

SOUTHBANK NEWS

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Forever Free

Puzzles & Trivia P25



Mirvac’s vision for a new “rooftop oasis” at Riverside Quay revealed

Mirvac Group has lodged a planning permit application for the transformation of 2000 square metres of under-utilised roof space on top of the two Riverside Quay buildings, to be reimagined as one of “Melbourne’s most exciting and unique venues once complete”. *More on page 8.*

Local police go “back-to-basics” in new “Neighbourhood Policing” grassroots approach

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
SAFETY & SECURITY

Local police are going “back-to-basics” to tackle crime and support community safety under a new initiative to be launched in Southbank.

The “Neighbourhood Policing” model will see police work closely with the community in understanding their concerns and addressing local safety issues.

Victoria Police Sergeant Dinah Tremain of East Melbourne Police Station, who will coordinate the initiative across the Melbourne police service area which includes Southbank, said Neighbourhood Policing was “about going back to true grassroots police work.”

“We’re not just listening to the community but following through on their concerns and tasking police to deal with them,” she said. “We’ll then report back to the community on what has been done.”

“The community should be assured we’re listening and will continue to listen. Importantly, we’ll also act and make sure they know when we do.”

A local safety committee involving police, the City of Melbourne, and local groups has been formed and will meet for the first time in June.

The committee will help police determine and prioritise what issues are of most concern to residents, businesses, and visitors in the Melbourne police service area.

Local police stations will keep a register of issues that matter most to their local community, which will then be assigned to officers to address before being reported back to residents of its progress.

Police will work with partners such as the City of Melbourne, community groups and government agencies when issues are more complex.

Continued on page 2.

The Fox to “rival Tate and Met”, but how will transformed Arts Precinct intersect with Southbank?

Speaking at a Yarra River Business Association (YRBA) forum in April, Melbourne Arts Precinct director Michael Parry answered questions as to how the \$1.7 billion project will impact Southbank directly to the west of the site.

WORDS BY *David Schout*
PLANNING

How Melbourne’s transformed Arts Precinct intersects with Southbank has been a “key consideration” for design teams working on the huge project, according to the precinct’s director.

Addressing early amenity concerns with the project, Michael Parry believed its overall contribution “significantly outweighs some of those downsides.”

Described as the “elephant in the room” at an April luncheon hosted by the YRBA, locals have been concerned with how the project’s elevated deck above Sturt St would impact lower pedestrian areas directly to the west.

YRBA executive officer Tim Bracher said that “at the moment, we just foresee all those undercroft areas as being dark, dank and possibly unsafe.”

Mr Parry said two design teams, Hassell and SO - IL, had partnered to work on the public realm aspect of the project.

“It’s been a key consideration of the work around the public realm,” he said.

“Those connectivity points and the pedestrian links, and how that feels and connects across the two levels,

have been very much a pre-occupation of that team. And we’re very, very keen to make sure that we’ve got welcoming connections, to and from all the different touchpoints around the outside of the public realm.”

Mr Parry said early visualisations revealed the “level of density of planting” with “green edges softening the transitions between some of those areas.”

He added however that the areas below served a crucial role for the large cultural institutions above.

“There are still loading docks down there — I’m not going to try and shy away from that. There is the reality of keeping these scales of galleries and theatres operating requires truck movements and those kinds of things. That’s just the reality of running those facilities ... but we are conscious of getting that balance right between having the pedestrian connectivity and these amazing public spaces we want to create and creating really great functional cultural spaces as well.”

As part of upcoming works, Sturt St (to the north of Southbank Boulevard) will no longer be a public road, and will become a private access pathway for loading facilities at the back of the Arts Centre.

Continued on page 3.

ARTS & CULTURE, PAGE 03 **A** “Unparalleled donation” sees NGVC renamed



SAFETY & SECURITY, PAGE 05 **B** Graffiti blitz welcomed but not enough



BUSINESS, PAGE 09 **C** Melbourne Money a welcome boost for trade



ELECTIONS, PAGE 11 **D** Steph Hodgins May commits to sky park



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Local police go “back-to-basics” in new “Neighbourhood Policing” grassroots approach

Continued from page 1.

Writing in this month’s edition of *Southbank News*, Southbank Police Station commander Senior Sergeant Alex O’Toole said police will be “listening intently” to the community members and “delivering a response aimed at increasing community safety and involvement with police.”

Local residents’ group Southbank3006 welcomed the initiative saying it was a “great step towards unifying the community and Victoria Police in a common goal.”

“It’s very important for Victoria Police to go back to grass roots, boots on the ground policing strategies and connect with the community to understand the unique needs of individual suburbs,” the group’s deputy president Jannine Pattison said. “Some of the best policing has come from community tips and the best way to involve community is by building strong neighbourhood relationships.”

“Southbank3006 ran a community meet and greet in March and we identified a common community concern regarding safety, security and anti-social behaviour.”

Southbank3006 will be holding a community forum at The Assembly Hall at Boyd Community Hub on May 29 at 2pm to discuss community safety and an opportunity to meet Sgt Tremain.

Southbank Residents’ Association president Tony Penna welcomed the initiative as the “safety of residents has always been a top priority.”

“We look forward to working closely with the team as this new initiative takes shape,” he said.

The City of Melbourne’s city safety, security, and amenity manager Dean Robertson told the EastEnders CBD residents’ group meeting in April that the council was “truly happy to be involved” in the initiative, adding safety was a “huge issue.”



▲ *Snr Constable Jake Jones engages with the community.*
Picture: Murray Enders.

“

Some of the best policing has come from community tips and the best way to involve community is by building strong neighbourhood relationships.

”

“It’s about how do we do things differently, and how do we look at a way to try and make sure even the perception of safety is okay,” he said.

“The city is overall pretty good but if you have an experience or if you see something your perception becomes your reality – and that’s the stuff we need to deal with, so we’re working on that.”

Mr Roberston said the council had begun engaging with the community with international students being among the first to provide their thoughts on safety.

“We interviewed 20 students ... they were reporting to us when they go out, they really think about where they’re going to go, what they’re going to do, what time they will be home and ‘should I be home?’”

He said some of the feedback included international students wanting to carry an umbrella as “a means for defence”, which council was not advocating “but that’s some of the things we’ve heard”.

Assistant Commissioner Tim Hansen said

Neighbourhood Policing, which was being rolled out across the state, was about ensuring Victoria Police “get the basics of police work right to prevent and deter crime.”

Victoria Police has launched an online community sentiment survey to hear what issues are of importance, how they want to engage with police and how comfortable they feel approaching police and PSOs ●

For more information:

engage.vic.gov.au/annual-vicpol-community-sentiment-survey-2022



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The Fox to “rival Tate and Met”, but how will transformed Arts Precinct intersect with Southbank?

Continued from page 1.

There were also questions from the floor about the height of the new NGV Contemporary, recently renamed “The Fox” after a \$100 million donation from Lindsay and Paula Fox to the project.

The preferred building height on Southbank Boulevard was 24 metres, however early plans proposed a height of up to 60 metres.

Concerns have arisen from residents opposite the new facility — with designs indicating some in the Triptych Apartments building opposite will be faced with a blank wall — an issue Mr Parry addressed.

“These are still concepts, so there is still work to be done on these designs and we expect them to evolve and adapt as we go. That said, it’s not going to radically change — it will be an evolution of this design rather than a significant step change.”

He said that while he would not speak on behalf of the architects, the interface with Kavanagh St was deliberate.

“The intention of that face of the building was to not have too many windows or too many other activations there in order to provide some privacy for residents on that side. It also goes to the fact that gallery spaces generally don’t have windows in them to protect artwork, so that’s part of the reason why there’s not a lot of other windows on that side.”

Mr Parry signed off public questions about the project’s intersection with Southbank by arguing that issues should be viewed within the wider context of the project’s contribution.

“The overall question about amenity I’d probably answer a different way, which is probably trying to look at it as the whole of what we’re providing here, which is a very significant new cultural facility for Melbourne, a very large change in what the gallery can achieve, the 18,000sqm of new public space. So, there is a series of trade-offs here, obviously, but we believe the contribution the project is making significantly outweighs some of those downsides.”

“The Fox” will be located at 77 Southbank Boulevard, a site bound by Sturt St, Kavanagh St and Southbank Boulevard.

The current six-storey commercial office building was purchased for \$95.5 million by the state government from Carlton and United Breweries in 2018, and will be demolished as part of the phase one works for the Arts Precinct transformation, at the beginning of 2023.

There is a significant space inside the CUB building that is currently used by Orchestra Victoria as its rehearsal space, where it is based right now, and Mr Parry said relocation discussions were ongoing.

“We are now working with Orchestra Victoria and with Creative Victoria to find spaces for the orchestra to continue to be able to rehearse, play and work once they have to leave that building. Orchestra Victoria has been working from a whole series of different spaces around Melbourne for some time. It was opportunistic that when the government acquired the 77 Southbank Boulevard building it was a great opportunity to use that space and provide it for Orchestra Victoria. We remain committed to finding a space for them going forward.”



▲ L-R: Michael Parry, YRBA president Jeremy Vincent, Vic Tourism Industry Council CEO Felicia Mariani and Cr Kevin Louey.

Michael Parry, director Melbourne Arts Precinct Corporation, on...

The Arts Centre: “It’s an incredible facility, but it is getting very much to the end of its life for many parts of the building.”

The Fox: NGV Contemporary: “It’s going to be a complete gamechanger. NGV is already one of the Southern Hemisphere’s largest galleries; this will now take NGV to being one of the largest galleries anywhere in the world. We are rivalling the Tate (in London), we are rivalling the Met (The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City) — it’s going to be a significant shift on the global playing field, and we couldn’t be more excited about the opportunity.”

Australian architect Angelo Candalepas and Associates: “Having heard Angelo speak about his design a number of times now, he has a very deep appreciation for both what this gallery means for Melbourne and how it fits into the precinct.”

The proposed completion date of 2028: “Part of the reason it’s going to take quite an extended period of time is that we are keeping a lot of the existing facilities operational throughout this time. The NGV International will remain operational right throughout this development. The Theatres building — despite all the incredible amount of work we’re doing behind the scenes underground and the complexity there — will continue operating throughout that period. So, the Fairfax and the Playhouse will continue operating right through this period.” ●



▲ Despite widespread praise, there are concerns with how the upgraded precinct intersects with Southbank (right of this artist impression).



▲ Paula Fox AO and Lindsay Fox AC.

Photo: Josh Robenstone.

“Unparalleled donation” sees NGV Contemporary renamed

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
ARTS & CULTURE

Following a sizeable donation of \$100 million from husband and wife Lindsay and Paula Fox, the NGV Contemporary is paying tribute to the family with its new name The Fox: NGV Contemporary.

The funding, which will contribute to the build of the NGV Contemporary, has been recognised as the largest cultural gift for a capital program ever made to an Australian art museum by a living donor.

The astounding amount has left National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) director Tony Ellwood “astonished” and “overwhelmed” by the level of generosity from the couple who have had a long-held commitment and history in supporting the NGV.

“The Fox family should be commended on their leadership in this sector and for the real, tangible impact that their giving has, and will continue to have, on the lives of so many,” Mr Ellwood said.

“We are delighted to see the vision for NGV Contemporary supported by the Fox family, who are long-time champions of the NGV.”

“This gift is a testament to their strong sense of civic pride and their belief in the accessibility of the arts to all members of our community.”

NGV’s president of the Council of Trustees Janet Whiting also thanked the Fox family, labelling the funding an “unparalleled donation.”

Lindsay Fox is an Australian businessman who founded Australian

logistics company Linfox, and alongside his wife Paula Fox they have made a number of contributions over the years to the arts, housing and medical research sectors.

Mrs Fox, who is also an NGV Foundation board member, said on the night of the announcement that the Fox family believed in the “vital work of the NGV” and hoped their donation would “inspire others in supporting this program.”

“This gift is the culmination of many years of passionate support for the NGV, its acquisitions and its wider program. We believe in the impact of the incredible work of the gallery, which brings joy to our community through art and design,” she said.

The funding announcement event took place at NGV International on April 19, a date which also coincided with Mr Fox’s 85th birthday.

After taking the time to remark on the “extraordinary gift”, Minister for Creative Industries Danny Pearson also spoke about the importance of philanthropy transforming cities.

The Southbank project is part of the Victorian Government’s \$1.7 billion investment into transforming the Melbourne Arts Precinct and will be designed by NSW firm Angelo Candalepas and Associates after it successfully completed the extensive selection process.

The project, which is set to open in 2028, will have created more than 11,000 jobs throughout the life of the project with hundreds of ongoing creative sector jobs hoped to be generated when completed ●



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Graffiti clean-up welcomed, but council concedes blitz is not enough

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
SAFETY & SECURITY

The City of Melbourne has stepped up its fight against graffiti with residents reporting a noticeable difference to Southbank following a major blitz across the city in March.

It comes as the council battles to fight a 60 per cent increase in graffiti and tagging since the pandemic began – with councillors voting at their April 26 meeting to seek the “urgent assistance” of the state government to help combat the vandalism scourge.

The blitz saw clean-up crews hit the streets of the Southbank, Docklands, South Wharf, and Hoddle Grid areas as the council aimed to improve public spaces and ensure the city was clean as workers, students and visitors return.

Among the areas targeted in Southbank was 400 square metres of graffiti which was removed from a wall at 26 Power St – equivalent to the size of more than two tennis courts, while 300 square metres of graffiti were taken down at 56-58 Clarendon St, both of which were private property.

The average time between graffiti being reported and cleaned was five days – a 70 per cent reduction compared to January.

Southbank Residents’ Association (SRA) Tony Penna said the council’s measure of posting QR codes around the city to encourage residents and visitors to report graffiti had been “very efficient.”

“People who have used QR codes to report graffiti have reported that the graffiti has been removed within days; my personal experience has been very efficient,” he said.

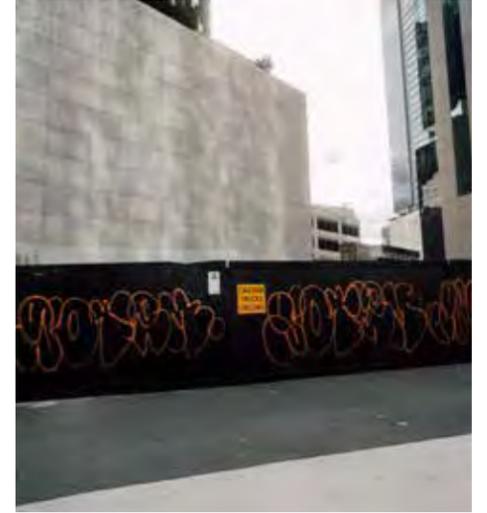
“The QR codes on the rubbish bins are working – once it’s reported the graffiti is gone very quickly.”

However, Mr Penna acknowledged that cleaning graffiti was costly, and “needs to probably be tackled first and foremost by the state government because it’s a law-and-order issue.”

But he added, “the City of Melbourne is doing



▲ Southbank Residents’ Association president Tony Penna inspects graffiti on a wall at Power St, which was recently cleaned in a graffiti blitz. Photo: Murray Enders.



its best in trying to address it, and I think they’ve done a pretty good job from my experience.”

Southbank 3006 residents’ group spokesman David Hamilton said the blitz had made a “definite impact” on the local area.

“When people see a speedy response from the council they will participate and report,” he said.

“This confirms that the Lord Mayor’s commitment to make council service local and accountable is the correct strategy for Southbank. We need more of it across all council departments.”

However, he said while QR codes “makes it simpler, faster, and easier for people to report, it needs to be backed with an education and awareness program to encourage reporting.”

Lord Mayor Sally Capp conceded at the council meeting that “we don’t have the unlimited resources to just keep cleaning” and successfully moved a motion requesting the City of Melbourne work with the state government, Victoria Police, and M9 councils (an inner city-advocacy group) in a “coordinated approach to graffiti deterrence.”

Cr Capp said a joint approach would ensure “our city has an opportunity not just to recover, but to literally be a city that can welcome people with its beautiful buildings, beautiful, physical environment that is not impacted in such a negative way by tagging and graffiti.”

“We’re seeing that heightened increase of tagging ... we absolutely have to look more broadly and use the data more deeply and efforts to deter and prevent [the illegal behaviour].”

In approving the motion, the council will provide a breakdown of graffiti reports including by area, month, asset type, and response times for the 2021-22 financial year.

The council’s city activation portfolio lead Cr Roshena Campbell said preventing and deterring graffiti was critical and “looks at how we can best use the resources we have for cleaning the city.”

“Although we’ve invested heavily in a blitz, it’s not on its own enough,” she said, adding “The reality is that this is a scourge on our city.”

Victoria Police launched Operation Fade in the CBD in late February this year, targeting those involved in graffiti and vandalism, which

a police spokesperson said had been a “devastating blow to small businesses who have been doing it tough over the last couple of years to find their properties damaged and being left to cover the cost.”

“In a little over a month, this dedicated group of officers has already arrested 14 people allegedly involved in graffitiing, including four people who were remanded as a result of their offending,” the spokesperson said.

“This should leave the community in no doubt that police take graffiti and other forms of criminal damage seriously and if you do the wrong thing, you will be caught.”

Police are encouraging the community to report any instances of graffiti to your property to the Police Assistance Line (131 444) or by submitting an online report ●

Submit an online report:
police.vic.gov.au

Vegemite factory one of three Fishermans Bend sites given heritage protection

WORDS BY *David Schout*
HERITAGE

The industrial and social heritage of Fishermans Bend has been recognised, after an independent panel recommended three local sites be granted heritage protection.

The former Kraft Vegemite Factory, Shed 21 and the Electricity Substation on Salmon St have all been added to the City of Melbourne heritage overlay.

