

SOUTHBANK NEWS

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Forever Free

Puzzles & Trivia P25



Disability arts festival to launch at the Arts Centre
Photo by Vanessa Rushton

Touted as the “most vibrant, hybrid disability arts festival in the southern hemisphere,” the new *Alter State* festival celebrating the disability community is set to engage artists across Australia and New Zealand when it launches for the first time at the Arts Centre this year. *More on page 18.*

Council pushes government to fund remaining City Rd projects

WORDS BY *David Schout*
TRANSPORT

The state government should “fully fund” outstanding projects in the City Road Master Plan according to the City of Melbourne, as the council pushes the Andrews Government to deliver ahead of a state election in November.

Much-needed upgrades to Southbank’s main street have been earmarked since the City Road Master Plan was endorsed back in 2016, but the project has been subject to several delays along the way, to the detriment of locals.

Now, in a list of “advocacy priorities”, Lord Mayor Sally Capp said City Rd upgrades were one of several projects “where the city ambition needs to be matched by other

levels of government.” Funding responsibilities for the master plan are split between the state government (as City Rd is an arterial road) and the City of Melbourne, and it is understood that the council has either completed or more than half-completed the council-led initiatives as part of the wider project.

This includes installing separated bike lanes on Southbank Boulevard and Kavanagh St (completed), a new pedestrian crossing on Alexandra Avenue (completed) and the reimagining of Kings Way undercroft as a community space (expected completion 2022-23).

However, the council has said that the government must “fully fund” remaining projects, none of which have started.

Continued on page 5.

“It’s only natural council will be defensive”: Overshadowing concerns for linear park

Early indications from designs suggest the new NGV Contemporary (NGVC), while impressive, could overshadow Southbank Boulevard’s linear park, leading one City of Melbourne councillor to suggest the state government should offset the impacts with a new Southbank park.

WORDS BY *David Schout*
PLANNING

Detailed plans for the 60-metre-high building — the centrepiece of the state government’s \$1.7 billion Melbourne Arts Precinct transformation — were yet to land in the council’s hands.

But designs revealed on March 15 raised questions of whether the landmark project might present a sub-standard interface with Southbank to the west, and in particular excessive overshadowing of the local park outside the ABC which opened just six months ago.

Cr Rohan Leppert said that while the initial plans were “spectacular”, the project’s impact on Southbank’s limited green space needed to be addressed.

“Council spent considerable funds on the Southbank Boulevard linear park project, as locals well know,” he said.

“It’s only natural that council will be defensive about that project. We want to ensure that the usability of all of the scarce green open space in Southbank is not compromised.”

Southbank is one of the most densely populated suburbs in Australia, and the dearth of nearby public areas has long been the source of angst among local residents.

Cr Leppert, the council’s deputy planning chair, suggested that if excessive overshadowing did indeed

occur as a result of the large-scale development, the state government should carve off a “tiny slice” of the \$1.7 billion project to help pay for another local park for Southbankers.

“While there will be new wonderful publicly-accessible open space as part of the Melbourne Arts Precinct development, this is not the same as a local neighbourhood park, so I do think the state government should chip in for another local neighbourhood park further west into Southbank, to offset some of the impacts of the Southbank Boulevard overshadowing.”

Cr Leppert said he would like to see Martin Foley, local member for Albert Park, advocate on behalf of residents for this.

He remained confident the council could ensure the best possible result.

“The detailed plans are still likely to come to council, so I look forward to our landscape planners and design experts adding value to the design and ensuring that its interface with the public realm is exemplary.”

The City of Melbourne has already expressed concern about the project’s bulk and what that could mean for locals.

At the February 1 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, a report from council officers stated that overshadowing of the Southbank Boulevard linear park was one of the

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COMMUNITY, PAGE 07

A The oldest guys on the river



ELECTION, PAGE 09

B Josh Burns’s bid for a second term



SAFETY & SECURITY, PAGE 11

C Local cafe victim of credit card fraud



COMMUNITY, PAGE 13

D Back2Bikes helps those in need of transport



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Council calls on Southbankers to “participate”

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The Southbank community is being asked for its thoughts on the current and future states of postcode 3006 as the City of Melbourne seeks insights for the development of a new neighbourhood plan for the area.

“Participate Southbank” was launched last month alongside a host of other consultation processes in neighbouring communities throughout the municipality, with the council seeking input from locals until April 30.

Through its online Participate Melbourne portal, locals can “participate” by taking a survey, sharing knowledge via a “community map”, booking a chat or attending a number of “pop-up” sessions and workshops.

By participating, locals can go into a prize draw for a chance to win a \$60 voucher to a local restaurant.

Discussions surrounding a plan for Southbank’s growing neighbourhood is welcome news to the community, with Southbank only having previously been subject to more high-level infrastructure planning, such as the now outdated Southbank Structure Plan from 2010.

Concerns have been raised by residents and community organisations in neighbouring suburbs about how the council is weighting feedback from locals as opposed to other groups invited to participate, including “visitors”, “no connection” or “other”.

However, the council’s newly-appointed neighbourhood liaison for Southbank Ash Lee is, according to representatives from the newly established community group Southbank3006, making many positive inroads.

Listed as a “BONUS” activity on the Participate Southbank portal, Ms Lee is understood to have established a series of four “Southbank Community Builders’ Workshops” for Southbankers to “learn more about community building” over two sessions.

While the purpose of the workshops, two of which were already fully booked by the time *Southbank News* went to press, in the context of the overall neighbourhood planning isn’t quite clear, the intent seems commendable.

That is, according to the Participate Southbank website, to “build and nurture new connections”, “discuss community issues with others”, “learn about council projects and how to influence them” and, importantly, “learn how to start a community project.”

Southbank3006 set up a meeting between Ash Lee and locals at Boyd Community Hub on March 27, which 26 people attended, “to share information about her role, the consultation and the builder workshops.”

The group’s vice-president Jannine Pattison told *Southbank News* that Ms Lee also attended its inaugural meet and greet on March 18 where “community members came away feeling inspired and valued.”

“It is great to see Melbourne City Council put in place an initiative whereby the local residents of Southbank can have their say on shaping and reframing the future of Southbank,” she said.

“It is very encouraging to have a dedicated neighbourhood liaison who is passionate about connection and community building.”

“While there is always room for improvement when it comes to involving residents in neighbourhood planning, I am feeling encouraged that the council is listening to the voices of the people, and Southbank3006 who will continue to facilitate communication between members and council as there is much still to discuss.”

Southbank3006’s communications lead Mary Kay Rauma attended the first workshop and said it was a “very positive experience with time well spent.”

“Pulling this community and its many facets together is no small task and I commend Ash for the huge strides she has made in a short amount of time,” Ms Rauma said.

“The consultation is a huge opportunity for Southbankers to have their voice heard and for us to bring issues and changes before the City

“

I am feeling encouraged that the council is listening to the voices of the people ...

”

of Melbourne – I cannot stress enough how important it is that people take time to do the online survey.”

“The workshops are a great way to get to know others who live here in an intimate setting that is also a really unique opportunity. Ash is giving this her all and I hope the Southbank community steps up to meet her with equal measure.”

Locals can still attend a number of pop-up sessions between April 8 and 14. Consultation closes on April 30, with the new Neighbourhood Plan to go before councillors at a meeting later this year ●

For more information:
participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/
participate-southbank



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Josh Burns MP
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Labor will deliver a community battery for Southbank

Authorised J Burns, Australian Labor Party, 219 Barkly St, St Kilda, VIC 3182



▲ A midday artist impression from the corner of Southbank Boulevard and Kavanagh St. There are concerns about overshadowing to the south.

New NGV Contemporary design released

The release of the design for the new NGV Contemporary in Southbank has everyone making comparisons with other world-class galleries such as the Guggenheim in Bilbao.

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge
ARTS & CULTURE

The Australian-designed architectural statement at Southbank will include arched entries and an expansive rooftop terrace with views of Melbourne's CBD, parklands and beyond to the Yarra Ranges.

But will the design be heroic enough for its critics? Even though the selected architects are Australian, Victorian architects were also in contention.

The winning design by NSW firm Angelo Candalepas and Associates will include 13,000 square metres of display space, crowned with a rooftop sculpture terrace and restaurant.

The issue for many observers of gallery design, however, is how does the interior marry with the exterior to provide glimpses from both of what the other holds in store?

The famous Guggenheim is wonderful in this regard whereas the NGV Contemporary, while having a grand arched entry, seems to be uncertain about how the world and art will intermix.

The details have yet to be mapped out, but Candalepas and Associates will lead a collective of 20 Victorian and Australian-based firms with expertise across architecture, design and engineering to get down to the nitty gritty.

At the heart of the building is a grand 40-metre spherical hall for large scale artworks and a spiralling pathway to upper galleries.

Everyone is happy that an Australian firm has been selected, although one commentator quipped: "Surely it would be better to be international than from Sydney!"

The winning design was selected from a shortlist in a two-stage process that included local architectural firm Fender Katsalidis.

Fender Katsalidis architect James Pearce, who designed MONA in Tasmania, has gone on the record saying that a gallery should have character.

"It should be an actor in the play. It gives the curators something to bounce off," he told *Southbank News* when the gallery was first mooted.

Times have been tough for everyone, and local architects applauded the state government's decision to limit the competition to Australian firms.

The government has clearly expressed confidence in the skills available in Australia.

Competitions bring out ideas that haven't been considered, Mr Pearce said, Fed Square for example. "Even though it's had its critics, it works."

The site of NGV Contemporary is triangular, lower than the garden at the NGV and will be connected in a grand scheme of walkways that are still to be engineered.

"Delivering a globally recognisable landmark to Melbourne, NGV Contemporary will provide unparalleled exhibition spaces, educational spaces, studios and scientific laboratories for conservation of artwork," a



spokesperson for Arts Victoria said.

Melbourne Arts Precinct will offer new public parklands which run from St Kilda Rd, Southbank and through to Melbourne's riverfront – connecting the city's iconic cultural destinations and enveloping NGV Contemporary.

Larger than the MCG playing surface, the public parkland will incorporate retail and hospitality offerings along with space for events, performances and new public art.

More than 11,000 jobs will be created over the life of the project and the gallery will generate hundreds of on-going creative sector jobs when it opens in 2028.

NGV Contemporary is part of the Victorian Government's landmark \$1.7 billion investment in the Melbourne Arts Precinct transformation and includes the extensive restoration of Arts Centre's Melbourne's State Theatre ●

“It’s only natural council will be defensive”: Overshadowing concerns for linear park

Continued from page 1.

“key issues” it wanted addressed in an amended master plan.

However, the council would not confirm with *Southbank News* whether it had yet conveyed these concerns to Minister for Planning Richard Wynne.

At that meeting, planning chair Nicholas Reece said that while there was a “hugely exciting vision” for NGV Contemporary (or the “National Gallery for Contemporary Art and Design”), the council’s support hinged on amendments.

“The City of Melbourne does welcome the Victorian Government’s investment in the Arts Precinct, and NGV Contemporary is going to be an incredible addition to the precinct and secure our reputation as one of the world’s leading locations for fine art,” he said.

“Having said all that, it’s important that we get the design of the vision right, and how it actually hits the ground and interfaces with the local community is a very important matter.”



... this is not the same as a local neighbourhood park.



The preferred building height on Southbank Boulevard is 24 metres, however the plans proposed a height of up to 60 metres for NGVC.

“[To support that height] we will want to ensure that what comes before us is something truly, truly world-class in terms of design excellence,” Cr Reece said.

It is not yet known when the City of Melbourne will receive detailed plans of the project ●



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2302/63 Whiteman St, Southbank	Sold Off-market	\$670k	- No marketing required
58 Spring St, Port Melbourne	Sold Private Sale	\$1.52m	
73/28 Southgate Ave, Southbank	Sold Off-Market	\$1.45m	- No marketing required
1/55 Westbury St, St Kilda East	Sold prior auction	\$956k	- \$106k above reserve
4/108 Southbank Blvd, Southbank	Sold at Auction	\$940k	- \$95k above reserve
90/8 Wells St, Southbank	Sold at Auction	\$850k	- \$50k above reserve
204/39 Covenrtry St, Southbank	Sold Private Sale	\$660k	
2002/135 City Rd, Southbank	Sold Private Sale	\$592k	- One week on market
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▲ The vision for City Rd West near Boyd, as set out in the master plan.



▲ Eight years later, the same reality today.

Council pushes government to fund remaining City Rd projects

Continued from page 1.

This includes:

- Upgrades to the City Rd carriageway, including additional signalised pedestrian crossings
- Construction of City Rd bike lanes and changes to current parking arrangements
- Upgrades to the intersection of City Rd and Southbank Boulevard
- Streetscape upgrades including footpaths, street trees and public lighting

The state government did not answer questions from *Southbank News* about whether it would fully fund the remaining projects.

In October 2021 the government announced a \$3.8 million upgrade to the notorious City Rd and Power St intersection, where a truck hit and injured five pedestrians five months prior, and said this was its primary focus.

“The safety of road users is our number one priority – which is why we are delivering a vital upgrade to the intersection of City Rd and Power St in Southbank, creating more space between pedestrians and road users while providing more room for heavy vehicles,” a government spokesperson said.

As part of those works, all lanes on City Rd will be shifted north and the stop line for west-bound traffic pushed back.

This will create more room for large trucks to turn and to allow for the widening of the footpath, where an automated pedestrian crossing and sensors to trigger changes to traffic lights will remain in place to provide additional time for pedestrians to cross.

According to the government, those works will begin later this year.

While the council has put the onus back on the state government from a funding perspective, it has the responsibility to deliver the project and broker the appropriate funding, something Cr Rohan Leppert indicated to *Southbank News* last year.

“Southbank residents endorsed the City Road Master Plan in 2016 and expect the council to deliver it,” he said.

Cr Leppert said the onus was on council to broker arrangements across a number of levels of government, and that “financing these projects has always been the central challenge.”

City Rd has been Southbank’s main street since European settlement when it was established as the original route connecting settlers to Port Phillip Bay.



It is now the central spine of one of Australia’s most densely populated suburbs.

When the council endorsed the master plan in 2016, it said that while Southbank had “changed dramatically”, City Rd had “not kept up with this change and the street fails to meet the needs of the local community.”

“The design of the street reflects its more recent industrial past, prioritising east-west vehicular movements rather than walking and cycling throughout the Southbank neighbourhood,” documents read.

In its recently released Victorian Election 2022 Advocacy Priorities – which also pushes for huge investment in delivering Greenline, and appropriate public transport for Fishermans Bend – the council underlined the importance of City Rd to a growing local area.

“As Southbank transforms into a high-density central-city neighbourhood, the role of City Rd needs to change to ensure that it is a pleasant place to be, as well as a street that is easy and safe to get around,” it said.

“City Rd is a difficult street to cross. It is poorly landscaped, noisy and in some areas unsafe. This makes it difficult for pedestrians and cyclists to get around. Bus and tram stops are in poor condition ... it must balance its role as an important transport corridor and ensure it is a people-friendly place that supports local street life.” ●



David Schout
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From subway to Southbank, Brian Hsieh embraces his new life

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

Like many small business owners, the pandemic has been far from easy for Brian Hsieh who has embraced his new home in Southbank.

While he made it through two years of lockdowns, the owner of Sublink computer and mobile phone repairs will now have to close the doors of his store at the Campbell Arcade under Flinders Street Station after 15 years due to no fault of his own.

He is one of a few traders at the arcade who have been told by Rail Projects Victoria (RPV) to move out by the end of April before construction gets underway for the new Flinders Link walkway, which will connect Flinders Street Station to the new Town Hall station.

Tenants have known since 2017 that their leases would end as early as 2019 but because of delays the works have been pushed back to this year.

While it has created great uncertainty for tenants – not least the pandemic – Mr Hsieh has taken on the challenges all in his stride.

He’s not resentful, bitter or wanting to point the blame at others – instead, Mr Hsieh said he was staying optimistic, having entered a business partnership about a year ago in preparation for his move to Southbank.

Despite revenue dropping to 50 per cent at the height of the lockdowns, Mr Hsieh kept afloat thanks to the support of his loyal customer base.

The father of two young children continues to work three days a week at the arcade, also known as the Degraes St subway, while slowly making the shift to his Southbank shop called Laptop Kings at Gladstone St, which had been established by his business partner Frank



▲ Brian Hsieh with business partner Frank Giunta. Photo: Brendan Rees.

Giunta about three years ago in the Montague Precinct.

“I feel I have some responsibility for those people. They come from the city and everywhere,” Mr Hsieh said of his clients.

“Some people told me they will follow me no matter where I go.”

He also added it had been somewhat of relief to have a move-out date, saying, “in the beginning we were a bit upset but after a few years we’re okay.”

While he is not confident of being able to move back to the arcade when construction is complete, Mr Hsieh said he looked forward to building his business in Southbank as he promised to offer the best service possible.

RPV said it had been working closely with the tenants of Campbell Arcade over several years to provide support during construction of the Metro Tunnel, including providing free rent since 2019 and supporting them to find new tenancies ahead of upcoming works on Flinders Link.

“We are currently working through the possibility of long-term tenants being able to return to the arcade after construction is finished, but we are unable to guarantee long-term tenure at this time,” RPV said ●

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INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FLOCK BACK TO MELBOURNE

Give a warm welcome to international students from all over the world as they return to Melbourne in their thousands for orientation at colleges and universities this month.

The pandemic saw half of Melbourne's 52,000 international students leave the city, but they are now returning in force. More than 26,000 students have returned since December, and this number continues to grow.

