatives with generous amounts of bicycle and motorbike storage in addition to private car parking. Melbourne Grand is within the free city tram zone and a short walk to several train stations and bus routes

Melbourne's universities, prestige schools, retail precincts, Flagstaff Gardens and the legal district, are all within walking distance. Strong interest has been shown from lawyers, barristers and other members of the legal profession seeking the convenience of being close to the courts and legal offices.

Central Equity is regarded as a pioneer of inner-city living, having completed more than 80 major projects in locations around Melbourne for more than 33 years. There are a limited number of apartments available for sale and rent ●

For more information:
centralequity.com.au

Dream City re-opens

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

Dream City at DFO South Wharf will re-open its doors for the first time since mid-March after further relaxing of public health restrictions by the state government.

The "edutainment theme park", founded in late 2019, enables children aged from three to 16 years access to career-based educational activities ranging from operating flight simulators, fighting virtual fires, performing surgery and producing podcasts.

Dream City founder, Kajal Pala, admitted although the past eight months had been increasingly trying for her and her team, there had been a number of silver linings to come from the forced closure.



"It was very challenging after having such a great response and feedback from schools and parents. We took this break as an opportunity for us to work with that feedback and refine what we do at Dream City to make it the best experience it can be," Ms Pala said.

"We used the time to create a brand-new sports and science zone, which will have an indoor dream court and other educational sports activity. Due to restrictions, we have had to build the new zone off-site, to be installed during January."

"We have also decided to include an option for parents of older children to drop off their kids and go shopping while their children are enjoying the activities."

Spearheading the re-opening alongside Ms Pala is CEO Dean Sholl, creative director Scott Bull, head of education Michelle Hortle, head of technology Wade Dinnie and a range of expert educators.

Ms Pala said her team would also be upgrading and refurbishing existing technology at Dream City to ensure the best possible experience for children and educators alike.

Testing of the new and upgraded technology will be completed during the days leading into the new year, with Ms Pala expecting Dream City to officially open during the second week of January ●

For more information, visit
dreamcity.com.au



Support your locals this summer

While it will be some time before we're back to pre-COVID levels in the precinct, it is a great feeling to see the place slowly come to life again.

I commend those businesses who have managed to withstand the lockdown, while we acknowledge that there are some who may not emerge from the economic devastation brought upon them.

The Yarra River Business Association (YRBA) has moved quickly to help stimulate patronage during the summer period, with a special emphasis on you, our Southbankers, to help make it happen.

This edition of *Southbank News* includes our summer activities special feature, with suggestions for residents to enjoy with friends and family during the next four to eight weeks right on your doorstep. It includes some special discounts for Southbank residents.

I think you would agree that a major part of the appeal of living in Southbank is the vibrancy that the riverside businesses and arts venues create for residents. With international tourism unlikely to return for possibly 12 months, major events uncertain in the short term and only a trickle of workers returning, our businesses will rely on your patronage to keep them afloat.

Did you know that you can buy a year's membership to Eureka Skydeck for just \$60? A membership not only gives you unlimited visits to view Melbourne in all its seasons and moods,

This edition of Southbank News includes our summer activities special feature, with suggestions for residents to enjoy with friends and family during the next four to eight weeks right on your doorstep. It includes some special discounts for Southbank residents.



but you also get 20 per cent off for any friends and relatives you take along with you. What a great gift to give to a fellow Southbanker.

Similarly, do you know about the beautiful Spanish-style courtyard at the Mission to Seafarers in Flinders St? Over summer the Mission is inviting Southbankers to make free use of the barbecue in the courtyard. Just phone up to book, but please buy your drinks at the bar to help the Mission fund their vital outreach work for seafarers.

During the next few months we will be bringing you a series of vlogs (video blogs) via the Southbank residents' Facebook page, which will highlight the new outdoor eateries popping-up

along the river and featuring the people behind the businesses. Along with the "I'm a Southbanker" pages that we have been running during the past six months in this newspaper, we hope that the vlogs will strengthen rapport with the 25,000 residents living just behind our businesses.

This is my first column to you as the new president of the YRBA. Some of you may know me from my role at Arts Centre Melbourne, where I work alongside the chief executive Claire Spencer.

