

SOUTHBANK NEWS

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Forever Free

Puzzles & Trivia P21



ABC café closes doors
Photo by John Tadigiri

The much-loved Koorai20 café at the ABC's Southbank Centre has been forced to close indefinitely, with owner Evan Dounas (right) and son Nick (left) saying the city's sixth lockdown had been the final straw. *More on page 8.*

Safety fix "making moves" at notorious Power St intersection

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
TRANSPORT

Long-term designs for a much-anticipated safety fix at a dangerous Southbank intersection which was the scene of a horrific truck crash could be finalised as early as October.

It comes as the state government committed to a \$2.5 million redesign of the Power St and City Rd intersection with "suitable design options" having been explored since May after a truck that hit and injured five pedestrians sparked calls for a safety solution.

Safety measures including temporary bollards and planter boxes were installed, but within 24 hours they were bowled over by another truck. And in a third incident, a truck clipped a car in June, dragging it around the corner as it turned left onto Power St.

A government spokesperson said this month that

long-term options were "well underway" and it was "continuing to get on with improving safety" at the intersection.

"Expert teams of engineers and road safety specialists have been working on this site since May and have been carrying out traffic modelling, consideration of heritage-listed property, safety audits and the identification of complex underground utilities," the spokesperson said.

"They're now at the stage where potential long-term options are being carefully designed, in detail."

"As these investigations progress, we'll continue to work with the City of Melbourne to improve pedestrian safety in this area."

But according to Southbank resident and new Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) committee member Jannine Pattison, who organised a petition following the truck crash, she said she had recently been

Continued on page 3.

More Montague high-rise plans

The Minister for Planning will decide on the fate of two new high-rise proposals for Montague after City of Port Phillip councillors endorsed plans for a Buckhurst St tower, while knocking back a "concerning" project for Normanby Rd.

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
PLANNING

Councillors voted unanimously in favour of a 16-level office building on Buckhurst St complete with a new public space at the corner of George and Thistlethwaite streets during its planning committee meeting on September 23.

Gateway Ward Cr Peter Martin said "lots of exciting things" were planned for Buckhurst St and that he was looking forward to having a "wonderful, new building" once the council's recommendations were implemented.

"I was down there today looking at the historic lanes surrounding the site - there's lots of history and there's a wonderful plaque out the front of the proposed site talking about the history of Buckhurst St," Cr Martin said.

"I thank the applicant for trying to incorporate some historical features in the development and I think the officer's recommendations will improve the design to make it even better than it currently is."

Incore Developments has proposed to demolish the existing two-storey office building at 67-69 Buckhurst St to construct the new tower.

The planning application states that the new office building would comprise of a six-level podium and a 10-level tower including a roofed plant area.

The proposal also includes an ancillary café at ground floor level, a "wellness" area, 52 bicycle parking spaces, a bicycle workshop area, and 39 car parks.

A three-metre-wide setback has

also been proposed at the rear to create a new six-metre-wide laneway between George and Montague streets, with the council report stating "the other three-metre width of the wide laneway will be delivered by other abutting properties when they are re-developed".

A new public open space is also proposed to the north-west of Thistlethwaite and George streets as part of the proposal.

The council's planning officers recommended that changes be made to the design to fit better with the "industrial character of the area".

"The light coloured, and slender profile of the facade brickwork is considered to be a departure from the industrial heritage of the area," the report read.

"Darker brickwork and reuse of the existing brickwork on site is recommended to provide a stronger connection to place."

The council also recommended that the number of car parks be reduced from 39 to 13 as the "tight access arrangements" of the site weren't suitable for so many cars.

Cr Martin said the council's planning committee had worked hard to ensure the development fit which the character of the street.

"If the recommendations are incorporated I think we're going to have a wonderful new building on Buckhurst St," Cr Martin said.

The September 23 meeting saw another Montague planning application for Normanby Rd in Southbank, with councillors considering a new 40-level mixed-use tower and six-storey office building.

Developer SJB Planning plans to *Continued on page 7.*

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

EDITOR
Sean Car

PUBLISHER
Hyperlocal News Pty Ltd
ABN: 57 623 558 725

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What are you grateful for, Southbank?

How are you?

WORDS BY *Mary Kay Rauma*
COMMUNITY

It's a question I've wanted to ask many of you as I've walked around Southbank, gazing into the eyes of masked strangers.

Personally, I've had good days and some very tough days. I just passed my two-year anniversary of moving to Southbank, nearly half of which has been spent in lockdown.

I haven't seen my parents, who live overseas, for more than two years and I know my story isn't unique. We live in arguably the most densely populated neighbourhood in Australia with a United Nations of residents hailing from all over Australia and across the globe – homelands either a state or thousands of miles away that used to be within reach, now seem so far away. So many of us are missing loved ones.

But as I reflect on the rollercoaster ride of last year, one word rises to the surface: "gratitude".

Gratitude for you, Southbank. The residents, the businesses that have hung in there for us, the adorable pets, and this Southbank newspaper that has kept us connected through it all.

We won the lockdown lottery with our five-kilometre radius—the beach, the Yarra, Royal Botanic Gardens, CBD and Albert Park.

Our dense population has been a blessing as there is almost always someone out and about – and seeing all of you, carrying on with your lives as best you can even on the gloomiest of days got me through some tough spots.

I can't count the times that I've thanked my lucky stars for having chosen Southbank as my home.

Recently, I joined the committee of Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) – our suburb's community organisation that advocates to the council and state government on behalf of residents.



“

Out of the gates, I was inspired to engage in a simple project that involves you, Southbankers, and that question I've been wanting to ask is ... how are you Southbank? How did you get through the past year? Yes, we've all endured hardships, but what is it you are grateful for? What is your COVID silver lining?

”

Southbank Residents' Association Gratitude Competition

SRA, in partnership with *Southbank News*, would like to hear how living in Southbank helped you get through this past year.

What raised your spirits and how? Perhaps it was a new connection you made with a neighbour. Maybe it was something as simple as your view, the barista who made your daily cup of coffee, a daily walking route or a story about having a pet in Southbank. The more detail you provide, the better.

Email your submission (max. 300 words) to info@southbankresidents.org.au by November 21.

The top 10 entries will receive a \$50 visa cash card and appear in the December/January edition of *Southbank News* (you may request your entry remain anonymous, initials or first name only).

We are full of hope and relief as Southbank and the City of Melbourne move closer to re-opening and look forward to hearing what you are most grateful for this past year •

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Office tower plans for Moray St

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PLANNING

A \$64 million plan to demolish an old 1930s factory building and construct a 22-storey office tower at a prominent Southbank site will be considered by the City of Melbourne.

Developers have lodged plans to build an 80-metre-high tower and joint podium to “accommodate significant employment opportunities” as well as “contribute positively to the evolving character of Southbank” on the prime corner of Moray St and Kings Way Rd Reserve, and only 150 metres from Crown Casino.

The application proposes to demolish a two-storey brick building built in 1937 that does not have heritage status to make way for the new development.

Under the plans submitted on behalf of Sohrab Pty Ltd, levels 13 to 22 of the tower would consist primarily of office space while a podium below would house a lobby, substation, end-of-trip facilities on levels one to three, and commercial office space on the remaining levels.

A proposed terrace at level 11 would act as a “transitory form” between the tower and an 11-storey podium that would have an external “contrasting red finish”.

The new building would also have a café on the ground floor while a proposed three-level basement would provide 27 car parking spaces and 54 bicycle spaces at ground level.

In a pitch to the City of Melbourne, the application said the proposed development at 9-15 Moray St presented an “exciting and well-designed development for the subject site” and an opportunity to “reinvigorate the vision for the site”.

“The proposal provides a high-quality architectural form that will contribute positively to its locality within an area of Southbank that is undergoing a considerable transformation,” the submission said ●

Safety fix “making moves” at notorious Power St intersection

Continued from page 1.

told by the City of Melbourne that a “plan for the scope of works” at the intersection “should be completed by the end of this month”.

In terms of designs being proposed, Ms Pattison said it was her understanding that the plans may include relocating a traffic light at the intersection, reducing Power St to two lanes, and increasing the width of the footpath.

SRA president Tony Penna said after having recently spoken to the Department of Transport he was also “under impression they were making moves” on a long-term design for the intersection.

“I got the feeling they were trying to do something as soon as possible,” he told *Southbank News*.

“I have seen paint all over the footpath and the road down there which is indicating where all the infrastructure is under the ground, so I was under the impression they were making moves on it but where it’s at is a good question.”

“We want them to move on it as quickly as possible for obvious reasons.”

A City of Melbourne spokesperson said it had been “assured that the Department of Transport is urgently working on a permanent solution” and “looks forward to seeing redesign works for the site as soon as possible”.

“We’re continuing to work closely with the Victorian Government to help make this a safer intersection for locals, workers and visitors,” the spokesperson said.

However, Monash University Accident Research Centre Senior Research Fellow Dr David Logan said, “it’s not out of the question” for investigations into a long-term safety fix of a major intersection to take between 12 to 18 months but added “that’s purely indicative”.

“There are a lot of factors that need to be considered in addition to safety at a large and complex intersection like this, particularly one in a congested city area,” he said.

“It is a complex issue and of course safety isn’t the only concern – you’ve got to think about traffic flow, intersection capacity, land use changes, environmental impact and even the effect the redesign will have on the surrounding streets and intersections.”

Dr Logan said while the short-term improvements would “make a contribution” to safety, they “won’t make the intersection inherently safe”.

“As an example, you might get a five per cent reduction – whether in serious injuries or crash numbers – but you won’t get the 20, 30 or 40 per cent that might be possible with a safe system-compatible design.”

“What they’re doing with these short-term safety fixes is probably just stopping it from getting



▲ *Jannine Pattison highlights the dangers of City Rd.*

worse more quickly.”

The state government initially invested \$400,000 which allowed short-term safety measures at the intersection and “investigations into safety at the intersection and similar ones across the CBD to be carried out”.

Engineers have been factoring in issues such as available road and pedestrian space and underground utility infrastructure at the Power St/City Rd intersection, the state government said.

The intersection is popular with big trucks accessing the West Gate Freeway as heavy vehicles 4.65 metres or higher or those carrying placarded loads, such as fuel tankers, are banned from using Citylink tunnels.

Meanwhile, safety concerns have also been raised at the intersection of Kavanagh and Power streets after a crash occurred early this month involving a car and a cyclist.

According to the SRA, collisions occurred at the intersection “fortnightly if not weekly” including a number of near-misses.

The association said it was currently working on a “data driven” and “solution-based approach to this problem” which was of “great concern to our local community” as calls grow for the speed limit to be reduced.

Data from the Department of Transport revealed in the five years to 30 December 2020, eight crashes had been recorded at the Kavanagh and Power street intersection – two of which resulted in serious injuries, though none of the crashes involved pedestrians and cyclists.

The Department said there were no plans to make “any changes at this intersection at this time”.

“Keeping all road users safe is our number one priority, and we continuously explore ways to make our roads safer, working alongside road safety partners like councils and Victoria Police,” a Department of Transport spokesperson said.

“The Department of Transport will continue to monitor traffic and safety at this intersection – as it does across Victoria’s arterial network.” ●

“Biggest rewrite” of urban design rules given tick of approval

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PLANNING

The City of Melbourne will be “raising the bar” in future developments after rigorous new planning rules were ushered in to prevent “ugly towers” ruining skylines and streetscapes.

In what has been described as the “biggest rewrite” of the city’s urban design rules in 25 years and recently approved by the state government, the council said the new rules would mean it could “aim higher” with new building developments in the city and Southbank.

“This is what building back better looks like, this is a revolution for the city at the eye level, this is about drawing a line and saying from now on Melbourne must aim higher,” Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said.

“We’re raising the standard for development to protect our streets from featureless facades and our skyline from ugly towers that are nothing more than spreadsheets in the sky.”

Minister for Planning Richard Wynne approved the council’s new central Melbourne design guide and associated planning scheme policy – the “biggest overhaul” of urban design rules since the 1990s. The council said the new rules would mean “raising the bar for design and architectural considerations for buildings, including how buildings relate to streets and public spaces”.

It will focus on car parks being built underground and building services such as fire control rooms, air conditioning vents, electrical substations and rubbish areas being restricted to 40 per cent of ground level in new developments.

The retail core requirement of buildings will also be expanded to 80 per cent active frontages to streets.

New requirements to integrate good design from the first step of the planning process will be introduced to encourage “well considered and resolved design detail” for the lower levels of new buildings.

Mr Reece said the new guide would help the council ensure new developments were “high quality” and encourage “street level activation and character” which would in turn “boost economic development” and “ensure premium visible city space is better used” by the community.

“Melbourne has some fantastic buildings which demonstrate innovation and contribute to world class streets, but in recent times there have been too many examples of where we have fallen short,” he said.

“Now there is no excuse for unattractive and unimaginative lower-level building interfaces, forcing pedestrians to look at car parks, monotonous glass panels, or ugly building services.” ●



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City confirmed for e-scooter trial, but concerns for promenade

Southbankers will soon add “electric scooter” to their list of transport options as part of a 12-month trial set to begin in the coming months. However, some locals have greeted the trial with caution, particularly how it could impact the problematic Southbank Promenade.

WORDS BY *David Schout*
TRANSPORT

The City of Melbourne was one of four local government areas selected to test the e-scooter hire scheme, alongside two other inner-city councils (Yarra and Port Phillip) and the City of Ballarat.

The trial is set to begin as early as this spring, pending council approval of an operator.

Hired scooters will be permitted to travel at 20kmh on bicycle lanes, shared paths and low-speed roads (up to a maximum 50kmh speed limit).

They will not, however, be permitted on footpaths and riders must wear a helmet.

Announcement of the trial is arguably well overdue for what is a largely unregulated transport option.

Most e-scooters currently seen on the city's streets are illegal, as they are both too powerful (greater than 200 watts) and travel faster than 10 kmh (current Victorian law).

As Lord Mayor Sally Capp said in June, “Every time I see somebody on a scooter I think ‘oops I think they might be breaking the law.’”

At the time, she added, “I think sooner we get this sorted the better.”

After confirming that the City of Melbourne would be part of the trial scheme, Cr Capp told *Southbank News* an effective model would benefit the city in a number of ways.

“Melbourne has an excellent network of transport routes that could be suitable for e-scooter use,” she said.

“We look forward to testing whether e-scooters could become another safe, effective and environmentally-friendly transport option. Innovative initiatives like this can help to bring back the buzz by attracting more visitors into the city and helping them to get around.”

Data will be gathered during the 12-month trial to understand how the vehicles could be safely incorporated into the transport network.

Minister for Public Transport Ben Carroll said inner-city roads were the perfect testing ground for a new transport option.

“We are partnering with local councils that have a good mix of low-speed roads, shared user paths and bicycle lanes to trial how e-scooters may fit into our transport network,” he said.

“E-scooters are an emerging technology, and there's more work that needs to be done to understand how these vehicles can be safely used in our state.”

Trial poses promenade problems

The trial would allow scooters to be used on shared paths, including the contentious Southbank Promenade.

Long regarded as a risky shared space given the high level of pedestrian activity, the speed limit of 10kmh is often exceeded by those on two wheels.

A police operation earlier this year nabbed 45 cyclists and scooter riders travelling over 23kmh.

The Yarra River Business Association has waged a 20-year advocacy campaign to slow-down or remove speeding commuter cyclists from Southbank's promenades.

YRBA executive officer Tim Bracher said it had greeted news of the e-scooter trial with caution.

However, after early discussions with the council, Mr Bracher said the micro-mobility option could contribute positively to Melbourne's transport network.

“We are all for quiet recreational cycling and scootering on the promenades and we accept that scooters are a legitimate part of the sustainable transport mix all around the world,” he said.



“We have been through the O-bike debacle, then the lacklustre blue bike scheme, but this time it seems that there is a lot more thought going into the e-scooter trial.”