Melbourne is one of the world's great student cities and young people from across the globe flock here to enjoy exceptional education, career

and lifestyle opportunities. They love Melbourne, and the city loves them back.

International students are not only here to study. They provide skilled workers across many industries, supercharge our startup sector, and enrich Melbourne's vibrant multicultural communities.

To celebrate O-Week, we asked some of our international student ambassadors to share their favourite places in Melbourne, and what they love about their new home. Here's what they had to say.

KIMBERLY MITCHIKO CLEMENCIO



I am from Manila, Philippines. I am studying community services and working as a project coordinator.

I love Melbourne's cultural festivals, night markets, coffee, laneways, Victorian buildings, its people and diversity. There are plenty of things to do and discover every week. There's always something new. These things make Melbourne, Melbourne – indeed one of the most liveable cities in the world.

My favourite place in the city is Melbourne Skydeck. I love seeing Melbourne in a different perspective. I always bring my friends there. I also love Southbank. I love seeing the buskers there, which makes the city feel so alive.

TARZON BUDHATHOKI

I am from Nepal and I studied a Bachelors of Engineering Technology, focusing on telecommunications.

One of the things that I love most about Melbourne is the city's multicultural environment. It is a place where there is so much mutual respect.

Yarra Promenade is one of my favorite places in Melbourne. One of the reasons I love Yarra Promenade is because of the view of the river and the amazing night view of city lights reflected in the water.

DAVID GUERRERO TORRES

I am from Bogota, Colombia. I studied a Bachelor of Architectural Design at RMIT University and I'm now undertaking my masters.

I love how Melbourne is active in arts and design, and how it offers so many events that invite people to share cultural experiences. Melbourne also offers infrastructure to practice any fitness activity.

One of my favorite places in Melbourne is Carlton Gardens. This place is home to two great architectural buildings: The Royal Exhibition Building and Melbourne Museum. It is a place where the old combines with the new.

I love sitting down in the shade of the trees and contemplating extraordinary views of the city and buildings.

IVAN LEE



I am from the Philippines. I finished my Diploma of Leadership and Management and planning to do a higher education eventually for my professional growth.

I love that Melbourne is one of the best cities in the world, and I enjoy how culturally diverse my new home is – with welcoming people, vibrant places and tasty foods.

Queen Victoria Market is one of my most favourite places in the city. This major landmark has a wide variety of quality produce and food items. Aside from helping out our local farmers, you can shop here at a cheaper price.

GIANNINA MATTO PÉREZ

I am from Paraguay and I am enrolled on a Masters of Public Policy and Management at the University of Melbourne. I love how welcoming Melbourne is to cultural diversity leading to a vast array of cuisines, arts, sports, entertainment and more, which are coupled with a brilliant provision of public services. My favourite place in Melbourne has to be the Skydeck at the Eureka Tower.

I am in love with that stunning view of the city and I strongly recommend waiting for the sunset. Another must is the Van Gogh exhibition at the LUME, describing it as exquisite is an understatement.



ALEX FERNANDO GUTIERREZ

I'm originally from Colombia. I am an architect and currently studying an Advanced Diploma in Program Management.

I love the fact that Melbourne is such a multicultural and vibrant city. There is always something going on. Melbourne matches my personality in so many ways. I love learning about cultures, arts and so on, and I can enjoy all of this here in Melbourne.

It's hard to choose my favourite place in Melbourne, but I would choose the Shrine of Remembrance. This place not only commemorates those Victorians who gave their lives when defending the nation, but also how brave and resilient Victorians are, and we've been able to see that during the pandemic. And it is a place you where you can get breathtaking views of the city skyline, especially at sunrise or sunset.

DON DOUGHTY

I am originally from Sabah, Malaysia, and currently studying for a Bachelors of Business Management and working with The Huddle (North Melbourne Football Club) as the international student liaison.

I was always told about the fun and chill environment of Melbourne. Since arriving in 2017, I've realised that there is so much more to it – this is a vibrant city with an inclusive culture for international students.

My favourite places in Melbourne are Eureka 89 restaurant, Arbory Afloat on the Yarra River and, most of all, Lui Bar at 525 Collins Street.

We are delighted to welcome international students back to help reignite the city and council offers many year-round programs to help them feel at home.

To find out more, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/internationalstudents

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.

DEVENDRA SINGH



I'm from Jaipur, India. I studied business information systems at Monash University before working at the Department of Health and launching a couple of startups. I also represent the community on some advisory committees.

Melbourne is just like a second home and the people here are just like family members – always loving and caring. My love for Melbourne has grown ever since I've stepped foot into this sporting capital. Festivals, sports, events and exhibitions – you name it and we have it. I love everything about Melbourne.

My favourite place in Melbourne is the banks of the Yarra river alongside Federation Square. This place gives me a sense of belonging. I sit there for hours in the evenings to introspect in peace.

JAYDEN HUANG

I am from China, and I study at Melbourne University.

I love Melbourne because it is a beautiful city. My favorite places in Melbourne are its cafes. The coffee culture in Melbourne is great for me.

My favorite cafe in the city is Rustica Melbourne Central. They have friendly staff and great food. They are absolutely amazing.

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Privately-owned scooter riders rally after their “main method of micro transport” is taken away

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
TRANSPORT

Southbank residents who have been warned by police not to use their private electric scooters have expressed their frustration, accusing e-scooter trial users of “riding for fun, breaking the rules.”

Concerns relating to the e-scooter trial heightened at a community meeting held last month at the Boyd Community Hub, with privately-owned scooter riders claiming that they were being targeted by police despite riding responsibly while trial users flouted the law.

Privately-owned e-scooters are banned on public roads, footpaths, and bike lanes as they are more than 200 watts or can travel at more than 10km/h – which police say is classified as a motor vehicle.

Jannine Pattison, a spokeswoman for the new residents’ group Southbank3006, which hosted the community meeting, said private scooter owners who had been issued warnings or infringement notices for illegal scooter use were a “big problem” as their “main method of micro transport” had now been taken away.

She added there were also concerns the year-long e-scooter trial, which began on February 1, would also fail due to “inconsiderate” users breaking rules including not wearing helmets and riding on shared footpaths.

However, Victoria Police said it was actively enforcing the e-scooter trial regulations, and anyone caught in breach of the rules would be “subject to significant penalties.”

Currently, hired scooters can travel at 20 km/h on bicycle lanes, shared paths, and roads with a 50kmh maximum speed limit.

Louise, who asked not to use her surname, told *Southbank News* she was devastated after having recently been warned by police that she could no longer ride her private scooter.

“If I was caught again, I would be fined and [police] could even confiscate the scooter,” she said, which she described as “really unfair.”

“This is how I get everywhere. I was really devastated.” While she supported the e-scooter trial, she believed 90 per cent of users were “not going to work, they’re just messing around, and they’re drunk ... they’re never wearing helmets and they plough through traffic.”

Another resident Daniel Pattison, who was warned by police to not ride his electric scooter, said while he was “aware it was a grey zone area of the law” before he purchased his own, “there was no enforcement of laws about them then and I never saw or heard of police fining e-scooters users unless they were riding in unsafe ways.”

“When I heard about the trial, I was excited for it as I thought it was basically for tourists and maybe people, before buying one, could try it out first and that private scooters could still be used. Instead, it feels to me we were thrown under the bus,” he said.

While Mr Pattison said he understood the need for safety regulations “nothing was even discussed in the public realm before this was implemented to my knowledge” in terms of private e-scooter use.

“As a result of this I know of many riders who have just stopped using their scooters and instead drive in their cars now when a lot of us thought we were doing the right thing by not using a car, helping the environment, and reducing car congestion, etc.”

“Again, our community feels bitterly let down again by the local politicians.”

Southbank Residents’ Association president Tony Penna said e-scooter riders were going “too fast” along



▲ E-scooter users ride illegally along footpaths. Picture: John Tadigiri.

Southbank Promenade, with many choosing to use shared footpaths.

“What frustrates people is when they do it and there’s a bicycle path – you could be in the bicycle path, and you choose not to.”

However, Mr Penna said he was in favour of the e-scooter trial so long as “they follow the conditions of the trial.”

When asked about privately-owned e-scooter use, he acknowledged that the trial was rising in popularity and “so the perception of the trial is probably making people believe that it’s legal to have an e-scooter.”

“I think at the moment it’s a novelty, it’s a ‘time will tell’ scenario,” he said.

“In terms of whether it’s a good thing for Southbank, that’s difficult. I’m not sure if Southbank residents are using them. I think the tourists are using them ... and I think that’s who it’s marketed towards.”

Southbank Police Station commander Senior Sergeant Alex O’Toole said she was in talks with Neuron, the company behind the e-scooter trial, with hopes that a proposed 10km/h speed limit could be applied to Southbank Promenade as well as from Clarendon St to Crown Promenade.

“They’re really proactive, if they’ve got any issues, they will look to us and hopefully get some solutions,” she said.

Snr Sgt O’Toole added if members of the public saw e-scooter trial riders doing the wrong thing, they could take a photo and report it to Neuron.

“If you take a photo of them – you can send that to Neuron, their GPS is so good if there aren’t that many other scooters in the area, they can actually track down who was riding that scooter, whose account it is ... and they can place a ban on their account.”

Sally Dempster, a local Southbank worker, said she had nearly been “bowled over” twice by e-scooters and had concerns that someone could be seriously injured.

“I don’t know whether there’s enough room for people to go zooming in between. It only takes one person not to see them coming behind and that’s it,” she said.

Meanwhile, Louise, who admitted she would continue using her own scooter to commute to work despite risking a fine, said privately-owned scooters should be legalised.

“There’s no infrastructure for all these thousands of people to move in the area, the last thing you want on City Rd is never moving because it’s a big transport hub for people to get across the city,” she said.

“And yet the City of Melbourne has decided to ban people from using scooters ... there’s no petrol, there’s no congestion, and they’ve got these purpose-built bike lanes. You don’t have that noise pollution so what are they wanting?”

Victoria Walks executive officer Dr Ben Rossiter said his organisation had concerns of the e-scooter trial.

“As people are returning to the city, our footpaths are already starting to get overcrowded again, people need them clear of obstructions and illegal riding.” ●



▲ The Jack Bennett crew after their 13.5-kilometre practice.

The oldest guys on the river

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*
COMMUNITY

The country’s oldest competitive rowing crew was out practicing on the Yarra for their next comp in Geelong and the pictures tell the story.

The crew won the seniors’ eight at Henley in February and their fitness shines through despite an average age of 84.4.

Second oldest rower, at 87, is Derek Wilson, spokesman for the group.

The city’s most picturesque photo setting with its imposing city back drop did well to form a halo of enthusiasm around the rowers.

“We practice twice a week 51 weeks a year,” Derek told *Southbank News*. “Every Tuesday and Thursday we’re out at 8.30am.”

That’s up and down the Yarra, through rain and shine, mud and tides, pandemics and no pandemics, between the Bolte Bridge and Dights Falls, taking in 13.5 kilometres of river.

Some were keen to get the eight back into the shed so they could have a break, but Derek was up for a chat.

“It’s an interesting river,” he said of the Yarra. “There are lots of bends and bridges you have to be careful of.”

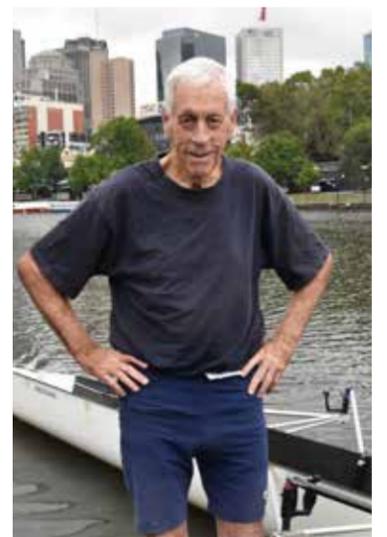
He said one had to be “extra-careful because the bridges don’t line up. You have to zig zag.”

“There’s one up near Hawthorn where you have six inches either side of the oars to get through. It’s the narrowest bridge in Australia.”

Downstream the bridge in front of the casino is only “six inches above your head.”

But the worst thing about the Yarra is the mud, he said. “What really is difficult about the Yarra is the silt. You have to keep checking the silt.”

He said you can’t step out of your



▲ Derek Wilson.

“

We practice twice a week 51 weeks a year.

”

boat because of the mud. “It goes up to your knees.”

Derek has been rowing for 72 years. “I started at 15 when I was at Melbourne Grammar.”

You could talk forever about the poetics of the river, but time waits for no-one.

The guys turned over the 20-metre *Jack Bennett* and carried it back to the Banks Rowing Club for a well-earned break ●

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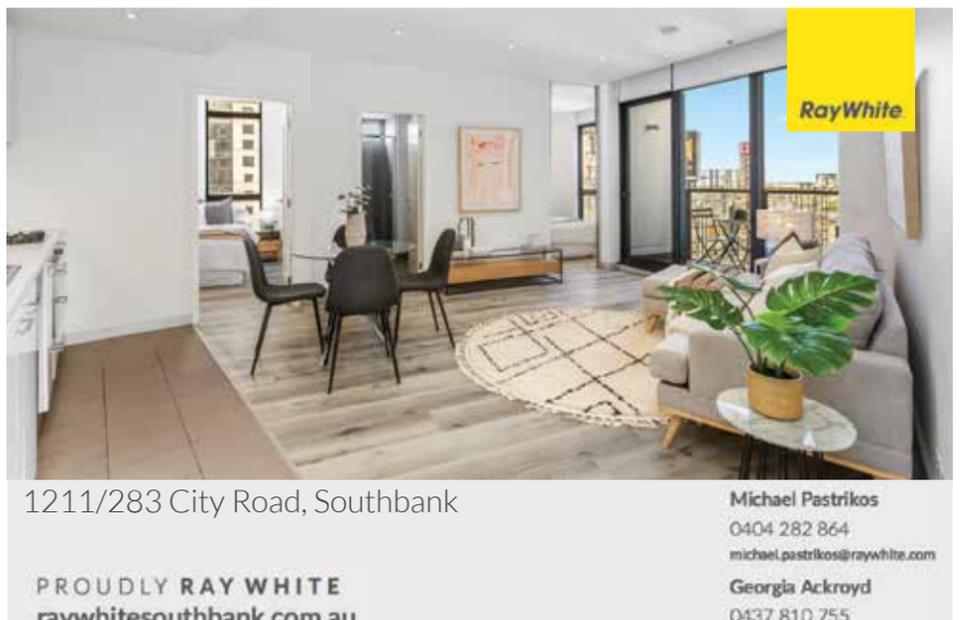
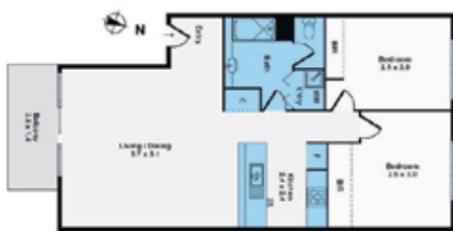
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Burns searching for second stint, but this time in government

Ahead of the upcoming federal election, Labor's Macnamara incumbent Josh Burns spoke with Southbank News about the impact of COVID-19 on Southbank, the importance of funding for the arts, and transport options to Fishermans Bend.

WORDS BY *David Schout*
ELECTIONS

Favoured to secure a second term as federal member for Macnamara, Labor's Josh Burns was "not taking anything for granted" ahead of an election tipped for mid-May.

Burns, who won the seat with a five per cent swing in 2019, was expected to retain Macnamara ahead of the Greens, and was optimistic this time around he could serve in government rather than opposition, although was assuming little.

"I don't think you can take anything for granted," he told *Southbank News*.

"I think that being a member of parliament is a true privilege; you have to represent 110,000 people, their interests and if that doesn't make you completely exhausted from all the work it requires and all of the effort that goes into the seat, then I don't think you're doing your job properly. Being a member for Macnamara has been a true privilege, and I hope that we can continue working, but I hope that we can do it from government as part of an Albanese Labor Government."

Southbank makes up a small geographical part of the Macnamara patch, but a significant part of the seat population-wise.

Mr Burns said the effect of the pandemic on the local area had been "devastating", particularly for the visitor economy and creative industries.

Asked what the area needed for recovery, he pointed to longer-term stability.

"Southbank is a place that people visit not just from around Melbourne but from all around the country," he said.

"I think one of the key things that we need for many of the organisations that are slowly rebuilding is time and stability, where we're managing the pandemic in as best a way possible, where we're keeping our vaccinations rates high and keeping the doors open of our amazing organisations who have had it so hard. I'm hopeful that Southbank can have a relatively normal year for the rest of the year. Obviously, we have a lot to manage, but I think we have more tools at our disposal, especially with vaccinations, that has meant life is starting to feel as much as normal as it was prior to the pandemic."

Mr Burns said the area's cultural importance made funding for the arts essential, and that places like the NGV and Arts Centre were "some of the organisations that help shape our national identity and help shape who we are and the stories we tell as Australians."

Pointedly, he added that smaller creative organisations "rely on government enabling their



▲ Federal member for Macnamara Josh Burns (back left) at the official opening of the newly-opened Port Melbourne Secondary College in January.

work" and "we need to ensure our creative industries are thriving, and as a result Southbank will thrive alongside it."

"It's one of the most special and unique parts of Southbank," he said.

"Southbank isn't just the arts hub for Melbourne, it's one of the cultural homes of the entire country."

Last month, Mr Burns announced that a victorious Labor Government would provide Southbankers with direct access to renewable energy through the installation of a new community battery.

