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MSO goes sky high
Photo by Anthony Chataway

The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (MSO) played a concert at the highest altitude ever in the Southern Hemisphere last month when it took to Australia 108 on March 21 to play in celebration of the official completion Melbourne's tallest tower. Full story on page 12.

“We’re treated like a doormat”: residents stood up over Southgate concerns

More than 50 local residents living in Quay West say they were left in the lurch last month claiming that Southgate’s owners ARA Australia pulled out of a meeting at the last minute without explanation, amid concerns over its redevelopment.

WORDS BY *Spencer Fowler Steen*
PLANNING

In May last year, ARA announced that it had submitted a development application to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) for a new 26-storey office tower and more than 10,000 sqm of new-look retail space across four levels.

In a statement issued at the time, ARA Australia said that it had looked to capitalise on the state government’s fast-tracking of building permits amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

At least 25 residents at Quay West have expressed a raft of concerns in letters to the Minister for Planning Richard Wynne, ARA Australia and the City of Melbourne regarding the lack of consultation, fears about both project and traffic management during construction, and loss of privacy and noise from the development.

But at the time of publication, *Southbank News* understands those concerns remain unaddressed. Quay West resident John Smith said ARA Australia had committed to attending a meeting with more than 50 owners in late March to hear their concerns, but “pulled out at the 11th hour”.

“At the meeting, we went through a list of issues and everybody was informed, but the idea was that ARA Australia would be there to address our issues,” he said.

“But they pulled out at the 11th hour without explanation.”

While it’s understood that initial consultation began with residents in December regarding the proposed changes to Southgate’s easements, Quay West resident Mem Aziz said he was disappointed with ARA Australia’s continued disregard for their concerns.

“We’re the most affected and the least consulted,” he said.

“I feel like we’re treated like a doormat and people keep wiping their feet and walking on us.”

“There’s no consideration to people and their lifestyles being changed - I’ve written a lot of letters to the Minister for Planning and got standard, generic letters of reply.”

“It’s like we’re being ignored and they’re just hoping we go away. But we’re not going away.”

Southbank News has previously reported on issues raised by Southgate’s tenants, with Quay West residents the latest community members to add their voice to a growing list of worries about ARA’s proposal.

Quay West resident Stan Allen said owners had engaged a planning consultant to review the plans for the development, who found “significant breaches” of planning overlays.

Among the “many” breaches found, Mr Allen claimed the proposed office tower did not adhere to the Melbourne Planning Scheme (DDO60) and would undermine

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New park for Southbank’s surging dog population

WORDS BY *David Schout*
CAPITAL WORKS

Dog registrations in Southbank have soared during the past 12 months as locals turned to newfound friends during the coronavirus lockdowns.

The number of dogs registered in the area jumped almost 25 per cent in the 12 months to March 2021 (from 341 dogs to 420).

Cavoodles are Southbank’s overwhelming most popular breed (53 dogs), with more than double the next-highest in Miniature Dachshunds (20).

Poodle Toy (16), Jack Russell Terrier X (13) and Pugs (12) round out the top five breeds within postcode 3006.

And in good news for new and existing dog owners in the area, the City of Melbourne announced in March that it was set to start construction on a new much-needed Southbank dog park.

The new park will be situated at a disused area beneath

the Kings Way southern undercroft, and forms part of the council’s City Road Master Plan.

“All dogs love getting out and exercising and meeting new furry friends, but living in an apartment can make that more challenging,” Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

“Southbank residents have told us that they want to see more pet-friendly spots around the neighbourhood, and this new park will give locals dogs the opportunity to run and play in a safe environment.”

Southbank is the most densely-populated area in Australia, and a lack of open space has long been the source of angst among local residents.

Cr Capp said the council had looked to address this.

“The delays to the delivery of the City Road Master Plan have been disappointing but we will start work on this project next month, and we are committed to delivering more open space for humans and their doggos throughout Southbank.”

Environment portfolio chair Rohan Leppert gave

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The deadline for the May edition is April 29, 2021.

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New park for Southbank's surging dog population

Continued from page 1.

further details of the dog park. "The off-leash area is the size of a basketball court and is filled with play equipment to delight pups big and small," he said.

Work is due to begin in late April, with the opening scheduled for later this year.

A pedestrian crossing was also being planned to allow access to the off-leash park from nearby Boyd Park.

"With more than 400 dogs living in Southbank, it was an easy decision to include a space designed just for them in our plans to revitalise the City Road area," Cr Leppert said.

The huge rise in dog ownership in Southbank was more than double the nine per cent increase seen across the municipality in 2020.

Cavoodles remain the most popular breed within the City of Melbourne, and the council saw a 50 per cent increase in greyhounds and 30 per cent more spoodles ●



▲ The home of the future dog park at Moray St.

Top 20 dog breeds in Southbank

- Cavoodle: 53 dogs**
- Miniature Dachshund: 20**
- Poodle Toy: 16**
- Jack Russell Terrier X: 13**
- Pug: 12**
- Jack Russell Terrier: 11**
- Labrador: 10**
- Greyhound: 10**
- Golden Retriever: 10**
- West Highland Terrier: 9**
- Pomeranian: 9**
- Spoodle: 8**
- French Bulldog: 8**
- Chihuahua: 8**
- Shih Tzu X: 8**
- Cavalier King Charles Spaniel: 7**
- Maltese x Shih Tzu: 7**
- Yorkshire Terrier: 7**
- Poodle X: 6**
- Maltese Terrier X: 6**



David Schout
JOURNALIST
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Search for missing Southbank man

SAFETY & SECURITY

Police are appealing for public assistance to help locate missing man Josh (pictured).

The 31-year-old was last seen leaving his Southbank address about 3am on Monday, April 5.

Police and family hold concern for his welfare as his disappearance is out of character.

Josh is described as being about 170cm tall with a medium build, fair complexion, blue eyes and short grey hair.

He was last seen wearing a black T-shirt and shorts.

Josh is known to frequent the Southbank and Sunbury areas.

Police have released an image of Josh in the hope someone recognises him and can provide information on his current whereabouts.

Anyone who sees Josh is urged to contact Southbank Police Station ●

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“We’re treated like a doormat”: residents stood up over Southgate concerns

Continued from page 1.

the “special character” of existing low-scale urban form along the Yarra River corridor.

“It’s almost standard arrogance with major projects,” Mr Allen said.

“Long-term owners came to the meeting, and when they looked at the dominating plan for the building, they were aghast.”

Another resident, Mel Sutherland, said her experience dealing with ARA Australia regarding Southgate lay in stark contrast to the Hamer Hall redevelopment in 2012.

“To compare it, when they were redoing Hamer Hall, Quay West were invited to their meetings and everything, and they did lots of research on the area,” she said.

“This shouldn’t be any different, but we’ve had no consultation.” Quay West residents are also worried about access for residents with medical problems during construction, who often depend on nurses and other medical staff getting into the building.

Mr Smith said he had also requested that noise restrictions be applied to ARA Australia’s proposed “River Meadow” – a 2000 sqm garden event space at Southgate – in letters to the Minister for Planning, but had not received a response.

The glass face of the 26-storey building also poses privacy concerns according to residents, who say people will be able to look into the Quay West building from the office block. Overshadowing and light reflection from the glass are also among their growing list of concerns.

ARA Australia did not formally respond to questions about the meeting, but a spokesperson said ARA Australia welcomed all questions and would be hosting further stakeholder information sessions for the public once its application was approved by the authorities.

The spokesperson said Quay West residents and the broader community could direct their queries to about the redevelopment of Southgate to southgate_development@ara-group.com



▲ Quay West residents say they are fed up with Southgate’s owners in relation to its plans to redevelop the precinct.

A spokesperson for the Minister for Planning Richard Wynne said planning regulations in the central city meant developments such as Southgate were generally exempt from third-party notice and review requirements.

However, the spokesperson said Richard Wynne had decided to consult with owners and occupiers of surrounding properties including Quay West, specifically in relation to ARA’s proposed variation of easements.

Several submissions have been received by

the Minister for Planning’s office, which will be considered before any decision is made, the spokesperson added.

Construction impacts are managed under the City of Melbourne’s construction management guidelines and local law requirements. If the proposal is approved, the protection of resident access, safety and amenity and other construction concerns will be managed by the City of Melbourne under existing processes ●

“

When they looked at the dominating plan for the building, they were aghast.

”



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Tom Roberts *She-oak and sunlight* 1889 (detail), National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne. Jean Margaret Williams Bequest, K. M. Christensen and A. E. Bond Bequest, Eleanor M. Borrow Bequest, The Thomas Rubie Purcell and Olive Esma Purcell Trust and Warren Clark Bequest, 2019



Crown inquiry seeks local views

WORDS BY *David Schout*
COMMUNITY

The Victorian Royal Commission into Crown's Southbank casino has called for public submissions to assist in its investigation.

In particular, the commission has sought information regarding both problem gambling and criminal activity at the casino.

Former Federal Court judge Raymond Finkelstein QC invited "community members and organisations" to inform the commission's work.

"The work of the Royal Commission is important to the fabric of our society and I am keen to hear directly from people with experience relevant to the work we are undertaking," Mr Finkelstein said in a statement on March 29.

"I urge interested members of the public to express their views and share their experiences on matters that will help the commission, by making a submission."

Submissions will need to be made quickly, however.

The commission opened the process on March 29 but will receive submissions for less than a month, closing at 4pm on Monday, April 26.

On February 22, the state government announced a Royal Commission into Crown's suitability to hold its Victorian casino licence.

The royal commission was triggered by the "serious findings" of a NSW inquiry — released a fortnight prior — that found Crown was unfit to operate a new \$2.2 billion casino in Sydney Harbour.

After an 18-month probe, former Supreme Court judge Patricia Bergin said in her final report that a management overhaul was required if Crown wanted to hold a casino licence.



The work of the Royal Commission is important to the fabric of our society and I am keen to hear directly from people with experience relevant to the work we are undertaking.



Commissioner Bergin also said that key shareholder James Packer may need to sell down his stake in the company.

The NSW inquiry itself was triggered by 2019 reports in *The Age*, *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *60 Minutes* that revealed alleged money laundering at Crown, and the casino's links with organised crime.

Crown shareholder activist Stephen Mayne told *Southbank News* late last year that it was "embarrassing for Victoria that it's taken a NSW inquiry to reveal all sorts of dubious practices at the Melbourne casino".

Mr Mayne said the state's gambling regulator, the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation, was a "paper tiger".

According to its website, Crown Melbourne is Victoria's largest single-site private sector employer, with over 12,500 people working across the resort.

Mr Finkelstein has until August 1 to report back to the state government with recommendations ●

More than 100 nabbed in Southbank Promenade blitz

WORDS BY *David Schout*
SAFETY & SECURITY

A three-week police operation on Southbank Promenade saw more than 100 cyclists and scooter riders fined in a safety crackdown on the busy strip.

Long regarded as a risky shared space, Victoria Police launched "Operation River Run" on February 24 to target those travelling at dangerous speeds.

A total of 45 cyclists and scooter riders were charged on summons for travelling more than 23km/h in the busy thoroughfare, a charge that involves a court appearance and fine of up to \$1652.

Speed wasn't the only issue throughout the operation, however, as 33 people were also charged for not wearing a helmet while riding a bike or a scooter.

A further nine were issued infringements for riding an unregistered motor vehicle (eight scooters and one skateboard), while seven people were nabbed for using a mobile phone while riding.

More than 500 warnings were handed out throughout the three-week period, and Southbank Acting Senior Sergeant Brett Sidebottom said it had been a worthwhile exercise.

"We had the opportunity to engage with many people as part of this operation — commuters and local residents who use a range of transport methods including cycling, scooters and walking," Senior Sergeant Sidebottom said.

"We know the majority of people using the space are trying to do so safely, however there were a small amount of people blatantly doing the wrong thing who were penalised or now face charges to be heard at court."

"Given the overwhelming and

positive feedback we received as part of the operation we will continue to conduct regular patrols and activities in the area to ensure both pedestrians and cyclists remain safe."

At the start of the operation, Bicycle Network CEO Craig Richards said the \$1652 fine was "extraordinary" and questioned its timing.

"It's more than three times the amount of some drink driving fines," he said.

"There are rarely incidents between people riding and people walking at Southbank Promenade. The timing of this blitz is hard to understand as it's still very quiet there."

The City of Melbourne has said Southbank Promenade would remain a shared space, although it would encourage cyclists to utilise soon-to-be-completed alternative routes.

"We are aware of conflicts between pedestrians and people riding bikes on Southbank Promenade and are currently delivering an alternative cycling route," Cr Capp told *Southbank News* last month.

"We have delivered protected bike lanes on Linlithgow Avenue and Southbank Boulevard and will complete works on Alexandra Avenue to link this route to the Main Yarra Trail. Once it has been completed, we will encourage cyclists to use the new route rather than using Southbank Promenade."

"We're also planning additional bike lanes along Queensbridge St, Whiteman St and Flinders St in the future to provide alternatives to riding along the promenade."

In 2019 the council announced a \$5.1 million upgrade to Southbank Promenade, which has not had a major upgrade in more than 25 years. The project — which included new seating, native trees, garden beds and bluestone pavement — was put on hold last year, and its start date is now unknown ●



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Find healthy and affordable food in your neighbourhood by using the City of Melbourne's Community Food Guide.

Data from our Health and Wellbeing Profile 2020 revealed that the number of residents experiencing food insecurity increased last year and 33 per cent of respondents were experiencing some type of food stress.

The Community Food Guide lists markets that sell affordable fresh produce, like Queen Victoria Market and Flemington Farmers' Market, as well as agencies that provide meals for people in need.

One of the many agencies featured is RISE Food Bank at Level 1/247 Flinders Lane in Melbourne, which provides free dry food, fresh fruits and vegetables for refugees and asylum seekers on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9am to 5pm.

If you are not in need of food relief, but would like to help people who are, we encourage you to connect with your local food relief organisation to see what donations or support they need.

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



Our Community Food Guide can help you find fresh, affordable food

ENJOY SEASONAL PRODUCE

Just seven per cent of Melburnians consume the recommended two serves of fruit and three serves of vegetables each day, according to the City of Melbourne's Health and Wellbeing Profile 2020.

However, this was an increase on the previous year, and the proportion of local residents who produce or conserve their own food is also rising.

This autumn, enjoy the health benefits of eating a 'rainbow' of seasonal produce like apples, beetroot and broccoli, and have a go at growing vegetables and herbs in your garden or pots.

Visit Queen Victoria Market to shop for fresh seasonal produce and groceries including fruit and vegetables, bread, eggs, meat, fish, deli goods, ready-to-eat meals, tea, coffee and pantry staples.

The market is open on Tuesday and Thursday to Sunday. Find out more at qvm.com.au

IN-BRIEF

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SOUTHBANK BOULEVARD

Look out for the new civic space in front of the ABC Centre - the heart of the Transforming Southbank Boulevard project. The space is now open for the community to enjoy and construction has commenced on a series of neighbourhood parks further down the boulevard. Visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/cityprojects

CITY CLEANING BLITZ

A six-month cleaning blitz by the City of Melbourne to remove unwanted graffiti and litter is well underway, with additional cleaning crews and footpath sweepers deployed as people return to the city. Inner-city areas are being cleaned multiple times a day to create a welcoming environment.

SHOP LOCAL

Discover local shops and services to support in our city with the help of our Business Directory, an online resource that lists more than 1800 businesses. There's never been a more important time to support small businesses, so check out the guide at directory.melbourne.vic.gov.au

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Watch meetings live from wherever you are thanks to our live-streaming capability. Tune in live or catch up later. Find all the details about Council and committee meetings at melbourne.vic.gov.au/aboutcouncil

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CITY OF MELBOURNE

Art meets sport: a splash of colour on Queensbridge St

WORDS BY *Jess Carrascalao Heard*
ARTS & CULTURE, PLANNING

Locals can now book to play sport on a vibrant piece of public art, with the recent opening of the new “Underpark” space on Queensbridge St.

The art installation, which doubles as a basketball court, was created by interdisciplinary artist Reko Rennie who is known for his bold and vibrant style that incorporates elements of graffiti art along with his Kamilaroi heritage.

The artwork, called *OA_Hardcourt*, is located at 84-90 Queensbridge St and was commissioned by property developers Time & Place, which owns the site, in conjunction with builders Hickory.

OA_Hardcourt inverts the idea of camouflage, using bright, vibrant colours and bold patterns.

It is an extension of the artist’s series, *Rennie’s Visible Invisible*, which explores the same theme.

Rennie said he was honoured to create the artwork on the traditional lands of the Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri people, and said the bright camouflage design “celebrates our visible cultural identity”.

“Where in the past camouflage has been used to conceal, here it proudly reveals a strong and vibrant cultural history,” he said.

Members of the public can book Underpark for one hour, half-court sessions from 6am – 8pm on weekdays and 12pm – 8pm on weekends, with the court open for anyone to play on weekend mornings.

Bookings can be made at underpark.com.au

Keen Instagrammers have already taken to the social media platform to show their enjoyment of the new local amenity, with the hashtag #underparkmelb showing people both shooting hoops and using the vibrant space as a fashion shoot location.

But some locals have also voiced their scepticism about the space in a local residents’ Facebook group, drawing comparisons with the popular, open half-court at the nearby Boyd Community Hub.

“I love the relaxed, organic and generous way the community use the Boyd half-court now,” one group member said, referencing the approved high-rise development for the site by developer PDG.

Underpark will be open for bookings until Time & Place begin developing a new residential tower, with construction expected to start mid-year.

As well as being a hub for bookings, the Underpark website also includes a survey where members of the public can have their say on what they would like to see at the nearby Kings Way undercroft.