The City of Melbourne confirmed with *Southbank News* that it was looking at ensuring the 12-month trial could be carried out safely on the Promenade.

This included the possibility of using GPS technology to pre-program the scooters so they can travel at a maximum of 10kmh along the shared space, however this feature was yet to be confirmed.

How will they work?

It is understood the process of hiring a scooter will likely be similar to the council's current e-bike trial with provider Lime.

Through that scheme, users download the Lime or Uber app to find the nearest bicycle and, once found, scan a QR code on the bike.

The app then takes users through the booking process — including how to safely use and park the bike — before unlocking it ready for use.

Several cities around the world have operated e-scooter sharing systems since 2017, notably throughout the US and Europe.

Closer to home, Brisbane and Auckland have also trialled the “micro-mobility” option.

However, safety concerns continue to dog the relatively new transport option, both for riders and pedestrians.

When the prospect of a Melbourne-based trial emerged in May, Cr Rohan Leppert said these concerns would remain until proven otherwise.

“I won't be shy about the fact that I'm very nervous about a scooter trial in the centre of Melbourne, and I'm glad that we're not going first,” he said at a June 1 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

“If you look at some of the experiences in cities like Auckland and Brisbane and plenty of cities overseas, we've seen what happened — a bit like what happened here with oBikes — if you don't have enough of the base level of regulations to understand how government might support and guide an operator through being a good citizen, then you're not going to end up with a scooter system that's publicly safe, and you're not going to end up with a system that's embraced with a high reputation.”

Cr Leppert said restricting riders to certain streets and preventing scooter use on footpaths was crucial.

“I think that's absolutely vital, because we don't want to be facilitating a highly dangerous mix of different transport modes in the wrong place ... done well, this has the capacity to do fantastic things for our city. But we really have to make sure the regulations are right.” ●

Harvest cladding works underway

WORDS BY *David Schout*
BUILDING

Rectification works are underway at one of Melbourne's most dangerous buildings containing flammable cladding.

Southbank's Harvest Apartments on Clarendon St was revealed in 2016 as one of just two Melbourne buildings that required “immediate emergency action” as a result of non-compliant cladding.

The other, Docklands' Lacrosse apartments, was the site of a 2014 blaze that triggered the wide-scale audit of Melbourne high-rise residential and public buildings.

CBD Facility Management director John Dall'Amico, who manages Harvest Apartments, confirmed with *Southbank News* that cladding rectification was underway.

Scaffolding had been erected at the building in September, and it was unknown exactly how long the works would take.

“It'll take a few months,” Mr Dall'Amico said.

“It's a fairly delicate operation needing access to apartments.”

He said there was a strong sense of relief among those in the building.

“Certainly, from the owners themselves that, three or four years ago, were probably thinking of selling, and with a Section 32.”

A “Section 32” refers to a statement that must be given to prospective buyers declaring whether a building contains combustible external wall cladding.



▲ Harvest Apartments on Clarendon St, Southbank.

Mr Dall'Amico said delays in the works were largely due to determining both liability and the nature of the works to ensure compliance.

He confirmed the works were funded by the state government with no cost to owners.

In November 2014, a blaze tore up the facade of the 23-storey Lacrosse building on Latrobe St in Docklands.

An investigation conducted afterwards determined the fire — sparked by a cigarette on a sixth-floor apartment balcony — was aided by highly-flammable, non-compliant cladding installed on the building's exterior.

While the incident had no casualties, it directly impacted up to 500 people who required immediate evacuation and accommodation.

The fire triggered a major audit of cladding on Melbourne's biggest construction projects.

Of the 170 buildings investigated as part of the audit, more than half (51 per cent) contained cladding that was found to be non-compliant.

Of those, two buildings — Lacrosse and Harvest apartments — required “immediate emergency action”.

Highly-flammable cladding was brought into global focus after the 2017 Grenfell Tower tragedy in

London that killed 72 people.

In July 2019, the Victorian Government announced a \$600 million package to fix buildings with combustible cladding and established Cladding Safety Victoria (CSV) to oversee the world first program.

CSV works with building owners, owners' corporations, local councils and the building sector to rectify buildings and make them safe.

Funding for rectification works is prioritised based on risk, to ensure buildings which present the highest risk to occupants are rectified first.

By September 2021, CSV had cladding removal and replacement

projects complete or underway on 200 residential apartment buildings.

Another 53 were due begin over coming months.

CSV chief executive Dan O'Brien recently thanked owners and residents of affected buildings.

“These projects rely totally on co-operation from everyone involved,” he said. “We will continue to work with owners of the highest risk buildings because that is the best way to reduce risk for Victorians overall.”

Planning Minister Richard Wynne has said Victoria was “leading the world in its response to this global problem” ●

“Certainly, from the owners themselves that, three or four years ago, were probably thinking of selling, and with a Section 32.”





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CITY OF MELBOURNE

Residents say Montague is a “dumping ground” for construction sites

Residents of a Montague apartment building say that amenity in the area has significantly decreased since being encircled by three construction sites.

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
PLANNING

The flood of construction workers has meant residents are often unable to park in their area or receive deliveries, and the streets are often littered with rubbish and construction materials.

Montague Towers resident Helen Robertson said that construction workers and Port Phillip Council “don’t care” about the locals and refuse to take accountability.

“We just want to be treated like residents; construction seems to be able to overrule everything and there’s zero consideration for the residents who are trying to live here in very difficult circumstances,” Ms Robertson said.

“It’s like a dumping ground for them because it’s a work environment, but we’re trying to live here peacefully.”

Montague Towers, situated on top of a storage facility at the corner of Montague St and Normanby Rd, is home to around 50 residents.

It is currently surrounded by three live construction sites – the R Iconic, the Normanby and the Oakwood – which residents say they weren’t warned about when they moved in.

Construction on the sites occurs six days a week from 6am to 5pm, which often means parking facilities are often completely occupied by the hundreds of workers.

Ms Robertson said that residents were unable to park, receive visitors, trades or deliveries during work hours as a result.

“When we went into the last lockdown, one of our residents had to go into isolation as she was a teacher at Bacchus Marsh which was an exposure site,” Ms Robertson said.

“She wasn’t able to get her food delivered as there was nowhere for the drivers to park.”

“Concrete and other large trucks are often parked across our driveway who refuse to move to enable entry and exit to our garage on Woodgate St as well.”

As construction workers have quarantined half of the parking on Normanby Rd and



▲ The Normanby Rd development across the road from Montague Towers.

Boundary St, and often completely occupy Woodgate St, residents have asked the council to create a parking permit system.

Ms Robertson said that to date the council had ignored their requests, despite construction workers often parking illegally in no standing and other zones.

“Where is the capacity for us to be able to influence where we live? Why don’t you give workers parking at the DFO – which is never used – for a reduced rate, and free up space for us so we can have some enjoyment in our own environment?” Ms Robertson said.

“This construction will not end for another five years as all blocks between National Storage and the R Iconic building are already approved for construction but there is inadequate infrastructure for the construction workers to commence work.”

“It’s also completely unacceptable that they can close roads like Woodgate St off, and work out of hours, without any communication to us,” Ms Robertson said.

“Where is the capacity for us to be able to influence where we live? Why don’t you give workers parking at the DFO – which is never used – for a reduced rate, and free up space for us so we can have some enjoyment in our own environment?”



Port Phillip Mayor Louise Crawford said that as all on-street parking in the vicinity of Montague Towers was public parking, council “cannot direct workers not to park in legal parking areas”.

“We undertake regular patrols in Woodgate St. If parked trucks are witnessed blocking driveways, for example, enforcement is undertaken,” Mayor Crawford said.

“We understand concrete trucks often park and idle in Woodgate St as they queue to attend nearby construction sites. The vehicles have usually moved on when our officers arrive after receiving a complaint.”

Montague residents have also complained that rubbish is often strewn across Woodgate St from the construction site which made it difficult to drive down.

“All of the plastic bollards and orange matting [are] strewn all across the road – I wasn’t sure if I could drive over it because there may have been steel inside which would have given me a flat tyre,” Ms Robertson said.

“The construction management doesn’t care because the maximum fine for littering is a thousand dollars so they’re not being held accountable or cleaning it up.”

“We need local laws to be more vigilant with them because we’re having to call up constantly.”

Ms Robertson also said that workers would often leave work papers, lunch wrappers, coffee cups and construction-related signage which was not adequately secured all over Woodgate, Normanby and Montague streets.

“It makes the area look awful and they need to be held accountable,” Ms Robertson said.

To deal with this issue, Mayor Crawford said that local laws officers would undertake proactive patrols and speak to construction companies as they returned to work.

“As a waste management measure, we have installed public bins in nearby public spaces, including extra bins in the Port Melbourne light rail reserve,” Mayor Crawford said.

“Street cleaning is undertaken on a programmed monthly basis and our litter pickers manually pick up litter in this area every week.”

Aside from the parking and littering issues, residents have also requested that the council install mirrors on the Montague Street Bridge to allow for greater visibility.

The calls come after an elderly Montague Tower resident was knocked over by a bike coming down the light rail underpass ramp, who now experiences ongoing tendon damage.

Ms Robertson said the lack of visibility at the bridge was a “fatality waiting to happen”.

“Requests to council for mirrors to show both bike, pedestrian and car traffic – who are now bypassing the Woodgate/Montague corner and driving on the pathway as the exit to Montague St is blocked with traffic or construction vehicles – have gone ignored,” Ms Robertson said.

Mayor Crawford said that the council’s Traffic Safety Team was not aware of the incident and was currently reviewing that location to determine if signage or line marking treatments were required.

However, she said that the council no longer installed or maintained convex mirrors on roads or footpaths “as the shape of the mirror distorts the image”.

“This means reliance on convex mirrors is considered potentially dangerous as objects appear to be smaller, further away and travelling at a lower speed than in reality,” Mayor Crawford said.

“Convex mirrors have also historically been highly prone to graffiti and required frequent maintenance.” ●

More Montague high-rise plans

Continued from page 1.

demolish the two-storey concrete and glass commercial building and car-parking space at 207-211 and 215-217 Normanby Rd for the two new buildings.

However, councillors voted unanimously to endorse the planning officer’s recommendation not to support the proposal in its current form as it didn’t meet “present-day planning policy and planning scheme provisions for the site”.

Cr Martin said the application required significant design changes.

“We’ve got a lot of development happening in our ward in Gateway which council needs to be involved in,” Cr Martin said.

“The applicant in this particular case has had several years to respond to concerns that have been raised with the developer concerning these two towers and they haven’t got back to them.”

“The overlays of the precinct have changed significantly in that time, so they obviously need to go back to the drawing board and come back with another proposal.”

The Normanby Rd proposal first appeared before council in 2016 and the design has not changed since then despite push-back from both the council and the Planning Minister.

Among the concerns in the council’s planning report was the lack of affordable housing in the tower, the car park design and the lack of diversity in building height.



▲ A render of the Buckhurst St proposal.

“Council reaffirms its 2016 concerns with the proposal about lack of diversity in building height, cumulative density, traffic and wind impacts, the limited provision of affordable housing, a shortfall in motorcycle/scooter parking, car park design, loading bay design and accessibility,” the report read.



▲ New open space proposed near the corner of George and Thistlethwaite streets.

“[The council is also concerned about the lack of] sustainable design, waste management including poor large vehicle access to and from the site off Montague St because of the bridge, the lack of provision of community infrastructure, and detail design, operational and amenity matters.” ●



Katie Johnson
JOURNALIST
KATIE@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU

“A special precinct”: Maritime trail edges closer

WORDS BY *David Schout*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Plans for a trail to celebrate Melbourne's maritime history has received “significant support” from key stakeholders and the community.

A joint state and local government study investigated options for a heritage trail along the Yarra River, which would both connect existing maritime properties as well as recognising Aboriginal maritime heritage.

Of the 270 respondents, which included those with seafaring connections, a “considerable number” were in favour of a maritime trail precinct.

Establishing a maritime precinct as a “trail” was favoured over using an individual location, and it was found that the heritage-listed Mission to Seafarers (MtS) building at North Wharf could play a pivotal role as the trail's “headquarters”.

Cr Rohan Leppert said it was a part of Melbourne's history that deserved better recognition.

“This is a really special precinct,” he said at a September 21 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

“We are sitting on something so magical that is under-realised in terms of its tourism and economic potential. But it's just that layer of history, that Melbourne can tell a maritime story that is known to many but could be known to so many more. It's not just a post-colonial heritage — it goes back tens of thousands of years. And it is something that government could do a lot more to interpret and celebrate.”

The proposed trail, which could be built into the City of Melbourne's \$300 million Greenline project, would run predominantly along the river's Northern side.

However, a key section would move into South Wharf, including along *Polly Woodside* Park, the ship itself and museum, before heading back north across Seafarers Bridge.

The report notes that this area would form the “heart” of the trail.

“The central area of the Polly Woodside Park, ship and museum, Seafarers Bridge, park, and Mission to Seafarers building and the Seafarers development would form a natural heart to such a trail precinct as the activity levels and attraction density is high.”

A maritime trail could include, from east to west, Sandridge Bridge, Enterprize Park, Batman Park, *Polly Woodside* Park (plus ship/museum), across Seafarers Bridge into Seafarers Rest Park, Mission to Seafarers, re-furnished crane and Goods Shed.

The trail could then continue to: Australia Wharf, then to North Wharf and Victoria Harbour where the current heritage fleet (*Alma Doepel*, *Enterprize* and steam tug *Wattle*) is berthed.

Cr Leppert said the “precinct as a trail” concept had a “lot of legs”.

The Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN) has for more than two years advocated the creation of a waterways maritime trail, with both the Mission to Seafarers and soon-to-be-built Seafarers Rest Park at its heart.

“[We're] pleased the study recognises the opportunity to elevate the status of maritime heritage by creating a heritage precinct aligned with the Greenline project through Seafarers Rest Park, and the adjacent MtS building,” MMHN director Martin Dixon said.

However, Mr Dixon said the proposed precinct should be extended.

“We'd like to make the point that, in our minds, this heritage precinct extends from Birrarung Marr right along the river and should really incorporate all of the Victoria Harbour precinct, right around to Ron Barassi Snr Park.”

However, the Yarra River Business Association had a different view.

While expressing strong support for the trail, it cautioned against



expanding it too wide.

“Themed walks are harder to develop and certainly much harder to promote when they are stretched over considerable distance and when they link sparsely located sites of interest,” executive officer Tim Bracher wrote in his submission.

“For this reason, we would advise against a potential five-kilometre maritime trail between Princes Bridge and Docklands. Rather, we would suggest that the trail be developed and promoted simply as an environmentally-focused walking path.”

“As part of that trail, separately looped sub-trails could focus on specific themes, such as the indigenous way of life pre-settlement (Princes Bridge to Spencer St), and the post settlement to 1920s maritime heritage (South Wharf, Australia Wharf, Seafarers, the Mission, Collins Landing). A separate looped trail could be developed for Docklands which highlights the more modern aspects of our maritime history.”

Mr Bracher added that it favoured more “appetising bite-size trails”, while a longer five-kilometre trail would be best incorporated as part of Greenline.

“The infrastructure and interpretation for a South Wharf-North Wharf maritime-themed loop trail already exists. We would welcome the opportunity to work with Council on developing this as the first of the themed loops that could form part of the overall Greenline trail experience,” he said.

Future of the Mission

The second aspect of the study focused on the future of the heritage-listed Mission to Seafarers building on Flinders St.

The report found that the state government-owned building, built in 1917, required “significant capital investment by the Victorian Government to ensure its longer-term functionality, operational excellence, compliance and amenity”.

However, the council resolved to work with the government to determine the best future use of the building, and advocate for funding to upgrade it.

Cr Leppert spelled out the situation as it stood.