As Australia's most densely populated suburb, 98 per cent of Southbank residents live in apartments or flats and the area is home to one of Australia's largest proportion of renters, meaning most can't install solar panels at their homes.

Mr Burns said the election was "not about the next six weeks", but rather "about the next decade and what sort of Australia and what economy we want to set up."

From a transport perspective, he said questions about options to and from Fishermans Bend were "very timely", and that Labor would "have more to say on this in the not-too-distant future."

"As more and more people move there, we need to ensure there are options for people, otherwise Fishermans Bend, Port Melbourne, Albert Park, St Kilda — all the places I represent — are going to become a big parking lot. And we can't afford that in Melbourne."

"We need to ensure that people can

sustainably and easily move around the city, and Fishermans Bend is such an important part of Melbourne."

Macnamara: an explainer

The division of Macnamara (named after medical scientist Dame Jean Macnamara) was until 2018 known as "Melbourne Ports".

The traditionally working-class seat has been Labor-held since 1906, and until Mr Burns' successful tilt at pre-selection, was held for more than two decades by Michael Danby until his retirement in 2019.

In fact, the division has a storied history of long-serving members, with Mr Burns just the sixth Labor MP since James Matthews won the seat in 1906.

Each Labor MP since Matthews (Jack Holloway, Frank Crean, Clyde Holding and Mr Danby) held the seat for a minimum of 19 years each.

The seat has become more middle-class in recent years with accelerating inner-city gentrification and higher density housing developments and, according to the ABC's election guide, is "a seat where Labor has usually trailed on first preference votes, relying on Australian Democrat and more recently on Green preferences to come from behind and win."

Along with Southbank, the electorate includes the suburbs of Port Melbourne, South Melbourne, Middle Park, South Yarra, St Kilda, Balaclava, Elwood and parts of Elsternwick and Caulfield ●

Meet the Candidates events in Southbank

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
ELECTIONS

Southbankers will have the option of meeting their federal candidates for the seat of Macnamara at two different events in Southbank ahead of the next Federal Election.

This election, which is expected to be called for May 14, will see incumbent Federal Labor Member Josh Burns recontest the seat against Greens candidate Steph Hodgins-May, who is standing for a third consecutive election.

Colleen Harkin will run for the Liberal Party, having replaced new candidate Christopher Ride who pulled out of the race recently due to personal reasons.

Both local resident groups Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) and Southbank3006 will host events at the Boyd Community Hub, offering Southbankers multiple opportunities to meet their candidates face-to-face.

The first event, sponsored by *Southbank News*, will be hosted by Southbank3006 in Boyd's Assembly Hall on Sunday, April 24 at 2pm, which will be attended by all three major candidates. A moderator is yet to be announced.

Spaces are limited and registration for the event is essential. For more information, please refer to Southbank3006's advert on page 13 of this edition or visit southbank3006.com.

SRA will host its event, also featuring all three candidates at Boyd, on Tuesday, May 3, with a moderator also yet to be announced.

Bookings for this event are also essential, and can be made by visiting southbankresidents.org.au

Meanwhile, if your vote in this election hinges on the issue of climate action, not-for-profit environmental group Port Phillip Emergency Climate Action Network (PECAN) will host its own meet the candidates event focused squarely on climate change and energy.

To be held at St Kilda Town Hall on Tuesday, April 26, the event will again feature the three main candidates and hear a guest presentation from local resident and University of Melbourne Prof Kathryn Bowen, who is a lead author of reporting for the global Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Organiser Peter Moraitis said, "We filled St Kilda Town Hall in the 2019 federal election for our first candidates climate change and energy forum, and so people want us to do it again this election."

"As we've handed out flyers promoting this forum the response from people on the street is strong and enthusiastic. It reinforces that climate change is an issue that people in Macnamara care about and it is important for them this election."

Tickets are free and registrations can be made at pecan.org.au, where you can also find details for watching it at home via livestreaming.

A comprehensive overview of all candidates and the Macnamara election race will be published in the May edition of *Southbank News* ●





Stephen McLaughlan Gallery

Located eight floors above Flinders Lane, on the Swanston Street corner, the Gallery was established in 1994 and is a proud occupant of Melbourne's iconic Nicholas Building. Visit regular exhibitions in our Main Display Area and in the South Gallery (Objects Space), which showcase a committed group of contemporary artists in a welcoming and airy environment.

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Southbank
Residents Association

Meet the Candidates Event

Another federal election is upon us!

SRA have been holding these events for over 20 years, giving our community the opportunity to be heard and ask the hard-hitting questions. Over the years we have enjoyed some great controversial banter at these events, often quite entertaining. Later in the year we will also hold another for the anticipated state election.

This election will be no exception. We're inviting all Southbank residents to hear the policies and position of the candidates in this open forum. These are always full-house events, so arrive early, grab a seat and let us hear your concerns.



Josh Burns MP
Australian Labor Party
- incumbent



Steph Hodgins-May
Australian Greens



Colleen Harkin
Liberal Party of
Australia



Date: Tuesday, May 3
Time: 6.30pm to 8.30pm
Where: Body Community Hub - 207 City Road

For more information: info@southbankresidents.org.au

SRA: info@southbankresidents.org.au www.southbankresidents.org.au

This free community event is an initiative of the Southbank Residents Association

Police hit the streets as crowds return to the Southbank precinct

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
SAFETY & SECURITY

The commander of Southbank Police Station says more officers are hitting the streets as foot traffic soared in recent weeks, particularly as major events such as the Moomba Festival attracted big crowds.

Senior Sergeant Alex O’Toole said police had more resources on hand to deter crime and keep the community safe as officers began finishing up hotel quarantine duties.

“It’s definitely been busier; we’ve noticed people have come back into the city and there’s a lot more pedestrian traffic,” she said.

“Crime hasn’t skyrocketed but it’s obviously increased in line with people coming back into the city.”

It comes as the Homicide Squad investigates the circumstances surrounding an incident where a 29-year-old Mentone man died following reports of an assault at Crown Casino food court about 12.20am on March 27.

The victim was taken to hospital in a critical condition but died hours later.

A 26-year-old Highton man has been charged with recklessly causing injury and was bailed to appear at Melbourne Magistrates’ Court on August 31.

A 29-year-old Colac man was released pending further enquiries after being arrested.

“The exact circumstances regarding the incident are still to be determined and police will also await the results of a post-mortem examination,” a police spokesperson said.

Anyone who witnessed the incident or who has other information can contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a report at crimestoppers.com.au

Snr Sgt O’Toole said while she couldn’t comment on the Crown incident as the investigation was being led by Homicide Squad, she urged the public to be vigilant while more

people gathered in the city and surrounding suburbs – with officers seeing a rise in motor vehicle break-ins and thefts.

“It’s mainly because of our demographic, we’ve got a lot of residential tower buildings and unfortunately that’s a bit of a paradise for people to come in and start stealing so that is an issue for us.”

To deter opportunistic thieves, Sen Sgt O’Toole said, “locking your car is a must as well as removing valuables from your vehicles or not having them on show.”

“Don’t let people tailgate you into the carpark and don’t let strangers tailgate when you’re walking into buildings.”

Meanwhile, Snr Sgt O’Toole said police had also seen a jump in family violence which she couldn’t be sure if it was a “link at all to do with people consuming alcohol or going out” but added, “that’s been an increase for us.”

But most concerning for police, she said, was the amount of people carrying knives.

“During our public order management operations in the city, police continue to seize knives.”

“It’s pretty frightening. There has definitely been an increase in knives; people are only supposed to carry knives for a few lawful excuses [but] knives are readily available for anyone to buy – that’s the difference.”

In recent weeks, a 15-year-old was stabbed at Flinders Street Station; an 18-year-old was injured after being attacked by a thug with a knife; and a 23-year-old man, who had travelled from Western Australia to Docklands to celebrate a birthday, was killed after being stabbed with a knife.

According to data from The Alfred hospital, the largest trauma centre in Australia, the number of patients who had life threatening stab wounds had jumped by 50 per cent from December to February compared to previous year. There were 21 patients treated each month, mostly men aged 25 to 40 ●



Café owner loses \$2000 after fraudster uses stolen credit card to make orders

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
SAFETY & SECURITY

A Southbank café owner has been left gutted after unknowingly falling victim to credit card fraud during last year’s lockdowns, in which he lost about \$2000.

Ashwyn Prabakaran, who runs 8 Miles Café, said he had processed several payments over the phone for a customer who, unbeknown to the cafe proprietor, had used a stolen credit card to buy food and drink.

“We dropped it off, put it on the ground, the guy picked it up and we just watched him take it away,” he said after Mr Prabakaran and his staff delivered the orders to the customer staying at the City Park Hotel in South Melbourne.

“We thought that was the proper protocol during COVID.”

While it did occur to Mr Prabakaran that the customer was making quite a few purchases, at times spending up to \$300 which included alcohol, he said, “We did feel sorry for them, we thought they were in lockdown, and we needed to help out.”

But after processing another order, Mr Prabakaran said he received a call from an unknown person saying they were the victim of the stolen credit card and that a fraudster had been making purchases at 8 Mile Café.

Mr Prabakaran then contacted his bank who advised that if the victim “can prove it’s fraud, you’ll lose the money unless you’ve got a signature of the person.”

“I should have been more cautious; I should’ve contacted the bank ... or chased after the matter more but at that time I was short of staff. I was doing close to 16 hours a day,” he said, but he questioned, “It’s COVID, why would you want to get a signature?”

“It’s another thing we didn’t need at that time,” he said after revenue dropped 90 per cent during the lockdowns.

“It just happened, and we were shocked.”

“There were a few times they asked for cash out as well. The cash out should have been a big alarm.”

“It was a bit suspicious for the amounts but at the end of the day we lost out,” he said after his bank withdrew about \$2000 from his account earlier this year.

He said he wanted to share his story to make other local businesses aware of the potential risks of credit card fraud and the financial losses that could be incurred.

Mr Prabakaran attended South Melbourne Police Station to report the matter but was told “we can’t do anything” and was referred to his bank as they “would normally resolve it.”

However, Mr Prabakaran said he was left perplexed after receiving a call from the police last month informing him there had been a separate incident of credit card fraud at his café in which

“I should have been more cautious; I should’ve contacted the bank ... or chased after the matter more but at that time I was short of staff. I was doing close to 16 hours a day.”



someone had made a purchase of \$3.40, and they needed CCTV to investigate.

Southbank Police Station commander Senior Sergeant Alex O’Toole said while she couldn’t comment on Mr Prabakaran’s case, she said if businesses were prepared to take payments over the phone, it exposed them to a range of security risks.

“Unfortunately, some things can open up to crime, because if they [businesses] are prepared to take credit card details over the phone, they don’t actually see the card or they don’t ask them to sign or they don’t get them to put the PIN in, it means there’s that extra layer of security that they’re missing out on,” she said.

She said if a victim did report their credit card as stolen to police, “normally the banks repay what’s lost on the credit card.”

According to ANZ’s website, fraudulent transactions can be reduced by:

- Avoiding hand keying transactions where the cardholder can’t be verified;
- Ensure the transaction has been PIN entered or signature verified; and
- Be alert to customers who appear nervous, unable to identify themselves or ask for the transaction to be split or hand keyed ●

STEPH HODGINS-MAY
FOR MACNAMARA

Southbank: Change is up to us!

Authorised by M. Shield, The Greens, 1/45 William St, Melbourne 3000.

Brendan Rees
JOURNALIST
BRENDAN@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU

Council adds big Greenline investment to election wish list

WORDS BY *David Schout*
PLANNING

Ahead of federal and state elections in 2022, the City of Melbourne wants the state and Commonwealth governments to each pump \$100 million into the “city-shaping” Greenline project, which had now opened to expressions of interest from local and international designers.

Expected to be completed by 2028, the project would see a six-metre-wide pathway established along the Yarra River’s northbank from Birrarung Marr all the way to the Bolte Bridge.

And the council is calling out for significant investment, ahead of a federal election expected in May and a state election in November.

In separate “advocacy priorities” documents for both levels of government, the council said that the river’s northern side compared unfavourably with a “revitalised Southbank” and was in desperate need of renewal.

“Just as Southbank and Federation Square energised Melbourne at the turn of the century, the Greenline transformation of the north bank will usher in a new era for the river at a time we need it most,” the documents read.

“Early forecasting indicates that through a proposed investment of up to \$300 million, Greenline is expected to deliver more than \$1 billion in economic activity and create up to 1000 jobs during construction.

In a speech delivered during Melbourne Design Week at Arbory Afloat, Lord Mayor Sally Capp said strong levels of investment was crucial to the project’s fortunes.

“Work is well underway and we’re advocating to the federal and state governments to help fast-track Greenline’s delivery with staged co-funding,” she said.

“We’re asking them for \$100 million each, with the remaining third to be provided in partnership between us, our key stakeholders, and the private sector.”

At this stage the state and federal government are yet to give public indication of their level of investment in the project, and whether they would meet the council’s request.

As of late March, the council had also opened expressions of interest for designs on the project, seeking submissions from near and far.

“[We’ll be] inviting firms in Australia and abroad to help us design the future of this city-shaping project for Melbourne’s future public realm,” Cr Capp said.

“Experts know intimately the leaps of faith and the rewards involved in shaping a city, and I look forward to seeing the city’s vision come to



▲ An image highlighting Greenline’s path along the Yarra.

life through their concepts.”

After draft Greenline plans were endorsed in May 2021, a “final implementation plan” for Greenline was endorsed by councillors in December 2021 following work with 40 key stakeholders and almost 400 public submissions.

In her March 23 speech, the Lord Mayor — who made Greenline a key part of her 2018 by-election and 2020 general election strategy, winning on both occasions — said the potential of the project was considerable.

“Think upgraded parks, pedestrian bridges and boardwalks — a well-frequented and much-loved passage that acknowledges and celebrates our city’s rich Aboriginal culture and heritage,” Cr Capp said.

“You can imagine it now — balmy January nights wandering uninterrupted from a match at the Australian Open to the waterfront bars, restaurants and nightlife of Docklands. Luscious green lunchbreak strolls, and a sprawling new urban realm for families to explore — supported by adjacent riverside dining and cafes. Many cities have superb riverbanks and that’s what we’re creating here in Melbourne.”

Cr Capp’s vision for Greenline was inspired by the Highline project in New York, which is now one of the city’s most popular tourist attractions ●



Traders relieved after council waives outdoor dining fees

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

Southbank hospitality traders are breathing a sigh of relief after the City of Melbourne waived outdoor dining fees for another seven months as the city recovers from the pandemic.

Permit fees for outdoor dining and busking have been frozen since the extended outdoor dining program began in October 2020 and were due to be reinstated on April 1.

But at council’s March 29 meeting, councillors endorsed an extension of the program until October 31 after city activation portfolio lead Cr Roshena Campbell led a motion saying, “Many businesses are still struggling as we move into the winter months” and it wasn’t “the right time to impose that fee burden on them.”

“They’re concerned about ongoing consumer confidence and early this year 74 per cent of them told us they were struggling to survive.”

For Ollie Gould, the executive chef at Southbank restaurant Asado, the news of the program extension was warmly welcomed as the “continued support is going to get us through whatever issues may still be to come.”

“Restaurants are certainly seeing a lot of increased pricing through supply chains and import taxes and rate charges so anything to help us through is going to save a lot of people again,” he said.

“We put a platform outside with eight tables which has been really beneficial. It’s been able to increase our capacity to the benefit of revenue.”

“There’s certainly been local support and I think we’ve been lucky that it hasn’t been too wet over the last few months and there’s lots of attractions at Southbank to bring people back.”

But he added, “One would hope getting to October there will be another extension because another six months of warm weather of outside dining is a big boost for the hospitality economy in general.”

Nick Edgar, owner of Espresso Bar, said his dining fees were normally about \$10,000 a year “so the fact they are waiving it is amazing.”

“It’s so helpful at the moment,” he said after having recently expanded his outdoor space with the help of a council small business reactivation grant.

However, while he said business had been “busier than we’ve ever been,” his café’s “biggest challenge” was filling a staff shortage.

“We were borderline on almost having to go to takeaway a few times. I’ve had people move overseas, and I’ve had people move interstate,” but added, “Don’t get me wrong, I’ll take busy any day of the week.”

“The city has come back to life; we’ve just got to deal with the hangover and slowly but surely survive in a better environment with staff.”

Ashwyn Prabakaran, who runs 8 Miles Café, said the fee waiver was “more than welcomed” as his business began to bounce back to

“Restaurants are certainly seeing a lot of increased pricing through supply chains and import taxes and rate charges so anything to help us through is going to save a lot of people again.”



pre-COVID levels after falling to 90 per cent during lockdowns.

However, he said while he appreciated having outdoor dining, his space was a little restricted and hoped the council would “come up with a plan that would be a win-win situation for all businesses instead of imposing the same rules all over the place.”

“A bit more space would be the best thing so we can put more people outside,” he said.

Cr Campbell said the council was “all too aware about how hard hit our traders have been through this pandemic” and “the ability to trade outdoors has been critical.”

“Not only has it been a safer environment for many of them to trade in, it’s allowed them to trade through restrictions, including density limits, and help them — many of whom had suffered severe impacts to their cash flows over the past two years.”

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the outdoor dining program had delivered an additional 18,000 restaurant seats across 1500 businesses while creating 100 new jobs.

“We want to entice more people to our city and help traders serve as many customers as possible, and outdoor dining is one way we can do that.”