Amenity options in the survey include basketball facilities, a walking track, crossfit, a playground, green space and a skate park, as



▲ The pop-up Underpark basketball court at Queensbridge St.

well as offering respondents the option of registering other ideas.

The results of the survey will be collated and submitted to the City of Melbourne to help inform the finer details for the future of the undercroft as part of the City Road Master Plan, which is located next to the 84 – 90 Queensbridge St site.

The site has been earmarked for development since 2014, with a permit for a 174-metre tower granted by the then Liberal Minister for Planning Matthew Guy.

At the time, the site was owned by Starryland Melbourne, a subsidiary of the Chinese group Financial Fook, and was sold to New Sky Group not long afterwards.

It was only last year that Time & Place acquired the site from New Sky Group for a reported \$29 million, with a vow to completely redesign the development.

Time & Place’s new plans for the site include extending the building up an extra two floors, with the tower to now top out at 62 levels.

At the time of the site’s acquisition, Time & Place director Tim Price said the new building would not be another glass tower that Southbank has become known for.

“We’re looking for something edgy, with a New York feel, and activate a space that the public will want to engage with,” he said ●

Southbank set to receive a “kangaroo on a chair”

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The new \$2 million piece of public art set for Dodds St will be “a kangaroo on a chair wrapped in wire and lights,” according to a report in the *Herald Sun* this month.

In March 2018, Southbank was revealed as the lucky recipient of a series of four major public art commissions, with the first to come at a cost of \$2 million.

City of Melbourne councillors endorsed plans to proceed with the first of the four commissions at its council meeting on February 27, 2018, which will be installed in Dodds St as part of the transformation of Southbank Boulevard.

And while the details of the public art commission have since remained a secret, according to a report on April 6 in the *Herald Sun*, the “gigantic” first sculpture is understood to be a “roo on a chair” by a New Zealand artist.

But the City of Melbourne has remained tight-lipped on the project, telling *Southbank News* that the artwork in question would be “unveiled at a later date”.

“In 2017, the City of Melbourne commissioned a destination public artwork for Melbourne. The Southbank Public Art Project is to be delivered in multiple stages. The City of Melbourne has committed \$2 million for the first stage of the project,” a council spokesperson said. “The artwork, which will be unveiled at a future date, will form part of the Victorian Government’s broader \$1.4 billion transformation of Melbourne’s Art Precinct.”

“The independent selection panel included the most respected figures in Melbourne’s arts community and was chaired by NGV director Tony Ellwood.”

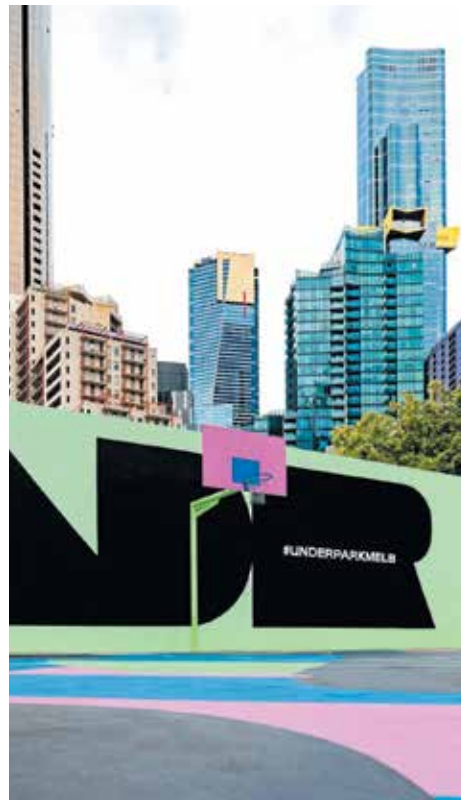
“A report by SGS Economics and Planning in February 2021 found a \$1 million investment by the City of Melbourne in public art would generate an increase in visitation from interstate and overseas and subsequent tourist spending in the State of \$4.2 million.”

“The creative economy accounts for 8 per cent of employment in the City of Melbourne.”

Boonwurrung Aboriginal elder Carolyn Briggs, who was consulted on the project, told the *Herald Sun* that she believed the works would form an amazing streetscape installation.

“It will have a strong presence as an Indigenous story,” she said. “But it’s whimsical, it’s creative, it’s fun. I think people get sick of sadness all the time.”

Irish academic Vaari Claffey was engaged as a “public art strategist” to oversee the project in 2017, which will see a further three works produced for Southbank’s new public realm in the heart of the Arts Precinct ●



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Fishermans Bend engineering company's mission to save one million lives

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
HEALTH

Fishermans Bend engineering company Sentient Bionics has developed a portable oxygen machine which can be replicated anywhere in the world in a quest to help save one million lives.

SentOx is an oxygen machine in a briefcase. The Fishermans Bend-based engineering group, which usually specialises in robotic prostheses, put its projects on hold at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in March last year to focus its energy on the life-saving initiative.

Designed to World Health Organisation specifications, SentOx machines use a common method of oxygen concentration known as "pressure swing absorption", which involves pressuring the mineral zeolite to separate nitrogen from the air. From the oxygen collected, ambient air is pumped in and then pumped out as oxygen at a high concentration.

While the method has been used for many years, one of the project's lead engineers Aaron Duivenboorden said SentOx was innovative for the materials and components with which it was made.

With an adaptable design, the company is looking to raise awareness and connect with overseas medical manufacturers in an effort to send 7000 machines to developing countries in the next 18 months.

But to do that, they're looking to not only raise awareness, but also money through a GoFundMe campaign, with every tax-deductible donation collected helping it edge closer to its target.

"What we're innovating isn't necessarily the process, it's what we're making the product out of - we're focusing on making the product more accessible and using materials and components which can be easily accessible for low- to middle-income countries," Mr Duivenboorden said.

"Part of our strategy is about technology transfer so we're looking to build the first couple of units in Melbourne but the big picture



will be for them to be built locally in low- to middle-income countries."

"We want to provide them with a design which they can build that will be suited to the environments that they work in and have their unique needs met a bit better in comparison to portable oxygen concentrators at the moment, which are much more suited to a more developed economy."

"They're not currently really built for chucking into the back of a car and going into a regional area and operating in a high humidity environment. It's quite a strict set of requirements."

"We're working with a few international partners who are medical device manufacturers overseas and we're looking to also find new partners as part of our push at the moment for promotion. We want to grow awareness about our product so we can connect with more

“

Part of our strategy is about technology transfer so we're looking to build the first couple of units in Melbourne but the big picture will be for them to build locally in low- to middle-income countries.

”

manufacturers and help us build more units."

"We might make the first few hundred in Melbourne but then we're looking to have help from our manufacturing partners overseas to deliver and build the rest which is part of the goal to save one million lives."

The company has so far manufactured around 15 units, some of which have been sent to South Africa and Indonesia for engineering trials. Sentient is registered charity with full DGR status, meaning every donation is tax-deductible ●

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DRIVE THIEVES AWAY

Police are urging motorists to take precautions with their vehicles and valuables.

- Ensure your vehicle is locked, including all windows and doors
- Remove all valuables from your vehicle, or put them out of sight
- Park in a well-lit and secure area - a garage or carport where possible
- Keep your car keys secure at all times

If you are a victim of theft, call the Police Assistance Line on 131 444 to make a report. Call Triple Zero (000) for immediate police attendance.

CR. 08.04.20



▲ Andre Ackaoui down near SES headquarters on Sturt St for a display of rescue methods.

A story to tell about volunteers

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge
SAFETY & SECURITY

A Victorian State Emergency Service (SES) volunteer was almost killed in a car crash and he was across the road from VICSES headquarters on Sturt St just before Easter to talk about his experience.

Andre Ackaoui arrived on crutches for a press conference on road safety out the front of the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA) with his sorry tale.

The shock message came as motorists prepared to hit the roads for the Easter break.

The trauma survivor spent three hours trapped in his truck on the Hume Freeway at Wallan last year while volunteers talked him through the ordeal.

“Had the guys not been there he would have lost his life,” his mother Nicole said, who was at the media event with grandson Braydon to hammer home the importance of the message.

Mother and son became volunteers for the Road Rescue Team 13 years ago after their house was flooded.

“I felt helpless so we joined the SES. Andre was 17 when he joined,” Nicole said.

The Ackaoui family stood alongside Acting Minister for Police and Emergency Services Danny Pearson and Road Safety Minister Ben Carroll in urging motorists to drive safely over the Easter long weekend.

Volunteers respond to an average of 1300 road crashes each year, they said, and Andre’s story typifies the ordeal experienced by those involved in road trauma.

The unlucky volunteer was driving his tow truck to work at 7.30am

during August last year when he ran into the back of another truck on the Hume Freeway.

“I don’t remember how it happened,” he said. “Apparently I was awake the whole time talking to the rescuers.”

He was in a coma for nine days, with a broken jaw, pelvis, ribs, every bone in his left leg and sternum, plus a ruptured bowel and damaged spleen.

“The hardest thing was being in hospital during COVID,” he told *Southbank News*.

“I saw my partner once for 15 minutes when she brought in my clothes. It was the hardest thing of all.”

To make matters worse, Andre was charged with careless driving and hasn’t been able to work with the SES until he gets a health clearance.

He had no blood alcohol or drug levels at the accident but is philosophical about the charge. “I’m glad to be alive,” he said.

Andre is keen to get back to the Pakenhan Road Rescue Team with his mum. “It’s 100 per cent the best thing I’ve ever done,” he said.

Volunteers train for two hours one day a week and are rostered on a week a month from 6pm until 6am.

They patrol the scene of accidents, look after tools and talk to injured passengers while they wait for an ambulance.

Andre knows what it’s like from both sides of the vehicle ●



Rhonda Dredge
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Big uptake in winter outdoor dining

WORDS BY David Schout
BUSINESS

Hundreds of restaurants and cafes will continue outdoor dining operations until June 30 after a huge uptake in offers from the City of Melbourne.

The council recently offered 332 businesses the opportunity to extend their outdoor dining permit for a further three months, and to date just 10 have declined.

A total of 275 businesses accepted the extension, while 39 were yet to respond.

The uptake is another indication of the program’s success throughout the municipality.

The council’s City Activation portfolio lead Roshena Campbell said the program provided a “critical lifeline” for the hospitality industry.

“It’s been wonderful seeing people out there visiting our restaurants that have been so hard hit after the last year,” she said at a March 30 council meeting.

“But more importantly, improving conditions for our hospitality businesses that are still suffering from reduced density limits and still not able to open at full capacity inside. The leg-up we can give them by expanding the area in which they can have patrons we know is critical — it’s a critical lifeline.”

Cr Campbell said the council was “continuing to consider” whether to make outdoor dining a permanent addition to the city.

In a recent survey of 150 cafe, restaurant and bar owners, 81 per cent gave outdoor dining “parklets” the thumbs-up since reopening in late October.

Temporary extended outdoor dining permits have allowed hospitality venues to expand operations onto footpaths, on-street parking, laneways and street space to comply with COVID-19 restrictions.

Of those surveyed, 72 per cent were either “satisfied” or



“very satisfied” with their outdoor dining arrangements. Lord Mayor Sally Capp has said the extension of outdoor dining program, which “helped bring back the buzz” of the city, would give hospitality owners the assurance they needed.

“The extended outdoor dining program has helped to provide hospitality businesses with extra capacity to seat more customers and get more revenue,” she said.

“Businesses can have confidence that outdoor dining will continue in the City of Melbourne until winter. We’re looking into additional features to support outdoor dining during the cooler months such as weather protection.”

The outdoor dining program is being delivered by both the council and Victorian Government through the \$100 million Melbourne City Recovery Fund.

The council has issued nearly 1500 permits for outdoor dining across the municipality and has installed more than 200 parklets.

To date, it has cost \$5.5 million (for outdoor dining infrastructure, maintenance and laneway closures), and the extension is set to cost another \$2.2 million.

The extension would also see council forgo around \$444,000 in revenue from car parking in the occupied spaces ●

Freshwater Place management contract renewed

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge
STRATA

Freshwater Place in Southbank is the “jewel in the crown” of the portfolio of properties managed by The Knight, according to its managing director Gregor Evans.

“There are 535 apartments, 22 retail lots and it’s a very iconic building, one of the largest for us,” he said.

The company has just had its Freshwater Place contract renewed for three years.

And last month The Knight won the 2020 Award for Excellence for Strata Community Management Businesses.

“It’s been a challenging year,” Mr Evans told *Southbank News*. Managing owners’ corporations during the COVID crisis hasn’t been easy.

Many of residents’ fears centred around the common areas of the building which The Knight manages.

“We worked with on-site building managers on the use of facilities, social distancing and regulations for visitors,” Gregor said.

One of the most challenging aspects was “communicating with clients via video conference. Running AGMs



online is a challenge with 50 to 60 owners.” There were a few cases of COVID in the buildings managed by The Knight.

“Not too many,” Mr Evans said. “At one property in Richmond, government housing, one of the carers had COVID. It spread to occupiers.”

Another real issue the company faced was the social isolation of residents during the lockdown.

“We did a presentation last year about community. We focused on people interacting with each other in a building.”

“If you’re confined to an apartment you can have conversations balcony to balcony. Some people were struggling. We reached out to them. Some were very afraid.” ●

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▲ More than 150 people gathered at Metropolis Southgate for last month's Southbank Community Forum.

Community Forum's large attendance learns little

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
EDITORIAL

There is no current plan for Southbank and any former plans are largely redundant. Those were the key takeaway lessons from the Southbank Community Forum on March 23, which was well attended but light on detail.

Hosted by the Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) and touted as the biggest event in its history, more than 150 locals gathered at Metropolis Southgate to hear from senior City of Melbourne officers and planning experts.

But much of the audience had already departed by the end of the three-hour forum having heard mostly from moderating SRA president Tony Penna, who spent much of the night occupying the microphone.

While the volunteer-run SRA is to be credited for organising what was overall a successful event, its format sadly failed to capture the full value of the assembled expert panellists and senior ranks of the council.

This also wasn't helped by the council, which was understood to have rejected a Q&A format in the lead-up to the event and its officers instead used much of their time on the night to explain their individual roles and how the council works.

However, with the council's deputy CEO Alison Leighton and head of capital works Roger Teale only being appointed to their roles during the past six months, the forum did prove useful in bringing the council up to speed on many local issues.

And it did serve its fundamental purpose in putting the new council on notice that an engaged Southbank community was watching closely in anticipation of much-improved dialogue and results during the next four years.

Beginning with a 30-minute launch of the SRA's 20-year history book, Lord Mayor Sally Capp joined the book's author Lynne Lumsden and Mr Penna on stage to thank Lynne and the Southbank community for a "wonderful piece of local literature".

"It is a comprehensive piece of work," the Lord Mayor said. "The dedication of Lynne in collecting all of the stories, resources and records from many of you who are here tonight ... I commend and acknowledge you for your efforts in completing that work."

"This is a testament to community leadership in action and here's to the next volume!"

And so began the forum, which was largely initiated by the SRA off the back of a string of contentious City of Melbourne capital works and planning projects, including Southbank Boulevard, the City Road Master Plan and the



▲ Lynne Lumsden, Tony Penna, SRA's first president Ray McDonald and Sally Capp launch the SRA's history book.

sale of land at Boyd Park.

But the theme of the event – Southbank: where to from here? – was based on the 2010 Southbank Structure Plan, which is the largely forgotten 30-year council vision for which development of postcode 3006 was meant to be guided by.

In assembling expert planners Prof Michael Buxton from RMIT University and former City of Melbourne planner, and one of the visionaries behind the Structure Plan and City Road Master Plan Leanne Hodyl, locals were told a lot of what was already known.

That is, Southbank couldn't look more different to its previous plans today if it tried.

Professor Buxton, who worked on the original plans for Southbank back in 1986, said that European style low- to mid-rise development had been earmarked, only for high-rise buildings with "dead street frontages" to take their place.

"The local streets have no amenity and are dominated by dead building frontages that have only been designed with through traffic in mind," he said.

"Southbank is creating streets that are dark, windy, unwelcoming and unattractive and people from Southbank have to go elsewhere to enjoy life."

"I don't want to dwell on the past but look at lessons from the past for the future. If we don't learn from what has worked and what hasn't worked then I think Southbank is going to deteriorate from a kind of ideal that it should be and so much has already been lost from the original vision."

"Looking back at the 2010 plan, I was amazed

at just how much land there was still to be developed in the period between 2007 and 2010. I worked on the original plan for Southbank in 1986 would you believe it and the whole site was proposed to be redeveloped into three- to six-storey European style development. That was the plan."

"I think the challenge now is to drag out as many of the lessons from that 2010 plan to guide the future and ensure that whatever is left to develop in Southbank is developed in accordance with those principles."

Professor Buxton finished his address by challenging the council to advocate to the state government to change the planning rules for the central city or risk more of the same for Southbank.

But in providing somewhat of an alternative perspective to Professor Buxton, Leanne Hodyl said that changing planning laws took "a bloody long time" and that the city hadn't yet fully experienced the fruits of the current state government's C270 planning scheme amendments from 2016.

The former Churchill Fellow, whose 2014 research focused largely on how to do high-rise buildings well, said that while she was a believer that doing them well was possible, it was incredibly challenging in reality.

And with reference to the key Southbank visions she contributed to, including the Southbank Structure Plan and heavily-delayed City Road Master Plan, she gave the audience a similar assessment.

"It's a hell of a lot easier to write these plans then deliver them," she said.

"I do think the structure plan was a really strong piece of work but it did treat Southbank as a technical design problem. What it didn't treat Southbank as was a complex problem that many, many, many organisations are involved in delivering."

"The Kings Way undercroft is fantastic example where you've got Crown Casino, the police, the water authority – it's really complex and I can put my hand on my heart and say the structure plan didn't address that scale of complexity."

