

# SOUTHBANK NEWS

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**The community centred cafe making some noise**  
*Photo by Murray Enders*

Having already cemented itself in the community and even winning a local Southbanker poll for best coffee, for Tony Rouillon, Jordan Setiawan and Daniel Emerton, the past two months has been nothing short of amazing following the opening of their joint project Mr Summit Cafe. *Full story page 12.*

## Promenade works finally underway, but concerns remain about cyclists

*Much needed upgrade works on Southbank Promenade have begun more than two years after originally flagged.*

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

And while local resident groups welcomed the improvements — which will include new bluestone footpaths, lighting, seating and trees — they remain concerned about the ongoing issue of how pedestrians and cyclists can co-exist on the busy thoroughfare.

Works on the promenade, which has not had a major upgrade in more than 25 years, were originally planned to commence in early 2020 but were pushed back on numerous occasions.

The revamp of the 300-metre stretch of promenade is set to be delivered in two stages, with (already underway) stage one at the eastern end, near Princes Bridge and in front of Hamer Hall.

Black timber hoarding has been erected in front of a number of restaurants below Hamer Hall, and is expected to remain there until late July.

Stage two will take place in front of the Southgate shopping and dining precinct, to the east of Evan Walker Bridge.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said the works “should be completed by the end of the year.”

Residents’ groups welcomed the upgrades, which they said were overdue and could help welcome new visitors.

However, they expressed concerns

about the ongoing issue of how those on foot intersect with those on two wheels on a shared path that can welcome 40,000 people (pre-COVID figure) per day.

Conflict between cyclists and pedestrians on the promenade have been ongoing for many years, with a number of accidents and near-misses reported.

A 2021 police operation saw more than 100 cyclists and scooter riders fined in a safety crackdown for travelling faster than 10 km/h.

Southbank Residents’ Association president Tony Penna said the upgrades had to keep this key issue in mind.

“It’s a welcome upgrade and we’ve been waiting for it for some time,” he said.

“I know one of the key issues with this upgrade from a residents’ perspective is how this will mitigate the speed of cyclists.”

Pedestrian and cycling access will be maintained throughout the works, although the council has requested cyclists dismount when passing the narrower construction areas as a result of the hoarding.

Southbank3006 vice-president Jannine Pattison questioned whether the upgrades would alleviate some of the conflict.

“I applaud the widening of the promenade to make it more useable and inviting including the planting of more of native trees, as that area is

*Continued on page 3.*

## Community helps shape design of notorious intersection

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
TRANSPORT

The Department of Transport (DoT) has held a meeting with Southbank residents in relation to the notorious City Rd-Power St intersection, which is on track to be overhauled in the coming months.

The works come as engineers and road safety specialists have undertaken an “extensive investigation and design process” after a B-double truck hit and injured five pedestrians in May last year.

With one year having now passed since the horrific incident, representatives from the DoT met with residents on May 12 to provide an update on the progress of the intersection’s \$3.8 million safety upgrade, which was announced late last year.

The DoT said community consultation had helped shape the design of the intersection, with feedback considered to ensure the upgrade would cater to the needs of the community.

“We will continue to communicate with the City of Melbourne, Southbank residents and businesses, industry bodies and relevant associations as we get closer to delivering the project, including detailing final designs and traffic impacts during and post-construction,” a statement read.

Southbank 3006 vice-president Jannine Pattison said their group was “delighted” to be invited to the meeting at the Boyd Community Hub along with other community leaders and stakeholders.

“I can happily report that there will be some positive changes to the City Rd and Power St intersection. The detailed design has now been finalised and will be put out to tender in the coming weeks,” she said.

“Southbank3006 will continue to work closely with the Department of Transport to facilitate community consultation and communication to reduce impacts on those local residents that will be affected by road closures, noise etc.”

*Continued on page 2.*

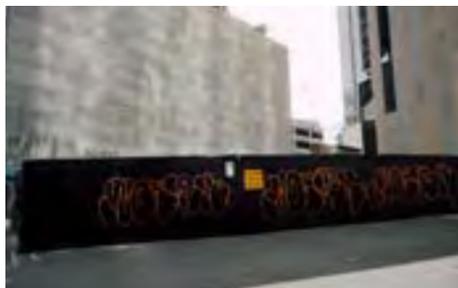
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Suite 108, 198 Harbour Esplanade  
Docklands 3008  
southbanklocalnews.com.au  
Tel: 8689 7980

EDITOR  
Sean Car

PUBLISHER  
Hyperlocal News Pty Ltd  
ABN: 57 623 558 725

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## Community helps shape design of notorious intersection

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Southbank Residents' Association president Tony Penna also attended the meeting, saying it highlighted the importance of the community engaging with the department.

"It's about them reaching out so we don't feel we're forgotten about. There were a few things they [DoT] learnt, but there was nothing new so to speak; I think it was their way of saying, 'it's on track and this is what we plan on doing,'" he said.

In other developments, Ms Pattison submitted a question to the City of Melbourne's Future Melbourne Committee meeting on May 17, asking if the council would commit to funding a comprehensive traffic management strategy for all of Southbank.

In response, Lord Mayor Sally Capp referred to a prepared statement, saying the City of Melbourne did not have a specific plan for a traffic management strategy in Southbank at this stage.

However, she said the council was undertaking area-wide studies across the municipality to improve pedestrian safety, amenity, and access.

This included a study for a local area speed limit reduction to 40km/h and local area pedestrian and road safety improvements in Southbank for 2024-25.

Cr Capp added any traffic management strategy or plan for Southbank would build on the work of the City Road Master Plan and align with the strategic intent of the Transport Strategy 2030.

"We're absolutely aware of the



safety issues even at Power and Kavanagh [streets] where we've seen increased foot traffic to the supermarket, for example, and the impact of Melbourne Square there and what that's meant for the neighbourhood," she said.

"We are committed to keep working with you ... [and] ensuring that we can be the champions and deliver good outcomes for you."

Ms Pattison asked another question on behalf of Southbank3006 regarding the council's commitment to sustainability and improving the liveability in Southbank.

In response, a council statement stated, "all council's policies and operational efforts go toward enhancing sustainability for the benefit of existing communities and future generations."

It said the council was also "actively pursuing" additional green open space as well as adopting sustainable building design provisions for inclusion in the planning scheme. ●



*Brendan Rees*

JOURNALIST

BRENDAN@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU

## "Preparatory works" start at 310 St Kilda Rd

WORDS BY *Sean Car*  
VETERANS

The Department of Defence says it's undertaking preparatory works ahead of a long-awaited refurbishment of the former Repatriation Clinic at Victoria Barracks at 310 St Kilda Rd.

The works come after the former Morrison Government announced that it was launching a review into the historic building in February, just a few months prior to losing government at the May 21 election.

A statement released by former Minister for Defence Industry Melissa Price in February confirmed that the Morrison Government had "started planning for the renovation and ongoing use by Defence of an historic Art Deco building in the Victoria Barracks".

The Department of Defence, the owner of the building, has engaged Melbourne architects Lovell Chen to conduct a feasibility study into the refurbishment and re-use of the former Repatriation Outpatients Clinic, which has been vacant for more than 20 years.

The feasibility study will identify opportunities for the renovation and ongoing use of the building, while taking into account a planned redevelopment of the wider Victoria Barracks precinct.

The Art Deco building was completed in 1937 and was in



continuous use by Defence up to the late 1990s.

The decision to reconsider the building's potential for ongoing Defence use follows the City of Melbourne's advice in October 2021 to formally decline an offer to acquire the property due to the building's poor condition, with remediation works estimated at around \$21 million.

The Department of Defence said, "redevelopment and refurbishment of the site is a complex matter requiring further studies to consider the investment requirement and options for re-use in the context of the broader Victoria Barracks precinct".

"Defence is undertaking preparatory works ahead of a planned refurbishment of the site," a Defence spokesperson told *Southbank News*.

While re-development options are being considered, Defence said some remediation works were being undertaken to stop any further deterioration of the building. ●

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# Promenade restaurants deal with impacts of hoarding

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge  
BUSINESS

A two-and-a-half-metre-high black hoarding erected last month in front of the restaurants at Hamer Hall is expected to block diners' view of the river until late July.

The hoarding was put up by the City of Melbourne to shield pedestrians from works along the riverbank.

It extends for about 100 metres from Princes Bridge, creating a narrow canyon on Southbank Boulevard.

The works will widen the boulevard to improve congestion for an estimated 40,000 users but in the meantime two restaurants are impacted.

Yosuke Katanaka, executive chef at Saké, a Japanese fusion restaurant, told *Southbank News* he arrived at the restaurant about a month ago to discover that scaffolding had been erected, and has been the one on the ground forced to explain the situation to customers.

Mr Katanaka expressed his disappointment with the level of communication about the construction



▲ Saké chef Yosuke Katanaka in front of the Southbank Promenade hoarding.

works and the impacts to the business, but the City of Melbourne has vigorously maintained that Hamer Hall and all stakeholders, including promenade restaurants, have been extensively consulted over the course of the past three months.

