

# SOUTHBANK NEWS

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Puzzles & Trivia P25



Party on the promenade  
Photo by John Tadigiri

Pedestrians have returned in their droves to Southbank as locals and visitors re-embrace dining and drinking following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions. Read more on page 11.

## Electoral boundary change to impact Southbankers

WORDS BY David Schout  
ELECTIONS

Voters who reside in an eastern pocket of Southbank will cast their vote in a different electorate at the next state election in November 2022.

Changes to electoral boundaries were recently confirmed by the Electoral Boundaries Commission (EBC) and will see the seat of Albert Park, held since 2007 by Martin Foley, lose a small pocket of Southbank to the neighbouring electorate of Prahran.

Southbankers who reside to the east of Sturt Street (but south of Grant Street) will all vote in the seat of Prahran in the next election, even though they have not changed address.

Prior to the announcement, Albert Park's north-eastern boundary was bound by St Kilda Rd.

However, this has now changed in the most recent shift. Electoral boundaries are altered to reflect population changes across the state and to ensure that all electorates

are "approximately equal".

The seat of Prahran has been held by the Greens' Sam Hibbins since the 2014 election when he, alongside fellow Greens member Ellen Sandell in the neighbouring seat of Melbourne, won the first ever seats for the party in the Victorian lower house.

He told *Southbank News* he was looking forward to meeting with locals.

"I welcome the addition of part of Southbank into the Prahran electorate," Mr Hibbins said.

"I look forward to meeting with residents and working hard to ensure Southbank is a liveable and vibrant community."

The Greens hold three of 88 seats in the Victorian Legislative Assembly; Mr Hibbins, Ms Sandell and member for Brunswick Tim Read.

Mr Foley, the 14-year Albert Park member and current Victorian Health Minister, said the government's work would not change based on an "arbitrary line".

"Regardless of lines on maps the Victorian Andrews

*Continued on page 2.*

## Residents "shaken" at lavish Southbank apartment building

Concerns are growing of escalating drug use, violence, and aggressive behaviour at a lavish Southbank apartment complex after formerly homeless Victorians moved into the building in August.

WORDS BY Brendan Rees  
SAFETY & SECURITY

As part of its From Homelessness to a Home Program launched earlier this year and valued at more than \$150 million, the state government purchased 13 apartments at the newly developed Botanic Complex in Coventry St – nine of which are now occupied.

The initiative aimed to provide nearly 2000 households with stable housing, but from the perspective of other residents, it's a "totally inappropriate solution".

"There are people shooting up in the back of the building, and there's a lot of paraphernalia," one resident said, who spoke to *Southbank News* on the condition of anonymity due to fears for their safety.

"What I have seen is that they go out and their contact is waiting, there's an exchange."

"These are people that have very complex needs. Personally, I haven't seen any support for these people."

The resident said people were also "sleeping in the corridors," which she assumed were let inside the building by new residents under the scheme.

She said there were incidents of thefts but they had reduced after a security officer was hired to patrol the front door of the complex which is metres away from a childcare centre.

"I know there are people living in

the floors where these residents are that haven't slept in weeks because they bang on their doors, they shout, they carry on, they have issues."

She said one resident was left "shaken" and didn't want to enter the complex after seeing "two women were carrying on and shouting at each other" at the entrance, which led to a security guard intervening.

"When we were told about this sale it was supposed to be for low-income earners," the resident said.

Cafes in the neighbourhood told *Southbank News* they had also seen an increase of anti-social behaviour in the area with syringes being dumped around their premises including at one outdoor dining area.

"My boss actually found a bag of unused needles ... around the trees, so it has been at least three or four times," one café worker said, who wished to remain anonymous, adding their EFTPOS machine was recently stolen.

Another resident of 20 years who lives in the area said it was "sad and concerning" and believed "they should have consulted with the community".

A state government spokesperson, who named the Botanic complex, said the apartments were bought in 2021 from the developer under the spot purchase program, which is part of the landmark \$5.3 billion Big Housing Build, which has delivered

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Georgina Zeneldin

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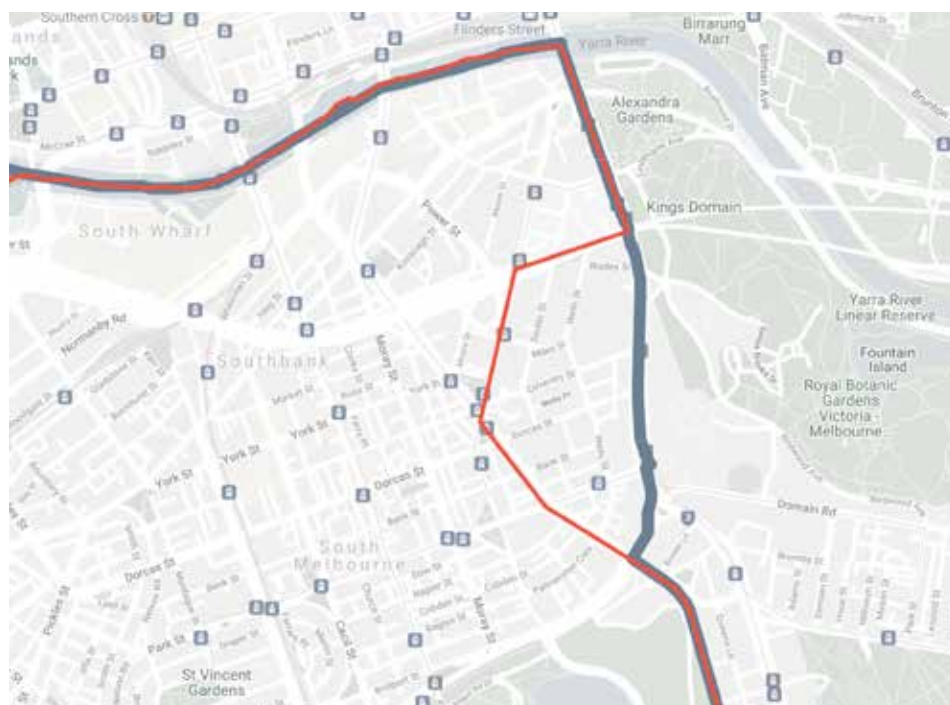
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▲ The electorate of Albert Park (new boundary in red) will lose a small pocket of Southbank, transferred to the seat of Prahran, in next year's state election.

## Electoral boundary change to impact Southbankers

Continued from page 1.

Labor Government will continue to work for all communities," he said.

“Recovery, jobs, action on climate, public transport and education are all big issues to the Southbank community. I will work with residents and businesses on whatever side of an arbitrary line they fall to continue to get things done as we safely emerge out of this global pandemic.”

State electoral boundaries are created by the EBC, an impartial statutory agency independent of the government.

According to the commission, the latest boundary update impacted more than one in

five electors with 910,384 Victorians (or 21.28 per cent of all electors) transferred to different electoral districts.

A spokesperson said the EBC canvassed the thoughts and opinions of many before defying the new boundaries.

"The EBC has taken account of the information and arguments included in submissions and public hearings. The reasons for particular changes vary, but broadly the EBC considers that the final boundaries fit communities of interest better than the proposed boundaries while ensuring that all electorates are approximately equal."

The EBC does not consider the political implications of boundary changes ●



## The long-awaited YRBA luncheon return

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*  
BUSINESS

Last month saw the return of the not once, not twice, but thrice postponed Yarra River Business Association (YRBA) luncheon series at the Belgian Beer Cafe with special guest Lord Mayor Sally Capp.


It was a who's who of Melbourne's river precinct stakeholders, from our riverside favourite restaurants, to a fleet of boating operators, all eagerly awaiting news of precinct reactivation and a sneak peek of the Lord Mayor's flagship "Greenline" project.

Although the Lord Mayor did provide some information on the project, it seems the council were playing their cards close to their chest with impending announcements on the project in their crosshairs, resulting in a bit more sausage than sizzle.

The Lord Mayor was, however, glowing in her praise for the precinct's many businesses owners and operators, some of whom have been the hardest hit by the pandemic.

"It has been amazing to see how you have all persevered," Lord Mayor Sally Capp said. "The fortitude and tenacity that you have shown, the ingenuity and pirouetting, as I like to call it, that you've done to find ways to survive as business owners, support your teams and continue to do what you do best in your businesses has been truly inspiring."

"Everyone at the City of Melbourne is grateful and admires you all for the work you do and do so well, so, onwards and upwards from here." ●



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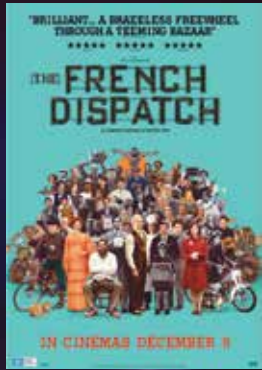
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PALACE CINEMAS





# Community TV station celebrates new home in Southbank

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Cameron Grant*  
ARTS & CULTURE

Community broadcaster Channel 31 is celebrating after officially opening its new studio in Southbank following a local campaign to extend its three-year licence earlier this year.

The station's general manager Shane Dunlop said after a "whirlwind" year, his team was buoyed by the "groundswell of support" by the local community to keep its free-to-air operations running.

"It was heart-warming to get that support and it came from all corners, whether it was cultural groups or political groups, that was a testament to our wider appeal," he said.

Mr Dunlop joined Lord Mayor Sally Capp and Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece in December for a tour of 31's new studios in Douglas St, Southbank, after the community TV station moved from Williams St in the CBD in September.

He said Cr Capp and Cr Reece had been "pretty outstanding supporters and to be represented by two of the bigger faces in local politics has been very helpful".

"We didn't expect we'd still be here," Mr Dunlop said after the federal government reversed a decision in June to end its free-to-air operations.

"It's been a bit of a roller coaster, it might be one of those things where it all needs to sink in," he said.

Cr Reece, a staunch proponent to keep the local station alive, said, "Channel 31 is a vital part of the local media scene", and "tells stories about Melbourne – important stories – that would not be told without them".

"These new studios are like a wonderful Christmas gift for Melbourne after the long community campaign we ran this year to save our local TV station," he said.

Cr Capp said after coming "so close to shutting down last year," she said it was "fantastic to see Channel 31 is powering ahead at its new studio in Southbank".

"It's heartening as well for the employees and volunteers who bring us this one-of-a-kind programming every week," she said.



▲ L-R: Nick Reece, Sally Capp, Lauren Colosimo and Shane Dunlop.

Channel 31 had faced the threat of its licence being cancelled for the sixth time since 2014 and the possibility of being switched off the air permanently by June 30.

But following an outpouring of community support and an urgent motion by City of Melbourne, the community broadcaster was saved.

Mr Dunlop said it was a relief the station's team of 13 to 15 staff plus volunteers could continue their operations and allow students to "build a career in front of the camera".

TV personalities Hamish Blake, Waleed Aly and Andy Lee, all got their first gig at the community TV station.

"I will always try to remind people there's countless others in the thousands who have come through community TV that work behind the camera that use their time on community TV to further their careers – that really still is our core function," Mr Dunlop said.

Channel 31's new studios are located at 2-4 Douglas St, Southbank in the Montague Precinct of Fishermans Bend opposite South Melbourne Primary School ●

# Residents “shaken” at lavish Southbank apartment building

*Continued from page 1.*

550 dwellings across the state to date.

"We're continuing to adapt this program to meet the complex needs of those eligible for the program," the spokesperson said.

In a statement, the state government said, "Homes Victoria has been working with Housing Choices Australia and the developer to address some problems involving a small number of social housing tenants".

"This includes relocating some residents to secure long-term housing. No renters will be left without a home, with appropriate alternative accommodation being provided," it said.

"We welcome the developer's commitment to the wellbeing of all residents and their support for social and affordable housing options integrated into residential construction in Victoria."

Ashley Williams, the director of Evolve Development, which sold the apartments to the state government, said the current behaviour at the building was "not acceptable in any typical privately-owned building" and his organisation was working with Homes Victoria to try to resolve the issue.

He said Evolve was of the understanding the apartments would be used under the Big Housing Build program with "assurances that suitable tenants from the affordable and social housing waiting list would be selected".

"We had never heard of a "Homeless to Home" program at any stage, that

“

*When we were told about this sale it was supposed to be for low-income earners.*

”

was something that became apparent after they settled," he said, which was in August this year.

"It's definitely been a challenging couple of months," he said. "Most of those issues in my experience are very unusual and unexpected and undesirable in a medium high-density building."

He said the owners' corporation committee was communicating directly with Homes Victoria while Evolve had been "assisting them with that process and trying to bring about some changes that give the residents confidence that their quiet enjoyment can be returned".

Asked if Evolve would aim to buy back the apartments, Mr Williams said, "That's an ongoing discussion, that's one of the options available. Homes Victoria has indicated that they have a program that they would like to work with the industry and secure more housing and certainly this is a bit of a test case for that." ●



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▲ A concept drawing for Greenline.



▲ Yarra Pools' proposal will not be included in Greenline.



▲ How Banana Alley would appear under the plans.



## Council gives Gurner's City Rd plans the thumbs up

WORDS BY *Sean Car*  
PLANNING

The City of Melbourne has endorsed a revised 41-storey proposal for 334 City Rd.

Submitted by renowned Melbourne developer Gurner, councillors gave their unanimous support to the amended proposal at the Future Melbourne Committee meeting on December 7, which will now go before Minister for Planning Richard Wynne for final approval.

Having purchased the site with an existing permit dating back to 2016, Gurner's Alexander Finn told councillors that it had "taken it upon ourselves to better the approval and that formed the basis of a design competition".

"What we present to you this evening we consider to be a vast improvement," Mr Finn said.

The build-to-rent development incorporates 394 residences made up of 56 studios, 128 one-bedroom apartments, 198 two-bedroom apartments and 12 three-bedroom apartments, as well as 131 car parks.

In looking to "enhance a legacy permit" by creating a "symbol in the sky" in a "high-profile position", the development, designed by architect Warren and Mahoney, has sought to activate the streetscape with improved ground level amenities.

These include a new café, revitalised lobby, gym and a widened Blakeney Place adjacent to City Rd.

The developer said it was seeking to provide a "world-class build-to-rent development" that would represent "a benchmark in this asset class".

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said despite a minor increase in building height from the previous proposal, the "edgy" developer would make a "distinguished contribution to Southbank's skyline".

"Having a range of alternative pathways into residential accommodation in Melbourne is a good thing," Cr Reece said of the build-to-rent proposal.

Cr Rohan Leppert said the proposal represented an improvement on the previously endorsed scheme.

# Greenline plans progress, but no room for pool

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
PLANNING

Final plans for a four-kilometre green trail from Birrarung Marr to the Bolte Bridge have been released, but the City of Melbourne has opted to not progress with a swimmable pool along the Yarra River.

An implementation plan for the "Greenline" project, which represents Melbourne's "biggest transformation" since the opening of Federation Square in 2002 according to Lord Mayor Sally Capp, went before councillors on December 7.

And while the council is pushing ahead with many aspects flagged in May's draft plan, the proposal for a pool at Enterprize Park on the north bank was not being advanced.

It determined that the proposal (for a lap pool, kids' pool and wetlands area) was not feasible due to a lack of space in the proposed location next to Melbourne Aquarium.

It was also denied on more opaque "financial and non-financial" grounds.

Pushed by community-led group Yarra Pools since 2016, the decision is a blow after years of campaigning and advocacy.

President Felicity Watson said they were "very disappointed" with the council's decision. "It was a scheme that has been created over a number of years by a lot of people who have contributed an enormous amount of expertise and talent to create this vision," she said.

"We know it's an extremely popular concept and proposition and has always attracted a lot of positive attention, so we're obviously disappointed not only from our perspective but also on behalf of Melburnians."

Ms Watson said that while the group was provided with a brief overview of what the council considered regarding the pool proposal,

it was yet to see any detailed analysis as to why it decided to not progress.

However, the final implementation plan, presented to councillors after *Southbank News* went to print, did not shut the door on hopes for a future pool.

"That is not to say that a swimming pool(s) in the city's waterways couldn't be considered in the future, or in other locations (e.g. Victoria Harbour)," it noted.

*Southbank News* understands that two Docklands locations — at Bolte West and near Ron Barassi Snr Park — delivered stronger feasibility scores for a prospective pool than Enterprize Park.

Ms Watson said Yarra Pools' purpose was not confined to one Northbank location.

"We have said all along and we made it really clear to the City of Melbourne that we're open to this complex being constructed in a different location. We weren't 100 per cent wedded to Enterprize Park — we were absolutely open to other possibilities and we're still open to alternatives as well."

She said the group's hopes and objectives had not changed despite the council's decision.

"We're definitely not going anywhere. Our campaign has always been, first and foremost, about advocating for a swimmable Yarra River and for all of the changes that need to happen for that to occur. So, improving water quality, promoting water-sensitive design and all of the things that need to be embedded in our planning and the way that we use our landscape in order to create a swimmable river. So as a team we're going to refocus on that objective and see where that takes us."

Since releasing draft plans earlier this year, the council received 390 survey submissions on Greenline and held two workshops, each attended by more than 40 targeted stakeholders.

This included landowners, local traders and

business associations.

An overwhelming number (51 per cent) of respondents said they wanted Northbank to primarily be used for exercise and recreation, followed by relaxation (14 per cent) and commuting either by bike or foot (14 per cent).