"I think decking CityLink would be amazing but we talked about doing the same at Fed Square for 30 years before it happened, which is why it's in the structure plan as a business case – not deck it – do a business case. See whether it's possible."

"I do think it would be great if the structure plan was revisited but it would be essential that more stakeholders were involved."

Ms Hodyl did, however, duly remind the audience of the state government's transformation of Southbank's Arts Precinct and she said some works were already creeping deeper into

"I think decking CityLink would be amazing but we talked about doing the same at Fed Square for 30 years before it happened, which is why it's in the structure plan as a business case – not deck it – do a business case. See whether it's possible."





▲ Left to right: Jonathan Kamouris, Roger Teale, Alison Leighton, Leanne Hodyl and Professor Michael Buxton.



▲ Leanne Hodyl.



▲ A depleted audience towards the end of the forum.

Southbank Village that focused on “re-wilding” and creating better connections to the river.

“I’ve got friends who are working on the design of the Sturt St spine and there is a real focus there on re-wilding and that will be such an amazing future vision for Southbank is how to re-wild and get some of that green biodiversity back,” she said.

“The quality of the public realm in Southbank is challenging. Fifty per cent of Southbank is streets and that hasn’t changed so that is still a really key opportunity to get more great public spaces. Keep advocating for your streets to be really fantastic.”

As a means of setting the scene for discussion, Tony Penna extracted all the key detail from the Southbank Structure Plan and relayed it to the audience in a long address which included a summary of many key local issues affecting locals.

Public open space continues to be central on the Southbank community’s agenda. And with the loss of space and delays and cost blowouts on many projects, the remaining locals still in the room were keen to hear from the council’s officers about all means of rectification.

But together with a newly-elected team of councillors, the new team of Alison Leighton, Roger Teale and the council’s head of major capital works and infrastructure Jonathan Kamouris were really only able to provide updates on current initiatives. These notably included Southbank Boulevard, as well as the delayed Southbank Promenade upgrades.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp and Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece were also each given the opportunity to address locals at the end of the night.

What ultimately transpired from the discussion was a commitment from the council to



▲ Lord Mayor Sally Capp.

review the Southbank Structure Plan as part of an overall audit of all council strategies and policies.

“Doing that audit of everything that has been done is really important,” the Lord Mayor said. “We have to do a realistic review of the structure plan to give a report back on really is feasible.”

“I think that encapsulates one of the big issues coming out of tonight is that we have to have real, honest conversations with the residents of Southbank and we have to work together and identify what those projects are and be realistic about timeframes, resources and scope for those works.”

“We’ve got some stark examples of what not to do, so we need to move into a completely different paradigm.”

In summarising the outcomes from the night, one local resident said the event left them “wondering and concerned”.

“The 2010 plan is clearly not a living document, has not been delivered on, has never been updated, and is for all practical purposes

“
We’ve got some stark examples of what not to do, so we need to move into a completely different paradigm.”

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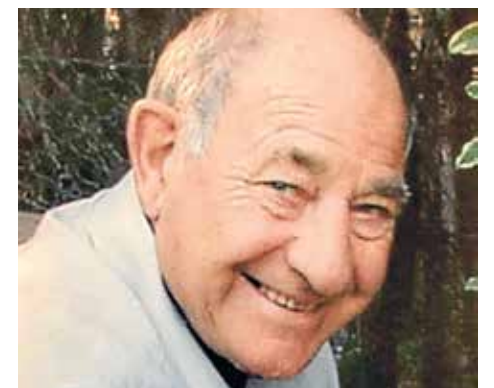
obsolete, which essentially means we currently don’t have a plan for Southbank?!”

“I’m left wondering and concerned that if the council does not follow the strategic plan, what does it do to instead ensure infrastructure spend is appropriately targeted to ensure we have an attractive precinct for residents and visitors?”

While Mr Penna acknowledged the forum could have been done better, he said there were plenty of lessons to take out of the event for both the SRA and, more importantly, the City of Melbourne.

“Next time around, I will make a serious effort to be more succinct and won’t let council squirm away without answering our questions – I guess you could say, lesson learnt,” he said.

“It is disappointing that 11 years has passed since the structure plan was released and only now we learn it is not a live document. This event was certainly an eye-opener for the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor as it highlighted the lack of planning council has with regard to Southbank.”



Vale Joe Bagnara

The Southbank community sadly learned last month that long-serving SRA president Silvio (Joe) Bagnara had passed away on February 20 at the age of 88.

The long-time Coventry St resident was involved with the SRA since its establishment in 1998 and served as the group’s president for several years up until 2012.

In 2017, he was awarded with life membership by the SRA for his contributions to the Southbank community spanning many years.

Southbank News pays its respects to Joe, his wife Margaret and his family and thanks Joe for his many years of service to the Southbank community and this newspaper ●



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Big score for MSO at Australia 108

WORDS BY *David Schout*
ARTS & CULTURE

The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (MSO) has played a concert at the highest altitude ever in the Southern Hemisphere.

Taking place at Southbank's Australia 108 on March 21 at 7:30pm, the 30-minute performance was held in celebration of the official completion Melbourne's tallest tower.

With musicians simultaneously playing across levels 70 and 71 – some 210 metres off the ground – the event was live-streamed on social media platform YouTube to the wider public free of charge and has since recorded thousands of views online.

World Class Global CEO David Ng – the developer responsible for the construction of Australia 108 – said the concert was designed to celebrate the completion of the new super-skyscraper, which maxes out at a lofty 319 metres.

Mr Ng said he hoped the performance would inspire “music lovers” and “Melbourne lovers” to use Australia 108 as an example of “what is possible”.

“The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra has set the beat of the city with its world-class performances for more than 100 years,” he said. “We could not think of a more appropriate way to welcome Australia 108 to the skyline more than through a free concert for Melburnians.”

With symphonies such as Steve Reich's *City Life*, Matthew Hindson's *A Symphony of Modern Objects*, Mark Blitstein's *An Airborne Symphony* and Paul Kelly's *From St Kilda to Kings Cross*, the concert thematically developed around the skyline of a city, featuring a range of primarily up-tempo, uplifting-yet-occasionally-moody performances.

MSO managing director Sophie Galaise said the orchestra was thrilled to have partnered with Melbourne's newest landmark and that the performance would “soar to the skies in Melbourne's newest and most prestigious space”.

“As an orchestra, we enjoy taking our music to new and unique places to share with the world,” Ms Galaise said.

Beginning construction back in 2015, the building features two infinity edge swimming



“

As an orchestra, we enjoy taking our music to new and unique places to share with the world.

”

pools, lounges, meeting spaces, dining rooms, a theatre, two gyms, and a vertical sky-garden.

Prices for residences came into the housing market last year, with three-bedroom places going for around \$1.9 million, while a sub-penthouse went for \$5.5 million.

The skyscraper also contains a 2800 sqm space labeled the Star Club, where the MSO's evening soiree took place.

The MSO is back on Friday, April 9, with the show *Blood on the Floor*, in a “jumpy, angry” mix of classical, jazz and modern expression genres ●

To watch the performance:
Search “MSO Australia 108” at youtube.com



Council objects to Montague proposals

PLANNING

The City of Port Phillip has objected to two Montague development applications on Montague St and Normanby Rd.

Councillors unanimously opposed the two applications on March 25 for 91-95 Montague St and 240-246 Normanby Rd (pictured), which will now each go the Minister for Planning Richard Wynne for approval.

Developer Thousand Degree Pty Ltd has put forward an application for a 25-storey mixed-used tower abutting Gravity Tower and will include a five-level podium comprising retail and office uses.

While at the corner site at Normanby Rd and Montague St, developer MG Normanby Pty Ltd has submitted plans for a 32-storey mixed use development with 120 dwellings, including seven affordable apartments, 81 serviced apartments and three retail tenancies.

The City of Port Phillip's planning officers objected to the Montague St application based on limited street activation, wind impacts, a “negative” street wall impacting pedestrian scale and setbacks resulting in an “awkward junction” with Gravity Tower.

Council officers also said that the ground floor layout and accessibility was inefficient and failed to provide for ease of access.

Meanwhile, height was largely the issue for council officers with the Normanby Rd proposal, as well as parking and traffic configurations off Munro St ●

Southbank regains its buzz

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*
BUSINESS

Southbank is regaining its old optimism with tourists returning during late March as some hotels reported good occupancy rates.

Groups are travelling down from Sydney to catch up with friends and see the sights.

“We're staying in the CBD,” one group of tourists told *Southbank News*.

They booked a river cruise then had lunch at one of the new outdoor dining places.

River cruises are reporting good bookings and at least one Southbank hotel is more than 80 per cent full.

Local resident of Quay West Suites Josephine Ransom said the last few weeks of March had been a bit of a roller coaster in terms of numbers.

“It's good to see people back,” she said. “Particularly a breakfast crowd.”

She said the hotel was empty during COVID but as soon as lockdown was over they began to return.

She owns an apartment above the hotel but spends three days a week down at Mount Martha.

“The sad thing is that at the Food Hall [Southgate] eight of 14 businesses have gone to the wall,” she said.

She said that with the planned development of a new hotel nobody knew what the future would hold.

“I like everything back to normal,” she said. “With the Comedy Festival the place was buzzing.”

Last month the state government and the City of Melbourne announced a \$5 million investment in events.

The Rising Festival (read more page 17), Winter Night Market, the World's Longest Brunch, Melbourne Cocktail Festival and Melbourne Good Food Month were just some of the events to receive support from the joint \$100 million Melbourne City Recovery Fund.

The state government's Melbourne Travel Voucher Scheme was also launched in March in addition to the council's “FOMO” marketing campaign ●



▲ Sydney tourists book for a river cruise.

Council has its say over state-wide infrastructure

WORDS BY *Jess Carrascalao Heard*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne has had its first say on the Victorian Government's draft 30-year Infrastructure Strategy, after the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) endorsed the council's submission at a meeting earlier this month.

The submission, which looks at the state-wide strategy through a City of Melbourne policy lens, offers several amendments and recommendations on the likes of climate change mitigation, water management, transport development and future housing affordability.

It also highlights key opportunities for fast-tracking existing projects to help mitigate the economic impact of COVID-19, and advocates for sustained funding of the development of the CBD as a significant state- and nation-wide economic driver.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece described the central city as "the engine of the Victorian economy".

"The development of the central city is absolutely crucial to the health of the entire state, and indeed, the nation, in terms of research, education, high productivity, jobs, innovation and Australia's most important business cluster," he said.

In the submission, one of the key opportunities identified for immediate action was investment in "foundational and catalytic infrastructure" for the urban renewal areas of Arden, Macaulay and Fishermans Bend.

The council said that new infrastructure in those areas needed to address issues including flood mitigation, integrated water management, open space acquisition and key transport connections.

Transport plans would include a tram extension to Fishermans Bend, which would decrease the need for car parking in future development of the area.

"Early delivery of this infrastructure will affect the development outcomes in these areas – a new school encourages the market to consider family housing," the submission stated.

Cr Reece said the submission strongly supported investment and infrastructure to ensure development in urban renewal projects could continue.

"Fishermans Bend, Arden and Macaulay [are] all areas that we must see reach their full potential in the years ahead, particularly as Melbourne resumes its population growth trajectory," he said.

The council has also included urban renewal as one of its proposed amendments to recommendation 36 in the strategy, which seeks to deliver very low-income housing with inclusionary zoning.

The council's amendment stated that "higher affordable housing requirements be introduced in urban renewal areas", recognising that the value of land could increase due to improved government infrastructure, which could, in turn, make housing unaffordable.

"A portion of the increase in land value may be captured by the government to provide public benefit. Affordable housing is an example of a public benefit," the submission stated.

Housing is just one of several issues covered in the draft 30-Year Infrastructure Strategy.

The draft strategy includes 95 recommendations across four key areas of consideration for future infrastructure:

- Confront long-term challenges (including the changing climate and embracing technological opportunities);
- Manage urban change (including integrating land use and infrastructure planning, and steering changes in travel behaviour);
- Harness infrastructure for productivity and growth (including shaping the transport network for better access); and
- Develop regional Victoria.



Whether it's on transport pricing, or housing, or renewable energy networks, there is a lot in there that we should be amplifying.



The City of Melbourne submission has addressed 70 of the 95 recommendations in the draft strategy, stating that there were "strong synergies" between the draft infrastructure strategy and the council's existing strategies.

Transport pricing forms a number of the recommendations in the draft strategy, including a trial of demand-responsive parking pricing, congestion pricing as well as an increase and extension of the Melbourne Congestion Levy on parking, in a bid to encourage public transport use and reduce traffic congestion.

But also in its submission, the council recommended that any increase in levy amounts should not happen until car numbers in the area reached pre-COVID levels, with the current temporary discount providing COVID relief.

The Free Tram Zone is also under threat in the draft strategy, but the council's submission recommended that a cost-benefit analysis should be done before any changes to the Free Tram Zone were considered.

An emphasis on walking as a key mode of transport in the central city is also highlighted in the submission, with a recommendation to elevate future plans for walking as a separate mode of transport to cycling.

The transition to a greener future for the

state is also reflected in other parts of the draft strategy.

Climate change mitigation measures include ensuring water security by considering a broader range of water supply sources and fast-tracking water cycle management, allowing better use of both stormwater and recycled water.

The council has pushed for these recommendations further by suggesting a more holistic approach, including the consideration of combined alternative water sources for non-potable uses, which would decrease the demand for drinking water.

Suggestions for investment in "green" and "blue infrastructure", and the protection and incorporation of green infrastructure in transport corridors to support climate change adaptation is also included in the City of Melbourne's submission.

Speaking at the FMC meeting, Cr Rohan Leppert said that the opportunity council had been given to offer its input on the strategy was rare.

He said he hoped the council's recommendations would translate into political will at the state level to implement some of the ideas in the 30-year strategy.

"Whether it's on transport pricing, or housing, or renewable energy networks, there is a lot in there that we should be amplifying," he said.

The City of Melbourne's submission will form part of the feedback on the draft strategy during the current consultative phase.

The final strategy is due to be published in mid-2021 ●



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Horse dies in carriage incident

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
ANIMAL WELFARE

A horse pulling a carriage in North Melbourne has died in unknown circumstances while travelling on a usual route from the stable on Stubbs St in Kensington.

The RSPCA was alerted after a local resident, Courtney, posted a photo of the horse covered with a blanket on Arden St at 11.20am on March 21.

"We saw a horse laying on the ground with a blanket over its body and head, with a truck pulled up at the intersection, waiting to put it in," Courtney told *Southbank News*.

"The horse had passed away and the partner horse was still attached to it, along with a second cart with two horses attached to it."

Courtney, who did not want her last name published due to fear of intimidation from the carriage workers, said she was "shaken up" by the incident.

"It was so sad because all of the other horses were there and saw what was happening and nothing was being done for them, they were just left standing in the rain," she said.

"It was awful and unnecessary."

Campaign director of Melbourne Against Horse-drawn Carriages Kristin Leigh said the industry had come straight back to life after lockdown despite street trading being unlawful.

"The City of Melbourne removed their street trading permits in July 2017, but they have no jurisdiction to ban them from the roads as they're considered a vehicle under the *Road Safety Act 1986*," Ms Leigh said.

"It's absolutely ridiculous as they're clearly living beings and not vehicles."

Ms Leigh said the carriages had been operating illegally for years as they dodge the street trading permit through online bookings.

"They're allowed to accept pre-bookings so whenever council goes to bust them, they'll say it's a pre-booking," Ms Leigh said.



▲ A horse lies underneath a blanket on Arden St.



▲ A truck waits to collect the horse.

Although authority rests with state government to ban the practice, Ms Leigh said the council needed to stop "wiping their hands of the responsibility" and do more to lobby the government.

"The City of Melbourne and Sally Capp could put more pressure on the state government to get them banned, even if it's just from the council zones," Ms Leigh said.

"We've documented the carriages endangering city commuters with cyclists being forced onto the road because they park in the bike lanes, just last week a cyclist was almost wiped out by a bus because of it."

"For tourists and locals to see a dead horse lying on the road is also awful, so this industry is negative for everyone including the horses."

Ms Leigh also claimed that one of the men in the photo was a Unique Carriage Hire employee who was condemned by the media in early 2020 for allegedly kicking a horse named Tuesday in

the head after she slipped and fell.

"The company made very clear statements to the media that he would be let go but he's still working there and they're trying to cover it up," Ms Leigh said.

PETA spokesperson Emily Rice said that placing large animals who scare easily into congested city traffic is an invitation for injury and death.

"This tragic incident is yet another testament to the cruelty inherent in the horse-drawn carriage industry, which has been banned in cities around the world," Ms Rice said.

"Horse-drawn carriages are cruel and dangerous – not only for the horses who are forced to work long hours in extreme weather conditions while walking on hard pavement and inhaling exhaust fumes all day but also for motorists and pedestrians."

"The state government needs to bring Melbourne in line with progressive cities like

Amsterdam, Chicago, Montréal, and Rome and end the use of horses as vehicles for entertainment."

Another PETA spokesperson Aleesha Naxakis said that it was seeking action about the incident and had contacted Victoria Police and the City of Melbourne.

"People are starting to wake up to the cruelty involved and aren't seeking them out and paying for them, but the frequency hasn't been reduced," Ms Naxakis said.

"The Lord Mayor Sally Capp has been quite verbal about wanting a ban and she's asked the state government who have the power, so we want to use incidents like this to urge the government to take action."

A City of Melbourne spokesperson said the council was aware the RSPCA was looking into the incident.

"In 2017, the City of Melbourne determined to no longer issue on-street trading permits for horse-drawn vehicles," the spokesperson said.

"Horse-drawn vehicles sit under the legislative responsibility of the Department of Transport and Victoria Police."