Yarra River Business Association (YRBA) executive officer Tim Bracher confirmed this, stating that the council's business and

community consultation had "improved significantly in recent years, especially with regard to more major disruptive projects." "Direct contact and regular project fact sheets has meant that we as a business association can quickly communicate issues through to our members and provide feedback to the council," he said.

But Mr Katanaka said the impacts

from the hoarding on business had been immediate.

"On the first night there were a lot of complaints from guests," he said. "They travel from far away and like to sit in the outdoor area to enjoy the Yarra."

He said the restaurant has had a lot of cancellations since then. "There's no view. It looks like a construction site."

The tops of city buildings are still visible from the indoor area of the restaurant and the sunshine makes its way in for the Friday lunch sitting if you're lucky.

The restaurant is known for its king fish sashimi, a dish called hiramasa, which comes from a sustainable farm in Port Lincoln fed by the algal-rich waters of Antarctica.

The fish are happy because they are treated so well, according to Mr Katanaka, but what about his customers?

"We want to put the word out there. The height could be reduced a metre or so. It's [the view's] worth fighting for," he said.

Next door, pizza restaurant Teatro is in a similar position. A

spokesperson for the business said their custom had dropped by 30 to 40 per cent since the hoarding was erected.

They said the business had been advised by the council and hoped their customers could find them.

According to the council, the works were delayed to support small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 lockdowns and businesses were advised, after a lengthy period of consultation.

Stage One of the Southbank Promenade upgrade will involve replacing bluestone paving, upgrading lighting, new seating, reconfiguring stairs and ramps between promenade levels, and adding more trees, including replacing dying trees and planting new native trees.

The works in front of the Hamer Hall are expected to last three months. ●



Rhonda Dredge  
JOURNALIST  
RHONDA@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU

# Promenade works finally underway, but concerns remain about cyclists

Continued from page 1.

becoming a corridor for native birds," she said. "However, I am not sure that the upgrades are addressing the issue of cyclists along the promenade. Cyclists will be encouraged to cycle away from the water and instead use Linlithgow and Southbank Boulevard as an alternative route — I do not see this as being a viable solution. There should be more thought into how we can integrate pedestrian and cycle traffic to operate safely together."

A floating pontoon for cyclists, like those seen upstream along the Yarra River at Burnley, has previously been suggested as a way to improve pedestrian safety on the promenade.

However, investigations found this could impact access for Southbank tour boat operators.

The council has said the promenade will remain a shared space, and instead hoped cyclists would use new routes on Southbank Boulevard.

However, Ms Pattison was not convinced. "The big drawcard for cyclists and pedestrian is the beautiful Yarra River, and it would be better to find a solution where both could co-exist side-by-side, rather than send the cyclists off on



an alternative route, which I highly doubt they will use."

Southbank Promenade was built in the early 1990s, and the City of Melbourne has previously said aspects of the thoroughfare were "approaching the end of their service life".

The project will replace "worn" pavements, furniture and "unwell" trees, and widen



*I know one of the key issues with this upgrade from a residents' perspective is how this will mitigate the speed of cyclists.*



footpaths, a point Cr Reece has said would "go a long way to alleviating some of those congestion issues".

The council said that construction hours will be 7am to 6pm Monday to Friday, while occasional work may be required on Saturdays between 8am and 6pm.

The \$3.8 million project is being funded with

\$3 million from the Melbourne City Recovery Fund — a partnership between the City of Melbourne and the Victorian Government. The City of Melbourne is delivering the project and providing an additional \$800,000 in funding.

Minister for Industry Support and Recovery Martin Pakula said the government was backing the project because "it will create jobs now and deliver a lasting legacy for the many businesses along the Southbank waterfront."

"Southbank Promenade is a great asset and that's why we are partnering with the City of Melbourne to deliver this upgrade that will encourage even more people to discover the best our city has to offer," he said. ●



David Schout  
JOURNALIST  
DAVID@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU



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▲ Sergeant Dinah Tremain and Southbank3006 vice-president Jannine Pattison.

Photo: Murray Enders.

## Residents calls for more “boots on the ground” in meeting with police

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
SAFETY & SECURITY

Southbank has hosted its first successful police community meeting as part of a new initiative aimed at focusing on issues that matter most to residents and improving safety.

About 20 residents gathered at the Boyd Community Hub on May 29 where Sergeant Dinah Tremain of Melbourne East Police Station listened to their experiences and answered questions about community safety.

Hosted by the Southbank3006 residents’ group, the two-hour meeting discussed topics such as hoon driving activity, traffic issues including “antagonistic” driver behaviour, anti-social behaviour, graffiti and calls for a stronger police presence in the streets.

The forum comes after Victoria Police recently launched a Neighbourhood Police model in the community as part of a “back-to-basics” approach to tackle crime and support community safety.

Sgt Tremain is coordinating the initiative across the Melbourne police service area, which includes Southbank.

The model works by local police stations keeping a register of issues, which officers will be tasked to address before reporting back to residents on their progress.

Southbank3006 vice-president Jannine Pattison said the inaugural meeting was a great opportunity to engage with the local police and have their voices heard on issues they “face every day in Southbank.”

“A hot topic of the afternoon forum was traffic management, or the lack of,” she said.

“There was great discussion regarding the need for red light or speed cameras at the Power St-Kavanagh St intersection, as well as City Rd at the St Kilda Rd underpass.”

Ms Pattison added it was “clearly identified” that residents hoped to see more “boots on the ground” including better traffic enforcement during peak hours and targeting anti-social behaviour on Friday and Saturday nights.

While she acknowledged police stations were limited by officer numbers, Ms Pattison said, “What we require is ‘proactive approach to policing and not reactive policing’ in Southbank.”

But she said the “biggest take away” from the meeting

was for residents to report any incidents which police could act on.

Sgt Tremain told *Southbank News* she was impressed by the level of engagement at the meeting, which was an important step in building ongoing relationships with the community.

“I just hope to further develop good communicating relationships between the police and the community and enable that easy conduit for people to share their safety concerns,” she said.

Sgt Tremain said the request to have more police on the streets “definitely came across very strongly” and while police do run a number of operations, she will be “putting forward” a proposal to have more late-night patrols conducted so people feel safer.

“E-scooters and bikes regularly came up at the meeting. The speed at which they travel down Southbank Promenade was making people feel unsafe as they whizz past,” she said.

“This is obviously something we are looking at and we are targeting the e-scooters on a regular basis.”

Sgt Tremain said residents also reported privacy concerns around drones flying over apartment buildings, which she reassured she would follow up and report back to the community.

She said drone activity and other complex issues raised at the meeting would require more than just police – with involvement from council or government departments also critical.

“It’s about connecting with other stakeholders and together coming up with a solution that will help to resolve the issue.”

Southbank3006 will hold its next community meeting at The Assembly Hall at Boyd Community Hub at 2pm on June 26.

Meanwhile, Sgt Tremain attended a Southbank safety and security meeting on June 7 on behalf of Southbank Police Station commander Senior Sergeant Alex O’Toole.

The meeting at the Boyd Community Hub heard from community stakeholders and the City of Melbourne who discussed issues regarding affordable housing and people experiencing homelessness. ●



▲ IGA manager Gary Bedi getting ready for the rainy season.

## Rain, rain, rain: can we expect floods?

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*  
ENVIRONMENT

Winter arrived this month with a full day of constant rain and locals who work by the Yarra were watching it rise with some trepidation.

Gary Bedi is the manager of an IGA on Clarendon St just 100 metres from the river.

Every time a large downpour coincides with a high tide his store gets flooded.

“It starts at Whiteman St and it builds up here,” Mr Bedi said. “It happens every rainy season. Every year it’s the same.”

He said the floods didn’t shut the shop but they can interfere with deliveries. The water runs in through the door.

Just 10.8 mm of rain fell on the first day of winter despite the miserable conditions but the staff at the Ponyfish Island bar in the middle of the Yarra were focused on the words written on the jetty on Southbank Promenade.

“Once it hits the text, we’ve got an hour to evacuate,” barman Tom Auer said. “Last night at about 6pm it got to that. It’s the first time since lockdown. A flood is long overdue.”

There have been other larger rainfalls this year, yet the bar hasn’t flooded. Are fears of flooding misplaced or are we seeing a flow-on effect from the election, which put climate change at the top of the political agenda?

A wet and warm La Nina winter is predicted and the footage of unprecedented flooding in Brisbane and northern New South Wales has had its impact on the imagination of those living near rivers.

Could the Yarra also break its banks? Locals remember when Clarendon St was knee high in water in 2018, particularly where it dips at City Rd.

“These low-lying areas are prone to flash floods,” said Professor of Practice at the Monash Sustainable Development Institute Chris Chesterfield, who has been dealing

with the question of floods.

“Clarendon St flooding is flash flooding from rain falling in the catchment itself. The volume is greater than the through drainage,” he said.

The professor distinguishes these contained floods from the riverine flooding that occurred in Brisbane and says that the Yarra is less likely to break its banks than rivers in other capital cities because of good management of the catchment area by water bodies.

Professor Chesterfield has been leading the debate on water management on LinkedIn and he said that many early catastrophic floods in Melbourne had forced authorities to take action.