My presidency provides an opportunity to strengthen the role of the arts as part of the business and residential lifeblood of Southbank. The state government's budget announcement about the transformation of the Melbourne Arts Precinct looks set to create not only new indoor facilities but a wonderful public plaza to help strengthen Southbank's worldwide reputation as an arts-centred community. You will be in the box seats to take advantage of it ●



Jeremy Vincent
PRESIDENT - YRBA
YARRARIVER.INFO

OWNERS' CORPORATION LAW

Watch out, not all liability insurance policies are created equal

Do you sit on the committee of your owners' corporation (OC)?

If you do, are you sure that you and your personal assets are adequately protected if the committee and the OC have proceedings filed against them?

The good news is that adequate and reasonably affordable insurance coverage is readily available. The bad news is that most OCs do not have adequate coverage.

The problem very often occurs because the directors and officers (D&O) liability coverage is not the focus of the OC's insurance package. The reason it is often not the focus is that most brokers are not intimately familiar with the coverage, and to be honest, this is not a big-ticket item for most brokers. Although it is not the main generator of premium, it is a coverage that requires careful thought. In fact, the OC manager, who is usually delegated the responsibility to renew or obtain the insurance, should demand that the best available insurance coverage be presented.

The second problem is due to the fact that, most often, the main insurers of OCs are the direct insurers like the big, nationally-known insurance carriers (this is not to say that some of these carriers may not have a more comprehensive product available). These carriers may provide a great product from a property and general liability standpoint; however, they generally do not provide a comprehensive directors and officers liability product. Everyone assumes that they have full coverage. The reality is that "full coverage" and "appropriate coverage" are not the same thing.

There is no question that you get what you pay for in insurance.

In summary, if you cannot answer yes to virtually all of the following questions, your D&O coverage is probably not adequate:

- Does the definition of insured extend beyond the actual committee members and office bearers?
- Does the definition of insured protect past, present, and future members?
- Does the definition of insured include employees (such as caretakers or building managers and cleaners if employed by the OC)?
- Does the policy provide a defence to claims and proceedings (as opposed to just reimbursing for such costs)?
- Does the policy cover defamation?
- Does the policy defend claims seeking non-monetary loss?
- Does the policy cover wrongful termination or other employer liability claims?
- Does the policy cover discrimination?
- Does the policy defend you where there is a claim or lawsuit for failure to maintain or obtain adequate insurance?

The potential claims against OCs and committees are only limited by the creativity of plaintiffs and their lawyers.

In these times when people have no qualms or concerns about suing their neighbours, let alone their own committee or building, the proper protection is worth its weight in gold.

My advice is that each committee should review their policy and ask your broker and the OC manager to obtain the maximum possible coverage, relative to the size of the building and the complexity of its issues (and occupants for that matter). It is better to be safe than to be sorry ●



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SAFETY & SECURITY

Targeting hoons

Melbourne and Yarra Highway Patrol conducted Operation TRACTION from Friday, December 2 to Sunday, December 4 targeting Lorimer St near South Wharf in Docklands, and Lygon St in Carlton.



Lorimer St has attracted hoon drivers and Victoria Police were out and about to detect drivers committing traffic offences. A total of 55 penalty notices were issued for a range of offences including parking, mobile phone, speeding and general traffic offences. Three vehicles were issued with defect notices, two drivers will be issued with a summons to appear at court due to driving while suspended and one vehicle was impounded due the driver having a suspended licence.

If residents are aware of hooning behaviour, please call 000 for police attendance.

Motorised scooters

Motorised or electric scooters have been the topic of much discussion. There has been a big increase in usage following lockdown and the reluctance of people to use public transport during the COVID pandemic.

Electric scooters may be ridden on footpaths, shared paths and some roads only if they have a top speed of 10 km per hour on level ground, about double the speed of a brisk walking pace, and have a power output of 200 watts or less.

Riding a non-compliant electric scooter anywhere other than on private property can incur a fine – the current fine amount is \$826. If an electric scooter fails to meet these requirements, it is classified as a motor vehicle. If classified as a motor vehicle, the electric scooter must be registered, and the rider must have a valid motorcycle licence.

Southbank Police along with the Melbourne Highway Patrol are looking at conducting some enforcement in the New Year surrounding the use of electric scooters that are not compliant.

For additional information regarding the road rules regarding electric scooters head to the Vicroads website – vicroads.vic.gov.au

New Year's Eve celebrations

New Year's Eve will look different in Melbourne this year. Fireworks will not form part of the City of Melbourne's New Year's Eve celebrations, instead the council is showing its support for the local culinary scene with New Year Street Feasts – a two-day dining experience from December 31 to Friday, January 1.