Perhaps most notably, the smell of Vegemite from the factory – an aroma that drivers passing over the Westgate Bridge might know well – has been recognised for its “intangible cultural heritage” in what could

be a first in Australia.

Now owned by Bega, the factory at 1 Vegemite Way has produced Vegemite since the 1920s.

After the City of Melbourne agreed with a National Trust of Australia (Victoria) push in 2021 that the distinct smell from the former Kraft Factory in Port Melbourne should be recognised, that view was agreed with by Planning Panels Victoria.

“The distinctive smell of the Vegemite manufacturing process is a significant intangible element of the site and should be referenced in both the review citation and statement of significance to appropriately reflect the importance of this element,” its report concluded.

The National Trust has previously

concluded that the smell of Australia’s most iconic spread was “an excellent example of intangible cultural heritage and allows the purpose of the building to be understood.”

In most cases, heritage protection recognised the historical and aesthetic importance of a location, however it argued there were “numerous examples internationally of efforts to recognise and protect” the “sounds and smells” of cultural landscapes.

The council’s planning chair Nicholas Reece said he was pleased the distinct aroma – and the overall industrial history of Fishermans Bend – was being recognised.

“When it comes to the industrial history of Australia, there is no more significant location than Fishermans

Bend,” the Deputy Lord Mayor said at a May 3 Future Melbourne Committee meeting. “It’s the place where they built aircraft and armaments during World War II, it’s the place where the first Holden car rolled off the production line, and it’s the place where they make Vegemite. It is indeed an important part of the industrial and social heritage of this nation.”

The council’s heritage review of the area had in 2021 concluded that Shed 21 in Docklands and the former SEC Electricity Substation in Port Melbourne were also “important reminders of Victoria’s wartime industrialisation and postwar prosperity”, something the independent panel agreed with.

Heritage protection does not prevent future development outright, but ensures that any works on the site must be done so sensitively and go through checks by the council.

Deputy planning chair Cr Rohan Leppert said it was timely that important sites in Fishermans Bend – a precinct set to go transformational change in the coming years – were granted protection.

“For just three places, this has been quite an elaborate process. That’s fair enough; this is a precinct that is going to undergo a lot of change in years to come,” he said. “We always want to ensure when we’re adding places to the heritage overlay that we’re doing so with the most robust evidence we possibly can.” ●





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Residents' fears of trucks using notorious City Rd intersection grows after traffic pole knocked over

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
TRANSPORT

Southbank's two residents' groups will hold talks with the Department of Transport (DoT) over the troublesome City Rd-Power St intersection after another truck collided with a traffic pole in April.

Southbank News understands a B-double truck struck a traffic light post on April 3 – the same intersection where a truck hit and injured five pedestrians one year ago, which was followed by a truck hitting and dragging a car around the corner two months later.

While the circumstances of the latest incident are unknown, photos showed the light post leaning precariously over the road – with a witness saying a truck had “turned way too deep and ended up hitting the traffic light.”

Luckily, it's believed no-one was injured.

Late last year, the state government announced the intersection would get a \$3.8 million safety overhaul after several short-term safety measures were installed.

This included the installation of bollards and concrete blocks, signs and pavement markings warning of turning trucks, and new technology to minimise waiting periods for pedestrians.

However, within 24 hours of temporary bollards being installed last June, they too were bowled over by a truck, along with a street sign.

The overhaul works are expected to begin later this year, but with the intersection still being frequented by trucks, the community remained fearful of another serious crash occurring.

Southbank Residents' Association president Tony Penna has long held the view that taking trucks off City Rd was the “ultimate answer” but in terms of “how do they do that? That is the question.”

Mr Penna said he would meet face-to-face with DoT on May 12 to get an update on the



▲ A traffic light pole was struck last month at the notorious City Rd-Power St intersection.

intersection and to check whether everything was on track for the overhaul.

“The measures that they're putting in place are certainly an improvement on what we've got, but the ultimate answer to that intersection is we've got to take trucks off City Rd,” he said.

“But the solution that they're proposing will go a long way to making that intersection safer for pedestrians and trucks.”

Southbank3006 residents' group has also contacted the DoT after the traffic light incident and is also expected to hold a meeting this month.

The group's deputy president Jannine Pattison raised her concerns over the safety

of drivers waiting to turn right onto City Rd “as they are left quite vulnerable and exposed” because “there is no physical barrier between turning trucks and waiting cars.”

A DoT spokesperson said, “Early preparation work is underway to deliver our \$3.8 million upgrade for the intersection of City Rd and Power St in Southbank, which will create more space between pedestrians and road users while providing more room for heavy vehicles.”

“We will continue to monitor traffic and safety at this intersection before works commence later this year,” the spokesperson said.

Designs finalised by the state government show how a traffic island would be removed and the crossing at Power St moved away from the corner to make it safer for pedestrians waiting to cross.

Under the plans, all lanes on City Rd would be shifted north and the stop line for west-bound traffic pushed back, creating more room for large trucks to turn and to allow for the widening of the footpath.

An automated pedestrian crossing and sensors to trigger changes to traffic lights will remain in place to provide additional time for pedestrians to cross.

Meanwhile, Ms Pattison is continuing her battle to make the Kavanagh St-Power St intersection safer after witnessing multiple crashes at the site.

“Nothing is forecasted to happen there. Sadly, it looks like it may take a serious accident or fatality before that section of road is looked at,” she told *Southbank News*.

A DoT engineer met with Ms Pattison earlier this year to assess the intersection, however, there are no plans to make any changes at the site.

Southbank3006 president David Hamilton said, “We need a comprehensive traffic management strategy for all of Southbank, not just City Rd.” ●



Aggravated burglary

CRIME

Police are appealing for public assistance following an aggravated burglary in South Melbourne in March.

Port Philip Crime Investigation Unit detectives have been told a man entered a property on Coventry St about 2.40am on March 24 while the occupants were asleep.

Police say a male victim woke to find the offender and led him out of the building. The victim was not injured, and the offender fled the scene.

Investigators have released a digital image as well as CCTV images of a man who they believe may be able to assist with their inquiries.

Police seek public's help after man assaulted in Southbank

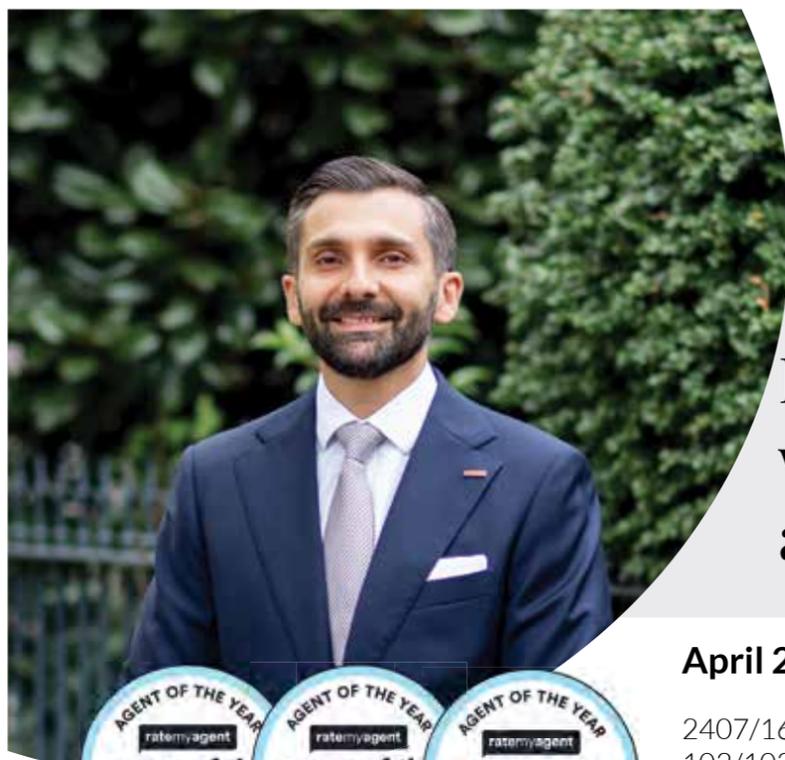
Melbourne Crime Investigation Unit detectives are appealing for witnesses to come forward after a man was knocked unconscious during an assault in Southbank on May 8.

Investigators have been told a 19-year-old South Australian man was walking along Crown Promenade when he attempted to speak to a group of men at around 1.15am.

Police allege two men in the group began assaulting the man before knocking him unconscious and walking away.

The victim was taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a report online at crimestoppersvic.com.au or email Melbourne Crime Investigation Unit at MELBOURNECIU-OIC@police.vic.gov.au ●



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2302/63 Whiteman St, Southbank	Sold Off-Market	\$670k	- No marketing required
1004/109 Clarendon St, Southbank	Private Sale	\$385k	- Sold during renovation
5/55 Kavanagh St, Southbank	Sold Off-Market	\$960k	- No marketing required
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Council calls on the community to help redesign the Riverside Skate Park

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

A popular skate park in Alexandra Gardens is set to get a makeover with the City of Melbourne calling on the community to help improve its design.

The Riverside Skate Park, originally built in 2000, will have its facilities updated, with the council now seeking to establish a Skate Reference Group, which will be made up of people from across the skate community to help provide feedback on the redevelopment.

The idea comes as the City of Melbourne sought the community's feedback two years ago as to what it would like to see in the skate park's redesign.

The works were initially scheduled for 2018-2020 and subject to council's budget approval process, but following the disruptions of COVID-19, the council said it was now "back on track and ready" to put the community's ideas into action.

The redevelopment of the skate park, which features a café, skate shop, and public toilets, is part of the council's Skate Melbourne Plan 2017-2027 – which stated that the skate park along with the BMX dirt track at JJ Holland Park in Kensington had been "considered to be in poor condition" and required renewal within the next five years.

The new design proposes to include modular changes to make the park more suitable for skate demonstration events, while other additions will aim to "build on what skaters



love about the current skate park and better integrate skate facilities with the surrounding environment."

According to the Skate Melbourne Plan, it said, "quality large-scale skateable spaces attract events, a high amount of participants and spectators that can generate substantial economic benefits."

The council is currently seeking expressions of interest for community members to form a Skate Reference Group, which will provide feedback and advice during the redesign and community consultation phase.

Once formed, the Skate Reference Group will hold meetings between June 2022 and April 2023.

A concept plan will be developed later this year while community consultation will be held at the end of this year and into early 2023.

Expressions of interest for the Skate Reference Group close May 26 with successful applicants to be notified in June ●

To apply visit:
participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/riverslide

Plans for large rooftop "oasis" at Southbank Promenade

WORDS BY *David Schout*
PLANNING

Under-utilised rooftop space at a prominent Southbank location would be transformed into "a green oasis with views back towards the city" under new plans from developer Mirvac.

The group has released its vision to transform 2000 square metres of space – larger than four basketball courts – atop two Riverside Quay buildings into a vibrant venue that would become "the crowning glory for the precinct".

The significant space would offer views directly down into Southbank Promenade, the Yarra River and across towards Melbourne's CBD.

Mirvac general manager office Andrew Butler said the proposal reflected its confidence in the Melbourne market.

"We are excited to see Melbourne returning to its former glory," he said.

"This rooftop venue will be the crowning glory for the precinct, adding an incredibly unique and unparalleled attraction to an already popular destination."

Mr Butler said the new rooftop venue, if approved, would be a boon for the local area.

"We are constantly investing in our assets and looking for ways to deliver great amenities and outcomes for customers and the wider community by reimagining urban life. This rooftop venue is set to deliver something really special to Riverside Quay and the Southbank precinct."

"We are looking forward to working with the City of Melbourne as we move through the planning process."

Leading architect Fender Katsalidis has been appointed to create a design concept for the new venue.

Design concepts include an expansive, mature tree as a centrepiece to the new green rooftop urban oasis, and a new dedicated lift well between the two buildings for exclusive access to the venue.

Fender Katsalidis director Nicky Drobis said it was excited to be working on the project at the notable Southbank location.



▲ The proposal includes plans to transform an area the size of four basketball courts into a new rooftop venue.

"By responding to such a prime location, our design for the new venue will become a vibrant addition to this already popular dining and entertainment precinct," Ms Drobis said.

"Our design will transform the venue into a green oasis with views back towards the city, contributing towards City of Melbourne's plan for a greener skyline."

As part of its Urban Forest Strategy, the City of Melbourne has encouraged developers to create greener rooftops across the city.

Mr Butler said the vision for a healthy urban forest aligned with Mirvac's sustainability strategy.

Located on the banks of the Yarra River, Riverside Quay is a modern precinct comprising four low-rise buildings built in 1988.

The precinct was revitalised in 2018 to include a new flagship office building and a public park.

Further revitalisation of the waterfront introduced new dining options to "activate the area beyond the nine-to-five work day."

Plans for the new rooftop venue will be submitted to the City of Melbourne ●

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Melbourne Money brings a welcome boost to traders – but some cafes say it didn't quite hit the mark

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

Local traders have delivered a mixed response to the latest round of the Melbourne Money scheme, which overall brought a welcome boost to hospitality businesses, with pedestrian activity in Southbank nudging pre-pandemic levels.

The mid-week scheme, which offered discounted dining at the city's bars, restaurants, and cafes, saw 60 per cent of customers visiting from outside the municipality, spending an average of \$155 on meals – \$40 more than city residents, according to the City of Melbourne.

The CBD topped the highest share of claims, followed by Southbank, Carlton, Docklands and North Melbourne, with 53 per cent of diners going on to spend \$200 or more on retail or entertainment experiences in the city.

Under the scheme, which ran from March 7 to April 11, diners could claim 25 per cent off their food and drink bill when they spent more than \$40 between Monday and Thursday, up to a total spend of \$500.

Foot traffic in Southbank reached 94 per cent of pre-pandemic levels because of the scheme while night-time activity "soared" across all dining precincts.

For Nick Edgar, owner of Gordon Espresso café, the latest round of the scheme was a big success, which "definitely got more traction this time round."

"People were definitely paying more attention to it. Whether it attracted more people it's hard to say but you could see people were using it," he said.

"I think it was a better campaign, there was more noise about it, and better advertising by the council."

However, he added he would like to see the scheme next time to include Fridays, which was one of the more challenging days as office



“

I think it was a better campaign, there was more noise about it, and better advertising by the council.

”

workers were not showing up.

Ryan Xue, manager of Betwixt Café and Bar said the scheme had "encouraged a few people to spend that little bit extra to get the rebate", adding his experience was overall positive.

However, Sporito Café manager Leo Torres said Melbourne Money "wasn't received as enthusiastically" compared to the first round which was "very popular."

"When families got together and had lunch it was fine, but a lot of the time we had big tables, but they were all in the same office and they would split the bill," he said.

"Don't get me wrong, we were well supported, it's just because of the condition of the promo where you would have to spend individually a \$40 tab before you can get a discount it just didn't fit in with the market with the customers that we get here."

"Once they knew about it, they took full advantage of it."

Ashwyn Prabakaran, owner of 8 Miles Café, said while he believed the scheme was a good

idea, he didn't really benefit much from it.

"We hardly reached \$40 bills," he said of customers who mostly purchased coffee.

"We had one or two regulars take advantage of the scheme. I know it might be tedious but things like buying a cup of coffee or if someone spends \$10, they should get a dollar back."

Humbaba café owner Annie Riazzi said while she put a sign up on her shop window promoting the mid-week scheme, she wasn't aware of any customer taking advantage of it.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the latest round of Melbourne Money had pumped almost \$100 million into the economy during the past year.

The council's city activation portfolio lead Cr Roshena Campbell said more than 56 per cent of people said the program had influenced their decision to return to work, while 61 per cent of people said they also spent money on other activities across the city, from retail shopping to attending live events.

While Midweek Melbourne Money has finished, visitors still take advantage of the

state government's \$30 million Victorian Entertainment Program, which offers 25 per cent back on eligible entertainment purchases over \$40, including tickets to the theatre, live music and museums and galleries.

Yarra River Business Association executive officer Tim Bracher said the scheme had helped to "boost a major trough in trade resulting from the very slow return of the corporate workforce."

"Our food and beverage members have reported strong sales in March and April, but it's hard to know whether these were new customers or repeat diners," he said.

"Traders are still just managing to keep their noses above the waterline and have been relying on strong weekend patronage to keep the doors open, but usually for limited days a week because of patchy patronage, staff shortages and high labour costs."

He added, "It's a multi-piece jigsaw that needs all pieces in place before they can sleep more easily." ●



Josh Burns MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MACNAMARA

A Labor Government will deliver a community battery for Southbank and funding for Fishermans Bend's future transport

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



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CITY OF MELBOURNE

Steph Hodgins May hoping to go third time lucky for the Greens in Macnamara; pledges funding for “sky park” in Southbank

The Greens candidate for Macnamara is no stranger to this electorate, having come close to claiming a second lower house seat for her party at the past two elections. Sensing a greater “resistance against both the major parties” among voters than ever before, she’s optimistic about a change of fortune come the May 21 election as she pushes hard on climate action, a federal integrity commission and, locally, Southbank’s illusive sky park over CityLink.

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
ELECTIONS

If current political projections are right, Australia could be headed for a hung parliament following the election. While “teal” independents have been making most of the headlines in the context of a growing disenchantment with the Coalition and the Labor Party, it’s the country’s third biggest party, The Greens, which could well prove to have the biggest bearing on the next three years in Canberra.

And Macnamara, the federal seat incorporating Australia’s most densely populated suburb of Southbank, could hold a crucial piece in the overall puzzle when locals cast their votes.

While Labor’s incumbent MP Josh Burns improved his party’s margin at the 2019 election, in 2016, former Labor veteran Michael Danby nearly lost his seat to Steph Hodgins May, who was pipped by a handful of primary votes.