But not everyone agrees with Professor Chesterfield though. Brisbane received more than Melbourne’s annual rainfall in three days during the recent event. Are our water authorities being complacent about climate change?

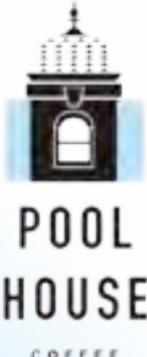
“I don’t think so,” Professor Chesterfield said. “In the Southbank area, there is low-lying swampland and it’s hard to drain effectively. A pump near the casino should be doing the work.”

He said the issue for the Ponyfish Bar is not the rainfall but the high tides. This is where fears of climate change were of legitimate concern, he said.

“If you get really high tides and a low-pressure system, strong winds can blow the water up the Yarra.” A storm surge in the bay coupled with a low-pressure system means the atmosphere is less resistant.

Professor Chesterfield said that as far as he knew, Southbank was not on the list of at-risk sites for rising sea levels because levee walls could be built along the Yarra. He admits the issue is highly politicised, but this was not necessarily a bad thing.

“If the community is getting concerned about these issues and politicians are taking action that is very good. Sometimes things don’t have easy solutions and politicians demand quick fixes.” ●

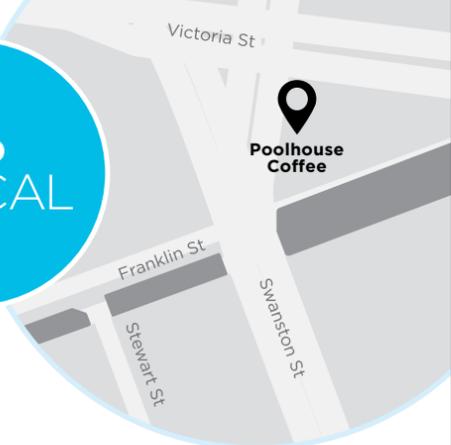




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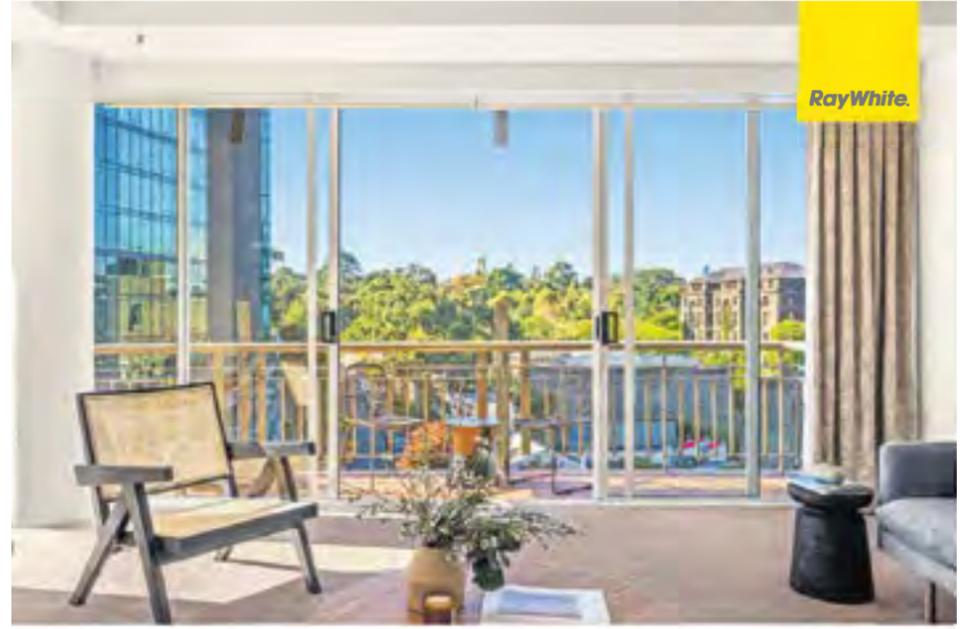




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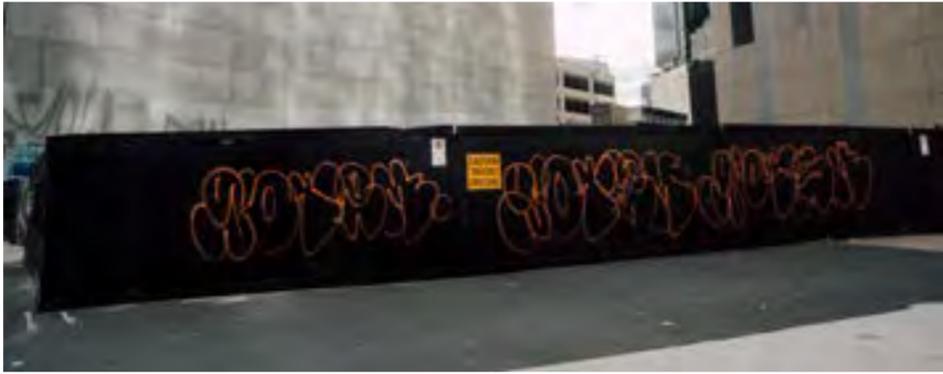
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## An unwanted tag: Singapore meeting exposes City of Melbourne's dilemma

*The City of Melbourne is coming down harder than ever on graffiti, yet street art remains one of the city's biggest selling points. Can the council have it both ways?*

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

It was a minor footnote in a council report that said so much.

A report presented to councillors proposing Lord Mayor Sally Capp travel overseas for an upcoming international engagement wouldn't usually garner any interest.

These trips, filed under opportunities for "international engagement", are par for the course in the city's top office.

Councillors generally spend little time speaking to the motion, and in 99.9 per cent of cases those in the chamber raise their hands to support the trip, swiftly moving onto the next item.

This occasion, on May 31, was no different.

Cr Capp's upcoming trip to the World Cities Summit (WCS) in Singapore, which the council would partly fund to the tune of \$5000, was approved.

But a note at the bottom of the report from management raised eyebrows outside Town Hall.

Alongside key engagements as part of the July 31 to August 4 trip (including a presentation at the WCS Mayors Forum) was a planned meeting with Singaporean officials.

The subject of this meeting? How the Asian city-state deals with graffiti.

"City of Melbourne has increased activity and resourcing to tackle graffiti and street cleaning, to improve public spaces and ensure the city is sparkling as workers, students and visitors return," the report from CEO Justin Hanney noted.

"Singapore is one of the cleanest cities in the world and meetings are proposed on Singapore's graffiti removal and street cleaning programs."

From a Melbourne-based perspective the meeting appears problematic, for a number of reasons.

The first, and perhaps most obvious, is that it is abundantly clear how and why Singapore is able to keep their streets mostly free of graffiti.

And that is, they employ draconian laws around vandalism.

Singapore has severe penalties, which can include corporal punishment and jail, for unapproved street art.

The second, more worrying reason is that the council is now actively looking for advice from a city that takes a zero tolerance approach to street art.

It's a dangerous side to be on. Especially when you consider how crucial the promotion of "laneway art" is to Melbourne visitation and tourism.

As renowned local artist and Blender Studios director Adrian Doyle noted in his column for sister publication *CBD News* last month: "Urban art culture is used as one of the main marketing tools of Melbourne and Victorian tourism ... marketing teams are quick to push it as true urban Melbourne. It's in every magazine and all over the airport in every terminal."

The council itself spruiks the city as boasting a "world-renowned street art scene".

So why, then, would the city look to one of

“*But which ever way you dice it, the optics aren't great on looking to Singapore for guidance on dealing with graffiti.*”

the world's strictest, most tightly regulated street art scenes for advice?

Of course, the council does not have a say in criminal laws and can't throw anyone in jail for illegally using a spray can in one of its many laneways.

Further, it will argue that there is a difference between street art (which it defines as "artistic work done with the permission of the person who owns the wall that the work is being done on") and graffiti ("any writing or images on property without permission and typically includes tagging, writing, etching, stencilling, images or scribbling").

But which ever way you dice it, the optics aren't great on looking to Singapore for guidance on dealing with graffiti.

The planned meeting with Singaporean officials follows the recent release of the City of Melbourne's draft 2022-23 budget where the council will spend \$28.2 million to "clean up our streets and keep them free from graffiti" in the next 12 months.

This is more than it has ever spent. But who decides which graffiti goes, and which stays?

Ugly, indiscriminate tagging across the State Library presented a clear case for the former and was swiftly removed.

But reports have also surfaced in recent months of notable street artists having creative works quickly taken down.

Doyle wrote in his column about the problem with "graffiti removalists becoming the unwitting curators of the street".

The predicament the council finds itself in is difficult.

The city is finally welcoming back hordes of visitors after a two-year lull due to the pandemic and, understandably, Town Hall wants to present the best version of Melbourne for visitors by keeping it as clean as possible.

This is an admirable move that few would disagree with.

But Melbourne and Singapore should be at opposite ends of the spectrum when it comes to regulating graffiti.

One celebrates it as one of the city's defining features, while the other takes a zero-tolerance approach.

One would hope our city can formulate a more nuanced viewpoint. ●

## Arts Precinct works to start in June

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
PLANNING

Early works on the \$1.7 billion Melbourne Arts Precinct transformation will begin in June, ahead of major construction getting underway in 2023.