North Melbourne police said its officers attended the scene to assist with traffic direction, but did not have any further information about the horse's death.

Unique Carriage Hire said the horse did not belong to them and they were unaware of the situation surrounding the horse's death, however one of their drivers was on site to assist.

The company did not respond to further questions about street trading or the continued employment of the worker alleged to have abused horses ●



Katie Johnson
JOURNALIST
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Your City of Melbourne community update



Longrain welcomes outdoor diners to Little Bourke Street

DISCOVER WHAT'S NEW IN MELBOURNE

Melbourne businesses, creatives and event managers are rallying in the wake of COVID-19, alongside swift and strategic investment from the City of Melbourne and the Victorian Government.

A multitude of projects are underway to reactivate Melbourne, and the city has begun to change before our eyes.

Many of the initiatives are being delivered through the \$100 million Melbourne City Recovery Fund, a partnership between the City of Melbourne and the Victorian Government.

Next time you visit the city, look out for key physical changes, including 40 km of new bike lanes and 'little streets' that have been made more pedestrian friendly.

Here are four more exciting things that have popped up around Melbourne.

1 Public art in vacant shopfronts

Creative artworks by local artists are bringing colour and vibrancy to vacant shopfronts as the city rebalances from the effects of COVID-19.

Delivered as part of the Melbourne City Recovery Fund, this program supports the creative sector and creates a welcoming environment on our streets. Find out more at melbourne.vic.gov.au/publicart

2 COVID-safe versions of beloved events

Melburnians are grinning, chuckling and guffawing through more than three weeks of COVID-safe laughs thanks to the return of the world-renowned Melbourne International Comedy Festival.

Join the fun in venues and online until 18 April. Find out more at comedyfestival.com.au or discover more upcoming events at whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au

3 More than 1500 new outdoor dining areas

Dine with friends in an iconic Melbourne laneway or pop-up parklet to support local businesses as they continue to adapt amid ongoing COVID-19 restrictions.

The City of Melbourne has extended its outdoor dining program to help venues reopen and continue operating. Find out more about this program at melbourne.vic.gov.au/outdoordining

4 150,000 new trees, shrubs and grasses

Look out for new native vegetation around Royal Park, Parkville and the Dynon Road wildlife reserve that will help support biodiversity, cool the city and create jobs.

Funded by the Victorian Government, Greening the City is the largest revegetation project that the City of Melbourne has ever undertaken. Learn more at melbourne.vic.gov.au/urbanforest

Looking to the future, business support will continue to be front and centre, and an advisory committee comprised of retail, hospitality and creative industry leaders will focus on rebuilding the night-time economy.

Iconic places will also be revitalised, with plans underway for upgrades to the Lonsdale Street Greek Precinct and Princess Theatre forecourt.

Our city's brightest minds will also come together for events like the Open Innovation Competition and Emerging Technology Testbed Challenge to collaborate and innovate.

While the city might not look quite like you remember, Melbourne's restaurants, shops, bars, art institutions and events are open for business. And people are hungry to return to the city they love.

We encourage you to rediscover your city and feel the buzz of what is to come.

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



SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES

Local businesses, services and organisations are the lifeblood of Melbourne, and our support for them is multi-layered and ongoing.

Visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/business to subscribe to the Business in Melbourne newsletter and explore the help on offer.

For one-on-one advice, call our dedicated Business Concierge Service on 9658 9658 (press 1 for business), or enquire online at the above website.

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Your City of Melbourne community update

REIMAGINE THE FUTURE AT MELBOURNE KNOWLEDGE WEEK

Join Melbourne's brightest minds to solve historical crimes in augmented reality, learn about 'doughnut economics' and much more at Melbourne Knowledge Week from 26 April to 2 May.

The festival will feature more than 100 in-person and online events devised in collaboration with local and international experts, including artists, academics, economists and biomedical scientists.

Four hubs at locations across the city will host a wide range of unique, COVID-safe events – the vast majority of which are free to attend.

Immersive installations and city tours will encourage audiences to playfully explore, share and learn, and a digital hub will expand the festival's reach across the globe.

Whether you are interested in technology, digital ethics, human-centred design, entrepreneurship, creativity, wellbeing or something completely different, there is something for you at Melbourne Knowledge Week.

Here's how you can get involved in the festival program.

1 Learn from experts

Hear from the pros about sustainable economies, the rise of cryptocurrencies and how to pandemic-proof the future. Be inspired by big thinkers from around the world, in person and online.

2 Share your ideas

Deep-dive into tough topics like climate change, ethics and the afterlife through board games, book clubs and hands-on workshops. Working together, we can help shape a bright future for our city.

3 Build your network

Discover ideas for city activation as local innovators pitch their ideas, explore a showcase of local startups, and attend networking sessions for Aboriginal entrepreneurs and international students.

4 Enjoy a mindful meal

Book a zero-waste lunch at Cumulus Inc hosted by OzHarvest and Rotary

Melbourne or delve into the story of Gelam the dugong at a dinner event by Mabu Mabu.

5 Inspire your family

Build new toys from old favourites, co-create a 'wild city', get your hands dirty to create your own biodiverse garden and play Dungeons & Dragons with a biometric mirror.

6 Blow your mind

Receive a voice message from another version of you from a parallel universe, talk to a person from history using artificial intelligence and explore future Melbourne through Prototype City.

Melbourne Knowledge Week is proudly presented by the City of Melbourne.

The festival program will launch on Monday 22 March at mkw.melbourne.vic.gov.au

Information and events in this publication are current at the time of printing. Subsequent changes may occur.

EVENT SPOTLIGHTS

KEYNOTE SPEAKER KATE RAWORTH

Digital Hub (online), Wednesday 28 April, 7pm to 8pm

Learn about Kate's provocative 'doughnut economics' paradigm that shows how economies can comfortably function while looking after all people and the environment.

This live event will feature a digital keynote presentation, live Q&A and facilitated small-group conversations about how we can incorporate these ideas into our work and lives.



A CIRCULAR FUTURE

Wesley Place Hub, 130 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne
Saturday 1 May, 2pm to 5pm

Join an interactive workshop to explore how can we move from resource-draining 'take, make, waste' linear systems to a progressive circular economy.

Hosted by UnSchool, this event invites you to understand the complex systems you participate in every day, and recognise your agency to affect change.

WILD CITY

Meat Market Hub, 3 Blackwood Street, North Melbourne
Visit any time while the hub is open

Explore a thriving green metropolis shared equally by humans and animals and co-create new, welcoming urban habitats.

Created by Kathy Holowko in collaboration with scores of local children, the Wild City exhibition invites kids to consider how we can improve the quality of living in our urban ecosystems by being more considerate to animals.



Engaging conversations



Zero-waste dining



Immersive experiences

KEEP IN TOUCH

To stay connected with all the latest news from the City of Melbourne, follow us on social media and subscribe to *Melbourne* magazine online at magazine.melbourne.vic.gov.au

You can also join conversations to influence plans for your neighbourhood through Participate Melbourne at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au

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I'm a Southbanker

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

Here's a few highlights of autumn events and attractions in the Yarra River Precinct – right on your doorstep – so make the most of the beautiful weather. Why not invite family or friends over to enjoy it with you? Give them a glimpse into the enviable Southbank lifestyle.

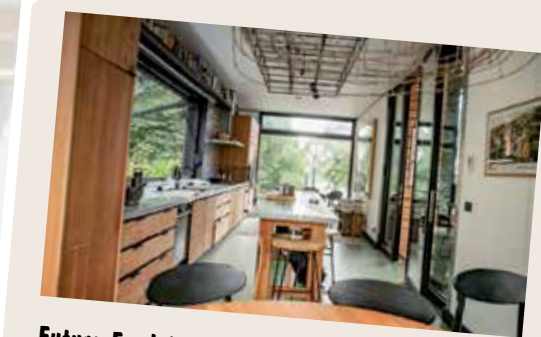
Autumn
2021



Magic Mike Live June
Channing Tatum's world acclaimed dance spectacular, Magic Mike Live is an immersive, thrilling, live dance and acrobatic spectacular based on the hit movies, which will take over Birrarung Marr. With a cast of incredible dancers, it is equal parts empowering, exhilarating and unexpected.



The Story of the Moving Image
ACMI's \$40million makeover is a knock-out – immersive, interactive, engaging and right up-to-the-minute. 'Lens' is a free take-home device that allows you to virtually collect artworks and objects that resonate with you as you explore. Try the 'Memory Garden' which invites you to hold home movies from the ACMI collection in the palm of your hand. FREE



Future Food System Until June 30
Joost Bakker's structure sits smack bang in the middle of Fed Square's River Terrace, complete with aquaponics, solar power, micro-farms, a charcoal tank and rooftop garden. It's home to celeb foodies Matt Stone and Jo Barrett in this sustainable modern urban farm, featuring vertical veggie gardens and mushroom walls. You can book a behind the scenes inspection, a workshop or an intimate dining experience.



The River Illuminated May 26 – June 6
A 200-metre-long, glowing eel skeleton illumination features an enigmatic soundscape; a full lunar cycle of 28 incandescent moons rising from the river; tangles of glowing glass eels; and hundreds of floating lanterns made by the community, under the supervision of Liverpool's internationally exhibited, public-art makers The Lantern Company. Enjoy fire-roasted snacks from kitchens in Birrarung Marr.



Flinders Street Station Ballroom May 26-31
After holding Melbourne's imagination for decades, the mysterious Flinders Street Station ballroom (and its surrounding hidden rooms) will open to the public for Australia's pre-eminent visual artist Patricia Piccinnini's work, *A Miracle Constantly Repeated* – an eco-system of hyper-real.



Spirit of Melbourne Operates Thursday to Saturday evenings
Experience Melbourne's only floating restaurant, taking you on a 3 hour evening cruise of the Lower Yarra, with quality food and wine that will surprise you. Southbankers can use the promo code SOM20 to get 20% off when you book online at melbcruiises.com.au



Botanic Gardens Melbourne

May 6 – June 6
SEASONS in Blak Box takes you into an award-winning sound pavilion designed by architect Kevin O'Brien, where you're invited to engage in deep listening. Aided by subtly shifting light and music, curating the stories, language and anecdotes from six First Peoples women artists and elders, helping you to connect with Country from a First Peoples perspective.

May 26 – June 6
Myer Music Bowl Nature will take over the entire Sidney Myer Music Bowl, transforming its iconic amphitheatre into a supernatural forest of ice, art, music and moonlight. You'll enter through a bamboo forest and encounter mirrored illusions, architectural tunnels of light, large-scale sculpture, video art and the return of a beloved tradition—ice-skating on the bowl's stage.



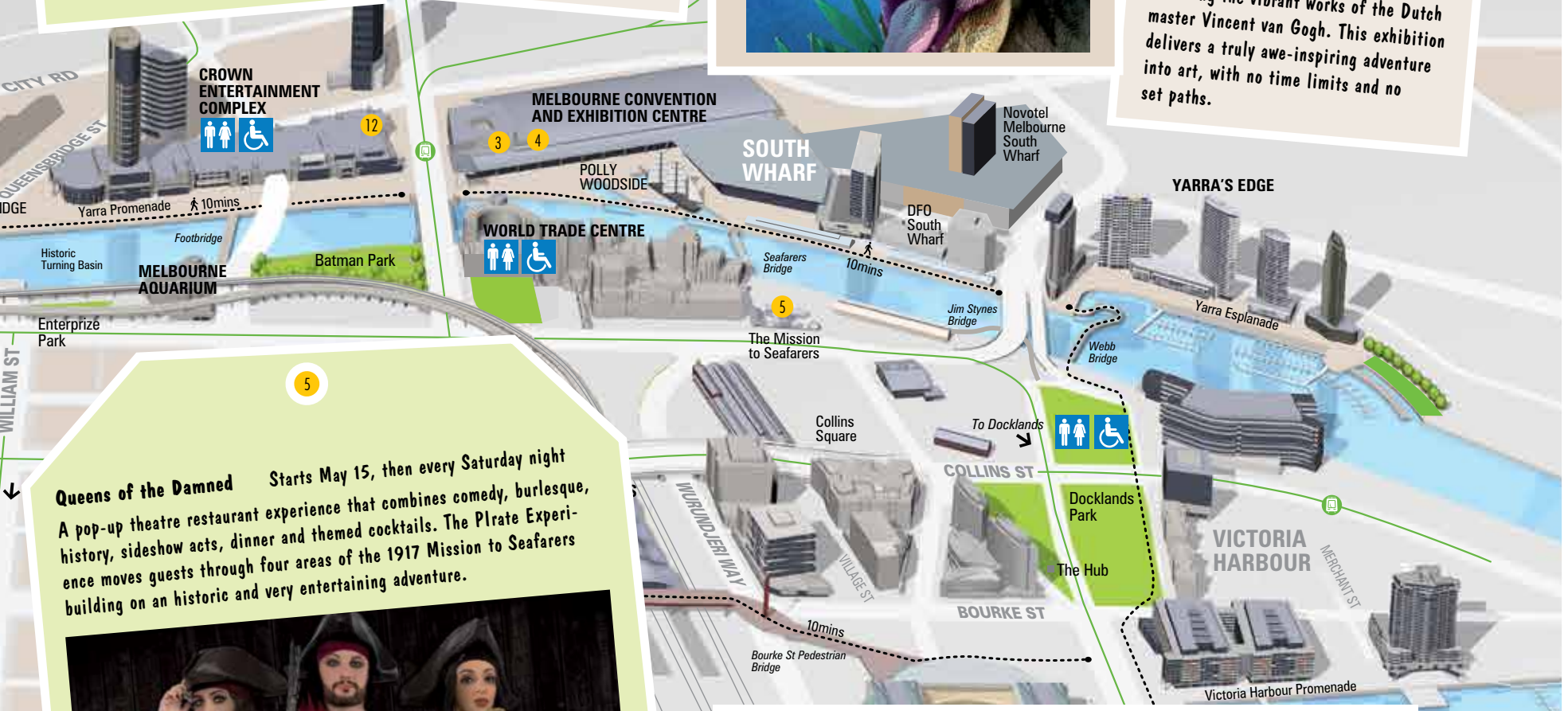
Jurassic World by Brickman April 1 – May 31

Inside the Melbourne Exhibition Centre, over 50 large-scale dinosaurs, props, scenes and activities made from over 6 million LEGO® bricks will leave explorers in awe as they embark on a thrilling journey through stories and characters from the Jurassic World franchise, from discovering Isla Nublar, to the science labs of the Park, petting zoo and even posing with dinosaurs both friendly and menacing.



THE LUME Melbourne
 Opens autumn 2021

An expansive 3,000 square metre, 11 metre high digital art gallery inside the Melbourne Exhibition Centre, featuring the vibrant works of the Dutch master Vincent van Gogh. This exhibition delivers a truly awe-inspiring adventure into art, with no time limits and no set paths.



Starts May 15, then every Saturday night
Queens of the Damned A pop-up theatre restaurant experience that combines comedy, burlesque, history, sideshow acts, dinner and themed cocktails. The Pirate Experience moves guests through four areas of the 1917 Mission to Seafarers building on an historic and very entertaining adventure.



May 14-16
The Magic of Cosentino The 'International Magician of the Year', Cosentino, brings his spectacular new live show "Anything is Possible" to The Palms at Crown, which includes death-defying escapes that will thrill your senses, mind boggling stage illusions and cutting-edge street magic that will twist your view of reality.



Melbourne influencer Sandi Sieger has been out and about in the Yarra River Precinct sampling our outdoor dining scene. Click on the QR code with your smartphone to take the foodie tour with her.

yarrariver.melbourne

Published by the Yarra River Business Association with funding from the State Government of Victoria and with support from the City of Melbourne. April 2021. Enquiries: exoff@yarrariver.melbourne



“Set yourself on fire”: new transgender Jesus musical sparks controversy

WORDS BY *Spencer Fowler Steen*
FEATURE

“The most controversial thing I’ve ever done”. That’s how creative producer and Southbank resident Ben Anderson describes his upcoming show titled *The Gospel According to Jesus, Queen of Heaven*.

From Facebook trolls telling him to set himself on fire, to people who have been inspired by the play to come out of the closet as HIV-positive, Mr Anderson has heard it all.

And while also juggling a second musical titled *Leather Lungs: Black Velvet*, Mr Anderson recently lost \$15,000 due to the cancellation of a show in Brisbane where COVID-19 made a comeback.

But while the play’s theme may be one of the most controversial things he has ever done, Mr Anderson claimed the play itself was not overly controversial.

“It’s a really respectful, and actually theologically sound and biblically accurate, but the difference is Jesus is transgender,” he said.

“I’d argue that it’s not offensive in any way shape or form.” Written by transgender playwright and performer Jo Clifford in 2009, *The Gospel According to Jesus* imagines Christianity’s message of love extending to embrace all those traditionally excluded because of their sexuality or gender.

The production features a choir of LGBTQI+ artists and will be performed at Theatre Works in t Kilda as part of Midsumma Festival with Kristen Smyth as Queen Jesus. But when Mr Anderson put ads on Facebook, the reception was vicious.

“The vile awful, comments people put out there are absolutely revolting,” he said.

“Ranging from people posting vomit faces, to comments saying, ‘cover yourself in petrol and set yourself on fire’”.

Off the back of a terrible year for people in the arts and entertainment industry – who often fell through the cracks of government coronavirus supports – Mr Anderson is glad to be producing two shows.