Yarra River Business Association executive officer Tim Bracher said any assistance that would keep “business people’s” heads above water was always welcomed, but added the waiver would “not be a ‘make or break’ action, especially as the weather cools and we move back to indoor dining.” ●

Council advocates for public transport to Fishermans Bend

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
PLANNING

The City of Melbourne has included public transport to Fishermans Bend in its suite of priorities for both state and federal governments, calling for the construction of a tram connection and a business case for Metro 2.

The council has requested a total of between \$1 billion and \$1.5 billion from both levels of government for the construction of a tram route across the Yarra River, which it argues could still be “completed in time for opening of the first phase of the University of Melbourne’s new Fishermans Bend campus in 2025.”

As Australia’s largest ever urban renewal project, Fishermans Bend is forecast to house up to 80,000 residents and accommodate 80,000 jobs by 2050 according to the state government’s planning framework for the precinct.

But unlocking these significant population increases hinges on the delivery of new public transport, with the area — more than two times the size of Melbourne’s CBD — currently devoid of a tram or train network.

The government’s planning framework

maps out a tram connection across the Yarra River from Collins St through Yarra’s Edge in Docklands and Hartley St, “before splitting into two branches” — one along Turner St and the other along Plummer St.

“The northern tram line, exclusively in the City of Melbourne, can be constructed along a mostly preserved corridor between the new bridge and Westgate Park in the Fishermans Bend NEIC,” the council said.

“Workers, students and residents need a high-quality public transport service that is safe, efficient and sustainable.”

It has also advocated for a business case to be completed for Metro 2, seen as “the missing link”, connecting Fishermans Bend with the CBD via a new rail tunnel from Newport to Clifton Hill, accompanied by electrification to Geelong.

Among other priorities listed by the council affecting Southbank are supporting the development of a First Nations precinct at Federation Square East and co-funding Power Melbourne — a renewable energy program deploying “mid-scale distributed batteries across inner-Melbourne.” ●

Back2Bikes: From a toolbox to a well-oiled machine

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
COMMUNITY

While owning a bike is simply just another mode of transport for many, for some people it is a luxury they cannot afford.

Witnessing people who so desperately need bikes for transport struggle without due to their cost, Mike King saw the potential for more to be done and started to put his toolbox to use and establish not-for-profit community bike workshop Back2Bikes.

Creating the workshop with a sole mission to help people in need through refurbishing donated bikes, Back2Bikes is now a well-oiled machine running with the help of paid workshop managers alongside volunteers.

Finding out about Back2Bikes when his neighbour Mike saw him working on his own bike in his garage, Mark Bradley started volunteering at the workshop for six months before taking on his current role as a workshop manager full-time.

“The workshop has been going for about 10 years now and it was started out of altruistic motivations. Our mission is to help people through transportation with bicycles,” Mr Bradley said.

“We recycle bikes as our main service, and with those bikes we donate to people in need, such as healthcare holders, refugees and asylum seekers.”

Through setting aside Sundays for volunteers to come in and help refurbish the bikes, Back2Bikes has continued to donate “15 to 20 bikes a month to people in need.”

In addition, the not-for-profit also sells refurbished bikes as a way to generate cash to run the business and offers service and repairs.

Considering bicycles “very enabling machines”, Mark has seen the business help many people in more ways than one.

“We have people who come to us who have been released from prison and have been offered a job, but they need transport and have no money. To have a bike it suddenly means they can fulfil that want of theirs and get to a job, make some money and get back on their feet,” he said.

As well as helping with providing people much needed transport, Back2Bikes also provides Buddy Bikes for people who are usually unable to enjoy cycling on their own.

“Buddy bikes are for people who want to give their kids the opportunity of enjoying riding. Their kids are disabled to the extent that they can’t ride by themselves, but they can still enjoy the sensation of riding in what is essentially a tandem bike,” Mr Bradley said.

With bicycle usage increasing, Back2Bikes also ensures people have an understanding of how to repair their own bike through providing training courses in bike maintenance.

“The biggest thing with Back2Bikes is we take on a challenge and help people get their bike going. We prefer to help people stay mobile rather than put them in a situation where their



only option is to get a new bike, which is quite often beyond people’s means,” Mr Bradley said.

“We will use second hand parts, will be resourceful and implement that way of thinking to get bikes repaired and working again.”

Citing the main two successful ingredients of Back2Bikes as their “volunteer workforce” and “donations”, Mark is quick to encourage anyone wanting to get involved to come in and have a chat with a workshop manager.

“We are very easy going. And with regards to donations, we will take anything and then that way we can decide what is usable on the bike,” he said.

“We can decide whether it is suitable for restoration or for certain parts, or failing that in the worst situation we can thoroughly recycle the bike for scrap metal. Nothing goes to waste and it’s a really good way for people to contribute.”

“It also often motivates people to go to a lot of trouble to bring bikes into us, because they want to see the bike properly or best utilised.”

Back2Bikes workshop can be found at 525 Williamstown Rd, Port Melbourne with opening hours 10am to 4pm Monday through to Saturday. To be a part of Sunday Volunteer Sessions, reach out to Back2Bikes on their website ●

For more information:
back2bikes.com.au



Kaylah-Joelle Baker
JOURNALIST
KAYLAH@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU

Home office tower on the agenda

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*
PLANNING

Residents of the two existing towers at Melbourne Square, most of whom are working from home, have to make do with second bedrooms for work space or find a gap for their desks elsewhere.

Max Baibakov moved in two years ago just after the towers were complete because the apartments had bigger bedrooms than he could find elsewhere.

And Nikhil Narindranath has converted one of his bedrooms into a study for himself and his partner but space is tight.

This is the story of post-COVID Melbourne as office workers figure out how they’re going to arrange their lives.

With life after a once-in-a-generation pandemic still uncertain, Melbourne Square developer OSK Property is taking steps to visualise what work in a post COVID-19 era will look like.

The next residential tower to go up at Melbourne Square will be more adapted to the needs of residents who work remotely, according to OSK Property marketing manager Scott Jessop.

“It’s exactly what we’re looking at,” he said. “Most of the options have studies or flexi-space, a blend between a second living area, study area or a kids’ play area.”

Two years ago, the company visualised an office tower with a greater “technological backbone” to allow for remote working.

Now they are looking at how the next apartment tower will accommodate these at-home workers.

Two residential towers were completed in 2019 and the company was swift off the mark in responding to the pandemic.

“We managed in 2020 to put in wellness factors, air circulation pumping and water purifying,” Mr Jessop said.

Some buyers had already settled, and it was too late to update their apartments for the pandemic.

The third tower will be launched later in 2022 and the design will acknowledge the move towards remote working.

According to residents of Melbourne Square, most of those living in the existing towers are working from home and could do with more flexible office space.

Nikhil Narindranath, a management consultant, lives in a two-bedroom apartment with his partner.

“We’re sharing one bedroom and a study,” Mr Narindranath said, “It would be better to be more flexible. We’re squashed up in the office space and it’s a problem if we have meetings at the same time.”

Max Baibakov works in IT and moved into a tower two years ago.

“The apartments are really good,” he said. “They’re really well built out of good materials.”

He said they have bigger bedrooms than most other buildings. “That’s one of the reasons I chose it because they don’t have separate studies.”



▲ Home workers Nikhil Narindranath and Max Baibakov on lunch break at Melbourne Square.



It would be better to be more flexible. We’re squashed up in the office space and it’s a problem if we have meetings at the same time.



The home office issue is on the agenda for many developers, according to industry sources.

It remains to be seen how ideas for office towers develop during this period. Two years ago, OSK Property, was ahead of the game in promoting connectivity with the outdoors, limited shared spaces as well as a greater “technological backbone” for its 38,000 sqm 29-level office tower.

Melbourne Square Commercial was looking to reduce contact in close quarters such as lifts, and limit crossover between different businesses in communal facilities.

During that period COVID-19 has accelerated workplace trends towards remote working ●

The Federal election is getting close...

Please join us for this free event:

MEET YOUR LOCAL MACNAMARA FEDERAL CANDIDATES:

SOUTHBANK3006 and the Southbank News are delighted to offer YOU, our community, the opportunity to ask questions of, and hear from those Federal Candidates who want your vote and to represent you in Canberra.

2PM 24TH APRIL. ASSEMBLY HALL,
BOYD COMMUNITY CENTRE
207 City Road, Southbank



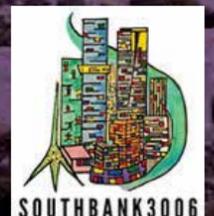
Josh Burns MP
Australian Labor Party
- incumbent



Steph Hodgins-May
Australian Greens



Colleen Harkin
Liberal Party of Australia



SOUTHBANK NEWS

Please be quick to book your place. This is a FREE event, and we would ask you to please to register with EVENTBRITE through the QR code attached. You will be able to just turn up, but we cannot guarantee a seat.

ADVERTISEMENT
Your City of Melbourne community update

SEVEN COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS WHO MAKE MELBOURNE TICK



Rapid Response Clean Team at work

MELBOURNE IS BUZZING AND READY TO WELCOME YOU BACK WITH OPEN ARMS.

As you enjoy life to the fullest, take a moment to appreciate the passionate workers who help make the City of Melbourne safe, beautiful, caring and connected, during the pandemic and year-round.

Here is a quick snapshot of just a few city heroes. Visit magazine.melbourne.vic.gov.au to read our full interviews with these local legends.

ANIMAL MANAGEMENT OFFICER



Nick in the Carlton Gardens with local dog Mishka

From a snake on Spencer Street to a peacock on the run in Kensington, our animal management team has seen it all.

'Lately I've rescued a staffy that was running around a construction site, rehomed a rabbit and waded in a fountain at the Carlton Gardens to rescue a distressed duckling,' animal management officer Nicholas Pecipajkovski said.

'The most rewarding part of my week is reuniting owners with their lost pets. Registration and microchipping are so important.'

While Nick's job has many heart-warming moments, the animal management team performs a critical service.

This includes daily park patrols, responding to reports of barking dogs, animal welfare issues and dog attacks, and assessing compliance among pet shops, animal shelters and pet boarding establishments.

Nick and his colleagues work closely with the RSPCA and police, pursuing fines and legal action where necessary.

'The animal management team is very hands-on and responsive,' Nick said.

'We are out there trying to keep the community and animals safe. We listen to feedback and, when issues arise, we always try to have positive conversations with pet owners.

'As our city evolves, we will continue to work hard to ensure the community has good shared access to parks and public space, striking a good balance between people and pets.'

Please take good care of your pet, be considerate of others and renew your pet registration by 10 April each year. To learn more about responsible pet ownership, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/pets

LIBRARY SOCIAL WORKER



Erin at City Library

Thousands of people with extraordinary life stories pass through the doors of our city's public libraries every week. For community members having a tough time, support is at hand amid the shelves.

Library social worker Erin McKeegan works with people experiencing multiple and complex challenges including, but not limited to, homelessness, addiction and trauma.

She also meets weekly with a network of agencies to connect patrons to the care they need.

'The way libraries are used has completely changed. They are now one of the few public spaces that are free and accessible to all. They are a safe place to come for people who are marginalised or sleeping rough,' Erin said.

In recent weeks, Erin has helped a woman experiencing family violence to connect with a network of support, and assisted a man who hadn't slept for several days after he found himself experiencing homelessness for the first time.

While Erin's job involves listening to traumatic stories, she feels privileged to hear them.

'I like to think that I am hearing people's stories of survival and resilience.'

'With a social worker on staff, the whole library team now has more tools and resources to support people in need. We also get referrals from other City of Melbourne staff, like the maternal and child health team.

'This is a great network to have, and we will continue to listen and learn to improve our service.'

'I like to think that I am hearing people's stories of survival and resilience.'

For more information on homelessness, and how you can help, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/homelessness

PARKS SUPERVISOR



We're planting new biodiversity gardens

Biodiversity gardens are springing up throughout Royal Park, increasing the variety of local plants and attracting even more native wildlife, including insects, birds and microbats.

'There aren't many places in Melbourne where you can see the sky without being blocked by buildings and trees. The grass circle is one of my favourite places,' Royal Park supervisor Chris Nicholson said.

You won't find many deciduous trees in the park, which was redesigned in the 1980s and '90s to 'evoke the original landscape' of bush and grassy woodland tended to for thousands of years by Traditional Owners.

River red gums are among the eucalypts now planted in the park to gradually restore the local population, and two dedicated gardeners have been establishing new biodiversity gardens.

'It's all about increasing the palate of plants in the park, and in turn the palate of birdlife, lizards and skinks,' Chris said.

Over the past two years, the team has planted natives such as kangaroo grass, juncus reeds, wattle and banksias. The Friends of Royal Park have been busy too, planting shrubs and replenishing the understorey.

Tread carefully on your next walk around the park. Kneel for a closer look at the new groundcover and find ruby saltbush in flower, and tiny native bluebells that attract more than 200 species of native bees.

Whether you have a big backyard, a green rooftop or pot plants on your balcony, everyone can help promote urban biodiversity. Request a visit from our team at melbourne.vic.gov.au/gardensforwildlife



Chris in the grass circle at Royal Park

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH NURSE



Cloe with the handy green guidebook given to new parents

Give your baby a wonderful start in life with free support from our compassionate maternal and child health nurses.

The service offers 10 check-ups for children from newborn to school-age, new parents' groups, lactation consultancy, counselling, and additional support for vulnerable families.

'I love working closely with families to ensure they feel supported during the transition to parenthood,'

maternal and child health nurse Cloe Olive said.

'Every family has such potential, and we are privileged to listen and observe, to wonder through the eyes of a child, and create a space where parents are encouraged to do the same.'

During the pandemic, our nurses continued to provide face-to-face support when needed. They also moved many services online and found new ways to provide flexible care, which will help us continue to enrich our services.

'Being a new parent is an emotional roller-coaster, with a great exploration of many themes alongside parenting, including the importance of infant and parent mental health,' Cloe said.

'Resources on social media and online can be overwhelming and contradictory, so it's important for us to provide evidence-based information to help families feel more confident.'

'The journey into parenthood is also a great opportunity to break down an individual's notion of perfection and inadequacy.'

'After all, there are no perfect parents, and there are no perfect children, but there are plenty of perfect moments along the way.'

For more information, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/maternalandchildhealth or call 9340 1444.



New mum Megan with baby Lacey



Manu (second from left) with colleagues

GRAFFITI REMOVAL WORKER

Tending to street art and keeping graffiti off city walls may seem like opposing forces, but graffiti removal expert Manu Parashar sees the beauty in each action.

'I've got more than 100 different paints in my unit so we can match the colour of a door or the wall of a heritage building,' Manu said.

Every morning, Manu patrols his section of the central city, both for illegal tags and damage to iconic street art. It's street art that drew him to this job, and his favourite spot is Hosier Lane.

'It's full of beautiful art and the art keeps changing. I go there almost every day, looking for anything which shouldn't be there, offensive words and that type of thing,' Manu said.

'We protect the street art by putting an anti-graffiti shield on the artworks.'

His favourite piece of street art – a portrait of a local dog called Jesse he once patted on his rounds – has long since been painted over. And yet the corner of Hosier and Flinders lanes serves as a reminder of the relationships he has built over time.

'The best part of the job is that we get to talk to people. We listen to them, see how everything is going in their life. They share their stories. We talk to shop owners as well,' Manu said.

'We protect the street art by putting an anti-graffiti shield on the artworks.'

Scan the QR code to report illegal graffiti tagging, and our Rapid Response Clean Team will get on the job.

Scan to report graffiti and street waste



GYM INSTRUCTOR

Boost your physical and mental wellbeing in the welcoming surrounds of your local recreation centre, supported by staff who love what they do.

'I spend my days running classes like high-intensity interval training, stadium circuit sessions and prime fitness classes for our energetic members aged 60 plus,' passionate gym instructor Bill Mooney said.

'I also show potential members the gym and write programs for people to help them achieve their goals. Someone might want to run 5kms, and another might want to hike in Machu Picchu with ease.'

'It's such a feel-good time when we see people achieve their goals. We are as excited as they are.'

Even if you have never been to a gym before, Bill welcomes you to drop by for a tour of North Melbourne Recreation Centre, where he works, or any of our City of Melbourne recreation centres.

We offer world-class facilities and best-practice programs for people of all ages and abilities across our recreation centres, to empower local people and promote community connection.

'Fitness is a continuous journey,' Bill said.

'Ultimately, our job is trying to improve people's lives and this isn't just a physical thing, it's a social thing. It's great to see people who train together becoming friends and going out for coffee.'

To find out more about our recreation centres and plan your new fitness routine, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/activemelbourne



Bill at North Melbourne Recreation Centre

'It's such a feel-good time when we see people achieve their goals. We are as excited as they are.'

CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY ACTIVATOR



Nat at the pop-up library

It's time for tech to shine at a pop-up library and make-it space opposite the Queen Victoria Market.

It took just two months for creative technology activator Nathaniel Bott and their team to fill an empty Chinese restaurant with cool gadgets.

'Each piece of equipment on its own is expensive. Too expensive for many to own. So we bring it all together in the pop-up space and make it free for anybody to use,' Nat said.

The badge maker is strategically placed at kid level, so it's easy to obsess over designing a new badge after the family's weekly market shop.

More complex machines – such as the sewing machine, 3D printer and obelisk-like laser cutter – are kept around the corner and away from little fingers. All of it is free to use, and Nat is on hand to help.

'I've found a creative job that matches my weird and varied skillsets,' Nat said.

'People ask us when the pop-up is ending and I tell them that there will be a new library in the area soon, and it will have a bigger makerspace.'