The initial works — recently awarded to construction group Lendlease — will relocate "critical shared utilities" to ensure that the NGV and Arts Centre Melbourne can continue operating throughout construction.

Site investigations and ground testing will also be undertaken as part of early works on the city-shaping project in Southbank.

According to the Victorian Government, the preliminary works are integral to the wider refurbishment of the State Theatre, which is set to feature upgraded rehearsal spaces, new loading docks for larger productions and new restaurants and bar spaces.

It will also include improved accessibility and acoustics.

"These early works will deliver hundreds of jobs and signify the beginning of an exciting new era for the state's creative sector," Minister for the Creative Industries Danny Pearson said.

"Victorians love the Arts Precinct, and it has served us well — but the transformation will take that to a new plane, entertaining and illuminating us for decades to come and bringing visitors from around the world."

The transformation of Southbank's Arts Precinct is headlined by Australia's soon-to-be largest gallery dedicated to contemporary art and design, and a large, elevated deck featuring a football field-sized area of open space, including areas for outdoor art and performances.

In April designs were revealed for the new gallery, which was soon after renamed "The Fox: NGV Contemporary" after a landmark \$100 million donation from Lindsay and Paula Fox to the project.

At this early stage, the government has projected that the entire project would be completed in 2028.



Speaking at a Yarra River Business Association (YRBA) forum in April, Melbourne Arts Precinct director Michael Parry said despite the considerable works to come, disruption would be kept to a minimum.

"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," he said.

"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."

Mr Parry said "The Fox" would not only become Australia's largest gallery, but rival world-renowned venues in global cities around the world.

"It's going to be a complete game-changer," he said.

"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."

There was still some concern from Southbankers about how the project's elevated deck above Sturt St would impact lower pedestrian areas directly to the west, with fears of dark and unappealing undercroft spaces. ●



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▲ A render of the floating wetlands as part of Greenline.

## Open space pledge, Greenline, headlines budget as rate rise returns

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Around \$25 million will be spent on securing new open space in Southbank over the next four years, as the City of Melbourne released its latest budget that signalled a return to rate rises.

The council's latest budget, released on May 17, also included a \$40 million pledge over the next 12 months to the "city-shaping" Greenline project that proposes a four-kilometre walking and cycling trail along the north bank of the Yarra River.

The four-year, \$25 million commitment to "acquire and develop new public open space in Southbank" further underlines the need for new green space in the area.

The suburb is one of the most densely populated in Australia (local population divided by land area), and the dearth of nearby public areas has been the source of angst among local residents for years.

The council has said Southbank was its "number one priority" when it came to new open space across the municipality.

At this stage it was unclear which specific areas it might target for new pocket parks.

The latest budget also included a further \$5 million for the Dodds St linear park.

Overall, the council pledged a record \$254 million infrastructure spend in the next 12 months, with Greenline — plus a further \$50 million tipped into its biggest ever investment, the Queen Victoria Market precinct renewal — at its heart.

The \$40 million Greenline commitment in the next year will be spent on delivering floating wetlands and begin transforming almost 600 metres of the river's edge at Birrarung Marr.

The council has proposed funding one-third of the \$300 million project and will push the state and federal governments to similarly contribute \$100 million each.

The newly elected federal Labor government has pledged \$20 million to kickstart work on the pathway, which would run from Birrarung Marr all the way to the Bolte Bridge.

However, the news wasn't so good for local residents and businesses already concerned about the rising cost of living, after the City of Melbourne announced a 1.75 per cent rate rise — its first announced increase since 2019.

In 2020, within months of Melbourne's first COVID-19 lockdown, the council announced a freeze on rate increases, while in 2021 it passed on a discount to both residential and commercial ratepayers that saved the majority of ratepayers between \$10 and \$50.

However, this year it opted to increase rates — which contribute around two-thirds of council revenue — in line with the rate cap rise announced by the state government late last year.

The City of Melbourne did, however, announce a rate discount of up to \$247 for pensioners, which it said was the most generous in the state.

Across the municipality, the council's latest budget featured a record \$837.8 million council spend in the next financial year.

"This is a landmark budget that restores city confidence and continues to invest in Melbourne's momentum," Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

"We've designed a budget that delivers on what matters most — making our city cleaner, delivering more events and bringing people back to the city."

"We're investing to grow our economy beyond pre-pandemic levels and create more jobs, more events and more amenities for our residents, traders and visitors."

The council had expected to return to surplus in the upcoming financial year, but this has now been pushed



back to 2023-24.

The underlying deficit announced on May 17 was \$11.3 million.

According to the budget papers, this was due to the "unforeseen impacts of the Omicron variant and the sixth COVID-19 lockdown in 2021".

The council's bottom line, however, would be significantly bolstered by a projected \$25 million increase in parking fines and parking fee income compared with the 2021-22 financial year. This was due to an expected rise in CBD visitation.

Cr Capp referred to "robust internal discussions" at Town Hall surrounding the budget and acknowledged the need to "tighten our belts as an organisation."

"There's a lot of pushing and shoving that goes on to get the best results we possibly can from what is still a tight financial situation at the City of Melbourne," she conceded at a May 17 Future Melbourne Committee meeting held in Docklands.

However, the Lord Mayor said that despite this, the council was buoyed by the strong return of visitors during recent large-scale events such as the Comedy Festival, Formula 1 Grand Prix, AFL games and performances of *Hamilton* and *Moulin Rouge! The Musical*.

Cr Capp revealed that on the Saturday prior to the budget being released (May 14), the city had seen a 172 per cent increase on numbers on even pre-pandemic levels.

"We are getting our mojo back, and our events calendar has really driven a lot of that visitation and return to the city. It's underpinned 'COVID-caution' turning into 'COVID-confidence' and we are seeing the results in our foot traffic."

Greens councillor Rohan Leppert, while supporting the budget, was critical of investment in cycling infrastructure, which was considerably less than what has recently been committed in neighbouring states.

The Liberal NSW government recently committed \$960 million over four years for active transport upgrades in Greater Sydney, while the recent Victorian budget included just \$7 million for cycling.

Similarly, he said the City of Sydney recently committed \$69 million over four years, which dwarfed the City of Melbourne's recent budget allocation of \$18.2 million.

"I'm going to support this budget, but I don't think that's enough," he said.

"We have considered the last two years worth of active transport improvements in the City of Melbourne to be a peak, but we can't consider it a peak — that needs to be the new normal."

An emotional Cr Leppert, speaking on the same night a cyclist was killed at the intersection of La Trobe and King streets in the CBD, said further investment was crucial.

"If we are truly going to make the most of the finite road space in our municipality and make our streets as safe as they possibly can, we have to lift the spending on active transport to make the city safe for everyone."

Community feedback on the draft budget can be provided on the Participate Melbourne website until June 14, before the final budget will be presented to the council for adoption on June 28. ●

## Short-stay debate reignites after resident floats idea of register to the City of Melbourne

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
SHORT-STAYS

A respected Southbank short-stay operator and an owners corporation believe an idea mooted to have a register regulating the use of short-stay accommodation could be problematic.

The years' long short-stay debate resurfaced after the City of Melbourne's Future Melbourne Committee meeting on May 17 heard a question from a Docklands resident asking if it would establish a short-stay register to "ensure an appropriate standard of management and behaviour".

The proposal accompanied the resident expressing concerns that the precinct had been "negatively impacted" by noise, parties, and drug activity at short stays.

The resident, Phil Kan, whose question was read out by Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece, asked if the council had a timeline to do something about the issue, noting Australia had introduced regulations aimed at ensuring visitors could share accommodation without disruptive behaviour.

While the council acknowledged it was a "good question", it did not endorse or discuss the proposal.

Instead, Cr Reece read out a council-prepared statement which referred to changes to *Owners' Corporations Act 2006* that allowed an owners' corporation (OC) and residents to take Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) action against property owners "where unreasonable impacts are caused by way of damage, hazards, noise, and behaviours".

"This legislation applies directly to properties where an OC exists, which makes up a high proportion of residential development within the city, unlike the needs of other councils where the same circumstances may not apply," it said.

Tony Penna, a long-standing Southbank short-stay operator, questioned the effectiveness of a register if such an initiative were to be considered, saying "what do you want that register to achieve?"

"Having the register is one thing, but then has that owner proposed that that register be available to residents ... and to OCs?" he told *Southbank News*.

"You've got a whole lot more questions that need to be asked about that register before we know the effectiveness of it."

"There's always going to be layers of bureaucracy; the council might have a register but then will be the *Privacy Act 1988* apply to that? Even though the residents are there, the council may not have the authority to tell anybody who's on the register."

"They need to be careful ... and if it makes it more accessible etc, and what that could potentially do for those investments people have made."

Mr Penna added, "this whole discussion goes right back several years before the amendments to the *OC Act*", including a proposal for a register which he said was shelved after a final report was handed down in June, 2017."