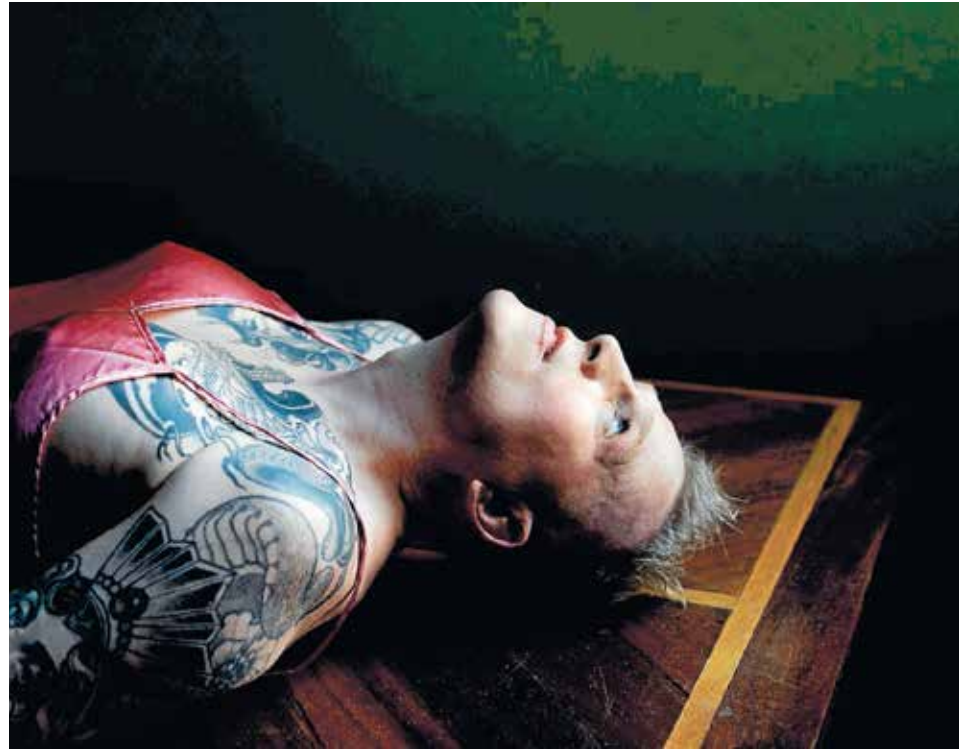
Black Velvet features international drag-cabaret superstar, Leather Lungs, who usually performs powerhouse anthems by Queen and Whitney Houston utilising his four-and-a-half octave vocal range – half an octave greater than Freddy Mercury, Mr Anderson said.

“The recital centre show is going to be a kind of an exploration of the softer side of Leather,” he said.

“It’s an exploration of the melancholy.”

And there has been plenty to be melancholic about for Mr Anderson.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr Anderson lost \$20,000 worth of work within a



week due to show cancellations.

Hailing from New Zealand, Mr Anderson told *Southbank News* that he lost his job, he was ineligible for the Australian Government’s JobSeeker payment, leaving him with no other option but to go home.

And as a consequence of the late-March outbreak of COVID-19 in Brisbane, his show titled *Escape from Trash Mountain* has been binned, leaving him \$15,000 out of pocket.

For Mr Anderson, it was a kick in the guts after the stark lack of appreciation and support for the arts throughout the pandemic.

“It’s a feeling that the government and society in general don’t appreciate what we do, or don’t have an understand of that,” he said.

“You feel like you’re struggling along, and you just want to throw in the towel and get out of the rent cycle and buy a house and get a boring job.”

“If we were to take away the arts all of sudden, I think people would find their lives hugely impacted.”

For Mr Anderson, the social impact of the shows he produces motivates him to keep going. Specifically, Mr Anderson remembers the feedback from Leather Lung’s first show this year.

“We got messages saying: ‘I really needed to see this show tonight, I’ve now decided to live a little longer’, and: ‘now I’ve seen the show, I’ve decide to come out to my parents as a HIV positive’”, Mr Anderson said.

“How can you not invest this time and money

with these sorts of outcomes?”

Although he recognised it was a cliché, Mr Anderson said even if one person came out of his shows having had their life impacted, he was happy.

“That’s what keeps me going when I’m stressing out,” he said.

“You just feel like you’re making the world a better place.”

The Gospel According to Jesus, Queen of Heaven is showing from April 20 to May 8, 2021 at Theatre Works, St Kilda.

Leather Lungs: Black Velvet is showing on Saturday, May 29 at 8pm at the Melbourne Recital Centre ●

“The recital centre show is going to be a kind of an exploration of the softer side of Leather. It’s an exploration of the melancholy.”



For more information:
theatreworks.org.au
melbournerecital.com.au



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JOURNALIST
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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**.

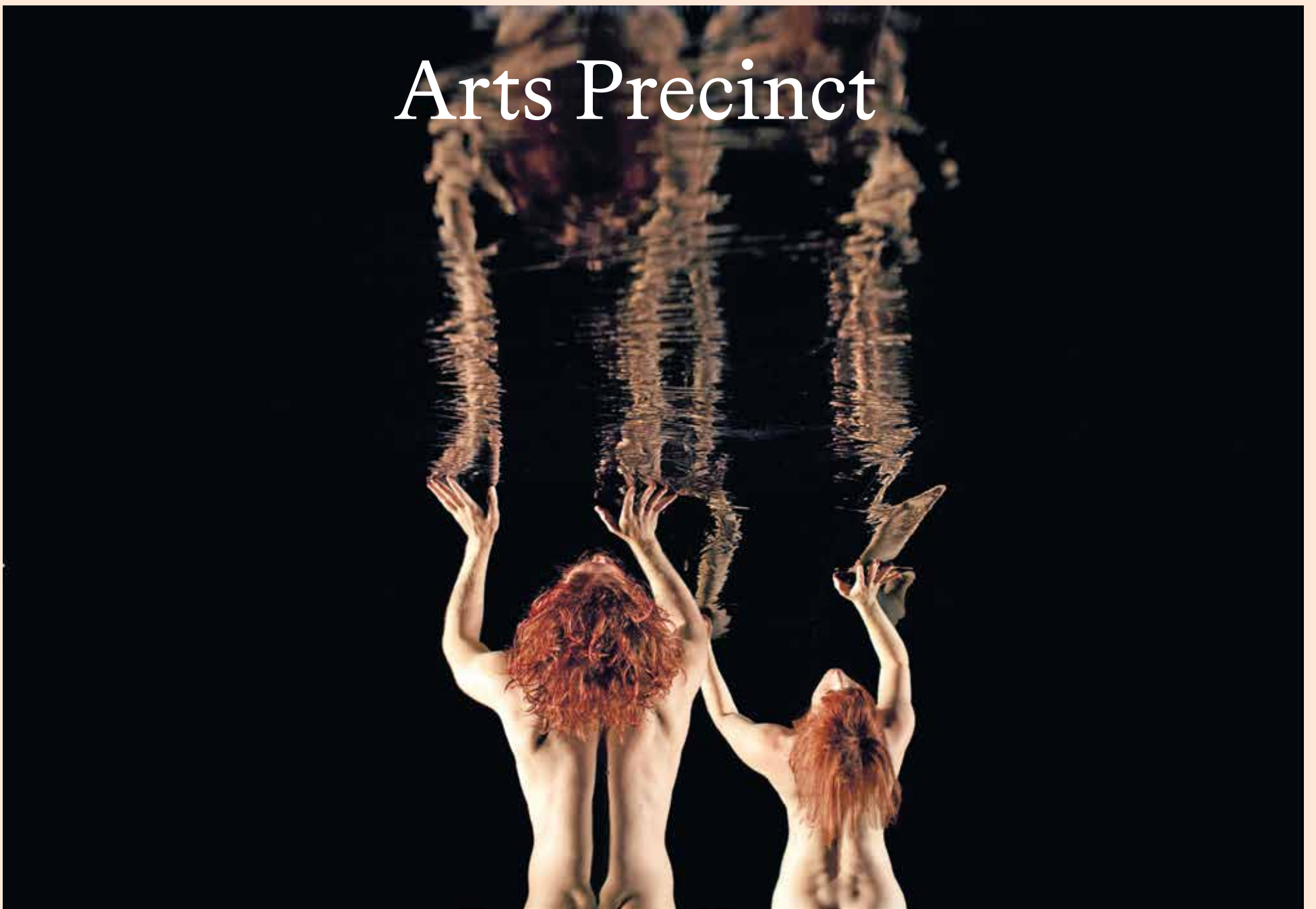
If you’re a local resident or business you can join up here:

www.facebook.com/groups/southbankcommunityhub/

f SOUTHBANK
Community Hub



Arts Precinct



Get ready for RISING

Various venues across Southbank's Arts Precinct have been selected to feature works as part of the debut of Victoria's newest cultural festival, RISING.

WORDS BY *Jack Alfonso*

Established by the state government and first revealed by *Southbank News* in March 2020, RISING is a major cultural event for the Asia Pacific region, and will attempt to boost tourism in the city and surrounding areas throughout winter.

It will take the place of the Melbourne International Arts Festival and White Night Melbourne and is set to become a landmark major event for Victoria.

"Our very first RISING festival celebrates the strength and resilience of Victoria's creative community, with local artists taking over our streets to bring us a cultural and creative immersion like no other as our city reawakens," Minister for Creative Industries Danny Pearson said last month.

Alongside more than 80 local artists, Pearson was joined by RISING co-artistic directors Hannah Fox and Gideon Obarzanek to launch the festival's first ever program, which will see more than 750 Victorian artists displaying their work across the city.

"We feel incredibly proud to be launching the inaugural RISING program," Ms Fox said. "Especially one that so strongly represents the collective creative energy of Melbourne and the culture and artists it's famous for."

Created by a diverse team of local, national and international artists and curators, the inaugural event will begin on May 26 at 5pm and finish on June 6, occurring across a range of sites in and surrounding Southbank, such



as Sidney Myer Music Bowl, NGV, Arts Centre Melbourne, Hamer Hall, Melbourne Recital Centre, Malthouse, Queensbridge Square and Birrarung Marr.

The program will include 133 events and projects, with 36 world premieres, and cultural events on display pertaining to art, performance, music, food experiences, and refashioning of



other iconic city spaces such as the Flinders Street Station Ballroom. The Yarra River/Birrarung will also feature heavily in the festival's program.

"For RISING, we wanted to showcase work specific to Melbourne that captures, celebrates and responds unambiguously to this place," Mr Obarzanek said.

Victorian artists, in collaboration with a diaspora of creative contemporaries, will produce highlight events such as:

- *The Rivers Sing* – a sonic artwork featuring the voices of First Peoples' voices and local artists ringing out at dusk and dawn each day of the festival.
- *A Miracle Constantly Repeated* – an immersive multi-sensory experience consuming the entire top floor of Flinders Street Station, including its ballroom and 15 adjacent and secret rooms.
- *Wandering Stars* – this will see a spectacular 200-metre-long, glowing eel, constructed from community-made lanterns, wind its way up the Birrarung.
- *The Wilds* – will transform the entire Sidney Myer Music Bowl into a supernatural forest of ice, art, music and moonlight.
- *Flow State* – further down the river groups will be ferried through darkness to the isolation of Herring Island, where alone on a deserted island in the middle of Melbourne, they'll partake in a sonic bathing experience that transcends space and time.
- A celebration of live music at the Comedy Theatre with special collaborations and one-off performances.
- A massive exhibition of video art, performance, installation and huge projections across Chinatown.

The launch of the festival's first ever program comes in addition to a \$17.2 million state government package announced in November last year to revitalise Southbank's Arts Precinct, and the \$100 million Melbourne City Recovery Fund between the City of Melbourne and the state government to boost Melbourne's economy after months of severe restrictions last year.

RISING, a late-night "lunar eclipse" festival, is family friendly and provides a series of free and low-cost experiences for families to enjoy, such as *Wandering Stars* and *The Wilds*.

With the program coinciding with National Reconciliation Week, RISING intends to "work closely" with First Peoples artists to "develop programming and experiences that amplify the themes and intentions of Reconciliation Week during the festival" •

For more information:
rising.melbourne/festival-program



Family friendly fun at the Melbourne Recital Centre

WORDS BY *Jack Alfonso*

Families will be provided with the chance to enjoy some of Australia's favourite entertainers at the Melbourne Recital Centre (MRC) during the Music Play Family Festival.

Taking place across the school holidays on April 12 and 13, families can enjoy new ways to learn, listen, play and discover music together while witnessing acts such as Peter Combe, Teeny Tiny Stevies, All Day Fritz, Declan the Music Man and Song Play all scheduled to perform across the festival.

The MRC's director of programming Marshall McGuire said 2021 was a time to "come together and have some musical fun".

"Music Play in April is the perfect time to come together as a family to enjoy concerts, adventures and outdoor fun, featuring some of Australia's best-loved performers, including the adored Peter Combe, and Melbourne's own Teeny Tiny Stevies," he said.

Comprising of sisters Byll and Beth Stephen, Teeny Tiny Stevies is exemplifying how adults can still feel an attraction to kids' music, with their "don't be annoying" songwriting philosophy propelling them to millions of online clicks and sold-out gigs.

Byll told *The Age* that they were "taking [kids'] challenges seriously" but the focus was not explicitly directed towards kids' entertainment. "Always [on] our mind, as well, is that parents and carers are going to listen to this over and over and over again," she said. "When you can pop a joke in that's not going to be annoying, too, pop something in there that makes them have a little giggle."

Additionally, well-known and much-loved children's entertainer Peter Combe will be providing a musical trip down memory lane on April 12, with an intergenerational experience in conjunction with backup singers The Fabulous Combettes. The immersive Music Play will take over the entirety of MRC, offering a musical playground for kids and families to engage their imaginations during the April school holidays.

"We hope you'll join us for our autumn celebration of music and adventure, for all ages," Marshall McGuire said.

The festival takes place from 9am on both April 12 and 13 at the MRC, with tickets going for \$10 ●

melbournerecital.com.au/musicplay2021



NGV opens new Australian Impressionism exhibition

The National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) has just opened a large-scale exhibition celebrating the revolutionary Australian Impressionism movement of the 19th Century.

She-Oak and Sunlight: Australian Impressionism features 270 artworks drawn from major public and private collections, including the work of famous artists such as Tom Roberts, Frederick McCubbin and Jane Sutherland.

NGV Director Tony Ellwood said the exhibition explored the impact of personal relationships, international influences and the importance of place on the trajectory of the movement.

"*She-Oak and Sunlight* draws on the rich legacy established by the NGV's previous Australian Impressionism exhibitions, as well as proffering new research and discoveries that have only recently come to light," Mr Ellwood said.

"The exhibition will address the truly revolutionary nature of the movement, as well as the social and cultural contexts that defined this period of rapid change and transformation in Australian art history."

Curated by Dr Anne Gray with the NGV Australian Art Department, the exhibition includes highlights such as Tom Roberts' iconic *Shearing the rams*, 1890, which depicts sheep shearers plying their trade in a timber shearing shed.

Other important works featured include Clara Southern's *An old bee farm, Warrandyte* c.1900, a nostalgic vision of the landscape, painted in a soft palette of twilight tones.

After efforts to collect the work of women artists from the period, the exhibition will also introduce audiences to important new works by May Vale, Jane Price and Ina Gregory.



For fans of international art, *She-Oak and Sunlight* juxtaposes the work of Australian artists with the work of Claude Monet, Alfred Sisely and others to highlight the broader global context of the movement.

But keeping the national focus, the exhibition will highlight the many forms of Impressionism in Australia, including painting the landscape outdoors and the rich legacy of the artists camps at Heidelberg.

She-Oak and Sunlight: Australian Impressionism will run from April 2 to August 22, 2021 at The Ian Potter Centre ●

For more information, visit ngv.vic.gov.au/exhibition/she-oak-and-sunlight

CRITIC

Are we still ugly?

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*

The Art Book Fair was held at the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) last month with a feature wall in the Great Hall dedicated to advertising the fair's return to the arts calendar.

Those who turned up expecting stands of art books by small publishers might have been disappointed.

The fair was decentralised this year because of the pandemic with just one stand at the NGV.

Luckily one of the NGV's own publications had just been released, a critical appraisal of *The Australian Ugliness*, in itself a critical appraisal of architecture and design in 1960.

In this latest iteration titled *After The Australian Ugliness*, various writers, architects and academics assess the legacy of the original book by Robin Boyd and rethink his stinging attack on Australia's built form.

The book is actually older than the NGV building and it is still in print, so it is considered to be something of a classic.

Boyd's main argument in 1960 was that Australians were too addicted to "featurism", a word he invented to describe tack-on "here I am" parts to buildings that dominated the overall integrity of the design.

The early Moderns wanted "honesty" in expression of functions, "truth" in construction and "integrity" in the whole and so did Boyd.

The houses he designed in Melbourne are still treasured. One had no spouting, the water

running directly off the roof to water the native garden.

The book follows a similar high-minded principle, ranging as it does from an analysis of the awful behaviour of authorities during the building of Canberra, through the unnecessary addition of masonry pillars to the Sydney Harbour Bridge to the Americanisation of our built form.

Old controversies are not necessarily that interesting to contemporary readers, as many critics in this new study have pointed out, and even though the original book was aimed at the general public, most were too busy enjoying the pleasures of their half-acre blocks in the 1960s to worry about principles of design.

One clever piece by Naomi Stead reads the original text as an attack on what would be called Bogan culture and which would be lovingly embraced by a different medium 40 years later – the comedy series *Kath and Kim*.

Her point is that Boyd, who emulated English architectural criticism down to the inclusions of satirical drawings, was buying into a class issue.

Bogans, as represented by *Kath and Kim*, flaunt their tack-on features in a way that has been absorbed into the culture, she claims. A feature wall is a talking point as is a front lawn and garden ornaments.

Boyd's criticism bought into the cultural cringe. It is fair to say that in the '60s we did feel ugly and were perhaps more susceptible to criticism but not any more.

One American writer makes the point that



▲ *After The Australian Ugliness*, edited by Naomi Stead, Tom Lee, Ewan McEoin and Megan Patty, NGV/Thames & Hudson, 2021.