We are developing a new community library at the Munro site, in the Queen Victoria Market precinct, featuring a creative makerspace, library and children's library, family services and a rooftop terrace.

Visit the Elizabeth Street pop-up library at 510 Elizabeth Street to feed your mind with an amazing array of best-selling books and access to wi-fi, as well as the bespoke Make*It Space.

'There will be a new library in the area soon, and it will have a bigger makerspace.'

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

KEEP IN TOUCH

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

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

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Arts Precinct

ACCA's *Meatus* exhibition vocalises the typically unheard

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

After a couple of years spent waiting for the pandemic to settle, the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA) is proud to finally present artist Frances Barrett's exhibition *Meatus* after the original March 2020 instalment was cancelled.

Open to the public from April 2 to June 19, the project is not only a significant work for ACCA due to it being continually postponed but also because it focuses on supporting Australian women artists.

As part of the *Suspended Moment: The Katthy Cavaliere Fellowship*, three female-identifying Australian artists were selected to release ambitious new work at either ACCA, Carriageworks in Sydney or Mona in Hobart.

"The Katthy Cavaliere Fellowship was an opportunity to support Australian women artists with performative art practices," *Meatus*' commissioning curator Annika Kristensen said.

"This criteria not only reflected [artist] Katthy's own identity and interests, but created significant commissioning opportunities for women artists, whose work has historically been less supported and visible within Australian arts institutions."

As the selected individual for ACCA, Frances has been making the most of the space provided at the gallery, symbolically using the various gallery spaces as a meatus – a medical term referring to open passages connecting the outside world to the interior of the body.

"The idea from the start was to treat all four of ACCA's gallery spaces, each of which have distinct and different characteristics, as one uniform environment – a total experience for the visitor," Annika said.

"Once inside 'the body' of the exhibition, the audience can expect to hear a series of newly commissioned sound compositions. Audible within a dramatic, yet sparse, exhibition environment, the works encourage the audience to consider the ways in which they themselves



physically listen – not only through the ears, but perhaps also through other various meatuses."

Leaning on sound as the object rather than overfilling the four gallery spaces with visuals, individual sound pieces will also interfere and "bleed into one another", a carefully crafted and intentional choice.

Frances has also leant on her experience with collaborative work and its effectiveness to involve other artists in her idea and give their work a platform.

Alongside Frances, Debris Facility Pty Ltd artists Brian Fuata and Hayley Forward, and artists and musicians Nina Buchanan, Sione Teumohenga and Del Lumanta have also collaborated on creating new works within the curatorial framework.

Proving that while the Fellowship was specifically aimed at supporting three particular Australian women artists, there is still the potential for a multitude of artists' works to be seen and heard through the process.

"While the concept of *Meatus* singularly belongs to Frances, the exhibition is equally a platform for others," Annika said.

"There has been a great deal of trust, relationship-building and generosity that has gone into this process – and it's really a strength of Frances's to be able to pull it off so thoughtfully, and to maintain those relationships."

Choosing collaboration as her approach before the pandemic event hit, Frances's exhibition choices truly tap into highlighting how important listening and working with, and not against, other people is these days.

They're choices Annika said had made the opening "enormously cathartic and exciting" for all involved.

"After so many months of our lives spent indoors, I hope that this exhibition offers people a much-needed opportunity to experience contemporary art in a very embodied way – in a physical gallery space, together with other people."

acca.melbourne ●

CRITIC

Post-war moment relived in jazzy musical

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*

Musical fever has hit Melbourne with *Moulin Rouge* still playing, *Hamilton* premiering, *Girl from the North Country* in the offing and *An American in Paris* performing its first matinee at the State Theatre in Southbank.

Three of the musicals are based on movies and *An American in Paris* features the well-known songs of the Gershwin brothers.

What sets this production from Broadway apart is the inclusion of the Australian Ballet for the first time in a musical.

Choreographer Christopher Wheeldon is a pioneer of integrating the two forms, not an easy task, according to experts. Broadway and ballet dancers don't always mix well.

The star of the show is Lise Dassin, a talented dancer forced into a job at a perfume counter, played by Leanne Cope from the Royal Ballet in England who can sing as well!

Other principal parts are played by locals such as Sam Ward, a graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts, whose tall form is perfect for the starchy Henri Baurel, and Jonathon Hickey, a member of the band Chinatown Carpark, who plays the lyrical musician Adam Hochberg.

The show opens at the end of World War Two when occupied Paris is beginning to wake up, ringing a strong bell for lockdown Melburnians.

The streets are full of gangs. Nazi sympathisers are being shamed. American soldiers are being shipped out.

The smooth-talking Jerry Mulligan, played by Robbie Fairchild of the New York City Ballet, misses his train on purpose so he can pursue his calling as an artist. He wanders into a small Parisian bar where Adam is composing at the piano. Adam can't rise above a dirge. Art is meant to be painful, he says.



▲ Locals take in a matinee of *An American in Paris*.

The bar is owned by Henri and his family who played a double game during the occupation. Lise is their ward.

The romantic complications drive the show culminating in several exquisite Parisian functions when a parody of high culture with wan dancers flowing to "The eclipse of Uranus" is eventually thrown out by jazzy modernism.

The show steps back in time to a particular historical moment and nostalgia, particularly in the form of starry-eyed romantic youngsters and cynical elders, holds sway.

The break-out is inspiring, perhaps echoed in our own shutdown lives as we take a punt on a musical to lift us above a grey Melbourne day.

There are some great character actors, the name given in the olden days to those who weren't young and beautiful. Anne Wood plays Madame Baurel, the mother of Henri, and she's that typical kind of American high-bred dame prevalent in society movies of the '40s.

An American in Paris was screened in 1951 with Gene Kelly as the romantic lead and it could be called corny, but the delivery of this romantic tale is amusing, heart-warming and inspiring.

The old familiar tunes play alongside such amusing American colloquialisms as "prize pig" and "not everything is for sale."

My favourite line by the clean-cut artistic genius who plays the hero and woos the heroine with daily romantic trysts by the Seine is "you deserve more than afternoons."

Everyone is a dancer, artist, musician or heir-ess in this smooth American comedy of manners but that is its charm. Art has a way of lifting us above the doldrums.

The sets are dazzling, beginning as old-world renditions of Parisian street scenes and ending in the jazz era of bold colour and form.

An American in Paris, State Theatre, until April 23 ●

For more information:
artscentremelbourne.com.au



DANE TRAVERS

Storytelling the heart of Dane's work

Dane Travers is a jack of all trades.

WORDS BY *Sophie Berrill*

While he completes his third year at Photography Studies College (PSC), Mr Travers is also freelancing in event consultation and lighting design, and is an AV technician and stage manager for a theatre company.

"I find that there are a lot of gigs where I start as a theatre tech and then accidentally mention that I'm a photographer," he laughed. "All of a sudden, I'm photographing the whole show as well!"

His fascination for photography started in high school, where he studied media and eventually became the resident events photographer.

The Bachelor of Photography at PSC was the right fit for him. He got in straight out of Year 12 and hit the ground running.

Now in his final year of study, Mr Travers' goal

is still to become a financially self-sufficient photographer. But his multidisciplinary experience has been valuable for his photography.

"I have a unique network that I'm able to tap into," Mr Travers said.

Photography, theatre and the creative arts generally have had a reputation revival in the wake of the pandemic, according to Mr Travers, despite the industry suffering disproportionately during lockdowns.

"As much as people say, 'that's not a career, that's a hobby,' it's the thing that everyone has turned to to get them through the past two years," he said, reflecting on the week he spent in bed watching Netflix when he was a close contact of someone with COVID-19.

"I think that realisation for a lot of people has

shifted the importance of it."

There's also been a "barrage" of work during the past few months, making it an exciting time to be in the field.

"There's a lot of work, but there are a lot more photographers," Mr Travers said.

He puts this competition down to greater access to cameras in the digital age, where "everyone thinks that they are photographers."

People are still seeking out high-calibre work, though. Being able to tell stories and not just capture moments sets him and his fellow students apart.

"At PSC we spend one semester doing camera craft," he said. "The rest of it is, 'Alright, you know how to use a camera. What are you going to do with it? What are you going to say?'"



Whether he is capturing weddings or photographing food, narrative is the driving force behind Mr Travers' work.

Thanks to PSC, he is also equipped to be "more than just a stills photographer", producing videos, social media packages and curating, designing and styling his work. He hopes this will help him grow his business after graduation.

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Residents barking mad over new dog park as calls grow for more useable spaces

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

A new dog park in Southbank has sparked a strong reaction from the community with some dog owners saying the size and functionality of the space was “simply unacceptable.”

After its much anticipated opening in March, residents have flocked to the new City Rd dog park, a formerly disused area beneath the Kings Way southern undercroft.

But with the absence of grass and an off-leash space the size of a basketball court, fed-up dog owners have resorted to taking their pooches elsewhere.

“I think the worst part of this terribly executed dog park is being located in the continuously developing Southbank area,” resident Shannon Garrett said.

“You are basically packing in Great Danes and Chihuahuas into a tiny, gated space and it just doesn’t work.”

“It is too small, has no grass which results in dogs getting positively filthy when playing there as well as the owners when enough dust is kicked up.”

Ms Garrett said it was also “laughable” that the poo bags and bins were positioned outside of the play space “so the owners need to physically leave to toss out causing more reason to open the treacherous gates.”

However, Southbank Residents’ Association president Tony Penna said while the dog park was a confined space, “people are just grateful that finally Southbank has an off-lead dog park.”

“Overall, it’s been received really well,” he said.

“We’ve been lobbying for an off-lead dog park for at least six years now. Could there be some improvements? Absolutely there could be, but we’re so grateful we’ve got what we got.”

“I think there a few people that are not used to using off-lead dog parks because it is a



▲ Southbank resident Somikaa Mahapatra is unhappy about the new City Rd dog park.

Picture: John Tadigiri.

confined space, so some dogs don’t take kindly to other dogs and all that sort of stuff.”

But he questioned, “How do you get that balance right of providing the dog park for dog owners and then at the same time getting the most out of open space for the residents? I haven’t got the answer for it, but you’ve got to give council credit for making an effort.”

The new dog park is an initiative of the City of Melbourne’s City Road Master Plan, which Lord Mayor Sally Capp said last year was an “area that is in desperate need of improvement and we want this dog park to become a favourite for locals, whether they are human or hound.”

Addressing concerns about the gravel surface, the council recently said it would reduce

the risk of creating a breeding ground for internal parasites.

In March, the Lord Mayor said the council had worked swiftly to fix the height of the fence that was causing issues for smaller dogs, and would ensure the “new park is as safe and pooch-friendly as possible.”

But for Somikaa Mahapatra, a Southbank resident of seven years, the new dog park had not been practical with the gravel surface causing discomfort for dogs’ paws while bigger dogs wanting to play “tend to hurt and smother the other ones.”

“We had no other choice but to take to take them to Boyd Park,” she said, adding she was speaking on behalf of about 20 unhappy dog

owners who had done the same thing.

“The intent of the park is a really good gesture of the council; I’m not taking that away. It’s about giving us a park that we can use.”

“When we saw the dog park was taking ages to come up, we thought it was going to be a really good one,” she said, but after the park’s opening added, “We thought it was still unfinished because there was no grass.”

Other issues Ms Mahapatra raised was feeling “very uncomfortable” with the limited social distancing and the risk of exposure to COVID-19, and barking dogs “scaring the people waiting for the trams” nearby.

Steve Davidson, the administrator of *Kings Way and Moray St Reserve dog park* Facebook page, said some of the “teething issues” had yet to be addressed including a new water fountain and relocation of dog bins.

But in terms of the space, he said “there seems to be no issue with dogs running at full speed and being agile enough.”

While he was disappointed that there was no grass, he acknowledged, “it’s better than nothing.”

Jannine Pattison, spokesperson for the residents’ group Southbank3006, said the new space had been “well received by the paw parents of Southbank” and can “happily report that the council has now installed a double gate system to ensure the safety of all dogs in the play area.”

“There are still several defects that have temporary fixes, like the water bowl system and the timber at the gate to close a significant gap, but council is committed to rectifying these defects,” she said.

Ms Pattison said Southbank3006 would continue to advocate for more green space in Southbank for residents and “will continue to lobby for useable space that can be activated and converted to off leash dog parks for the dogs who call Southbank home.” ●

Disability community set to shine in new festival at the Arts Centre

A major festival celebrating the disability community is set to engage artists across Australia and New Zealand when it launches for the first time at the Arts Centre this year.

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
ARTS & CULTURE

The inaugural *Alter State* event is being touted as the “most vibrant, hybrid disability arts festival in the southern hemisphere,” according to artistic director Caroline Bowditch, who has been announced as the creative lead for the festival.

“For me the real strength of *Alter State* is that it is disability-led, which I feel is essential. It really sets us up for what happens next in the creative industries,” she said.

“The festival will present the most incredible work that has always been out there but hasn’t been known about because it hasn’t been on stages like Arts Centre Melbourne.”

The event, which will feature live performances across the Arts Centre’s theatres and spaces, as well as digital content online, will provide a platform for deaf and disabled artists to tell stories and showcase their creative works.

Ms Bowditch, who is also the CEO for Arts Access, a peak body for the arts and disability in Victoria, was behind the successful launch of the *Alter State* digital event last November.

Best known as a performer, teacher, and speaker, Ms Bowditch spent 16 years in the UK before returning to Australia in 2018.

Last year’s digital program saw Arts Access Victoria host three panel discussions and workshops profiling artists from their digital commissioning program Museum of



Us, a museum of anthropology in San Diego, California.

One of the topics discussed was “what the ideal cultural landscape is from a deaf perspective.”

Deaf and disabled artists were also invited to participate in an online forum about creating national access standards in the arts.

The live festival is expected kick off in September 2022 with the Arts Centre working hard with highly regarded artists Carly Findlay, Joshua Pether and Rodney Bell to help bring the event together – with all three having been foundation artists for *Alter State* since 2019.

Ms Findlay is a Medal of the Order of Australia recipient for her work as a disability advocate and activist, while Mr Bell, who is from New Zealand, is a performing artist, advocate, and provocateur.

Having lived with a disability

for 30 years, Mr Bell has a “strong desire to discover a greater sense of mystery by embracing uncertainty with the willingness to seek out new horizons.”

His talent has also seen him win multiple awards including the inaugural FAME Award with Performing Arts Network of New Zealand, The Creative New Zealand – Toi Iho Pūmanawa award.

Mr Pether, an indigenous experimental performance artist, dancer and choreographer of movement, temporary ritual and imagined realities, has performed in festivals and events across the globe including *The First Nations Dialogues* in New York ●

For more information:
artscentremelbourne.com.au



Open space and elections

This month we will see the City of Melbourne start the process of trying to identify new open spaces in Southbank – the direct result of a \$20 million allocation in the current budget.

The council will call for EOIs from owners and agents to submit sites for potential acquisition.

As you may recall, \$20 million was earmarked in the 2021/22 budget to purchase land in Southbank for open space. At the time I expressed my cynicism as I couldn't identify any appropriate blocks that hadn't already had a development application approved.

The only block that I thought ... suitable (which, however does have an application approval) is the 127-129 Kavanagh St site currently being used as a car park. This site is directly opposite Boyd Park, between the purple heritage-protected, derelict, graffitied building on the corner and the power substation on the Balston St corner.

Its close proximity to the current park is ideal, but to be honest, it was really the only vacant piece of land that I could think of which if converted to open space was located where its use as community open space would be worthwhile.

However, the 63-83 Kings Way and 127-129 Kavanagh St site was the subject of a ministerial approval in 2020 for a dual tower proposal, so the prospect of buying back any land from the developer seems extremely unlikely.

So, I wonder why the council needs call for EOIs? Wouldn't it be easier to merely reach out to the owners of those handful of vacant blocks around Southbank and have a conversation?

I guess maybe the owners are not that easily contactable and agents, such as CBRE, might be in a better position to actually make contact with these landowners and influence them to do something different with their plans.

I think it's a long shot, but I commend the council for its efforts as Southbank open space is a hot topic and has been a massive oversight by past councils and now this council is struggling to catch up and correct the misgivings of past councils.

If these efforts are not able to translate into acquisition land, then I wonder what will happen with the allocated \$20 million in the budget. SRA will watch these developments closely.

On another note, at a Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting last month the Night Time Economy Advisory Committee (NTEAC) presented its report. SRA was gob-smacked that while the best interest of residents was mentioned in its terms of reference, the committee made no mention of how the proposed increased night-time activation might impact on local residents and what protocols would be put in place, specifically in regard to hours of operation and sound levels and what measures would be taken to ensure such protocols are respected.

I attended the FMC meeting and spoke to this agenda item to highlight to our councillors this serious oversight. This resulted in much

discussion between the councillors as this oversight seemed to have been missed by them as well (despite many of them residing in the municipality).

Consequently, the chair of the advisory committee was in the audience and was asked to comment on this oversight. While the night-time economy is an important facet of Melbourne's reactivation it is still important residents' amenity is protected and managed. It certainly would have been desirable if the advisory committee had addressed its brief fully.

At that same meeting I presented some photographs I took of overflowing rubbish bins along the promenade during the Moomba long weekend. Sadly, every day of the long weekend the rubbish bins were overflowing, all the way to the boat sheds on the foreshore.

Once I noticed them all overflowing I deliberately monitored these bins and found there was in excess of 12 hours before they were emptied. It was disgusting and a blight on our beautiful neighbourhood.