“There's been a lot of difficulty in finding a future use of the Seafarers building that can ensure its upkeep is looked after. We know that, and

we're not in a position unfortunately to weigh in and provide that support here and now. But I do hope a whole-of-government approach, that carefully considers the future of the building, and that can clearly have a plan in place that includes the Victorian Government contributing to funding the upkeep of that building will see [the Mission to Seafarers] be the centrepiece of this precinct as a trail concept that we might be developing going forward.”

The report also found that the Mission was not of significant size to accommodate a maritime heritage museum.

Ross Brewer, chairman of Offshore & Specialist Ships Australia (OSSA) located at the Mission, said while the building was “tired” and “needed doing up”, it should remain an iconic part of the city.

“This building is iconic — Melbourne has a real treasure here,” he said.

“Through its door, there would be tens of thousands of seafarers that would have passed through there over the 100-plus years of operation. The combination of the building and the seafarers is something that Melbourne has to have a lot of pride in, and this paper goes a long way to supporting this development well into the future.”

The building includes a consecrated chapel, courtyard, domed room, hall, and other multifunctional smaller spaces.

In the YRBA's submission, Mr Bracher said wasn't sufficient demand for a maritime museum in the City of Melbourne.

“We do not believe that in Melbourne City there is sufficient market demand for a stand-alone maritime heritage museum, especially as that is already available within the Williamstown Seaport project. As the consultants' report indicates, maritime heritage is a relatively niche area of cultural tourism.” ●

Popular café at the ABC closes its doors

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

A much-loved café at the ABC's Southbank Centre has been forced to close indefinitely, saying the city's sixth lockdown had been the final straw.

Evan Dounas, who has been running *Koora120* on Southbank Boulevard for the past three years, said he was devastated after a drastic drop in patronage amid COVID-19 restrictions had “driven us to pack up and shut our doors”.

“It's just the pandemic, no-one in their lifetime ever thought about something like this,” he told *Southbank News*.

“I thought we may ride it through with the government support we've had in the past but that just didn't suffice.”

“You can only rob Peter and give to Paul so many times until you think it's time to pull all the stops out and just fold up the business because it's safer that way.”

Mr Dounas said the effect of the lockdowns had “hurt us quite a bit” with revenue having plunged by 90 per cent.

Before the pandemic, he said business was “thriving” with his café serving between 600 and 700 customers a day — which became “about 90 if we're lucky” in the weeks before they closed.

While he appreciated being “very well looked after at the ABC” in terms of not having to pay rent, he said he could no longer afford to stay open and made the painful decision to close his doors on September 30.

He said the stress of trying to keep his



business afloat had also become too much, which he believed had led to him having a heart attack earlier this year.

“I thought I was riding it [the pandemic] through quite well and in January I suffered a heart attack. I thought, ‘no, this is due to ill health’, but there were way too many stressors. I was extremely fit, I was out walking, I was out riding bikes, mountain biking. Obviously, something contributed to this.”

“You always question yourself, your integrity, your moral standing with the community and you think ‘have I done something wrong?’ It plays a big role when you own the business.”

Mr Dounas acknowledged the closure of his café had been no fault of his own and the extended lockdown had “finally caught up to us and finally someone had to make a decision and pull the plug”.

“I actually wanted to take out a licence for 20 years but that's obviously not on the table anymore,” he said.

“I've been in the industry for such a long time because I love it, and this was one of the best places I've ever owned and worked in,” he said of his 40-year career in the industry, adding he was heartened by the “warmth” shown by customers — some of whom had dropped off “little

“

You always question yourself, your integrity, your moral standing with the community and you think ‘have I done something wrong?’ It plays a big role when you own the business.

”

thank you gifts”.

“We had people crying here. I thought that was quite warming because we did try to support as many people as we could, we've had such a wonderful time here.”

Asked what he had planned to do next, Mr Dounas said, “After this encounter I've just made it as a rule that this has been the last place that I'm going to work in hospitality.”

“I've done my dash, four decades is more than enough for me. But I'm still too young to retire yet. I'm 55, I've still got a way to go.” ●



▲ Seema and Prasoon Thakura, the first residents to move into Melbourne Square.



▲ Andrea Feo studying in his "co-working space".

The global wanderers of Boyd Park

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge
COMMUNITY

Global IT workers have to make sacrifices in terms of both travel and accommodation until they find the right conditions for a home office and a good life.

Many have tried out jobs in Asian cities before arriving in Melbourne and settling around Boyd Park in Southbank.

Prasoon and Seema Thakura are from Mumbai and they lived in Jakarta, Bangkok and Singapore before coming here 12 years ago.

"People like us go to Australia and the United States," Prasoon said. "It's a progression. An employee joins the company and gets experience in international working."

Prasoon designs IT platforms for media and entertainment broadcasters. Last year the family decided to put down roots and they became the first residents to move into Melbourne Square after buying an apartment off the plan. They'd been looking for seven to eight years.

"For an immigrant coming from Mumbai we are comfortable living in tall vertical complexes," Prasoon explained.

The family also loves the new Woolworths down below with its diverse shelves and the mix of nationalities in this densely populated enclave around Boyd Park. "People are well-educated, and conversation is easy."

On any one day, the residents of these surrounding towers, some as high as 91 floors, come down to the park to mingle, let their kids play, work on their laptops, and watch the parade of people pass. It's a minor miracle of mingling.

The racial mix is more Singaporean than Melburnian, an observation born out by the figures. More than 54 per cent of residents of Southbank were born overseas.

A large red rail flyover that runs down one side of the park also has symbolic significance. The urban vibe is reminiscent of Brooklyn, a destination for immigrants seeking a new life in the United States. The association hasn't been lost on Southbank's global wanderers.

Andrea Feo has dual citizenship and arrived here from Italy two-and-a-half years ago. He lives on the second floor of an apartment tower, and works at South Melbourne Market with Thursdays off when he challenges himself with an IT course.

He said the railway bridges and Kings Way overpass were like those in New York, Boston or Chicago. "I love the sound of the traffic," he

“

For an immigrant coming from Mumbai we are comfortable living in tall vertical complexes.

”

said. "It's like white noise. It stimulates a response in the brain. When I open the windows, I feel part of something. The buildings are like mountains."

He likes to go down to Boyd Park to study. He calls it a co-working space. Andrea is a user-experience designer and his aim, like many who arrive here fresh off the plane, is to get an IT job and earn enough money in a year to buy a car. He wants a BMW electric car.

These new residents of Southbank aren't just romanticising their choices. They've actually checked out the rest of the city before moving in.

Andrea has lived in Elsternwick, Brunswick, Fairfield, Caulfield South, in a group house and an AirBnB and he's finally settled on a single bedroom apartment with a north-facing balcony nearby. "This is a place for me to grow up," he said.

The Thakuras feel the same way. "We spent time travelling and seeing what the country was like," Prasoon said. "We found a cluster of Asians here, a cluster of Indians there. We went to Footscray and I liked it. It's very multicultural but now it's more hippy."

After buying the apartment, Prasoon was stuck in the United States and Seema had to manage the move herself. Prasoon made it back two weeks ago at a cost of \$30,000 for a one-way ticket, the price of getting back home without repatriation. There were only five people on the plane.

Seema used to travel to the suburbs or walk to King St to buy the kinds of ingredients she needs for her home cooking. The new Woolworths in Melbourne Square has an entire aisle devoted to authentic Indian and Asian products, including several choices of "pap" (short for pappadam) and red lentils. "There's a lot of cooking with a home office," she said. "Two meals a day." ●

Council sends statement on violence against women

WORDS BY David Schout
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne has pledged to improve women's safety and participation in its latest violence against women strategy.

A report underpinning the latest Prevention of Violence Against Women Action Plan 2021 - 2024 concluded that women had been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and – given that typically they earn less, have lower savings and often work in less secure roles and industries – women are more vulnerable to economic crisis.

This inequality was "directly linked to violence against women", and Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the council was committed to driving change.

"Everyone deserves to feel safe in our city, and this action plan will help us to tackle the problem head on," she said.

"We know one in three women have experienced at least one incident of violence in their lifetime, and more than half have been sexually harassed. That's simply unacceptable."

"The City of Melbourne is committed to transforming the underlying causes of violence against women, and disrupting the drivers of that violence, through targeted actions and initiatives."

The plan identifies four key areas to target within the next 12 months, including:

- Advancing women's leadership;
- Promoting the safety of women and girls in public spaces;
- Engaging men and boys in conversations about healthy masculinity, and;
- Achieving primary prevention.

Dr Olivia Ball, councillor and chair of the health, wellbeing and belonging portfolio, said the pandemic had further focused the City of Melbourne's attention on the issue.

"There is emerging evidence that gender equality is getting worse, with the COVID pandemic disproportionately affecting women," Cr Ball said.

"Having already started from a position of unequal pay and superannuation, more women have lost their jobs and working hours during the pandemic than men. Fewer women have accessed income support to get through the crisis."

"The action plan recognises the link between gender inequality and gender-based violence and provides immediate actions we can take to turn the tide, to ensure women feel safe and supported in our city."

The council recently invested almost \$3 million in security maintenance and upgrades in the CBD, including \$1.8 million to maintain 16,000 street lights.

However, Cr Capp said they also wanted to "do more to promote safe and healthy interactions".

"Our action plan will complement these important infrastructure projects, with initiatives to address violence against women and support gender equality at a community level. The City of Melbourne must and will show leadership in efforts to reduce, and ultimately end, violence against women."

Due to the impacts of COVID-19, the council will prepare annual action plans rather than a three-year plan.

Action plans for year two (2022-23) and year three (2023-24) will be prepared and presented to the Future Melbourne Committee at a later date ●

Comment until 5pm, Oct 12:
participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au



David Schout
JOURNALIST
DAVID@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU



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Get students back in early 2022: Council

WORDS BY *David Schout*
EDUCATION

The City of Melbourne has called for a “substantial return” of international students in time for the 2022 academic year and urged upper levels of government to show leadership on the issue.

The council said state and federal governments had adopted a “generally conservative approach” to planning for international student arrivals and argued planning for next year should “commence immediately”.

Prior to COVID-19, more than one in seven Southbank residents were international students.

However, Australia’s strict border policy throughout the pandemic has seen that figure decline.

A report presented to councillors in September concluded that overseas students’ return would prove crucial not only for tertiary institutions, but also for the many businesses that rely on their presence.

“The return of international students is critical for the city’s recovery in the short to medium term,” the report stated.

“Melbourne’s economy will benefit from international students returning: not just directly in the higher education sector, which has had massive job losses since Australia closed its borders, but also from the flow-on economic benefits of student spending in areas such as housing, food and services.”

After unanimous support from councillors, the City of Melbourne will work with key figures in the international education sector.

Its task will be to push state and federal governments for a “strong return of international students to Melbourne in time for the 2022 academic year”.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp will also work with other capital city Lord Mayors in a joint advocacy effort aimed at securing a national plan.

Other states had already announced plans to return international students before the end of the year.

South Australia has a federal government approved plan to return up to 160 students a fortnight on chartered flights.

On September 24, NSW announced that 500 students from around the world would travel to Australia on two chartered flights in December.

Yet at the time of publishing, the Andrews government was yet to release plans to the tertiary sector in Victoria.

The City of Melbourne’s education and innovation chair Cr Davydd Griffiths said it was important to advocate for a specific return date — in this case, early next year.

“That obviously isn’t far away, and we need to ensure that it is a meaningful and realistic target that we can achieve,” he said.

“It’s important to have some timeframes and clear goals to aim at.”

Cr Griffiths said that the importance of international students should not only be expressed in economic terms.

“[They are] important for a whole range of reasons; for institutions ... for the life of the city, [but] also for individual students themselves. And that, at the heart of everything we’re talking about, when it comes to international students is the most important thing, because we’re talking about human beings.”

“And we need to ensure that our city does all it can to make it the very best place for them to study.”

His deputy in the education portfolio, Cr Phillip Le Liu, acknowledged that the council’s influence on the issue was limited.

“There’s not many levers the City of Melbourne can pull,” he said.

“The federal government control visas, the state government control the education part.”

“But we really are the closest government to the people ... for us, the advocacy is really important and that’s why we’re doing everything we can.”

In July, Melbourne was ranked the sixth-best student city in the world by university ranking group QS, down from third in the previous rankings of 2019 ●

Caught on cam: Thieves steal bike after breaking into apartment building

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
SAFETY & SECURITY

A Southbank woman has been left devastated after brazen thieves were caught on CCTV pinching her bicycle from her apartment building in Southbank on September 25.

Jamie, who asked that her surname not be used, said she had to “look twice” after discovering her bike, a 2015 Giant Talon, was missing after having locked it up in a bike rack at her apartment building, The Summit, on City Rd.

“The building manager has reviewed CCTV and has confirmed two men on bikes themselves followed a car into the building,” she said.

“They placed a sticker on the sensors to keep the gates open, had a look around at other bikes in the car park and tried to tamper with them.”

“They came back and forth in and out of the building to come back to mine and break the lock.”

Jaimie said it was believed the intruders entered the level two car park just before 7.30pm before taking off with her bike, which was locked in a bike cage with other bikes.

She said she noticed her bicycle, worth \$900 brand new, was missing the next morning as she was heading to work and reported the theft to police.

“It’s a sickening feeling knowing nothing is safe. It makes me so angry that they think they just take other people’s possessions just like that.”

According to Jamie, there have been several bike thefts within her building in the past two months.

She wanted to share her experience with *Southbank News* in the hope anyone with information could contact police or call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.



▲ CCTV image captured the moment intruders stole a bicycle at The Summit apartment building.



▲ A picture of Jamie’s bicycle.

Her 27.5-inch mountain bicycle has a black frame with a Summit sticker and LED lights on the front and back and features red bullet metal tyre caps.

The incident comes as new research undertaken by Bicycle Network revealed the City of Melbourne was in the top five suburbs with the

“

It’s a sickening feeling knowing nothing is safe.

”

most bikes stolen in 2020.

Alarming, bicycle thefts state-wide from flats, units, and apartments have grown at a rate of 40.7 per cent each year – despite Melbourne’s 112-day lockdown last year.

Melbourne Lord Mayor Sally Capp anyone whose bike was stolen should contact police.

“We’re continuing to deliver new bike facilities right across the municipality as part of a range of City of Melbourne infrastructure developments,” she said.

Bicycle Network suggests the following tips to keep your bicycle secure:

- Using a hardened D-lock that cannot be snipped apart by bolt cutters.
- Always lock your bike whether you are out or at home.
- Avoid leaving your bike parked on the street overnight or for extended periods of time.
- If you use a ride recording app such as Strava you should be careful not to highlight the location of your home.
- If your bike is stolen, you should immediately report it to police.
- Take photos of your bike and record details of its make, model, year, colour, and serial number (in case of theft) ●

Construction shutdown halts works on Southbank Boulevard

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Work on the Southbank Boulevard project which has already faced delays and disruptions will resume after the construction sector was shut down for two weeks to slow the spread of COVID-19.

The City of Melbourne said construction workers would be back on the tools “straight away” after the state government confirmed restrictions on the construction industry would be eased at 11.59pm on October 4.

The shutdown comes after concerns were raised about non-compliance of health orders within the construction sector across the state, and came on the back of two days of violent protests outside the construction union’s head office on Elizabeth St last month.

Work sites along Southbank Boulevard were left to sit idle throughout the shutdown, creating another setback for the \$47m project which aims to create five new public spaces and neighbourhood parks, as well as 300 new trees and 1.1km of new bike lanes.

The works, which are now 18 months behind schedule, have become one of Melbourne’s most expensive capital works projects since construction got underway in July 2018.

In what began as stages and later sub-categories, there has been no clear framework for residents or businesses – with the project appearing no closer to completion and its budget having blown out by \$12m following initial estimates it would cost \$35m.