At that election, the Liberal candidate at the time, Owen Guest, comfortably won the primary vote count, but it was Mr Danby who would sneak home on Greens preferences.

It’s due to this recent history that many consider Macnamara one of few “three-horse races” in the country, however, it’s Labor and The Greens who are widely regarded as the two front runners.

With nearly 19,000 residents living in Southbank as of 2022 according to Roy Morgan Research, our community will have an influential say in the final outcome; a fact not lost on Steph having spent more time connecting with locals than ever before.

“This is my third election campaign and I do know this community a lot better than what I did the first and second times,” she told *Southbank News*.

“We have been more successful than in previous campaigns in actually getting to people in Southbank, meeting with them where they’re at.”

“What came through really quickly was the impacts of the pandemic and how challenging that was, but emerging from that, how important community is.”

“You see the establishment of community groups, and a desire to protect what’s liveable about this community and what makes it a community – there’s Artemis [Pattichi] from the sustainability group, and MaryKay [Rauma, Southbank3006] took me on a walk around the precinct and showed me up-and-coming developments and what that would mean for the green space in the area, and talked me through dangerous intersections.”

However, she said that “time and time again”, local issues for Southbankers were coming back



to climate change.

“From my point of view, it’s the most important challenge that we face but I suppose it’s reassuring and encouraging to know that from our feedback, and from our one-on-one conversations, it’s the biggest issue for people in Southbank,” she said.

While the Labor and Liberal parties have promised net zero emissions targets by 2040 and 2050, respectively, The Greens’ more ambitious vision of achieving this target by 2035, while phasing out gas and coal by 2030, eclipses their adversaries.

Supported by the rise of climate-focused independents, Ms Hodgins May believes the “mixed-messaging” from the Labor Party, and people having “basically given up on the Libs when it comes to climate”, has led to increased resistance against both major parties.

“Vote Compass is really indicating that climate and the cost of living are the two most important things to people. I think people really recognise that this is a federal election, and the biggest federal issue is climate,” she said.

“They’re looking for parties outside of the major parties, which is obviously a good time for The Greens.”

Born in Ballarat to a fifth-generation farming family from Blampied near Daylesford in Victoria’s central west, Steph’s “green” values stem from a young age and have seen her pursue a career in environmental law, diplomacy and advocacy.

Residing in Elwood with husband Ogy Simic, a former City of Port Phillip councillor, and their son Otis, protecting our planet for her community and future generations is at the heart of her political ambitions.

But so too is creating a more fair and equal society. Among her party’s policy priorities for this election are building a million new homes



to tackle the housing crisis, putting an end to negative gearing on more than two properties, placing dental under Medicare and making childcare free.

And when it comes to creating a more fair and equal political system, The Greens would also establish a federal independent commission for anti-corruption (ICAC) “with teeth” – another issue she said was proving to be at the top of many people’s minds.

“It’s no surprise when you see the sports rorts that have happened, and ministerial indiscretions, car parks,” she said.

“We want to see an end to big donations in politics by capping donations at \$1000 per person and getting rid of developer, and gas and oil donors. We can go further. You just have to follow the money and see why decisions have been made.”

As for local issues in Southbank, she said she would “fight for major reform to planning, building and owners’ corporations law to distinguish between short- and long-term accommodation”, allowing for “self-determination by high-rise communities.”

She said she would also push to get more freight off trucks and onto rail to mitigate the kinds of safety issues locals experience every day on City Rd, do more to subsidise the arts and creative industries hurt by the pandemic, and provide greater funding for active transport and electric vehicles.

But for Southbank, there are few greater issues than that of open space, and she said that The Greens would commit \$30 million in federal funding to kickstart a “sky park” across CityLink connecting Balston and Power streets to Miles and Sturt streets, which was first envisioned in the 2010 Southbank Structure Plan.

The project is estimated to cost \$385 million. The Greens most recently pushed for the project as part of its City of Melbourne election campaign over 10 years, proposing a mixture of funding streams from the council, state

government and CityLink operator Transurban.

But the latest proposal would incorporate the value of the open space reserve from the City of Melbourne (\$65 million), a Commonwealth capital contribution (\$30 million), and a “further \$290 million that the Greens would commit to negotiating between the state and commonwealth governments.”

“COVID has brought home how important it is to our health and wellbeing to have access to green open space – for our health, for our urban environment and for social connectivity,” she said.

“Our proposal for a sky park will bring together all levels of government to deliver a transformative project which will give residents of Southbank and surrounding areas the green space they so clearly need.”

With a hung parliament looking like a very real likelihood come May 21, Ms Hodgins May said her ideal outcome was to “kick out [Prime Minister] Scott Morrison first and foremost”, “and then to work in the balance of power with the Labor Party and whichever climate progressive independents get elected.”

The Greens believe that Macnamara is its most winnable seat after Melbourne, which has been safely held by the party’s leader Adam Bandt since 2010 – the last time Australia found itself under a minority government.

While it’s a prospect some might fear, Ms Hodgins May said it was a period which saw “huge reforms when we worked with Labor for a better future” – a situation she feels optimistic about seeing again.

“I feel that there’s change in the air – I have to feel optimistic, of course, otherwise it’s a tough slog as a volunteer position,” she said.

“We’re running a bigger campaign that we ever had here so we’ll have to see what happens and hope we get across the line.”

“Southbank is going to be a really important constituency, so I encourage anyone reading this to reach out to me.” ●

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Council wish list goes begging in state budget

WORDS BY David Schout
ECONOMY

A City of Melbourne list of short-term priorities has been left largely ignored in the latest state budget.

Key pillars of a council wish-list released earlier this year, ahead of the state election in late 2022, pushed for funding for an extension on stamp duty concessions, additional support measures for CBD businesses, and City Rd upgrades in Southbank.

However, the latest budget did not include funding for these initiatives and projects.

The council's advocacy document featured key priorities "where the city ambition needs to be matched by other levels of government."

Notably, it stated that the state government should "fully fund" outstanding projects in the already delayed City Road Master Plan.

Last year's budget included \$107 million to support business recovery in the CBD, however the latest budget did not feature further targeted support for the central city.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp did not say whether she and the council were disappointed with the budget and said it would continue to work with the government.

"Our ongoing partnership with the state government to deliver the Melbourne City Revitalisation Fund continues to build city confidence," she told *Southbank News*.

"The incredibly successful Melbourne Money discount dining program has had a flow-on effect of more than \$100 million for our city economy."

Cr Capp said the council would "maintain our advocacy" for an extension of the current stamp duty relief, which was due to conclude on June 30.

It was pointed out by the state opposition that the budget included more money for Paris (where funds were included for a trade and investment office) than Melbourne.

"[Premier] Daniel Andrews has made it crystal clear he cares more about the Champs-Élysées than the CBD," Shadow Minister for CBD Recovery David Southwick said.

"How can business owners in our city gain the confidence to recover and rebuild when the state government refuses to deliver the support they need and deserve?"

"Victorians deserve a government that is focused on the best interests of Victoria."

There was, however, strong investment in the creative industries in the 2022-23 budget.

The National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) will receive \$32.1 million (\$10.7 million over each of the next three years) to support its summer exhibition program, including the NGV Triennial. The series has attracted almost 11 million visitors to exhibitions and activities since its inception in 2014.

There was also support for Arts Centre Melbourne's Australian Music Vault program, which celebrates and explores the history and future of Australian music.

"Victoria is known as the creative state for a reason – our galleries, museums, libraries and theatres bring thousands of people here every year, helping grow our economy and create jobs," creative industries minister Danny Pearson said.

"We're backing Victoria's multi-billion-dollar creative economy so it can keep delivering the jobs Victorians need and the cultural experiences they love."

The government also indicated it would provide funding for a key event space, something Cr Capp said was "welcome".

"We further welcome news the budget will enable the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre to deliver more world-class business events and activities and look forward to seeing the detail on the \$4.4 million for an events recovery and support program," she said.

"We will continue to work with the Victorian Government on the delivery of city-shaping projects like our Greenline boulevard along the north bank of the Yarra." ●

One uplifting cafe making things equal for all

WORDS BY Kaylah-Joelle Baker
COMMUNITY

All Things Equal (ATE) is not just your typical Melbourne cafe. With the staff made up of 17 people with a disability and 25 without a disability they are changing the model and sparking new conversations.

While succeeding in providing a good cup of coffee and a warm meal, the cafe's forte truly is its ability to create a positive environment and equal paid opportunities for all.

Not always in Jonathan Wenig's game plan, the idea for the not-for-profit cafe came about when his daughter, who has autism, was getting ready to finish school.

"Tali, my daughter, had an affinity for cooking and so my wife and I thought it would be great if we could find some sort of opportunity for her to work or get experience in that area," Mr Wenig said.

"We looked around and talked to a bunch of people and the conclusion we came to was that the best way of creating an environment which would be truly inclusive and where she could thrive might actually be to create our own."

Now equipped with a board that Mr Wenig is co-chair of, the not-for-profit Balaclava cafe is approaching a year-and-a-half of being open and the difference the cafe has had on his daughter has only served to prove its impact.

"I think every parent worries about what is going to happen with their children and if their children are going to be happy and fulfilled, and just seeing that she is excited to come in and is motivated and energised by coming, that's what every parent wants," he said.

But the running of the cafe has not come without challenges, with further lockdowns hitting Melbourne shortly after their January 2021 opening.

Unable to run as a cafe, ATE "pivoted" when they were permitted to run cooking classes and programs for people with disabilities and the classes still continue to run in the afternoons and evenings to this day due to their positive outcome.

It's made it clear to the staff and to ATE's general manager Bianca Stern that the cafe is the start of something special.

"We provide an environment for exposure and to spark dialogue on something that has been taboo for the last X-number of years," she said. "One of the beneficiaries are the people we support with a disability and their family but then the other is our local community and the wider society who also deserve to be educated on this."

Passionate about educating society on people



with disabilities' abilities, Ms Stern was driven to help people with disability to access mainstream work before All Things Equal had even started.

"It was ridiculously difficult to actually find them work and to work with potential employers because they hadn't seen the model ever and they didn't understand the benefits and that it was mutually beneficial," she said.

Noting that All Things Equal was a model that proved to society how beneficial it could be, both Mr Wenig and Ms Stern are excited to expand their outreach and share their message further.

As well as involving themselves in the local community through the running of a kiosk at Princes Park for AJAX junior football club, ATE is approaching its first ever *Giving Day* fundraiser.

Run through Charidy Australia on Sunday, May 15, ATE is calling on all Melburnians in and around the city to come in and experience for themselves the life-changing impact they are having.

Anyone who donates on the day is also invited to come in and share in a free coffee.

Hopeful the event aids with funding the vision they have for the Balaclava site, Mr Wenig said the fundraising campaign also serves as an opportunity to "generate some more awareness" and to put the cafe in peoples' front of mind.

When asked by *Southbank News* if ATE could be potentially opening another venue closer the CBD, Mr Wenig said while they had looked into it, they were really young and focusing on refining their business.

"Our first plan is to continue to refine what we are doing already and to make sure we are growing on a sustainable footing. We want to make sure we are set up, running well, that we have the structures right and people are getting

the opportunity and training they need to be successful," he said.

Not set on additional cafes always being their choice of expansion, due to people with disabilities all having different needs and capabilities, Mr Wenig said proving the model remains their first priority.

"If we have people who are employed here but then able to go and on the basis of having this job on their resume find employment elsewhere, we see that as a mode of expansion," he said.

"One of the dangers with disability is we see people being defined entirely by their disability and it's just not the truth, that's just one aspect of who they are. They also have abilities, they have things they can do, and they are also people who want to have a job, achieve a measure of independence and have a chat with people they meet in a work setting."

Walking into All Things Equal, there is no denying the cafe is an uplifting place to be and it's a place where good conversations are to be had over an equally good coffee.

One can only hope ATE paves their way into the city with a little bit more encouragement and support, because when there is a place excelling at celebrating everything that makes humans different, it would only be right for there to be more of them.

All Things Equal can be found at 263 Carlisle St, Balaclava ●

For more information:
allthingsequal.com.au and
charidy.com/allthingsequal

Labor pledges to open a South Melbourne Headspace facility

WORDS BY Kaylah-Joelle Baker
HEALTH

As the Australian federal election approaches, Labor is promising to deliver on providing a new Headspace facility in South Melbourne if elected.

With the pandemic resulting in a need for more services and support, Labor's Federal Member for Macnamara Josh Burns said Labor was ready to do what Liberals could not.

"The Liberals have had a decade to reform our mental health system, and for a decade they've sat on their hands," Mr Burns said.

"Instead of [Prime Minister] Scott Morrison who has failed our community and our young people at every turn, we need a Labor Government that restores integrity and leadership to our nation."

In meetings with staff at Headspace including Hugh Flanagan, who is part of Headspace's Youth National Reference Group, Mr Burns said both staff and young people had agreed that the "system is overloaded."

"Our mental health system is at breaking point, and we need to do more to increase the availability of frontline services and workers," Mr Burns said.

"Our recovery from the pandemic isn't over yet and we know the recovery is going to require



▲ Left to right: Nina Taylor MLC, Cr Louise Crawford, Josh Burns MP, Senator Penny Wong, Hugh Flanagan.

social and emotional support. While more Headspace centres are only part of the solution, it is an important step to reduce the wait times and burden on our existing network."

Headspace is a vital youth service in Australia which helps to actively support young people with their mental and physical health, but in the area of Macnamara only one exists.

Found at the southern boundary of the electorate in Elsternwick, Labor is adamant that an additional second centre in South Melbourne will help to ease the pressure on existing services while supporting the local community in need.

Vocal about the difference the added centre will make to the area, Labor's Shadow Minister for Health and Ageing and Member for Hindmarsh, Mark Butler said his party understood the importance of needing to expand mental health services.

"Young people in South Melbourne and surrounds should already have had access to more mental health support during the pandemic, but Scott Morrison has been slow to act," Mr Butler said.

"The mental health and wellbeing of young Australia is too important. They can't afford to wait any longer." ●

Traders and residents unhappy as City of Port Phillip approves plans for new South Melbourne bike lane

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees & David Schout*
TRANSPORT

The City of Port Phillip has faced a community backlash as it ploughs ahead with a plan to build a protected bike plan in South Melbourne.

Residents and businesses are concerned that a proposal to remove 12 parking spaces to make way for a temporary pop-up protected bike lane on Park St between Moray St and Kings Way would have a “significant impact”.

But proponent Deputy Mayor Tim Baxter argued the safety of cyclists was paramount and should not be sacrificed “for the convenience of a location of parking right outside your own dwelling.”

“One of the best ways to reduce the amount of cars that are competing for those car parks is to encourage bike riding and to keep them safe,” he said at the council’s May 4 meeting which saw councillors vote six to three in favour of the proposal.

“I do not think that it is the council’s job to ensure that everyone can park directly outside their own home. It’s literally not possible.”

“We have a very dense municipality and as we grow denser it’s honestly living in a fantasy land to expect that you can always do that.”

According to Dr Peter Bone, whose submission on the proposal was read out at the meeting, the plan “does not satisfy the concerns of petitioners”, arguing the loss of parking was an “enormous and unfair loss.”

“It’s such a scarce resource for a burdened community, particularly when it could be mitigated by implementing a more modern design,” his submission said.

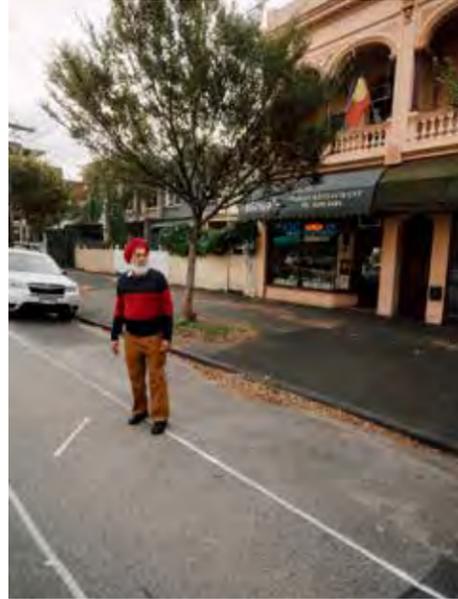
The proposal comes after councillors endorsed at their meeting in September 2021 a number of routes for consideration into the Department of Transport’s (DoT) Pop-up Bike Lane program, including the temporary protected bike lane between Moray St and Kings Way.

According to DoT, the pop-up bike lanes use



▲ Davinder Bedi.

Photos: Murray Enders.



▲ Where the bike lane will be installed by the council.

temporary infrastructure and would be in place for 12-18 months and will be removed, or, if successful, may be converted to permanent routes.

A council report said DoT had confirmed the inclusion of the bike lane with a funding grant estimated at \$170,000 and construction scheduled between May and June this year.

Under the plans, 12 parking spaces would be removed including two childcare permit zone parking spaces on the south side near Kings Way, which the council said were redundant because the childcare was currently not active.

In addressing this impact to the community, the council said the design would be adjusted to replace four taxi-zone parking spaces with short-term public parking spaces that could also be used for long-term parking by residential permit holders.

A further six existing long-term paid parking

spaces adjacent to Eastern Road Reserve would also become short-term public parking spaces that could be used for long-term parking by residential permit holders.

The council meeting also heard that it had made improved changes to the design in response to a community petition that was tabled with the council – with the possibility of an additional car park being gained as the project was delivered.

However, local business owner Davinder Bedi, who has run Bedi’s Indian Restaurant at Park St for 38 years, told *Southbank News* the removal of parking spaces would be “detrimental to the businesses” in the area.