As usual the police will have large contingent working on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day for public order management. This will ensure everyone can enjoy their New Year's Eve celebrations safely. I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year ●



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METRO TUNNEL



Metro Tunnel puts pop-up parks on the menu

The Metro Tunnel Project has joined the push to help rejuvenate Melbourne's dining scene as it bounces back from the coronavirus pandemic.

The project's creative program has extended the pop-up park on Domain Rd, South Yarra, so even more people can dine outside while following social distancing guidelines.

The park has converted another three parking spaces into attractive outdoor dining areas so nearby restaurants can extend their service – making it easier to seat more patrons under COVID-19 restrictions. These extend the five spaces that existed previously.

Last year, the Metro Tunnel Project worked with businesses and the City of Melbourne to install seating and planter boxes, allowing restaurants to increase their outdoor dining space.

Planting in the pop-up park was designed under guidance of the nearby Royal Botanic Gardens.

Specific species were determined by current and past varieties within the gardens, with planting to be reflective of the current leafy aesthetic of the area.

The Metro Tunnel creative program is also delivering a pop-up park at Albert Road Reserve to enhance seating and planting for people to enjoy. It features timber decking with plenty of seating and planting, and will open in time for Christmas.

The parks are among several activities delivered by the creative program to help keep

Melbourne vibrant during the construction of the tunnels and stations.

The pop-up park will allow people to enjoy this beautiful part of Melbourne and its popular restaurants while enjoying pleasant surrounds during summer.

The Domain pop-up park ties in with the City of Melbourne's push to help restore Melbourne's world-class dining scene.

The council has transformed footpaths and car parking spaces to allow extended outdoor dining.

Outdoor dining "parklets" featuring bollards, planters and barriers are being installed in locations across the city, including car parking spaces along Southbank Promenade, Flinders Lane, Bourke St and in Carlton.

Under this initiative, the City of Melbourne has issued 1300 permits for outdoor dining ●



For more information:
metrotunnel.vic.gov.au

SOUTHBANK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Is the Boyd Park fight finally over?

It would seem so. On December 1, the council considered, and endorsed, a planning application for a 42-storey tower in the back corner of the park where the basketball court and orchard are located.

It was not for this council to consider whether the development should or shouldn't proceed but merely to evaluate whether it complied with the planning scheme, which Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) always knew it did.

In any case, SRA made a passionate representation to the council highlighting the importance of this space in our community. It was also heartening to see more than 120 submissions made by concerned members of our community.

We have always known this building was coming, and over the years SRA has made significant representations to the council against its plans to develop the site. While the outcome is certainly not ideal, as we have argued with each opportunity the plans have been revisited by the council, we have successfully argued for some concessions.

Twice we have had the development footprint reduced, the site relocated to the other side of the park to be parallel to Kings Way, thereby casting no shadow over the park and hopefully mitigating some of the traffic noise, and most significantly the community has secured 920 sqm of community space within the development.

The library has been oversubscribed for years and the largest of the meeting rooms is too small. Hopefully this extra space will allow for more community activity. It was good to see the basketball court was also a topic of contention. The current location of the court was at the request of SRA after it was supposed to have been temporarily positioned at the front of the Boyd Library and children's play area where the community garden is currently located. Yes, the basketball court was always temporary, because in the City Road Masterplan there is a basketball court under the Kings Way overpass. However, the City Road Masterplan is now approaching three years behind schedule.

If it wasn't for SRA lobbying, we wouldn't have the developed park we have now. The park was always supposed to be provided by the developer as part of its development. With the continual delays, year after year, contractor after contractor, we asked for our park now and not later – the council conceded. However,

it may have only stoked local anger when the community thought it was losing its park that it has come to enjoy over the past nine months. These expectations could have been better managed by the council.

In any case, the park as we know it now will never be the same. COVID-19 highlighted the importance of open space, particularly green open space. While decisions of past councils can't be blamed on this council, we certainly feel our new council clearly understands the needs, but more importantly the sentiments of our community.

In our submission to the council meeting, I asked for this council to commit to the residents of Southbank and have a dialogue with us to talk about the future and what the green and open space solutions may be.