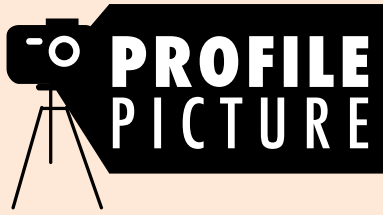
Boyd's idea of "Austerica" (the emulation of all things American) is no longer relevant. He says that many of the best architectural ideas are coming from our more protected island.

The first edition of *The Australian Ugliness* was released with the title "NGV education officer" under the author's name and the style is rather staid. There is too much information and repetition for today's reader.

Boyd was mounting an argument in favour of

architects and he wanted to be thorough. The profession was often dismissed in the bad old days by vested interests in the government and construction industry.

It's hoped that the competition for the new NGV gallery in the Arts Precinct will support architectural vision rather than stymie its practice but if the precinct is anything to go by, decorative elements and features are still very much a part of the landscape ●



ELLI BARDAS



From mask-wearing, to the sensory deprivation of being confined to your house, Ms Bardas chose to explore the physical, mental and spiritual boundaries that Melbourne's lockdown created.

Ms Bardas said her latest portraits were inspired by the will power it took to cope with COVID restrictions.

"2020 was a hard year in my house, so photography provided a creative outlet that allowed me to keep my sanity," Ms Bardas said.

"Portraits were a great medium because I enjoy creating an image that says something about who the person is or hopefully creating questions about who they really are."

Ms Bardas is currently exhibiting three portraits at Wolfhound Gallery in Fitzroy, two of which are three dimensional.

The works were created using the Wunder Gym program, which provided monthly artistic prompts from mentors.

Ms Bardas said the prompt about masks inspired her to create a three-dimensional piece using feathers to explore how we feel about our bodies.

"My contention was that, what if our body is a mask that hides who we really are? We have bodies but we are not our bodies," Ms Bardas said.

"So, what do we find when we look deeper than the fleshy surface?"

Ms Bardas graduated in 2018 with a Bachelor degree at PSC, which she said was a great avenue to connect with other artists.

"I got into photography because I liked taking photos and I knew I was as good as I was going to get without taking a class, so I signed up for a 20-week course at PSC," Ms Bardas said.

"It's great because you're being taught by actual photographers with different specialties, and now I have a community of artist friends who support each other."

Ms Bardas's work will be displayed on Brunswick St for the next three weeks •

The light at the end of lockdown

Following a difficult 2020, Photography Studies College (PSC) graduate Elli Bardas decided to celebrate the resilience of the human spirit through her colourful, three-dimensional portraits.

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*



To see more of her work, visit [instagram.com/ellibardas](https://www.instagram.com/ellibardas)



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SOUTHBANKER

When love runs from Southbank to Chile

WORDS BY *Jess Carrascalao Heard*

It was early on a mid-March morning when Paula Rossi jumped on to the Southbank Community Hub on Facebook, asking her fellow Southbankers for some last-minute wedding help.

She and her wife Macarena Cuevas, who both hail from Chile, were due to be married at Albert Park in just over a week but they were short of a few decorations.

Another Southbank local came with the goods, with some white tablecloths for the grazing table, rainbow bunting to help give the ceremony an LGBTQI+ touch, and some shot glasses.

But what really surprised Paula was the congratulations she received on the post from total strangers, which perhaps held more significance for the couple than the well-wishers realised.

“People were saying, like, “Congratulations!” Like, wow! And it’s also good, you know, because in Chile – and this is important for us – we are not allowed to get married. So, we have to be overseas to get these legal rights,” she said.

Ms Rossi has lived in Melbourne for around three years and though she has worked in Southbank for a couple of years now, it wasn’t until after COVID that she moved into the

suburb.

She said she loved the amenities, the shops, the library, and the extensive coffee options, as well as the people who lived in the area.

But what she loves most is the easy connectivity to the suburbs.

“I have some clients in Cheltenham or Bentleigh, so it’s easy to get there, and I do some sports in Brunswick ... every drive is like 15 minutes to everywhere,” she said.

Sport is how she met Ms Cuevas, with the pair playing futsal at Albert Park.

They both smile when they talk about this: the distance between their hometowns in Chile can be travelled in just an hour and a half, but they met on the other side of the world.

The newlyweds both now work at the same wellness centre on Clarendon St.

Their wedding, which took place at Albert Park in late March, was an all-in affair, with friends – their family away from home – diving in and participating in all aspects of the day.

With the legal side of the marriage taken care of quickly and privately in the morning, they had a big event in the afternoon, with a holistic therapist running proceedings.

Ms Cuevas said it was the afternoon event, with the love, connection and spirituality, that was most important to them.

Congratulations and support from the locals



▲ Newlyweds Macarena Cuevas and Paula Rossi received love locally and from across the world.

online before the event was a welcome surprise.

But it was the congratulations from an unexpected quarter back home that really took the couple by surprise.

Ms Rossi said when she posted about the wedding on social media after the big day, she received hundreds of comments from her former school mates, many of whom came from a conservative background.

She said, “Why were these people, from school 20 years ago, writing to me like, ‘Congratulations! I’m so happy for you?’ And

then like, one, then another then another ... it was great!”

Ms Rossi said she was shocked, but ultimately found it encouraging, as it signalled to her that perhaps the legalisation of same-sex marriage in Chile might not be so far away.

For the couple, it hammered home the fact that getting married here and being public about it was important not just for themselves, but for the community back home.

“You have to face your fears to your social people back in your country,” Ms Rossi said ●

ABORIGINAL MELBOURNE



Road trains and paintings: Indigenous artist Cameron Benson launches first exhibition

For indigenous artist Cameron Benson, driving trucks and painting are two things he does well. Instead of mindlessly scrolling through his Facebook feed on breaks between Geelong and Melbourne, Mr Benson uses his time to paint.

WORDS BY *Spencer Fowler Steen*

And now, after years of roadside painting, Mr Benson has launched his first ever exhibition titled *Let The Light Shine* showcasing 17 contemporary indigenous Australian animals at the Koori Heritage Trust at Federation Square.

Mr Benson said he was incredibly excited. “There’s 17 paintings, all different Australian animals; a kookaburra, a wombat, fighting kangaroos, a couple of turtles and a few other ones including some yabbies,” he said.

“It’s a contemporary style, it probably looks Aboriginal. But mine don’t have stories or cultural significance.”

Mr Benson used to live in Horsham where he painted T-shirts and other nick-knacks.

But four years ago, after finding painting T-shirts was no longer viable, he packed up and left to Geelong to seek a better market for his artwork.

Mr Benson began refining his style using different tools to paint on canvas while driving trucks between Geelong and Melbourne, where he would often stop en route at service stations for a break and a scroll through his social media feed.

But something about it didn’t gel with his desire for efficiency.

“I thought I better get something done,” Mr Benson said.

“Now, I do most of my work in my truck when I’m on a break. I’ve got a tray, I’ve got liquid paints, and when I get a chance, I get them out.”

“I have a stretched canvas in the back – it’s better than sitting on Facebook all day.”

When it comes to his artistic process, Mr Benson often draws inspiration for his outlines from photographs.

On a recent trip to Tasmania with his wife, Mr Benson snapped a few photos of a Tasmanian

devil, which he used to sketch out the outline for one of the paintings in his exhibition.

But Mr Benson’s true inspiration comes from above.

“I believe I get inspiration from God – he gave me creative ability and I’d go give him the glory for the artwork I do,” Mr Benson said.

“That’s why I called it [the exhibition] *Let The Light Shine*.”

Mr Benson said the title came from scripture, Matthew 5:16.

Let The Light Shine will be showing from March 13 to May 23 at the Koorie Heritage Trust in the Yarra Building at Federation Square. Tickets are free ●

For more information:
korieheritagetrust.com.au

A big problem requires even bigger solutions



Welcome to the eighth 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 MP Fiona Patten, Leader of the Reason Party, Member for Northern Metropolitan, chair of the Legal and Social Issues Committee and chair of the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into Homelessness, to share her thoughts around why the objective around housing all Australians, and in particular some of the key recommendations of the Parliamentary Inquiry, and why solving homelessness should be considered an economic imperative for Australia ...

In the first week of March, I had the great privilege of tabling the report of the Inquiry into Homelessness by the Victorian Parliaments Legal and Social Issues Committee, on which I also serve as chair.

Unsurprisingly the final document is a weighty one, given the groaning weight of the issue on our community. Homelessness is seen as the deepest expression of social exclusion in our society, a growing and seemingly intractable problem. But we cannot, and we must not, ever give up on our attempts at ending it.

We began the inquiry before the devastating 2019/2020 bushfires in Victoria and prior to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Homelessness was already a challenge for so many in Victoria, and these events exacerbated these difficulties for both those experiencing homelessness and those providing homelessness support. Measures put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in the CBD of Melbourne, saw many people previously sleeping rough placed in emergency accommodation, with plans for this to transition into long-term housing.

Those who live within the city area, like me, were heartened to see that something slightly good had come from the pandemic lockdowns. It showed that with sufficient will on the part of the Victorian Government, it is possible to end homelessness for many people experiencing it. Whether that will remain the case is yet to be seen, but surely through this experience, we can see that there is a light at the end of the tunnel for so many and we can help get them there.

The Victorian Government's landmark Big Housing Build, which will see 9300 new social housing dwellings built, about a 10 per cent increase in Victoria's social housing stock, was announced towards the end of our Inquiry. Welcomed yes, but despite the unprecedented size of the program, this will actually still not

ensure that Victoria will meet the national average of social housing as a percentage of total dwellings, at 4.5 per cent. In order to increase long-term housing options, the Government needs to look at, among other measures, implementing mandatory inclusionary zoning in all new major housing developments across the state.

Another crucial part of our approach to homelessness should be to intervene early in order to prevent homelessness before it occurs. Whenever I have looked in depth at disadvantage in our society it has been evident that this can get to the very cause of disadvantage and turn people's lives around. As well as being a social issue, this is also an economic issue as the long-term cost and implications to society of not preventing homelessness will be larger than the investment to migrate that cost.

This means identifying those at risk of homelessness and stepping in to provide support before they reach a crisis point. It also means a focus on education. There are many skilled and passionate people in the homelessness sector who have the capacity to do this crucial work and who should be supported to do so. Government should prioritise implementing diverse, forward-thinking early intervention strategies.

Often there is a tragic transition from institutional settings into homelessness including health, mental health, care and custodial settings. Too often, people at risk of homelessness are discharged or released into the community without sufficient planning or support to find and keep accommodation. Without a home, these individuals may soon end up back in hospital or in the justice system. For those leaving incarceration, being released into homelessness inhibits their chances at successful re-integration into the community.

Currently in Victoria, we have a homelessness sector that is overwhelmed with the need to respond to people in crisis.

I have urged the Government to implement the recommendations made in the Homelessness Inquiry report. We can develop a more adaptable and flexible system of support so that the sector can focus more on early intervention rather than crisis responses.

I hope you found the above perspective by Fiona interesting and insightful. While what was said may not align with our 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: info@housingallaustralians.com.au ●



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COUNCILLOR PROFILE

Driven by diversity

First-term City of Melbourne councillor Jason Chang said he was driven onto the council by a desperate need to give a greater voice to the city's Asian community.

The 35-year-old, who owns the prominent Calia Emporium on Lonsdale St, said that while the pandemic had been challenging for all of Melbourne, it had too often been compounded by vitriol and racism towards the Asian community.

As a proud born and bred Melburnian, Cr Chang told *Southbank News* that the treatment he had often personally received just by walking the streets at times had been particularly difficult to endure given his love for his city.

His family's journey in Melbourne is yet another success story for multiculturalism. Having migrated to Australia via Fiji in the 1960s, his father, who passed away when Jason was just 12 years old, made his living as a fruit and veg trader at the Queen Victoria Market, while his mother has worked at the Ear and Eye Hospital in East Melbourne for 35 years. His family also originally ran grocery stores in Chinatown, as well as a Chinese restaurant on Acland St in St Kilda where Jason was first exposed to small business in the city.

Now a new father himself and the owner of five Calia "restaurant-to-retail" businesses located at Emporium, Chadstone, Kuala Lumpur and soon Jakarta, the addition of City of Melbourne councillor is sure to set a new standard in juggling!

But as a passionate Melburnian and member of the Asian community, he said he wasn't motivated by politics but only a desire to represent

the community and restore values of multiculturalism and equality back in the city after COVID.

"My dad and my mum taught me to give back to the community," he said. "The pandemic has shaped us all in what we can do to give back and that's the focus of what I want to do for four years on council."

"I see the suffering that the Asian community is going through right now. A lot come to me and tell me that there are so many issues, some business owners tell me their staff have been pushed to the ground just for being Asian and they come to work upset and crying."

"Unfortunately, some people are blaming us for the virus right now but it's not right. The City of Melbourne is more than 30 per cent Asian. It's a great thing to celebrate multiculturalism here in the city and that's what we're made of. People forget that sometimes."

"The pandemic pushed me to run for election because small business owners, a lot of them are immigrants who have invested their life savings and spent all their money to open a business to give their kids a better life and for these four years. I want to do my best to represent them. I want to show the community that all immigrants, not just Asians, have contributed greatly. I want to give them some hope."

Having been elected via former Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood's ticket at last year's local government elections, Cr Chang is one of six new faces on the council alongside Crs Jamal Hakim, Elizabeth Doidge, Davydd Griffiths, Roshena Campbell and Olivia Ball.

He said that while he was still very much "learning the ropes", the new council was a "young" and "refreshing" team of individuals. Echoing the words of Cr Hakim in February's *Councillor Profile*, "soft on people, hard on issues" is the approach Cr Chang said was shared among his colleagues.



And another issue he was personally passionate about in addition to helping the city's small businesses and night-time economy was the gaping hole left in the city by international students.

During the height of last year's second wave of coronavirus in Victoria, his business at Emporium, which employed more than 100 staff, had supported many students through employment, as well as outreach with groceries, masks and sanitiser.

But underpinning all of it, he said it was time for equal representation of migrant communities and businesses in the city and he would be "giving a voice" to the new generation of residents, students and start-ups.

"The Asian community is known as the 'model minority'," he said.

"The issue that I found as an Asian business is that we don't get the publicity of a lot of Caucasian businesses. The election sort of helped me get more profile for the community

and for Asian business owners as well and I think that was the most important thing for me was to provide that hope and confidence."

"Speaking to a lot of small business owners last year they just didn't know what to do and a lot were closing. A lot were depressed, even contemplating suicide. You think 'how can I help them?' because they couldn't make ends meet."

"I've got four years and I'm happy to do one term and represent the community to the best of my ability. I've got four years to do what I can." ●



Sean Car

EDITOR

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SOUTHBANK SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

It's all about community, community, community

We are in full force with community events again, making everyday environmental solutions accessible while we build our neighbourhood's sense of community even more.

Community is at the heart of so much of what we've been working on and of what's planned for this month. With another very successful planting day event behind us and many more, like Melbourne Knowledge Week and a DIY Green Cleaning workshop, coming up.

Southbank Seedling Planting Day

On March 20, we had our second round of community planting, where about 50 Southbankers came together to replant in the community garden the winter veggie seedlings returned from seeds. We even met a couple of soon-to-be Southbankers, who told us how they loved the sense of community we create there and the role it's playing in choosing to buy their next home here in Southbank. Coordinating so many people to plant in specified garden beds following companion planting principles all while having a good time took some coordination and organising as one can imagine! A very smooth-running event with many happy faces spread across the garden was only made possible by the hard work of our education events and communications champions team, plus our volunteers behind the scenes and on the day. A big thank you goes out to them.

Communities across the city coming together

A few days later, we got to expand our sense of community by meeting another group similar to ours in Kensington. A couple SSG members visited the Kensington Community Composting Hub and met the people behind this award-winning community project aiming to reduce waste in urban areas, while reducing the carbon footprint of the whole process. We were warmly greeted and walked through the composting hub, open-handedly sharing knowledge and resources to help with our own upcoming community composting hub. We thank Jacqui and the team behind this wonderful project for their great work and open-hearted welcoming while we work in opposite ends of our city to improve our collective environmental footprint.

City of Melbourne 10-year Community Vision

A few of our members participated in a City of Melbourne planning workshop recently, one which will play a big part in determining our council's focus on issues and priorities both across the community and our city in general. Representing Southbank, voicing our neighbourhood's priorities and concerns, we made sure there was a strong presence across a few workshop tables where input was collected and that our needs have been included in council's guiding plan for the next 10 years. The final plan should go before the council soon before it's put into effect.

Reusable goodies

On Saturday, April 10 at 11am we're back with our regular group meetups! We'll have a wonderful Southbanker doing exceptional work in reducing our environmental impact as a guest star, Filomena.

Filomena, determined to do her part in improving the state of our plastic waste, came up with her own solution. She spent last year's lockdown sewing produce bags made out of repurposed sheets and fabrics from op shops. She will be giving around 200 of them away for free to Southbankers during our meetup, so you never need to use another single-use plastic produce bag again. Come find us at the Boyd front garden to meet Filomena, hear her story and get some bags.

DIY Green Cleaning workshop

On Saturday, April 17 at 10:30am, we're hosting a free DIY Green Cleaning workshop for the community, with well-known expert Doris Pozzi. Using common household ingredients, participants will learn how to make their own eco-safe, zero waste home cleaning supplies (from laundry detergent to general cleaning) that are better for our health, waterways, the environment and wallets. Hosted at Boyd's Assembly Hall room, we know this is an event many of you have been looking forward to for a while. Make sure you register your seat as soon as possible at [diy-green-cleaning.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)



Melbourne Knowledge Week 2021

Our group was picked out of hundreds of applicants to be a part of our city's esteemed upcoming Melbourne Knowledge Week (MKW). During the week of April 26 to May 2, we will be hosting self-guided and guided events, sharing our recipe for success with people from across the city by encouraging them to start a community or projects like ours anywhere and making climate action feel fun and manageable in the process. During the self-guided interactive tour running all week, the garden will share its secrets and stories of challenges and wins with its participants. Our group will be similarly sharing our four years of learnings from bringing a community together to face climate change in a different way, with two guided weekend tours. One on May 1 at 10am and another on May 2 at 3pm. Check the MKW21 website for more information and the full lineup of great sustainability events.