The entire Greenline project will be separated into five key "precincts", each determined on the basis of land management, activity and character attributes.

These are (from east to west): Birrarung Marr, Yarro Yarro, River Park, Maritime and Salt Water Wharf.

The four-kilometre trail was proposed to be six metres wide and create a largest network of green spaces.

"Imagine walking along the north bank of the Yarra from the MCG to Docklands as the sun sets. You meander along pedestrian boardwalks and over bridges, explore in new parks, and celebrate our Aboriginal heritage and culture," Cr Capp said.

"Just as Southbank and Federation Square energised Melbourne at the turn of the century, Greenline will usher in a new era for our city at a time we need it most."

Cycling will be supported on the trail, but not at high speeds.

Contemporary Aboriginal culture will be at the heart of the project.

Cr Capp made Greenline a key part of her 2018 by-election and 2020 general election strategies, winning on both occasions.

The Lord Mayor had a considerable amount of work to do, however, convincing upper levels of government and private sector investment in the project, which was estimated to cost around \$300 million.

The council has said it would push for a "tri-government funding partnership", which included a \$100 million contribution each from the state and federal government.

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# New park added to Southbank Blvd but residents worry it’s “not the most user-friendly”

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

A new neighbourhood park has officially opened in Southbank as part of a contentious \$47 million makeover of Southbank Boulevard – which many residents claim is mainly made up of gravel and bluestone.

The new park between City Rd and Fawcner St [opposite Australia 108] was completed at the end of November and features garden beds and a steel walkway.

It’s part of a string of works completed along Southbank Boulevard including the planting of 150 trees, a new civic space, and stone installation and landscaping.

But the capital works project, which has become one of the City of Melbourne’s most expensive in its history since it was approved in 2017, has faced a number of delays and disruptions as well as a bloating budget. Initially estimated at \$34 million, the now \$47 million project is more than 18 months behind schedule after works began in July 2018 and is now expected to be completed by mid-2022.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp, who has conceded the council “had learned a lot during this project” after acknowledging “we know it has taken far longer than expected,” said the new neighbourhood park was “another step closer to delivering the significant transformation of Southbank Boulevard” and would be enjoyed by residents, workers and visitors.

“This is another valuable piece of open space for our most densely populated suburb, alongside the already well-loved neighbourhood park between Moore and Kavanagh streets,” she said.

“It’s vital we continue to create new public open space in Southbank to help maintain Melbourne’s world-class liveability.”

“Now that this second park has been completed, we can focus on the new play space between Kavanagh St and Fawcner St,” she said, which was expected to open in early December.

While the project has received a mixed



▲ Southbank resident Raphael enjoys the new steel walkway at Southbank Boulevard. Photo: Cameron Grant.

reaction from the community, most just want to see it finished.

Resident of 16 years Jannine Pattison said while the new vegetation and spaces “was a lot better” and had “contributed to much increased bird life in Southbank”, she questioned the designs saying there was a lot of gravel and bluestone.

“I think the designers leave a lot to be desired – who puts barbecue facilities on a corner of a road? The barbecue would have been much better in a shady area, not on bluestone,” she said.

“The large palm trees are also very lacklustre, creating no shade at all for people to enjoy the grassed area.”

“The amount of blue stone pavers that will absorb the heat in the summer time make that

area very unusable – and to include metal seating is simply outrageous.”

“The rocky area and the ‘dirty yellow gravel’ lack greenery and vegetation which would have softened the look – I understand that this section is more drought tolerant and sustainable, but not the most user-friendly and inviting area to sit and relax in.”

“I know in time the trees will grow and I believe that it was a good move to get rid of the plane trees ... but at this stage, in my opinion it is the most over-hyped and under-delivered development in Melbourne.”

“I think it is very underwhelming considering the money pit that it became and how much over budget it went.”

Another resident David Hamilton, agreed

with Ms Pattison, saying the lack of shade for the barbecue area was disappointing. “On a hot day you’ll be able to cook the meat without having to turn it on,” he said.

“If ever there was a project which has contributed to green-house gas emissions it would have to be that project both in its construction and in the long-term because all it is, is a giant heat sink.”

“It just makes Southbank more unliveable.”

Mr Hamilton said he also feared there was an “accident waiting to happen” at the corner of Kavanagh St and Southbank Boulevard where “traffic goes around the corner ... travels 30 metres and is suddenly confronted with a pedestrian crossing”.

Southbank Residents’ Association president Tony Penna said the project was “a remarkable improvement contributing to the open space of Southbank” with the City of Melbourne “delivering what they said they were going to deliver”.

“City of Melbourne did quite an extensive community consultation on it over a significant period of time, there was an ample opportunity for people to comment on the plans that were presented,” he said.

“In my opinion, what we’ve got is pretty close to what the renders were producing, I think it’s achieving what the City of Melbourne proposed.

“It’s an innovative project that’s turning a street into parks, it’s providing something for the community.”

Southbank resident Raphael OK, 36, welcomed the new park, saying it was “perfect” and “definitely enlightens the mood of Southbank”.

“Before there was no greenery or grass and no place for us to sit down. I live up the road, and I have many neighbours that can take their pets out to the space and enjoy the area,” he said.

The new neighbourhood park comes after a second park located between Moore and Kavanagh streets opened in October ●

# Businesses continue to struggle as border opening paused to students

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*  
BUSINESS

Coming out of a city lockdown was deemed a “Freedom Day” for many Melburnians, but for local business owners and hospitality workers in Southbank it is a day they are still waiting for.

Following the announcement that fully vaccinated international students were being allowed to return from early December left many businesses hopeful that staffing issues would improve.

But on Monday, November 29 the federal government paused the arrival of international skilled and student cohorts until December 15

to allow more time for the impacts of the Omicron variant to be better understood.

The news couldn’t have come at a worse time for Philip Kennedy, owner of restaurant Pure South Dining at Southgate.

“[No international arrivals] changes everything. I’ve gone from 80 staff pre-COVID to now 36 and am only open four-and-a-half days a week instead of seven,” he said.

“We just don’t have enough staff and so even when we are open, we don’t fill the whole restaurant because we can’t look after people at the standard we prefer.”

Set to have overseas staff arriving the first week of December, the delays and cancellations have left Mr

Kennedy feeling like there is a “hand-brake on business”.

He said the normal cycle of international students and working visa holders “coming and going from the country” was going to “take years” to be repaired, and despite how “supportive” the community and suppliers had been in helping the restaurant get through, staff were still feeling the pressure.

With staff members being forced to sell cars, move children to less expensive schools and families to less expensive suburbs, Mr Kennedy said Melbourne’s hospitality sector had been dealing with “the worst of it”.

“My business and staff have been slaughtered. Workplaces are not the same and what they signed up for and

what they enjoyed about hospitality is not the same,” Mr Kennedy said.

“It’s a mental battle.”

International students have a long history of supporting the City of Melbourne and the state’s economy, supporting 79,000 jobs and contributing \$13.7 billion to the state’s economy pre-COVID.

Tim Bracher, executive officer of the Yarra River Business Association, said the delaying of arrivals would only “create additional anxiety among business owners”.

“International students’ major impact [in the Southbank precinct] is as a source of employment,” he said.

“There is a great staff shortage at the moment which will only be exacerbated once the Christmas and

summer crowds start to arrive.”

The added pressure of coping through Christmas without international students has also confirmed for many businesses that the initial delays only mean it will be longer until working visa holders will return.

“The lack of international students and backpackers particularly has really revealed how dependent our Southbank industry is on that international cohort,” Mr Bracher said.

“It has demonstrated a major structural issue in the industry which is going to be difficult to overcome without international students.”

While December 15 has been earmarked as the date for student arrivals can resume, further details are yet to be confirmed ●

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# FIREWORKS, FEASTS AND FAMILY FUN AS CITY CELEBRATES THE NEW YEAR

**New Year's Eve celebrations in the city are set to be bigger and brighter than before, with the City of Melbourne unveiling its plans for a safe and creative night.**

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the City of Melbourne is delivering a bigger celebration this year so Victorians can farewell 2021 in fitting style.

'Locals and visitors love Melbourne's annual New Years' Eve celebration. The event showcases our city, our identity, and our sense of community,' the Lord Mayor said.

'Fireworks, street feasts and live music will add to the buzz, and we're thrilled to entice people in to celebrate with us in a safe way.'

Revellers are encouraged to book in to city venues and celebrate responsibly at one of the many cafes, bars and restaurants that are throwing open their doors for a night of fun and festivity.

Or perhaps plan a staycation at one of the many new city hotels and make it the ultimate Melbourne holiday. For the full program, visit [nye.melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://nye.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

## CELEBRATION ZONES ACROSS THE CITY

Four ticketed celebration zones will be set up across the CBD to help manage crowds and adhere to health and safety requirements.

The zones will be at Docklands, Flagstaff Gardens, Alexandra Gardens and Treasury Gardens with family-friendly entertainment from 6pm and localised fireworks shows at 9.30pm and midnight, which are only visible from these zones.

Revellers will be entertained by performances throughout the night, including comedy and circus acts, dance workshops, big bands and local DJs, as well as food trucks and a disco-light installation.

The celebration zones will be ticketed and patrons will be required to be fully vaccinated to ensure a COVID-safe event is delivered in line with State Government requirements. Free tickets can be claimed by registering in the Ticketek ballot.



New Year's Eve in the city is being delivered through the \$100 million Melbourne City Recovery Fund – a joint partnership between the City of Melbourne and the Victorian Government.

## NEW YEAR STREET FEASTS

Melbourne's hugely popular New Year Street Feasts are back for another year, once again set to draw enthusiastic crowds into the CBD and reinvigorate the city's iconic streets and laneways.

In a partnership between City of Melbourne, the Melbourne Food & Wine Festival and the Victorian Government, seven outdoor dining precincts will host thousands of New Year's Eve diners at their favourite Melbourne restaurants.

Each precinct will bring together restaurants and bars from the surrounding streets and laneways, offering diners more than 30 premium venues to enjoy on 31 December.

Outdoor dining precincts will be at Docklands, Federation Square, Flinders Lane East, Flinders Lane West, Little Bourke Street, Little Collins Street and Russell Place.

Some of Melbourne's best-loved venues will feature including Chin Chin, Hazel, Hero, Longrain, San Telmo and Supernormal.

The program has something for all tastes: tea smoked duck salad and spritzes at Chin Chin; a family-friendly beer-battered fish and chips at Time Out Café; pig's head croquettes and polenta fritti at Hazel; and spit-roasted meats over the woodfired grill at Nomad's BBQ street party.

Taking inspiration from the piazzas and squares of Europe, New Year Street Feasts will open up some of the city's most popular food precincts to bring guests an unforgettable dining experience on New Year's Eve.

Bookings are essential. For the full program and to book tickets, visit [mfwf.com.au](https://mfwf.com.au)



## SPECTACULAR DRONE SWARM AT DOCKLANDS

Ring in the New Year by watching Australia's largest ever drone show over Melbourne. The breathtaking sky show is set to stun crowds with 350 individual drones, while also reigniting the Docklands precinct and supporting local businesses.

The spectacle will be one of the first drone shows of this scale to take place in the Southern Hemisphere.

'The Docklands drone swarm will celebrate our love for Melbourne and help reignite the city,' the Lord Mayor said. 'For the best view, book into the Docklands Celebration Zone and support our wonderful venues and local workers.'

The Docklands drone swarm will take place across Victoria Harbour at the official Celebration Zone, with a seven-minute show running twice on New Year's Eve, before the 9.30pm and midnight fireworks.

Celebration zone tickets are required for entry, are free and can be claimed by registering in the Ticketek ballot.

*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.*

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# Residents calls for pedestrian crossing at Boyd Park amid safety concerns

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
SAFETY & SECURITY

A long-term Southbank resident is pushing for a pedestrian crossing to be installed at an intersection at Boyd Park amid safety fears.

Jannine Pattison, a resident of 16 years, said there was no safe way to cross the intersection of Kavanagh St and Balston St with traffic having increased with a new Woolworths at Melbourne Square and other residential developments.

“Ideally, a crossing at the Kavanagh St end as well as the City Rd end would make the crossing much safer as this would also act to slow down the cars as they travel down Balston St,” she said, adding it was only a matter of time before someone was seriously injured or killed.

“I also believe the council should consider speed humps down Balston St and Kavanagh St as an additional precaution.”

In a statement, the City of Melbourne said it was in talks with the Department of Transport about a pedestrian crossing at Boyd Park.

Ms Pattison, who is also leading a campaign for improved safety at the intersection of City Rd and Kavanagh St, said it was vital authorities considered a crossing at Boyd Park as it became more popular during the warmer months.

“I, myself, have almost been hit many times as I cross the street due to cars in my blind spot, cars driving at an excessive speed for the road or simply a car that pulls out of a parking spot without looking,” she said.



▲ Residents Shuang (with Cooper) and Manju (with Ekveera) have welcomed the idea of a pedestrian crossing to be installed at Boyd Park.



Photos: Cameron Grant.

“A pedestrian crossing would draw drivers’ attention to pedestrians and will give pedestrians a safer way to cross the road. There has been a crossing installed at the Southbank Blvd end of Kavanagh St and this does not see anywhere near the same amount of foot traffic as the Balston St end towards the park.”

Ms Pattison said she had not launched a petition at this stage, but had spoken with Lord Mayor Sally Capp and walked her around the area showing her “the dangers faced every day” by the residents of Southbank.

Ms Pattison said she had followed up two

emails with the council regarding the issue “with no response of any real commitment to address these concerns”.

She said with another development proposed near Boyd Park “now is the time to act and get this pedestrian crossing installed before we have an accident”.

According to the City Rd Masterplan which was endorsed by City of Melbourne in 2016, new signalised pedestrian crossings have been proposed at Clarke and Balston streets, while a one has already been installed at Alexandra Ave (between St Kilda Rd and Linlithgow Ave). The

council said the masterplan was on track for a consultation period in early 2022.

Southbank Residents’ Association president Tony Penna said as a concept, a pedestrian crossing at Boyd Park has “got some merit”.

“I don’t see any harm in a pedestrian crossing there. I have no doubt that the City of Melbourne will have some sort of statistics and benchmarks,” he said.

He added it would be difficult to comment “without knowing what criteria the council uses to determine if a place needs a pedestrian crossing”.

Resident Manju Vagh, who moved to Southbank last month and takes her eight-month-old daughter to Boyd Park every day, said she welcomed the idea of a crossing as traffic could be “confusing” at the intersection, not knowing if cars were “coming or going”.

A Department of Transport spokesperson said it was working closely with the City of Melbourne in examining ways to improve safety for pedestrians and road users, including around Southbank’s Boyd Park.

“We will continue to monitor traffic and safety on our arterial roads in the area, and we are always exploring ways to make our network safer,” the spokesperson said.

The department said it was currently assessing plans for a pedestrian-operated signal crossing from Hannah St, next to Boyd Park, which the City of Melbourne has proposed.

This proposal also involves changes for cyclists along Hannah St and under the Kings Way underpass ●

# Freshwater Place makes a splash with top water rating

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
STRATA

A Southbank residential building which achieved an impressive feat of saving more than 26 million litres of water a year has been recognised with a top water rating.

The 62-storey Freshwater Place residential building has been awarded with a 6-Star NABERS [National Australian Built Environment Rating System] water rating, the first to be achieved by an apartment building in Australia.

It comes after the tower at 1 Freshwater Place became the first residential building in Victoria to disclose its water rating under NABERS in 2019.

At the time, a NABERS water rating identified the building as 4 stars as the building’s management and owners’ corporation (OC) worked to introduce a range of savings across its electricity, gas, and water services.

NABERS is an independent and nationally recognised official rating system which provides a fair reflection on a building’s environmental performance.

*“I implore all OCs within the strata space to perform a NABERS rating ASAP.”*



Adam Vince, senior facilities manager of Freshwater Place, said the award was “great”, but added “to see many more follow suit would be even better”.

“I implore all OCs within the strata space to perform a NABERS rating ASAP,” he said.

“A NABERS rating can not only highlight possible areas for improvement and deliver utility saving, but

can also kickstart conversations within your vertical community about their sustainability credentials.”

The water savings initiative was spearheaded by Mr Vince who, along with his team, were able to have its water consumption drop from 39,000 kilolitres in 2019 to 12,000 kilolitres in 2021.

The figure is the equivalent of residents saving 50,000 litres per apartment every year or refilling its 140,000-litre pool about 192 times.

Peter Renner, the OC chairman of Freshwater Place apartments, said the outcome was a “great achievement.”

“Not only is this water reduction a great story for our owners and potential purchasers in conserving a precious commodity, but it also reduces our operating costs which flows through to owners’ levies,” he said.

The team at Freshwater Place achieved its 6-Star NABERS result after “quickly” learning the primary condenser water system was over cooling and evaporating “far more than what was required for the building’s air conditioning systems”.

“To make matters worse, different systems were fighting each other,”



▲ Freshwater Place senior facilities manager Adam Vince.

management said.

“By addressing these issues and allowing the systems to run in harmony with each other, a resilient, effective and efficient system now operates.”

Now 16 years old, Freshwater Place has two pools, two spas, two steam rooms, four cooling towers, a car wash and about half an acre of lawn and landscaped gardens ●

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# Council signals attitude “shift” on public art

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
ARTS & CULTURE

New public art in Melbourne will be informed by a more Aboriginal rather than Eurocentric view and will be considered before — rather than after — big projects are built.