The community needs clarity on what the council plans for Southbank, and for it to commit to a timeline. The Southbank 2010 Structure Plan already proposes open space by covering over the Domain Tunnel entrance, however this has never been costed. It is currently just a tease to our residents and honestly, we have had enough.

In the meeting we received a commitment from the council and also a personal follow-up email from the Lord Mayor reiterating commitment to this dialogue. Our committee is now searching for a venue large enough to accommodate our concerned residents to begin this discussion. We will certainly keep you posted.

This is just one example of the advocacy of our committee, but without membership our voice won't be heard. We would love your support. You can join via our website at southbankresidents.org.au, also follow us on Facebook – SouthbankResidents. Membership is only \$10 per financial year.

Finally, after a very challenging year, from our entire committee we extend our warmest wishes for Christmas and the New Year. With a controlled COVID environment, we encourage everyone to try to get away for a well-earned break with the family hopefully over a COVID-safe summer. Stay safe and see you in the New Year.

For more information:
southbankresidents.org.au



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HEALTH & WELLBEING

Kindness: a natural antidote

There has never been another time in most of our lives where so many people are relying on one another – family and friends, as well as strangers.

Communities have galvanised to help neighbours with shopping, prescriptions, even dog walking. And as we approach the holiday season, knowing that so many people will be without loved ones due to travel restrictions as a result of COVID-19, kindness towards one another is more important than ever.

If you're in a position to do so, lend a hand – not because you expect something in return, but because you know people need it. Even the smallest gestures go a long way.

The benefits of kindness

- It's a win-win. Studies show that doing acts of kindness not only helps the recipient but also increase the givers levels of happiness, life and even job satisfaction, as well as decreases depression.
- It can increase energy. Studies show that

people feel stronger and more energised, less depressed, have increased feelings of self-worth and increased mental flexibility after helping others.

- It can increase "the love hormone". Witnessing acts of kindness produces oxytocin, often referred to as the "love hormone" which aids in lowering blood pressure and improving our overall heart health. Oxytocin also increases our self-esteem and optimism, which is very helpful when we're in anxious.
- It can fire up the brain's "reward centre". Research has shown that when you are kind to another person, your brain's pleasure and reward centres light up, as if you were the recipient of the good deed – not the giver. This phenomenon is called the "helper's high."

- It can reduce your stress levels. Helping others takes you out of your own mind and can potentially help to build relationships with other people. Anything that helps you to build bonds with other people is known as "affiliative behaviour" which may be an important component of coping with stress.

So what simple acts of kindness can you do every day?

- Acknowledge your neighbour as you walk past them – better yet, strike up a conversation!
- Hold the door open for someone.
- Smile (or better yet – have a chat!) to your local barista when getting your morning coffee.
- Call up your local volunteer organisation and see if you can support in any way.
- Find out if there are any people in your network who will be alone for Christmas and offer to call them over the holiday season.
- Give goods you no longer need to your local charity shop.
- Pay it forward: Buy a cup of coffee for the

- next person that comes in to the coffee shop after you.
- Help someone with their groceries.

The ripple effects of kindness

Kindness is teachable. Like reading or maths, kindness is a skill that you can cultivate. Studies show that, with training and practice, you can actually strengthen your compassion muscles and improve your "kindness fitness."

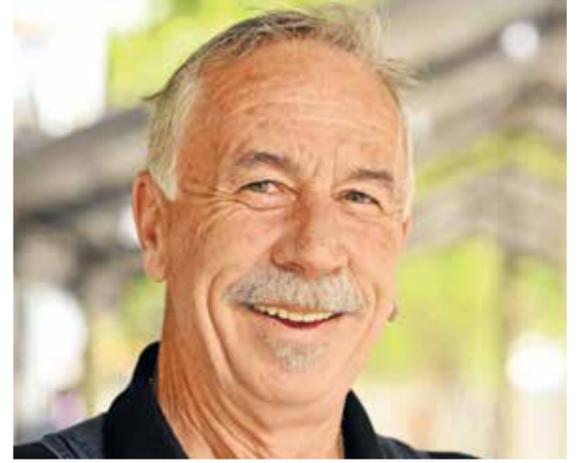
Kindness is contagious. The positive effects of kindness are experienced in the brain of everyone who witnessed the act, improving their mood and making them significantly more likely to "pay it forward." This means one good deed in a crowded area can create a domino effect and improve the day of dozens of people ●



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LEWIS
No improvement, but lucky to have kept my job – I'm looking forward to Christmas.