Mr Bedi said while he understood bike lanes had economic benefits and reduced traffic congestion, it should not be “at our expense.”

“I’m getting no benefit from it,” he said if

parking spaces were taken away for customers.

“This is not just today; this has been happening for the past 30 years – they keep on reducing the hours of parking.”

“My business used to have 120 people every day and now it is 20, it’s all because of this [parking], it has gradually kept on going down.”

South Melbourne resident Joe Leong urged the council to rethink the proposed design as it appeared it had planned “to go ahead with the project at all costs” and “ignoring our feedback.”

“The point is that the majority of car spaces is taken away from Park St near Kings Way and the replacement car parks are all located at the Eastern Rd end of Park St, two to three blocks away,” he told the meeting.

“We urge the council to talk to us before going ahead with a project.”

During the council debate, Cr Rhonda Clark said she could not support a proposal that would result in the “continual loss of car parks” and “ignore the significant impact this has on our residents.”

“It’s our residents who pay our rates. It’s the residents who choose to live in our municipality we support, and they expect us to look after their basic requirements,” she said.

The project also forms part of the council’s Park St Streetscape Improvement project.

New bike lane opens alongside The Tan

A new bike lane connecting the Yarra Trail and Linlithgow Avenue has opened for cyclists.

The one-way, kerb-high lane will see inbound cyclists travel between motorists on Alexandra Avenue and walkers/runners on The Tan Track.

At 2.5 metres wide, the new lane is repurposed from a nature strip between The Tan and Alexandra Avenue. Existing trees on the nature strip will now serve as a buffer between cyclists and those on foot.

The new lane will allow inbound cyclists crossing Alexandra Avenue immediately Swan Street Bridge to move straight to a bike lane rather than onto The Tan ●

Softening the transition from sleepwear to workwear

WORDS BY *David Schout*
COMMUNITY

Like many office workers, Southbank entrepreneur Nicola Nematic has never particularly embraced the morning ritual of slipping out of pyjamas and into corporate-appropriate attire.

And one day, she thought enough was enough.

“It was the middle of winter, and I didn’t want to get out of bed,” she told *Southbank News*.

“I kept wishing someone would make work clothes that felt more like pyjamas. I looked around and thought ‘surely someone would’ve done that’ but I found that there were ‘either or’ pieces; either they looked great and were uncomfortable to wear, or they were comfortable, but you wouldn’t want to be seen in them and they wouldn’t elevate your look.”

So, she decided to do something about it.

And at the start of 2020, right as news was breaking of an impending global virus that could reach Australia, she launched Ergonaut after years of creating a collection of pyjama-comfortable workwear.



▲ Ergonaut founder Nicola Nematic.

That is, polished pieces — from tailored pants to high-waisted skirts and blazers — that look professional but have an ultra-soft feeling.

“It wasn’t the ideal time to launch,” Nicola said.

“The first collection I did was quite corporate, and people were moving away from offices and trading in their pencil skirts for trackies. But I think on the positive side is that coming out now on the other end, people

are adopting a hybrid working style where they’re partially working in the office and also working from home.”

While launching a small business mere months prior to Melbourne being completely shut down, she remains philosophical about the misfortune.

“My challenge was not the greatest hardship anyone experienced in the pandemic by any means, but it was pretty tricky.”

But there was one aspect of the pandemic — one that has now completely shifted the world’s view on work routines — that was beneficial to Nicola and the sort of clothing she hoped people would be interested in.

Without the ability to work in offices, meetings quickly moved online for almost every type of business in Australia and around the world.

And while there might not have been the same workwear expectations for employees, it was clear that boundaries still existed.

An office worker who may have worn a suit just months prior, for instance, couldn’t really address co-workers in a hoodie on the Zoom screen.

This was something that worked in Nicola’s favour.

“During the pandemic there was an increase in sales of things like shirts with details on the sleeves; basically, stuff that you’re going to be able to see on-screen. People would often do that ‘mullet-style’ dressing — party at the top, that kind of thing. I would do the same, no matter what top I was wearing I would just throw on a blazer before I went into a Zoom meeting.”

She said that while appearances weren’t everything, a professional feel was sometimes needed to create a more work-like feel in the home office.

“It gives you that more professional feel when you’re meeting someone, and that affects both how you behave and how you feel about yourself. It’s also about how others perceive you — if you’re sort of wearing a really slouchy jumper, you may not come across as professional, potentially. Appearances shouldn’t be everything, and they’re not. But they do still play a role in the way people understand each other. Having things that look professional but are deceptive because they’re actually really soft and

comfortable, is great.”

Since launching in early 2020, Nicola is on the verge of releasing a second collection with a focus on colour to reflect changed attitudes and a willingness to move away from neutral dressing.

She currently runs Ergonaut while simultaneously working another role but has distinct future goals.

“I’d love to go full-time, that’s something I’m definitely working towards. Ultimately, I’d like to be able to focus completely on it — there’d be so many more areas I could delve more deeply into.”

During the next 12 months though, she’ll look to assess feedback on the second collection and how that might inform future collections and hopes to push towards more sustainable materials and packaging.

And she’s more than happy doing so from her Southbank apartment.

“I love Southbank. I love how everything is so close, which really helps with running Ergonaut. I’m able to work and cycle pretty much everywhere which is really convenient, and all the cafes are so close — I love it.” ●

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SEVEN REASONS WHY NOW IS THE TIME TO BUY IN MELBOURNE



Melbourne skyline and the Yarra River Birrarung at twilight

Love inner-city living? Find out how stamp duty savings can help you make even more of iconic city experiences, eateries and glorious green spaces.

While other property markets have increased, the City of Melbourne has become comparatively more affordable, according to economist Anne Flaherty from realestate.com.au.

'Australia's property market has performed strongly and seen incredible growth over the past two years,' Anne said.

'In the City of Melbourne, we haven't seen significant price rises, so properties are comparatively more affordable for a lot of buyers.

'This can be an opportunity for buyers. Of the properties that have been on the market, many have fallen in value over the past year.'

But it won't last forever.

In our hearts, we know that Melbourne is still one of the world's most liveable cities, and surely it's only a matter of time before it returns to the top of the official rankings.

1. Make the most of massive stamp duty savings

For those who love Melbourne or want to live in the city, the biggest incentives for acting now are perhaps the stamp duty concessions available on new properties.

There's a small window of opportunity for buyers, according to Anne. The concessions have an end date, and it's fast approaching.

'If you purchase a new property up to \$1 million, you get a 50 per cent concession on your stamp duty fees for contracts signed from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022,' Anne said.

Better still, the offer can be used in conjunction with other benefits, such as the first home buyer concession, off-the-plan deals and more.

2. Save if the new property has been on the market for a while

Maybe you've had your eye on a new property that's come up in your search over the past year or so. Maybe you've wondered why nobody has snapped

it up. Maybe it could be you who does the snapping...

'If the new property has been on the market for more than 12 months, you can get a full exemption on your stamp duty. That's available for contracts signed before 30 June 2022,' Anne said.

You could save up to \$55,000 on properties up to \$1 million.

3. A concession for investors and owner occupiers alike

Imagine being the first person to move into a new city pad, or reaping the rewards while renting out a sparkling new space so your tenants can make the most of city living.

There are no constraints on this temporary stamp duty concession: it's available to owner occupiers and investors.

That means you, first homeowners, downsizers and investors.

4. Newer properties are usually better earners

Newer properties can command higher rents, especially if they are modern and offer good amenities.

'The rents achievable on new properties tend to be higher than rents achievable on a property that's older,' Anne said.

'Any new apartment is more attractive, even than ones that are a couple of years older. Designs look newer, fresher, cleaner.'

No wonder tenants are often prepared to pay a bit more.

'If you can get something new and never lived in, that's more appealing than something that's had more wear and tear.'



San Telmo, Meyers Place

5. Start as you mean to go on

Are you renting in the City of Melbourne and daring to dream that there's a way to embrace inner-city life and own your own place?

You're not alone. Research commissioned by the City of Melbourne found that more than half of first home buyers surveyed are likely to consider buying in Melbourne.

Forty-eight per cent of those already living in Melbourne said they were also considering buying property in the area.

Nearly half (43 per cent) of those looking to buy in the city were in the market for an apartment or unit, with features such as natural light, views and communal areas.

Imagine being the first person to open those blinds to a unique city vista.

6. Look to the future

Melbourne offers a lifestyle all its own. This is the cultural capital, the sporting capital, a magnet for foodies. So many aspects add up to make Melbourne a supremely liveable city.

'People migrating to Melbourne are more likely to live close to the city. They're more likely to live in inner city suburbs compared to people who've grown up in Australia,' Anne said.

Maybe they'll be your new tenants.

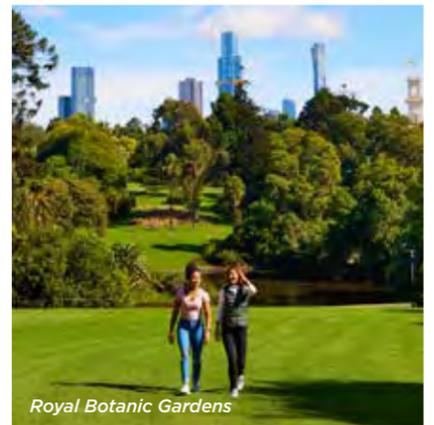
'When migration regains momentum, it's going to be really great for the city, and this will support the recovery in rents and property prices,' Anne said.

'The rental market might be subdued for a while, but it will pick up as migration resumes. And that'll be good news for the city.'

'If the new property has been on the market for more than 12 months, you can get a full exemption on your stamp duty. That's available for contracts signed before 30 June 2022.'



Johnny's Green Room is close by in Carlton



Royal Botanic Gardens

7. This is your local

You already know that an extraordinary life awaits amid the laneways of this great city.

There's always another rooftop bar to discover, and a whole grid stacked with the best eateries.

If you're not already living in the city, you can soon roll out of bed and into the orbit of the best baristas in Melbourne. At lunchtime, the Birrarung beckons for a riverside moment.

After work, catch up for drinks and a share plate at an underground hot spot, or explore the length of the glorious gardens that wrap around the city.

Study with the best and brightest and plug into our knowledge economy. Or be part of the conversation as creative thinkers discuss big topics.

Catch a gig, indulge in a feast, go see a show. Best of all? You can wander home afterwards with no need for a long commute.

Find out how you could pay \$0 stamp duty on your next home purchase in the city at realestate.com.au/thisisyourlocal

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BOOK IN TIME TO WRITE A PRIZE-WINNER

Now may be the perfect time to dust off that unpublished short story you wrote during lockdown and enter the Lord Mayor's Creative Writing Awards.

Win up to \$12,000 if your original work is judged to be the outstanding entry across five categories.

Our biannual Creative Writing Awards celebrate the achievements of emerging writers and storytellers, and help ensure that Melbourne's famous literary tradition continues into the future.

Melbourne is a UNESCO City of Literature and has a proud history of great Australian writing, whether readers' tastes run to Helen Garner or Christos Tsiolkas, George Johnston, Alice Pung or our most recent Creative Writing Awards winner, Yamiko Marama.

Melbourne City of Literature research tells us that Melburnians consume more books, magazines and newspapers per capita than any other Australian city.

We know how important writers are to our community and the Lord Mayor's Creative Writing Awards are firmly

grounded in this deep wellspring of literature. In recognising emerging writers, we aim to promote our city as a place of ideas and creativity.

The awards offer plenty of scope across all genres.

This year sees the introduction of a new category. The inaugural Self-told Stories by Writers Living with a Disability will provide an opportunity for underrepresented voices in media and literature.

The Life Writing Award for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Writers will be awarded to an outstanding work that discusses or highlights a uniquely Victorian story of Australia's First People. This prize supports City of Melbourne's ongoing commitment to promoting Indigenous culture and reconciliation.

Winners in each category receive \$2000. The overall winner of the Lord Mayor's Creative Writing Award will win an additional \$10,000. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are encouraged to apply for all categories.

The awards close Thursday 30 June.

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

The Lord Mayor's Creative Writing Awards include the following categories:

- The Dorothy Porter Award for Poetry (up to 100 lines)
- Narrative Non-fiction (no more than 5000 words)
- Short Story Set in Melbourne (no more than 5000 words)
- Life Writing Award for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Writers (no more than 5000 words)
- Self-told Stories by Writers Living with a Disability (no more than 5000 words).



Submit your short story to the Lord Mayor's Creative Writing Awards

MELBOURNE'S ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF IDEAS IN MAY



Inspire your kids at family-friendly events



Experience virtual reality

Ideas, opportunities and innovation will take over Melbourne's CBD from 9 to 15 May for narm ngarrgu | Melbourne Knowledge Week 2022.

Over seven days, more than 100 events will bring great thinkers and inquisitive learners together for what is the City of Melbourne's annual festival of ideas for a smart and innovative city.

More than 25 venues will be activated with interactive events, panels, workshops and performances, while Little Lonsdale Street will become a knowledge precinct attracting tens of thousands of innovators, gamers, thinkers and leaders.

Highlights of the narm ngarrgu | Melbourne Knowledge Week 2022 program include:

- A keynote presentation on the role of song in maintaining cultural knowledge and traditions, by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander musician, producer and creative entrepreneur Jessie Lloyd.
- Lord Mayor Sally Capp joins leaders from Melbourne's key tertiary institutions to discuss: Is knowledge more important for Melbourne's future than sport, retail or hospitality?
- Taking the Numb out of Numbers, featuring data journalist, writer and illustrator Mona Chalabi, Data Editor of the Guardian US and host of the popular TED podcast "Am I normal?". Her mission is to enable people to find and question the data they need to make informed decisions about their lives.
- At Library at the Dock, create your own DIY game controller, experience emerging gaming technologies such as eye trackers and new virtual reality devices, and discover locally created indie video games.
- Play rock, paper, scissors with a robot arm, marvel at next generation solar panels and check out the latest inventions to improve city greening and enhance accessibility at Prototype Street.
- An expanded program for kids and families, including a games day and activities, workshops and interactive exhibitions across the city.
- Several Aboriginal-led events, including a focus on urban Aboriginal history and data sovereignty.

• Stories Around the Levantine Table: a series of events that connect cultures and knowledge through the language of food.

More than 80 per cent of the program is free.

Melbourne Knowledge Week solidifies Melbourne's status as a university city.

For program details, visit mkw.melbourne.vic.gov.au

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

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Arts Precinct

The Return brings dark and sobering truths to light

By Kaylah-Joelle Baker

Malthouse Theatre and the RISING are coming together to co-commission the world premiere of Torres Strait Islander playwright John Harvey's production *The Return*.

Co-directed by Yorta Yorta man Jason Tamiru and Malthouse Theatre artistic director Matthew Lutton, the production is inspired by Mr Tamiru's experiences as a repatriation worker.

Exploring the injustices of First Peoples' remains being locked away in museums, on display at universities, hoarded or stolen, Harvey's production questions why they still have no rightful resting place.

"The inhumane practice of removing our people from country for research and curiosity has brought much trauma and pain to my people and country," Mr Tamiru said.

"Bringing our people back home to country helps to heal the planet and allows our ancestors to reset their journey to the spirit world; Yurratha, Woka, Biyala, Wala [Sky, Land, Tree, Water, Dreaming]."

The story, which spans more than 250 years, is centred around the three intersecting narratives of a repatriation officer, a museum curator and a bone collector.

With a First Nations cast at the forefront of telling the story, many revelations are to be made.

Playing the part of Jackson, actor Guy Simon said the play followed his character as he started his new role of working at a museum only for things to not be as they once seemed.

"As the play goes forward, he starts to encounter these dreams, truths and hallucinations



that start to become more and more as he goes deeper and deeper into the museum," Mr Simon said.

"It is then that he encounters a lot of dark and sobering truths."

Drawn to the role the more he thought about it, Mr Simon clearly recalls what made him realise how important this story was to tell when he watched a non-indigenous person trace back their history on the genealogy series *Who Do You Think You Are?*

"It got me thinking about me as an indigenous person and how if I traced back my sixth great grandmother it's very possible she would also be in England but in a museum in a back room, in a box and gathering dust," he said.

"It got me thinking a lot about human rights and why is it that when we pass away they get taken away from us. It should be in your human right to be given a proper burial with your people and on your country."

Alongside Guy Simon, performers Jimi Bani, Ghenoa Gela, Damion Hunter, Angelica Lockyer

and Laila Thaker will also be onstage to share in speaking up for First Nations people.

In discussing the behind-the-scenes, Mr Simon said the cast had also been allowed into creative and collaborative conversations about how the stories were being told.

"There have been conversations about how we go about touching on these very traumatic injustices that have happened to our people not that long ago and how we tell and depict these stories on stage and honour the venom behind these injustices without digging up more trauma," he said.

Remaining open with one another through the process, Mr Simon said the rehearsals had been going great and they were now "running and sprinting with it" ahead of their preview night on May 13.

The official opening night for *The Return* will take place at 6.30pm on May 18 at Malthouse's Merlyn Theatre with the production wrapping up on June 4.

The production will also run in the lead up to Melbourne's RISING festival which takes place from June 1 to 12.

The festival has been three years in the making and is a surge of art, music, performance and ceremony in the heart of Melbourne, and RISING's co-artistic director Gideon Obarzanek is "thrilled to be presenting" *The Return*.

"RISING is defined by stories of place and stories that explore our past, present and future," he said.

"And this epic production, spanning 250 years uncovers vital and uncomfortable truths in its telling of a shameful piece of our past, and the ongoing fight for healing." ●

CRITIC

Beauty steals the show

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

Representations of queer men and women through the ages demonstrate the transition from coded to gritty to outrageous to poignant in the *Queer* show on at the National Gallery of Victoria.

There is something about visuals that makes the point about this journey more strongly than words.