The changes are part of several “shifts” in the City of Melbourne’s public art program, which also sought to commission works that were intrinsically “Melbourne” and are more “bold, dynamic and ambitious”.

The 10-year Public Art Framework (2021-31) sets out clearer purpose and principles for future investment in the space, according to the council.

Feedback from stakeholders indicated, among other suggestions, that the council should prioritise creative works led by Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders.

Cr Rohan Leppert said the city’s cultural richness meant it would not settle for second-best.

“This is a bold framework,” he said at a November 23 council meeting.

“We do not do what other municipalities and other capital cities do; we have, for a very long time, strived for unique art that is conceived of from scratch, considering the place that the art is proposed to be placed in. We are not a council that receives off-the-shelf commissions and could plonk them anywhere.”

Cr Leppert, who prior to this council term spent eight years in the arts portfolio, said Melbourne should be picky with the public art it invested in.

“This is a city that thinks very carefully about what we need to do [and]

what policy settings we need to have in place in order to produce unique art that’s distinctly Melbourne, that is informed not only by a Eurocentric view but is informed by generations of an Aboriginal world view, [and asking] what does that actually mean for how we commission art and where we put public art,” he said.

There was also an economic focus to the new public art framework.

A report earlier this year identified that the creative industries could help drive Melbourne’s economic recovery, and that for every \$1 million invested in “creative programming”, there would be a return of \$4.5 million (once border restrictions had lifted).

“It’s not just about demonstrating the creative output of our city or of the artists themselves — a lot of this work very much needs to drive visitation,” Cr Elizabeth Doidge said.

“Not to put art into an economic context and say, ‘that’s what it’s all about’, but I don’t want to skip over the importance of public art in bringing people into the city.”

Cr Doidge, the council’s deputy chair of the Creative Melbourne portfolio, said it was also about equity of support.

“Art and entertaining took a massive hit throughout the pandemic, and those industries weren’t supported in the same way hospitality and other sectors have been. So, I think the deliverables in this public art framework will do a lot to bring artists back into the city and getting them working again.”

Last month *Southbank News* revealed that a major upcoming public artwork on Dodds St was set to



dramatically exceed the original \$2 million price tag.

The public piece, set to be located next to the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA), has had few public updates, and little is known about the work or artist.

However, it was understood that the council had opted to invest significantly higher than the \$2 million figure originally announced for the showpiece work.

The project was approved by the council almost four years ago in February 2018, and an artist was expected to be announced in August that year.

However, when appointing the artist, it is understood the council chose to significantly increase the scope of the project, which has contributed to the delay.

At this stage the council remained tight-lipped on the project, and a spokesperson said it would simply be completed “in the coming years”.

The public work is set to be the first of four major public art commissions in Southbank.



▲ A render of new open space between NGV and the future NGV Contemporary (right).

## More funding for arts upgrade

The city’s new public art framework came shortly after the state government announced an additional \$241 million for the now \$1.7 billion Melbourne Arts Precinct transformation.

The additional funding will see two new restaurants and bars built at the northern end of new public parkland that will connect Hamer Hall to the new NGV Contemporary.

Arts Centre Melbourne CEO

Claire Spencer said the new dining areas would “transform the visitor experience”.

The announcement also included additional funding for improved acoustics, accessibility, and seating at the State Theatre.

The 1984-built theatre is set to be closed for more than two years as part of the government’s “fast-tracked” investment in the space.

Construction work on NGV Contemporary is underway ●

# Driver slams into traffic pole as resident pushes for safety

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
SAFETY & SECURITY

A Southbank traffic hot spot which recently saw two crashes in 48 hours including a car that careered into a traffic light pole has sparked a renewed push for safety.

In the latest incident, a car bowled over a traffic pole at the corner of Kavanagh and Power streets at around 8am on December 5, however, no one was injured.

Police said the driver of the vehicle involved in the “minor” single crash had left the scene and no one was seriously injured, however the circumstances surrounding the incident were being investigated.

Two days earlier, in a separate incident at around 1.30pm, two cars collided at the same intersection. Ambulance Victoria said it was called to the scene at around 2.15pm but their services were not required.

According to a witness and local road advocate campaigner Jannine Pattison, one car had appeared to be turning right into Kavanagh St from Power St after exiting the freeway when the crash happened.

The incidents come after Ms Pattison recently voiced her concern about safety at the intersection, saying it was just a matter of time before a tragedy occurred — which was published in the November edition of *Southbank News*.

She said it was her goal to get the Roads and Road Safety Minister Ben Carroll “down to the intersection in person to observe the dangers” before there was a fatality.

The Department of Transport has previously told *Southbank News* it had “no plans to make any changes to the intersection at this time”, but would “continuously explore ways to make our roads safer, working alongside road safety partners like councils and Victoria Police”.



▲ Traffic lights lay on the middle of Power St this month.

According to data from the department, eight crashes have been recorded at the site in the five years to December 30, 2020, two of which resulted in serious injuries. None of those crashes involved pedestrians and cyclists.

Ms Pattison said she had tallied seven collisions — with photos as evidence — at the intersection since October 2021 which she described as “simply unacceptable”.

She has also launched an online petition to improve road safety at the intersection which has garnered 238 signatures at the time of writing ●

## To sign the petition:



# A fresh look at the amazing world of letters

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*  
ARTS & CULTURE

For a graphic designer the alphabet is a major source of fascination, including as it does, 26 letters which can be varied in hundreds of fonts.

It’s unclear whether Maree Coote has a brilliant sense of humour or if the methods she has invented create clever simulations.

One thing is for sure — her original portraits of dogs and celebrities are quirky.

Take the silly little cross between a Labrador and a poodle that is known as a Labradoodle.

She has taken each of the letters and used them to create the nose out of the more serious B and D and the hair out of the loops of the L, A and E.

Any dog with outrageous hair gets Maree going. The As in a Pomeranian have a lot of fun being fluffy.

The more serious Basset Hound make a lot out of the solid form of an N and the ears are depicted well with an S.

These alphabetical creatures have all been enclosed in a book *Dogography* which is available at Maree’s cute little corner gallery on Clarendon St.

It’s apparent that Maree is obsessed by letters. She sees them everywhere, in the shape of branches, in architectural forms. Her alphabetising goes back to her childhood.

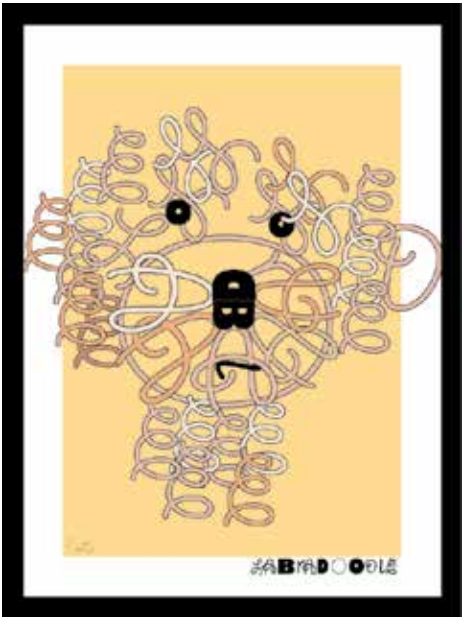
“I’ve done a photographic alphabet in the city, finding letter shapes,” she said. “I did it for kids. When I was a kid, my dad would say ‘look at that’. He made me see shapes.”

She is interested in the link between an object and its spelling. “With dogs it becomes a puzzle.”

She’s worried about kids and wants them to be more observational.

“I don’t think kids are challenged. They might be over-stimulated but they’re not active. All video games are passive.”

She uses Illustrator and approaches each



portrait as a problem-solving exercise. The Es in Ed Sheeran, for example became the lenses of his glasses. Freddy Mercury, Patti Smith and Amy Winehouse also give up their names to be worked up into portraits in the current exhibition *Letterheads*.

She said that that she’d been bashed and beaten by COVID but still mounted exhibitions in the shop window.

She loves landmarks, images and published *The Art of Being Melbourne*, a book of paintings in 2013 of depictions of the CBD since settlement with profiles on each of the artists.

It was the first book on Melbourne seen through the eyes of artists who interpret the present rather than judge the past through a more cynical lens.

“It’s more of an emotional expression, like a family photo,” she said.

*Letterheads: Typographic Portraits*, MelbourneStyle Gallery, until Christmas ●







# Renewed optimism for Fishermans Bend in 2022 and beyond

WORDS BY *Sean Car*  
PLANNING

While there is still a very long way to go in realising the full ambition of Australia’s largest ever urban renewal precinct in Fishermans Bend, anyone who thought that the project had stalled during COVID would be mistaken.

It’s been well highlighted over many years that the state government aspires for 80,000 residents and 80,000 workers in Fishermans Bend by 2050 – forecasts, which 29 years from now, seem a long way away given the current rate of development.

Speaking at a Fishermans Bend Business Forum get together on November 25 at the Port Melbourne Soccer Club – the first in-person meeting the forum has held in some time due to COVID – Fishermans Bend Development Board chair Meredith Sussex said “these things tend to take about 30 years”.

“There is a lot going on in Fishermans Bend. There is activity being driven across a huge variety of sectors and locations. But this is only the beginning,” she said.

“The intention with Fishermans Bend is that it be basically 75 per cent completed by 2050 and if you think that’s 30 years from now, think about the fact that it’s taken that long to get to where we are now from where we started with Docklands. Docklands started about 30 years ago and that’s how long these things take.”

As Ms Sussex mentioned in her

address to the forum, public transport has long been central to unlocking the full potential of Fishermans Bend given the sheer size and its disparate location from the CBD.

Development in Montague has exploded due to the fact that it, in many ways, doesn’t really feel part of Fishermans Bend given its prime South Melbourne location with direct access to the CBD and Southbank via the existing 96 and 109 tram routes.

Ms Sussex also noted the success of Montague was off the back of “catalyst” infrastructure, including the new Kirrip Park and primary school, and was currently the subject of 28 development approvals and applications.

“So, 10,000 new dwellings and 100,000 square metres of commercial is in the pipeline [for Montague]. It’s huge stuff. Huge, huge,” she said.

Ms Sussex also noted that Montague was drawing strong interest from the build-to-rent market due its location and strong mix of community infrastructure.

But the remainder of Fishermans Bend hasn’t been developing at anywhere near the same rate as Montague due to the unanswered questions around public transport – namely new tram and train corridors to get deeper into the heart of the precinct.

A funding commitment to transport from the state government continues to elude Fishermans Bend, with this year’s state budget only including a further \$15 million over two years towards the next stage of planning for long-term transport

links. This also includes funding to support further bus services.

But while the government remains tight-lipped on any future commitments for now, stakeholders would have been somewhat buoyed by last month’s report in the *Herald Sun* claiming that Metro 2 could be operational by 2041, according to government documents.

The underground rail project would see Fishermans Bend connected to the city and the west via Clifton Hill to Newport with two new stations at Sandridge and the Employment Precinct.

The other positive news to recently emerge from Fishermans Bend is that the long-awaited detailed precinct plans for Montague, Lorimer, Sandridge and Wirraway are due to be released for public consultation in the new year.

*Southbank News* reported in July last year that, according to former City of Port Phillip Mayor Bernadene Voss, the plans were already finished and were being held back from the public due to COVID and local government elections.

But with the worst of COVID seemingly behind us, the Fishermans Bend Taskforce and the Development Board are expected to soon begin consulting on the plans, which map out fine-grain details for community infrastructure in the four neighbourhood precincts.

“The extent of change that’s happening in Montague, highlights the importance of completing the sort of detailed planning work of public

realm, open space and infrastructure,” Ms Sussex said.

“That’s a key priority for the board and the taskforce as we head into 2022 and obviously now that we’re through the back end of COVID, we’re looking to engage much more with local businesses and local communities to engage in the discussion around that work.”

However, travelling deeper into Fishermans Bend to the Employment Precinct – centred around the former General Motors Holden (GMH) site on Salmon St – many continue to wonder what the “jobs of tomorrow” will be.

The University of Melbourne’s investment in the precinct for its new engineering and design campus, due to open in 2025, has been hailed as the centrepiece for driving 40,000 jobs to the National Employment and Innovation Cluster (NEIC) by 2050.

This cluster, as outlined in the government’s recent *Advancing Manufacturing – the Fishermans Bend opportunity* statement, will be based on jobs in “advanced manufacturing, engineering and design”.

In May this year, the government announced a \$179.4 million funding package for the first stage of the precinct’s renewal over three years. The government is also riding on the back of existing large employers in Fishermans Bend, such as Boeing, Siemens and the Australian Department of Defence.

“Fishermans Bend has for generations been synonymous with Victorian manufacturing and its

importance to the state and jobs will only grow,” a state government spokesperson told *Southbank News*.

“We are working closely with industry, institutions, investors and other stakeholders, including the University of Melbourne and those already based in the precinct, as we move forward.”

While Fishermans Bend offers plenty of opportunities, it’s the finer detail many will be keeping a close eye on into the future. What will set Fishermans Bend apart from the rest of the world in attracting large companies to move their businesses to the precinct?

As Ms Sussex pointed out, with most of the land in the precinct being privately owned, it makes the challenge of creating a “liveable, sustainable, excellent area to live and work”, a “particular challenge”.

“This is hard to do it well, but we are well on the way to the plan,” she said, while adding the board was seeking a “new level of commitment from the Commonwealth Government”.

The City of Melbourne, which governs the Employment and Lorimer precincts of Fishermans Bend, last month endorsed plans for the “gateway to GMH” along Turner St, which will see a greener, more pedestrianised and cycling focused public realm created.

While it might seem a small development, Ms Sussex said the planting of more than 200 trees and shrubs along Turner St represented a significant step in Fishermans Bend’s journey ●

## Luxury hotel and apartment building gets green light for Southbank

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
PLANNING

A 20-storey tower to house lavish residences and a restaurant will be built in Southbank after winning state government approval.

Property developer BEKL has been given the green light to build the tower, Vivere on Dorcas at 10-16 Dorcas St, boasting stunning views over the bay and across the Botanic Gardens.

The project is for 36 residences, made up of one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments, which will sit atop a 171-room voco hotel, an upscale hotel brand operated by internationally renowned InterContinental Hotels Group (HIG).

The design by Plus Architecture will feature hotel services for residents including a concierge and housekeeping, along with access to the hotel’s lobby-level bar and restaurant and gym.

Construction is expected to start in late 2022 with completion scheduled for January 2025. However, BEKL did not wish to disclose the total cost of the project.

BEKL manager director Katherine Liu said she was thrilled to introduce the “rare lifestyle opportunity” to the area, adding the development would be one her team would be “be happy to utilise and extremely proud to live in ourselves”.

Having previously lived in an apartment above the Westin Melbourne hotel, Ms Liu said the experience was “fantastic” and felt “very safe and secure” knowing the lobby and entrance door was monitored by security.

“The concierge team made living a breeze, from collecting parcels to providing suggestions for new happenings in Melbourne and it’s these comforting details that we are excited to offer to residents,” she said.

She said access to housekeeping meant “we could ask for on-demand home cleaning services, along with dry cleaning and more”.

Under the plans, the tower would also have a co-working space called Curago, a platform



▲ Artist impressions of the Vivere on Dorcas mixed-use development in Southbank.

recently launched by BEKL aimed at “enriching the ‘work from home’ experience,” with a photography studio, meditation chamber and more.

According to BEKL, Curago will offer residents a “thriving and productive community space where authentic connections can be made, minus the commute”.

The tower will be within walking distance of the Arts Precinct and “celebrate” South Melbourne by connecting residents to the community, local businesses, and the natural landscape.

Prices for the apartments range from \$490,000 to \$2.35 million.

The City of Melbourne ticked off the plans in February 2021 before the Minister for Planning Richard Wynne gave the final approval for the tower on October 28 ●

## Sky Bar Melbourne reaches new heights

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
BUSINESS

A luxury sky-high lounge bar and restaurant with sweeping views of the city, the Yarra River, and Port Phillip Bay is set to open in Southbank in early 2022.

Located 139 metres high at the Oakwood Premier tower at 202 Normandy Rd in the Montague Precinct, Sky Bar Melbourne will offer a five-star restaurant, two VIP function areas, a cocktail lounge, and a “floating” outdoor lounge.

Created by Yarra Hotel Group, the new venue will open on the 40th level, which is also the top floor of the tower, with a promise to “dazzle” patrons with “glamorous” furnishings including a 16-metre bar with an illuminated glass brick frame, a glass chandelier, six-metre-high windows, and five concave booths separated from the main dining area.

The Strato restaurant, which is described as “romantically modern,” will seat up to 60 guests and offer a modern Australian menu with locally sourced ingredients.

The main lounge will have an alfresco terrace resembling rooftops in New York city.

Yarra Hotel Group said the Sky Bar would offer 360-degree views of the city and accommodate up to 70 guests, offering a “quintessential Melbourne experience and a very good reason to visit the CBD again, post-pandemic”.

Yarra Hotel Group managing director Norman Khan said, “We couldn’t be more excited to open Sky Bar Melbourne and for people to experience this exquisite venue”.

“Our vision for this venue has been to show off our amazing city in all its glory – from the spectacular city skyline to showcasing local artists, foods, wines, beers and distilleries,” he said.