Karthi Sugumaran, the senior owners' corporation manager for Network Pacific, which manages the Tiara Southbank skyscraper on Haig St, said short-stay operators had an obligation to inform OCs about the

*"It might help people who are looking to purchase or rent, but not existing residents. I don't think it would help them control or deal with issues on the ground."*



status of their accommodation.

"If they're not telling us then how can we do anything? A register will help, but how is the council going to enforce it? That's a different thing," he said.

"It goes both ways, it's up to the owner to disclose all these details to the council, but then how can it be effective?"

"It's like anyone buying a new house these days, if they don't do their checks to see what is done in the background then they won't know, but it's dependent on the vendor and how much they disclose to the incoming purchaser."

Mr Sugumaran said if there was a problem in a building "it is because it's not being communicated properly".

"Ninety per cent of the time if it's not communicative then of course it will fall on deaf ears," he said.

"In the buildings I look after that's pretty much a non-issue because we communicate, and everyone is fully aware of what needs to be done."

This sentiment was also shared by Mr Penna who said he always communicated with building managers.

"I tell them if there is a problem with any of my properties, call me straight away anytime of the night and I'll be there in a heartbeat," he said.

"In many, many cases, I will evict them if they're not following my rules."

Joel Chamberlain, the OC manager at Horizon Strata, a property management firm in Docklands, said he struggled to see how a register would work.

"It might help people who are looking to purchase or rent, but not existing residents. I don't think it would help them control or deal with issues on the ground," he said.

The Docklands Representative Group believed the council's response at its meeting "missed the point of the question", saying "VCAT is a channel for complaints — meaning that it is used after damage or disturbance has occurred."

If a VCAT claim is successful, owners can be fined up to \$1100 while affected residents can be awarded \$2000 in compensation.

Sources told *Southbank News* that short-stay guest compliance "obviously isn't such a big problem" in Southbank but speculated with the abundance of short stays renting at a lower price in Docklands it may "attract a certain demographic" and lead to "potential problems". ●

# Queensbridge St tower gets the green light, paves way for Kings Way undercroft renewal

WORDS BY *Sean Car*  
PLANNING

Developer Time & Place has received an amended permit from Minister for Planning Richard Wynne for its \$410 million 65-storey mixed-use project at 88 Queensbridge St, which includes the acquisition 430 sqm of land abutting Kings Way.

In making the announcement on May 12, the developer said builder Hickory would now “imminently commence construction” at the site, which has most recently been occupied by a pop-up basketball court.

Time & Place recently acquired a neighbouring 430 sqm landholding from Crown Resorts at 15-23 Kings Way, allowing for the extension of the building’s podium and overall footprint and feeding into future renewal of Crown’s former taxi rank at the Kings Way undercroft.

News of the development starting is welcome news for Southbank, with the Kings Way undercroft having long been touted for an upgrade into a new civic space as part of the City of Melbourne’s City Road Master Plan.

“The Queensbridge Building”, which will sit at the western corner of Queensbridge St when complete, fills an important strategic gap in Southbank’s overall development, while helping inform a major project in the council’s master plan for the City Rd precinct.

The acquisition of the adjacent site creates a total 1370 sqm parcel of land achieving an uplift in gross realisation value (GRV) from \$200 million to upwards of \$400 million, while “significantly improving the allowance for amenity within the building”.

The permit amendment, which was unanimously supported by the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) in December last year, allows for a change from the original permit of 250 apartments to up to 367 apartments and a 200-room hotel.

Time & Place said the residential amenities would “emulate features typically found in a world-class hotel”, including a wellness retreat comprising bookable outdoor cabanas, open and private pool, sauna, steam room, gym, yoga studio, boxing ring and private treatment rooms.

Time & Place director Tim Price said, “We are passionate about the evolution of the Queensbridge precinct of Southbank and what the future holds for this thriving area. Acquiring the site at 15-23 Kings Way allows for a significant expansion in amenity and reinforces our development ethos to cultivate community-centric designs.”



“We envision the building becoming a destination that promotes social interaction and engagement, with the first floors of the building spilling into the surrounding street and creating a vibrant interface with the public.”

“This is a project about accessibility, we want to connect with Melbourne’s urban life and invite the people of this neighbourhood to feel a sense of belonging at Queensbridge – to come in and engage with the community-centric shared spaces.”

Speaking at the FMC meeting last year, Deputy Lord Mayor Nick Reece said the planning application at the site was “far and away the best proposal that we have seen for this site,” after an application was initially lodged with the state government in 2013, however little progress had been made after the site’s ownership changed hands.

“There are a number of significant improvements that have been made,” he said, with the proposed building being among the top 20 tallest buildings in Melbourne.

“I think one of the highlights of this application is that activation of the podium at the street level, which I think’s really, really important in this part of Southbank,” Cr Reece said.

While the basketball court at the site, which was established by the developer, will be lost to the development, Cr Reece said the council’s rejuvenation of the adjacent Kings Way undercroft through the City Road Masterplan “does foresee a very significant increase in recreational space in Southbank,” including basketball courts. ●



## Men charged over alleged assault of teenager on tram

CRIME

Two men have been charged after a 15-year-old boy was seriously assaulted on a tram in South Melbourne in April.

Police were told the teenager was with his girlfriend travelling to Southern Cross Station at around 9.15pm on April 23.

When the tram reached the stop near Ferrars St in South Melbourne, two unknown men boarded the tram and allegedly began harassing the victim’s girlfriend.

The victim was involved in a verbal altercation with the two men when they allegedly assaulted the boy and stomped on his head.

The tram stopped and the offenders, believed to be aged in their 40s, fled the scene, police said.

Several passengers witnessed the attack with one passenger seriously affected by the incident.

The victim was taken to hospital with serious head injuries.

A 40-year-old man from South Melbourne has been charged with affray and committing an indictable offence while on bail. He was remanded to appear before Melbourne Magistrates’ Court on June 5.

A 37-year-old man from St Kilda has been charged with affray and has been bailed to appear before Melbourne Magistrates’ Court on October 26.

Detective Senior Constable Megan Fisher from the Victoria Police Transit Safety Division described the assault as “horrific”.

The charges follow an appeal for information by Transit Crime Investigation Unit detectives.

Police spokeswoman Sergeant Julie-Anne Newman said, “Detectives would like to thank the media and community for their assistance.” ●



  
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# Burns win delivers Labor majority amid big Green swing in Southbank

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
ELECTIONS

Labor's Josh Burns has retained the seat of Macnamara after a tense wait following the May 21 federal election, to deliver a majority to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's new government.

While almost all of Australia's 151 lower house seats were called within a week of the election, Macnamara remained one of the few on a knife-edge due to a tight three-way battle, before Burns eventually prevailed.

The win delivered Labor a crucial 76th seat, and an ability to govern in its own right without having to negotiate with an expanded cross bench.

After the ABC called Macnamara for Labor on May 30, nine days after election day, Burns acknowledged Greens candidate Steph Hodgins-May and Liberal candidate Colleen Harkin, and said he would work hard for all locals irrespective of who they voted for.

"This has been a humbling week and I want to acknowledge the strong campaigns of Steph Hodgins-May and Colleen Harkin. I especially acknowledge their volunteers who fought so hard for their worthy candidates," he said on his Facebook page.

"I want to also thank my team, my family and every one of the true believers who gave so much to our campaign. My message to people who didn't vote Labor is that we're going to work hard every day to give people a reason to vote for us next time. That work starts right away. I'm excited to be a part of a majority Labor Government under Anthony Albanese and to work hard for the amazing people of Macnamara."

The delay on who could declare victory in Macnamara was due to a number of factors.

Primary votes for Burns (31.8 per cent), Hodgins-May (29.6 per cent) and Harkin (29.0 per cent) finished within just three per cent of each other.



▲ Josh Burns with Labor's newly elected Member for Higgins Michelle Ananda-Rajah on election day.

With three parties so close, postal, phone and absentee votes became critical, and the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) admitted it took time to get all those votes compiled and finalised.

With no party exceeding 32 per cent of first-preference votes, preference flows played a huge role in determining the eventual victor.

Those went the way of Burns, who was able to hang on for a second term.

Labor won the primary vote count for the first time since 2010.

## Greens heartbreak after strong Southbank result

The result was especially tough on third-time candidate Hodgins-May, who comfortably delivered the party's best primary vote result (29.6 per cent — a 5.4 per cent swing) in the seat historically known as Melbourne Ports.

After the Greens romped home in neighbouring Melbourne and picked up three seats in Brisbane (their first ever lower house victories outside of Melbourne), there were high hopes for Hodgins-May to snare the party an historic fifth seat.

However late counting went the way of Burns, and the Greens fell just short in their bid to win a second inner-Melbourne electorate.

Hodgins-May however proved the overwhelming popular candidate in Southbank, with 40.7 per cent of voters in local booths (situated at the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School and the University of Melbourne Southbank Campus) putting a "number 1" next to the three-time candidate on the House of Representatives ballot paper.

This was comfortably the party's best ever result in Southbank, and perhaps reflected the grassroots work done by the Greens, which Hodgins-May alluded to in an interview with *Southbank News* prior to election day.

"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 said.