GRAEME
I'm a Southgate plumber and I've been working every day – I'm looking forward to family time, especially with my grandkid.

Faces of Southbank

Question: *what was one positive thing that came out of lockdown for you in your personal life?*

Photos by John Tadigiri.



BRENDAN & ANGELICA
We made a baby during the lockdown! We named him Hugo – we haven't watched the movie completely yet.



SONJA
Started a Youtube channel for my folks in Croatia teaching about Shiatsu Therapy.



Coffee Break

“How long have you been distancing?”

The Malthouse

Southbank Sudoku

Last month's Sudoku solution

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

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

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

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

A year of highs and lows ends on theme

Such a bittersweet month this was for our group.

The biggest highs and lows being on one hand winning the Keep Victoria Beautiful (KVB) 2020 Sustainable Cities Environment award, and on the other hand seeing the Boyd Park development planning permit going ahead despite strong community protest.

This unfortunate news put an end date to half our garden operations, the future composting hub site, but most importantly, a space that helped cultivate Southbank's sense of community.

But let's start with the highs. Our first couple of post-lockdown meetups have been just great!

Seeing old neighbours while meeting new ones, tending to the much-loved community garden and catching up over painting fresh stones to help guide you with what is harvest-ready. Both meetups felt like the community coming together while at the same time good friends, old and new, meeting again.

With the holiday season just around the corner, we are excited to launch our next educational activity, called "Upcycle Christmas", on Saturday, December 12, 10:30am at Boyd. This event will be free for the community, funded out of the 2020 Connected Communities grant we won. Participants will learn how to creatively upcycle common household waste materials into beautiful bonbons, Christmas cards and tree decorations, all of which can be either composted or recycled at their end of life. This way, people will leave with practical solutions of how to reduce their waste, their seasonal carbon footprint, and how to close the loop once the season is over. Email us or go on our Facebook page to get the Eventbrite registration link for this event.

Now to the most elating news we received since our last column. That is, winning the KVB 2020 Sustainable Cities award for the environment (community) category!! We were among some great organisations doing exceptional work across a state where many organisations are active in the environment/sustainability space. Having our efforts and contribution recognised by another respectable and prestigious body, only a year after what felt like a dream: winning the 2019 Environment Melbourne Award, is motivating us more than ever to keep our tenacity and our solutions-driven work up. Winning such prestigious awards is a great confirmation to us that thinking in terms of



solutions and taking one small action at a time can make a big difference, and have a huge impact. We still don't know who nominated us for these awards, but whoever you are, we are very grateful to you and humbled by your believing in our work and vision! To you and to the community that has supported us throughout the years, thank you!

It's this kind of support that pushes us to defend Southbank's precious activated open space whenever the opportunity arises, as it did with the high-rise development planning permit for Boyd Park. We knew that getting the City of Melbourne councillors to object this planning permit at the December 1 Future of Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting was a long shot, if there wasn't anything technically wrong with the permit. But we couldn't let such an important community artery be taken away without a fight and without showing our new council what this small park space means to Southbank. While our council had to approve this agenda item, the whopping 128 objection letters they received about it seems to have made a deep impact. There was more decisive language about immediate action to deliver a similar, permanent activated green space for Southbank along with more green space in general, and it was

clear that our community's loudly-voiced needs were acknowledged and heard more than ever.

While we will sadly be losing Boyd Park in about 12 months when construction starts (if all other permits go ahead), your rallying behind this important issue and responding to our call to send your submission, has opened the road to win more activated green spaces for our community. In other words, we may have lost the battle, but we are winning the war. We will make sure we keep the dialogue open with council, that we see their determined words of support during the FMC delivered in actions. We'll also try to get a permanent spot for the much-needed composting hub plus half the veggie garden, which are both at risk with the new development.

With our determination and your support, we know that this loss won't keep us down and that great things are to come for our suburb's environment, community, and liveability.

No matter how difficult a year may be, there is always something to celebrate. And so, we will at our final meetup for the year on Saturday, December 19 at 10am, where we will do our gardening and then share a celebratory lunch in the park! We invite everyone that wants to share a meal with a positive community, to BYO

and come join us!

Our first 2021 meetups will be on Saturdays January 9 and 23, and every fortnight afterwards.