Sadly, in my 10 years as president of SRA this is the third time we have brought this issue to the attention of the council covering the same weekend. Each time Southbank has received an apology and reassured the process will be looked into and that this won't happen again. Not surprising I was given the same apology and reassurance again. In fact, today, the day I am writing this column, at council's request, I have a meeting with a team to discuss this further, why it happened, and the measures they are putting in place to improve the rubbish collection.

Finally, the federal election is upon us. Please join us with our Meet the Candidates event on [date TBC] at Boyd Community Hub for a 6.30pm start. As usual the main candidates will make themselves available to spruik what they have to offer our electorate should they be successfully elected.

In years gone by these events have always been a full-house and without exception controversial discourse has always been a part. Don't miss your opportunity to ask some hard-hitting questions.

If you are not a member of SRA and would like to support our work it is only \$10/FY. Without our members our voice is not taken seriously or even heard. We would certainly welcome your support. You can join via our website southbankresidents.org.au ●



Tony Penna
PRESIDENT
PRESIDENT@SOUTHBANKRESIDENTS.ORG.AU



Consumer Affairs takes steps to improve the governance of OC managers

One bad apple can spoil the bunch. The owners' corporation (OC) management industry is filled with talented and passionate individuals, who love working in OC management and thrive on the fast-paced nature of the business.

Unfortunately, from time to time, an isolated incident by one bad manager can lead to an unfair public opinion that a higher number of managers might engage in such conduct. These falsehoods exist in all sorts of professions, including the law.

It is well known in the industry that directors of a couple of small OC management companies engaged in dishonest and unlawful activity by deducting funds held on trust for OCs and deposited them into separate business accounts, divested the funds, closed the accounts and businesses and ultimately spent the cash.

To date, Consumer Affairs Victoria has not taken action. One hopes for the sake of the reputation of the industry that investigators do throw the book at the managers for this business practice.

However, in taking baby steps in this regard, Consumer Affairs finally had its legislation to amend the OC Act passed in December last year. As part of the new legislation, the amendments make clear that an OC manager cannot be appointed for more than three years, or five years for a retirement village OC.

Further, an OC manager's contract cannot include terms that:

- require the OC, before it revokes the appointment of the manager, to:
 - pass a special resolution;
 - pass a unanimous resolution;
 - pass any other resolution requiring more than a simple majority of votes;
 - convene a general meeting of the OC; or
 - take any other prescribed step.
- allow the manager to renew the contract of appointment at his or her discretion.
- require a tier one or two OC to give three months or more notice of its intention to revoke the appointment.
- require a tier three, four or five OC to give one month or more notice of its intention to revoke the appointment.
- provide for the automatic renewal of the contract of appointment if the OC fails to give notice of its intention not to renew in accordance with its terms.
- restrict the ability of the OC to refuse to appoint a person as manager, other than a requirement that consent to appoint a person as manager must not be unreasonably withheld by the OC.

If any of these terms are included in a contract entered into after December 1, 2021, they will be void.

If an OC fails to give notice of its intention to renew a contract of appointment, it will be taken to have been renewed. In this circumstance, the contract may be terminated by the OC or the manager with at least one month's written notice (or a shorter period if provided for under the contract).

In addition, the duties of an OC manager have been expanded. They must:

- ensure any goods and services they procure on behalf of the OC are competitively priced and/or procured under competitive terms.
- not exert pressure on any member of the OC to try and influence the outcome of a vote or election.
- give written notice to the OC chair disclosing any commission, payment or other benefit they are entitled to receive under a contract to supply goods or services to the OC.

Upon request from an OC, managers must provide copies of financial statements for bank accounts that contain money they hold on trust on behalf of the OC, as soon as practicable. This applies for any period within three years immediately preceding the request.

Also, a registered manager must now be covered by professional indemnity insurance and notify the Business Licensing Authority if they cease to be covered. Their registration will be automatically cancelled 30 days after coverage ceases.

These reforms are welcomed and will help to weed out the one or two bad managers that operate out there in Victoria.

The reforms also herald a move towards giving OCs greater choice and flexibility about who manages their affairs ●



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

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Why improving body composition should be your goal and not weight loss

Having worked as a personal trainer for more than 25 years, I have seen and heard it all when it comes to people wanting to lose weight, improve their body shape, look good on their wedding day and even the need to lose weight to save a marriage.

No matter what the reason, there is a distinct lack of education when it comes to weight loss. Some think it is simply cutting out carbs, others focus on quick fix diets; sit-ups will make your abdominal fat disappear ... the list goes on.

Now don't get me wrong, as I have little idea about algebra, calculus and global warming but the area of health, fitness, nutrition and wellness are my bread and butter! In fact, I could talk about it until the cows come home. But it is a constant source of frustration to see people led up a garden path from "social media influencers" and a myriad of misinformation, so I am here to try and lead you to a better understanding and focus if weight or fat loss are your goal.

Now first I will take you to the point about weight and scales. You could drink a litre of water and you will then weigh more on the scales. Equally, you could empty your bowels and lose weight on the scales. In any instance did you put on or lose body fat in the process?

No! You see muscle and fat are two completely different tissues. Read that line again.

Muscle through lack of use does not then turn into fat. If exercising or eating well, fat

cannot turn into muscle. They are two separate entities and as such you should have two focus areas when wanting to lose "weight". Instead aim to reduce fat and gain muscle.

How do we do this? To improve body composition, we will result in a better body shape and weight may reduce. But more importantly, you can have a positive body composition change and increase your metabolism in the process!

So, you may have heard of the term "calorie deficit"? If you haven't, it is when we use or burn more calories than we eat or consume. Now to achieve calorie deficit we can do this by aerobic/anaerobic exercise (lower intensity for longer time or higher intensity for shorter time), resistance training and by reducing the number of calories that we consume.

Combine these three things are in turn you will improve your body composition. As you do more and more exercise as a whole, you will need to increase your protein intake.

Now rather than focus on any fad diet, please just focus on plentiful fruits and vegetables matched with healthy protein sources and view the process as a marathon rather than a sprint.



Create good daily habits that will lead to positive behaviour change and then your results will be long-lasting, sustainable and will be with you for years to come.

Weight loss as the focus and if combined with daily scale use can set up negative feelings which alter your mindset and affect all that I have outlined above. For example, we use OMRON body composition scales with our clients and we measure in weekly. Sure, it tells you weight but more importantly it gives a body fat and a muscle percentage and it then gives a sharper focus and if we focus on these, the weight will look after itself!

Remember that muscle burns more calories on a daily basis (during and for hours after a resistance training workout) and fat stores require very little energy to fuel. Add some

resistance exercises daily and it is a little like adding a few dollars every day to your bank account and provides compounding interest!

Forget about weight and shift your focus and you will be the one that feels better about yourself and the results will look after themselves!

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



Justin Moran

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MEET A NEIGHBOUR

Inspiring change from the bottom-up

I met Michael Hossen at Southbank3006's first community meeting where his insightful comments really added to the discussion.

I was glad he stayed afterwards so I could learn more about him and his passion for city planning.

"I actually have a degree in Urban Regional Planning," he explained.

He went on to tell me about *Strong Towns* a book by Charles Marohn that has inspired a movement of forward-thinking ideas about urban development that runs counter to conventional thinking – that changes required to improve our cities and the quality of life within them need to come from the bottom-up, with individuals making small changes.

Michael's answer to that call happened during lockdown.

"I started researching electric cargo bikes," he said.

He placed an order and now, 15 months later, can't imagine living any other way.

"It has completely changed our lives for the better," he said. "It's hard to describe, but traveling by bike is just joyful, it's good for the soul. I'm never stuck in traffic, so my mood is better, I'm less stressed, it's just a much more efficient way to get around the city."

Michael's bike, a Tern GSD, can carry his wife, four-year-old daughter and more than 30 kilos of cargo.

He uses the bike every day to transport his daughter back and forth from kinder and for all the family errands.

"I log anywhere from 100 to 200 kilometres a week."

He said his family even used the bike for a weekend getaway to Warburton.

"We took the train to Lilydale, and then rode



the rail trail from there – it was really great."

Michael is so passionate about cargo biking (defined as any human-powered vehicle designed and constructed specifically for transporting loads) that he's started Facebook (Melbourne Cargo Bikes) and Instagram (cargo_bike_dad) pages that have nearly 1000 followers

combined.

"I've definitely noticed more bikes here in Southbank," he said. "In fact, the last stats I looked at said that 25 per cent of the vehicles in the CBD are bikes – a big uptake from years ago."

Michael credits bike lanes to being a

contributor to this increase.

"Australians are so automobile focused—the standard should be focusing on humans getting around, not cars. I like the idea of cars being the guests in cities not people."

Indeed, when I asked him about the most challenging aspect of living in Southbank his answer was car noise.

"Cars don't have to be that loud," he said. "They're loud because they are travelling at highway speeds right through the middle of our neighbourhood. The design of our main roads in Southbank encourages this – wide, multi-laned, with 60 km/h speed limit (most Melbourne city roads are narrow and have a 40 km/h speed limit). It's no wonder there is no concern for pedestrians."

Michael pointed out that the portion of City Rd bisecting one of Southbank's most densely-populated areas was called Yarra Bank Highway on roadmaps – an antiquated designation. "Lowering speeds in Southbank, through both speed limit and road design changes, would be a game changer – greatly decreasing noise and increasing our quality life. Something that could be done right now," he said ●

MaryKay Rauma is a founder and Communications lead of Southbank3006 a not-for-profit community and advocacy group focused on connecting residents and improving the liveability of Southbank. Southbank residents can join for free at southbank3006.com or by scanning the QR code.



HISTORY

Cable trams, Rolls Royces and a luxury hotel

Heading south from Southbank along St Kilda Rd takes you past the Royce Hotel, a distinctive boutique hotel – and one with a fascinating history.

By the 1920s, Melbourne had an extensive (perhaps the world's largest?) cable tram network. Its operation required massive engine-houses for storing the cable cars and the cables, located in prominent places in inner suburbs such as Fitzroy, South Melbourne, and South Yarra.

When the cable tram network was replaced with an electrified system in the 1920s, the engine houses became redundant. Some were converted for other purposes, including a showroom for luxury cars in St Kilda Rd.

The client was Charles Kellow (one of Australia's first motorists) and the architect was Harry Norris.

He was one of Melbourne's most prominent Art Deco/Moderne designers but, for this conversion, he had a flirtation with the Spanish Mission style, which he had seen in California – a glamorous style, often seen in the houses of Hollywood stars.

He used the style to great effect on the conversion in St Kilda Rd, where the remodelling included a series of deeply recessed windows divided by spiral columns and surmounted by a richly ornamental frieze.

One prominent (and high-quality) feature

was the use of copper and bronze in the showroom window surrounds and the doors, and much of the building was faced with glazed terracotta, produced by the local firm of Wunderlich and soon to be seen on numerous buildings throughout Melbourne.

The interior was highly elaborate with walls finished to imitate Italian marble and decorated with wall scrolls and large urns, while the curved ceiling was decorated with gold paint and multi-coloured plaster cornices.

Giant chandeliers illuminated the new cars and the opulent showrooms reflected the elite standing of the Rolls Royce marque.

After World War Two the building housed a number of government departments but by 1997 was vacant and becoming derelict. The owner decided to convert it to a hotel and it opened as the appropriately named Royce Hotel in 2000.

The character of the original showrooms was incorporated in the new design, with the original main showroom serving as the main entrance, lobby and function room space. The conversion included the addition of a basement car park, 71 hotel rooms and suites, and added



restaurants and bars.

Since then, it has undergone further upgrading, including at present. It remains a wonderful example of the combination of architecture and the development of motoring in Victoria ●



Robin Grow

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SOUTHBANK SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

A sense of community that keeps growing

As with March, April brings more community building opportunities for Southbankers to get involved, meet neighbours, and have their voices, ideas and concerns heard in constructive spaces where decisions for our beloved suburb are made.

Firstly, it was great to meet the new Southbank3006 organisation through a community event last month at Boyd. We could clearly see the love, passion and determination for the betterment of Southbank's liveability in its founders.

The event created a space for Southbankers to meet and voice some of their main issues, concerns and opportunities for improvement.

With one of their goals being building up Southbank's sense of community and with overlap on issues like green space etc., we look forward to working with Southbank3006 more in the future and welcome its presence in our neighbourhood.

If you are looking for other opportunities for your voice to be heard, while influencing upcoming council projects and building a sense of community, you are in luck.

The City of Melbourne is organising a second round of Southbank Community Builders Workshops on Saturdays April 9 and April 30. These two free workshops will give Southbankers the opportunity to build and nurture new connections through facilitated networking sessions, discuss community issues with neighbours, visit and support local businesses, learn about council projects and how to influence them, discover existing community groups and initiatives, and learn how to start your own community project. You can book your spot through: participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/participate-southbank/southbank-community-builders-workshop



Members from Southbank Sustainability Group's (SSG's) leadership team will be present at these workshops to share some of our insights and knowledge for building a vibrant community in an otherwise busy and transient inner-city suburb like Southbank.

We are lucky enough to interact with many of you through our community vegie garden at Boyd and our own community events, where we get to hear first-hand some of your main concerns and issues with living in Southbank. While we do our best to respond to community needs around the theme of sustainability and climate action solutions, we strongly encourage you to add your input at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/participate-southbank until April 30, so that your voice reaches the right channels to inform and influence Southbank's very own council Neighbourhood Plan.

It is important to voice our needs and aspirations for Southbank in forums where what we

say is considered in decisions that help deliver the solutions, long-term investments, and spaces we all need.

We will also be rolling out more of our own community building events in the next couple of months, while introducing people to attainable and fun environmental solutions we can all do in small spaces like Southbank apartments. Keep an eye on our Facebook page or email us to learn more about our upcoming events or if you would like to volunteer and help with delivering one of these events.

As usual, our meetups continue fortnightly every second Saturday, 10am to 12pm, where we do some gardening and chat over coffee about upcoming sustainability-focused opportunities to get involved. Our next meetups will be Saturdays April 9 and 23, at Boyd's front yard. As always, we invite everyone to join regardless of gardening or climate action interest or experience.



About the group

A solutions-focused group of Southbankers working to bring positive change in sustainability practices and education to our neighbourhood, while building a wonderful community. Free to join. 2019 Environment Melbourne Award and KVB 2020 Sustainable Cities Environment Award winner. Reach us at southbanksustainability@gmail.com or facebook.com/SouthbankSustainabilityGroup ●



Artemis Pattichi

SOUTHBANK SUSTAINABILITY GROUP
SOUTHBANKSUSTAINABILITY@GMAIL.COM

Lots to see at KHT

Southbank News caught up with Koorie Heritage Trust (KHT) CEO Tom Mosby in March to discuss all things art, design and education happening at the Trust.

WORDS BY *Spencer Fowler Steen*

Having only just recently reopened to the public, Mr Mosby said he encouraged everyone and anyone to come down to Federation Square to enjoy exhibitions showcasing the very best on offer from Victorian metropolitan and regional First Nations' artists.

He said KHT's latest exhibition, *Off The Wall*, was all about mark-making tradition.

"What we have done is commission three Victorian Aboriginal artists," Mr Mosby said.

"We thought we'd do something experimental; we provided large sheets of paper and said, 'do what you'd like to do, we'd like to see your interpretation of people, culture, and community.'"

"It's a beautiful, beautiful exhibition."

The other exhibition on display at KHT is *Blak Jewellery*.

Mr Mosby said the exhibition emerged out of KHT's Blak Design program, an initiative created a couple of years ago to address the lack of participation and representation of First Nations' peoples in the design, industrial design, fashion and textiles industries.

"Each year through an expression of interest, we recruit up to about 15 participants from



▲ Protection, Mandi Barton.

around Victoria looking at metropolitan and regional artists," he said.

"We offer different disciplines and we mentor the participants through practical sessions around the design process, and also business skills."

"Despite COVID and lockdowns, it's been highly successful, and I strongly encourage people to come to see it."

After reopening to the public in December, the KHT has seen a surge of people flocking to see art in-person, with KHT's famous walking tours around the city also back on.

"People are coming back and wanting to engage in the city, so those tours are a really good way to learn about the settlement and pre-settlement of Melbourne and really get a feel and understanding of Melbourne," Mr Mosby said.

"For us, it's about really encouraging people to come back in-person. Our program and services are available, and we'd really love see



▲ Molwa (Shadow) Reflections, Mandi Barton.



▲ Spotted Bonytongu, Charlie Miller.

people attending the exhibitions."

KHT will continue to run programs and open-forum discussions online ●

For more information:
korieheritagetrust.com.au/
whats-on/kht-online/

WE LIVE HERE

Party policy time

With the fragrance of a federal election in the air, we have a sniff of party policies at a national level on short stays.

A policy articulated by the Greens, courtesy of a statement in this masthead by Adam Bandt, national leader of the Australian Greens and federal MP for Melbourne, focuses on the socioeconomic impact of short stays, including housing affordability.

Adam Bandt strikes at the heart of the issue, saying, "It's hard to develop a sense of community when all the apartments around you are being flipped on sites like Airbnb. No one wants to feel like they're living in a busy hotel."

The MP's stance aligns with what we have been forewarning in this column for some time now: namely that as we recover from the pandemic and we kickstart tourism again, it's critical to implement controls on the use of apartments for short stays.

"As we recover from the pandemic, we need to invest in our communities, not simply let the market rip," Adam Bandt said

Adam Bandt's statement has some essential macro and micro elements. It acknowledges the impact of the proliferating short stays on housing affordability and also refers to everyday high-rise challenges and cost imposts, such as accelerated damage to common property and the need for more security.