In 1929 Cedric Morris was painting rather sweet, flamboyant pictures of pheasants.

By 2020 the naked larger-than-life torsos of beautiful queer men were looking viewers directly in the eye and blinking for good measure.

The story created by this queer curatorial team is told succinctly and evocatively.

Morris had met the love of his life, Arthur Lett-Haines, but his lover was married so he had to find a way of extricating both husband and his painting style from the ruling conventions of the day.

Somehow, he succeeded and, together, they founded an art school in East Anglia which paved the way for the more explicit figurative painting that followed. Their most famous student was Lucien Freud who attended as a teenager.

Fast forward 30 years and a gritty portrait of the film star Charles Laughton by well-respected English artist Bryan Kneale hints at some of the compromises forced on queer men in the name of keeping up appearances.

The painting suggests an anxious and complex character. Laughton's wife stayed with him when he admitted he was attracted to men on the one proviso. She asked him if he'd ever had sex with a man on their couch and when he replied "yes", she had it removed.

Such stories, while witty, reveal an undercurrent of malice that was still to be openly challenged.

By 1996, homosexuality was no longer illegal, and queers were out there, celebrating their wit and creativity in the public realm. That's when Glen Rollason established his Rude Boy fashion house in Melbourne.

Rollason designed a range of "active sports-

wear to do nothing in". One outfit on display includes tradie trousers with loops for holding tools and wrist cuffs that double as "tinnie holders".

The label was called Rude Boy because of Glen's frank and direct nature and his messaging was an ironic reference to working class Australian masculinity that must have pushed a few buttons.

Fast forward another 20 years and German designer Bernhard Wilhelm had brought out a very bright spring-summer collection that was playfully critical of the hetero-normative approach that Rude Boy was parodying.

His Californian range fell between "less is more" and "more is more" and included a ridiculous cap with a banana stuck on the top which a couple of queer visitors to the NGV said they'd wear to the market.

References to female queer culture are less prominent in this exhibition than male, with some commentaries by famous artists such as Tracy Moffatt and Louise Bougeouis about the female body.

Art has always been a place where those outside the norm feel safer, according to the curators, and there are some eye-opening passages about fin-de-siècle aesthetes who studied at Oxford and the Ashmolean Museum and developed a repertoire of nymphs, satyrs and fantastic figures.

Some woodblock illustrations by John Buckland-Wright show a man and a woman embracing but, according to the experts, are "more evocative of a passionate lesbian embrace."

This is the first queer show curated at a public gallery by an entirely queer team and there is quite a lot of attention paid to the Symbolist and Aesthetic movements. "Imagination and fantasy have long existed as realms of queer possibility," the curatorial team wrote.

By 2020 beauty had gained supremacy and Drew Pettifer's colour video of two young, desirable men who blink for the camera but have nothing to say had stolen the show.

Queer: Stories from the NGV Collection, until August 21 ●



▲ Untitled Rael and Untitled Bram, 2020 by Drew Pettifer.



▲ Virginian pheasants, 1929, by Cedric Morris.



▲ Charles Laughton, 1958, by Bryan Kneale.



▲ Spring-summer collection, 2016, Bernhard Wilhelm.



▲ Defence force posters aimed at manipulating soldiers.

Posters tell another story

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

Lust Love Loss is an exhibition with big themes squeezed into a small space at the Shrine of Remembrance.

Curator Neil Sharkey has done his best to dig out some poignant stories.

There is the one about the young girl from Salonika.

Her dad was executed by the Nazis, so she wrote to an Australian soldier who fought beside him in the partisan forces.

The soldier, Corporal Herbert (Slim) Wigley, was given shelter by her family after he escaped from a prison camp and offered to marry the girl.

Her name was Xanthoula Papadopoulos and in 1951 she arrived in Melbourne on a migrant ship.

A reporter from *The Age* was there to record the happy reunion in *Here to Wed Man She Hid from Enemy*. The couple hadn't seen each other for seven years but soon they were chatting, the article reported.

Other tales in this exhibition of artifacts, photographs and art works are not quite as heart-warming as that of Slim and Xan who went on to a long and happy marriage.

Veneal diseases (VD) were rife in the First World War and soldiers actively sought infection to keep them away from the front.

The irritating chemicals in the cures were off-putting and the army resorted to some pretty heavy-handed messaging to get the soldiers to comply.

A poster called *Here comes the bride* accused sufferers of committing a "vile crime" against their wives and children.

Women were targeted as well by the authorities. A poster *Keep mum she's not dumb* is aimed at stopping careless talk by throwing suspicion on women as potential spies.

Gender stereotyping was as rife as VD, even in the soldiers' own sketches such as one on display by Lieutenant Fred Ransome Smith in the form of a Christmas card.

The sketch depicts Fred and his friend Walter thrown together in a prison camp and embracing but in the background are their normative sweethearts proving they are still manly.

The exhibition is quite daring in its exposé of these patriarchal values, which at close quarters have a logic, but when added up spell out a life of suffering for soldiers who had little chance of finding love.

Armed forces have always exploited notions of masculinity and femininity, the exhibition concludes.

If you weren't a hero at war, then you'd probably be overlooked on your return was one of the fears used in the poster "Were YOU there then?" to manipulate behaviour.

These exhortations to conform stand out among the more conventional depictions of men and women embracing on the docks.

It wasn't until the 2013 Mardi Gras that LGBTI+ Australian Defence Force personnel were finally allowed to march in uniform.

Lust Love Loss, Shrine of Remembrance, until November 1 ●

PROFILE PICTURE

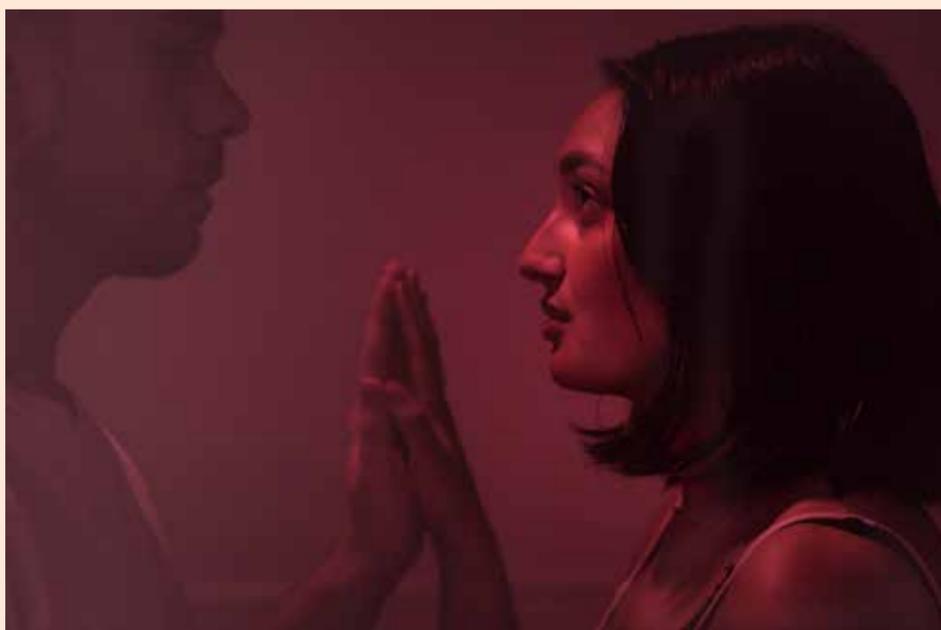
PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIES COLLEGE



YASHODHA BOOPALAN



▲ Portrait diptych – a visual narrative depicting the lengths women take and subject themselves to in the quest for youth and beauty, and to what end?
Photo: Yashodha Boopalan.



▲ Image from a series called You Left, which explores the myriad of emotional states we journey through when we lose someone.
Photo: Yashodha Boopalan.

Yashodha is finally chasing her “bohemian calling”

After spending years allowing her conservative risk-adverse side to take control of her life, Yashodha Boopalan is now ready to pave a new way for her future.

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

Drawn to photographs as a child, she would flick endlessly through family photo albums before she was then old enough to capture her own snaps with a camera her mother gave her and pocket money she saved up for rolls of film.

It was as this love and passion reignited as an adult that she decided there was no time like the present to finally “fuel [her] passion formally.”

“I did a business degree and then got into event management and education training but I

always had a creative side simmering. I did classical dance, painting and drawing, but never had the confidence to say, ‘I want to do photography and only that’,” she said.

“Going into my adult married life with children and having travelled, I have now reached a stage where it’s time to answer that bohemian calling in me.”

After attending information sessions at the Photography Studies College (PSC) and hearing

some lecturers speak, Ms Boopalan said she felt an unrealised dream was reaching some fruition.

As a mature-age student, Ms Boopalan is not putting any pressure on herself to have a full-time career in photography, but is just excited to see where this unexpected turn in her life is taking her.

“I am in my third year of my Advanced Diploma of Photography and it is like I have found my calling. Whether this translates into a vocation from a career perspective, that’s not really important to me,” she said.

“If it becomes a natural by-product of this journey I am on then great, but I am just happy that I found a path that I am going to be on for the rest of my life.”

Adopting an open-minded approach to the course, Ms Boopalan has never been one to put her photography style into a defined box, instead she said she was drawn to portraying an “aesthetic and ambiguous narrative.”

“Each project I do is quite personal for me in different degrees, but I always want them to engage, attract and even seduce the viewer to think, feel, respond and to question. That’s what I want my work to do,” she said.

“Life in itself inspires me – people who cross my path, exchanges I have, experiences I go through.”

From a series that focused on depicting the emotional states people go through when they lose someone, to a landscape series on unrequited love and a self-portrait exercise questioning women’s quest for youth and beauty, Ms Boopalan’s work is truly a display of her heart and soul.

She said that as an Australian who was born in Malaysia with Sri Lankan Tamil ancestry, her culture and background also strongly influenced her work.

“How certain things resonate with us, the way we respond to things and how we interpret is very often a subconscious response from our culture and upbringing or background,” Ms Boopalan said. “Drilling this down further to me in particular and in relation to photography, I feel the diversity in the make-up of who I am and it has equipped me – pardon the pun – with a lens that’s multi-focal.”

While emotive work is intrinsic to her nature, Ms Boopalan said the course was also helping her to recognise the powerful union of technique and feel.

“This course is equipping me to ‘marry’ my heart and head when it comes to photography. This powerful union of technique and feel is equipping me to better express and communicate what I call the chaotic harmony in my head,” she said.

“To have a creative outlet that allows you to escape the daily routine, lose time, grow, communicate, create, share and invoke emotion, is there much else anyone can hope for?” ●

For more information:
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Election time

The Federal Election is in full-swing, and it was great to have a full house for our recent "Meet the Candidates" event. Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) has been holding these events for 20 years and it is rare when we don't achieve a full house.



We heard from our current representative, Josh Burns from the Labor party, Steph Hodgins-May from the Greens and Colleen Harkin from the Liberal party.

At times the discussion became a little heated as some candidates didn't appreciate what was being said. But I must admit there were a few too many attacks on each other than I would have liked.

It is said that our seat of Macnamara is very much a contest between Greens and Labor. Labor is sitting on a margin of 4.9 per cent with only 6.4 per cent between Greens and Labor.

I was impressed with all the candidates and their ability to put their case forward. Although Josh was a clear stand-out, but he certainly has the runs on the board having been the incumbent.

The audience asked some great questions, and many stayed behind afterwards to speak with candidates separately.

We will also hold another event for the state election later this year.

Postal voting has just opened. If you missed our event and would love to hear what the candidates had to say, you can scan the QR code below and watch the live stream we recorded on the night.

The intersection of City Rd and Power St is still high on our agenda. We will be meeting with the Department of Transport in the second week of May for an update on the planned works.

We have also been raising resident concerns with the corner of Kavanagh and Power streets.

We are quietly hopeful we will be seeing a red light and speed camera installed on that intersection.

While this is not the long term solution to the problem it might go a long way to improve driver behaviour.

May 16-22 is National Volunteer Week. I would like to extend a massive thank you to all of our volunteer committee members who work tirelessly to keep SRA functioning, ensuring our community is represented. Also, a big thank you to the countless other volunteers throughout our community. Without volunteers our communities and neighbourhoods wouldn't function as they do. Volunteering is a valuable and often critical resource to the fabric of a functioning society. Let's not overlook the efforts of volunteers that you may know. During this week, reach out and give them a hug as a small sign of your appreciation for their efforts. I am sure it will be well received

Speaking of volunteering, our annual general meeting (AGM) is only a few months away. If you would love to expand your experience or learn new skills, we would welcome your involvement with our volunteer community organisation.

If you are interested in what we do and what opportunities may be available for yourself, please reach out to us at info@southbankresidents.org.au.

I am sure you will enjoy your time and make some new friends along the way. As usual, if you wish to become a member and support our great works, then please visit our website ●



Tony Penna
PRESIDENT
PRESIDENT@SOUTHBANKRESIDENTS.ORG.AU



High-speed internet thrills are just a special resolution away ...

Technology is advancing so quickly these days. That television set and that iPhone that we bought just three years ago (which still works just fine by the way) is all too quickly consigned to the obsolete pile, as consumer electronic brands compete to bring out the next biggest thing.

In fact, we don't just need an iPhone to keep in touch, nowadays we also need an iWatch for when we walk out the front door and forget our iPhones.

In order to keep us connected to the world around us, the networks and cabling and telecommunication towers that line our cities and streets are becoming more numerous, as our desire and demand grows for faster and faster download speeds to power our handsets.

The problem for telecommunications network and service providers is where to place all of this cabling and infrastructure without it becoming an obtrusive eyesore for the public, and there is only so much cabling that can be buried under the footpaths and streets of this city. The answer is to utilise the MDF rooms and the rooftops of many of our high-rise apartment buildings.

In addition, fitting out the common property corridors and hallways with receivers and access points can boost residents' access to high-speed cable and wireless internet and if it's one thing that every apartment resident loves, it's lightning-quick internet speeds. In some buildings, this can become a selling-point to increase the weekly rental value of units.

The challenge for committees is to let the right service provider in. There are dozens of telecommunication companies that offer services in this area, and the owners' corporation (OC) could decide to enter into an access agreement that is mutually beneficial for both parties and at no cost to the OC.

As always, there are things to look out for, such as:

- Will the service provider promote open access to competing service providers in

the building, so that residents are free to choose their own provider?

- Is the service provider installing the latest technology into the building, or are they simply installing left-over stock of old technology that will become obsolete in 12 months' time?
- Is the service provider requiring rooftop access to install equipment and if so, do you know what is being installed and for what purpose? Rooftop installations can be quite lucrative for network providers, as the bandwidth and frequency can then be utilised to add to the existing network and therefore generate income from third party service providers that need to connect and host from these networks. OCs should always look to maximise the opportunities to defray levy cost and earning income from leasing rooftop space that is seldom used to network providers in a handy way to keep levies low. But roof space access should never be given away for nothing.

Some of the lower-end service providers are now aggressively seeking to expand their business share by serving buildings with Installation Notices under the *Telecommunications Act* and are then forcing their way into buildings around Melbourne.

These Installation Notices should in most cases be objected to strongly by the OC, and within seven days, otherwise the OC risks the prospect of accepting these service providers to enter the building.

However, any installations or additions to common property by these service providers shall require the OC to first pass a special resolution, and especially if rooftop antennas are proposed to be installed.

In summary, these types of service upgrades and the adoption of this technology ought to be welcomed by committees, but the devil is always in the fine print and care should be taken to ensure that the building is not getting fleeced ●



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SOUTHBANKER

Wherever I lay my hat, that's my home

Professor Rupert Maclean AO said he didn't suffer from homesickness.

WORDS BY *Carol Saffer*

From 1991 to 2009, his role with the United Nations as an education research expert found him living in Myanmar, Paris, Afghanistan, Iran and Liberia.

"I'm so used to living overseas, but Southbank is my main base," he said.

He and his Japanese wife have had an apartment in the suburb for the past 15 years, where they return to when they are not globe-trotting.

When he lists where he has lived, it is extensive; seven years in Hong Kong, Bangkok and Germany, and shorter stays in many other countries.

Most of his work is research, writing and consultancy, alongside his main field of improving education in developing countries.

"With particular reference to girls' and women's education plus for the disadvantaged such as slum dwellers and refugees," he said.

Professor Maclean lived in Afghanistan in a compound and was escorted by armed guards



whenever he left.

He did not make any friends with the Taliban while in Afghanistan due to his work

on improving education access for girls and women.

"It, and Iraq, were the most dangerous places

I have lived."

Since leaving the United Nations, his travelling has not let up.

He does research and consultancy for Australian universities and undertakes postings with foreign universities.

Living in Melbourne and teaching at Dandenong High School is a far cry from where his career has taken him.

"I want to do work that I feel makes a difference," he said.

"It's not boring; it's cutting edge and allows me to meet different people and experience different cultures."

Retirement is still on the far horizon, but he said he was taking increasing time to himself.

"As an author of many books and an editor for [international publisher] Springer, this keeps me busy."

He is not the sort of person to be found sitting at home reading the paper in his slippers.

For relaxation, he likes watching movies, sailing his cruise boat and spending time at the Boyd Community Hub to use the facilities.

"It [Boyd] is a fantastic place," he said. "I think Southbank is a terrific location."

"I often walk up to the city as I am a member at the RACV Club and the Melbourne Cricket Club." ●

MEET A NEIGHBOUR

Adam, the arts and Southbank go hand-in-hand

WORDS BY *Jannine Pattison*

After experiencing almost two years of restrictions and lockdowns, COVID has taught us the importance of humanity and the need we have for connection with others. By spending time talking with a stranger, you would be surprised just how quickly you can find a friend.