Southbank Residents’ Association president Tony Penna said while it was disappointing there had been a further delay, he understood health was a priority.

“I respect the decisions that the government is making to keep us all safe, and that’s got to outweigh my desire to have a park in Southbank,” he said.

But despite the two-week shutdown, Mr Penna said he had been told by the City of Melbourne that the current stages of the project



▲ Construction workers continue work on Southbank Boulevard on October 5 following the government’s shutdown.

were “still on schedule”.

“So, they’ve obviously come up with a plan ... that would imply that maybe they were a bit above schedule where they were aiming to finish.”

But in terms of the whole project being completed this year, he believed “it’s not going to be done”.

“It’s disappointing all round. I don’t want to keep hashing on that, I want to say let’s just get on with it and that we can see the light at the end of tunnel.”

The City of Melbourne said it had allowed until 2022 to finish the project.

In its latest update, the council reported works were “progressing well” with two neighbourhood parks on Southbank Boulevard.

This included a park between Fawcner St and City Rd which was expected to open by November with bluestone walls and paving taking shape and a boardwalk to be installed.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp earlier this year said she understood many locals were “frustrated by the ongoing construction” and that it “has taken far longer than expected” but it would be “worth the wait”.

The ban on work sites was imposed after the state government expressed concern about multiple outbreaks of COVID-19 having been linked to construction.

In order to work onsite, construction workers will need to have received one COVID-19 vaccine dose.

Every construction site in Victoria must also have a designated COVID Marshal to ensure compliance with health orders.

Up to five workers and a supervisor will be able to work onsite for small scale construction projects, and large-scale sites can have up to 25 per cent of workers onsite.

Treasurer and Minister for Industrial Relations Tim Pallas said, “We’ve worked really hard with the industry to ensure they can reopen safely”.

“But the message is clear: we won’t tolerate it operating in a way that puts the rest of our community at risk,” he said.

Shadow Industry Minister Bridget Vallance said thousands of workers and subcontractors were “forced out of work because of Daniel Andrews and Labor’s failure to prepare the health system and manage the COVID crisis” ●

YRBA reveals five-year strategy for Southbank's business precinct

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*
BUSINESS

The Yarra River Business Association (YRBA) has unveiled its *Five-Year Strategic Plan: 2021-2026*, aimed at leading its members through post COVID-19 recovery with an eye on big ticket infrastructure projects like Greenline and the "Arts Centre re-imagining."

The plan aligns with key findings from two seminal documents; the 2021 member and stakeholder survey conducted by Right Angle Studio, and the 2019 report from the Yarra River Big Ideas Forum, facilitated on behalf of the association by ARUP Australia.

The association's deep-dive survey looked to answer two fundamental questions preceding the development of the strategic plan; is the YRBA still needed in a post-pandemic world, and what is there left for it to achieve?

With 70 per cent of business members declaring they derived "some" or "a lot" of benefit from belonging to YRBA and 88 per cent of members claiming the area would, or may, suffer without the association, executive officer Tim Bracher, told *Southbank News* he and his board now had the confidence to move forward with momentum.

"There was the risk faced when we commissioned Right Angle Studio to do the survey of our members," Mr Bracher said. "The board was quite prepared to step aside should the survey find that we haven't been performing to their expectations, or that we were no longer needed."

"We were pleased and relieved that we are still relevant and worthwhile for our members everyday business endeavours. We are now confident moving forward, armed with solid feedback from our members, to look ahead to the next five years."

According to Mr Bracher, the association is under no illusions the large majority of the *Five-Year Strategic Plan* would involve almost



▲ YRBA executive officer Tim Bracher.

totally rebuilding after the pandemic.

Other key issues facing the precinct outlined in the strategic plan include major disruptions to Southbank Promenade from upgrade works and redevelopment of the Southgate sub-precinct, continuing business and resident concern about cyclist and pedestrian separation on the promenades, and contested use of water and land assets within the precinct.

"The big change over the next five years will be the start of Greenline. It will likely take the two or three years in planning, but we are hoping in the end of the five-year cycle we see some long-hanging fruit coming to fruition for north bank," Mr Bracher said.

"In particular, we hope to see Banana Alley's transformation into an outstanding tourism

sub-precinct."

Coinciding with the Greenline's transformation of the Yarra's north bank, the association is expecting to see significant transformation opportunities with the Southgate redevelopment, Arts Centre re-imagining, Arts Precinct development, and Riverlee's Seafarers development, leading the way.

At a grass-roots level, the strategic plan will look to continue the YRBA's advocacy for its members with council and government agencies, business support through marketing and networking opportunities and increased communication and transparency with regards to governance of the association.

According to Pure South Dining co-owner Philip Kennedy, the YRBA's advocacy for members had culminated in a few "spectacular results" for his popular riverside venue.

"They cut very quickly to contacts, particularly at the City of Melbourne, the network the YRBA has, which a small business owner won't, has been incredible," Mr Kennedy said.

"Council can be a difficult beast to approach at times, but to have someone from the YRBA reaching out on our behalf or finding a contact, it helps cutting through bureaucracy."

"Everyone's sense of networking and being a part of an association is very different, you tend to get back what you put in. The common-sense approach [from the YRBA] and knowledge of other members has helped me see issues differently. That might be in resolving something for myself or having a better attitude towards something when you have a broader vision."

Mr Kennedy alluded to a key strength in the fabric of the YRBA coming in the form of a consistent and "switched on" committee and board, representing a range of industries.

YRBA president and former Arts Centre Melbourne executive officer Jeremy Vincent, said the key role of the association was communicating with its members and providing a conduit to local and government stakeholders.

"It is our job to help our members come to the nuts and bolts of some of the decision making and impacting the river and the people [who] live and work along it," Mr Vincent said.

"It is the key element to keeping everyone happy and informed, and in turn, creating a thriving and cohesive precinct."

Without the YRBA, Southbank would be without a coalface business organisation and without an interface between businesses and the City of Melbourne.

As the precinct wakes post-COVID, that interface role will be more crucial to local businesses than ever as they look to utilise the council in any way, whether that be for outdoor dining permits or recovery funding.

"The City of Melbourne has been a fantastic partner for the last 20 years in keeping the precinct program going, which has developed into an outstanding example of council and businesses working together, to create a cross flow of communication and information and monetary assistance," Mr Bracher said.

"Council doesn't get a lot of credit for the hard yards they have put in for the last 20 years to create what is a world class precinct program."

"The YRBA is a good example of what has emerged out of the council business collaboration."

The Victorian Government roadmap will see the precinct return to outdoor dining as of late October, with further easing of restrictions expected in the weeks after.

The YRBA will take advantage of the new freedoms with a thrice rescheduled Lord Mayoral Luncheon slated for Friday, November 12, at the Belgian Beer Garden ●

For more information:
yarrariver.melbourne

COVID road map offers "glimmer of hope" as traders gear up to reopen

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

Traders in Southbank have expressed relief for Victoria's COVID road map, but many are holding their breath as to whether the city will reopen in late October.

Pubs, restaurants, cafes and entertainment venues will be able to open outdoors with a limit of 50 fully vaccinated patrons when the state's first-dose vaccination rates hit 70 per cent – projected to be October 26 under the state government's "cautious" road map out of lockdown.

Hairdressing would also return for the fully vaccinated with a maximum of five people in a salon at one time.

Hamish Turner, owner-operator of Classic Steamboat Cruises in Southbank, said the road map wasn't clear as to when cruises could return, but believed it was "at least five weeks away so that's what I'm working on".

"People are holding off for now, the phone hasn't been ringing and emails haven't been coming through," he said.

"Things will be a bit thin on the ground financially even when we get to the end of this coming season."

But he added, "I have no doubt we'll be busy when it reopens but there's no staff, they're all gone."

"Initially it'll just be me; I'll sell my tickets, I'll drive the boats, like it was how I started 20 years ago."

Nick Edgar, who runs Gordon Espresso café in Southbank, said he was relieved to have some rough dates to work towards.

Under the road map, hospitality can resume indoors for up to 150 people, and retail and beauty services



▲ Owner-operator of Classic Steamboat Cruises Hamish Turner.

can reopen for the fully vaccinated when Victoria reaches its 80 per cent double-dose target, which is expected on November 5.

"We're really excited to reopen, I think having some vague kind of a road map is awesome," Mr Edgar said, but added "we're holding our breath with a positive outlook" if the road map was changed.

"We're lucky we've got a big outdoor setting so I'm pretty positive ... but there are so many businesses they have no outdoor setting."

Asked how he felt about verifying the vaccination status of patrons, Mr Edgar said, "There's no point fighting about it. Everyone's going to have to do the right thing".

Rob Reali, manager of Nine Yards café in South Melbourne, said his team was "just really excited to open and get the wheels rolling again

because it's been a long time".

"Definitely a relief but to be honest we're taking it day by day at the moment because we never know what's happening," he said.

"We already seat over 70 people outside so we're lucky that we get to accommodate 50 people towards the end of October."

Melbourne Lord Mayor Sally Capp welcomed the road map, saying it offered "a glimmer of hope for traders" and "outlined the first few important steps towards reopening".

But she said the council would "look forward to more information regarding the reopening steps beyond December" which was "integral for businesses going forward". "We are determined to turn the city inside out by bringing indoor hospitality and trading outside onto our beautiful streets so that traders

can welcome back more patrons and customers sooner."

Yarra River Business Association executive officer Tim Bracher said the "two big issues" facing most businesses were regaining a workforce and the "potential conflicts" of checking the vaccine status of customers.

"It's a huge ask of the government to expect traders to 'police' the vax status of those who enter their premises," he said.

"To do it effectively will require employment of at least one security guard per establishment, which is a burden for businesses already suffering devastating financial losses."

"If they don't adequately verify vaccination status, what will be the come-back on the business? It's a potential new minefield for business-people to have to walk through."

Last month City of Melbourne councillors voted unanimously in support of introducing a "health pass" system to reopen struggling businesses earlier.

A jointly-funded package of grants from the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments announced on September 30 will support thousands of businesses until Victoria reopens.

Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chief Executive Paul Guerra said the "latest round of funding will hopefully see businesses make it through".

"Financial support is crucial, but the best support we can give business is the ability to trade. We want to get back to doing what we do best, which is serving customers and servicing the community," he said.

"The Victorian Chamber will continue pushing for the Victorian road

map to align more closely with what NSW has planned, with greater cap numbers for hospitality and retail."

Meanwhile, the City of Melbourne's Business Concierge team has ramped up its support for small businesses, with one-on-one advice to business owners impacted by COVID-19.

"We know ongoing restrictions are significantly impacting our local business owners, and many are struggling to survive. We're hearing from operators who are scared and frustrated, and desperate to reopen," the Lord Mayor said.

"Over the coming weeks, business concierge staff will be calling business owners directly to check in on their plans and wellbeing, and provide any further support in the lead up to the city's reopening."

The council is also set to deliver \$1.85 million in grants to activate key precincts and bring business events back to the city.

At the Future Melbourne Committee meeting on October 5, councillors voted in favour of a \$1.75 million City Activation Grants Program, to be funded through the \$100 million Melbourne City Recovery Fund – a collaboration between the City of Melbourne and the state government.

Under the program, businesses, interest groups and local enthusiasts will be encouraged to apply for grants of up to \$50,000 for initiatives that can drive visitation to areas impacted by COVID-19.

Additionally, under the \$100,000 Business Event Support program, grants of up to \$10,000 as well as in-kind support would be available for conferences, exhibitions and networking events ●

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TURNING GREY TO GREEN AS URBAN FORESTS BLOOM ACROSS THE CITY

With spring in full bloom, the City of Melbourne's Urban Forest Fund projects are transforming grey spaces to green with leafy laneways, curated courtyards and rooftop urban farms.

The Urban Forest Fund provides matched financial support to new private greening projects in the city, not just for residents, but in many cases for all Melburnians keen for a stroll in publicly-accessible green spaces.

Here are four new greening projects that are transforming grey spaces across the city.

Printmakers Lane, Southbank

The hot dry Mediterranean climate was the inspiration for cooling vines in a laneway on the University of Melbourne's Southbank campus.

'Historically it is quite a harsh laneway,' project manager Sebastian Di Girolamo said.

'It has metal cladding so we did some testing and over summer it's a hot area. The asphalt paving had a lot of services running through it and was cut up like a dog's breakfast with an uneven surface.'

'So we came up with the idea of a design from Italy, Greece and Spain, hotter climates, where they use vines to create shade and make laneways cooler. It's not a fruiting vine, it's more ornamental. The contractors ran a cable up the wall from the plant to create a structure for the canopy to grow on,' he said.

The vines will cross over to the other buildings overhead. The idea is once the plants are blooming and leafy they'll create a shade canopy over the laneway.

'We're expecting within the first 24 months of planting that we should have vines growing over the canopy. Already they're latching on and starting to shoot.'

The City of Melbourne contributed \$100,000 to the greening project which will transform the Printmakers Laneway into a shady green space that can be enjoyed by students and members of the public.



Printmakers Lane, Southbank will be transformed with a cooling vine canopy.

HAINES STREET APARTMENTS, NORTH MELBOURNE

In Haines Street, North Melbourne plants and garden beds are now well established, softening the hard edges of an apartment complex car park.

'They're doing well and we will do a lot more planting after winter,' said Ying-Lan Dann, a resident and one of the keen gardeners behind the project.

The City of Melbourne contributed \$66,000 to the project which has transformed the car park area of a medium-density housing complex, which is publicly-accessible, into a safe, active communal space for both residents and the public to enjoy.

Now residents look out onto fruiting trees and herb beds, native flowering ground covers and vertical gardens complemented by rainwater tanks, compost bins and seating areas for relaxation.



TRIBECA APARTMENTS, EAST MELBOURNE

At Tribeca Apartments, building manager Garrad Flint said 'we've had nothing but great feedback from our residents' about the new greening project.

The City of Melbourne contributed \$100,000 towards the project which has seen lush mature trees, including lemon myrtle and small-leafed fig, now line a narrow paved laneway, and the plaza area adorned with curving garden beds planted with a range of subtropical plants. Succulents and ground covers thrive.

'It's a publicly-accessible plaza with cafes, restaurants and a supermarket, as well as a crossing point between Victoria Parade's greenery and Albert Street's parks,' Garrad said.

The cool green oasis adds to the character of the area, with a historical red brick and bluestone brewery lending atmosphere to this pleasant precinct.



MELBOURNE SKYFARM, DOCKLANDS

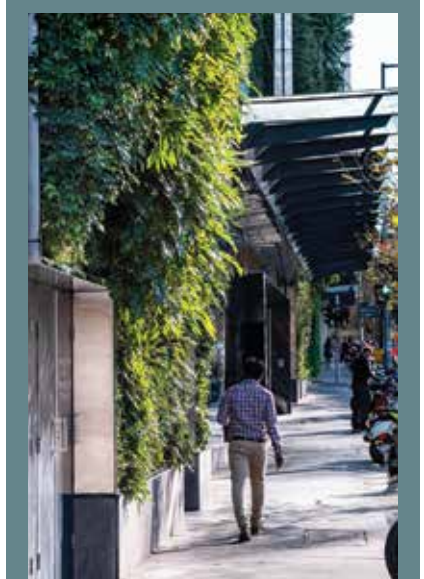
Melbourne Skyfarm is set to become a sustainable city oasis in the Seafarer's precinct overlooking the Yarra River to the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

While not open to the public until early next year, Melbourne Skyfarm has marked the completion of the first stage of works including the urban greening and urban farming component.

The City of Melbourne committed \$300,000 in matched funding through the Urban Forest Fund to support the delivery of the urban farm.

When fully complete, Melbourne Skyfarm will be open to the public to tour the working farm, visit the rooftop orchard and herb gardens, or purchase plants from the nursery.

There are also plans for a sustainable café and an environmental education area.