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

Burns' first preference votes in Southbank (30.9 per cent) largely mirrored his overall result in Macnamara (31.8 per cent), while locals shunned Liberal candidate Colleen Harkin (19.8 per cent) compared with her overall vote across the electorate (29.0 per cent).

Harkin attracted criticism after declaring that climate emergency warnings given to children



"border on abuse" at a Southbank candidates forum prior to the election.

Southbank makes up a small geographical part of Macnamara (which includes the suburbs of Port Melbourne, South Melbourne, Middle Park, South Yarra, St Kilda, Balaclava, Elwood and parts of Elsternwick and Caulfield) but a significant part of the seat population-wise.

## 2022 Election – MACNAMARA first-preference votes

- Labor: 31.8 per cent
- Greens: 29.6 per cent
- Liberal: 29.0 per cent

## 2022 Election – SOUTHBANK (VCA and Uni Melb voting booths) first-preference votes

- Greens: 40.7 per cent
  - Labor: 30.9 per cent
  - Liberal: 19.8 per cent
- Total votes: 2311 (67, or 2.9 per cent informal)

# Heartbroken family of one-punch victim plead for answers as police launch \$1m reward

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
CRIME

The shattered parents of a young man killed by a cowardly one-punch outside a Southbank nightclub 15 years ago are still desperately hoping for answers.

Shannon McCormack, who was remembered as a "very witty" and loving family member, was just 22 years old when he died after being punched in an unprovoked attack outside the Queensbridge Hotel on May 27, 2007.

Homicide squad detectives have interviewed several witnesses and poured over thousands of hours of CCTV but are still no closer to identifying the culprit.

They have now launched a fresh appeal, offering a \$1million reward — up from \$100,000 in 2009 — for information that could help solve the case.

Victoria Police said Mr McCormack was attacked about 100 metres away from the Queensbridge Hotel after trying to break up an argument between his friend and another group of at least three men.

Mr McCormack was punched and suffered a serious head injury when he was knocked to the ground.

Friends and nightclub staff gave first aid before he was taken home to Eltham in a taxi.

But his condition deteriorated overnight, and he died in hospital seven days later after having undergone several operations.

His parents Cheryl and Bill



McCormack said time had stood still since the death of their son.

"It's 15 years but for us it's like 15 seconds. It's like we've been in a bubble, nothing changes," Mr McCormack said.

"Every time you hit Christmas, anytime there's a family function there's an empty chair. Every christening, everything that has happened to our family there's always someone missing. It's very hard to deal with."

Mr McCormack added, "When you lose a parent, you lose your past; when you lose a child, you lose your future."

"He didn't just kill our son; he killed a whole generation of our family."

Cheryl and Bill McCormack spoke of their trauma while making an emotional plea at a Victoria Police press conference on June 1, saying, "you learn to live with it, but you never get over it."

"Losing a child is one of the



hardest things a parent goes through, but we've still got his memories."

Mr McCormack said their son was a "very witty, funny practical joker".

"He was always into mischief, playing practical jokes on his friends. He was heavily involved in sports; he kept all his friends his whole life," with more than 750 people having attended his funeral.

Speaking of those responsible for their son's death, Ms McCormack said, "Surely you've got a conscience, they must have a conscience but all we can do is just plead that someone comes forward."

As part of the fresh appeal, the McCormack family said they were also motivated to "help other people" from becoming victims of random attacks, and the "education system is where you need to stop all this suffering."

Investigators have re-released CCTV footage from 2013 showing a man who remained a "significant

person of interest".

He is described as 165 to 175 centimetres tall, and of thin to medium build with light brown or blonde spiky hair.

Images on the night of the incident show he was wearing a light purple or blue t-shirt and light blue jeans.

Detective Inspector Tony Combridge said Mr McCormack's death was "tragic and unnecessary."

"That night, somebody's made a decision to act and as a result of that decision the most catastrophic of consequences have occurred and Shannon's been taken away from his family," he said.

Insp Combridge said homicide detectives remained dedicated to the case and would not give up until they had brought justice to the McCormack family.

"As long as this person is still out there, we will be hunting him. And at some point, somebody will come to us."

"All we need is a name and we still believe this case can be solved."

He added the reward money "should lure people to us to provide us with information."

"If you do it for no other reason, do it because it's right."

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on **1800 333 000**.

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

# New shops prepare to launch at Melbourne Square

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
BUSINESS

Melbourne Square shopping centre is gearing up to launch two new food shops after the previous tenants recently moved out.

A new independent café and gourmet grocer will replace the outgoing Atlantikos Mediterranean Eatery and Waku Waku Japanese restaurant, which shut up shop in recent weeks.

Hoarding boards have gone up where the shop spaces have closed as re-fit works for the new operators prepare to kick off in early July with an anticipated opening in October, the centre's owner, Primewest a subsidiary of Centuria, said.

Primewest head of retail Bruce McCully said his firm welcomed the new tenants to the centre in Southbank.

"Their inclusion is part of our revitalisation of this neighbourhood shopping centre, providing a new offering to local residents and the wider community," he said.

Melbourne Square shopping centre opened in December 2020 and is part of a wider master planned mixed-used community developed by OSK Property, which features residences, parklands, a hotel, a conference centre and an office tower.

Primewest merged with ASX-200 listed Centuria Capital Group (CNI), a leading real estate funds manager, at the end of 2021.

## Crown's record \$80m fine a "bit rough" after changes to law: former Melbourne councillor

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
BUSINESS

A former City of Melbourne councillor and anti-gambling activist believes a record \$80 million fine imposed on Crown Melbourne was "a bit rough" given recent changes to the law saw the maximum fine jump from \$1 million.

The newly formed Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission (VGCCC) used its powers for the first time to fine the casino giant over a scheme that allowed the illegal transfer of funds from China that was exposed by the Royal Commission.

The conduct saw foreign punters access \$164 million, with Crown deriving an estimated revenue of more than \$32 million between 2012 and 2016.

VGCCC chairperson Fran Thorn said while Crown had been cooperative during the disciplinary hearings, the fine was appropriate because of the seriousness of its conduct.

"Crown's CUP (China Union Pay) process was a clandestine, deliberate process, which not only breached the *Casino Control Act* but was also devised to assist patrons to breach China's foreign currency exchange restrictions," Ms Thorn said.

Stephen Mayne, a Crown shareholder activist, and former City of Melbourne councillor who served on the council from 2012-16, said while Crown "got off too lightly with zero civil or criminal charges to be launched by ASIC or any other regulators", he believed the fine was "excessive".

"I'm fine with Crown Melbourne being fined hundreds of millions of dollars overall," he said, but added, "It does seem a bit rough on Crown Melbourne that the government can pass laws in 2021 which increased the maximum fine from \$1 million to \$100 million and then retrospectively apply an \$80 million fine for offences that occurred up to a decade ago and only generated \$32 million in profit."

However, Mr Mayne said the current board and management of Crown Resorts "doesn't seem to care too much because the fine will effectively be paid by Blackstone," the world's largest private equity firm, which has announced an \$8.9 billion takeover of Crown Resorts.

"The Crown strategy is just to keep apologising and cop whatever comes their way, and their brand has been so badly damaged by the various scandals that they still haven't been allowed to open their Sydney casino 18 months after it was ready to welcome gamblers."

However, Mr Mayne, now a City of Manningham councillor, said if record fines "keep stacking up" to the point that Blackstone walked away, it would be "bad news" for Crown's 60,000 shareholders, particularly billionaire James Packer who is "patiently waiting for Blackstone's \$3.3 billion payment for his 37 per cent stake."

The chief advocate of the Alliance for Gambling Reform, Rev. Tim Costello, said the fine was "absolutely appropriate" and a vindication of the VGCCC "strengthening its powers".

"The state capture of the regulator over many years has meant Crown has effectively done what it likes with only the prospect of a pitiful \$1m fine as punishment," he said.

The Victorian Royal Commission into Crown found the casino guilty of "disgraceful conduct" and recommended it be stripped of its licence if it could not prove it had reformed itself by 2023. ●

## Work starts on "Gateway to GMH" in Fishermans Bend, but concerns remain for "all road users"

WORDS BY *Sean Car*  
PLANNING

Work is underway to transform Turner St in Fishermans Bend into an active gateway to the precinct's future employment hub at the former General Motors Holden (GMH) site – the catalyst project that will help to deliver 80,000 jobs to the area by 2050.

But the Fishermans Bend Business Forum, which represents a number of large employers in the precinct, has expressed concerns that "future plans may not accommodate all road users".

Lord Mayor Sally Capp joined Fishermans Bend Development Board chair Meredith Sussex at Turner St on June 3 to mark the beginning of the joint project between the City of Melbourne and the Victorian Government.

The "Gateway to GMH" project seeks to transform the corridor from the Fishermans Bend Innovation Precinct at the former GMH site on Salmon St into the CBD. With the University of Melbourne having already purchased land at the site for a new engineering and design campus to open in 2025, the initiative will cater for more active transport uses for future students and workers travelling to the precinct.

According to the state government's planning framework for Fishermans Bend, a new tram route is also mooted for construction along Turner St from the CBD.