Next meetups

Our next meetups will be Saturdays April 10 and April 24 at 10am. Look out for the registration link on our Facebook page or email updates. As always, we welcome everyone regardless of sustainability or gardening skills and experience.

About the group

A solutions-focused group of Southbankers working to bring positive change in sustainability practices and education to our neighbourhood, while building a wonderful community of like-minded people. Free to join. 2019 Environment Melbourne Award & KVB 2020 Sustainable Cities Environment Award winner ●



Reach us at:

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



Artemis Pattichi
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METRO TUNNEL

Metro Tunnel comes to life for kids these school holidays

Head to the Melbourne Museum these school holidays for a chance to see the amazing inner workings of the Metro Tunnel Project's massive tunnel boring machines.

An interactive display will give visitors an insight into the complexities of construction for Melbourne's biggest ever public transport infrastructure project.

The display consists of infographics detailing each component and process of the tunnel boring machine, from the pipes that collect the crushed rocks and soil from the cutter head to the complex electrical systems.

Children will also be encouraged to create and colour in their own cardboard Metro Tunnel segment, which will then be joined to create a replica tunnel on the museum wall.

A "Mega Machines" video display will feature more of the enormous machines currently hard at work underneath Melbourne's CBD to build the Metro Tunnel.



Families are encouraged to drop by and explore the display, with free entry for under-16s and Seniors Card holders.

The display runs until Sunday April 18, at Melbourne Museum on Nicholson St, Carlton, between 11am and 3pm daily.

For more information:
[metrotunnel.vic.gov.au](https://www.metrotunnel.vic.gov.au)



Meanwhile, the real tunnel boring machines (TBMs) are making impressive progress on the project, with more than 85 per cent of tunnelling now complete.

All four TBMs are now digging their final leg

towards the Town Hall Station site, with tunnelling expected to finish in coming months to complete the project's twin 9-kilometre-long, 6.3-metre-high rail tunnels from Kensington, under the Melbourne CBD, to South Yarra ●

New research provides insight on the effects of flammable cladding on owners' wellbeing

Researchers at the School of Property, Construction and Project Management at RMIT University have published a new study on the links between combustible cladding and the effects on homeowners' wellbeing.

David Oswald, Trivess Moore and Simon Lockrey conducted an insightful series of interviews with owners living with cladding issues in Australia.

Some homeowners displayed long-term negative emotions and others spent significant time dealing with the cladding issues without accomplishment. Their liveability suffered with changes including making cost-saving decisions on entertainment and holidays, delaying retirement and emerging social tensions with other residents. These lived experience insights highlight the need for improved government support and housing quality policy which considers occupant health and wellbeing both in dealing with the current flammable cladding crisis but also in preparation for future housing quality issues which may emerge in the future.

In the case of flammable cladding, it is often unclear who caused the defect and who should bear the cost of cladding rectification. For example, the Lacrosse high-rise cladding fire in Docklands demonstrated this complexity involved in attributing accountability for building quality issues. A five-year legal battle, found a combination of the architect, fire engineer, building surveyor and builder liable, and they were ordered to pay \$5 million in compensation. However, this has not set a precedent for other similarly impacted buildings in Melbourne and elsewhere around Australia. In the Lacrosse case, there was debate around whether the cladding was a "defect" or not because the product used was not a banned product at the time. For other buildings, it is unclear in many cases where in the construction supply chain and regulatory systems, the accountability for non-compliance should lie. For instances, in some projects the builder or the developer or the architect, or the surveyor, or an engineer might specify the product to use for cladding on the façade.

Without clarity on who is accountable for the flammable cladding, there is refusal from those in the building industry to return and fix the problem without payment, and therefore the costs for rectification are being largely pushed onto unit owners, or the matters are being litigated through the courts.

Many of the homeowners first experienced shock when finding out about the flammable cladding on their buildings. They assumed that given the apartments were built recently they would not have serious quality issues or defects.

Regarding financial security, investors expressed financial concerns that was causing mental stress surrounding the uncertainty of their investment. Owner-occupiers also expressed these concerns, and further revealed impacts from the ongoing day-to-day living in a building affected with flammable cladding. Some of those in higher risk buildings felt unsafe in their own properties but others were mostly concerned about the financial implications.

In other cases, the stress of the situation had exacerbated underlying mental health issues, such as anxiety and depression. It was clear that both owner-occupier and investors expressed feelings of stress, anger, anxiety, frustration, and disappointment in the industry and government, following the emergence of the flammable cladding issue. The potential future rectification costs were influencing participant's lives and changing both their short and longer-term financial capacities. The estimated building rectification costs ranged from \$30,000 to \$12 million. Typically, this cost has to be shared across all units within a multi-occupancy building as a special levy.

Longer term plans such as being able to retire from the workforce were also being put on hold. Across both the investors and owner-occupiers there was also concern about the impact on the value of their properties.

The university researchers concluded that policy makers must consider these broader wellbeing impacts as packages of support are put together for homeowners, and ensure all impacted homeowners are included in any policy development or support approaches. There have been a range of breakdowns across policy, governance and practice which has led to this flammable cladding crisis.

The current warranties and policies are restricted through an economic lens on the cost of the defect and attributing that cost to those responsible for defect. The results from this study demonstrate that a more comprehensive policy approach is required that can respond to such large-scale defects with significantly higher levels of customer service throughout the entire process ●



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ST JOHNS SOUTHGATE

Remember me

Last month, titan of the Australian music industry, Michael Gudinski, was farewelled at a star-studded State Memorial at Rod Laver Arena. From all accounts it was a joyous and moving occasion.

He was remembered as an entrepreneur, true music-man, and all-round great guy. His memory will no doubt live on.

Do you want to be remembered? To be honest, I'm not particularly interested in being remembered myself, I'd be quite happy to shuffle off this mortal coil when it's my time and be forgotten soon thereafter. But I gather that living on in the hearts and minds of others is a fairly common desire. It has even been immortalised in Shakespearean verse with the ghost of Hamlet's father pleading for his son to hold his spirit close with the words, "Adieu, adieu, remember me". In a more recent work of art, the makers of the film *Life in a Day 2020* – a compilation of life-snapshots from around the

world – included a contribution from a man living an incredibly isolated life in rural Siberia. This man admitted that his motivation for being in the film was his fear that his life would pass unnoticed. He wanted to be remembered.

We've just come through the Easter long weekend, which begins, of course, with Good Friday – the day on which Christians bring to mind the death of Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified just outside of Jerusalem. The scriptures say that at his execution, as Jesus hung on his cross, he had on either side of him the company of two criminals, also having their sentence of death carried out in that slow and agonising way. One of those cross-companions of Jesus somehow recognised Jesus' righteousness

and divinity, and so pleaded with him, saying, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom". He also wanted to be remembered.

The thing about remembrance is that it can be more than just the thinking of warm and fuzzy thoughts. Remembrance, although perhaps not etymologically, can truly be a verb – a doing word. The ghost of Hamlet's father was not asking Hamlet to cuddle up with a warm cup of hot chocolate and look at pictures of his dear old dad with a smile on his face and a tear running down his cheek. No, the request, "remember me" was a call to honour him by seeking revenge for his most unnatural murder! In a similar, and yet totally different way, the cross-hanging-criminal's request of Jesus gave voice to the man's desire for salvation from violence, pain, suffering and death.

Jesus made a promise from that cross, and he kept it. He did remember him. "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise," Jesus said. The Christian gospel expresses that Jesus may have died on the cross, but that on

Easter he rose from the dead, coming into that kingdom the criminal next to him had alluded to. In doing so, Jesus changed what it can mean for us to be remembered in death. We don't have to resign ourselves to only being filed away in the memory banks of the family and friends that survive us. In Christ, the remembrance is done in us. That which is remembered itself continues on. We live on in paradise with Jesus! That's, ultimately, how I hope to be remembered. You can be remembered that way too ●



Tom Hoffmann

TOM HOFFMANN IS THE PASTOR AT ST JOHNS SOUTHGATE CHURCH.

STJOHNSOUTHGATE.COM.AU



St Johns
Southgate

Sunday 25 April

10am Festival Service with Bach cantata

Lobe den Herren, den mächtigen König der Ehren (BWV137)
for 4 soloists, chorus, strings, 2 oboes, 3 trumpets, timpani and continuo
St Johns Bach Choir and Orchestra
directed by Graham Lieschke
See website for booking details

Every Sunday

10am In-person worship

See website for booking details

Video Sermons

available on St Johns Southgate YouTube channel

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



VICTORIA AND JAMES

House of Cards Espresso in the Southbank Boyd Library. They are really friendly and I also like the whole vibe they present. They also stayed open during the lockdown.



JUDY

Soho – I come here often with my friends, I like this place because we can sit in the sun and enjoy the lovely cuisine. A great place to enjoy good food, wine and company on a sunny day in Melbourne.



BEN AND EMILY

Melbourne Street EatZ – a cool little popup festival. I love any excuse to get out of the house and support local business. It is a great location along the river, lovely food and drinks ... oh and it's free entry!



LAUREN WITH ELIZA AND LEXI

Dolce Gelateria on South Wharf. It's a great place to stop over with kids for an ice cream with great customer service. The kids love it; they get to choose and have a taste test.

Faces of Southbank

Question: Which local business would you like to promote?

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Southbank Sudoku

Last month's Sudoku solution

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

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

HISTORY

Brooklands Accessories

By the end of the 1930s, traffic on the streets of Melbourne had been transformed as horse-drawn traffic was replaced by motorised transport.

A major effect was the replacement of stables and equine facilities by those dedicated to cars and trucks. Sturt St became a major centre for automobile sales, service and supply of accessories, and one of the prominent businesses was Brooklands Accessories. It replaced a large brick store and stables in 1939. The Brooklands firm was formed in 1923 and was trading well in the 1930s, with an emphasis on British vehicles. After an overseas visit by the managing director, where he cemented their trading relationships, the company decided to proceed with new premises, despite some misgivings about the likelihood of war. Brooklands felt that the striking new headquarters (with modern styling and equipment) could substantially increase their trade, as well as efficiencies from having all activities carried out on a single floor.

The new facility was a popular and welcome addition to the development of South Melbourne and to the motor trade. It was also a great example of how the latest styling (now generally referred to as art deco) was used for commercial buildings, as well as those in the housing, civic, industrial, and educational spheres. It was designed in 1939 by Harry Norris, a major architect of the era, and the man credited with re-designing Melbourne's interwar skyline with office blocks, car

showrooms, factories, bakeries, department stores, and large houses. It drew its inspiration from European Modernist architecture, being decidedly horizontal and was distinguished by a number of features of the style, including a cream brick finish that contrasted with dark manganese heeler bricks, and curved at the entrance. The new styling called for the building to be punctuated with metal-framed windows and large curved glass show windows, filled with the firm's products and signs, sitting beneath stylised and painted metal lettering. No old-fashioned font here – this was the latest style and the building name showed it clearly. Perched above the building was a large sign that beckoned to prospective customers, a common sight as the advertising industry made its mark with consumers

The new premises faced Sturt St (where customers drove in) and backed onto Kavanagh and Moore streets. Like many industrial sites in the interwar era, it had a saw tooth roof to maximise much-desired light from the south. Its large site allowed for extended wings, punctuated by a tower, containing reception and waiting rooms, offices and an employee luncheon room. The roofing was Fibrolite asbestos-cement corrugated sheets from Hardie's, regularly used in the era.



Many locals worked for Brooklands, some for long periods. Nicknamed as "Brookies", they still have catch-up events and reminisce about their time there (including recalling how stingy the firm was with pay!) and their competition with their main competitors, Healing. Brooklands was later demolished as part of the re-development of the area that became Southbank ●



Robin Grow

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

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

Hello ... yes, that's us waving madly ... you remember us? The existing Montague community!

We read with some interest the article in March's edition of this very newspaper, an article titled "Development in Montague 'powering on'".

It was great to see the positive spin being put on the 10 developments worth \$650 million currently being built in the Montague Precinct. It was also great to read the Fishermans Bend Development Board chair Meredith Sussex using upbeat language regarding the promise for future residents and businesses.

However, we are really starting to find it troubling that there is NEVER any mention of the existing residents and businesses, and what is being put in place for us/them, while this level of acute development is occurring. Some have already left the precinct as the noise, dust and parking disruption is awful, others are not able to leave and are gritting their teeth and hoping that someone might notice them and provide some assistance for their loss of quality of living.

It has been very interesting for the Montague Community Alliance to note that each time a new build is complete, and people move in (both commercial and residential), we have a sharp uptake of interest in our community group (for which we are grateful) as the newbies to the precinct grapple with the challenge of a mixed-use precinct, fast growth and, in some cases, lost views and amenity.

Now you might say, well didn't they know it was in Fishermans Bend the fastest growing and largest urban development in Australia? Well, no, not everyone did or does, and why would they? The marketers, estate agents, developers, government are not telling them about these important factors before they settle here ...

So, don't you think it might be time to be up-front about what it's like to live and work in a development sector and to be thoughtful to the existing community?

Please note, we are still waiting for a meeting with the Fishermans Bend Taskforce, we are still waiting for approval (post-COVID) for an office in the precinct for people to interact

with decision-makers ... all promises still to be met. Let us reiterate that we are happy that the precinct is moving forward, and most people are very welcoming of new businesses and residents. It would, however, be good to have the council and the state government on our side as well as the developers and future community, We are still hopeful.

As usual we thank you for reading and please get in touch with any ideas or thoughts about the Montague Precinct.

We continue our "Meet a Montaguan" with Kathy Martin – a great contributor to the precinct.

Who are you, tell us a little about yourself?

My name is Kathy Martin and I am a sports physiotherapist and a mental health counsellor. I work with WTA (Women's Tennis Association), so in non-COVID times, I travel extensively with my job to assist the elite woman tennis players.

Work is like a travelling circus, no two days are the same and a cast of inspirational international sports women feature. When home, I enjoy being able to unpack and refresh my appreciation of this area, of Melbourne and its lifestyle. I love to cook, walk, swim, be with my dog, connect with friends and tend my wee garden.

What brought you to live or work in the Montague Precinct (MP) of South Melbourne?

I have lived in Port Melbourne for 30-plus years. I love the beach, all the parks, the pubs and restaurants and the people. I moved officially into Montague two years ago, I just fell in love with this old worker's cottage, one of few still standing in the precinct.



What are the best and/or most interesting things about working or living in MP?

It's fabulous to be so central to three great places: South Melbourne shops and the market; Bay St, Port Melbourne and the beach and Albert Park village and St Vincent Gardens – all within 10 minutes' walk. And, 10 minutes on the 209 tram (or the 96) and voila, you are in the centre of Melbourne. I love the rich history of Montague and the juxtaposition of old and new, residents, businesspeople, industries. Oh, and the car mechanics (we have a LOT!). And exploring all the little side streets and bluestone lanes with quirky cafes hidden therein.

How does working or living in Montague affect your quality of life/work?

2020 for us all brought major changes. For me, it meant an extended period of time at home and the first time in many years that I did not hop on and off a plane. Working from home for months and months was challenging, but I enjoyed the opportunity it provided to get to know my neighbours and to make some new friends on my daily dog walks. I actually enjoyed being in Melbourne through one

complete winter. Sunny calm days after frosty mornings, walking on the beach or in the park with my dog were heavenly.

What are the challenges of working or living in MP?

There is so much construction - there really is a lot of noise going on! And, it brings dust and dirt that gets into the house. This was very noticeable (and often annoying) when working from home. I fear what was historically swampy land, is now being swamped by concrete and glass.

If you could change something about the MP, what would it be?

Fewer high-rise buildings and more green shared space within Montague would be fantastic. I lament the loss of much of the old architecture and homes, and with it many of the residents. While new apartments bring more people, we should ensure that the area maintains and respects its history and bring amenities and provides character to street level. Why not renovate the old factories and warehouses. Create space for artisans and creative industries. Montague also needs a lick of paint. Street art and pictorial/sculptural references to the area's rich heritage, abundant ecology and evolving story about the people who lived here – from its first inhabitants, to the current day would be a good start. This would help rejuvenate the spirit of Montague.

If you have any questions, please call Trisha Avery 0411 142 600 or email trishavery@me.com ●



Trisha Avery

TRISHA AVERY IS THE CONVENER OF THE MONTAGUE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

TRISHAVERY@ME.COM



Pet's Corner

A small yet terrific trio!

“

Local student and resident Will lives with his family in their Southbank apartment, along with the tiny duo of Lulu and Alfie.

”



WORDS BY *John Tadigiri*

Will told *Southbank News* that the family had owned Lulu for 16 years and sausage dog Alfie for seven, and that he enjoyed taking them for a walk four times a day along Southbank Promenade!

“Because they are small dogs they tend to sleep most of the day, but they do enjoy these walks in the grass strips along the river,” he said.

“Alfie comes across as stand-offish and not good

with other dogs or people in general. He’s a bit anti-social and keeps to himself.”

“Lulu is sweet, very timid and soft ... a lot nicer! We got Lulu from the Mornington Peninsula.”