WHAT IS THE URBAN FOREST FUND?

The Urban Forest Fund supports a wide range of projects, including gardens, tree planting, biodiversity projects, green roofs and vertical greening in the city.

Grant applications are assessed by a panel of greening experts and community members who prioritise projects that will provide the most benefit to the community and environment.

For more information, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/community/greening-the-city/urban-forest-fund

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TAKING FUN TO NEW HEIGHTS

Treetop fun has taken over the oldest playground in town with the City of Melbourne's newest place space officially open to children of all ages.

The Lincoln Square playground in Carlton features rope bridges, play towers, slides, swings and timber play structures high up in the trees, as well as a new barbecue and picnic area.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the park's 150-year-old Moreton Bay Fig trees were incorporated into the design of the playground creating exciting new spaces to explore up high.

"We know ongoing restrictions have been incredibly hard on our community, so the completion of the Lincoln Square playground is perfectly timed to get restless kids out of the house and into the fresh air," the Lord Mayor said.

"We hope this new state-of-the-art play space will bring some much-needed joy and excitement, and become one of our city's most loved playgrounds," she said.

The playground upgrade is part of the City of Melbourne's Lincoln Square Concept Plan, and also included the delivery of new lawn and garden beds,

more trees, and improved footpaths, lighting and irrigation.

Health and Wellbeing portfolio lead Councillor Dr Olivia Ball said Carlton is one of the fastest-growing areas in the municipality and playgrounds like this are vital for the young families who call Carlton home.

"I used to live near Lincoln Square myself and it's been a joy to see the City of Melbourne expand the park and now build this magnificent new playground," Cr Dr Ball said.

"By expanding and improving our green open spaces, we're helping to

ensure Melbourne remains a highly desirable place to live, work and visit."

Lincoln Square has been home to the city's first playground since it opened to the public in 1907.



Lincoln Square Treetop Playground

HAVE YOUR SAY ON NEW GREEN WASTE COLLECTION TO WIN

Melburnians are embracing a new food and garden organics collection service with almost 150 tonnes of waste diverted from landfill in its first two months.

Residents who have used the food and organic waste service are encouraged to provide feedback on the pilot program.

Those who complete the survey, or share their tips and tricks, via Participate Melbourne before 1 November will go in the draw to win one of three \$100 Queen Victoria Market vouchers.

The service provided by the City of Melbourne began in June with waste collections from 9,000 homes across the municipality.

Residents in stand-alone houses and single-storey apartment blocks were

given a 120-litre lime-green wheelie bin, a kitchen caddy for food scraps and 52 compostable bin liners as part of the program.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the early success of the program showed the community is keen to embrace a more environmentally-friendly way to dispose of their waste.

"In one month alone, our team collected food and garden waste from more than 16,200 bins and processed 115 tonnes of organic waste - preventing hundreds of kilograms of Co2 emissions from being generated in landfill.

"The organic waste we've collected has been converted into about 42 tonnes of valuable compost.

"We're now exploring how best to use this compost, this will support the creation of a circular economy and help maintain our beautiful parks, gardens and trees."

The new food and organics service is part of the City of Melbourne's Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030, which aims to reduce landfill and improve waste and recycling services across the municipality.

The City of Melbourne invested \$1 million to establish the service at no additional cost to residents.

Environment portfolio lead Councillor Rohan Leppert said community feedback would help Council roll out the service across the municipality.

"If you've been using our food and organic waste service we want to hear from you. Tell us what's worked and what hasn't so we can continue to improve and expand the service," Cr Leppert said.

To provide feedback on the food and organic waste service, visit participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/food-garden-waste to have your say.



FREE PERIOD PRODUCTS AVAILABLE ACROSS THE CITY

The City of Melbourne is offering free period products in some of its public facilities to help ensure everyone can manage the normal process of menstruation without embarrassment or stigma.

When people aren't able to access these products, this can be a significant obstacle to emotional and physical health, comfort, and engagement with school and community activities.

'Period poverty' is experienced in Australia and all over the world by people who menstruate.

Council has unanimously endorsed a 12-month pilot of free menstrual care products, an initiative that addresses a number of priorities in our Council Plan.

When lockdown restrictions ease, free pads and tampons will be available at:

- Library at the Dock
- City Library
- Carlton Baths
- Melbourne Town Hall public toilets on Collins Street
- North Melbourne Community Centre
- Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre.



Information and events in this publication are current at the time of printing. Subsequent changes may occur. All photos taken in line with health and safety guidelines.

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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CITY OF MELBOURNE

COUNCILLOR PROFILE

Giving a voice to our international students

While Cr Philip Le Liu has brought many passions to the City of Melbourne, his greatest ambition continues to be making Melbourne the number one student city in the world.

WORDS BY Sean Car

Having first been elected to the City of Melbourne in 2016 on former councillor Ken Ong's ticket, Cr Le Liu is now one of the more experienced members on council after being re-elected for a second term last year.

And at just 38 years of age, he also represents an emerging younger voice at the City of Melbourne, and during his time as a councillor, the plight of the city's growing international student population has been at the top of his agenda.

Having previously chaired the council's international engagement portfolio during his first term, Cr Le Liu told *Southbank News* he had made it his priority to ensure the council better served what was "pretty much our biggest community now".

Making up around 40 per cent of the residential population in the CBD prior to the pandemic, it's a community that represents one of the hardest hit by COVID and the impacts of its absence continue to be felt right throughout the municipality.

While he now chairs the council's finance, governance and risk portfolio, he said he was happy to continue playing a driving role in supporting international students as deputy portfolio lead for education and innovation.

Together with that portfolio's chair Cr Davydd Griffiths – a former teacher and education policy advisor himself – Cr Le Liu he was determined to reinstate Melbourne's title as one of the world's best cities for students.

"When I first came into council, international students were right down at the very bottom, no-one had done anything with it, yet they are one of our biggest communities," he said.

"We'd never had any funding or initiatives or anything, so when I got in I said, 'I really want to put it up here [at the top]. We were the third best student city in the world, I want to make us number one."

"I hope that by the time I leave here [council] we're number one, and I think we can."

Amid one of the most difficult economic periods in the City of Melbourne's history, as chair of finance, Cr Le Liu has already been central to recovery efforts in helping to deliver the council's biggest budget in its history this year.

While admittedly "less about the numbers", he said he had been able to call on his background in auditing to "put a different lens" through the council's finances and make a "real mark" during a crucial time.

And despite the often "black and white" nature of council treasury, he said the role had been able to "reconnect" him with his more than 10 years of experience working across a variety of sectors, including finance, government, telecommunications and not-for-profit.

But as the city braces for a long-awaited reopening, he said the council needed to continue advocating to both upper levels of government to ensure the city's economy "roared back to life".

"I come from a different side of politics but I have to say that the state government has done pretty well in supporting the City of Melbourne with the Melbourne Recovery Fund," he said.

"It is a good partnership, but you know what? Just because they support us on one thing it doesn't mean we should stay silent on everything. The best relationship is when you test each other."

"It's about looking after our ratepayers, from residents to business owners. There is so much that we need to do for the small business owners, who have been absolutely smashed to bits."

"My family comes from a small business



background. We ran our own shop in Balaclava for 15 years so I know what it means to run a small business. I ran a milk bar when I was 16. It's the migrant story – they can't get ahead, so what do they do? They run a small business."

"I know a lot of small business owners can't really speak English, some have no idea about the bureaucracy so I think we can play a real role in the advocacy and untangling all of the red tape."

As one of four current councillors of Asian descent, Cr Le Liu said that representation of the city's Asian community had never been better at the City of Melbourne.

A prominent member of that community, in 2019 he was recognised as one of 40 Under 40 Most Influential Asian-Australians and the winner of the public sector/government category. He also previously served as the general manager of the Australia-China Youth Association in Beijing, looking after Australian international students studying in China.

In reflecting on how much his community had "really suffered" during the pandemic, he said a key motivation for running again had been a desire to provide support and help it engage differently with the city.

"When COVID first hit, the Asian community was the first to get slammed," he said. "The racism is real."

"We're mainly business people, we want a good education and the right opportunities and that's essentially it for many. For me, I want to

get more of the Asian community into philanthropy and just giving back."

"They're very humble and I think the amount of work the Asian community has done during COVID hasn't really been reflected well but it's been really powerful."

Having been re-elected last year on an "unofficial" Liberal Party ticket led by prominent night club owner Nick Russian, Cr Le Liu's conservative stance on a range of issues are occasionally at odds with a number of his fellow councillors.

There are few issues he is more diametrically opposed to than the state government's current proposal for a medically supervised safe injecting room on Flinders St, which he said he was "saving all his energy" for to continue fighting.

But despite the differing political persuasions inherent at times, he described the current team of councillors as "really energetic", adding that they were each dedicated to achieving good outcomes for the community.

And as a resident of the CBD himself, Cr Le Liu said no community was more important than the city's local residents and stressed the importance of giving them a "real voice" in decision-making through "better engagement".

"The role of councillor is to represent the people. So, back to basics," he said.

"I think we've really got to give residents a voice and ensuring that they're in the thinking in of our decision-making. There are too many times we're they're an afterthought."

"When the night-time economy was raised, I was one of the few people who said we needed to ensure residents' views were across it because they're going to be most affected from it."

"As a resident myself living in the Hoddle Grid, I know exactly when the cleaning trucks come into the laneways at different times of the morning. I know that when we approved the extension of construction permits in the city, I couldn't get any work done [in my apartment]."

"We need to engage with them [residents] more. There is no much knowledge and energy that we don't tap into." ●

HISTORY

When Southbank was a canvas town!

“

Television news regularly confronts us with images of large refugee camps around the world. We are also reminded of the plight of the homeless in Melbourne. But in the mid-19th century, Southbank was the site of a "canvas town", regarded as the site of the first housing crisis in Melbourne.

”

It all started with the discovery of gold in Victoria in 1851. Thousands of fortune seekers flocked to Melbourne before heading to the goldfields in regional Victoria. But where would they sleep after they disembarked?

The short-term answer was a Canvas Town, running from St Kilda Rd to the west, and laid out in streets with shops, residences and pubs – but mainly tents.

Families desperate for accommodation could obtain a licence from the colonial government and would rent a tent. New arrivals paid half-a-crown to the government for the first week, and five shillings for every week afterwards.

Life was rough in the Canvas Town. Tents (between 600 and 700) varied in quality and durability and were erected haphazardly, often just tarpaulins strung up between trees. When it rained the tents were saturated: at other times the sand and the dust were intolerable.

Streets were given names like Bond St and Regent St and were populated with stalls where touts would spruik their wares. Some eating places featured ostentatious titles such as London Coffee Rooms or the European Dining Rooms. Water could be purchased from carts that patrolled the streets (the option was to retrieve it from the Yarra), as was timber foraged from nearby bushland.

There were tailors, butchers, bakers, shoemakers, ironmongers, blacksmiths, hardware and crockery-stalls, with many tents selling



▲ Courtesy State Library of Victoria.

books, cabin furniture or utensils. Many sold ginger-beer, or lemonade, and there were two physicians' tents, occupied by surgeons, dentists, corn cutters, and apothecaries. There were auction sites, as many new arrivals were reduced to selling off goods that they had carried from their home country. Children were able to attend an "infant school" in one of the tents, and church services occurred each Sunday.

Overall, the area contained about 5000 souls – not surprisingly, it quickly deteriorated into a slum, compared by some to the worst back streets of London. Among the tenants, some of whom only stayed for a week, feelings of disappointment, privation, and misery were common, and many felt that they landed on the most inhospitable shore on the face of the civilised globe. There was massive resentment

of the actions of the government in enforcing rules, which was sometimes arbitrary and perhaps similar to the behaviour that led to the Eureka Stockade a few years hence.

But its duration was short-lived. The first land sales at Emerald Hill took place in 1852 and by 1854 Canvas Town was dispersed, as licences were revoked, immigration slowed down and proper housing became available ●



Robin Grow

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

Revitalising spring

As self-care continues to be a highlight and a priority, spring reminds us to have fun, just be and enjoy each moment, while still taking good care of ourselves, the environment, and the community.

For us this month, good care comes in the form of practical, helpful activities with a natural focus on the garden during this revitalising season.

Spring came around this year (again!), as Mother Nature reminds us how we can enjoy each moment, the life springing up around us, the mood uplifting weather and almost a scent of hope in the air that comes with this naturally re-energising season.

While we wait until we can bring the wider community together again for a Southbank Sustainability Group (SSG) event, there are a few ways to give yourself an excuse to go out for a bit of exercise and wellbeing in the sun. Either at your own pace or while safely interacting with other community members.

Spring planting

While we won't be able to do our annual community spring planting day event this year, it's still spring and the best time for planting! Our amazing gardening champions, Faye and Maria, along with other great SSG home gardeners, have been growing seedlings at home, soon to be planted in the community garden.

Once the garden beds' soil rests and the seedlings are ready to be outdoors, you'll see the community garden at Boyd livening up again.

While some plants will seem ready for harvesting, please follow the harvesting green stones to guide you around the garden and message or email us if you're unsure a certain plant is ready for harvesting.

We want to give these new plants a chance to grow and offer the Southbank community more

locally grown organic food for longer. Letting them grow at their own pace without any harvesting is a key step for that to happen.

As always, we like to share knowledge and tips with the wider Southbank community, so that it's easier to do what we do at home. Like growing your own seeds-to-seedlings at home, even doing some upcycling in the process with egg cartons or toilet paper tubes as seedling pods. We know most Southbank units come with limited space, but there's always space to grow some herbs or other low maintenance plants.

Head to our Facebook page for a simple step-by-step video guide, created with apartment living in mind by SSG's wonderful Sarah and Leigh.

There will be more ways to get involved with the spring planting, while we stretch this annual event over a few days this year. While most seedlings are a couple of weeks away from being planted in the garden, keep an eye on our Facebook page for ways to participate in this year's spring planting.

Ready to harvest

Apart from a number of tea-ready herbs and some greens, you will have noticed the big, tall, and luscious green broad bean stalks, their leaves ready for harvesting. A high source of antioxidants, nutrients and minerals, and a very easy food to cook, stir fry, or add in salads, broad beans' leaves are often bypassed for its more obvious harvest, the bean pod.

The leaves taste sweet with a slight buttery, earthy flavour, and can be eaten either raw or lightly cooked (similar to spinach). Make sure you harvest leaves by snipping them at their bottom without harming the stalk, cutting a few leaves from a few different stalks to keep the plant evenly healthy.

As always, only harvest what you need for a meal and in a way that keeps the plant healthy. Please make sure you leave the flowers behind so we can all enjoy bean pods too once they grow.

Watering and helping hands

Now that the weather is getting warmer and sunnier, and with the new seedlings that will start springing up in the community garden, we will need more watering volunteers.

As a reminder, we have a watering roster you can sign up to water on a certain day of the week at your own pace and time.



Watering and gardening fall under the exercise category if you are looking for a different activity with a different pace that promotes wellbeing to add to your routine. Please email or message us on Facebook if you would like to volunteer for some watering.

We also want to thank a number of you who have contacted us lately to volunteer and help both with the garden and the group's next activities. There is always plenty to do and even

more we can be doing for the Southbank community. The more people like you helping and volunteering, the better work we can do.

We have a wide variety of activities that require a wide variety of skillsets and abilities, plenty of which can be done from home or at the garden. Activities like background organising and admin, communications, project management (e.g., Southbank's first composting hub), upcoming educational activities and events, and of course, plenty of gardening.

We encourage everyone from all backgrounds, walks of life, or experience to contact us if you have a bit of extra time to lend a hand while positively contributing to the community and our environmental impact.