“We know the past 18 months have been hard and dining out is dearly missed. We have put a lot of effort into making Sky Bar Melbourne an entire experience and the venue has been developed by a team of people who are passionate about hospitality.

“Guests will see this from the moment they step out of the elevator! We’re proud to be providing a bucket list experience for locals and



▲ An artist’s impression of the Oakwood Premier tower at 202 Normandy Rd, Southbank.

travellers and we see Sky Bar Melbourne as the perfect place to absorb the best this incredible city has to offer.”

Tim Bracher, Yarra River Business Association executive officer said the skyline bar would be a “welcome addition to the precinct’s visitor and corporate offerings and will provide a different view of the river and city to what is currently available”.

“The layout and beauty of the lower Yarra is best appreciated from a high level, so the view from Melbourne Sky Bar in Normanby Rd will complement the views and style that has been provided by Eureka 89 for many years,” he said.

Construction of the \$150 million Oakwood Premier tower, which will have 392 hotel rooms, is estimated to be completed by the end of this year.

Of the hotel rooms, 152 will be short-stays while the remainder will be studios, and one- and two-bedroom apartments.

Dean Schreiber, CEO of Oakwood and managing director of Oakwood Asia Pacific, said Oakwood Premier, which will be surrounded by corporate office buildings, was developed for high-ranking senior executives, well-established business owners and “power players” in the economy.

“Defined by its uncompromising, tailored service standards and prime address, Oakwood Premier recognises the needs of its affluent clientele,” he said. “We are extremely proud to have the opportunity to introduce this luxury product to Melbourne’s prestigious Southbank Promenade.” ●



# Gratitude competition winners revealed!

*In our October edition, the Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) in partnership with Southbank News, asked locals what they were grateful for about living in Southbank during the pandemic. This month, we reveal the five lucky winners of the Gratitude Competition, who each receive a \$50 Visa cash card for sharing their experiences and joys of being a Southbanker ...*

## A caterpillar became a beautiful butterfly

When I purchased my Southbank apartment in 2006 my friends questioned why I wanted to live in a "glass box" in a "concrete jungle".

At the time, they were correct. That was what Southbank was like 15 years ago. There was no greenery, not many public spaces or recreation facilities and nonexistent community activity.

This was the time the Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) was fighting to convert the old Boyd school site into a Community Hub. It won the battle, and I cannot describe the difference it made in my life and the lives of hundreds of others, not only in Southbank but also in the neighbouring suburbs.

With the Community Hub, came a branch of Melbourne's world-class library, art spaces, a coffee shop, meeting rooms, a children's playground, a community garden, recreational spaces and many opportunities to meet fellow residents. Thanks to the clever landscape designers, Southbank residents now have flowers in every season, butterflies hovering over lavender, bees bustling on the kangaroo paws, orange jasmines filling the air with the perfume and the maple leaves changing colour with the seasons. What else could anyone ask for?

While every open space inside our residential building has now been obstructed in the name of improvement, my "glass box" is more confined than ever. Yet, as I step outside to the Community Hub, I have another world to enjoy, breathing fresh air, smelling the flowers, and absorbing the beauty of my surroundings. I am eternally grateful to the Melbourne City Council, the SRA and all those involved in this metamorphosis.

As a proud Southbank resident, I frequently promote my beautiful suburb on Facebook sharing photos with friends in nine countries. This is how I repay the change makers for their hard work.

Thank you.

*Sriyani Perera*

## Gratitude for the other "Click and Collect"

Thanks to supermarkets and other stores for providing Click and Collect, but this service innovation made necessary by COVID also supplied me with a steady flow of reading from City of Melbourne's Southbank Library.

I bought my apartment on City Rd because it was only a short walk to get to Boyd Community Hub. In the eight years since then, I've frequently popped in to browse and borrow. Working as a freelance writer, editor and reviewer of children's books, the collection of the city's libraries has been invaluable for research and wider reading. I also plugged into BorrowBox, the library's free talking and e-book collection, for non-screen time.

Since the pandemic began, the wider book world, at home and overseas, has rolled on



– new books kept coming. I was finding about them online through magazines like *Australian Book Review* (which also has an office at Boyd) and needed to see and read them.

The wonderful staff at Southbank Library implemented Click and Collect so, with the aid of the City of Melbourne Libraries app, I could ask for what I wanted.

It was a bonus to have a quick chat with the team when I picked up the books. My permitted two hours of exercise each day were also enlivened by listening to talking books.

At the beginning of 2020, the extensions to the children's library had begun. When I picked up my latest reserves this week, a stack of plastic tubs full of new books were being moved into the building in preparation for reopening, with this additional space. What a treasure for the families of Southbank – and for me. I'm grateful and very happy to swap click and collect for in-person browsing and borrowing.

*Margaret Robson Kett*

## Endorphins from animals

Something I have been very grateful for about living in Southbank during lockdown has been the steep increase in animals, particularly puppies, joining our community.

Our close proximity of living spaces has meant getting to see these tiny exuberant balls of fluff on a regular basis and they have never failed to put a smile on my face on days when lockdown has felt its most difficult.

Honourable mentions also must also go to the more grown up four-legged Southbank residents such as Simba the gentle giant, those

cats who get around in the pram (you must have seen them!) or the that overly-excited bulldog with "Moirá" on its pinafore.

Getting a regular dose of endorphin-lifting cuteness has definitely made being a Southbanker an easier task over lockdown.

*Mark Trenwith*

## Highlights of Southbank

There were many things I was personally grateful for, but here are my highlights in relation to Southbank living ...

### Quality food

The variety of cuisine and quality of food we have at our disposal is simply enviable, in fact, we're still playing the "what can we try next?" game. Easy food delivery was also a blessing when I was physically weak for weeks after major surgery.

### Luxe views

Southbank allowed for access to a variety of beautiful views when exercising. You could easily swap between the many water views to the many gardens, or park views.

### Cleanliness

I think the average Southbanker cares about having a clean community space, which makes living here that much more pleasurable. Councils can only do so much.

### Liveliness

While I was able to appreciate the opportunity to experience this place as a hauntingly beautiful ghost town on some days, I really appreciated having people around me on most days, with proper social distancing attainable by simply choosing the right exercise times.

## Balcony access

It's amazing how much the fresh air and views of people movement below helped me refresh mentally, even if I had to have four jumpers on for some days!

## Access to essentials

Having important services all within walking distance is extremely convenient especially in the weeks that I couldn't drive.

## South Melbourne Market

They have just about anything I needed, from acquiring specialty produce for my short-lived let's-cook-everything-from-scratch phase, to quality take-away, to dessert cravings, you name it!

## New Year's informal party

Being locked in with no fireworks didn't stop us from having a collective countdown, pot banging and concert like phone torches out to celebrate and welcome the new year in from our balconies. May we celebrate the coming new year with continued hope!

*Kavita Ziomek*

## Creative awakening in Southbank

Lockdown in Southbank has given me many rare gifts but first, the back-story.

I have lived in Sunraysia in rural Victoria for 35 years and only returned to Melbourne this year. The keys to my apartment were available in June of 2020 but for many reasons I was unable to occupy the apartment until July 2021.

In the 12 weeks I have resided in Southbank I have delighted in walking in every direction, taking photographs and turning them into digital art, photobooks, and postcards. I have created one photobook for every week I've been here – a woman obsessed and obsessive!

Before leaving Melbourne in 1987 I was working in the photographic industry and continued my passion for photography and visual art in Sunraysia. These passions were somewhat sidelined while I finished building a house and worked as a full-time secondary teacher of Italian.

This current burst of creativity I am enjoying has been enabled by belonging to, and being part of, a vibrant community; there is also, for me at least, a sense of safety and care.

I meet beautiful people on my walks and in the shops. I have freedom to explore and re-discover the haunts of my childhood growing up in Melbourne.

How incredible it was for me to be the only person in the Royal Arcade for an hour one Sunday. The afternoon light was mellow, and the shop displays were rich and colourful.

Lockdown has given us quieter streets and sometimes eerie vacant spaces. There is a tranquillity not normally associated with city living. The Boyd Hub and Park are the jewels in the crown. This is a happy place.

I feel part of a family here in Southbank and my gratitude is boundless.

*Jocelyn Rawlins* ●

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Your City of Melbourne community update

# CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS IN THE CITY

**Christmas is the most magical time of the year and the city is the best place to discover all the fun and festivities. Here's your guide to the City of Melbourne Christmas Festival.**

Christmas is a time for giving, and the City of Melbourne is giving families, residents, workers and visitors free events and activities to spread the spirit of Christmas.

This year's Christmas celebrations are bigger and brighter than ever with an exciting line up of new attractions, including a themed night market and a pop-up maze, right up until Saturday, 25 December.

The city will dazzle with the glow of thousands of decorations, including a 16-metre tall Christmas tree, as families and shoppers are welcomed back into the streets and shops.

This year's festival sees the return of time-honoured favourites like the Gingerbread Village and Christmas Square at Fed Square – the home of Santa's Workshop and free activities for families, and the young at heart.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp, who caught up with Santa to launch the festival, said the city will become the Christmas destination of the season.

"Our friends from the North Pole are helping us ensure the city is the ultimate destination to celebrate the festive season with family and friends as we bring the buzz (and bells) back to Melbourne," the Lord Mayor said.

"This year's Christmas Festival is expected to generate more than \$15 million in economic activity – providing the city's business owners with a much-needed boost as they bounce back from lockdown.

"We've all had a tough year and we want to make sure everyone – shoppers, families and business owners – have the best Christmas possible," she said.

The City of Melbourne has bolstered its Christmas line-up this year, adding a range of events, installations and activities to the program.

"Whether it's a Christmas catch-up at one of the city's famous eateries, a family trip to meet Santa at Christmas Square or some late-night shopping to fill the stockings, there will be something for everyone to enjoy in Melbourne this Christmas," the Lord Mayor said.

City Activation portfolio lead Councillor Roshena Campbell said the festive trading season is the most important time of the year for city businesses.

"Our city retailers have been disproportionately impacted by these lockdowns. The Christmas trading season will be critical to their economic recovery," Cr Campbell said.

"That's why the Christmas festivities will be bigger and longer than ever this year. We want shoppers and families to enjoy the best parts of the season that you don't get with online shopping. Our city will be filled with decorations, entertainment and rides to enjoy while supporting our retailers."

The Christmas Festival is part of a landmark \$200 million investment by the City of Melbourne and the Victorian Government to stimulate the economy and reignite the city.

For more Christmas Festival program information, visit [whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au/things-to-do/christmas](https://whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au/things-to-do/christmas)



## FESTIVE FAVOURITES

### Christmas Square at Fed Square

Make merry at Melbourne's Christmas wonderland at Federation Square. Christmas comes to life with festive decorations aplenty and the city's iconic 16-metre light-up tree. As the sun sets, the dazzling structure lights up with a gorgeous festive glow. Pop in to visit the big man himself and get a free photo at Santa's Workshop. New additions to the square include sparkling neon trees, giant bell swings, beautiful baubles and other glittering new decorations.



### Christmas projections

The city's famous Christmas projections are back at Melbourne Town Hall with five gorgeous adornments, complete with a countdown to Christmas clock. Make it a night to remember and visit the projections at Chapter House Lane and Hamer Hall too.



### Christmas Cinema

Carlton's Argyle Square has had a Christmas makeover with nutcracker soldiers, pretty festive lights, and even an icicle throne making it the perfect spot for a balmy evening movie and picnic with provisions from Lygon Street's famous delis, restaurants and gelateria. The Christmas cinema is screening silly season favourites like Elf, The Polar Express and National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation on Saturdays in December. Some bean bags and deck chairs will be available, or BYO picnic gear for the best spot. Film screenings start at 8.30pm.



### The Christmas Quest

The ultimate Christmas adventure awaits with Marvel Studios' Hawkeye. Head to the Melbourne Visitor Hub to grab your Quest Card and follow the clues to navigate through laneways and arcades to find the answers, with some help from your favourite Avenger. Decipher all the clues and complete the quest for your chance to win awesome prizes.



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Your City of Melbourne community update

NEW CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL EVENTS

Christmas Carnival at Birrarung Marr

Enjoy festive thrills on the banks of the Yarra at the Christmas Carnival. Ride the ferris wheel, drive the dodgems or get the best view of the city lights as you spin 35 meters in the air on top of the Sky Flyer. Try your luck at much-loved carnival games and complete the experience with classic carnival food. Entry is free. Tickets for each ride can be purchased at the ticket box on site.

Floating art installation on the Yarra River

Santa and his Christmas dolphins have landed in the Yarra, with a 27 metre floating sleigh lighting up the river at Birrarung Marr. Created by the quirky minds at Melbourne creative studio, A Blanck Canvas. If you're lucky you may even spot Santa and his dolphins cruising the Yarra river throughout December.

Christmas night market at the Queen Victoria Market

Venture out under the starry lights of String Bean Alley for a festive night market. Bring the family or meet up with friends as you meander the open air laneway, picking up locally-made gifts and unique Christmas trinkets, before indulging in delicious street food from some of the city's best food trucks and carts and refreshing summer drinks at the Brick Lane Bar. There's festive fun for everyone, complete with Christmas carollers, fake snow, a giant gingerbread person to snap a picture with and even a special visit from Santa.



A maze to explore at Docklands

Help Santa find his elves. Make your way through this giant present-themed maze for a chance to win one of four amazing prize packs thanks to The District Docklands, including family passes to Imaginaria, O'Brien Ice House, ArtVo, Chipmunks Playland and more.

Elfie selfie stations

Snap a selfie with an elfie to unlock a magical Christmas world and create an animated augmented reality Christmas card to share with all your friends. Find Merry at Fed Square, Jingles in Bourke Street Mall and Jolly at Southbank. Can you get a pic with all three?



FLASH MAKEOVER FOR MELBOURNE'S LANEWAYS

When was the last time you got lost in Melbourne's laneways?

World renowned and locally loved, Melbourne's laneways have been transformed into an outdoor art gallery by teams of artists - ready for visitors to rediscover our colourful and creative city.

This is the largest revitalisation of CBD laneways in Melbourne's history, with more than 80 creatives commissioned to create works in 40 laneways.

As an added benefit, the program enhances public amenity and safety through increased lighting and other upgrades.

Creative Melbourne portfolio lead Councillor Jamal Hakim said arts and culture have always been an integral part of our city's identity.

If you love the sights and sounds of the laneways, you can also take home your very own piece.

The Flash Forward Store, at 261 Little Collins Street, is now open and stocked with records and one-of-a-kind artworks produced by the creatives behind Flash Forward.

Cement your reputation as the trendiest gift-giver ever with unique masterpieces by brilliant Melburnian creatives

You'll also be supporting these artists, with 100 per cent of the sale going directly into their pocket.

Flash Forward is a City of Melbourne project, supported by the Victorian Government's \$500 million Working for Victoria Fund.

For your ultimate guide to Flash Forward, visit [whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au)



Ulster Lane  
Work by Drez



Rainbow Alley  
Work by Gonketa



Tattersalls Lane  
Work by George Goodnow



Langs Lane  
Work by Shawn Lu



Bourke Place  
Work by Tayla Broekman

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.

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# Arts Precinct

## Keeping it casual with Chanel

*The name Chanel connotes luxury, expense, privilege and a host of other out-of-reach qualities for the modern dresser.*

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*

An original Chanel padded handbag, for example, sells for \$3000 on eBay.

But like most myths, the one that has evolved around the famous French fashion house is misleading.

Gabrielle “Coco” Chanel turns out to be a radical designer who helped move women out of cosseted beauty and into action in the everyday world.

A retrospective at the National Gallery of Victoria shows how Chanel rejected the hourglass figure early last century in favour of soft lines and a dropped waist and she never varied her stance.

At the heart of her practice is the French concept of allure, which refers to the tension between a garment and a body and in Chanel’s clever hands this was quite loose.

Many of the more than 100 outfits on display in *Gabrielle Chanel Fashion Manifesto* look dowdy from a contemporary perspective but in their monochrome colours and uniform shapes lay the antecedent to the more relaxed, casual style of today.

Curator Katie Somerville, head of fashions and textiles at the NGV, is not talking about opening nights at the opera when she spruiks for the show but detachable collars and cuffs, high-cut armholes and skirts that hug the hips rather than the waist.

You can imagine models in Chanel outfits mooching along the sidewalk in black, cream and



▲ *The Coco Chanel tweed suit.*



navy with red for trimmings rather than strutting about with their noses in the air.

Chanel virtually invented the LBD (little black dress) and she loved materials, experimenting with silk jerseys from men’s fashion and lace from lingerie but most of all she loved tweed. There are about 20 of her tweed suits on display.

“These iconic suits renewed the styles of women’s wardrobes from the mid-50s until now,” Katie said. “They were softly tailored, unstructured with high-set armholes and pockets that worked.”

The jackets hug like a cardigan and have chains inserted at the hem so they fall well. The two-tone shoes have a black toe to hide scuffs and a beige body to lengthen the line of the foot.

The exhibition needs time on the part of the viewer to appreciate Chanel’s style. The armhole innovations, for example, give more freedom to the shoulder. Detachable collars and cuffs create variety. Three-quarter length sleeves are better for movement. These were innovations that evolved during the making.

Chanel began working in a drapery in 1903. In 1909 she opened a millinery and her first couturier house in Biarritz in 1915. She rarely varied her line. This was a source of strength, according to her biographers.