The statement also refers to the research the Greens have been conducting into policy solutions around the world, many of which have been detailed in this column.

We are looking forward to seeing the major parties issue policy statements, without holding our breath.

Owners Corporations Act – going in circles

The federal Greens' focus on bigger-picture housing issues brings us back to a core issue at the state level here.

Frustratingly, the Victorian Government has been constrained in comparison with NSW. In Victoria, OC rules, called bylaws in NSW, are technically defeated by planning regulations.

This peculiar limitation has seen Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) using the anomaly to exclude the issue from its reviews.

For example, in its *Consumer Property Acts Review Issues Paper No. 2, Owners corporations*, CAV specifically excluded the issue of whether OCs should be able to regulate short stays, deeming it "out of scope". Aggravatingly, CAV in this review also characterised the issue of "short stays" as being limited to the problem of parties.

The main point remains that serious reforms are needed in the planning laws:

"One issue that is beyond the scope of this [CAV] paper is whether owners' corporations should be able to make rules prohibiting a certain use of a lot, where that use is permitted under the applicable planning instrument," CAV wrote.

All the CAV-led reviews and consultations have been risibly powerless to have any effect on the core democratic issue – the devolution of power to communities – despite having a ready model in NSW they could take as a basis and refine.

The so-called "Short-stay bill" has been an unmitigated failure. No recommendations from community consultations were acceded to. Planning issues have been ignored. Despite this, both major parties voted for the bill and it has been embedded, and effectively buried, in Sections 159A to 159F of the *Owners Corporation Act 2006, Version 19* released on

December 1, 2021. The review, promised by the government when it lobbied the opposition for its support, has now been avoided for two years.

Let's stop the government's excuses. The government needs to open a discussion about the challenging intersection of planning and consumer laws – a problem created by the arbitrary legal abstraction of our lives into "departments".

We Live Here will vigorously pursue reforms to the planning regulations to allow self-determination by high-rise communities in Victoria.

Australia lags behind

Globally, there is abundant evidence that short stays have had an immense impact on communities and housing affordability. We anticipate more socioeconomic research will be undertaken to assist regulators in developing workable frameworks for controlling the sector.

One important volume of research is *Airbnb, Short-Term Rentals and the Future of Housing*, by Professors Emerita Lily M Hoffman and Barbara Schmitter Heisler, published in the USA. This book poses the question: how do Airbnb and short-term rentals affect housing and communities?

The two professors argue that the most disruptive impact of Airbnb and short-term rentals has been in communities where housing markets are stressed. The authors describe how that Airbnb incentivises speculation in residential housing.

The overall effect of short-term rentals, according to the authors, has been similar across countries and cities. Local responses have varied from less restrictive in Australia to increasingly restrictive in the United States and most restrictive in Germany. Shockingly, Australia takes the title of "Highest penetration by Airbnb".

The book claims that while Airbnb has made some concessions, it has not given any city the data needed to enforce regulations efficiently, resulting in costly impacts on governments and ultimately, communities.

With the publication of this book, we are

embarrassed and angry to find Australia classified a laggard, one of the most under-regulated jurisdictions for short-term rentals!

This should be a wakeup call for local, state and federal legislators: take notice of what is happening around the world and learn how to fix the problem here. Lagging behind is not fatal, remaining there is.

Why do we need a dark sky?

We strive to shine a light on the dark corners of the political world. Outside in the physical world, there is a strong argument for allowing natural, celestial light to be revealed in darkness.

Of course, we refer to the night sky and the problems associated with light pollution.

Our attention has recently been drawn to this issue by the International Dark Sky Association (IDA) through their Victorian Branch (IDAVic). The main aim of IDA is to maintain the beauty of the night sky for generations to come and to support good lighting fixtures which are also environmentally friendly.

For example, there can be serious unintended environmental, ecological, safety and health consequences from commencing a LED street lighting program without careful planning.

For more information and to learn how you can become involved, visit the IDAVic website at darkskyvic.org.

Campaign donations

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



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The changing face of Montague: a look back at 150 years of local business

WORDS BY Jack Hayes

For some, the area of Montague, a small adjunct officially belonging to South Melbourne's post-code of 3205, won't mean a great deal outside of its status as a growing graveyard for vans, buses, box trucks and semi-trailers at the hands of the low-slung Montague Street Bridge.

In its early days, Montague extended from Ferrars St to Boundary St and from City Rd to the railway line, developing fully as a residential area when the Montague Railway Station opened in 1883, and so giving the area its name.

Although the area grew rapidly as an industrial district from the 1870s, Montague's residential population had almost completely disappeared through demolition and redevelopment during the 1970s.

It was not until a renaissance in the form of the Victorian state government's Fishermans Bend Framework did Montague regain its name and along with it, its rich identity.

In the first instalment of this series: "The changing face of Montague", *Southbank News* looks back at the bustling history of life and business in a suburb once forgotten, and chat with the businesses that now call Montague home.

In the late-1800s Montague was surrounded by industrial factories providing opportunities for local employment.

One of the largest employers of the area was the Dunlop Rubber Company, manufacturer of Australia's first locally-produced motor tyre, which had an estimated workforce of 1000 men and women.

Today, Montague is still home to light manufacturing and warehousing, together with creative industries such as film, media, architecture and design, and a swathe of gyms and fitness centres, mechanics and hospitality venues.

Few lay claim to know the area better than Ashley Cox, general manager of Cox Automotive, which opened its first workshop on Montague St back in 1981. Mr Cox recalls fond times when he would freely kick the footy across Montague St with his dad, or visit the Golden Fleece Hotel where you'd come across "blokes who wouldn't be afraid to kill you."

"It's still very local community-focused, and it's amazing that people still know each other around here business wise; it has such a local feel and I guess that's what makes the area great," Mr Cox said.



▲ Black Garage Café owner, Alisha Varker and her helper, Nacho.



▲ FitLab owner and head coach, Steve Hennessy-Maia.



▲ Cox Automotive general manager, Ashley Cox.



▲ 504 City Rd, South Melbourne: of the few lasting heritage homes in Montague.



▲ Photograph of workers at Dunlop Rubber's Montague factory, Melbourne, circa 1920. Noel Butlin Archives Centre, Australian National University: Dunlop Rubber Company of Australia Ltd, 31-39-272.

"Today, a lot of people are being driven out. It is very hard for businesses in terms of affordability for people to operate here with things like expensive land tax, high rents and the purchasing of land for residential developments."

With much of Montague occupied by mixed-use industrial warehousing, the open plan footprint of these buildings provides the perfect canvas for gyms like Steve Hennessy-Maia's dedicated CrossFit gym, FitLab.

One of Victoria's first CrossFit gyms, Mr Hennessy-Maia moved to Buckhurst St from nearby in South Melbourne as the opportunity to set up shop in his new Montague home was too good to pass up.

"Comparing our service [to] others probably isn't fair. We offer a very different service to other gyms. We are wellness-based, with recovery and nutrition services, and catering for a clientele who want to feel a part of a community," Mr Hennessy-Maia said.

"Our clients come in because they want community, and they want coaching. They want to be trained to do things safely and to do CrossFit training, which is considered one of the most effective training methods in the world, but also have the right coaching to do it."

According to Mr Hennessy-Maia, his building, for which he has four years left on his lease, is the last building on the eastern side on Buckhurst St to be sold for impending development.

He said the growth presents a double-edged sword conundrum; with more residents comes the prospect of more customers, however, he is weary of Montague losing identity to be consumed by a growing CBD.

Although outside of the new Montague borders bound by the West Gate Freeway to the north, the St Kilda Light Rail Line (Route 96) to the east, City Rd to the south, and Boundary St to the west, Alisha Varker, owner of Black Garage Café owes her survival during the dark days of 2020 and 2021 to the residents and workers of Montague.

"There are quite a few customers still coming who I had never met before and because other cafes closed at the beginning of the lockdowns, I was one of the only ones pushing through," Ms Varker said. "So, I met a lot of people, and they are good mates now, who I see as friends."

"We all pulled each other through what was a pretty hard time for everyone."

Ms Varker and her dog, Nacho, became the only faces workers would see during the hibernating times of lockdowns.

The camaraderie they shared, and the attitude to continue at all costs, paints an indicative portrait of Montague in transition.

In the next part of this series, *Southbank News* will look at what 80,000 jobs and 80,000 residents, as part of the Fishermans Bend precinct, Australia's largest urban renewal project, will do to the fabric and history of this once forgotten neighbourhood ●

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

Commit someone to Montague ... now!

I think we can safely say that we, the community, are not getting a lot of communication or information or other relevant action that makes us feel heard in the Montague Precinct.

That is not from either the City of Port Philip, or the Fishermans Bend Taskforce.

So, I decided to go and find out what the City of Melbourne is doing to support its community in the Lorimer Precinct, and how it differed from the City of Port Philip's services to the Montague community.

I was grateful to Sophie Handley, director city strategy and Daniel Boden, precinct delivery for their valuable time to discuss how the City of Melbourne supports communities during significant building work.

To say I was impressed was an understatement. First, having a dedicated person responsible for precinct delivery who has an intimate knowledge of what is happening in the precinct is fantastic.

To not only have a deep understanding of the development areas, the developers' and builders' needs, but also, of the residents (albeit very few) and the substantial workers and businesses

current in situ and for those moving into the Lorimer Precinct.

In addition, there is a dedicated "Site Services Department" within the City of Melbourne which responds with alacrity and focus to the needs of those being affected by building, noise, dust, trucks, parking issues and other things related to development.

Now, I understand that the City of Melbourne covers the CBD, and other parts of the municipality that have a history of serious development with very specific needs for locals, but surely so does the City of Port Philip.

Where are these services for the Montague Precinct? Where were they during the two years of lockdowns when Montague building and development did not stop? When noise, dust and trucks where affecting all those working from home? There was no "Site Services Department" that helped. There was/is no Montague Precinct manager.

There were a couple of people with line-of-sight to Fishermans Bend, but it was not easy to get their attention and when we did, we were not treated with the same seriousness that the City of Melbourne has built for its residents, businesses and workers.

As this may be one of my last columns, I wanted to be clear that although we have made many gains in our advocacy and lobbying for the Montague Precinct, one of the areas of great disappointment is that there is no dedicated service or person that is accessible to the Montague community.

This has to change, there are now many, many additional residents moving into the precinct and the businesses being attracted to the area continue to grow.

The City of Port Philip must take a leaf out of the City of Melbourne's community engagement strategy and do better. Have a service, or an officer, dedicated to Montague only.

Commit to actually asking the locals what they want, not some "experts" or people who have never lived or worked in Montague. Talk to us, don't ask us to go online for some well-written public relations spin. ASK US WHAT WE NEED!

Southbank News publisher Sean Car would still like to hear from you if you are interested in being a columnist representing the precinct. Please get in touch trishavery@me.com or sean@hyperlocalnews.com.au ●



Trisha Avery
TRISHA AVERY IS THE CONVENER OF THE MONTAGUE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE
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METRO TUNNEL

Anzac Station structures begin to rise on St Kilda Rd

New images of the future Anzac Station have been revealed, as work moves above-ground to install the steel columns and timber canopy that will form the station entrance and new train/tram interchange on St Kilda Rd.



level, including installing stairs and escalators.

At the end of the year St Kilda Rd's tram tracks and traffic lanes will be realigned for the final time over the station, after being twice realigned already to allow the station to be built underground while traffic and trams continued using the road above.

When complete, Anzac Station will give Melburnians and visitors rail access to the Royal Botanic Gardens and Shrine of Remembrance for the first time and will eventually include a link to Melbourne Airport Rail via the Metro Tunnel, with a train trip from Anzac to the airport in just over 30 minutes.

The station will take pressure off the busiest tram route in the world – the St Kilda Rd/Swanston St corridor. Almost 40,000 people a day are expected to use the new station to access Melbourne's business precincts and growing communities, as well as major cultural destinations south of the Yarra.

The Metro Tunnel will create capacity for more than half a million extra passengers a week during peak times across Melbourne's train network and save up to 50 minutes on a round trip to St Kilda Rd ●

For more information:
metrotunnel.vic.gov.au

The images show the station concourse flooded with natural light below the 85-metre-long canopy, which will provide year-round weather protection for tram and train commuters.

During the past two years, hundreds of workers have removed around 400,000 tonnes of rock and soil to make room for the station and the eastern section of the Metro Tunnel, which will link the tunnel entrance at South Yarra to Town Hall Station.

During January and February crews dismantled the station's acoustic shed, which was used to contain noise and dust from round-the-clock tunnelling and construction.

In March, crews began installing the striking green steel columns that will support the canopy of the city's only direct platform-to-platform train/tram interchange.

Over the next six months, workers will assemble the canopy's 13 curved timber rafters and attach them to the support columns, before installing the roof panelling and skylights.

Other work taking place will include building out the tram interchange entrance at ground

SKYPAD LIVING

Pilot projects in vertical villages

Vertical villages need improvements tailored to our way of living – but how will pilot projects help?

As the name suggests, pilot projects are about testing. And currently, there are several interesting pilot projects aimed at vertical villages. Included here is the City of Melbourne's Food Organics High-Rise Pilot, which focuses on diverting food from landfill. To date, the City of Melbourne has looked at residents living in dwellings of up to five storeys. It's now expanding its focus to include residents living in high-rise properties of six storeys and above. The aim is to identify "the unique issues and challenges in food organics collection" that these properties might encounter when using new technologies, such as onsite organics processing.

Also under way, albeit on a more limited scale, is a pilot project looking at the energy efficiency of common areas in vertical villages. The stated aim is to gather data to create energy-use-profiles of the common property of high-rise residential apartment buildings.

However, while both pilot projects are potentially useful to vertical villages, it must be noted that "*pilots ain't pilots*" – meaning that the purpose of these two pilot projects are quite different – and not simply in terms of their subject matter.

City of Melbourne's Food Organics project is a "pilot program", meaning it is seeking to test the implementation and operation of an initiative in-context. As such, it is more akin to an experimental trial. In a nutshell, it is a small-scale, short-term tryout aimed at helping an organisation learn how a large-scale project might work in practice.

In contrast, the energy efficiency pilot is a "proof-of-concept" project which aims to determine whether selected approaches can, in fact, capture the type and calibre of required data (e.g., accurate, complete, etc). A proof-of-concept pilot, then, is an exercise which focuses on determining whether an idea can be turned into reality.

While both are pilot projects, a proof-of-concept pilot differs from a trial pilot principally in terms of focus – testing the tools versus testing the complete solution.

And to add to the terminology mix, there are also "pilot studies". These pilots are different again, as their purpose is to assist the design of a research project and,

in particular, test its validity. It provides feedback to the researcher regarding design weaknesses and is used to improve the quality of the subsequent study.

Why is this difference between pilot projects noteworthy?

It has, unfortunately, been the case that vertical villages have agreed to participate in a particular pilot project, based upon promises of shared benefits – but, in reality, the type of benefit returned was of little value to the owners' corporation.

For this reason, and before agreeing to participate, it is important for vertical villages to understand the type of pilot they are to be involved with, and what, specifically, they can expect in return. In particular, there must be clarity about our role, communication (frequency and type) and deliverables.

In terms of deliverables, beware the offer that "a final report will be shared" as these documents are typically tailored to a specific audience (not us!), meaning that the subject matter may only be of marginal relevance to owners' corporations. Indeed, it may be the case that access to the data is of more value to us.

Also view with caution initial promises of "regular communication" as this can quickly drop off once access has been granted.

Some may say that these issues can be sorted through greater attention during the negotiation phase. And largely this is true. However, unfamiliarity with the subject matter, unclear terminology and reference to "accepted approaches" makes difficult determining what is realistic for us to request.

So, what are the take-homes for vertical villages?

We need to walk an informed, fine line between encouraging pilots focused on our mode of living, and ensuring we are not reduced to the status of rubber-stampers. Most critically, we must demand the approaches taken are always "with us" and not "on us" ●



Dr Janette Corcoran

APARTMENT LIVING EXPERT

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10 YEARS ON

Looking back at Southbank News - 10 Years On

APRIL 2012 | ISSUE 06 |

SOUTHBANK Local NEWS

City living available to all

The former J.H. Boyd Girls' School site's future became clearer last month, as a new disabled-friendly residential development was announced.

The new development is set to help Southbank and its surrounds become more accessible for people with a disability with the creation of the new residential tower to be built by The Mackie Group.

The site and development of Cairo was decided in conjunction with the City of Melbourne, Haven; Home, Safe and a consortium of community agencies including Scope and MS Australia to ensure it is ideally set up for all tenants.

Tenants are expected to include people with a disability, students, city workers, young professionals and retirees.

One such person is Will Anderson, a former soldier, who suffered a brain injury and was left blind after a training accident.

He hopes to be among the first residents to move into the state-of-the-art building and is

excited about living so close to the city.

Mr Anderson also knows how this kind of development can help people with a disability.

"I think it's (Cairo) so important for people like myself who have been injured. I'll be living with other former soldiers and people with disabilities and often it's all in the mind. We can help each other out, living together," Mr Anderson said.

He is clearly excited about this opportunity, adding: "It's been difficult for my parents because there are no other options for living like this."

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle agrees with the advantages of such a fantastic location, saying: "This is rolled-gold accommodation. An address to die for."

"This is not about mobility access. This is about housing for people with a disability. Affordable housing in the middle of the city," Cr Doyle said.

Cr Doyle also explained the council's anticipation for the project.

"We think this development is a world first, so we are remarkably excited," adding: "I can't wait for construction to start."