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. Free to join. 2019 Environment Melbourne Award and KVB 2020 Sustainable Cities Environment Award winner. Reach us at southbanksustainability@gmail.com or [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/southbanksustainability) ●



Artemis Pattichi
SOUTHBANK SUSTAINABILITY
GROUP
SOUTHBANKSUSTAINABILITY@GMAIL.COM

ABORIGINAL MELBOURNE

Harnessing the healing power of the sea

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*

In her art and in her life, Wirangu artist Aunty Beverly Meldrum has always stayed close to the sea.

Inspired by her upbringing on the South Australian coast and her current home on the Mornington Peninsula, she wanted to showcase the healing properties of the ocean through her work.

So, when she was accepted into the Koorie Heritage Trust's Blak Jewellery Program, Ms Meldrum knew what to do.

"The design for all of my pieces come from kelp which I love working with because it's like a healing for me," Ms Meldrum said.

"I love the smell of it, the texture of it, sometimes it's thick and durable and other times it's thin almost like ribbons – it's always a surprise to work with and it's always different."

Using kelp, fishing net, metals and gold, Ms Meldrum created her *Found Treasures* jewellery collection which includes a necklace and a breastplate.

All of the materials were personally collected from Mushroom Reef in Flinders, with the intention to bring their beauty back to life through art. Ms Meldrum said that working with kelp meant that the final product was dictated by the sea.

"When I collect kelp I just walk until something catches my eye, almost like the kelp is



saying 'pick me!' and then I put it in a shopping bag and bring it home," Ms Meldrum said.

"When you're working with metal, you can plan how it's going to come out, but with kelp each piece is different and has a life of its own."

"I don't force my jewellery pieces into something the kelp doesn't want to be."

Ms Meldrum said that the jewellery, which will be showcased until February 27 at the Koorie Heritage Trust building, was inspired by the grounding and mediative power of the sea.

"I love the texture of the water, the sound of the waves, breathing in the sea air – it's all healing from within," Ms Meldrum said.



"Even when you sit on the beach, watching the force of the waves go in and out is like Mother Nature is breathing."

As the first of its kind in Australia, the Blak Design program was created to provide a platform for nurturing sustainable, indigenous-led design businesses.

Ms Meldrum, along with 10 other artists, took part in six weeks of hands-on jewellery design and making workshops under the guidance of jewellers Blanche Tilden and Laura Deakin, as well as small business skills tutorials.

The works are currently on display in a virtual exhibition on the KHT website, with hopes

in-person visitors will be able to attend after lockdown.

Ms Meldrum said the Blak Design program had been "mind-blowing" and she was keen to learn more skills.

"Never in a million years would I have thought that at my age, I would be doing anything of that calibre, and to think it has led me here," Ms Meldrum said.

"It was an intense year of learning and re-thinking, and using the tools of the trade in the RMIT silver smithing department where I learnt about metals and the tools associated with them."

"I would love to learn even more."

As for her future plans, Ms Meldrum said she was brimming with new jewellery concept ideas.

"Do you know when you go to the pokies and the machine goes off, that's my head at the moment with all these jewellery ideas," Ms Meldrum said. "It's crazy, it's very exciting."

To view the virtual exhibit, visit koorieheritagetrust.com.au or Aunty Meldrum's Instagram [@bevonline56](https://www.instagram.com/bevonline56) ●

For more information:
koorieheritagetrust.com.au

SOUTHBANKER

Ibby follows his dreams after a “life of hardship and struggle” in his homeland

From escaping violence in his homeland of West Africa to setting up his own business, Ibby of Southbank said he was “forever grateful” for his new life

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*

When Southbank resident Ibrahim “Ibby” Barrie arrived in Australia as a refugee at the age of seven with no English skills, he never imagined chasing a dream of one day opening his own barber shop.

Now aged 20, his dream is edging closer to reality after having recently registered his own hair and beauty business called Y&L Effects, which stands for “Young and Loaded”.

It has been a tough journey for Ibby who was born in Sierra Leone, a country in West Africa that was in the midst of a civil war, and a time when his family were “always in survival mode” after having become “normalised to a life of hardship and struggle”.

“Life there was not about chasing dreams ... it was more about surviving and being able to live day-by-day,” he said.

In a bid to escape rebel violence his family fled across the Sierra Leone border to Guinea in the hope they did not “not meet an untimely death” but soon discovered their new home was “anything but peaceful”.

“When I was only six or seven, I heard what sounded like rocks being thrown on the front gate of the compound we were living in along with gun shots with screaming and commotion going on,” he said after coming under attack by rebels.

“Individuals in their homes had to create ways to protect themselves by placing broken pieces of glass on the top of the walls surrounding the houses along with barbed wires to prevent

rebels from climbing over at night.”

He said others “went as far as putting electric wires on the door handles of their homes just to make sure they woke up the next day – that’s how horrifying the situation really was”.

“I was traumatised, for me it gave me another look at humans. I was so scared. Although it did not change my character to be kind to all people, like my father and mother were, as this situation only made me stronger”.

During these “hard times”, his dad provided for Ibby and four siblings by running a pop-up store on the side of the road selling medications and other essentials while his mum cooked and looked after the children as well as selling meals she prepared from their home.

Ibby’s life changed when he and his family members were accepted into Australia in 2008 after fleeing rising violence and insecurity of their home country, thanks to the help of his uncle who had migrated to Australia in 1994 after earning a New Zealand Commonwealth Scholarship.

“Being at such a young age I did not know much of what was going on but all I knew was that my parents were extremely excited,” Ibby said, who was later reunited with his older sister and other relatives who had come to Australia two years earlier.

“When we came here it was a completely different world. Me being in a house where I could see the lights on and having toilets within the house and then you would flush it ... for me this was crazy.”

“For the first time in our life we finally started



experiencing comfortability.”

After settling into Melbourne’s western suburbs, Ibby initially struggled to fit into school after he and his siblings were bullied because “we were very different”.

However, a turning point came when he started Year 10 at Point Cook Secondary College where he discovered a passion for hair cutting after he began cutting his own locks off and other family members.

“People started noticing my skills and that’s when I said to myself, ‘I may as well capitalise off this new-found talent’. For the rest of my schooling, I was giving all my mates hair services as a self-made barber.”

Today, Ibby works as an Australian Tax Office agent and in a customer service role at Culture Kings retail store in the CBD.

Through his love of music, he also performs and does club promotions at several nightclubs

but has never lost sight of achieving his dream of opening his own barber shop.

“I’m in the process of looking and doing some research about shops around Southbank that I can potentially rent,” he said, which had been “slowed down” during the COVID lockdown.

“I’m extremely happy ... it proves not only to myself but to others that passion in combination with hard work, anything is possible,” adding he was “forever grateful” for his life in Australia.

His achievements include learning to play the piano proficiently, being a high-level soccer player, learning to sing/rap, undertaking photography and becoming a self-taught artist/digital designer.

“The way that I look at it, every single day that goes past reminds me of how blessed I really am and something that I will forever cherish.” ●

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Goal setting – three levels

“

Basic exercise goals – we all know that up and down roller-coaster feeling of setting goals with relation to our health, fitness and exercise.

”



Major life goal setting

A few months ago now (thanks COVID!), I delivered a workplace health seminar to a well-known real estate company and elaborated on the need for people if they are looking at getting the very best out of themselves to actively take the steps to set some bigger picture and long-term goals. And from that, “reverse engineer” back to the basic goals and steps we need to take to build towards the bigger picture.

Steven Covey, writer of *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, which sold more than 25 million copies, once made the statement “start with

the end in mind”. There is no better way to do this in relation to goal setting with your life, health, work, happiness, family, and relationships to name just a few.

So perhaps the best step you could take is taking a step back and crystal-balling where you would ultimately like to be in say five or 10 years’ time and then work backwards to what that would involve for you in relation to achieving this from the very outset and then keep a copy of these long-term and short-term goals with you at all times and then work towards attaining them.

The need of a life-coach, mentor, business coach or personal trainer

At the highest level, you may require the services of someone other than yourself to help pave the way for you and help work with you to set out the path, journey and destination of your grand scale of being the best you can be. There is no better example of this that the world’s fastest man over 100 and 200 metres – Usain Bolt.

I would be very surprised if you didn’t know who he is but like the real estate group that I asked if they had heard of Glen Mills – not one person knew.

Who is Glen Mills you ask? He was Usain Bolt’s coach. Now some may ask, why would someone that just runs a straight line need a coach? Well Usain Bolt did, and he credits all of his success to his coach.

If you are highly motivated and driven then it may be something that you need to give some serious thought to as I have personally seen much clarity, vision and the ultimate results delivered to those that have elected to go down this path.

I have an expanded Blog post on this for those interested: justintimept.com/who-is-usain-bolt-who-is-glen-mills/

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



Justin Moran

JUSTINTIME PERSONAL TRAINING

JUSTIN@JUSTINTIMEPT.COM

METRO TUNNEL

Latest plans released for Anzac Station

The latest plans for Anzac Station and surrounds have been revealed, showing more trees saved in the iconic St Kilda Rd precinct and better accessibility.



The local community can see the latest draft Domain (Anzac Station) Precinct Development Plan and provide their comments online until October 13 at engage.vic.gov.au.

Updates to the plan incorporate stakeholder feedback and include retaining 16 more trees than the previous plan, reducing the station's footprint within the Shrine of Remembrance Reserve and moving the South African Soldier's Memorial to a prominent spot in the Albert Road Reserve.

The plan also shows the revised layout for St Kilda Rd that was revealed earlier this year, with two traffic lanes, a permanent parking lane and kerbside bike lanes to keep cyclists and pedestrians safer.

There will be an additional shelter for south-bound tram customers at the southern end of

the platform and better access for pedestrians and people with disabilities in and around the entire precinct.

The station has been excavated under St Kilda Rd as two separate "boxes", separated by an underground retaining wall reinforced with 36mm steel bars.

The north box was built below the acoustic shed – used to contain noise and dust from construction – while the south box was built in two stages underneath St Kilda Rd, across the road from Melbourne Grammar School.

St Kilda Rd's traffic lanes and tram tracks have twice been realigned as part of the construction plan, which has allowed the next-generation station to be built underground while traffic and trams continued using the road above.

Construction began with the north box,

which was excavated first to create a launch site for two of the project's tunnel boring machines (TBMs), Millie and Alice, to tunnel towards the eastern tunnel entrance in South Yarra.

Crews set 20-metre-deep walls into the ground and built a roof slab for the south box, alongside nearby apartments and office blocks, before St Kilda Rd was moved to sit on top of the completed box.

Almost 40,000 people a day are expected to use Anzac Station to get to business precincts and growing residential areas, as well as major cultural destinations such as the Shrine of Remembrance, the Royal Botanic Gardens and the Arts Centre.

Anzac Station will take the pressure off the St Kilda Rd/Swanston St tram route – the busiest tram route in the world. An integrated

tram interchange and a pedestrian underpass will also allow commuters to move easily between transport modes and safely cross into the Shrine of Remembrance grounds and Albert Road Reserve.

Once complete in 2025, the Metro Tunnel will create capacity for more than half-a-million extra passengers a week during peak times across Melbourne's train network ●

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

ST JOHNS SOUTHGATE

What is freedom?

Almost 501 years ago, Martin Luther, famous figure of what we now know as the Protestant Reformation, wrote a treatise titled, On the Freedom of the Christian, which would go on to be one of his most influential writings.

It is a great piece of prose and covers a lot of ground, demonstrating how Christianity is liberating rather than oppressive. But as Luther covered that ground, he was, in fact, breaking it. At a time when people were led to believe that they needed to buy their way into heaven, being told by a Doctor of Theology that salvation was free was utterly mind-blowing and completely life-changing.

Interestingly, though, the freedom that according to the scriptures the Christian has,

which Martin Luther brought to public attention, is a freedom that is found, paradoxically, in a captivity of sorts. Luther expressed, in a pithy little couplet, a Christian freedom-ethic that is still to be used as a touchstone to this day. He wrote:

"A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none."

"And a Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all."

I thought of this recently, not just because on the 31st of this month it will be Reformation Day – a day on which protestant Christians bring to mind how having the favour of God is a free gift – but because this paradox might have something to say to the situation we find ourselves in here in Melbourne.

Being free, Luther argued, is to be the disposition of the Christian person, and yet the freedom one enjoys binds them to use their freedom in the best interests of others. It is a paradox because one might ask, 'How can I be free if I'm a servant?' But freedom and servanthood are, in their best incarnations, inextricably linked.

On Wednesday, September 22, the Shrine of Remembrance was besieged by protestors, some of whom were calling themselves "freedom" protestors. From my perspective – that being one informed by that paradoxical Christian freedom-ethic – choosing that location was an unfortunate misstep, to put it mildly.

The Shrine is a monument to the acts of self-sacrifice that have made it possible for us to live free here in Australia. In fact, inside the Shrine's sanctuary, sunken into the floor, the Stone of Remembrance bears the inscription "Greater love hath no man". This refers to the words of Jesus recorded in the Gospel according to John, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

On Remembrance Day, at precisely 11 o'clock in the morning – the moment the Armistice was signed in 1918 – a ray of sunlight passes through an aperture in the ceiling of the Shrine's sanctuary and falls on the Stone of Remembrance highlighting one word: Love.

Personal freedom, from a Christian perspective, is only freedom when it is exercised with

just as much love and concern for the other as it is for self-fulfilment. Ignoring public health orders and putting lives at risk for the sake of "freedom" was anything but serving the cause of true freedom. It disrespected, if not desecrated, the Shrine's commemoration of true self-giving love that makes people free.

The Protestant Reformation was a powerful protest movement. Hopefully, during this month of Reformation commemorations, today's protestors might come to see liberty as a communitarian good, so that we can reach our vaccine targets, keep our hospitals from being overwhelmed, and return to our streets together, as a truly free people ●



Tom Hoffmann
TOM HOFFMANN IS THE PASTOR AT ST JOHNS SOUTHGATE CHURCH.
STJOHNSOUTHGATE.COM.AU



Search for the St Johns Southgate channel on YouTube for our 10am Sunday morning live streams

Connect with us on Facebook during these challenging times

Stay safe and well and may God bless you!

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

Vertical homework

Staying home has meant learning new work-ways – but what now might be expected of our apartment buildings?

September saw the release of the Productivity Commission's *Working from home* research paper, which investigated how working from home (WFH) might impact Australia's economy and individuals' income, employment and wellbeing.

Described as a "forced experiment" brought about by the pandemic, WFH is one of the biggest changes to our working life in the past 50 years. According to Michael Brennan, chair of the Productivity Commission, "In less than two years we have gone from less than eight per cent of Australians working from home to 40 per cent. While this percentage may not always remain so high it is inevitable that more Australians will work from home."

And during our lockdown, we received much advice about WFH practices, ranging from how to set up our home offices, to employers grappling with OHS standards. Of particular concern was the ever-changing issue of security – both of customer data (you *did* install that last update?) and employee privacy, with reports of "tattleware" being installed on home computers – that's software that logs keystrokes, takes photos and assigns a "productivity score".

The Productivity Commission also considered the impact of WFH on central business districts (CBDs). Its contention is that as more people WFH and avoid commuting into the CBD, significant economic activity (such as retail, hospitality and personal services) may drift from the CBDs to the suburbs. This means that demand for office space may decline as firms downsize or relinquish their offices.

And if so, there will likely be an accompanying decline in office-worker demand for inner-city apartments. This is because being close to their work may no longer mean living close to the CBD.

This is of concern to vertical villages as many of our residents have traditionally been office-workers seeking to be close to their work sites. With work-proximity removed as a major appeal of our buildings, we will need to give serious thought to futureproofing our buildings against this drift away.

This starts with knowing how our vertical villages are impacted by more residents WFH – and then identifying what is required to build our new appeal.

Francesco Andreone (GoStrata Stak) has given this some thought, identifying several issues that vertical villages need to consider, including:

- Increased facilities usage and "wear and tear": WFH means people stay in and around their building for longer, which means more frequent lift usage, increased

use of common property (e.g. gyms) and greater demand upon central utilities (e.g. air conditioning).