Phase one of the gateway works, due for completion later this year, include a new walking and cycling path, new asphalt and recycled glass pedestrian pavement, the trial of new permeable surfaces to allow rain and stormwater to flow through the surface into the soil, and other traffic calming measures and drainage upgrades.

The project will also deliver new digital infrastructure, enabling the roll-out of 5G and real-time sensing networks using council-owned smart poles that can host 5G antennae, sensors, lighting and other technologies.

According to the City of Melbourne, the smart poles will "future proof the precinct and support innovation, including advanced manufacturing".

Street greening works are already underway at the southern side of Turner St near the Australian Road and Research Board's (ARRB's) headquarters, with the Lord Mayor and Ms Sussex helping plant one of hundreds of new trees as part of the June 3 announcement.

But the provision of more space along the Turner St corridor for pedestrians, cyclists and tree planting continues to be the cause of concern for the existing business community in Fishermans Bend, many of which depend on heavy vehicle access.

Within the precinct's cement industry alone, there are an estimated 360 concrete truck movements between Lorimer and Turner streets every day, and many more from other large companies such as USG Boral.

Some within the industry have described the council's plans as "half-baked", with many expressing frustrations that the opportunity to cater for large vehicles, trams, cyclists and pedestrians now appears lost with the planting of new trees on the south side of Turner St.

One worker from the cement industry lamented the "total disconnect" between the plans and the needs of businesses, with many calling for the government to devise a freight plan for the growing precinct.

Following a \$3 million funding commitment towards a transport feasibility study for Fishermans Bend by re-elected Member for Macnamara Josh Burns, Fishermans Bend Business Forum vice-president Murray Nicol told *Southbank News* his organisation was looking to the consultative process to assess "all options".

"While we're pleased to see works starting and beautifying of the area, our concerns are that future plans for Gateway to GMH may not accommodate all road users – businesses, residents, transport and students," Mr Nicol said.

"We hope the trees can stay and trams, trucks, cyclists and pedestrians are all looked after under the plans."



▲ (Left) Meredith Sussex and (right) Lord Mayor Sally Capp help plant one of many new trees along Turner St on June 3. Photo: Murray Enders.

While Turner St's current configuration allows for single lane two-way traffic with adjoining bike lanes, the street's southern edge boasts a wide nature strip which the council is utilising to create a new shared pathway and plant hundreds of new trees.

When the project was considered at the council's November 21 Future Melbourne Committee meeting last year, the report to councillors stated that its "officers met with the Concrete and Cement Aggregates Association (the CCAA) to provide a briefing on the project and discuss key feedback."

"The CCAA then provided a formal submission via email indicating their support for the replacement of the existing on-road cycle lane with a shared path on Turner St," the report from council management stated.

But with a new tram also proposed for the corridor, many within the industry have argued that there was an opportunity for a tram and bike route to coincide with increased road space.

The CCAA did not respond to *Southbank News* for comment before publishing.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the transformation of Fishermans Bend presented an "unprecedented opportunity for Melbourne" with the Gateway to GMH project to "set the precinct up for the next 50 years."

"The National Employment and Innovation Cluster precinct will become a hub for advanced manufacturing, engineering and design, supporting Melbourne's innovation ecosystem and creating thousands of jobs within Fishermans Bend," Cr Capp said.

"A key part of our innovation approach is running a Fishermans Bend Innovation Challenge to generate and foster transformative ideas that use data and technology to shape the future of the precinct."

"We're building new shared paths for pedestrians and bike riders, improving kerbing, significantly increasing tree plantings, providing picnic and recreation areas, installing smart infrastructure and trialling new materials to showcase innovation and provide a taste of the future for Fishermans Bend."

Ms Sussex said "improving accessibility" along Turner St would support the Victorian Government's plans for a "thriving hub for advanced manufacturing, engineering and design" at the former GMH site.

"The 'Gateway to GMH' project is an exciting sign of what's to come, including the \$179.4 million for stage one enabling works on the former General Motors Holden site. We're improving accessibility by delivering new cycling and walking paths, creating more green spaces and introducing innovative digital infrastructure to the precinct," she said.

"Increasing cycling in Fishermans Bend is great for all road users by creating safer connections that separate cyclists and heavy vehicles." ●

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Southgate

**Every Sunday**  
**9am Worship**

Check our website for updates

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



## Cakes for a cause

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*  
COMMUNITY

After a five-year hiatus, Ray White Southbank's Biggest Morning Tea was back this year, raising \$14,222 to make a difference for those impacted by cancer.

Old recipe books were dusted off and diets were paused while the team at Ray White Southbank hosted a full house of suppliers and trades as part of the Cancer Council Australia's Biggest Morning Tea on May 19.

Ray White Southbank principal, Andrew Salvo, said after a tough few years it was great to get everyone back together in the name of charity.

"Our staff did a great job putting together whole bunch of dishes, snacks and goodies, and the support and donations from our trades was great to see," Mr Salvo said.

The vital funds raised will go towards research, prevention and support services for those affected by cancer, with the Cancer Council hoping to raise more than \$12 million.

Mr Salvo said his team was already planning its next charitable event with eyes on September's "Jeans For Genes" day.

"We do charitable events all throughout the year, whether it's our annual 'A little Ray of giving' where we gather gifts from our community including landlords, tenants and our staff, for children of homeless people, or our work with Launch Housing and the Mirabel Foundation," Mr Salvo said.

"You'll be able to see our whole team looking pretty goofy in double-denim for Jeans For Genes day. They will be holding open for inspections for a week in their outfits and we will have a big team photo plastered across our windows on City Rd." ●

## The community centred cafe making some noise in Southbank

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Murray Enders*  
BUSINESS

For Tony Rouillon, Daniel Emerton and Jordan Setiawan the past two months has been nothing short of amazing following the opening of their joint project Mr Summit Cafe.

Since opening on April 9, the cafe has already cemented itself as a space for the community and reached the highest number of votes for their coffee on a recent Southbanker Facebook poll.

It's an achievement they never could have predicted when opening their cafe during a time when some were struggling to stay afloat.

"To us it is pretty absurd but also incredible to think we have managed to make that much noise and build such a community so quickly," they said.

"But we think it really speaks to Southbank as a community rather than just us as a cafe because everyone is so tight, and they get around things they all enjoy."

From the music pumping through the cafe to the shared table situated in the centre of the space, it is clear to see Tony, Daniel and Jordan have made sure the cafe is not only a space for a coffee fix but also a friendly chat.

It is this approach coupled with the fact that they "love" their jobs that has seen them go from strength to strength.

Starting out the cafe with a distinct vision of an orange colour scheme as seen on their neon window sign and their takeaway lids, the cafe now also has merch to set them apart – a decision they said ultimately came down to giving back to the community and making a positive impact.

"We have [reusable] coffee cups made from plant fibre and a cylinder with coffee beans so when people have used all the coffee beans they can bring it back and get a refill with a two dollar discount," they said.

"It's about the sustainability and reusable aspect and this kind of thing is the foundation



of our brand. It goes beyond the cafe."

With their reusable coffee cups even making it overseas as souvenirs, it is clear to see Mr Summit Cafe is innovatively changing the way of hospitality.

"As humans you can really sense when someone is genuine and we think that is why we have been able to take off so quickly because we are here for the community rather than for ourselves," they said.

"We are three young guys who just want to do something different, and we are able to be appreciated by the community because they can sense how much we appreciate them."

Although already set up and thriving, Mr Summit Cafe is not finished impacting Southbankers just yet with many exciting ideas and projects in the works over the next few months.

Until then, visitors can grab a renowned coffee alongside the cafe's equally-as-appreciated toasties seven days a week.

Mr Summit Cafe is located at 165 City Rd, Southbank. ●



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



## Council swaying on bike lane rollout

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
TRANSPORT

After years of unwavering support for the roll-out of protected cycling lanes in the CBD, the City of Melbourne has seemingly got a case of the wobbles.

In a move that diverges from a years' long strategic push, council management proposed to stall the delivery of new protected bike lane projects within Hoddle Grid for the next 12 months.

And while a decision was yet to be made at the time of publication (councillors were due to vote on the matter at the June 7 Future Melbourne Committee meeting), Lord Mayor Sally Capp publicly backed management's recommendation to put the brakes on the CBD rollout.

The item was set to attract unprecedented levels of interest, and over 1000 public submissions had been made in the lead-up to the meeting.

"We accelerated the rollout of bicycle lanes in the Hoddle Grid during the quiet months of COVID, and we're now taking a pause on that," Cr Capp told ABC Melbourne prior to the June 7 meeting.

"There's no doubt as people return to the city they feel that they've been surprised by the bike lane rollout. They're needing to adjust, whether it's work vehicles, whether it's visitors, whether it's residents, so we're giving people time to reacquire themselves with the city."

Some have argued the comments constitute a backflip from the Lord Mayor, who as recently as April hit back at the "loud chatter" surrounding the City of Melbourne's cycle lane push.

She argued the council's expedited bike lane rollout was not to blame for traffic jams in the city.

"About seven per cent of our traffic into the city at the moment is bicycles ... [however] our protected bike lanes take about one per cent of the entire city space made available for transport," she said at a Melbourne Press Club event.