I first met Adam Sparnon at Southbank3006's community meet and greet in March. It was my privilege to see him again at the Community Builders Workshop in April and this time I seized the opportunity to spend some quality time getting to know him.

Adam has been a resident of Southbank for five years and shares his life with partner Harold and beloved fur baby Charles Dijon aka "The Duke of Southbank".

His love of jazz will often find him, Harold and The Duke at Blondies enjoying a cheeky glass of sauvignon blanc and a pizza together.

Adam said he "loves living in the arts and entertainment precinct and enjoys attending shows at the recital centre as well as the VCA" where he saw Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld*. While he admitted to not understanding a word that was sung, he thoroughly enjoyed his first ever opera.



Adam is no stranger to the arts. With a degree in production management through the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA), he is now a successful growth media specialist and runs his own business, Apertu, which combines the power of photo, video, instructional design, development, coaching, and public speaking, to "help people help themselves to live their best life."

When it comes to taking his own advice, Adam is not afraid to put himself out there, having completed a comedy course at Hard Knock Knocks Comedy School in South Melbourne.

Mentored by comedians Jeff Green and Brad Oaks, he found himself up on stage in front of a crowd of more than 100 people.

While most would be terrified, Adam saw it as a pivotal moment in his personal growth and development, a moment of true self trust and belief, a moment where he could engage what he taught others; "Do not let yourself quit."

This led to some incredible opportunities such as being included in the Hard Knock Knocks "Best of" line-up as part of the 2021 Melbourne International Comedy Festival.

I found Adam's story incredibly inspiring. His background in comedy has given him confidence, stage presence, and the understanding of how to use comedy to engage an audience in varied circumstances, with a view to bring his media and public speaking to a wider audience.

It is heartwarming to see how taking an hour out of your day and connecting with a neighbour can yield such joy and inspiration. There are so many wonderful humans in Southbank, each with their own unique talents.

So, put away the phone, take the time to make eye contact, say "hello", be part of someone's story for the day – you just never know who you might meet ●

WE LIVE HERE

Sex parties on short-stay platforms

The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) is about to be exposed to sordid details of drug- and alcohol-fuelled sex parties and strippers enriching a short-stay operator in a Melbourne apartment complex.

Outraged families, couples and singles in the suburban building are fed up with the drugged and drunken behaviour of short-stay guests and the insidious threat to residents' safety and security.

While residents have managed to get the short-stay operator banned from Airbnb and Stayz, the hens' nights and bucks' parties continue unabated.

One of the residents contacted us to describe the impact of the battle with the absentee sex party operator:

"This long-term behaviour has caused many problems. Most of the owners' corporation's (OC) time and money has been spent on dealing with the appalling situation: the maintenance and the security issues of having hordes of drunk and drugged people roaming the common areas between our apartments, lift areas, carpark and everything that comes with that!"

So far, there have been zero VCAT cases where orders have been made with damages awarded in favour of a complainant in this type of scenario under the so-called "short-stay party bill". Let's hope we see a precedent set in this case.

One option for which the OC may consider seeking advice is the new legislation regarding the benefit principle. The recent amendments to the *Owners' Corporation Act* cover scenarios where an OC may be allowed to charge additional maintenance and security costs to a lot owner benefitting from the service.

SHORT-STAY LAWS	SA	NSW	QLD	TAS	VIC	WA
	Draft	Law	Law	Law	Law	Draft
STRATA RULES	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
DAY CAP	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
REGISTRATION OR APPROVAL	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
CODE	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
PARTY PENALTIES	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓

Short-stay action around the nation

NSW: The short-stay operators register is scheduled to become publicly available this month. The legislation introduced in 2021 allowed for operators to be banned for repeated or gross breaches of the regulations. Open access to the register is essential for communities to be able to check on the status of operators. The most important aspect of the NSW legislation is the empowerment of OCs to vote on adopting by-laws (called rules in Victoria) that regulate short-term rental accommodation in their building. For example, an OC in NSW can legally limit short-stays to lots that are the host's principal residence, such as during a temporary absence. This reform is desperately needed in Victoria.

Tasmania: A mandatory registration system requires operators to have planning approval. Platforms like Airbnb can only market and sell permitted, registered and approved short-stay accommodation. The government has suggested that taking further measures should be up to local councils.

Hobart: Hobart City Council has implemented the first stage of a ban on new whole-home, short-stay accommodation in the inner-city area. Hobart Lord Mayor Anna Reynolds said: "This is really just trying to provide some balance in our housing market in Hobart so it's more affordable and more accessible to people who need to rent a home."

Western Australia: The WA state government has released a draft planning policy outlining proposed regulations for short-term rental accommodation. The government is proposing a registration system and a cap on the number of nights before planning approval is required. The recommendations also include giving powers to OCs to limit short stays. The draft planning policy is part of the WA government's response to the recommendations of the 2019 Parliamentary inquiry and report, *Levelling the Playing Field - Managing the impact of the rapid increase of Short-Term Rentals in Western Australia*.

Queensland: Short-stay operators must have council approval in Brisbane and Gold Coast. A recent QCAT precedent has upheld an OC rule to limit short stays, based on a community amenity argument.

Brisbane: The short-term rental of an entire apartment by the property owner requires development approval from the council. The council defines "short-term" as a stay of less than three consecutive months. The development application is assessed by the council against the short-term accommodation code in the City Plan. The council says that its City Plan is designed primarily to ensure that "adjoining (sic) residents or businesses are not significantly impacted by the use."

Gold Coast: In addition to enforcing its approval process, the council has amended its planning laws to ban or regulate so-called "party houses" with changes that have been criticised as inadequate.

Noosa: Not content with waiting for the state government to act, Noosa Council has introduced a registration and approval process, a mandatory code of conduct and a 24/7 council complaints hotline. The council will act as the intermediary between the complainant and short-stay operators. The council also gave itself the power to deploy security services to observe and record activity at properties. The council says it will recoup administration costs through fees and property rates with a special

rating category for short-stay properties.

The new laws were enacted after a stakeholder consultation process where the council says it was exposed to the depth of community frustration and anger.

South Australia: The SA government has drafted the *Short Term Holiday Rental Accommodation Bill* with a state-wide mandatory registration system of all listed short-term holiday rentals and a mandatory industry code of conduct. Proposed penalties for breaches range from \$1250 for loss of amenity to \$5000 for failure to register. Platforms like Airbnb could be fined for failure to show a registration number in a listing. Operators could be compelled to pay disaffected neighbours \$2000 in damages – and multiple residents could apply for compensation from an operator. While there is no upper limit on the aggregate payment awarded, it must be "proportionate" to the loss of amenity.

Last and least, Victoria: There is no effective state-wide regulation for short stays. The current, very limited short-stay "party" legislation has resulted in no orders against operators since it was introduced three years ago. On our assessment, Victoria is the least regulated of all states: Operator registration is not required, OCs have no powers to regulate short-stays, and the very low "party" penalties are virtually impossible to enforce.

Come on Victoria, let's catch up with the rest of the country! We are lagging far behind the tames of reforms. "We Live Here" will continue to advocate for the Victorian state government to learn from the progress made in other states and implement urgent reforms ●

Barbara Francis & Rus Littleton
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LEARN MORE AT WELIVEHERE.NET

Are you living your healthiest and happiest life?

Now I ask this question because in my experience, most of us are not. In fact, we are a long way from it and yet there are some very simple steps that we can take to get there.

One book I urge you to read and explore is Matthew Michaelwicz's *Life in Half a Second*. It is literally a step-by-step guide to help you achieve success, get you thinking and inspires you to take steps to get the most out of your life.

There are 168 hours in a week and if you tell me that you cannot commit to healthy habits through exercise, mindfulness and overall keeping physically and mentally active towards living a healthier lifestyle for say just five hours a week, then you are telling me that you cannot devote three per cent of your time to living your healthiest and happiest life.

We all have time constraints, we have work, family, relationships, pets, friendships, to name a few. I get that. But the first step is prioritising

you and finding 45 minutes a day.

With the aid of instructional videos, Matthew's book is a great way to help keep you accountable and to take some necessary steps to help you find your way, but you must first understand that goal setting is vital. Sit down and rate from one to 10 how happy you are with the following areas of your life:

- Happiness
- Finance
- Stress coping skills
- General health
- Nutrition
- Relationship
- Career
- Fitness
- Relaxation
- Sleep
- Mental health

Once you look at your scores you have immediately identified some areas in your life that you can work "step-by-step" to make improvements in. Now let's be honest, from your vantage point it may seem almost impossible to score a 10 in each area, but what have you got to lose by seeking to increase each area by just

one point? Set some ways to look at chipping away at making gradual positive changes and put them into your five hours (or three per cent) of your week.

Now lying well below the surface is the need for behaviour change and we all need to be realistic and understand that this takes time. A habit they say takes 21 days to start or stop, but to truly evoke behaviour change we need to look at setting up processes and habits and to remain accountable for six months at a minimum.

Start small and build... 45 minutes a day may take you a few weeks or even months to get to but that is completely fine. Be kind to yourself but please do take the necessary steps to make your answer to the opening question of "are you living your healthiest and happiest life?" a yes!

As a personal trainer to people mainly aged from 40 to 80 years, I see way too much regret and that stems from how they have let life (work, family, injury, kids, partners, etc.) get in the way and now they want to reclaim what they have lost. Now I commend each and every one of them for taking stock and wanting to change and it is my job to set simple, yet achievable goals and targets and throw the

responsibility back to them. But I must keep them accountable, and I must say I do this very well because it is coming from the right place. My clients know that I am there to get the very best out of them and it is the best job in the world to see it happen.

Let me add that weight loss is not the be-all and end-all. You see weight and fat loss are very often the byproduct of setting up healthy and positive habits and the items listed are what we first start with our clients to set up exactly what I have outlined for you to do in this article. Why? Because it works!

So, if you need help, reach out to myself or one of my team but do buy and read the book mentioned above, accept the "life in half a second" challenge and send me an email in six months' time when you have made the positive changes that you need! ●



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SKYPAD LIVING

Micromobility infrastructure in vertical villages

Many vertical villages are investigating electric vehicle recharging options, but e-cars are not the only vehicles that need these facilities.

While the demand for electric vehicles (EV) has not grown as fast as initially predicted, it is believed that vehicle charging facilities will increasingly be valued by residents of vertical villages.

In recognition of this, our vertical villages are being encouraged to become "EV Ready".

According to advice from agencies such as Energy Saver (NSW), this starts with a resident survey to gauge demand. Next comes an energy assessment, followed by a consideration of infrastructure and associated payment options.

To date, however, such assessments typically focus on the needs of one type of electric vehicle – e-cars.

But as residents of Melbourne well know, there are other types of e-vehicles – such as eScooters, eBikes and e-cargo bikes. Referred to as micromobility vehicles or personal mobility devices (PMDs), supporters claim several benefits for the rider. These include affordability (e.g., rental/purchase price and running costs, especially parking!), convenience (including satisfying the first- and last-mile transportation gaps), time saving (avoiding traffic snarls) and sustainability (i.e. producing low levels of pollution and/or as a car substitute). Note: mobility scooters and powerchairs are also micromobility vehicles but have a different value proposition.

As regards the benefits for our city, policy makers cite decreased stress on transportation networks, reduced traffic congestion, reduced carbon footprint and improved transport equity.

This now puts Melbourne's current eScooter trial in a different light – for while some view eScooters as a recreational novelty (annoyance) for tourists, the real point of this trial is to test if these devices can be formally incorporated into Victoria's transport mix. The questions to be answered are: Do they bring the promised benefits? If so, at what cost? And what needs to be changed to effectively integrate micromobility into our existing transport ecosystem?

Victoria is not alone in seeking to so incorporate micromobility vehicles.

In the UK, Baroness Vere stated that in 2023 the UK Department of Transport would legislate for micromobility, establishing a new class of vehicle – a "Personal Transporter".

Meanwhile Paris (France) has begun a pilot project to install 150 dock, lock and charge points for micromobility vehicles across the "Paris Rive Gauche". This project aims to demonstrate how universal charging infrastructure can accelerate micromobility use.

As regards Melbourne, our current schemes promote rental eScooters, meaning that riders do not have to store, recharge or maintain these vehicles.

However, the situation will change if/when significant numbers of commuters choose to purchase their own micromobility vehicle – and want to store, recharge and maintain it at their home.

This will be a particular issue for vertical villages, especially in terms of managing common property.

Indeed, if privately owned eScooters and eBikes become a formal part of Melbourne's transport strategy, vertical villages may be required to offer supporting facilities.

For example, we may be asked (by residents and/or government) to provide:

- Secure storage: questions here involve availability of space and whether the owners' corporation will allow eScooters to be stored in apartments (consider the wear and tear on lifts and hallway carpets);
- Recharging: issues here include existing access to power and how costs can be paid/recovered;
- Support facilities: might your owners' corporation provide facilities for minor repairs?

In addition to this, thought will need to be given to the authorisation process, as approvals for changes to common property are no easy matter.

Returning to the notion of being "EV Ready", if micromobility vehicles do become officially integrated into our transport system (as is happening in other cities), then vertical villages will need to ensure we incorporate these new micromobility demands into both our EV infrastructure refits and our maintenance plans.

And we need to ensure that government EV support schemes include vertical villages as a priority for funding! ●



Dr Janette Corcoran

APARTMENT LIVING EXPERT

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METRO TUNNEL



Feature steel columns now in place at Anzac Station

An eye-catching feature of the Metro Tunnel is now complete in the most visible above-ground sign yet of progress taking place on the city-shaping project.

The last of 12 massive green steel columns have been craned into Anzac Station on St Kilda Rd as the project powers towards completion in 2025.

The 17-metre-high columns will support an 85-metre-long canopy over the station, which will provide rail access to popular Melbourne destinations, including the Shrine of Remembrance and Albert Park, for the first time.

The striking green columns, which are made of Australian steel to meet rail infrastructure safety standards, will complement the timber tones of the station's canopy and echo the nearby green parkland of the Royal Botanic Gardens and tree-lined St Kilda Rd.

Crews used cranes to lift the columns into the underground station before fixing them into place at concourse level, with the final support legs installed earlier this month.

Workers will soon begin to assemble the canopy's 13 curved timber rafters, attaching them to the support columns, before completing the

roof panelling and skylights.

Artist's impressions revealed earlier this year show the station concourse flooded with natural light, providing year-round weather protection for tram and train commuters.

The station, when completed, will be the city's only direct platform-to-platform train/tram interchange.

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 as part of the construction plan that allowed the station to be built underground while traffic and trams continued using the road above.

Anzac Station will be used by about 40,000 people a day and relieve pressure on tram services on St Kilda Rd – the world's busiest tram corridor.

Travel data shows that it will take passengers about 30 minutes to get from Anzac Station to Melbourne Airport via the Melbourne Airport Rail.

When finished, the Metro Tunnel will create capacity for more than a half-a-million additional passengers per week to travel during peak times across Melbourne's train network ●

For more information:
metrotunnel.vic.gov.au

HISTORY

Under the spire at the Arts Centre

The Arts Centre spire is an icon of Melbourne and Southbank. The white lacework spire rises gracefully over the Arts Centre on St Kilda Rd and provides a visual highlight for Southbank.

The spire was a key part of the planned centre, designed by Sir Roy Grounds. But it wasn't always intended to look like the finished version.

Early designs were for an underground auditorium, topped by a spire that would be sheathed in copper.

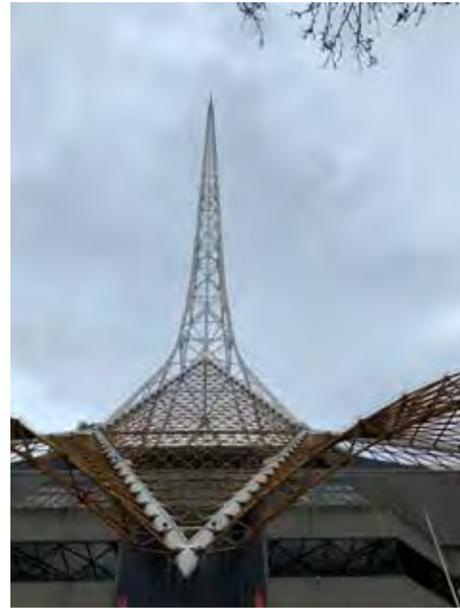
School children all over Melbourne contributed copper coins as part of a public appeal for funds that started in 1961. Imagine the patina on the copper if it had come to fruition! Grounds modified his vision for the spire four times as part of the numerous changes (architectural and engineering) to plans, budgets, interior design, and surface materials for all parts of the complex.

The finished spire was a space frame system, with its open lattice design, and combined anodised aluminium tubing connecting to stainless steel. The base section was likened to folds of a ballerina's tutu. It was also highly innovative,



with few companies having the expertise to construct such a structure. Overall, the Arts Centre project was so complex that it's a wonder it ever was built!

Beneath the spire are three state-of-the-art theatres that host performances of opera,



theatre, ballet and others. But it is the spire that stands out as concert and theatre goes approach the centre, providing a signpost for the entire complex.

After delays (for many reasons, including political), construction of Roy Grounds' 115-metre

space frame began in 1973 and was finished in 1981. Sadly, he died before seeing his completed work.

Although Grounds had been forced by budget pressure to compromise his vision for the spire, it was an outstanding example of 1960s design and engineering. But the upper spire structure suffered deterioration, due to metallurgical problems, and was replaced with a new spire in 1996. Thousands of people gathered to watch the final piece lowered into place from a helicopter!

The elegant and sculptural new spire reached 162 metres above St Kilda Rd with a 10-metre mast at its peak and combined fibre-optic and neon tubing, with the colour and movement of the lights manipulated by computer-controlled devices.