She had a few mishaps, like all of us, when she was arrested at the Hotel Ritz for having a fling with a German officer during the Second World War. She was released but spent 10 years in exile from the fashion world.

Unlike most historical exhibitions at the NGV, there is no criticism nor contextual explanations. “The exhibition is so revolutionary,” Katie said. “It looks at her work in such detail. There is so much a sense of etiquette. She’s the quintessential designer for the classic moment.”

Chanel gowns were expensive in that they were done by hand. She didn’t do sketches but worked directly on a mannequin. They were popular with actresses in the French New Wave cinema.

The exhibition has its international debut in Melbourne, after showing at the Palais Galliera in Paris in 2020. Rather than being a flamboyant history of the catwalk, this is a subdued examination of the work of a woman who was still designing when she died in 1971.

*Gabrielle Chanel Fashion Manifesto*, National Gallery of Victoria, until April 23 ●

CRITIC

## Getting decidedly shitty about rules

*Fans had been waiting 18 months to use their tickets for the launch of a book about etiquette and the suspense was building at the Malthouse in early December.*

They came all the way from Kensington and arrived keener than ever to see comedian Kitty Flanagan talk about her second-latest book. Many had already read *488 Rules for Life* and begun experimenting with them at home to mixed results.

The Malthouse Theatre has been creative in dealing with the pandemic this year by staging just one immersive in-house production and everyone was ... well... ready for a change.

Kitty arrived in casual day wear and sat in a comfy chair. Glenn Robbins sat in another beside her and appeared to be acting as himself.

“I get shitty about everything,” Kitty admitted to Glenn, as they began their *In Conversation* and there was a rumble of agreement in the audience, particularly when Glenn began going through her list of rules one at a time.

There’s a Melbourne tradition of female comics releasing books on modern manners, witness Kylie Mole’s diary, Kaz Cooke’s *Real Gorgeous* and now Kitty Flanagan’s *488 Rules for Life*.

For some it couldn’t have come at a better time, just when COVID rules are loosening and



▲ *Glenn Robbins demonstrates his reverse moon walk in a conversation with Kitty Flanagan at the Malthouse.*

they’re casting around for some other source of direction but for the more critical?

Flanagan is well-known as the writer and star of the ABC series *Fisk*, in which she plays a down-on-her-luck lawyer in a dowdy brown suit and that certainly gives her cred as a commentator. And she has exceptionally good cause. The book is a response to the outrageously assertive *Twelve Rules for Life* by the evolutionary psychologist Jordan Peterson, beloved by the alt right.

“I said I was releasing a book *488 Rules for Life*,” she admitted to the audience, as a bit of

a boast to topple the guru. “It was a joke,” she said, “but people started going into bookshops asking for it.”

Rather than disappoint her fans, Kitty got to work and began criticising many of the things we take for granted such as the freedom to use toilet rolls in our own particular way. Toilet humour features heavily in the rules and could be seen as a refreshing departure to the deadly serious conversations that often accompany book tours.

It’s true that an interviewer rarely gets up and does a reverse moon walk to show how his

fictional character Kel achieved such a strange lobe. For most of the time, however, neither of this pair of comic actors was in character nor were they trying to be themselves. At one stage Glenn complained that he didn’t have any gags.

The material was decidedly hackneyed with Kitty making droll comments about topics as inane as behaviour in theatres (support the lone shusher) and birthday parties (Rule 233: one prize only in Pass the Parcel).

“It [the game] was a source of tension and suspense,” she explained. “The parcel goes around and around. Could it be me? Now there’s a prize in every layer. It’s not a game anymore. It’s just a group unwrapping.”

Kitty said it was okay to have an occasional fantail in the parcel but if you moved onto musical chairs you had to actually take a chair away.

The publishers have already released another book post-lockdown. *More Rules for Life*. How many more can we stand before getting decidedly shitty?

*Kitty Flanagan and Glenn Robbins in Conversation*, Malthouse Theatre, until December 20 ●



*Rhonda Dredge*

JOURNALIST

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# Documenting history, one protest at a time



*From iPod photography with his dad at car shows to some of the largest protests Australia's ever seen, second year Photography Studies College (PSC), Bachelor of Photography student Jay Kogler's yearning to document history in the making has led to some breathtaking shots.*

WORDS BY Zak Wheeler

At 20 years old, local photographer Jay Kogler takes advantage of the diversity of Melbourne, and as a street photographer, he has experienced some heart-racing action scenes amid wild protests.

In 2017 while still in high school, Jay found himself among activists at a climate protest. But as protestors held signs, he took his camera and began documenting the emotions on display as they marched through Melbourne's CBD.

It was while racing around the event snapping banners and capturing some momentous scenes when he first considered the prospect of a career in photography. And after graduating from high school in 2019, he realised he wanted to pursue photojournalism.

"2020 was the 'lockdown pandemic' and all those lockdown protests started happening, so it was really good timing for me actually," he said.

As Melbourne became gripped by the coronavirus and its numerous lockdowns, Jay seized the opportunity to document history and began recording the protests.

To keep up with the groups of illegal protestors was one thing, with their main method of communication being secret group chats which Jay and his colleagues successfully penetrated, but his own safety was also constantly in doubt.

"There was a time in Richmond, on that day I got arrested, when I probably got pepper



sprayed maybe four separate times that day?" Jay said of the protests which took place in Richmond during September this year.

"It gets in your skin, and it burns, and it got in my hair ... after I took off my goggles, a strand of hair got in my eyes and then blinded myself. I had to get home before I could wash all that out."

These are the sorts of risks he's weighed up and he said were worth the price of admission for capturing "one-in-a-kind" experiences.

"You're really just there in the moment and you have to make split-second decisions, and the photos you get from those are incredible," he said. You know, putting yourself on the line, getting pepper sprayed, being harassed by cops and protestors, it keeps it interesting."

A pedant for his craft, Jay pushes his body to its limits in the pursuit of that illusive perfect photo, having walked 36 kilometres as protestors mounted the West Gate Bridge this year.

"It was just crazy that we go to walk on the freeway, then walk onto the West Gate Bridge" he said.

"I was standing on top of the bridge with my camera just looking around thinking, 'this is so surreal.' Photography can take you to crazy places, and hopefully it also takes me to even more interesting and challenging places in the future."

One of the next places that photography will take him to is America, to capture the campaign trail during the 2024 Presidential Election.

Dedicating six to 12 months to the visit, he will be there with another photographer documenting whatever there is to see, but Jay conceded that he should prepare for the unexpected.

"America in three years ... so much could change in a matter of weeks, months. Who knows what we'll see?"

But first, he remains focused on his education at the PSC – an institution where he's learnt to improvise and adapt to various climates as schooling has gone virtual.

"So much of this year has been online, which has been an interesting experience, but the lecturers are great with helping and supporting you" Jay said. "It's a small college, so you get very individual learning experiences."

Another benefit of PSC lies in its specialty focus on photography, which was a key factor in Jay's decision to enrol.

"With other universities I noticed you have to do a lot of core electives that I just wasn't interested in. I wanted to purely do photography, which is why PSC is perfect, it's 100 per cent focused on photography." ●

**For more information:**

Instagram @jaykogler\_photography



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IMAGE BY PSC STUDENT KAEDE JAMES-TAKAMOTO



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SOUTHBANKER

Southbank visitors hold their breath as they prepare to fly out of country

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*

*A South American couple who has called Southbank home for the past year are preparing to fly home, but admit they are “keeping calm” amid the uncertainty of border shutdowns.*

Natalia Rivas Chiessa said she arrived in Victoria from Chile nine years ago to live with friends in Melbourne’s south-east, at a time when she had “zero” English skills.

But after taking up English classes and later, a TAFE course in international business and accounting, Ms Rivas Chiessa, 34, quickly found her feet and landed a job managing Austro Bakery in South Melbourne – an experience she described as “amazing people, bread, and people”.

She also met the love of her life and now husband Andres Forero, 28, six years ago while in Melbourne after he had travelled from Colombia to work in hospitality management.

They have been staying at the Australia 108 tower, the tallest residential building in the Southern Hemisphere, which they said was



▲ *Natalia Rivas Chiessa with her husband Andres Forero.*

“quite amazing and beautiful”.

The couple plan to fly out via Qatar Airways on December 10 – first to Ms Rivas Chiessa’s homeland in Chile for three to four months, and then to Colombia for three years.

“After that we will see,” she said.

Asked if they were feeling confident about

their flight going ahead, Ms Rivas Chiessa said “don’t tell me about it, I don’t want to feel panic about it”.

“I want to keep calm, but it’s very something that can change at any time,” she said.

“Obviously with the situation we are starting to feel more stressed.”

Looking back at their time in Southbank, Ms Rivas Chiessa said they had loved living by the riverside and everything it had to offer, which was “totally different” to her home in the capital city of Santiago.

“I really like it because you’re next to the city,” she said.

“This is a very cosmopolitan country, you can find many options – we really enjoy that, some days we feel like Indian food and other days Asian food, and it’s very easy to find.”

The couple said they also felt a lot safer in Melbourne, saying, “You can walk around not caring much about a phone in your hand knowing nothing is going to happen to you. You can also wear gold and silver ... in Chile, this is impossible.”

Ms Rivas Chiessa, who used to manage a tea and coffee shop back home, said she loved shopping at the Broad Bean Organic Grocer in Southbank.

The Grampians, Mornington Peninsula and Geelong have been among their favourite places to visit.

Asked if they had considered returning to Melbourne one day, Ms Rivas Chiessa had mixed feelings.

“We’re obviously super-excited to go back home,” she said. “We’re homesick ... we think we already have enough of Australia.”

“I have to pack nine years in two suitcases, it’s been very hard,” she laughed ●

COUNCILLOR PROFILE

“Happily exhausted”: Lord Mayor absolutely loves her job

*The final subject of our Councillor Profile series doesn’t need much of an introduction. Lord Mayor Sally Capp has become the face of our city during her three-and-a-half-year reign in the top job, and she continues to prove why she’s the right leader during a crisis.*

WORDS BY *Sean Car*

Irrespective of the news medium, the event or the local encounter, Sally’s glowing and calming presence has been felt positively right across Melbourne and beyond during the pandemic as the city has grappled with world-record lockdowns and economic devastation.

But never one to panic, Sally has always exuded coolness during the crisis and through an innate ability to connect with all walks of life and champion all things Melbourne, she’s provided the energy and drive needed to lead the city through its current challenges.

“I’ve had to be a very fierce advocate for our city over the last 20 months in particular, really push my way into state and federal government as well but be willing to stand up on issues and projects that are important for the city,” she told *Southbank News*.

While some may be tired of hearing the phrase, “bring back the buzz”, to Sally and her fellow councillors, it’s become a mantra engrained into every aspect of the City of Melbourne’s recovery effort, and for good reason.

And in the pursuit of “the buzz”, it’s the responsibility of a leader to sell more than just hope, but to deliver outcomes – something she sees as one of the key strengths she has brought to the role of Lord Mayor.

“I’m a pretty practical and pragmatic person. I’m really keen to know that the work we do here makes a difference in the community,” she said.

“I think it really helps that I’m not a politician per se. I came into this role just to focus on Melbourne and put all of my efforts and energy into that, I’m not distracted by much else.”

“If it’s good for Melbourne, then we should do it.”

As referenced, Sally doesn’t see herself as a politician “per se”. She entered the arena after a decorated career in the private sector, which most recently saw her serve as Victorian executive director of the Property Council.



Beginning her career as a solicitor, she’s held senior roles with ANZ and KPMG, was the first woman to hold the post of Agent-General for Victoria in the UK, Europe and Israel, and was CEO and COO of the Committee for Melbourne and Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, respectively. She’s also a mad Collingwood supporter, having been the first woman to serve on the club’s board.

It’s that strong blend of real-world experience that is perhaps why, in her words, she sees herself as being able to relate to people more readily through strong communication, “being myself” and “leadership in action”.

And through not only being the first woman directly elected as Lord Mayor of Melbourne, she said she had sought to further change perceptions of the role by always being “accessible and approachable.”

“It’s being someone that others can relate to. I think a lot of people can see themselves in me, which is a nice thing and vice versa,” she said.

“So, when I do meet people it’s often one of the first things they say to me is that even they feel like they can approach me in the street. It’s not always nice things they say to me, but they can approach me!”

“We are a local government at the end of the day. It is important that I can represent the city up and out but it’s absolutely important that, in doing that, I’m representing who we are as a community and what our aspirations are. That can only come by being really embedded in the community.”

Having initially risen to power unconventionally in a by-election following the fall of former Lord Mayor Robert Doyle in 2018, she said the biggest learning she had taken from her first political campaign was that “it’s dangerous to make assumptions”.

While her Property Council tag may have raised the eyebrows on a few voters from the outset, she said she was proud that the feedback she generally received from locals was that she had since proven those perceptions wrong.

Just as comfortable at a business lunch as she is a residents’ group meeting, she said she valued the importance of always being curious, asking questions, and “to investigate and explore issues.”

“You almost have to be indefatigable in doing that because we end up with a better outcome,” she said.

“Now I don’t mean extending to over analysis leads to paralysis at all, but I do think making sure we’re taking all of the advice we’re given internally and externally, but that we check in with the people we represent, is absolutely vital.”

And having taken over a quite different Town Hall in 2018, she has also very much been the public face of cultural change at the City of Melbourne as the organisation recovered from allegations of sexual misconduct against Mr Doyle, and the ensuing Freckelton report.

By fostering a culture where “people can call out things where they see it” and “feel safe to actually speak out”, she said a lot of work had been put into addressing workplace issues,

which in turn, had also created an environment of improved accountability.

“I think that sort of culture also helps with accountability and there are times over the past three-and-a-half years where I’ve had to say we were wrong. Or I got it wrong,” she said.

“It’s appropriate we’re held to account as an organisation, as individuals and we should welcome that because, let’s face it, nobody’s perfect and nobody gets it all right the first time around. But it’s about being in a relationship with our constituents where they can call us out on issues, and that we listen and respond.”

Despite not being a politician as such, she said her greatest political strengths were “that I don’t give up” and that, while acknowledging the inherent difficulties, she was a “a big consensus builder”.

As for the biggest buzz she gets out of being Lord Mayor?

“Overall, it’s people. I really get a lot of energy from being around people so that gives me a real buzz.”

While the pandemic and the city’s recovery remain front and centre on her radar of issues, she said continuing efforts in ending homelessness and solving the housing crisis were close to her heart. So too, responding to climate change.

And while she wouldn’t buy into questions about running at the next election or not, she said she “absolutely loved her job” and despite its skewed work-life balance, she was “happily exhausted”.

“I’m fitting a lot of life into 24 hours in the day,” she said. “It’s my absolute joy to be frantically running around town attending as many things as possible.” ●



Sean Car

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# Publicly accessible common property: Contested vertical spaces

“  
*Vertical villages are familiar with the challenges of common property, but might these spaces be more contested than we think?*  
”

Collectively owned by lot owners, common property includes items such as gardens, passages, pathways, driveways, stairs, lifts, foyers and fences. And as we high-rise dwellers are aware, there are many and varied challenges that come with common property, with issues of access, maintenance and alterations featuring all too frequently at our visits to VCAT.

However, we vertical villagers may not be the only ones entitled to utilise our common property.

It has come as a surprise to many a new owner that their common property may also be accessible to the public.

Known as “publicly accessible, privately-owned”, these are resources which (as the label suggests) are open to the public, despite being private property.

In terms of our vertical villages, we have several different types of public-private resources, with the most common being publicly accessible spaces. These can include our external stairways, passageways, parklets and play areas. And

as they are our common property, the owners’ corporations (OCs) typically pay for cleaning and maintenance, which can be costly if these spaces are in high use with significant wear and tear.

Next is the public art placed in our vertical villages. The rationale is that public art provides numerous benefits for the community (as well as the developer and property owner), contributing to the cultural, social, physical and economic life of the city. However, agreements negotiated by developers may see vertical villages required to ensure ongoing access to these pieces, while also bearing the “reasonable costs” of cleaning and maintaining these public artworks.

A third type of public-private resource in our vertical villages are public facilities, such as toilets and drinking fountains. While these may be less common, this category makes up for this by being much more problematic. Horror stories of escalating cleaning costs, repairs and security shows this type of public-private resource as very onerous to manage and burdensome to fund.

So, why the demand for public-private resources in vertical villages?

From a government’s perspective, this is a viable solution to their dwindling municipal budgets. By having a developer “squeeze” a public resource into a small part of a project, simultaneously solves their problems of finding available space and funding for installation and ongoing maintenance.

However, the public’s perspective is often less rosy. Issues raised here stem from the ongoing debate about the “proper” public-private divide, with claims that the private provision of public resources erodes the public realm. Locally there are criticisms that many of these spaces in the CBD are not discoverable and/or not easily accessible. There are also questions over the owners’ ability to restrict use of these



resources, such as requiring certain behaviours or denying access at certain times (e.g. for private functions).

This now goes to the terms of the agreement – and how well these have been negotiated!

In the case of commercial developments, these agreements are undertaken by the developer, typically in conjunction with the building owner and/or major tenants. As these parties will have ongoing involvement with satisfying the conditions of their agreement, it is understandable that care will be taken to ensure a well-considered arrangement is struck.