About the group: A solutions-focused group of Southbank residents working to bring positive change in sustainability practices and education to our neighbourhood, while building a wonderful community of like-minded people. 2019 Environment Melbourne Award winner ●

Reach us at:

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



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SKYPAD LIVING

Vertical village energy consumption

The Victorian Government has announced \$797 million for energy improvements – how much of this might our energy-hungry vertical villages access?

Our vertical villages are considered "expensive energy guzzlers".

In particular, our common areas are accused of comprising – or exceeding – 20 per cent of our building's total administrative fees as they account for up to 60 per cent of our building's total energy consumption.

Naturally then, there was great anticipation that the Victorian Government's super-splurge of \$797 million on energy efficiency would bring good news for apartment-dwellers. And on November 17, the Victorian Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio announced that this multi-million dollar energy efficiency stimulus package would deliver:

- \$335 million to replace old wood, electric and gas-fired heaters with new

energy-efficient systems in 250,000 homes;

- \$112 million to upgrade the comfort and efficiency of 35,000 social homes;
- \$14 million for appliance upgrades under the Victorian Energy Upgrades program; and
- New minimum energy efficiency standards for rental homes to ensure that they are fit for habitation will be in place from 2022.

Anything for residential apartment buildings?

While apartment residents can potentially access funds for appliance upgrades, missing from this scheme is any focus upon redressing the specific challenges encountered by apartment buildings. This was a view echoed on a recent Energy Efficiency Council session where both guests, Nick Aberle from Environment Victoria and Kellie Caught from Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS), agreed that apartment buildings did not really benefit from this scheme because "apartment buildings are difficult". Kellie Caught proceeded to comment that the government was addressing social housing in the scheme, and that as some social housing is high-rise, residential buildings

might also draw some benefit.

Such comments again underscore the lack of understanding about residential strata.

As was evident in the COVID-19 discussions with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), government decision-makers appear to consider similar high-rise public housing, high-rise student accommodation and high-rise residential strata. This perception might also go some to explaining why our vertical villages are typically not included in other residential assistance programs, such as the Victorian Government Solar Homes Package – because residents in high-rise public housing, student accommodation or residential strata "do not own their roof". However, the difference is that in residential strata, we collectively own our roof.

There is, however, a light on the hill.

CSIRO, in conjunction with Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, is undertaking a project aimed at profiling the energy consumption of our common areas.

According to Michael Ambrose, Senior Experimental Scientist, Energy at CSIRO, it is vital to have a greater understanding of how, when and where high-rise residential

apartment buildings consume energy – because without this detailed data, energy efficiency improvements typically take a "hit-and-miss" approach. For the initial stage of the project, a small number of residential buildings located in the City of Melbourne have been engaged. Over the coming year, energy consumption monitoring equipment will be installed to capture energy consumption data.

While the ultimate aim is to build the capacity of high-rise apartments to improve their energy consumption, the specific aim of this project is to test tools for profiling energy consumption in different high-rise residential buildings.

Over the coming year, this column will report upon this project's progress – and in the meantime, thanks to CSIRO and the federal government for recognising the needs of our vertical villages! ●



Dr Janette Corcoran
APARTMENT LIVING EXPERT
LEARN MORE ON FACEBOOK.COM/SKYPADLIVING/

耗资14亿打造NGV当代美术馆和南岸艺术区

Katie Johnson

随着维多利亚国立美术馆(NGV)当代艺术馆的建设正在进行,南岸(Southbank)将很快成为澳大利亚最大的当代美术和设计艺术画廊所在地。

新画廊将坐落在(NGV)后面的南岸大道(Southbank Boulevard)上新的18000平方米的公共花园中,将St Kilda路上的墨尔本艺术中心和NGV国际馆连接到Sturt街。

南岸居民协会(SRA)主席托尼·佩纳(Tony Penna)表示,这个项目自2018年由前创意产业部长马丁·福利(Martin Foley)宣布以来,已经“有很长时间了”。

佩纳先生说:“最初在宣布该项目的时候,我们对它将会有多少吸引力还持怀疑,但现在政府在这个项目上取得了重大进展,

社区对此感到非常兴奋。”