Southbank is much richer for the vision of Roy Grounds and the expertise of architects and engineers ●



Robin Grow

PRESIDENT - AUSTRALIAN ART DECO AND MODERNISM SOCIETY

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SOUTHBANK 3006

SOUTHBANK3006 – focusing on our community

The past 90 days has passed as a bit of a blur for the hard-working committee members of Southbank3006. Having only just launched in February 2022, we have been overwhelmed with the sheer number of our neighbours who have already become members.

Your committee at Southbank3006 has been so happy to hear from all of you which has enabled us to focus on how we can support the needs of the community.

And here are some of the activities that we have been focusing on ...

- We facilitated a meeting with officers from the City of Melbourne and members of the community, including the group Small Dogs of Southbank about the defects that needed urgent attention at the new Moray St Dog Park. We were so happy that this prompted the council to take immediate action to identify these defects – some of which have been addressed, others have temporary measures in place until more permanent solutions are implemented.
- Southbank 3006 is also busy engaging with the architects, planners and developers of the new Arts Precinct upgrades, which we know is significant to our members as it will greatly affect the quality of life for many residents both during and post construction.
- We have continued our commitment to traffic safety and management and have been in frequent conversations with the Department of Transport regarding the upgrade to the City Rd and Power St intersections, as well as raising concerns regarding the Kavanagh and Power streets intersection and the need for a pedestrian crossing across Balston St to Boyd Park.
- Some of our committee members presented, in person, a submission to the inaugural neighbourhood-held Future Melbourne Committee meeting in Carlton.
- In March, we ran our first community meet-and-greet where we were honoured to meet some incredible humans who call Southbank home. There was a fabulous exchange of ideas, and it was great to hear that Southbank3006 is filling a need in the community that was somewhat missing.
- To ensure we were providing the community with an opportunity to hear from the federal candidates we ran a Meet the Candidates event. The highly spirited

candidates answered hard questions posed by our community and the event was moderated by former Port Phillip Mayor Bernadene Voss. In fact, it even made international headlines in *The Guardian*, *The Age* and *Sydney Morning Herald*, and many more social and print media pages. If you missed out, you can find the live stream on our Facebook page @southbankers3006

- In April, Ash Lee – Southbank's own City of Melbourne neighbourhood partner – held the Southbank Community Builders Workshop. Southbank3006 attended multiple sessions to contribute and further understand how we can support the community. The collective consensus was that Southbank lacks a central hub for human connection.
- We have collated information that, whether you're an owner or renter, will assist locals understand the role of owners' corporations (OCs). These resources are now available on our website southbank3006.com

We are so delighted that after only three months Southbank3006 already has 200-plus members and great relationships with the City of Melbourne and relevant state government departments.

And we are delighted to confirm that Southbank3006 is committed to hosting monthly events for our members to hear from great speakers and to connect with each other. These events will be held on the last Sunday of each month.

Each meeting will have a theme which will come from you, our members. Our next meeting is on Sunday, May 29 at the Assembly Hall at Boyd Community Hub and will focus on safety and security in our neighbourhood, including how to tackle anti-social behaviour. We will have a guest speak who will be announced on our Facebook page.

We look forward to seeing you at our monthly events. Thank you to *Southbank News* for supporting our endeavours and please become a member and join us! You can do this either on our Facebook page or via our website ●

Jannine Pattison

DEPUTY PRESIDENT, SOUTHBANK3006
COMMUNITY@SOUTHBANK3006.COM

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

Dear readers, goodbye and thank you!



It is with some sadness and a great deal of both pride and gratitude that I bring my contribution to the Montague Community Alliance to an end.



Nearly 10 years ago, in January 2013, I happened to be walking down Bay St, Port Melbourne and saw the then local paper, which I noticed had a photo of one my neighbour's houses in Gladstone St, South Melbourne.

Upon reading I realised that the article was about the demolition of a beautiful double-fronted 1870 weatherboard home, to build a 12-storey apartment block. To say I was stunned was an understatement!

I then went to all my neighbours, both businesses and residents, and discovered that no one knew about it and everyone was equally stunned as me.

We also discovered, to our horror, that in 2012 we had become rezoned from mixed-use commercial to Capital City Zone, the implications of which were that we went from being able to object to planning applications and potentially take matters to Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) to having no third-party rights.

So, that was the beginning and here we are today the fastest growing precinct in Fishermans Bend and potentially, Victoria. Who knew this when we all moved into a close-knit sleepy hollow in South Melbourne?

We held our first community meeting in May 2013 at the Father Bob Foundation's warehouse on Gladstone St, and there we began.

We were successful with so many issues during these past few years. Namely, establishing connections with the City of Port Philip's community consultation group – that was brilliant when it started.

We lobbied for lower density and lower building heights, particularly on the interface with residential Port Melbourne and South Melbourne, both of which we achieved in part.

We developed a working group with the

Fishermans Bend Taskforce, which unfortunately came to a halt with the pandemic.

We held many, many community meetings and attracted senior members of the state government, VicRoads, the City of Port Philip and the Fishermans Bend Ministerial Advisory Committee, and later, the Fishermans Bend Development Board. We thank all those involved.

I hope that the person or people who take up the mantle of supporting this fabulous precinct can move the relationships and lobbying into the next iteration of community support and I wish them very well and hope that those relationships with the planners, government offices and specifically the council, the Taskforce and the Development Board continue to grow for the good of the whole area.

Before I conclude I would like to sincerely offer my personal and profound gratitude to the following people ...

- Martin Foley
- Josh Burns
- Sara Madderson
- Bernadene Voss
- Meredith Sussex
- Amanda Stevens
- Dick Gross
- Marcus Pearl

And, most importantly, and not just for his personal contribution to Montague and our community but for his friendship and thoughtfulness – Sean Car, the editor-in-chief and publisher of all the Hyperlocal News mastheads, including *Southbank News* – the "Voice of Montague".

Thank you, dear readers, for all your support of the Montague Community Alliance I am deeply grateful to everyone who has ever attended a meeting, read this column or offered their support and expertise.

I have left now the area and am now living in Southbank where I am involved with new community group SOUTHBANK3006.

I'll see you around folks! ●



Trisha Avery

TRISHA AVERY IS THE CONVENER OF THE MONTAGUE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

TRISHAVERY@ME.COM



Wine, winter vegies, and growing our community

Community events ...

WORDS BY *Isabella Donatelli*

We recently welcomed back ReWine Wine Merchants for our second sustainable wine tasting event.

Changing the wine game, ReWine offers a wide range of sustainably and locally sourced wines and offers a refill service on all products. This means that your wine bottle lives to see another day and helps to close the loop on the product life cycle.

We also got to see their delivery van in action, and a demonstration of their on-the-go refill service.

If you can't make it to one of ReWine's locations around Melbourne, they are happy to come to you, taking the hassle out of the process, while reducing your wine environmental footprint by 80 per cent on average.

With an amazing turn-out we saw many people return, as well as lots of new faces, to learn all about the local and sustainable wines on offer, while building a sense of community once more.

If we are being truly honest, it felt less like learning and a lot more like fun, with wine, food, new friends, and old, how could it not.

As a group, we often think about engaging and entertaining ways to educate about sustainability and low-footprint solutions in Southbank, and we were so happy to see how the community enjoyed and connected with this event.

Don't worry if you missed out, we hope to see ReWine again soon.

Our community members also participated in the Southbank Community Builders event which encouraged attendees to think about the connections they've made here in Southbank,



the skills and knowledge they can offer others, and asked them to think about how they would action change in Southbank to build a stronger community.

We had a fantastic time meeting members from other community groups around Southbank and growing our connections within the community.

Community garden

We know it's getting colder, but our gardening team and community volunteers are still working hard to get our winter crops off to a great start.

If you've been thinking about getting your hands dirty in the garden, now is a great time as we start our new round of gardening. This

month we are also hoping to empty and refresh some of the green planters out the back of Boyd and get started on some new planting, so it's a very busy month.

For those unable to attend we are also always looking for more watering volunteers. Just because it's winter doesn't mean our plants don't need a little drink, so if you're interested get in touch so we can send you more information.

Also, keep an eye out for lots of winter plants and vegies as harvest times shouldn't be too far away. Are we missing something? Maybe your favourite winter herb or roast vegetable? We are always looking for garden suggestions and love experimenting with new plants. If you have something in mind, please get in touch.

For those wondering, we meet every

fortnight on Saturdays at 10am to 12pm. Our next two meetups are on Saturdays May 7 and 21 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](https://www.facebook.com/SouthbankSustainabilityGroup) ●

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SAFETY AND SECURITY

Southbank Police Station introduces neighbourhood policing

"I want each of our officers to be proactively engaged with the community and encourage the community to work with them, so we can enhance trust and confidence in the work police do," – Chief Commissioner Shane Patton – March 2022.

Neighbourhood Policing is a new model of community policing and engagement to increase Victoria Police's focus on the issues that matter most to the community and improve safety at local level.

It supports the range of community engagement that occurs every day across the state with a clear purpose, structure and consistent processes to ensure prevention of crime and handling of issues the community cares about are key objectives for all police. To achieve these objectives Southbank Police needs to:

- Listen to the community
- Understand and act on community safety concerns
- Work in partnership with community and other organisations to address local safety issues
- Communicate the outcomes and action taken.

The great news is that neighbourhood policing is up and running! Sergeant Dinah Tremain will be taking on the role full-time as the co-ordinator and will be assisted by Senior Constable Jake Jones.

Both officers work out of Melbourne East Police Station which along with Southbank

Police Station make up the Melbourne East Police Service Area (PSA). Senior Constable Jones has been out and about to get the neighbourhood engagement started for the time being.

With the help of all members of our PSA, Southbank and Melbourne East police will be intently listening to the concerns and needs of our community members and delivering a response aimed at increasing community safety and involvement with police.

Since taking over as officer-in-charge at Southbank Police Station I have been the chair of the Southbank Safety and Security Committee. This committee was formed in 2013 and has given Southbank Police an opportunity to engage and liaise with Southbank's businesses and residents.

Would you like to be involved?

Please feel free to contact the Neighbourhood Policing Coordinator Sergeant Dinah Tremain via email: Dinah.Tremain@police.vic.gov.au

As always, if you have any Southbank issues, please contact Senior Sergeant Jay McDONALD and I ●

For more information, email:

SOUTHBANK-UNI-OIC@police.vic.gov.au



Senior Sgt Alex O'Toole

STATION COMMANDER AT SOUTHBANK POLICE STATION

SOUTHBANK-UNI-OIC@POLICE.VIC.GOV.AU

The Winter Night Market is back!



Grab your scarf, beanie, gloves and get ready to warm yourselves as the Queen Victoria Market's famous Winter Night Market returns after a three-year hiatus.



Running every Wednesday for 14 weeks, from June 1 to August 31, locals will reacquire themselves with Melbourne's best street food traders, brewers, distillers and artisans for the perfect midweek winter experience.

Night Market-goers will be able to wander the Queen Victoria Market's iconic open-air



sheds and laneways to enjoy a smorgasbord of street food specialties like spicy dumplings, cheesy pasta, smoked meats and decadent desserts while sipping on hot gin toddies, warming spiced cider and mulled wine.

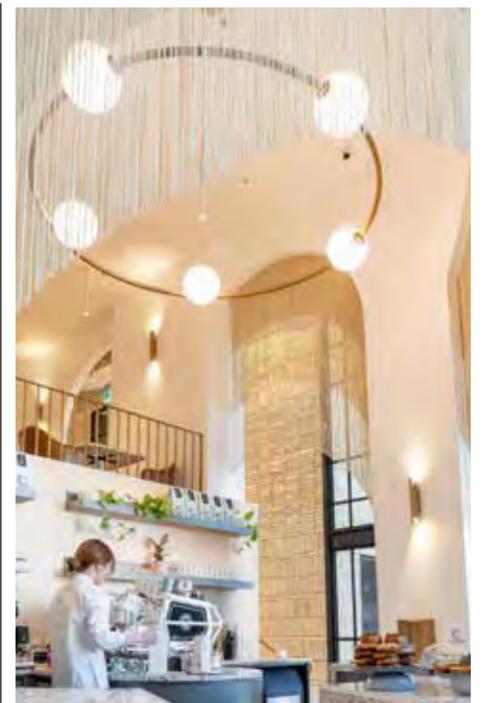
Adding to the culinary wonderment will be a rotating lineup of homegrown talent playing live on the market's main stage while roving performers keep visitors entertained.

Explore the Night Market's unique stalls selling locally-sourced and handmade products including jewellery, art, skincare, books and homewares before settling in beside one of the many roaring open fires.

For those looking for some festive cheer in the heart of winter, the Night Market will embrace the festive spirit to celebrate Christmas in July with (presumably) fake snow, Christmas trees, decorations and more.

The full list of traders will be released during May. The Winter Night Market will run from 5pm to 10pm ●

For more information:
winternightmarket.com.au



Au79 sets up in Southbank

The team behind famed Abbotsford café and roastery, Au79, have set-up shop in Southbank with two new venues.

Locals can drop into Au79 Café and Eatery in the morning for a cup of single-origin coffee, then enjoy wine or whisky alongside some charcuterie at The Green Room, an elegant wine bar with bespoke fit-out and menu.

Both venues are located at Home Southbank, a recently completed build-to-rent tower at 260 City Rd.

The café design reflects the high standard of Au79 that Melburnians have come to know and love.

With Au79's signature fresh breads and pastries from their bakery, the bistro offering is the quintessential Au79 style – a bright and uplifting space filled with light.

The clean, crisp architecture by AA Studio provides an opportunity to pause and reset.

The Green Room brings an added elegance to the Home lobby, with moody lighting and intimate booths setting the scene for catchups with close friends.

The debut wine bar has a modern Australian-Italian feel and features a bespoke bar menu with light meals and nibbles, carefully curated by Daniel Cormick (formerly from the Mulberry Group and Coombe Yarra Valley).

Guests can enjoy a wine with some freshly shucked oysters, burrata with prosciutto, or perhaps the arancini of the day.

For those who fancy something heartier, the dinner menu is available to the main dining tables and includes black truffle and wild mixed mushroom risotto, a 300g porterhouse, and a charred grilled whole fish with heirloom tomato ●

For more information:
homeapartments.com.au



Jack Hayes
BUSINESS EDITOR
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The changing face of Montague

WORDS BY Jack Hayes

In the second instalment of this three-part series, Southbank News takes a look at how Australia's biggest ever urban renewal project will impact Montague's tight business community.

Expected to be complete by 2050, the Fishermans Bend urban renewal project will cover around 480 hectares bordered by the West Gate Fwy in the east, Lorimer St in the north, Williamstown Rd in the south and Kooronga Way to the west.

The project will consist of five distinct precincts: Lorimer, Employment Precinct, Wirraway, Sandridge, and of course, Montague.

According to the Victorian Government's Fishermans Bend Framework, on completion the project will provide "80,000 jobs and a range of well-serviced, medium- and high-density housing options for 80,000 people."

The promises of housing world-leading innovation look great in news headlines or government meeting rooms, but what does it mean on the ground, and what does it mean for Montague, an area rich in historical identity and community.

Showcased in the 2019 City of Port Phillip exhibition, *Montague: a community lost and found*, the suburb's strength of community was based on participation in two world wars, caring for the extended family and through sharing and lending a hand in times of need.

With its own church, police station and school, Montague was a legitimate community, a sentiment echoed by one resident highlighted in the exhibition who said, "there will never be another place like Montague as we knew it. There were never many of us, but we stuck like glue."

While only a smattering of the 2000 households which once formed Montague still stand, Photography Studies College (PSC) librarian and student support manager, Jill Bartholomeusz, said the sense of community still lived on among businesses and institutions like hers.

"Taking students on wellness walks around Montague and I find all sorts of artists in the area," Ms Bartholomeusz said. "Some working



▲ Clockwise from top left: PSC's Jill Bartholomeusz and Julie Moss, Anne Maloney from the Father Bob Foundation, the Golden Fleece's Matt Amble and the Presbyterian Mission, Mothers Group gathering, courtesy Nixon family.

out of garages welding in a dark garage off Thistlethwaite St. They are always happy for our students to take pictures and discuss the possibility of profiles."

"Everyone seems to stick together. Even the local panel beater was quick to help when I had a found a scratch on my car, and with cafes popping up around the area, it feels like it [Montague] is about to boom."

"It is great to see a new gallery pop up just around the corner. For us, that is fantastic because it provides our students with an opportunity to showcase their work in local galleries."

One of Montague's popular meeting places was local watering hole, the Golden Fleece Hotel.

First licensed in 1872, the "Fleece", as it was affectionately known, has a chequered 150-year history.

Shifting from one owner to another for much of its lifetime, the pub was popular among Montague's local fishermen and wharfies.

A century-and-a-half on, the Fleece still stands tall, but now dark interiors, beer-soaked carpet and pub brawls have made way for a white stone Santorini-inspired oasis.

Manager Matt Amble said the organic response from the Golden Fleece's renovation stages to opening has been resounding, with their Instagram "skyrocketing from zero followers to 20,000 in a matter of months."

"To do something successful in this area, which existing pubs haven't been able to do, is to create something that is a bit outlandish, something against the grain because it's Montague St, it's South Melbourne, there isn't much foot traffic, you have to become a destination, and if it was to become just another pub, it would be overseen and overlooked," Mr Amble said.

"It's an interesting mix of people who come in. We have lured both locals and visitors with the aesthetic. It's a really broad network that also attracts a lot of interested locals and



businesses throughout the area."

As the inevitable gulf of development and subsequent crawl of gentrification threatens this once storied working-class neighbourhood, there are still some who champion old philosophies of sharing and lending a hand in times of need

Anne Maloney is a volunteer for the Father Bob Foundation outreach HQ and community pantry.