However, the situation is different for residential buildings. As our OCs are not yet operating, it is the developer who negotiates the agreements, which are then passed onto the OC and subsequent owners. Regrettably, this

has seen many onerous conditions placed on apartment buildings, which have to be borne by the OC.

However, some OCs are beginning to ask whether these overly burdensome arrangements can be changed. Vertical villages (unlike commercial offices) are not revenue generating. The money to operate, maintain, repair and update comes directly from the pockets of the owners – not operating businesses ●



Dr Janette Corcoran  
APARTMENT LIVING EXPERT  
LEARN MORE ON FACEBOOK.COM/  
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## OWNERS' CORPORATION LAW

### 2021 - a big year for apartment buildings

*In many ways, 2021 was another annus horribilis for a lot of us, particularly in Melbourne.*

Spending a large portion of the year in lockdown has meant that for many apartment dwellers, far too much time has been spent working, living and educating from home.

As we look back on the year that was, we can see that although a lot of progress has been made in the apartment sector, there is a still lot that needs to be achieved. Over the coming 12 months, there will need to be a concerted effort in lobbying to see an improvement in fortunes for those owners in the high-rise community.

First, we can celebrate the good that has come out of this Year. For starters, we have the new *Owners’ Corporations and Other Acts Amendment Act 2021* commencing on December 1. This new legislation brings some important reforms that will improve governance for owners’ corporations (OCs).

We will see the end of “proxy farming” which will mean that committee members will no longer be able to obtain dozens of proxies and hijack the outcome of meetings. This important reform will also hopefully lead to greater turnover of personnel on the committees, and fresh faces, reinvigorated enthusiasm and new ideas that ought to be embraced.

We are also going to see the end of the widespread practice of developers entering the OC into long-term contracts (more than three years) with service providers. These long-term contracts never benefitted OCs, and only served to line the pockets of the developers. This was a very welcome reform and I’m pleased to see the Victorian Government embraces it.

The exception to this is where a resort or hotel management contract is proposed to be

entered into by the developer. This is sensible, and because of the disclosure laws, all owners will be fully aware about these types of arrangements long before settlement.

Of course, the new legislation did not hit the mark in every respect. Victorians are dismayed that the government chose to protect builders and developers from being sued for building defects and cladding, by keeping the limits for a special resolution to be obtained before taking legal action if the claim is more than \$200,000.

We are seeing more and more new buildings being completed with millions of dollars in building defects. Consumer protection for buyers of apartments is woefully lacking, and it is telling that Consumer Affairs Victoria was prevented from embarking on any serious reforms in this area. The joke is that in Victoria, a person has greater consumer protection laws if they buy a \$50 kettle, but less protection if they buy a \$1 million apartment.

However, the big news story of 2021 remains the funding shortfall of Cladding Safety Victoria. Hundreds and hundreds of apartment buildings with combustible cladding will not be funded by the CSV, despite qualifying for their program. The Victorian Government has prioritised its public buildings with the money that was announced for the OC sector. And now the CSV will wind up its program in the next 18 months and leave the rest of the sector high and dry, unless the Victorian Parliament steps in and replenishes the CSV’s funding program.

Expect this to be an election battleground ●



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## ABORIGINAL MELBOURNE

### A Very Koorie Krismas

*The city will be celebrating Christmas with an Indigenous twist this year thanks to the Koorie Heritage Trust (KHT) which is also throwing an end-of-year art exhibition showcasing more than 100 works by Aboriginal artists.*

WORDS BY *Spencer Fowler Steen*

KHT chief executive Tom Mosby said A Very Koorie Krismas at Federation Square would feature roving performances over three days celebrating indigenous culture as well as a Koorie Klaus wearing a Santa Claus outfit in the Aboriginal flag colours.

“Basically, Koorie Krismas is our way of contributing to the holiday season from a distinct Aboriginal perspective,” Mr Mosby told *Docklands News*.

“It’s all about putting our indigenous communities in the centre of what’s traditionally a European celebration.”

Mr Mosby said there would also be a Koorie Art Show at Federation Square kicking off on December 4 showcasing artwork from more than 80 indigenous and Torres Strait Islander artists.

“It’s an opportunity for people to see the style of art that’s produced in Victoria which is different to other Aboriginal art in other parts of Australia,” he said.

“People tend to lump Aboriginal art into one thing, like dot painting, but it’s all unique here in Victoria.”

The Koorie Art Show is an award exhibition, with \$38,000 up for grabs including a \$10,000 top prize sponsored by Creative Victoria for the best work of art. There will be a best emerging artist award as well as a reconciliation prize.



Mr Mosby said all the artwork would be for sale, and included 3D sculptures, jewellery and printed photography.

“When people come to Koorie Klaus, it’ll encourage people to come to see the art at KHT, so if people are looking for a Christmas gift, they can come in and pick something up from the gift shop.”

[fedsquare.com/events/a-very-koorie-krismas](https://fedsquare.com/events/a-very-koorie-krismas) ●

**For more information:**  
[koorieheritagetrust.com.au](https://koorieheritagetrust.com.au)



# Community thrives once again

*It's been such a joy to feel a sense of community again, as our group meetups started once again last month!*

We loved seeing faces familiar and new, catching up or getting to know new neighbours over coffee before we went on to do some gardening. We also really loved welcoming Wildlife for Gardens who told us more about the significance of nature, indigenous plants in urban environments like ours (through balcony gardening or community gardens), then did a plants audit at our Boyd Community Garden for native plants that would help the local insect and bird biodiversity survive and thrive.

### Coming up

Our next meetup is on Saturday, December 18 at 10am, where we will garden for an hour and then enjoy a year wrap-up lunch together. Please register your spot through Eventbrite (email us or check our Facebook page for the link). We will be back on Saturday, January 15 for our first 2022 meetup and every fortnight after that, but we may also have an unofficial gardening day on Saturday, January 8. Contact us if you're interested in joining.

### Educational events

We are so very excited to have educational events open to the community again! While we do love our gardening, our main mission is to help spread environmental solutions across Southbank (and beyond) while building a community.



Therefore, we are so happy we can start hosting educational events that cover a wider range of fun solutions that improve our environmental footprint, like a wine tasting with the very sustainable, carbon-neutral ReWine, a DIY beauty products workshop, a balcony native gardening workshop, composting, etc. Let's start with the wine tasting, happening mid-December (check our Facebook page for details)! We figured, since it's holiday time and summer, what better time to help connect Southbankers to a very sustainable wine solution for all those dinner parties, movie nights or barbecues, with a wine bottle you can refill right here in Southbank very soon. You may recognise ReWine from its Queen Victoria Market stall (the one with all the wine barrels next to the vegetables section). This family-run, carbon-neutral business, has a strong conscience of leaving the planet in a better state than now. It supports local winemakers, who are also doing right by the environment, and it's the only wine retailer in Melbourne that

supports returning wine bottles for refilling (whether it's for the same or a different wine). A bulk wine store so to speak. It's soon launching a CBD store that will be open daily, and a specially fitted van with wine barrels will be stopping by Southbank regularly for wine refills. Marshall, who started and runs the business after a 30-year career in the wine industry, will be telling us more about what makes a sustainable wine, environmental challenges in the industry, solutions like ReWine, while we taste different wines! Available volunteering We always welcome watering volunteers, so please email us if you have an hour to spare here and there and would like to give a hand to keep our community garden healthy and well. We also have an opening for an "Educational Events Champion" to help lead the fun educational events we have coming up. They will be receiving plenty of support and help with the organising and implementation of events.

There's always many helping hands in our group and all interest is welcomed. Please email us if you're interested to volunteer. This is also a last call for anyone interested in volunteering for the composting hub team, welcoming anyone who hasn't had the opportunity to do so yet. Please send us an email with your interest. There are many ways to get involved and use your skills or experience, from organising the project, Excel workbooks work, actual composting, communications, and everything in between. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for upcoming once-off opportunities to volunteer, as we always welcome volunteers for educational events either behind the scenes or on the day and we always make sure we have fun and build a sense of community in the process. We wish everyone a very happy summer and holiday period! We hope to see you soon.

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



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## ST JOHNS SOUTHGATE

# A humility shared

*On November 28 this year, for the first time since March 2020, the congregation of St Johns Southgate knelt before the altar to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion.*

With density limits and venue caps no longer being required, our COVID-safe practices could be relaxed sufficiently to allow a return to that ritual gesture of humbling oneself before God. It may sound like an insignificant thing, but back in June 2020, I offered the following reflections in my column: "Holy Communion is, like it sounds, about communing with one another. It's about

community and intimacy, with God and with each other. In times gone by, we would kneel together, shoulder to shoulder before the altar, as the pastor would (with his bare hands!) give us a morsel of bread to eat, followed by each of us drinking a sip of wine (from the same cup!), all the while being close enough for sacred words to be uttered at a whisper's volume. In a very real sense, participating in Holy Communion forms us into the community that we at St Johns hope for, pray for, and strive to be." COVID safety remains important, so we have not reinstituted some of those customs that now seem positively icky, but kneeling together, almost shoulder to shoulder again, has been profoundly moving. In an era during which keeping our distance from one another has been an everyday preoccupation, the act of stopping, getting down on your knees, and willingly being in close proximity to another person, perhaps a stranger, is an act of radical surrender.

Being humbled, willingly, in a very real and physical way, is a significant element of our sacramental practice, and this is only the case because true physical humility is at the heart of what Christmas is about. Yes, we are in the festive season now, the time when the Christian faithful turn their minds to the incarnation – God being born in human flesh, as a helpless, hungry and very humble, baby. It is a beautifully brutal article of faith because it points to a perfectly innocent being emptying himself of honour and glory and power, so much so that he was willing to kneel shoulder to shoulder with the people who would kill him. God-in-Christ, in being born on Christmas day, breathed in our disease so that he could heal us and bring us all, finally, even closer together than shoulder to shoulder, he would make human reconciliation and unity possible because he lowered his perfect love to the meet our imperfect love.

This Christmas, whether or not the story of the Christ-child means anything to you, I hope that you are able to actualise the giving of the giving season by humbling yourself in ways that bring you closer to other people. I hope that you are able to close the gap of that muscle-memorised social distance and experience the kind of togetherness only possible through acts of humility ●



Tom Hoffmann  
TOM HOFFMANN IS THE PASTOR AT ST JOHNS SOUTHGATE CHURCH.  
[STJOHNSSOUTHGATE.COM.AU](http://STJOHNSSOUTHGATE.COM.AU)



christmas

Christmas Eve

Friday 24 December

7pm Service of Poetry and Carols

Christmas Day

Saturday 25 December

10am Christmas Day Service

First Sunday after Christmas

Sunday 26 December

9am Worship Service with Communion

St Johns

Southgate

For regular service times please check our website

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

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BUSINESS

# Helping Southbankers get Functional For Life

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

In the age of fitness training conglomerates and international franchises, the personal is quickly fading away from personal training.

One-size-fits-all, high intensity and exceedingly complex training programs are becoming commonplace, often resulting in poor movement repetition and subsequent injury.

Specialising in evidence-based, tailored and fully mobile personal training, the team at Functional For Life is dispelling the growing perception of the industry by helping their clients create a positive relationship with their health and fitness.

According to Functional For Life co-founder, Ryan Bartlett, the freedom and flexibility of mobile training allows his team to fit in around their clients' often busy lives.

"We are an entry point for anyone, from novices right through to experienced athletes. Not all trainers are an appropriate entry point for someone who has to deal with what we call 'prehab' and rehab training," Mr Bartlett said. "Prehab is proactively getting on top of the body so you don't get injured, and rehab is obviously treating injuries through training."

"Our programs are about enhancing human

movement through training. At larger group training facilities the ratio is often one trainer to 20 odd clients and you will likely be doing highly complex movements that some people may not be ready to do, potentially resulting in injury or reinforcing poor moving patterns."

Mr Bartlett and his brother, Justin – who have more than 15 years of combined experience in the industry – founded Functional For Life in 2017 with the pair sighting a desperate need to steer away from the growing presence of "cookie-cutter, crash and bash" training programs.

The core values at Functional For Life are to reset, build and flourish.

According to Mr Bartlett, when your movement patterns are wrong, the first move is to hit the reset button – looking at mobility, activating and loosening the right muscles, then building up the correct movement patterns from there – creating biomechanically efficient movement.

"Our approach can be useful for people who are time-poor, it can be useful for people who don't feel comfortable in a commercial gym, it can be useful for people who have a gym in their apartment building, or people who just simply want to mix things up by training outdoors or down at the beach," Mr Bartlett said.



"We work in apartment buildings throughout Southbank helping fill out the building's obligation for gym inductions. We make sure each resident of these buildings has been familiarised with each and every piece of equipment, in accordance with their due diligence."

"We offer a free trial, analyse your movement and build a program that is going to help you get to your goals while helping you move better."

Along with individual, group, online, home and outdoor personal training, Functional For Life also specialises in corporate training,

having worked with clients including Clarendon Lawyers, Strata Community and Brookfield Asset Management.

"We are the perfect corporate training model because we focus on movement enhancement, which is often all people need to combat a sedentary lifestyle," Mr Bartlett said.

"There is a lot of disfunction when you sit for long periods of time, your glutes get under activated, your core gets weak, you get weak and under-activated muscles in other areas of your body."

"Research has shown that the specific benefits of corporate group training include reduced costs, reduced stress, greater productivity and improved morale and finally improved relationships."

Functional For Life services all of metro Melbourne, you can call them on 1300 070 955 or visit their website below ●

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



# A record-breaking finish to the year for Ray White Southbank

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

While 2021 has been a year to forget for many, Ray White Southbank and Port Phillip rounded out the year in style by cleaning up at the annual Ray White Awards and a shattering of their monthly sales record.

Following a challenging year for many in the industry, Ray White Southbank and Port Phillip principal, Andrew Salvo, told *Southbank News* the results had come as great vindication and celebration for a team that was forced to navigate one of the most affected real estate markets in the world.

"We have never been nominated for more awards. We were the second-biggest growth business for new landlords in the whole Ray White network," Mr Salvo said.

"We were also awarded Property Management Team of the Year for Victoria and Tasmania, our hardworking administrator Dongmei Liu received Administrator of the Year and Lilian Kwan was a finalist for the Property Management Business Development Manager of the Year Award."

Before they had time to extend their trophy cabinet, Mr Salvo and his team shattered their monthly record with close to 40 sales in November for secondary or established market sales.

As life flooded back to Southbank post-lockdown, so too has consumer confidence, resulting in a huge swathe of sales transactions, rental increases for investors and growing competition for buyers.

"While there has been a surge of interest in other areas of the market where affordability has gotten pretty dire, Southbank still presents a really affordable opportunity for buyers," Mr Salvo said.

"People have forgotten how amazing our city is and everything that it thrives on. Things like events, arts and sports; having proximity to that once borders open in a considerable way is going to be pretty special."

According Mr Salvo, COVID-19 has wreaked havoc

on new developments throughout Southbank where, despite always being home to plenty of cranes, will likely experience a "black hole" for new apartments over the next six to 12 months.

"What I believe will happen is that we will swing to an undersupply market. Rentals should surge once government get their immigration quotas up and universities full, because there will be a tightening of stock, creating a platform for price growth in both the rental and sales market," Mr Salvo said.

"We are benefiting from a dominant first home buyer market, but when you couple that with investor demand, that should create the necessary competition at auction or purchase, and that is where we will start to see some price growth."

With a creeping under supply of qualified workers in Melbourne's real estate industry, Ray White Southbank and Port Phillip will be holding a careers night in a bid to lure the next generation of budding agents.

"We are doing a lot more in our trainee program due to a staff shortage. We have figured out that we need to start growing our own and are looking to host careers evenings for interested individuals," Mr Salvo said.

"It grows a happier business when your staff grow with you from the ground up, and being powered by Ray White and the training platform they provide is incredible."

"We do in-house training; they are put through external training programs to receive their Certificate IV in Real Estate and Property Services. We are trying to grow careers in the right way, rather than throwing kids in the deep end." ●

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

# The indulgent product making a difference in more ways than one

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

Being gifted with an ice cream recipe book for Mother's Day was not only the beginning of a new career path for Southbank resident Roz Kaldor-Aroni, but also the start of a "better for you" ice cream option.

Discovering the need for chemistry and physics when making ice cream, she found herself enjoying making ice cream more than she ever thought she would.

And her Eureka Tower apartment kitchen soon became a place to experiment.

"I couldn't believe I found something that combined science and maths with food. It was completely heaven-sent for me," she said.

"The more I knew, the more I needed to know."

Using the knowledge she gained from various different training schools, alongside her background in science and mathematics, Mrs Kaldor-Aroni decided to leave her career in the not-for-profit sector and take her hobby seriously.

And seeing there was a lack of options suitable for pre-diabetics like herself, she began exploring options with less sugar and no chemicals.

Determined to find alternatives that would not compromise the taste, her "eyes were opened" following a masterclass she took in Canada, which ultimately led to the founding of her own recipes and brand, Elato Artisanal Ice Cream.

"The product is sensational. I'm using less added sugar and to compensate for using less sugar we added soluble fibre. We are the only premium ice cream with three stars and we are quite proud of that fact," Mrs Kaldor-Aroni said.

"Every single ingredient has no chemical intervention of any kind and I am very strict on that."

Finishing her training just prior to COVID, Mrs Kaldor-Aroni spent last year "trialling recipes and scaling" and "ironing out any bugs".