作为项目的一部分,新的公共花园将把人口稠密的艺术区改造成一个绿色空间,充满活力的植物将随着季节而变化。

它还将包括表演、聚会、装饰和节日庆典的各种空间汇集,吸引来自全国各地的游客。

墨尔本建筑师哈塞尔(HASSELL)和纽约事务所已经开始花园的工作,包括装饰City路和南岸大道之间的Sturt街。

雅拉河商业协会(YRBA)主席兼墨尔本艺术中心执行官杰里米·文森特(Jeremy Vincent)表示,改造项目将给雅拉河对岸提供“一个新的集会和聚会空间”,这将有助于墨尔本的经济复苏。

文森特先生说:“艺术区在过去的40年里一直在发展,经过了许多随意的规划,这



是一个给所有现有元素锦上添花的机会。”

“这是一个很好的机会,让所有南岸组织聚集在一起,为墨尔本和维多利亚提供一个绝佳的社区资产,并增强河对岸联邦广场

正在进行的工作。”

NGV当代美术馆是由2020/2021维多利亚州政府预算拨款的,耗资14亿澳元的墨尔本艺术区是改造项目第一阶段的一部分。

可持续发展团体又获殊荣

Sean Car

南岸可持续发展组织(SSG)对当地环境和社区的影响再次获得殊荣。

继2019年获得墨尔本市政颁发的墨尔本环境类奖项后,这个充满激情的专注于可持续发展的地方团体上个月又荣获可持续城市奖。

可持续城市奖是由澳大利亚历史最悠久的环保组织之一“保持维多利亚美丽”(KVB)发起的,旨在表彰和庆祝城市社区为保护和改善当地环境所采取的积极行动。

SSG的联合创始人阿耳忒弥斯·帕蒂奇(Artemis Pattichi)说,在众多出色的入围者比如雅拉河守护者协会(Yarra Riverkeeper Association),我们能获得这项社区环境奖感到很荣幸。

她说:“这是一项殊荣,我们所做的工作在我们市区中更加引人注目,但赢得州级奖项是一个巨大的荣誉,这是我们没有想到的。这表明,随着时间的推移,我们采取的所有看似微小的步骤都会累积起来,确实会产生影响。”

“这对我们的继续工作确实是个鼓励,



并将成功的秘诀传递给其他社区。对SSG而言,任何成功都是Southbank的成功,也是可持续发展的总体成功,使人们有机会看到事情以不同的方式进行,并且是有效和可行的。”

该组织继续在其博伊德(Boyd)社区中心推进社区的积极变化,并说服墨尔本市政建立一个社区花园作为博伊德公园(Boyd Park)的一部分,现在又将目光投向了该地区的新堆肥中心,并继续定期举行会议和研讨。

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南半球最高居住楼

Katie Johnson

墨尔本最新的摩天大楼“澳大利亚108”已竣工,正式将南岸(Southbank)列为拥有南半球最高住宅楼的地标。

该大楼位于Southbank的心脏地带,高达319米,有100层,远远超过了具有88层的Eureka大楼。

开发商World Class Global公司的首席执行官David Ng表示,“澳大利亚108”大厦的封顶对于墨尔本来说是一个天然的契合点。

他说:“在过去的五年里,澳大利亚108一直在墨尔本的地平线上稳步上升。我们现在非常自豪地宣布,该项目已经达到了其周边从未有过的高度,完成了整个架构。”

“我们为整个团队和外部项目的合作伙伴而感到自豪,这些合作伙伴帮助我们实现了为墨尔本令人惊叹的城市天际线打造一个闪亮全新地标的梦想。”

该建筑于2015年开始建设,11月下旬在大厦顶部剩余的“云住宅”完成建设后竣工。大厦的Starburst内部设施也已完工,

这是受联邦之星启发的,在70层和71层的金色结构。

其中包括2800平方米的星空俱乐部(Star Club),居民可以享受无边际游泳池、餐厅、健身房和休闲区。

设计澳大利亚108的Fender Katsalidis公司创始合伙人Karl Fender表示,星空俱乐部的设计旨在建立本市最大建筑中的居民社区。

他说:“我们想象中的星空俱乐部几乎就像一个市政厅,居民聚集在社区,一起享受你所能期望世界上最棒风格的酒店设施。”

“在澳大利亚从未有过如此规模的住宅大楼,澳大利亚108可作为一个大胆的创举。”

建造Starburst需要Multiplex公司率先采用新技术,包括创建专用平台,供工人用来安装由起重机在半夜吊装的金色面板。

在塔楼100层下还必须安装一个容积300000升的缓冲罐,以抵消菲利普港湾(Port Phillip Bay)可高达每小时140公里的大风。



电车站筑蜂窝?