He went on to explain the importance of the site for the city and, more specifically, for



Southbank.

"The site will provide much-needed open space for Southbank, a community that needs open space imminently," he said.

Mackie Group CEO Ralph Mackie was equally enthusiastic about the development saying he was well aware of the importance of the high-profile site and wanted to create a thriving village centre.

"The building will provide an exciting blend of social and housing diversity, with a mix

of residential apartments, key worker housing and housing for young people with an acquired or life-long disability," Mr Mackie said.

He was also aware of the benefits the new building would provide Southbank, saying: "The inclusion of the Cairo residential tower on the J.H. Boyd site will provide Southbank with a fully integrated 'neighbourhood heart' and complement the community's art, social and family health facilities."

"We hope it will be a beacon for the Southbank community and a model that other councils will adopt," Mr Mackie said.

Community group Young People in Nursing Homes National Alliance is one of the groups to have backed the development. National director Dr Browyn Morkham said the accommodation was an exciting chance for people with a disability.

"Apartment living, in concert with Cairo's onsite support, will enable young people with disabilities to access the city's cultural, social and economic opportunities to the full," Dr Morkham said.

Cr Doyle summed up the new facility, saying: "This is a remarkable partnership between the city, community groups and the private sector."

"It's pleasing to have the future of the site close to being finalised with City of Melbourne's conversion of the adjacent heritage school building into a community library and civic centre already well underway." ●

Quiz



- Gouache, oil and encaustic are all types of what?
- Who are the two approved e-scooter providers in the City of Melbourne?
- Where are the smallest bones in the human body located?
- Who was the first Indigenous Australian to become a member of the Federal Parliament?
- After closing in 2021, there is a proposition to move Melbourne Star Observation Wheel to where?
- What is the birth name of Dr. Dre (pictured)?
- Which hotel provider is set to call STH BNK by Beulah home?
- What is the hard upper shell of a tortoise called?
- In what year was the first Melbourne International Comedy Festival held?
- What term is usually given to the technique of turning sharply when surfing?
- Which popular Southbank restaurant has recently reopened after a closure due to a waste pipe spillage?
- If Labor win the federal election, Southbank is set to receive what?

QUIZ SOLUTIONS

- Paint 2, Lime and Neuron Mobility
- The Melbourne Aquarium site 6, Andre
- Ear 4, Neville Bonner (1971-1983)
- Romelle Young 7, Four Seasons
- Carapace 9, 1987 10, Carve or carving
- Pure South Dining 12, A community battery

5x5

No. 010

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

Q		I		K
	N		E	
A		S		Y
	E		S	
T		E		D

SOLUTIONS

QUICK, UNSUB, ASSAY, REUSE, TWEED
QUART, UNSUB, ISSUE, CEASE, KEYED

Sudoku

No. 010

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

EASY

	9		6	8			2	
				5			6	
		1	2		4	8		9
9				3				7
4			9		6			8
2				4				5
3		9	4		2	5		
	7			9				
	2			6	8			3

HARD

5			3			6		
	3	6	5		1			
		7			8		3	
1		8		4	3			
		9				2		
			8	2		1		3
	5		1			3		
			2		9	4	1	
		1			4			5

SOLUTIONS

EASY

1	3	6	8	9	7	2	5	4
2	8	4	5	3	9	1	7	6
9	7	5	1	4	6	8	3	2
5	6	9	7	4	2	1	3	8
8	3	2	1	7	5	2	4	6
7	9	5	6	8	3	4	1	2

HARD

5	1	4	3	6	9	2	7	8
6	9	3	7	8	1	2	5	4
7	8	2	1	5	2	7	4	6
8	6	9	7	4	3	1	5	2
9	5	1	8	6	4	7	3	2
2	4	7	1	9	4	2	8	3
3	6	5	7	1	9	4	2	8
4	2	1	5	9	7	6	3	8
7	9	5	6	8	3	1	2	4

Wordfind

Theme: Musical instruments

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

T	I	M	P	A	N	I	M	U	R	D
O	G	O	I	I	R	V	I	O	L	A
T	U	B	A	V	C	U	K	E	U	C
B	I	O	N	C	I	C	H	E	T	C
A	T	E	O	S	M	O	O	G	E	O
N	A	T	H	R	C	E	L	L	O	R
J	R	G	O	N	G	B	S	I	O	I
O	H	A	R	P	R	A	A	A	N	D
C	O	R	N	E	T	A	N	S	X	I
X	Y	L	O	P	H	O	N	E	S	O
M	A	J	M	A	N	D	O	L	I	N

- | | | |
|-----------|----------|-----------|
| ACCORDION | HORN | SAX |
| BANJO | JAM | TIMPANI |
| BASS | LUTE | TUBA |
| CELLO | MANDOLIN | UKE |
| CORNET | MOOG | VIOLA |
| DRUM | OBOE | VIOLIN |
| GONG | ORGAN | XYLOPHONE |
| GUITAR | PIANO | |
| HARP | PICCOLO | |

Secret message: Orchestra

Crossword

No. 010

ACROSS

- Paradise (6)
- Shock; surprise (8)
- US state (7)
- Liberty (7)
- Myths (7)
- Large reptiles (7)
- Country in Central America (9)
- Land surrounded by ocean (4)
- Cab (4)
- Unnecessary (9)
- Australian currency units (7)
- Stupid (7)
- Famous waterfall (7)
- Waterway (7)
- Traveller (8)
- Redact (6)

1		2		3		4	5		6		7		8
					9								
10							11						
12							13						14
15		16				17					18		
											19		
20						21							
					22								
23							24				25		
26							27						
28										29			

DOWN

- Drew attention to (11)
- Between (5)
- Designer of machines or structures (8)
- Protect (9)
- street (3,3)

- Southeast Asian nation (9)
- Pig meat (3)
- Admirers (4)
- Awesome (11)
- Supplementary (9)
- Plane and rocket industry (9)
- Signal (8)
- African desert (6)
- 2.54cm (4)
- Melodies (5)
- Modern; recent (3)

SOLUTION

H	O	S	N	E	O	R	R	E	A	F	A	A	V	A	M
V	E	I	H	C	R	B	R	B	E	I	N	E	I	N	E
T	E	N	N	H	O	V	B	D	V	I	N	E	I	N	E
N	U	C	N	P	H	I									
I	L	O	I	D	I	S	B	V	I	O	D				
V	O														
A	N	O	N	O	G	E									
O	T	I	S	E											
E	S	I													
D	E	A													
S	E	N	N	O	G	S	O	N	E	B	E				
O	M	E	N	I	N	H									
W	O	D	E												
V	N	N													
H	S	I	N	O	I	S	T	V	N	E	A				

Codeword

No. 010

17	3	8		16	13	16	8	14	1		10	1	6
23		7		5		7		12			14		7
14	12	13		16	6		23	7	14	2	9	11	13
10							14			11		19	11
13	1	23		19	17	9	11		1	21	1	8	13
23					14		16		6		6		
8		Q	18	1	8	7		16	14	24	13	9	12
			8		16		1		9				9
13	12	13		11	1		4	13	12	12	13	19	8
22			17			23		14			23		14
13	15	20		19	1	14	11		1	W	1	23	13
20			1			24		21		23		8	8
6	1	23			13	19	9	16	13	11	13	12	6

SOLUTIONS

I	X	P	D	U	L	C	B	J	R	G	W	O
9	2	23	22	12	22	61	11	41	51	11	1	1
A	Z	Y	K	F	H	S	O	V	M	N	E	
13	11	11	11	10	10	8	9	4	4	3	2	1

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
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10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

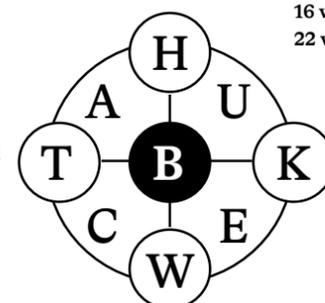
9-Letter

No. 010

Today's Focus:

- 11 words: Good
- 16 words: Very good
- 22 words: Excellent

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



SOLUTIONS

Reference: Collins Concise English Dictionary

abet, about, bach, back, bake, batch, bare, bath, barbe, beach, beak, bean, beck, beta, buck, bucket, BUCKWHHEAT, cube, rabu, tuba, tube

市政要求补偿新大楼造成的遮影

维多利亚国立美术馆的新当代美术馆 (NGVC)的设计表明,这个项目虽然令人赞叹,但可能会造成南岸大道(Southbank Boulevard)上公园的遮影,因此墨尔本市政议员建议州政府应该另建一个新南岸公园来补偿此影响。

David Schout

这座拟建的60米高的建筑是州政府耗资17亿澳元改造墨尔本艺术区的核心,市政目前还没有获得详细的项目计划。

于3月15日公布的项目设计引发了一个问题,即这个地标性的项目是否会与南岸以西的建筑形成不规范的连接,尤其给澳广公司外面的公园带来过度阴影,该公园于6个月前刚开放。



市议员Rohan Leppert表示,项目最初的计划是“壮观的”,但是对南岸有限的绿色空间所带来的影响也需要得到解决。

他说:“当地居民都知道,市政在南岸大道的绿地公园项目花费了大量资金。”

“市政对该项目的戒备态度是很自然的,因为我们希望确保南岸所有稀缺绿色开放空间的可用性不会受到损害。”

南岸是澳大利亚人口最稠密的区域之一,长期以来,公共空间的匮乏一直是当地

居民所焦虑的。

这位市政的规划副主管Leppert议员建议,如果这个大规模的开发项目确实导致了过度的遮影,州政府应该从这个17亿澳元的项目中划出“一小部分”来为南岸居民另建一个公园。

“作为墨尔本艺术区开发的一部分,我认为州政府应该出资,在南岸的西面建造一个与社区公园不同的美妙公共空间,以补偿南岸大道的一些遮影。”

他表示,希望看到代表Albert Park选区的州议员Martin Foley,能为当地居民表达这一倡议。

他相信市政在这方面能够确保取得最好的结果。

“虽然作为墨尔本艺术区开发的一部分,将会有新的美妙的公共开放空间,但这与当地的社区公园不同,所以我确实认为州政府应该出资建造另一个当地社区公园,再向西进入南岸,以抵消南岸林荫大道的一些影响。”

户外用餐市政费继续免除

随着墨尔本从疫情中逐步恢复,墨尔本市政再次免去了7个月的户外餐饮费,南岸(Southbank)的餐饮商家终于松了一口气。

Brendan Rees

自2020年10月开始的户外用餐计划以来,市政一直免收户外用餐和街头表演的许可费,原定于4月1日恢复。

在3月29日的市政会议上,由市政城市振兴部门负责人Roshena Campbell议员提

出了一项动议,市议员批准将该计划延长至10月31日。该动议指出,“当我们进入冬季的几个月时间里,许多商家仍在苦苦挣扎”,而且“现在并不是向他们增加费用负担的时候。”

“他们对现时消费者的信心感到担忧,今年早些时候,有74%的商家表示,他们正在为生存而挣扎。”

南岸Asado餐厅的行政总厨Ollie Gould表示,户外用餐计划的延期令人鼓舞,因为“政府持续的支持将帮助我们解决可能出现的任何问题。”

他表示:“由于供应链、进口税和市政费的价格大幅上涨,餐馆肯定受到影响,因此



任何有助于我们渡过难关的举措都将再次拯救很多商家。”

“我们在外面放了八张户外用餐桌子,这非常有益。提高了我们的营业额,增加了收入。”

“当然还有当地市民的支持,我们很幸运,过去几个月的天气不错,南岸有很多景点吸引人们过来。”

他补充说,“人们希望到10月份时,还会有一次延期,因为10月以后的六个月,在温暖天气中的户外用餐将对整个餐饮业经济是一个很大的推动。”

咖啡馆Espresso Bar的老板Nick Edgar表示,他的户外用餐费用通常每年约为1万澳元,“所以市政免去了这一费用实在令人惊喜。”



新建公寓考虑住家办公需要

Rhonda Dredge

居住在墨尔本广场(Melbourne Square)现有两栋大楼的居民大多在家办公,他们不得不凑合着用第二间卧室作为工作空间,或者另找个空位放办公桌。

两年前Max Baibakov在这两栋大楼完工后就搬进来了,因为这里的公寓卧室比他在别处能找到的都大。

而Nikhil Narindranath则将他的一间卧室变成了他和他同伴的书房,但空间不大。

这就是墨尔本COVID疫情后的情形,在家工作的人们正在考虑如何安排他们的生活。

由于这百年一遇的COVID疫情生活仍不确定,墨尔本广场开发商OSK Property正在考虑采取措施以适应疫情后时代的需要。

根据OSK Property营销经理Scott Jessop的说法,墨尔本广场的下一座住宅

大楼将更适应居民远程工作的需求。

他说:“这正是我们要考虑研究的,接下来拟建的大楼大多数都有书房或灵活空间,混合了第二个生活区、学习区或儿童玩耍区。”

两年前,该公司设想了一座拥有更大“技术支撑”的办公大楼,以便远程办公。

现在他们正在研究下一个公寓楼将如何适应这些在家工作的人。

两座住宅楼于2019年竣工,公司在应对疫情方面迅速取得了成效。

Jessop先生说:“我们在2020年就设法加入了健康因素,如空气循环泵和水净化设备。”

对于一些已经入住的买家,争对疫情而更新他们的公寓就太晚了。

第三座大楼将于2022年晚些时候投入使用,该大楼的设计将向远程工作需求转变。

非盈利性的自行车工作室

对许多人来说,拥有一辆自行车只是另一种交通方式,但对一些人来说,这是他们负担不起的奢侈品。

Kaylah-Joelle Baker

Mike King目睹了那些买不起自行车又迫切需要自行车作为交通工具的人们,他发现了更多这方面的潜力,开始利用他的工具箱,创建了一个非营利性的社区自行车工作室Back2Bikes。

创建这个工作室的唯一使命是通过翻新捐赠的自行车来帮助有需要的人,现在Back2Bikes犹如一个运转良好的机器,由付工资的工作室经理和志愿者帮助运行。

Mike找到了他的邻居Mark Bradley,看到他在自己的车库里修理自己的自行车。他一开始在工作室做了六个月的志愿者,然后担任了目前的全职工作室经理。

Bradley先生说:“这个工作室已经有大约10年了,是出于无私动机而开始工作的。我们的宗旨是帮助人们使用自行车作为交通工具。”

“我们把回收自行车作为我们的主要服务项目,并将这些自行车捐赠给有需要的人,如持有医疗保健卡的人、难民和寻求庇护者。”

每周日留出时间让志愿者来帮助翻新自行车,Back2Bikes继续“每月向有需要的人捐赠15至20辆自行车。”

此外,这家非营利组织还出售翻新的自行车,以此积累现金,用于提供服务和自行车维修。

考虑到自行车是“非常有用的机器”



, Mark看到这个工作室以多种方式帮助了许多人。

他说:“有刚从监狱释放出来的人来找我们,他们得到了一份工作,但需要交通工具,而没有钱。拥有一辆自行车意味着他们可以实现自己的愿望,上班挣钱,重新站起来。”

除了为人们提供急需的交通工具,Back2Bikes还为那些通常无法独自骑自行车的人提供结伴骑行。

What's On: April

Community Calendar



FRIDAYS: UNTIL 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



UNTIL JUNE 30

Aboriginal Heritage Walk

Gain insight into the rich history and thriving culture of the First Peoples of Australia through a journey of identifying significant native plants within the Gardens.

rbg.vic.gov.au

MPavilion
MPavilion is a temporary pavilion located in the Queen Victoria Gardens (opposite Arts Centre Melbourne) presenting daily free performances, talks, workshops and more until April 24.
mpavilion.org



Melbourne Street Eatz
Located alongside the Yarra at South Wharf featuring weekly rotating trucks, bars, live music and events, it's the ultimate day and night out open from Thursday to Sundays until April 25.
melbournestreeteatz.com



Meet the Candidates for Macnamara

There will be two opportunities for locals to meet with their candidates ahead of the federal election, both at Boyd Community Hub - April 24 @ 2pm, and May 3 @ 6.30pm. For details on each event, visit southbank3006.com and southbankresidents.org.au



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](https://www.facebook.com/SouthbankSustainabilityGroup)

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Max Hui



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Contact Agent

Georgina Zeneldin



7/26 Redfern Road, Hawthorn East
\$1,100,000 - \$1,200,000

Austen Kosasih



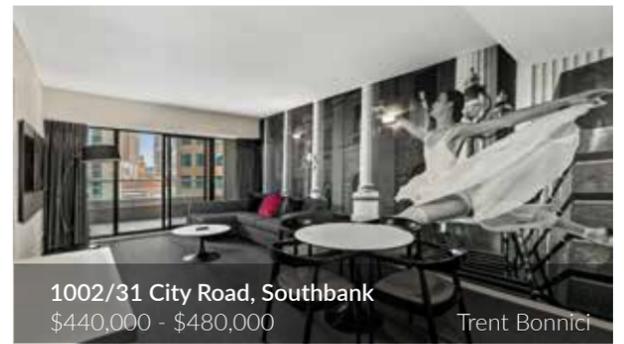
604/1 Roy Street, Melbourne
\$820,000 - \$860,000

Tommy-lee Davies



2302/283 City Road, Southbank
\$475,000 - \$500,000

Trent Bonnici



1002/31 City Road, Southbank
\$440,000 - \$480,000

Trent Bonnici



2603/283 City Road, Southbank
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Trent Bonnici



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16/131 La Trobe Street, Melbourne
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616/488 Swanston Street, Melbourne
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Trent Bonnici



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