- Increased noise and sensitivity to noise: more people active in the building throughout the day and night means greater noise more frequently generated (accompanied by lower tolerance levels, as revealed during lockdowns when noise complaints soared).
- Increased demand upon staff services: more people at home leads to greater demands upon staff, such as managing deliveries (food and parcel), coordinating maintenance repairs, and mediating conflict resolutions (e.g. noise complaints).

In addition to this, vertical villages should consider how their existing amenities can be improved to better support WFH. For instance, some apartment buildings already offer facilities such as business hubs or conference rooms, but often their acoustics (such as sound-proofing) are questionable. Allied to this, vertical villages will need to review associated protocols to ensure their facilities do not become dedicated office resources for individual residents. Other features in need of revamp may include parcel management and storage facilities, with staff now having to contend with growing volumes of work-related deliveries. Together, and as noted by the Productivity Commission, these WFH changes bring increased complexity for risk management, and a need for greater clarity

about WFH responsibilities and their potential impact upon insurance.

As WFH is primarily a CBD-centric shock, the City of Melbourne has already launched activities aimed at "saving our CBD". Yet it seems to me a key element of saving Melbourne's CBD remains overlooked – namely, retaining residents already living here. As WFH promotes a drift away from inner city living, steps must be taken now to make WFH in vertical villages more appealing.

However, the burden of realising this CBD revival strategy should not rest entirely upon the volunteer committees and the personal pockets of residents.

So, here's an idea.

What about business revival grants being open to vertical villages for improving their amenities to support residents WFH and remaining in the City of Melbourne?

In this way, our vertical villages can play an active role in "saving Melbourne's CBD", while also building our own vertical village resilience ●



Dr Janette Corcoran

APARTMENT LIVING EXPERT

LEARN MORE ON FACEBOOK.COM/SKYPADLIVING/

OWNERS' CORPORATION LAW

Did your apartment building suffer any earthquake damage? The committee needs to investigate

As if Melbourne hasn't endured enough over the past 18 months. Pandemic, lockdown, anti-vax riots, losing the hosting rights to the AFL Grand Final, and now, an earthquake.

What's next? A plague of locusts perhaps ...

While the immediate effects of the 5.9 magnitude earthquake on Wednesday, September 22 only resulted in minor property damage being observed and, thankfully, no loss of life, the ongoing effect of the tremor and its aftershocks may give rise to minor building damage in apartment buildings.

The types of damage that might be apparent to the naked eye would most likely simply be the appearance of minor cracks in apartment walls.

In a very small number of buildings, the basement and carpark areas might well show signs of cracks appearing in walls also.

This is not a cause for alarm. All modern buildings in Australia are designed to withstand earthquakes and all sorts of seismic activity.

However, if a building was showing signs of settlement cracks before the earthquake, there is every possibility those cracks would have got larger following the quake.

In very rare cases, and where there are pre-existing defects in the concrete and steel slab foundations, there is a chance the earthquake would accelerate the decline and degradation of materials.

To do a comprehensive structural engineering check of the building would be incredibly invasive, time consuming and very expensive. In short, it would not be recommended to do so, unless the building was aware of pre-existing issues in relation to foundations.

With the above in mind, any apartment building that has actual knowledge (i.e., has received advice from an engineer) that there is an issue or a potential issue with its structures

and foundations must immediately notify its insurer and seek to commission an expert report.

An owners' corporation is obligated under its insurance policy with a duty to act in the utmost good faith and is also under an obligation to comply with a duty of disclosure to promptly advise of any issues.

No doubt insurers will be sending its loss assessors all over Melbourne in the coming weeks and months to respond to notifications of potential claims. OCs need to act decisively and urgently in order to commission these loss assessment investigations. Delays to act might ultimately result in a denial of coverage.

In addition, it would be wise for OCs to send a survey to all residents of the building asking for tenants and owners to self-report their observations of any earthquake damage in the form of cracking on the walls and floors that they may have noticed in their apartments or on the common property.

The survey results can then be passed to the building's insurer for further investigations and determination.

In this regard, it is always better to be safe than sorry ●



Tom Bacon

TOM BACON IS THE PRINCIPAL LAWYER OF STRATA TITLE LAWYERS.

TOM@STRATATITLELAWYERS.COM.AU

SOUTHBANK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

What a bumper of a month

We started the month with the Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) AGM where we were so fortunate to have elected a full committee of 12 with 10 being new members.

Since that time, we have managed to squeeze in two committee meetings. We have an enthusiastic and motivated team for the coming year and we are hoping to be able to make a noticeable difference around Southbank as we come out of lockdown.

Owing to so much interest from within the community to join the SRA committee, a number of our previous committee members volunteered to stand down to allow for other locals to become involved.

I would like to personally extend a heartfelt thank you to Richard Drew, Clair Richards, Renee Russell, Mike Gaertner, Jennifer Fletcher and Laszlo Kucharszki for the past two years with which they volunteered their time to SRA. Despite COVID we were still able to meet, albeit often virtually, and achieve great things for Southbank. During their two terms the standout items were the planning for the Southbank Community Day, which sadly had to be postponed (hoping to revitalise the concept sometime early 2022), a "Meet the Candidates" council election event, our most successful event ever held by SRA – the Southbank "Where to from here ..." community forum and the final compilation and the launch of the *Tall Storeys and True Tales – The First 20 Years of the Southbank Residents' Association* book which was researched and compiled by ex-committee member Lynne Lumsden (copies available for \$15). There is a lot there to be proud of with knowing you have contributed to making Southbank a better place to live. On behalf of the entire Southbank community, we thank you!

You will see our new committee has hit the ground running with the gratitude writing competition promoted on page 2. This is an initiative of Mary Kay Rauma who volunteered to take on the role of marketing and communication. We hope you will embrace this initiative and share a small titbit from Southbank of something which helped or inspired you to get through this pandemic to date. We would love to hear about it and so might the rest of Southbank! Ten of the best entries will be

awarded a \$50 Visa cash card so don't delay and let us know one of your little noteworthy experiences.

We were also busy preparing a submission for the *Owner's Corporation and Other Acts Amendments Act 2021* to be introduced on December 1. There were a number of key deficiencies identified and hopefully our submission will go some way to assist with the review.

We completed this on behalf of the Southbank Owners' Corporations Network (SOCN) which is convened by SRA. Is your building a member? If you are an owner in your building, particularly if you are on the OC committee, you should check if you are a member. If not, please reach out to myself as this is one group all Southbank buildings need to be part of.

Your building also needs to be part of the bi-monthly conversation held with all the other building members. For the month of October, we have arranged a Department of Health senior policy advisor and senior health advisor as guest speakers to discuss with our members what to expect if (or probably when) a building becomes an exposure site. This will offer a valuable insight with knowing what to do now to plan and prepare for such an event. Remember, if your building is not a member, please reach out to me and I will see what can be arranged.

If individually you are not a member of SRA and would like to support our community work, it is only \$10/year and you can sign up from our website, southbankresidents.org.au or email to info@southbankresidents.org.au. You might also like to follow us on Facebook – /SouthbankResidents ●

For more information:
southbankresidents.org.au



Tony Penna

PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT@SOUTHBANKRESIDENTS.ORG.AU



WE LIVE HERE

High-rise truck saga

Our inner-city champion whom we have lauded in this column has written in with a poignant precis of her tribulations.

The outcome was ultimately a resident's victory over a cohort of developers, managers and local government officials. It is a story of corporate inequity, and regulatory incompetence.

This saga highlights the enormous challenges facing Consumer Affairs Minister Melissa Horne with the dysfunctional owners' corporation legislation and strata governance landscape.

We hope this resolute resident's testimony, quoted here in full, reaches the Minister's desk ...

"All I have ever asked for since moving into my new home in 2012 was safe passage onto my street through my single lobby door, without obstruction from removalists."

"There is an onsite loading dock with a common property goods lift that residents must use, but in 2016 a superannuation fund paid the developer \$92 million for the retail plaza downstairs from the 500-apartment tower where I live. The sale included a 300-year lease of the onsite loading dock in favour of the retail plaza. My residential goods lift is embedded in that loading dock."

"Onsite loading was a special condition of the planning permit. How could I be locked out from enjoying that amenity?"

"Last month this newspaper reported how that superannuation fund, backed by the developer, asked [a] VCAT Planning Tribunal to annexe that loading dock on behalf of the retail plaza, thereby overturning the original planning

permit of 2008. Fortunately, the Tribunal agreed that residents must be allowed to use the onsite loading facility the way it was originally designed for us. I was the instigator of the case in which the council defended my right to enjoy the onsite loading facility, a right that was included with my property purchase."

"As a result of this Tribunal decision, the matter of enforcement has progressed from the planning department to the compliance department. It took me more than four years to get the council to act to enforce its own planning permits. Righting this problem is slow going for the council. There is no clear path yet for all residents to enjoy their loading dock facilities."

"In this loading dock, trucks and huge semi-trailers who service the plaza shops and the huge supermarket chain are driving and parking in a system known only to themselves. They ignore the traffic management drawings approved by the council. The loading dock lift is still locked to residents."

"Since this story was published, I have been asked why it was up to me, as just one of 500 apartment owners above a shopping plaza in this mixed-use development, to get the council to force my strata managers to comply with the planning permit. After all, I do pay my strata managers to look after my common property interests and there is an elected committee to advise them. The other apartment owners have no idea what I have done to try to get unimpeded access to my common property goods lift and to get any illegal contracts overturned."

"Sadly, big apartment developments have very few owner-occupiers and the majority of owners are investors, who either don't know or don't care what laws are broken."

"The strata manager appointed by the developer in 2011 is still in charge, and the

committee has not changed since the strata manager approved their original candidacy."

"I have nominated for the committee, but they keep it to five people. Three of these five hold developer's proxy votes and have majority control."

"There are so many questionable service contracts. The group in control have appropriated the residential lounge to operate their business and their companies have been awarded the embedded wi-fi and cleaning contracts. The behaviour of the strata manager is consistent with loyalty to the developer, not the residents and certainly contravenes the planning permit."

"If the council stays on the case, then retail tenants will have to comply with the council's approved traffic management plans despite what their tenancy contracts say. All unapproved onsite traffic obstacles, such as spare cold stores must be removed."

"It must be safe for residential loading. Once that is done, I hope to see no more furniture removalists obstructing the pedestrian lobby. Only then will my street at my front door be safe."

Nerrida Blashki Pohl

If you wish to contact Nerrida, please let us know via the We Live Here website.



Barbara Francis & Rus Littleton

EMAIL
CAMPAIGN@WELIVEHERE.NET

LEARN MORE AT
WELIVEHERE.NET



Cladding update

We will provide an update in our November column on the slowly evolving cladding landscape.

Strata managers group makes a mess of COVID cleaning rules

The Victorian chapter of a strata managers industry group, the Strata Community Australia (SCA), had to mop up a flood of confusion following its mass email propagating a supposed government COVID diktat banning cleaning of apartment buildings.

Imagine the shock suffered by building managers, perhaps contemplating a lovely spring clean!

The SCA inbox must have been overflowing with acerbic advice from its own members because, the next morning, SCA rushed out a missive to "address any confusion arising from our COVID-19 update ... as a result of information made available to SCA (Vic) by members responding to yesterday's email, we have updated our COVID-19 advice".

To be fair to the SCA, the information from the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services website was, unsurprisingly, a trifle abstruse.

Apartment residents, rest assured; your building is not obliged to wallow in microbiological filth during lockdown.

Campaign donations

As a not-for-profit organisation, donations from individuals and buildings keep our campaigns going. To register as a supporter of We Live Here or to donate, please visit welfare.net. We Live Here does not accept donations from commercial tourism interests ●

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

Creative Montague

Five years ago, the City of Port Philip and the then Planning Minister responsible for Fishermans Bend started talking about the Montague Precinct of Fishermans Bend being developed as a "creative industry hub".

This was long before the heights of the apartment buildings were decided, and the cost of the land escalated to extraordinary levels. Sadly, not much has been done to attract the creative industries, no overt work has been undertaken to find opportunities for creative, or artistic professionals, gallerists, and producers.

Yes, *The Block's* headquarters for a time was on Buckhurst St (is that creative?) and the Laurent Gallery in Thistlethwaite St was priced out of the area, there is a design school, a photography college, recording studios and some architects who have been working in Montague prior to the designation of the precinct as a creative hub.

However, quietly and without fanfare or support from the council or the government creative practitioners have been working away in the Industry Building at 87 Gladstone St.

And it would be wonderful if the Fishermans Bend Task Force and the planners both local and state would consider how they can ensure these wonderful and important creative individuals can stay in Montague and more like-minded creatives and artists can be encouraged to join them.



This month our Meet a Montaguan is Saville Coble – a successful and highly creative photographer working in the Industry building. Please meet Saville ...

Who are you, tell us a little about yourself?

I am a commercial photographer who trained at RMIT with a BA in commercial photography 23 years ago in film and have seen the industry completely evolve into the digital photography and video platform it now sits among. The transition has been amazing, and the quality now far exceeds where film was at any time. We run and own Luminous Studios here in Gladstone St – a full-service studio that offers product photography for e-commerce to corporate portraits and fashion shoots here in the studio with a specialty cyc wall for video and fashion to create a seamless white transition on the background. We do lots of branding and campaign photography and I really love shooting architecture as well for builders, fit out companies, architects and lighting designers.



What brought you to live or work in Montague?

I came to the area after having another photography studio business in Port Melbourne for 10 years and when the opportunity arose my wife and I purchased the new studio here at Industry Business Hub . I love the natural north facing light and CBD views.

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

Having access to the CBD, the beach, and exiting freeways makes living and working here the perfect location. It is also perfect for all my CBD corporate clients who want to visit the studio for portraits as it is only a few minutes' cab ride away. And the tram stop is also on the doorstep here at Montague St.

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

After moving from Sandringham and commuting up and down Beach Rd I find the morning walk from Port Melbourne to the studio in Gladstone St very enjoyable and relaxing start to



the day.

What are the challenges of working or living in Montague?

I think density limits really need to be addressed. I think five or six stories is really enough in this area. They are more boutique blocks and encourage people to get to know each other a little more, without feeling they live in a skyscraper.

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

Additional permit parking for commercial owners for free visitors parking to encourage more business to the area ●



Trisha Avery

TRISHA AVERY IS THE CONVENER OF THE MONTAGUE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

TRISHAVERY@ME.COM



BUSINESS

How the luxury property market has been impacted by lockdowns

WORDS BY *Georgina Zeneldin*

Whether you are an investor or an owner in Southbank and surrounds' luxury property market, it is important to note that the luxury market has stood the test of time during this pandemic when the economy was thrown into a precarious position because of the lockdowns.

The robust luxury property sector has not just remained unharmed, but it has managed to surge ahead. However, what we are finding is that listings for these luxury properties are thin on the ground.

As an area specialist I always get asked:

Is it a good time to sell?

Owners of these luxury properties are in two minds and feel that due to the economic uncertainty and lockdowns they don't want to expose their property for sale in the fear it may sit on the market for too long and become stale.

However, as a specialist in the field it is quite contrary to that. If anything, we are finding that luxury properties on the market are sitting for a lot less and are getting a few applications of interest on it.

So as an owner who is looking to sell their property, I would say now would be a great idea to start the process and not wait.

Why is it a good time to invest?

While many are sceptical because of the rising prices, there is a considerable segment

that is not holding back and is making massive investments in luxury real estate.

The sudden price rise has been the fastest in the past three decades and will continue as per the reports and industry forecasts.

Experts are also suggesting that this is the perfect time for investing as the sector is booming and the prices are all set to soar further. Thus, waiting is not going to make things better for investors.