“But my sister particularly wanted a sausage dog, Alfie, so we went on a three-hour drive from Melbourne to a big paddock in country Victoria, where they breed just sausage dogs; and we picked Alfie out of the 40 there. It was a sight to behold!” ●

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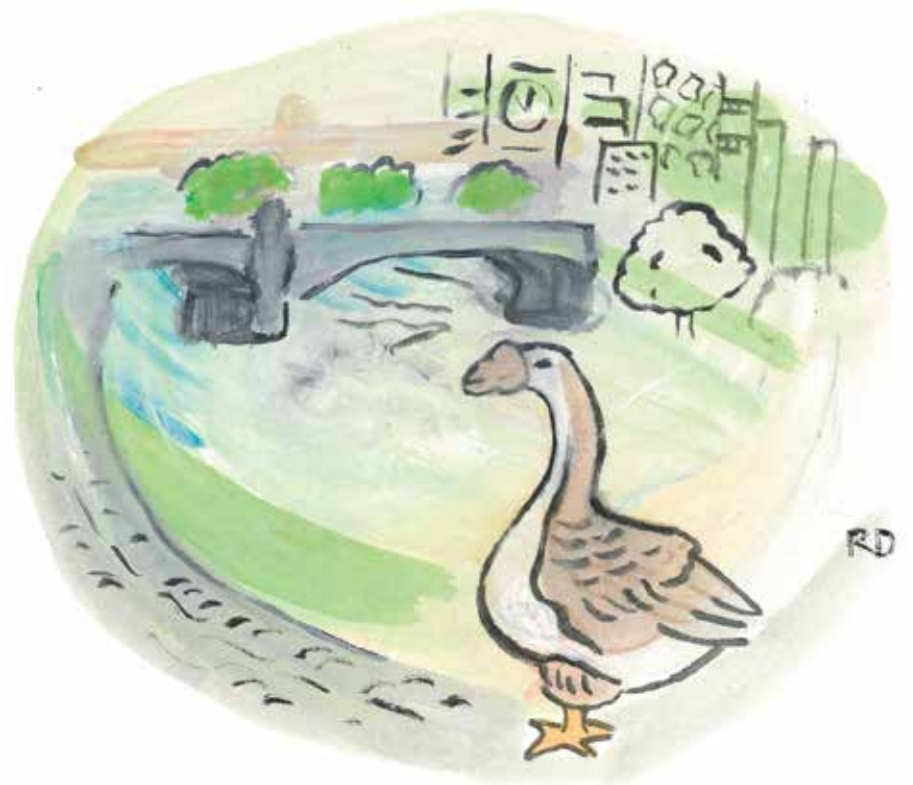
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“It was just a common goose.”

*Rowing Sheds
Yarra River*

YRBA to provide a huge boost to Southbank economy

The Yarra River Business Association (YRBA), in conjunction with the Victorian Government and City of Melbourne, is set to unveil a swathe of communication and marketing activities in a bid to boost the recovering Southbank economy.

The initiatives will come as welcome news for the precinct's riverside businesses, which have been among the hardest hit from the pandemic.

YRBA executive officer Tim Bracher said that renewing confidence among Melburnians would be a steady process, but early signs indicated that it may not take as long as many were predicting.

"The months of lockdown made people very local-centric, and they discovered their own suburban hospitality offerings in the process," Mr Bracher said. "However, Southbank and the Lower Yarra River is the natural meeting place and dining destination for Melburnians, and I have every confidence that it will regain that status."

"The steady return of workers to Southbank's office towers will assist the lunchtime trade of local businesses, and the reopening of the arts scene and football season should boost weekend trade."

Included in the YRBA's campaign to feed activity into the river precinct is "The Ultimate Yarra River Staycation" competition.

The competition prizes, valued at \$10,000 each, provides two separate winners with a three-day, three-night all-expenses-paid long weekend for six friends or family, staying at The Langham Melbourne.

"Winners submit a list of where they and their guests want to dine for every meal and what they want to do to occupy their three days. Everything from a river cruise to a

helicopter flight over Melbourne or swimming with the sharks is available to them, including limousine pick-up and drop-off for them and their friends," Mr Bracher said.

"The prize is designed to highlight that an international-standard holiday is virtually on the doorsteps of Melburnians, at a fraction of the price."

The YRBA is using the digital influence of food, arts and lifestyle publication *Broadsheet* and events website *Time Out Melbourne* to promote the competition that is expected to attract tens of thousands of entries between now and the final draw at the end of June.

The YRBA has also called on Melbourne influencer Sandi Sieger who will shine a light on the precinct's outdoor dining venues through a weekly vlog, which will be broadcasted to the YRBA's considerable Facebook and Instagram followers.

"Sandi is teasing out so many new and intriguing experiences, so it's well worth a look even

by Southbankers who might think they know the area," Mr Bracher said.

"From the earliest days of the pandemic, the Association recognised that support from Southbank's 25,000 residents would be crucial to the survival of its hospitality businesses."

"Since July 2020 YRBA has been running the 'I'm a Southbanker' page in this newspaper which is aimed to build greater connection between residents and the business operators."



▲ YRBA executive officer Tim Bracher.

Mr Bracher said that the association's anecdotal research had revealed many Southbankers view the river strip as a tourist locale, run by big businesses, where in actual fact, most of the businesses were small to medium and many of them were family operated.

"Through the Southbanker page in the paper we have tried to put a face to our businesses by humanising them and inviting locals to make a personal connection," Mr Bracher said.

"At the same time, we're encouraging our businesses to reach out to Southbankers to make them a part of their ongoing business strategy, which will underpin their trade even when international tourism returns to the precinct."

Along with the YRBA, the City of Melbourne has provided the eight other recognised precinct associations with an additional \$100,000 one-off payment for activation programs as part of the joint \$100 million Melbourne City Recovery Fund in partnership with the Victorian Government.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said initiatives from the YRBA would deliver an important boost to local businesses.

"We're increasing our investment in local precinct associations so they can deliver enhanced services to local businesses," the Lord Mayor said.

"Supporting local businesses to create jobs is a key priority to the City of Melbourne and we know there's never been a more important time to invest."

"With vouchers, gift cars and competitions on offer, everyone should take the opportunity to get out and discover all the unique and amazing experiences that can only be found within the City of Melbourne." ●

For more information, visit
yarrariver.melbourne

SOUTHBANK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Huge turnout for community forum

March, 2021 was the month where Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) held its largest ever event.

As I wrote about last month and the marketing we had done, the Southbank Community Forum – "Southbank: Where to from here?" attracted more than 150 passionate residents and overall has been considered a resounding success. A success insofar that what we learnt from the council is that there really hasn't been a "plan" for Southbank and moreover there actually isn't a current "plan" for Southbank. The Southbank Structure Plan – a 30-year plan for Southbank, which has always been spruiked as the "Southbank plan" – was clearly not a living document and has failed to achieve many of its benchmarks over the past 11 years. The limited responses from the council directors and deputy CEO left the audience with no doubt that this plan was not what the council is basing their planning on. My reading of the responses also appeared to have been a surprise to the Lord Mayor Sally Capp and Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece. It was an awakening for them. We are heartened to receive the Lord Mayor's "thank you for the reset" in her summary. But what exactly this will mean for Southbank only time will tell.

A massive highlight of the evening was the official launch of the history of SRA's first 20 years (we turn 23 this month – happy birthday to us!). As you can see, it was several years in the making and the author, and ex-committee member, Lynne Lumsden, has done a tremendous job with researching, compiling and writing the history. Southbank will forever be thankful to Lynne for this important piece of work. I commend all residents of Southbank to have a read, you will be truly surprised with what SRA has achieved for our community during this time. The book is available in the Boyd library or if you would like your very own

copy, then please send us an email and we will arrange something: president@southbankresidents.org.au.

While we are celebrating the history of SRA, sadly, Joe Bagnara, one of the main contributors to the organisation as president from 2003 to 2011, passed away at the end of February aged 88 years. Joe was a passionate spokesperson for Southbank and he commanded the respect from all councillors during his time. In 2017 SRA honoured Joe with life membership. Joe's contributions to Southbank and SRA are certainly worth celebrating and won't be forgotten. Our condolences to his family, whom I only spoke to a few days prior to his passing.

We are starting to plan for our annual general meeting (AGM). If you were looking for a challenge and would like to give back to your community, then maybe you might like to consider joining our committee? Please reach out if you think this might be of interest to you.

Finally, if you are not a member of SRA, and would like to keep abreast of our involvement with the community, then we would certainly welcome your support. Membership is only \$10/year and your support helps us to maintain our voice on Southbank issues. You can join via our Facebook page – [southbankresidents](https://www.facebook.com/southbankresidents) – or our website southbankresidents.org.au ●



Tony Penna
PRESIDENT
PRESIDENT@SOUTHBANKRESIDENTS.ORG.AU



HEALTH & WELLBEING

Stop doing sit-ups!

“Are you still doing sit-ups or crunches? If you have an instructor or personal trainer instructing you to do them, you are training with a dinosaur!”



If you are doing them because you think they are the best way to get a six-pack, then I am here to tell you that for your posture and for real gains in abdominal muscle and tone then you need to simply stop doing sit-ups or any form of flexion of the spine!

We are generally too sedentary and spend increasing amounts of time seated in front of the computer, in the car or on the couch. This all leads to ever-increasing loads placed on the spine, poor posture and combine that with sit-ups and you are further contributing to hip instability and potential back pain.

As a functional movement, our goal is to keep our spine in a neutral of locked position and have the ability to apply force from our lower body, up and through our trunk and torso to our arms and upper body. So, exercises that are, if you like, "anti-movement", and actually teach the core to resist movement are far superior to any form of sit-up or crunch movement that basically does the opposite!

If you are an athlete or someone that frequents the gym, sit-ups are counter-productive to any major gym movements that you perform such as a deadlift, power cleans, lunges, squats, etc. So, have I sold you the reasons not to perform sit-ups or crunches yet?

If you are thinking that you are doing the right thing for your abdominals or for your core because you have been shown or told, I have a great video link that will break it all down for you, so email me and I will send you the link! Perhaps see a personal trainer that doesn't prescribe sit-ups and ask for some safer and more effective alternatives – there are many including dead bugs, planks (if done correctly), bird dog, the Pallof Press or many isometric and controlled rotation movements.

Lastly, please remember that your core is made up of many muscles and more than just the most superficial "rectus abdominus" that the sit-up or crunch most specifically targets.

For a more information, exercise guidance or if you have any questions feel free to contact me by heading to justintimept.com ●



Justin Moran
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南岸养狗剧增 拟新建狗公园

在过去的12个月里，由于疫情封锁，当地居民纷纷找到了新朋友，南岸(Southbank)的养狗注册量激增。

截至2021年3月，该区域犬狗的登记数量在12个月里一跃上升近25%(从341条增至420条)。其中Cavoodles是南岸最受欢迎的狗品种(有53条)，排名第二是Dachshund Minis (有20条)。还有Poodle Toy(16条)、Jack Russell Terrier X (13条)和哈巴狗(Pugs)(12条)都在邮政编码3006区域中排名前五。墨尔本市政3月份宣布，将开始新建一个急需的南岸狗公园，对于该区域新的和现有的养狗者来说，是一个大好消息。新公园将建在Kings Way南端路下的一个废弃区域，是市政对City路总体规划的一部分。市长Sally Capp说：“所有的狗都喜欢出去锻炼，去认识它们的新朋友，但住在公寓里会有些困难。”

“南岸居民告诉我们，希望在附近看到更多对宠物友好的地方，这个新公园将为当地居民的狗提供一个安全的奔跑和玩耍的环境。”

南岸是澳大利亚人口最稠密的区域，缺乏开放空间，长期以来一直是当地居民所焦虑的。

市长表示，市政已着手解决这一问题。“City路总体规划的交付延迟令人失望，但我们将在下个月开始这个项目的施工，我们致力于在整个南岸为市民和他们的狗提供更多的开放空间。”

市政的环境组合主管Rohan Leppert介绍了更多狗公园的细节。

他说：“散放区有篮球场那么大，里面放满了游乐设备，会让大大小小的狗开心不已。”

施工定于4月下旬开始，计划今年晚些时候



建成开放。还将计划修建一个人行走道，以便从附近的Boyd公园进入新狗公园的散放区。Leppert 议员说：“南岸有400多条狗，在我们振兴这个City路区域的规划中，应该为它

们设计一个空间。”南岸区域大幅增长的养狗数量是2020年全市9%增幅的两倍之多。



冬季户外用餐大受欢迎

由于墨尔本市户外用餐大受欢迎，数百家餐馆和咖啡馆将继续进行户外用餐营业，直到6月30日。

David Schout

市政最近向332家餐饮商家提供了延长户外用餐许可三个月的机会，迄今为止只有10个商家不再继续了。

有275个餐饮商家接受了延期许可，39家尚未做出回应。

要求延期许可的增加是该计划在全市范围内取得成功的另一个标志。

市政激活城市部门负责人Roshena Campbell表示，该计划为酒店餐饮业提供了“关键生命线”。

她在3月30日的一次市政会议上说：“看到人们在那里去年遭受重创的餐厅吃饭，真是太好了。”

“但更重要的是，改善我们酒店餐饮业务的条件，这些业务仍然受到客人密度限制而降低人数的困扰，无法在室内满负荷运营。我们可以通过扩展接待顾客的区域来帮助他们，对这些商家来说，这是至关重要的生命线。”

Campbell议员说，市政正在“继续考虑”是否将户外用餐永久性地纳入这座城市的一部分。

在最近一项对150家咖啡馆、餐厅和酒吧业主的调查中，有81%的业主对去年10月底开放的户外餐饮表示赞赏。



受罚的违规骑车者过百

在南岸长廊(Southbank Promenade)为期三周的警方突击行动中，有100多名骑自行车和踏板车的人在这条繁忙的街道上被罚款。

David Schout

长期以来，这里一直被认为是个危险的共享空间，维州警方于2月24日发起了“沿河巡警行动”，针对那些以危险速度骑车或滑板的人。

共有45名骑自行车和滑板车的人因在这条繁忙的街道上时速超过23公里而被警察指控，传唤出庭，罚款高达\$1652。

然而，在整个警方行动中，超速还不是唯一要受罚的，有33个人在骑自行车或踏板车时因没有戴头盔也受到起诉。

另外还有9人因骑未注册的机动车辆(8辆踏板车和1辆滑板车)而收到罚单，有7人在骑行时使用手机而受罚。

在这三周的警方行动中，共发出了500多张罚单，南岸代理警司Brett Sidebottom警官说，这是一次值得的警方突击行动。

他说：“在这次行动中，我们有机会与许多人接触，包括通勤者和当地居民，他们使用不同的交通工具，包括自行车、踏板车或步行。”

“我们知道，大多数使用这个空间的人都在努力做到安全，但也有一小部分人明显地做了错事，因此受到了处罚，或者面临着在法庭上接受指控。”

“作为这次行动的一部分，我们收到了大量积极的反馈，我们将继续在该区域进行定期巡逻和执勤，以确保行人和骑车者的安全。”

在这次行动开始时，“自行车网络”组织首席执行官Craig Richards表示，\$1652的罚款是“非同寻常的”，并质疑警方行动的时间。他说：“这个罚款是一些酒后驾车罚款的三倍之多。”

“在南岸长廊，很少发生骑车者和行人相撞的事件。很难理解这次突击行动时间，因为那里仍然非常安静。”

市政表示，虽然南岸长廊将仍保持其共享空间，但还是鼓励骑车者利用即将完工的替代路线骑行。

调查皇冠赌场征询当地意见

维多利亚皇家调查委员会已进入南岸的皇冠赌场调查，呼吁公众提供意见，以协助调查。

David Schout

该委员会寻求有关在皇冠赌场的赌博问题和赌场犯罪活动的信息。

前联邦法院法官Raymond Finkelstein 大律师邀请“社区成员和团体”向调查委员会提供信息。

Finkelstein先生在3月29日的声明中说：“皇家调查委员会的工作对我们社会的结构至关重要，我热切希望能直接听取对此有相关经历人们的意见。”

“我促请关注此事的公众人士向我们调查委员会提交你们对此事的意见和分享你们相关的经历。”

这个提交意见的时间很紧，需要尽快完成。

皇家调查委员会于3月29日开始这一调查进程，并将在不到一个月的时间内收到提交意见的材料，于4月26日星期一下午4点截止。

2月22日，州政府宣布让皇家调查委员会来调查皇冠赌场是否适合持有维州的赌场执照。

两周前公布的新南威尔士州一项调查，其中“严重发现”皇冠赌场不适合在悉尼港经营一家价值22亿澳元的新赌场，因此引发了这次维州皇家调查委员会对南岸皇冠赌场的调查。

经过18个月的调查，前最高法院法官Patricia Bergin在她的最后报告中说，如果皇冠赌场想持有赌场执照，需要进行管理改革。

调查委员会专员Bergin还表示，主要股东James Packer可能需要出让在该公司的股份。

新南威尔士州的调查是由《时代报》、《悉尼先驱晨报》和《60分钟节目》在2019年的报道而引发的，这些报道披露了皇冠赌场涉嫌洗钱以及赌场与有组织的犯罪有关联。

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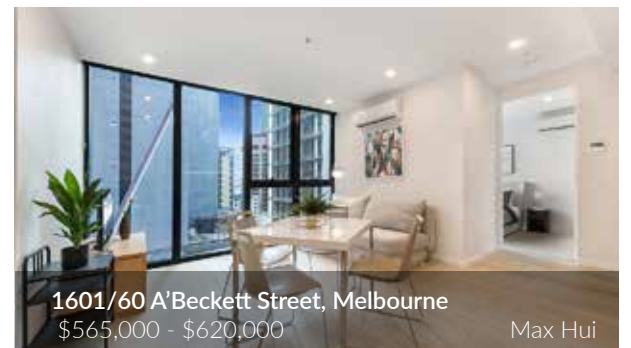
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