It culminated with a successful product launch this year.

"I started selling the product around April and then we got a national distributor which came on board and they have now started to roll it out nationally to over 200 stores," she said.

With three Australian-made, vegan and dairy "clean" products now available, the most important part of her product is how it continues to give back to the community through donating to OzHarvest.

"The good feeling is being able to give some money away. OzHarvest is just exceptional, so responsive and very keen. They are a really good fit for us and so that's the part that excites me more than anything," Mrs Kaldor-Aroni said.

Despite not being profitable as of yet, the company is continuing to give "four cents per tub until [sales] ramp up".

"I really needed to have the 'give back' as part of Elato Artisanal Ice Cream. There have been days where things haven't worked out and it has not been easy, but those are the days I really hold on to the fact that it's all worth it," she said.

"It has always been about leveraging my ice cream knowledge and skills to give back to the community and figuring out how I could best do that." ●

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



SAFETY AND SECURITY



Another year over ...

As 2021 draws to a close we can reflect on what has been another very challenging year due to COVID-19.

The pandemic has had a significant impact on the businesses and residents of Southbank. It is wonderful to see the businesses reopening and life getting back to how it was pre-pandemic (with the exception of masks and social distancing). The lifting of the curfew and travel distance restrictions has seen an increase in crime in the CBD, as well as Southbank.

Motorbikes and scooters are being stolen predominantly off the street when left locked on footpaths. Parking motorbikes inside residential building carparks may take a little longer but will reduce the chances of the motorbike being stolen, follow these tips to avoid motorcycle theft:

- Park in a locked garage
- Use parking infrastructure or anchorage points where available
- Secure the handles with a steering lock
- Use a manual locking device such as an alarmed disc lock, D-lock or chain and padlock
- Ensure your bicycle, motorcycle or scooter is identifiable. Engrave the letter “V” (for Victoria) followed by your driver’s licence number on the frame

Mail theft has also increased during the past two months, predominantly in apartment buildings. To prevent becoming a victim to mail theft, please consider the following crime prevention security tips:

- Clear the mail daily
- Make sure your mailbox is large enough for the mail to be dropped into a secure section and do not allow letters to be overflowing
- Have mail held at the Post Office or collected by a friend when away for extended periods
- Dispose of unwanted mail in a way that no one else can make use of it i.e. shredding
- Consider using Australia Post’s free 24/7 Parcel Locker service for secure storage of parcels

If you notice suspicious behaviour in your residential building call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 to make a report. If you require police attendance, call 000.

This month Southbank farewelled our longest serving employee – administration clerk Wayne Parkinson turned 70 during late November and has made the decision to retire. Wayne began working at St Kilda Road Police Station (now Southbank Police Station) on August 22, 1994. He has served Victoria Police and the community for 27 years. We thank Wayne for his service and wish him all the best for his retirement.

Senior Sergeant Jay McDonald and I, as well as all the members at Southbank Police Station, wish the Southbank community a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Please be safe and enjoy the festive season ●



Senior Sgt Alex O’Toole

STATION COMMANDER AT  
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HEALTH & WELLBEING

Christmas tips and New Year’s resolutions!

How to survive the Christmas eat-a-thon!

The Christmas period has the potential to stack on five or even 10 kilos. We resolve faithfully on January 1 to lose that weight as quickly as we can and spend the rest of the year battling with it with varied levels of success.

So how do you get through Christmas without gaining weight? How do you Christmas-proof your diet?

Here’s some thoughts to help you get the festive season and Christmas eating back in perspective.

Christmas is but one day

Try looking at Christmas Day as an indulgent eating period that starts and finishes in a 24-hour period.

Stop treating Christmas Day as a month-long eat-a-thon and start thinking about it as one day to indulge and enjoy yourself and maintain the course that you set at the beginning of the year.

Maintain your exercise routine

When December rolls around and the social engagements step up, the first thing off the must-do list is exercise.

Prioritise yourself and your needs over the busy festive period and keep to your scheduled exercise routine.

Limit treats to one a day

Just because Christmas is coming, there’s no need to eat, drink and make merry every moment of the day.

Don’t eat if you’re not hungry

This is a pretty radical concept at this time of year but remember you can say “no” politely and firmly to food, if you’re not hungry. There’s no rule that if it’s there, you have to eat it.

Be prepared

Learn to think like a cub scout and always be prepared.

Be prepared with a line or two so you can refuse food you don’t want.

Be prepared with how much you’re going to eat when you get to a social gathering and stick to it.



Be prepared for those parties where there will be lots of high fat food, by eating before you go so, you’re not faced with feeling starving and downing all the snacks (which won’t fill you up, anyway).

Decide how much you’re going to drink before you go to that party and stick to it.

With a little bit of thought and preparation, the Christmas period doesn’t need to spell disaster for your waistline.

New Year’s resolutions – forget about them unless ...

Save yourself the trouble of setting a New Year’s resolution unless it has been building in importance and the feeling of wanting to change has progressed somewhat in recent time, otherwise you are setting yourself up for failure!

Statistics show that very few resolutions are successful in attaining their set goal as they enter the New Year and that is usually because they are half-thoughts of something that the person would “like” to achieve but not actually something they are prepared to put in the required work or commitment for. Hence, they give up.

I would like to share with you the notion of Prochaska’s behaviour-change model which has been adapted and adjusted over the years but is essential to understanding human behaviour and what it takes to make a habit and, ultimately, change behaviour.

It would be fair to say that the reason for not

achieving the set New Year’s resolution/s is the mere fact that most are not actually realistically at the action stage and, therefore, the lack of desire and commitment required to make the necessary changes fall short.

Stages of behaviour change

- Pre-contemplation
- Preparation
- Contemplation
- Action
- Maintenance
- Termination

So, what does this all mean for you reading this? As a personal trainer that lives and breathes helping people change their behaviours and achieve their set goals, I urge you to sit down and be realistic about what it is you want to achieve. I often get people come to me hoping, wanting and/or expecting to lose, for example, 10 kgs in two months. Yet when I ask them how long it took them to put on that 10 kgs, they will often say over a period of 10 years! See the gap in reality?

Put on 10 kgs in 10 years but expect to lose it in two months? We live in a society where almost everyone wants results now, yesterday, or even last week!

Be realistic, write your goals down and, better still, share your goals with someone. By sharing a goal publicly with someone you then make somewhat of a commitment, and it means you have attached importance to your goal. Announce it on Facebook if you have to. You will then get people that will ask how you are going, perhaps help motivate you on your way but you then become accountable to someone other than yourself.

I hope this helps you as you contemplate 2022 and from myself and the team at Just In Time Personal Training, have a safe and happy New Year! ●



Justin Moran

JUSTINTIME PERSONAL TRAINING

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor ...

I attach a poem (in the form of limerick) to celebrate our two years of COVID in Victoria. Judging by the response from a variety of people, it’s likely your readers would enjoy this take on recent events ...

When COVID came knocking last year  
We cower’d in legitimate fear  
There WAS no injection  
To stem the infection  
We chose to stay home in the clear.

The Premier stepped up and said, “Right!  
It’s time for one hell of a fight.  
With strictest insistence  
On handwash and distance  
The end of the tunnel’s in sight.”

So all would be well, we assumed.  
We bing-watched and drank and self-groomed  
And checked out reportage  
Of loo paper shortage  
And Clicked and Collected and Zoomed...

A National Cabinet met  
And agreed to take all they could get  
Of job-support offers  
From Treasury coffers —  
It seemed like a pretty good bet.  
Indeed the plan worked like a charm

To save us (while waiting) from harm.  
But States argued borders  
While Feds bungled orders  
To book enough shots in the arm.

Lest anyone be disabused  
They kept us completely bemused:  
“Don’t think of the menace —  
Think footie and tennis  
And watch on the TV while boozed.”

When early suppression seemed real  
We soon made the best of the deal  
And counting the clock down  
We broke out of lockdown  
To savour the time we could steal.

Then COVID spoilt Christmas for those  
Who didn’t know borders would close  
From this day to that  
At the drop of a hat —  
It wasn’t the summer they chose.

In subsequent lockdowns aplenty  
Both amateurs and cognoscenti,  
Could see Twenty-One  
Had merely begun  
A groundhog-style, fresh 2020.

Very late, at last picking up speed  
We now have the vaccines we need.  
From grannies to bubs  
At the doc’s or State hubs  
We willingly join the stampede.  
There’s Pfizer, Moderna and such

And Astra Z? (Not quite so much).  
“Is it good, is it bad?  
Is it fit to be had?”  
But all are just fine in a clutch.

Grand Final, some demos, and quakes  
Are seemingly all that it takes  
(Or maybe some locusts?)  
To get the State focused  
On opening up for our sakes.

Another trial waits in the wings  
As we know, being woke to these things:  
COVID still lurks  
At the heart of the works  
Like the roundabout goes with the swings.

Before being through with these verses  
It’s wise to say, “Stay out of hearses!”  
Of ICU too —  
And this with a view  
To sparing the wonderful nurses.

Cheers and thanks,

Deborah Conyngham



SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:  
NEWS@SOUTHBANKLOCALNEWS.  
COM.AU



# Owners’ corporation laws tweaked

*The Victorian Government’s long-awaited amendments to owners’ corporation (OC) laws are now coming into force.*

The government has been under pressure for some time to stamp out a number of inequitable practices indulged in by many developers for several years.

With around one in five Victorians being part of an OC, strata management problems have impacted millions of people.

Ostensibly to address numerous resident concerns from this growing quarter, the government has enacted a raft of updates aimed at purging the worst excesses of an underregulated property development industry.

### Is yours a Tier 1 site?

OC law in Victoria now recognises that different size developments need different rules. Different-sized developments have been stratified into Tiers – not to be confused with COVID exposure site classifications!

Most inner-city apartment developments will fall into Tier 1, covering buildings with more than 100 lots, or into Tier 2 which covers those with 51 to 100 lots.

Tier 1 buildings will need to conform to “higher standards of accountability”.

### VCAT beware

The new laws might result in a bit more action down at Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) or the Magistrates’ Court.

In some situations, an OC is no longer required to pass a special resolution to begin legal proceedings. Under the amendments, OCs will be able to initiate proceedings for claims up to \$100,000 simply by passing an ordinary resolution.

This is surely a reform that will warm the cockles of any lawyer’s heart.

### Insurance – cui bono?

Under section 23A of the new laws, an OC can pass on the cost of increased insurance premiums caused by a wilful act of a lot owner. This could have enormous significance for the short-stay industry where insurers charge a premium for the increased risk associated with transient guests.

Similarly, the insurance excess for a claim for out-of-control party damage to common property can be sheeted home to the culprits rather than being subsidised by all lot owners. Certainly, the 2021 amendment makes it clear that owners and occupiers of lots are considered responsible for their guests’ behaviour.

Is this really cui bono (“who benefits”) law to help residents recover increased costs?

In this aspect, the 2021 amendment betrays a spectacular lack of consilience with the short-stay amendment of 2018. These two amendments – enacted three years apart – overlap very untidily. Our fear is that this newly-minted legislative ambiguity could lead to a precedent-setting court case that will only add to the contentment and felicity of lawyers, and not provide any benefit at all to residents.

### Proxy farming blocked? Nope.

Long the bane of residents in developer-dominated OCs, bulk proxy farming is being reined in under the new legislation.

The Victorian Government says the restriction is intended to prevent the practice whereby an individual gathers as many proxies as possible and “wields an unfair and disproportionate influence”.

This part of the amendment, section 89D, has a massive loophole, being a five per cent limit on the number of lot owners for whom you can hold proxies, rather than a limit on lot entitlements.

Under the amendment, a lot owner could hold the proxies of just a handful of owners with large holdings and still “wield an unfair and disproportionate influence”.

This part of the amendment is surprisingly regressive, favouring large landholders over individual lot owners.

### Track record on reforms: not so good

Will the new rules help residents much? We’ll wait and see. The government’s track record in solving issues for apartment dwellers is, sadly, quite poor.

For example, the changes introduced in the

*Owners’ Corporation Amendment (Short-stay Accommodation Bill)* introduced in February 2019 were meant to help prevent short-stay apartments being used to host unruly parties. The meagre changes supposedly permitted VCAT to:

- Impose fines of up to \$1100;
- Award compensation of up to \$2000 for loss of amenity; and
- Stop apartments that have been used for unruly parties from being rented out as short-stay accommodation for a period of time.

How has that worked out? Not well.

Firstly, our monthly reporting in this column about unruly parties – replete with coverage of drunken abuse, gross behaviour and police call-outs – has continued unabated, with short-stay party chaos defying the OC legislation and COVID restrictions with frightening energy.

Secondly, we keep checking the court records: Not in one instance can we find a case where VCAT made a finding that awarded any of the remedies to any resident.

### Way past the deadline

We are now approaching the anniversary of a major deadline missed by the state government.

In 2018, the government committed to a post-implementation review of the *Owners’ Corporation Amendment (Short-stay Accommodation Act)*. The government promised the review within two years of the commencement date of February 2019. That means the review was due before February 2021.

While we understand that lockdowns and restrictions have interfered with normal government operations, this review is of the utmost importance. The Act as it was enacted has been a dismal failure and an embarrassment to the government. And it needs to be fixed before the pre-pandemic problems flood back. There is an opportunity right now to learn from the disaffected stakeholders and discover how to solve otherwise intractable issues.

This is the written commitment dated August 14, 2018, from the Director of Policy

and Corporate Services in Consumer Affairs Victoria:

“Thank you for your email of July 27, 2018, to the Hon Marlene Kairouz, Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation, regarding the regulation of short-stay accommodation in Victoria. The Minister has noted your correspondence and asked Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) to respond on her behalf ...

“As noted in the government’s response to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Act, a post-implementation review will be undertaken within two years of commencement to examine the effectiveness of the reforms (including issues raised during the Inquiry) and determine if any further legislative changes are required.”

We also asked about this promised review when we met recently with the current Minister for Consumer Affairs, Melissa Horne.

It is now nearly three years after the Bill was enacted and we hope sincerely that the new Minister will prioritise this important review. Let’s make 2022 the year of change for the better.

### 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 [welivehere.net](http://welivehere.net). We Live Here does not accept donations from commercial tourism interests ●



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[WELIVEHERE.NET](http://WELIVEHERE.NET)



## HISTORY

# TAXI!

*A major change arrived on Melbourne’s streets in the 1920s with the arrival of the taxicab.*

As well as providing a new method of transport, the taxi companies added colour to the city, with red cabs, chequer cabs and yellow cabs (known as mustard pots). By 1925, Yellow Cabs (originating in Chicago) boasted more 100 cabs in its fleet.

Taxi ranks were established around the city, as well as roadside phones for calling taxis. But the service was relatively expensive and presented opportunities for competitive pricing.

Operating a taxi required a licence purchased from the state government, who also mandated the type and standard of taxis. In 1936, a group of Melbourne taxi operators realised that they would be better off pooling their resources and formed a co-operative, called Silver Top Taxis. The fleet expanded further, and quickly became a Melbourne icon, eventually becoming the biggest taxi fleet in Melbourne.

Driving a taxi could be a dangerous occupation (and still can) and reports were common of bashings of drivers, regular disputes between drivers of rival companies, passengers absconding without paying, and taxis being used to commit crimes (such as shooting at the occupants of another vehicle with a machine gun in Brunton Avenue outside the MCG in 1950, part of an underworld feud).



The companies faced challenges, such as during the years of WWII, when vehicles were converted to run on alternative power sources, only to find that charcoal quickly became in short supply.

The taxi companies needed depots for overnight storage of their vehicles and Silver Top set up a depot in what is now Southbank, at 199 Moray St, on the corner of Dorcas St.

The site gained popularity when the company established a café. This was a place that people flocked to.

After climbing a rickety set of stairs – drivers who were weary after their shift (including

those from rival companies), young blokes on their way home from a night out or looking for a quick feed on their way out, locals looking for a cheap meal, and apprentices sent out to collect lunches for their workmates could all be seen there.

The menu was relatively basic (grills, burgers, omelettes, and so on). But the hamburgers were legendary! It was open seven days a week from 7am to 2am (midnight at weekends).

The site was sold, and the café closed in the late 1990s but is still fondly remembered by locals and former drivers.

Luckily the sign was rescued! ●

*The taxi companies needed depots for overnight storage of their vehicles and Silver Top set up a depot in what is now Southbank, at 199 Moray St, on the corner of Dorcas St.*



Robin Grow

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## SOUTHBANK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

# Another year has passed us by ...

*Much of the year being locked down partly explains a year that, in my opinion, has produced little productivity within Southbank. It has essentially been a year of compounding delays.*

We have sustained further delays with Southbank Boulevard open space, which is now expected to finally be completed sometime before mid-2022. Moray St dog park that is also two years overdue, and there has essentially been no progress on the City Road Masterplan, while promenade upgrades are also well behind schedule.

The highlight of the year has been our *Southbank – where to from here?* Community Forum. While we have yet to see the promises from the forum delivered (Southbank planning audit), what did come from that was a promising budget. Although much is still yet to be seen with any progress of planning for its expenditure. However, the stand-out was \$25 million allocated to create open space.

The horrific truck and pedestrian accident on

the corner of City Rd and Power St highlighted the dangers of that corner, but also shone a light on trucks using our streets as their tunnel bypass. This forced a response from the state government and safety improvements for the intersection.