Meg Hill

近年来,城市绿化已经成为一个有影响力的想法。但是对墨尔本城市来说会是什么样子呢?如何绿化我们的中央商务区及其独特的空间?

墨尔本委员会(CfM)成立了一个焦点小组正在推动电车站台顶棚的绿化,为蜜蜂建造新家。

克莱尔·麦克考斯兰德(Clare McCausland)博士是“MelBees”焦点小组的成员,这个小组项目是在电车站台上安装绿色顶棚,以帮助墨尔本的无刺产蜜蜂群繁殖。

麦克考斯兰德博士说:“当我们第一次聚在一起组成这个小组时,我们大约有24

个想法,其中的一个成员提出了这个绿色站台顶棚的想法,他说这将是沿着城市的‘蜜蜂高速公路’。”

“想象一下,整个交通网络带有绿色和本土植物,可以把蜜蜂带回城市,帮助恢复这一部分的生态系统。”

“我们知道这种项目以前有成功的例子,但我们很想把它建成一个墨尔本的特征,这就是为什么我们看中了电车站台。”

麦克考斯兰德博士说,这个想法是基于一个在荷兰成功完成的项目。

荷兰Utrecht市去年完成了公共汽车站台绿色顶棚的大规模安装。这个项目旨在帮助城市降温,促进生物多样性,包括蜜蜂和其他昆虫。

“圣诞节活动不会取消”

为了庆祝一年一度的圣诞节,墨尔本市政将举办一系列老少皆宜的COVID安全活动和娱乐活动,使墨尔本恢复生机。

Katie Johnson

从保持社交距离与圣诞老人拍照到Argyle广场的以圣诞节为主题的野餐区,墨尔本市政将从复苏基金中拨款1亿澳元,帮助举办于11月27日至12月25日的2020年圣诞节。

市长萨利·卡普(Sally Capp)说,今年的庆祝活动将鼓励墨尔本人安全地重新发现这座城市,并支持当地的商业。

市长说:“2020年的圣诞节庆祝活动不会取消。”

“我非常高兴地宣布这次圣诞节活动计划,它将吸引人们回到这座城市,进行圣诞购物、庆祝活动以及家庭传统活动。”

这次节日将在黑色星期五与墨尔本时装

周合作举办的“购物城市”活动中拉开帷幕。

市长说,为期四天的购物节让人们在享受圣诞节购物和庆祝活动的同时,提供一个支持当地商家的机会。

“对于零售商来说,这是充满挑战的一年,墨尔本各地的居民可以通过在市内购物,在弹出式的街道服务、食品和饮料服务、免费赠品和音乐欣赏的过程中表达自己的支持。”

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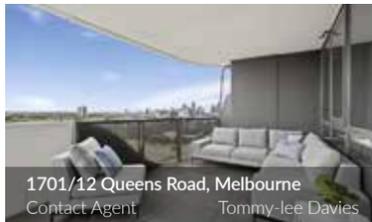
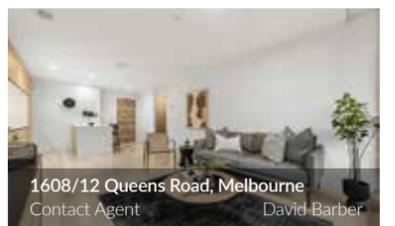
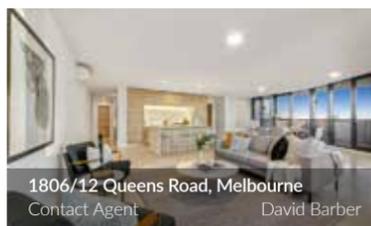
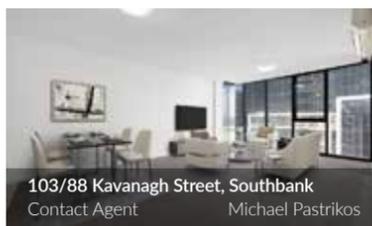
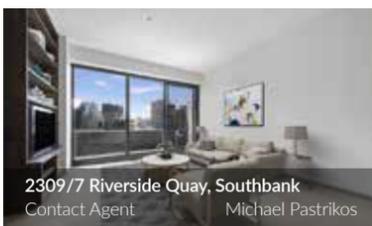
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