They offer hampers for people in need, from frozen meals, fresh fruit and vegetables to pantry items, and hot meals and coffee for rough sleepers.

"People have always been able to come here for assistance with hampers, but since COVID-19 we are seeing a lot more people than before," Ms Maloney said.

"We would never turn anyone away. We have had people from New Zealand who haven't been able to get government assistance."

"Supplies are all donated, and we are 100 per cent volunteer managed. Everything that comes into the warehouse is donated. We get assistance from FairShare, OzHarvest and SecondBite. We spend a small amount of money at FoodBank each week."

While the residential presence in Montague continues to evolve into its new identity, it is plain to see the strong sense of belonging lives on through its business community ●

Pet's Corner

Tilly's Southbank family

“ Local cocker spaniel Tilly has strong family ties to Southbank and has wasted no time creating a strong sense of community in her building since moving in one year ago. ”



PHOTOGRAPHY BY *John Tadigiri*

According to her owner Magda, Tilly's journey began before even arriving in Southbank. After Magda met another cocker spaniel, Dylan, in their building, they had connected with Dylan's mum and in her words, "quickly grew attached to both of them!"

"We would have Dylan on the weekends and decided to get a dog ourselves. Tilly is Dylan's younger sister and we got her from a breeder in Pakenham," Magda said.

"We waited for quite some time until we could finally bring her home. She is one year old now and it's been great having her older sister so close to us. They see each other every day!"

"Loving", "affectionate", "happy", "loyal" and

"smart" are all words Magda used to describe Tilly, and furthermore, she said she was "easy to train."

As for food, she enjoys a regular diet of rice, meat, vegies and even fruits – a habit Magda said had come as somewhat of a surprise ...

"She loves fresh vegies and fruits, especially watermelon and carrots."

As for life in Southbank, it couldn't get much better for Tilly. She's adapted easily to apartment life and enjoys regular walks to the Shrine, Kings Domain and along the Yarra River.

However, one desire shared by the Southbank Village residents is for a fenced dog park to be established on the Southbank side of Kings Way.

"That would be so helpful as the one in South Melbourne is so close to the main road and I don't feel safe taking her there for a play!" Magda said ●

10 YEARS ON

Looking back at Southbank News - 10 Years On

MAY 2012 | ISSUE 07 |

SOUTHBANK NEWS

Revamped residents group gets strategic

Mabel Vargas has been in the job for just four months, but the president of the Southbank Residents Group has already begun to re-energise the group.

Ms Vargas admits it took a little while to find her feet in the new role but now feels comfortable in what she is undertaking.

She said the first priorities were revitalise the group's image and then connect with the community.

The image is set for an upgrade, with the organisation of a social media strategy and a new website both in the pipeline.

The latest work in connecting to the community is a strategic plan for the group, to entice people to join, and make all members as effective as possible.

The strategic plan outlines the issues the SRG feel it needs to cover and also prioritises them, so that all meetings are kept on track and the members are all heading in the same direction.

The plan lists C171 Amendment and appropriate development, traffic congestion and noise, public school and childcare, police presence and appropriate open space as high priorities.

Sub-committees have been set up to cover all of these groups in another attempt to attract people to the SRG.

Ms Vargas suggests that the growth of Southbank's residential population is the key



to the group having a louder voice.

"The more the owner occupier rate increases, the more people will be concerned with these types of issues," Ms Vargas explains.

Ms Vargas has also distributed a letter and petition for all residents, in another attempt to gain awareness and membership.

The letter also urges resident's to take their own action by contacting Planning Minister Matthew Guy and Lord Mayor Robert Doyle.

As the number of residents continues to grow, Ms Vargas hopes the SRG will grow and prosper, and with her at the helm, it is certainly heading in the right direction ●

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获巨额捐赠当代艺术馆更名

维多利亚国立美术馆当代艺术馆 (NGV Contemporary) 喜获 Lindsay Fox 和 Paula Fox 夫妇 1 亿澳元的巨额捐赠，新的当代艺术馆将命名为 The Fox。

Kaylah-Joelle Baker

用于建设 NGV 当代艺术馆的这笔资金，是目前在世捐赠者向澳大利亚艺术馆提供的最大一笔文化捐赠。

对于这笔惊人的巨额赠款，NGV 馆长 Tony Ellwood 感到“惊讶”和“不知所措”，这对慷慨的夫妇长期以来一直致力于支持 NGV。

Ellwood 先生说：“Fox 家族在这一领域的领导地位，以及他们的捐赠已经并将继续对许多人的生活产生真正、切实的影响，应该受到赞扬。”

“我们很高兴看到，受到 Fox 家族支持 NGV 当代艺术馆的愿景，他们是 NGV 的长期支持者。”

“这份礼物证明了他们强烈的公民自豪感，以及对我们社区所有成员都能接触到艺术的信念。”

NGV 信托委员会主席 Janet Whiting 也对 Fox 家族表示感谢，称这笔资金是一个“独特的捐赠”。

Lindsay Fox 是一位澳大利亚商人，他创建了澳大利亚物流公司 Linfox，多年来，他与妻子 Paula Fox 一起为艺术、住房和医学研究领域做出了许多贡献。



Fox 夫人也是 NGV 基金会的董事会成员，她在宣布赠款的当晚表示，Fox 家族

为“NGV 的工作很重要”，希望他们这次的捐赠能“激励其他人来支持这个项目”。



市区涂鸦清理受到赞扬

墨尔本市政加强了对市区街道涂鸦的清理，继三月份全城大规模突击行动后，市民报告说，南岸 (Southbank) 发生了明显的变化。

Brendan Rees

自新冠疫情开始以来，市区的涂鸦增加了 60%，市政积极努力，采取清理行动。在 4 月 26 日的市政会议上，市政议员投票，

寻求州政府的“紧急援助”，帮助打击这种破坏行为。

在这次突击行动中，清洁人员清理了南岸、Docklands 港区、South Wharf 南码头和市中心区域的街道，市政希望能改善公共空间，确保在上班族、学生和游客返回市区时，这个城市是干净的。

在南岸的清除涂鸦区域中，Power 街 26 号墙上的 400 平方米的涂鸦被清除，相当于两个网球场的大小。在 Clarendon 街 56-58 号的墙上，清除了 300 平方米的涂鸦，这两

处都是私家物业。

目前从报告涂鸦的出现到清除之间的平均时间为 5 天，与 1 月份相比缩短了 70% 的时间。

南岸居民协会 Tony Penna 表示，市政在全市张贴二维码以鼓励居民和游客举报涂鸦的措施“非常有效”。

他说：“用二维码举报涂鸦的人反映，涂鸦几天内就被清除了；我个人觉得此举非常有效。”

“垃圾箱上的二维码正在工作，一旦得到报告，涂鸦很快就会清除。”

然而，Penna 先生认为，清理涂鸦的成本高昂，“可能首先需要由州政府来解决，因为这是一个治安问题。”



剧院改造带来更多户外活动

耗资 460 万澳元的 Malthouse 剧院升级改造工程正在进行，以更新南岸 (Southbank) 的艺术区域，并吸引观众参加 Malthouse 的 2022/23 夏季户外活动。

Rebecca Broadhead

此次升级改造将确保这座成功定制的室外舞台成为 Malthouse 剧院历史上的年度固定节目舞台，这个室外舞台于 2021 年首次亮相，是剧场在疫情之后推出防疫安全措施的一部分。

由于 Andrews 工党政府和 Sidney Myer 基金的经济支持，室外舞台是剧院最近推出的一个受欢迎的附加项目，超过 25000 名观众出席了 80 场各种活动，包括现场音乐会、喜剧表演、歌舞表演和文学活动。

这个圆形的室外剧场能使艺术区域得以扩展，维州创意产业部长 Danny Pearson 说：“无论是听音乐会、现场戏剧还是在星空下看电影，维多利亚人都喜欢在户外体验艺术，这些升级改造将使这个愉悦的空间变得更好。”

升级改造工程于 6 月开始，将改善观众

的便利性，并进行一些修复工作以保护历史悠久的南岸建筑。

该工程将更换屋顶、翻新门厅以及提供更便利的设施，包括重新铺设庭院和重新设计酒吧，为户外人群提供更好的服务。

所有的表演将得到新的灯光设施、舞台设施以及户外技术服务台的支持，Malthouse 剧院也将为艺术家专门介绍剧院的升级，演员在户外舞台演出有一个专用的绿色房间。

Malthouse 剧院执行制作人兼首席执行官 Sarah Neal 说：“42 年前，标志性的 Malthouse 改造成了我们钟爱的剧院；20 年前，我们的邻居 ACCA 和 Chunky Move 又加入进来，建立了这个创意的艺术区。”

观众将欣赏 Malthouse 剧院露天舞台上优秀领先+的表演艺术，参与由文化组织策划的一系列系列活动。

新自行车道计划遭社区反对

Port Phillip 市政批准了在南墨尔本 (South Melbourne) 修建一个受保护的自行车道计划，遭到社区的强烈反对。

Brendan Rees

当地居民和商家担心，该计划提议在 Moray 街和 Kings Way 之间的 Park 街上拆除 12 个停车位，修建临时弹出式受保护自行车道，这将产生“重大影响”。

但是该市副市长 Tim Baxter 支持这个计划，他认为，骑自行车者的安全是最重要的，不应该为了“在自家门口停车方便”而牺牲骑车者的安全。

他在 5 月 4 日的市政会议上说：“减少争抢停车位的汽车数量，其最佳方法之一就是鼓励骑自行车，并保证骑车者的安全。”在该市政会议上，议员们以 6 比 3 的投票支持这项提议。

“我不认为市政有责任确保每个人都可以直接在自己家门外停车。这实际上是不可能的。”

“我们的市政辖区非常密集，而且越来越密集，老实说，都想生活在一个幻想的区域里，期待永远可以这样。”

会议上还宣读了 Peter Bone 博士对该计划提出的反对意见，他表示，该计划“不能让请愿者感到满意”，称失去停车位的损失是“巨大的且不公平的”。

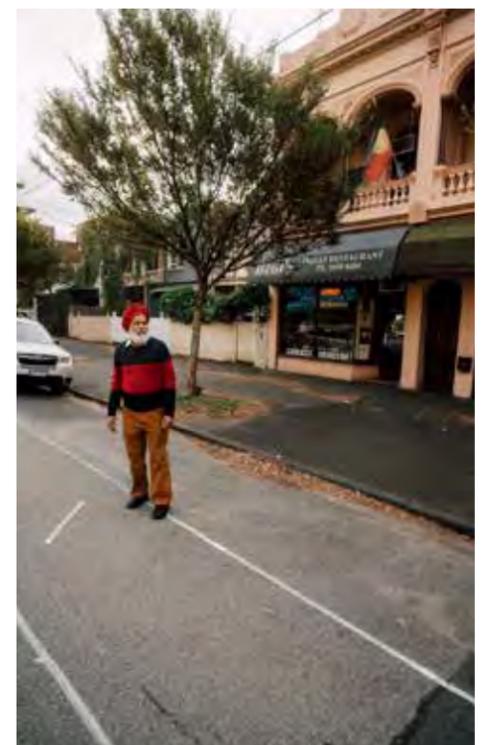
他在意见书中指出：“对于我们这个负担沉重的社区来说，资源如此稀缺，应该可以通过更现代的设计来缓解。”

该计划是市政在 2021 年 9 月的会议上批准了一些供州交通部 (DoT) 考虑的弹出式

自行车道计划路线之后提出的，其中包括 Moray 街和 Kings Way 之间的临时受保护自行车道。

一份市政报告称，DoT 已经确认将该自行车道纳入其中，预计拨款 17 万澳元，施工时间定在今年 5 月至 6 月。

根据计划，将拆除 12 个停车位，其中包括位于靠近 Kings Way 南侧的幼教中心两个专用停车位，市政表示那儿的停车位没有用，因为幼教中心目前不营业。



What's On: May

Community Calendar



Art After Dark: NGV International

Visitors to the NGV can enjoy late-night access to all levels, including performances curated especially for Art After Dark Melbourne.
 Fri 13 May 6pm - 1am
 Sat 14 May 6pm - 1am

ngv.vic.gov.au



FEBRUARY 20 - DECEMBER 31 2022

Aboriginal Heritage Walk

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rbg.vic.gov.au

Buxton Contemporary

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buxtoncontemporary.com



Stompers at Southbank Library at Boyd

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Sonia Payes: Transmutations

Visit Assembly Point Southbank and be taken into the future of art with new works by Melbourne-based artist Sonia Payes.

soniapayes.com



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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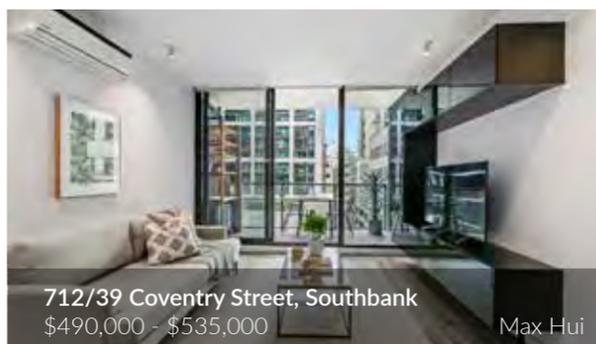
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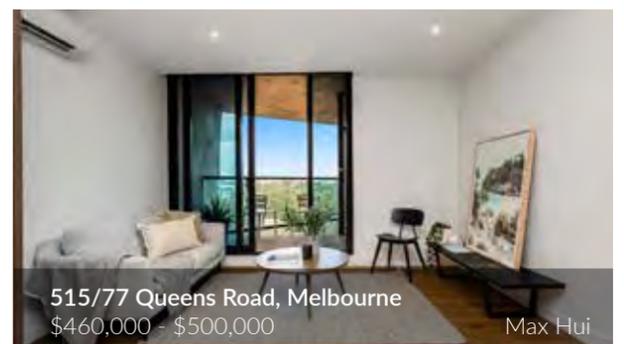
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\$1,100,000 - \$1,200,000
Trent Bonnici



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\$490,000 - \$535,000
Max Hui



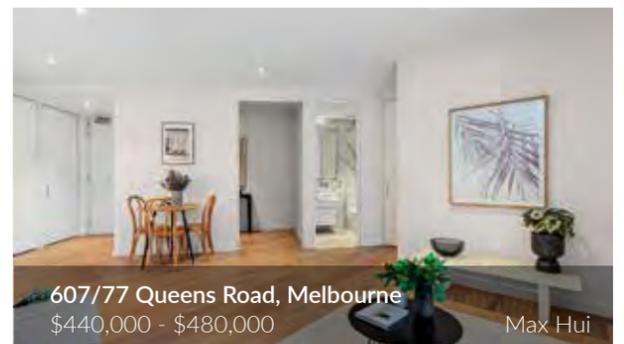
515/77 Queens Road, Melbourne
\$460,000 - \$500,000
Max Hui



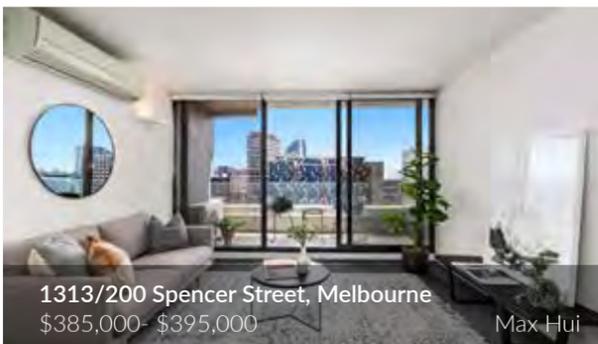
2810/601 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne
\$395,000 - \$430,000
Max Hui



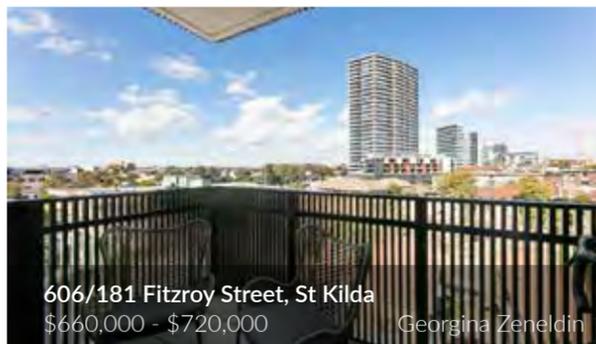
1203/1 Roy Street, Melbourne
\$1,800,000 - \$1,900,000
Max Hui



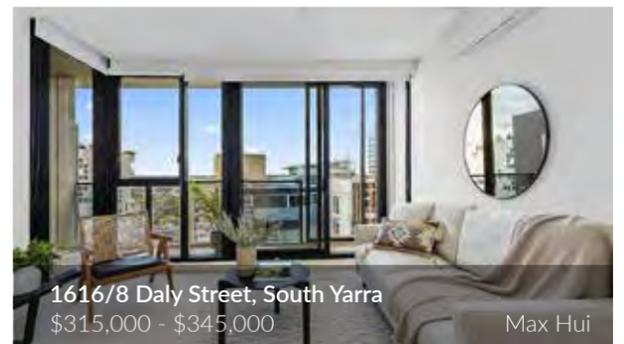
607/77 Queens Road, Melbourne
\$440,000 - \$480,000
Max Hui



1313/200 Spencer Street, Melbourne
\$385,000 - \$395,000
Max Hui



606/181 Fitzroy Street, St Kilda
\$660,000 - \$720,000
Georgina Zeneldin



1616/8 Daly Street, South Yarra
\$315,000 - \$345,000
Max Hui



101/1215 Centre Road, Oakleigh South
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