Going into 2022, the Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) committee will remain focused on intersection safety, with a specific focus on Kavanagh and Power streets, continue to lobby the council to begin the City Rd upgrade and watch closely for what the \$25 million will be used for with creating more open space. We are expecting to have a new website launched in the first half of the new year.

Our big event for next year is anticipated to be the Southbank Community Day which is the postponed event from 2020 which was due to be held the week after we went into our first lockdown. This is going to be a big task, so if you think you might have some available time to help our committee with preparations, we would love to hear from you. We can be contacted at [info@southbankresidents.org.au](mailto:info@southbankresidents.org.au).

For those who entered our Southbank Gratitude Competition, thank you for sharing your thoughts. These were a great read and highlighted there is much for us living in Southbank to be grateful for. I want to thank

*“Going into 2022, the Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) committee will remain focused on intersection safety, with a specific focus on Kavanagh and Power streets ...”*



Mary Kay for this great initiative. Check them out for yourself on page 13, I think you will agree! Let's not take our beautiful neighbourhood for granted, but embrace it for all the great things it has to offer.

Finally, from our SRA committee, we extend our warmest thoughts to our entire community over this festive season and we hope it will offer us all a great opportunity to reflect on the challenges of the past year with planning for a more rewarding and productive 2022. Please stay safe and renew your spirit. I look forward to engaging with you all again next year. Don't forget we would love your support by way of membership, our voice is only as loud as the number of members we have. To join visit our website [southbankresidents.org.au](http://southbankresidents.org.au), it's only \$10 per year ●



Tony Penna

PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT@SOUTHBANKRESIDENTS.ORG.AU



## MONTAGUE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

# Wishing you all kindness, good health and lots of laughter

*Thank you to Meredith Sussex, chair of the Fishermans Bend Development Board, for sharing last month's Montague Community Alliance column with her cohort on LinkedIn.*

Other than how interesting and creative our Montague residents and businesses are, I wondered whether this sharing was because we are using the moniker "Creative Montague" which is not based on any advice or support from government, but more the hard work and determination of those living and working in the Montague Precinct.

It is noteworthy, that these superbly creative people are working in the commercial creative space, an extraordinary feat in and of itself, considering almost two years of restrictive work practices.

However, wouldn't it be right and proper to create accessibly priced and designed artistic spaces, for not only young emerging artists, but older artists whose work is still prolific but may no longer be at the front of institutional support.

We know all the properties and land are privately owned but if we want to be internationally respected and famed for creativity in the design of these precincts, then surely we need to consider how to encourage our creative communities both commercial and non-commercial to live and work in the Montague Precinct of Fishermans Bend.

And just before we meet our featured Montaguan, please note developers and planners that flood mitigation, particularly along Gladstone St, is still very challenging and has been ever since the first buildings were erected



in the late 1800s. Time to let us know what you are going to do about it?

To end the year, we are featuring in "Meet a Montaguan" the extraordinary Helen Katavatis.

Helen and her husband Nick are stalwarts of the INDUSTRY Business Hub at 87 Gladstone St. What a delight to feature her and her work ...

## Who are you, tell us a little about yourself?

I am an expressionist/abstract artist and founder and designer of Cubec Clothing – an Australian-made women's suiting and shirt brand established in 1999. The brand is renowned for stunning printed silk and cotton shirts and beautifully cut suiting in high end lux fabrics. My artwork has been an intrinsic part all my life and is strongly reflected in our standout designs and colour combinations that are purchased and loved by our clients worldwide.

## What brought you to live or work in the Montague Precinct?

We had three store locations in Melbourne's CBD for 20 years and during this period we grew our business with an extensive demographic client base and required a creative space to purchase where we could operate our business and incorporate an art studio. Industry Business Hub provided this opportunity when



the building was completed in the Montague Precinct in 2011.

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

Its proximity to the CBD, the iconic South Melbourne Market is in walking distance, accessible to all arterial roots and minutes from the light rail and a bus route. We have fabulous food choices and outstanding coffee. The most interesting thing about INDUSTRY Business Hub is that there is a large selection of businesses which include architects, web and app designers, advertising companies, fashion and art, photographers and lawyers and many more.



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

We enjoy the close proximity to our home and to other services and lifestyle the area offers.

## What are the challenges of working or living in Montague?

Parking is and will continue to be a major issue with more high-rise coming on stream. Peak hour traffic is also frustrating on Montague St, as is the constant flooding at the end of Gladstone St.

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

Improve the council greenery on the foot paths, keep high-rise to a maximum of eight levels, not 30 as per the adjoining building to INDUSTRY Business Hub ●



Trisha Avery

TRISHA AVERY IS THE CONVENER OF THE MONTAGUE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

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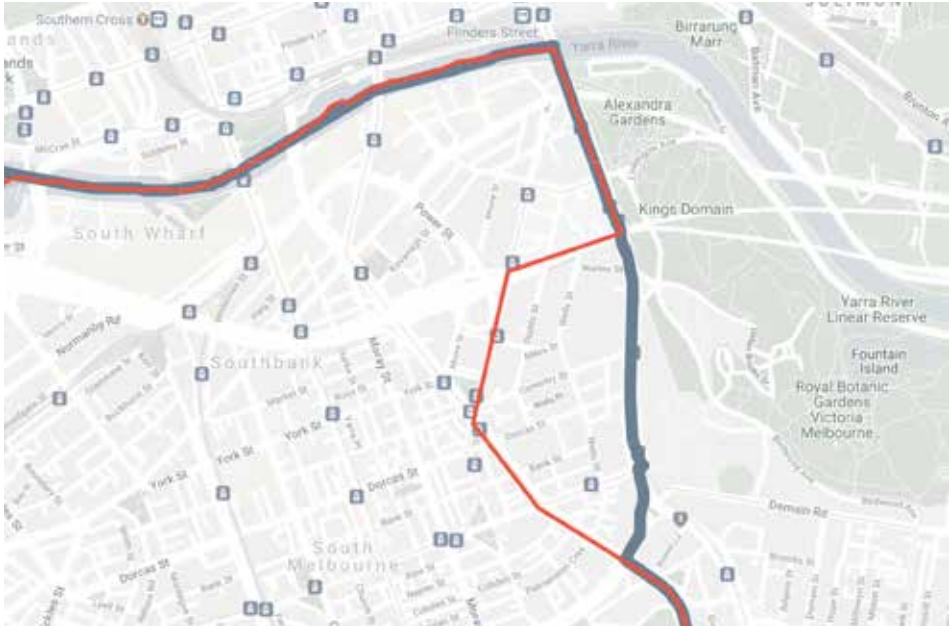
# 南岸选区边界的变化

居住在南岸(Southbank)东部地区的选民在2022年11月的下一次维州选举中将在不同的选区投票。

David Schout

选举边界委员会(EBC)最近确认了对选举边界的更改，自2007年以来由Martin Foley 持有的Albert Park的席位将失去南岸的一小部分选民给邻近的Prahran 选区。居住在Sturt街以东(在Grant街以南)的南岸选民将在下一次选举中全部作为Prahran选区席位的投票，即使他们没有改变住址。在宣布这次更改之前，Albert Park选区的东北边界是以St Kilda路为界。然而，这个边界在最近的一次更改中发生了变化。

更改选举边界主要是为了反映整个维州的人口变化并确保所有选民的“大致平等”。自2014年大选以来，Prahran 选区的席位一直由绿党的Sam Hibbins持有，当时他与绿党成员Ellen Sandell一起在邻近的墨尔本选区赢得了该党在维多利亚州下议院的第一个席位。他告诉本报，他期待与南岸当地选民会面。他说：“我欢迎将南岸的一部分选民加入到Prahran选区。”“我期待与当地居民会面,并努力确保南岸是一个宜居和充满活力的社区。”绿党在维多利亚州议会立法院的88个席位中持有三个席位，Hibbins先生、Sandell 女士和Brunswick选区的Tim Read先生。历任14年Albert Park选区的代表、现任维多利亚州卫生部长的Foley先生表示，政府的工作不会因“选区边界划定”而改变。他说:“不管地图上的选区划线如何，维



多利亞州的Andrews工党政府将继续为所有社区服务。”“经济复苏、就业、气候行动、公共交通和教育对南岸社区来说都是大问题。当我们将能安全地走出这个全球疫情的时候，我将

与当地居民和商家企业合作，不管他们属于哪个选区，继续把事情做好。”维州选区边界是由独立于政府的公正法定机构EBC所设定的。



# 公共艺术观念的“转变”

墨尔本的新公共艺术将更突出原住民而非以欧洲为中心的观念，并将在大型项目建造之前考虑，而非建造完成后再考虑。

David Schout

这些变化是墨尔本市公共艺术项目几个“转变”的一部分，这个转变还寻求创作体现“墨尔本”本质的作品，这些作品更“大胆、充满活力和雄心勃勃”。市政表示，10年公共艺术框架(2021–31)为未来在该领域的投资制定了更明确的目标和原则。利益相关者的反馈表明，除其他建议外，市政应优先考虑原住民或托雷斯海峡岛民(Torres Strait Islanders)的创意作品。市政议员Rohan Leppert表示，这座城市

的丰富文化意味着我们要追求完美的艺术。他在11月23日的市政会议上表示，“这是一个大胆的框架。”“我们不会随波逐流，跟随其他都市和首都城市而做；很长一段时间以来，市政一直在努力追寻独特的艺术，一种从零开始构思的艺术，并考虑什么地方可以提议放置该艺术。我们不是那种可以接受现成艺术作品并任意放置的市政。”市政议员Leppert在本届市政任期之前曾在市府艺术投资组合部门工作了八年，他说，墨尔本市政应该对其投资的公共艺术提出更高的要求。他说:“这是一座得经过仔细思考的城市，我们需要做什么，以及需要有什么样的政策措施，才能产生独特的墨尔本艺术，这不仅来自以欧洲为中心的观念，也来自几代原住民的世界观，这对我们如何接受艺术作品，以及将这些公共艺术作品放在何处具有实际意义。”新的公共艺术框架也注重于经济效益。



# 南岸大道新公园

南岸(Southbank)一个新的社区公园正式开放，这是一项有争议的耗资4700万澳元南岸大道(Southbank Boulevard)改造工程的一部分，许多居民声称该公园主要是由砾石和青石铺成的。

Brendan Rees

位于City路和Fawkner街之间(澳大利亚108大楼对面)的新公园已于11月底竣工，园内有花园植被和钢制栏杆走道。新公园是沿南岸大道一系列工程的一部分，包括种植150棵树、一个新的公共空间以及新石材安装和景观美化。自2017年获得批准以来，该工程项目已成为墨尔本市历史上最昂贵的项目之一，期间面临着多次延误和中断，以及工程预算超资的问题。该工程预算最初估计为3400万澳元，而现在为4700万澳元，此项目于2018年7月开工后，比计划晚了一年半多，预计将于2022年年中完工。市长Sally Capp承认，市政“在这个项

目中学到了很多东西”，她承认“我们知道这个工程花了比预期长得多的时间”，她表示，新的社区公园是“南岸大道重大改造迈出的又一步”，当地居民、上班族和游客都会喜欢。她说:“对于我们这个人口最密集的街区来说，这是另一个宝贵的公共开放空间，旁边就是Moore街和 Kavanagh街之间已经很受欢迎的社区公园。”“我们继续在南岸创造新的公共开放空间，这对保持墨尔本世界一流的宜居性至关重要。”她说:“现在第二个社区公园已经建成，我们可以专注于Kavanagh街和Fawkner街之间新游乐空间的建造，预计将于12月初开放。”

# 公寓大楼获最高节水级别

南岸公寓大楼Freshwater Place每年节水超过2600万升，取得了令人瞩目的成就，并获得了最高节水级别。

Brendan Rees

这座62层高的住宅大楼获得了“澳大利亚国家建筑环境评级系统”(NABERS) 6星级的节水级别，这是澳大利亚公寓楼首次获得的最高评级。

在2019年这座Freshwater Place 1号塔楼成为维多利亚州第一座根据NABERS揭晓的节水等级住宅大楼。当时，NABERS将这座大楼评为4星级节水级别，在大楼的物业管理机构(OC)的努力下，大楼的电力、天然气和供水服务方

面实现了一系列的节约措施。NABERS 是一个独立的和国家认可的官方评级系统，可以公平地反映某建筑大楼的环境绩效。该大楼的高级设施经理Adam Vince表示，这个奖项“很棒”，但他补充说“能看到更多大楼效仿会更好”。他说:“我恳请所有公寓大楼的物业管理尽快采取NABERS评级。”“NABERS评级不仅可以找出可以改进的地方和节省物业能源费用，还可以在这种垂直公寓社区内开启有关可持续性发展的对话。”

节水计划由Vince先生牵头，他与他的团队一起将大楼的耗水量从2019年的39000 千升降至2021年的12000千升。每套公寓每年使用50000升水，或者为 140000升的游泳池加水约192次。Freshwater Place公寓大楼的OC主席Peter Renner表示，这次的评级结果是一个“伟大的成就”。他说:“对于我们的业主和潜在的购买者来说，这种节水不仅是一个保护珍贵建筑的好消息，而且还降低了我们的运营成本，最终会转化为业主物业费用的降低。



# What's On: December - January

## Community Calendar



FRIDAYS: DEC 10 - APRIL 22

### NGV Friday Nights

Celebrating the joy of being outside and free, the NGV Friday Nights series is returning in time for summer. A mix of eating, drinking and dancing, the event will focus around music and art.

ngv.vic.gov.au



### SUMMER

#### Malthouse Outdoor Stage

After a triumphant inaugural outing in the summer of 2020-21, Malthouse Outdoor Stage has returned for summer at the Sturt St courtyard. Find out what's on at:

malthousetheatre.com.au

### Christmas Treasure Hunt

Mary Martin Bookshop is hosting a treasure hunt throughout December. Following the collection of a free treasure map, attendees will embark on a journey through some of Melbourne's remarkable hidden laneways and arcades.

marymartinbooks.com.au



### Christmas Story Time - Dec 16

For one day only, the Southbank Library is hosting a Christmas story time event aimed at children between the ages of three to five. The event will also be followed by a Christmas craft session.

whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.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 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

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

### Gym

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0411 798 934 justintimept.com

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www.raywhitesouthbank.com.au

### Renovation

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Mezzanine Level, 13-15/1 Freshwater Place, Southbank  
PHONE: 8640 0328 WEB: www.elitesportsphysio.com.au

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t 0433 930 484  
e sean@hyperlocalnews.com.au  
about how to customise your campaign to our audience every month.



# Opens are Back!

## Scan QR for open times.

**RayWhite**

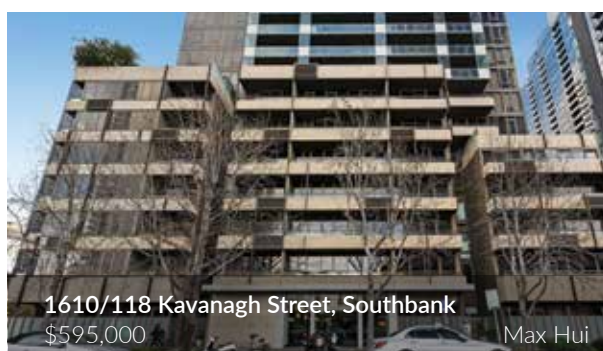


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**1304/105 Clarendon Street, Southbank**  
\$410,000-\$450,000

Max Hui



**1610/118 Kavanagh Street, Southbank**  
\$595,000

Max Hui



**125/100 Kavanagh Street, Southbank**  
\$685,000- \$750,000

Max Hui



**3207/250 City Road, Southbank**  
\$415,000-\$455,000

Max Hui



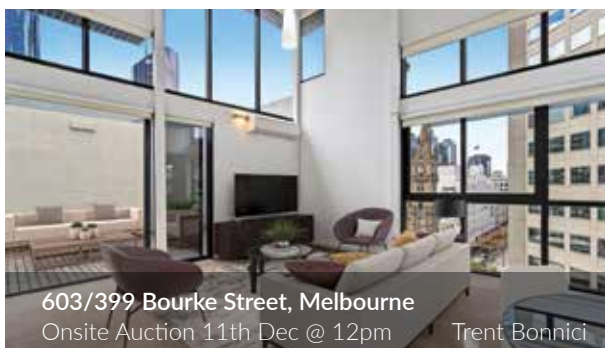
**1704/58 Clarke Street, Southbank**  
\$430,000 - \$465,000

Tommy-lee Davies



**1007N/227 Toorak Road, South Yarra**  
\$510,000-\$560,000

Max Hui



**603/399 Bourke Street, Melbourne**  
Onsite Auction 11th Dec @ 12pm

Trent Bonnici



**1504/18 Mt Alexander Road, Traralgon**  
\$400,000-\$440,000

Max Hui



**B910/8 Grosvenor Street, Abbotsford**  
\$636,000

Max Hui



**E110b/11 Flockhart Street, Abbotsford**  
\$335,000-\$365,000

Max Hui



**2109/850 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill**  
\$460,000-\$500,000

Max Hui



**869/488 Swanston Street, Carlton**  
Under Offer

Trent Bonnici



**4g/23 Queens Road, Melbourne**  
\$680,000-\$720,000

Tommy-lee Davies



**459 King Street, West Melbourne**  
Contact Agent

Georgina Zeneldin

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