At the beginning of the pandemic, a lot of people took the decision to wait since they thought the real estate sector would crash. However, they are now regretting their decision as the prices have gone up.

Even if the fast growth ceases after a few years, it will not bring the prices down. Thus, it makes more sense to invest now and gain a better yield than waiting.

Which brings me to another important point. The reason for the surge in prices is that the wealthy are accumulating a significant amount of savings during the pandemic as they have not been able to travel abroad or spend on other luxuries.

Also, the low-interest rates have made the investment even more alluring. In addition, speculations are arising that when the borders are opened for international travellers, the prices will go up exponentially.

Australia is being viewed as a safe haven by many ultra-rich expats and foreign investors who want to purchase prime property.



To conclude, it is evident that luxury property for sale in Southbank and surrounding areas has been experiencing a surge in demand, and thus, the price rise is here to stay.

So, waiting for a slump is not the right move in the current circumstances. It is the perfect time to invest and leverage positive economic

growth, capital gains, and low-interest rates ●



For more information:
raywhitesouthbank.com.au

Pet's Corner

The pride of Southbank



Local South African mastiff Simba may not be the pride of Africa, but to other dogs at Boyd Park, he's a mighty king!



Two-year-old Simba is a commanding presence at Boyd Park, but according to his owner Kayne Clarke, he is as gentle and loving as he is protective.

"He loves kids and people, and especially likes chicken," Kayne laughed. "He doesn't like huskies for some reason though..."

"Everyone loves him in our apartment because he's so friendly and loveable."

Simba is a Boerdel, otherwise known as a "South African mastiff" – a breed from South Africa which typically weighs between 60 and 80 kilos and measures up to around 70cm tall.

While Simba doesn't look like your average apartment dog,

Kayne – a professional boxer – said the pair was very active and loved getting out and walking around Southbank as much as possible.

"It's okay to have this kind of dog if you're an active person because he needs a lot of exercise and walking," Kayne said. "As a professional boxer I've got a good companion to run with and train with."

"He loves the botanical gardens as he gets to see and meet a lot of other dogs. He also loves the beach and golf courses. Any big open spaces really."

"Southbank is a great dog-friendly place to live. It's great." ●



City Life

"Then, after three or four months, I want to go to Dubai."

Under the Evan Walker Bridge



Quiz



- 1. What does an ornithologist study?
2. The Allen's Sweets animated neon sign...
3. The NGV is the most visited art museum...
4. Porcini, king oyster and chanterelle...
5. Which ex-husband of Liza Minnelli...
6. The 2016 census showed that which language...
7. Nitmiluk National Park is found in which Australian state...
8. An orca whale named Tilikum...
9. In which US city was rock band The Velvet Underground formed?
10. STH BNK by Beulah will become the tallest building...
11. When Hamer Hall opened in 1982...
12. Which Australian politician has a footbridge crossing the Yarra River named after him?

QUIZ SOLUTIONS

Lady Diana, 12. Evan Walker, York City 10, 366m 11, Prince Charles and 7 Northern Territory 8, Blackfish 9, New mushroom 5, Peter Allen 6, Mandarin 11, Birds 2, 1987 3, 30th 4, Editable

5x5

No. 004

Insert the missing letters to make 10 words - five reading across the grid and five reading down.

Grid for 5x5 word puzzle with letters H, F, S, S, A, M, N, E, D, E, N, S, S

SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: HAFTS, USUAL, MINCE, ADDED, NESTS, DOWN: HUMAN, ASIDE, FUNDS, TACET, SLEDS.

Sudoku

No. 004

Fill in the blank cells using the numbers from 1 to 9. Each number can only appear once in each row, column and 3x3 block

EASY

3x9 Sudoku grid for EASY level

HARD

3x9 Sudoku grid for HARD level

SOLUTIONS

EASY

Sudoku solution grid for EASY level

HARD

Sudoku solution grid for HARD level

Wordfind

Theme: Metal

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

Wordfind grid with letters M, N, W, E, L, D, I, N, G, E, T, N, I, C, K, E, L, I, G, O, L, D, Z, T, A, A, L, H, D, N, O, R, E, I, A, R, L, E, E, T, S, G, E, I, N, L, O, E, U, B, E, I, T, O, A, C, L, D, E, V, M, A, N, M, C, T, F, O, F, O, I, L, I, R, I, S, O, O, Y, P, L, A, T, I, N, U, M, M, R, T, O, P, I, P, E, S, I, R, S, G, U, N, L, E, A, F, T, S, U, R, E, T, E, V, I, R, Y, E, N, O, M

- ALLOY IRON RUST
ALUMINIUM LEAF SILVER
ATOMS MINE SMITH
BAR MONEY STEEL
COPPER NICKEL TIN
FOIL ORE WELDING
FORGE PIPES ZINC
GOLD PLATINUM
GUN RIVET
INGOT ROD

Secret message: Metal detector

Crossword

No. 004

ACROSS

- 1 Cleaning implement (3)
3 Illegally entering (11)
9 Component of blood (5)
10 Front end of computer program (9)
11 Normally (7)
12 Highest in temperature (7)
13 Female name (5)
15 Fraternal (9)
17 Male name (9)
18 Parts (for actors) (5)
20 Docket (7)
22 US president, Bill - (7)
24 Quivering (9)
25 Monarch's headwear (5)
26 Four-sided with right-angles (11)
27 Total (3)

Crossword grid with black squares and numbered starting points

DOWN

- 1 Govern incompetently (7)
2 Prickly animal (9)
3 Language spoken in parts of Sri Lanka (5)
4 Poet, - Dickinson (5)

- 5 Implement traditionally welded by angry mobs (9)
6 Injured player carrier (9)
7 Silly (5)
8 Tremendously (7)
14 Stuff associated with the US (9)
15 Standing on end (hair or fur) (9)
16 Family members (9)
17 Eternally (7)
19 Word with same meaning (7)
21 Like dice or square boxes, e.g. (5)
22 Water passage (5)

SOLUTION

Crossword solution grid

Codeword

No. 004

Codeword crossword grid with letters P, G, G, P, G, P

SOLUTIONS

Codeword solution grid

Vertical list of numbers for Codeword puzzle

9-Letter

No. 004

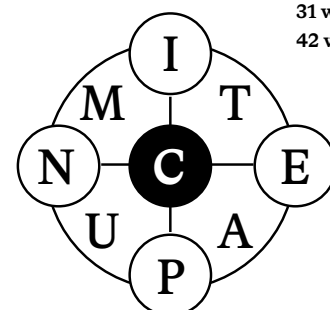
Today's Focus:

21 words: Good

31 words: Very good

42 words: Excellent

Using the nine letters in the grid, how many words of four letters or more can you list? The centre letter must be included and each letter may only be used once. No colloquial or foreign words. No capitalised nouns, apostrophes or plural words ending in "s".



SOLUTIONS

PNEUMATIC, puce, punice, teachup, tunic, uncap, nartic, mica, nice, mince, nice, pace, pact, partic, peccan, pectin, plea, cent, cinema, cite, cumin, cute, encape, epic, impact, incepr, incape, manic, acme, acne, acing, acumen, acute, antic, came, camp, can, cane, cany, caput, carnip,

Reference: Collins Concise English Dictionary

航海历史踪迹的“特殊区域”

一项庆祝墨尔本航海历史踪迹的计划项目得到了主要利益相关者和社区的“大力支持”。

David Schout

该项目将连接现有的航海历史财产，并认可原住民的航海遗产，这是维州政府和墨尔本地方政府的联合研究调查，在雅拉河沿岸建立航海遗产踪迹的区域。

在270名受访者中，包括那些与航海有关的人，有“相当多的人”赞成建立这个航海历史踪迹区域。

建立一个航海“历史踪迹”区域要比使用单独的位置更受欢迎，人们发现，位于北码头(North Wharf)列入遗产名录的海员大楼(MtS)可以作为这个踪迹的“总部”而发挥关键作用。

市政议员Rohan Leppert说，这是墨尔本历史的一部分，值得让人更好地了解欣赏。

他在9月21日的墨尔本未来委员会会议上说：“这是一个非常特殊的区域。”

“我们坐拥着如此神奇的地方，就其旅游业和经济潜力而言，却未被充分认识到。这只是那一层面的历史，墨尔本可以讲述一个许多人所知的，但可能为更多人所知的航海故事。这不仅仅是后殖民时代的航海历史遗产，还可以追溯到几千年前，在这方面政府可以做更多事情来展现和庆祝。”

这个拟建的航海踪迹区域将主要沿着雅拉河的北侧延伸，并将纳入墨尔本市耗资3亿澳元的Greenline项目。

然而，其中一个关键部分将进入南码头，沿着Polly Woodside公园（包括船本身和博物馆），然后穿过海员桥向北返回。

报告指出，这个地区将成为这个踪迹项目的“心脏”。

“Polly Woodside公园(包括船舶和博物馆)、海员大桥、公园以及海员大楼和海员开发项目的中心区域都将成为这个航海历史踪迹区域的自然中心，因为那里的活动很



多，而且景点密度很高。”

航海历史踪迹区域将从东到西，包括Sandridge大桥、Enterprize公园、蝙蝠侠公园、Polly Woodside公园（包括船本身和博物馆），穿过Seafarers桥进入Seafarers Rest公园、海员大楼、翻新的起重机和货

物大棚。

然后，可以继续延伸到澳大利亚码头，再延伸到北码头，以及维多利亚港，目前的历史遗产船队(Alma Doepel号、Enterprize和蒸汽拖船Wattle号)都停泊在维多利亚港。

盗贼被拍公寓楼偷自行车

9月25日，南岸(Southbank)的一个公寓楼摄像头拍摄到小偷肆无忌惮地偷窃一辆自行车，该公寓楼的女车主为之感到极为震惊。

Brendan Rees

位于City路The Summit公寓楼的居民Jamie（要求不要透露她的姓名）说，在她发现锁在大楼自行车架上的一辆2015年Giant Talon牌自行车不见了，她不得不“多查看了两遍”。

她说：“大楼经理已经查看了闭路电视，确认有两名骑自行车的男子跟着一辆汽车进入了大楼。”

“他们在大门传感器上贴了一张贴纸，使大门保持敞开，然后环视停车场里的其它自行车，设法偷盗。”

“他们来来回回地进出大楼，后来走到了我的自行车旁，打破了锁。”

Jaimie说，据信偷盗者在晚上7点30分之前进入了二层停车场，然后偷了她的自行车离开大楼，她的自行车是和其他自行车一起锁在一个自行车笼子里。

她说，在第二天早上上班时她发现了自己那辆价值900澳元崭新自行车不见了，于是向警方报了案。

“现在知道什么都不再安全，这真是令人恼怒。特别让我生气的是，这些盗贼就这样肆无忌惮地拿走了别人的财产。”

她说，在过去的两个月里，这个大楼里发生了几起自行车盗窃案。

她想与本报分享她的经历，希望有任何有关信息的人请联系警方或拨打制止犯罪电话1800 333 000。

她的那辆27.5英寸山地自行车是带有黑色车架，前部和后部带有Summit贴纸和LED灯，并配有红色子弹金属轮胎盖。

这起事件发生之际，“自行车网络”组织进行的一项新研究显示，墨尔本市是2020年自行车被盗最多的五个区域之一。



在澳广的热门咖啡馆关门了

Brendan Rees

澳大利亚广播公司(ABC)在南岸中心一家备受喜爱的咖啡馆被迫无限期关闭，称该市的第六次封锁是其最致命的打击。

过去三年一直在南岸大道(Southbank Boulevard)经营Koora120咖啡馆的Evan Dounas说，由于COVID疫情的封锁限制，客流量急剧下降，他感到深受打击，“被迫收拾清理关门歇业”。

他告诉本报：“这次疫情的大流行，没有人想到一生中会经历这样的事情。”

“我以为在获得政府支持的情况下我们能渡过难关，但还是不足以维持。”

“在许多情况下只能拆东墙补西墙，直到是时候停止一切，关闭歇业，因为这样更安全。”

Dounas先生表示，封锁的影响“对我们

造成了很大伤害”，营业收入下降了90%。

在疫情之前，生意是蒸蒸日上的，咖啡馆每天有600至700名顾客，在关门前的几周，顾客人数变成约90人了。

他说，虽然在租金减免方面很感激“ABC的理解和照顾”，但是再也负担不起继续营业了，因此做出了这个痛苦决定，在9月30日关门歇业。

他说，努力维持营业运转的压力越来越重，他认为这也是导致他今年早些时候心脏病发作的原因。

“我原来认为我可以度过疫情的艰难时期，但在一月份，我患了心脏病。我想，‘这不是因为我身体不好’，是因为压力太大了。我的身体非常健康，我外出散步，骑自行车，骑山地自行车，显然，这次发病是有原因的。”

公寓楼成建筑工地的“垃圾场”

自从Montague公寓楼被三个建筑工地包围后，大楼居民说，该区域的舒适性明显下降。

Katie Johnson

由于大量建筑工人的涌入，意味着居民经常无法在他们的区域停车或接收送货，街道上经常散落着垃圾和建筑材料。

公寓楼居民Helen Robertson表示，建筑工人和Port Phillip市政“不关心”当地居民，并拒绝承担责任。

Robertson女士说：“我们只想被当作居民对待，但是建筑施工似乎可以压倒一切，根本不考虑在非常困难的情况下生活在这里的居民。”

这儿就像一个垃圾场，因为对建筑工人来说，这是一个工作场所，但是我们在这里正在努力地过平静地生活。”

公寓楼Montague Towers位于Montague街和Normanby路拐角处的一个仓储设施的顶部，公寓楼住有大约50位居民。

目前在其周围环绕着三个正在施工的建筑工地——R Iconic工地、Normanby工地和Oakwood工地，居民反映，在他们搬进来时未曾被告知。

这些工地的施工时间为每周六天，从早上6点到下午5点，这意味着停车设施通常被数百名建筑工人完全占用。

Robertson女士说，居民因此无法在施工时间里停车、接待访客、让人上门检修或接收上门送货。



What's On: October 2021

Community Calendar



TUESDAYS @ 6.30PM
Rotary Club of Southbank

Rotary Club of Southbank usually meets weekly at the Mission to Seafarers building, but continues to meet online during COVID-19 lockdowns. Visitors welcome.
southbank.org.au



UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30

Australian Centre for Contemporary Art

While ACCA's doors remain closed during lockdown, engage beyond the gallery walls with new lectures, films and other educational programs on offer

acca.melbourne

Shop direct - South Melb Market

Southbankers can order direct to their doors on market days (Wed, Fri, Sat and Sun). If you don't need same-day delivery, you can select a future market day from the calendar instead. Delivery is a flat fee of \$15.

southmelbournemarket.com.au



Space Week @ Melbourne Museum

Running until Oct 4, enjoy a range of space-related activities, articles and more all in one spot - no matter what your age, there's something for every astro-enthusiast!

museumsvictoria.com.au



Bearbrass Probus

Bearbrass Probus caters to retirees in Southbank, Docklands and the CBD and hosts regular events for locals to connect. To see what events are on offer online during lockdowns, visit the website:

bearbrassprobus.org



Southbank Sustainability Group

A growing group of green and sustainability enthusiasts who usually meet up at Boyd on the first and third Saturday of each month. Connect via Facebook for more information and educational tips!

Facebook: SouthbankSustainabilityGroup

Business Directory

Church

St Johns
Southgate

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

Gym

JUSTINTIME
PERSONAL TRAINING

University degree qualified trainers that come to your apartment gym!

Justin Moran
0411 798 934 justintimept.com

Real Estate

Ray White Southbank | Port Phillip
111 Clarendon Street, Southbank 3006
P: (03) 8102 0200
www.raywhitesouthbank.com.au

Renovation

AROM APARTMENT RENOVATIONS OF MELBOURNE

1300 96 86 07
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