"Out of more than 23,000 on-street car parks we have across our municipality, 421 of them have been removed for protected bike lanes and parklets. So, we are talking a lot of chatter about something that is really having a very minor impact on the space available for cars, and what we see as a very important space to provide a safe way in for our cyclists."

The report did not recommend the removal of any existing bicycle lanes, and the council would still spend the allocated \$4 million on new cycle infrastructure across the 2022-23 financial year.

Instead of utilising parts of that allocation within the CBD, it proposed to prioritise bike lane upgrades on popular corridors into the city including Arden St, Macaulay Rd and Royal Parade.

While the CBD bike lane pause was just one of several recommendations by council management for the city's transport network (a new southbound dedicated bus lane will be considered at the southern end of Queen St), it was by far the most controversial aspect given the significant debate it had attracted in recent years.

Business groups in particular had been critical of the rollout, arguing it had stalled the city's economic recovery.

And while Cr Capp had steadfastly defended the accelerated installation over a number of years, arguing they gave would-be cyclists the confidence they needed to jump on two wheels, her comments reveal a creeping indecision on the issue at Town Hall.

The recommendation was expected to garner significant debate among councillors, with at least two almost certain to vote against it. ●

## Lights on for Australia 108

WORDS BY *Sophie Berrill*  
COMMUNITY

Australia 108 unveiled a dazzling light display seen throughout the city to mark one year since construction wrapped on the tallest building in Melbourne.

Fireworks shot up from the top of the 319-metre skyscraper at 70 Southbank Boulevard during the celebrations in early May.

At the same time, owners switched on the highest building lighting system in the Southern Hemisphere.

Known for its iconic golden belt, called the



"Starburst", Australia 108 now also boasts 18 backlit white stripes running up its exterior.

"The lighting display will put Australia 108

in the company of dramatically lit buildings worldwide," CEO of developer World Class Global David Ng said.

Australian architect Fender Katsalidis and the team at Electrolight programmed in four different settings: wave, ripple, pulse and starburst, inspired by the building's centrepiece.

They've planned further displays for special occasions like Christmas and New Year's Eve.

Australia 108 overtook its predecessor, the Eureka Tower, by about 20 metres to become the highest building in Melbourne during its construction in 2020.

It's also the second tallest building in Australia behind the Gold Coast's Q1, which is 322 metres high.

These titles will likely be short-lived, with construction expected to begin this year on Australia's tallest tower at Southbank by Beulah, just across the road. ●

## Council backs "BINS4Blokes" men's health campaign

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
HEALTH

An initiative to install incontinence product disposal bins in men's public toilet facilities across the municipality will be piloted by the City of Melbourne – the first capital city council to adopt such a campaign.

The 12-month trial will form part of a "BINS4Blokes" men's health campaign, an initiative led by the Continence Foundation of Australia.

Cr Jamal Hakim moved the motion at the council's meeting on May 31, proposing to have the disposal bins placed in male and all gender toilets at six locations across the municipality including recreation centres/baths, community centres and libraries/hubs.

Supported by councillors unanimously at the meeting, the trial is aimed at building community awareness of the service.

Cr Hakim said creating safe spaces for everyone was a critical part of an "inclusive and buzzing city."

"BINS4BLOKES is a no brainer. It's about putting sanitary bins in male and all gender toilets in public facilities so that all people can participate in our communities," he told *Southbank News*.

"More than one million boys and men have incontinence issues. This is a simple and cost-effective change that makes a world of difference for them."

"This motion, in addition to my previous motion on menstrual health means more people can participate in our city and in proof that the City of Melbourne is the first capital city to be delivering on this."

Cr Hakim said it was important private organisations also considered the same in their facilities for their staff and encouraged "all organisations to do so". ●



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# INVESTING IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD IN 2022-23

The City of Melbourne is a dynamic municipality with 11 diverse neighbourhoods. Our draft Budget 2022-23 sets out how we plan to invest in Southbank to deliver core services, maintain and improve parks, public spaces and recreational facilities, and fund events that will build Melbourne's momentum.



Residential population  
**22,849**



Number of businesses  
**940**



Main occupation Professionals  
**39%**



Residents born overseas  
**65%**

## INVESTING IN CAPITAL WORKS

The City of Melbourne will deliver a record infrastructure program, investing \$270 million in projects across the municipality in 2022-23 to plan for the future needs of the community.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said 'our super-charged infrastructure pipeline invests in Melbourne's momentum - building confidence and creating up to 1,000 jobs at a critical time for our city'.

'We're investing in our community facilities and making important upgrades to ensure everyone has the opportunity to enjoy our city,' she said.

New infrastructure investments and upgrades in Southbank include:

- \$5 million for the Dodds Street Linear Park
- \$2 million for public art
- \$2 million to progress delivery of the City Road Master Plan
- \$190,000 to reduce speed limits
- \$600,000 for cycle infrastructure
- \$760,000 for other green space, infrastructure and cultural projects.

Renewal and maintenance works to be carried out in Southbank in 2022-23 include:

- We will invest \$5.1 million on renewal works in Southbank including for roadways, kerb and channel, median and tree plot renewals, Safe City cameras, library materials and property.
- We will invest \$1.3 million on maintenance works in Southbank, including at our community facilities, creative spaces and other property, on pedestrian infrastructure, wayfinding signage and for urban forest health.
- In addition, through the Business Precinct Program, we will invest up to \$90,000 annual funding to the Yarra River Business Association for business support and activation initiatives.



To find out more about what we're doing in your neighbourhood over the next 12 months, visit [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/our-plans](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/our-plans)

Feedback on the draft Budget 2022-23 can be provided on Participate Melbourne until 11.59pm on Tuesday 14 June.



## INVESTING IN LOCAL SERVICES

City of Melbourne is committed to providing the highest level of services to our community.

### Family services, libraries and community spaces

The City of Melbourne delivers family services, the Southbank Library and community centre at Boyd Hub.

At the Southbank Library this year, we will purchase about 2800 new books and provide loans to around 1800 members. We also provide online access to books, films, music and other resources. Our library provides computer access and wi-fi is available 24 hours a day.

The integrated Family Services team is based at Boyd Hub and includes maternal and child health, immunisation, family and parenting support, and counselling.



### Parks and open spaces

In Southbank we manage and maintain 12 public spaces. There are two playgrounds in Southbank.

### Cultural venues

We manage three venues in Southbank. Assembly Point will host 11 exhibitions in 2022-23. The Guild provides office space for five creative businesses. Boyd Studios contains six artist studios and two artist-in-residence studios.



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# LANDMARK BUDGET INVESTS IN MELBOURNE'S MOMENTUM

## City-shaping infrastructure projects, a stellar events calendar and making the city safer and cleaner are highlights of the City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2022-23.

The record \$837.8 million investment to build city-shaping projects, promote a jam-packed calendar of events, and make the city cleaner and safer will ensure the Melbourne experience is better than ever for residents, workers and visitors.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the draft Budget is designed to make our city cleaner, greener and full of people again.

'The City of Melbourne is the engine room of the Victorian economy so it's imperative that we continue to invest in its momentum.'

'This draft Budget is a record \$837.8 million investment to build momentum, create confidence and deliver essential services for the city and the community.'

'We're investing to grow our economy beyond pre-pandemic levels and create a fairer, better-connected, and even more extraordinary city.'

Our draft Budget is big on delivery, job creation and investing in the city's sustained momentum.



Our draft Budget will build momentum and restore confidence

## INVESTING IN CITY-SHAPING INFRASTRUCTURE

Our draft Budget includes a record \$254 million on infrastructure to build better facilities, create jobs and supercharge the economy.

Our landmark Greenline project will receive an initial \$40 million to bring it to life, transforming the north bank of the Yarra River – Birrarung into a vibrant promenade.

In another significant milestone for the Queen Victoria Market Precinct Renewal, we're spending \$50 million on the planned next stage of the project.

Works to restore the market's heritage sheds will be completed within the year, along with the revamped Food Hall. Construction will begin on upgrades to the Queen Street streetscape, Northern Shed and Trader Shed, making it easier for traders to do business.

The massive infrastructure pipeline will generate up to 1,000 jobs,

providing a significant economic boost for businesses across the city.

Investment in major community infrastructure projects includes \$25 million for the Kensington Community Aquatic and Recreation Centre redevelopment. With construction already underway, the new facility will boast a 25-metre pool, gymnasium, multi-purpose courts, community spaces, and accessible change-rooms.

More than \$8.2 million will complete the fit-out of the Munro Library and Community Hub, with the project slated for completion in 2023.

We've also allocated \$13.7 million to repair and maintain footpaths, roads and other city infrastructure. This includes another footpath blitz, as well as new street furniture, wayfinding signage and street lighting.

## RECORD YEAR OF EVENTS



Events will enliven our city

We're planning our biggest year of events, investing a record \$33.7 million in festivals, activations and creative initiatives to enliven our streets and laneways, entice visitors into the city, support local businesses and cement Melbourne as the events and cultural capital of the country.

All the city's favourite events will return bigger and better than ever – Christmas Festival, Moomba, New Year's Eve, Melbourne Fashion Week, Melbourne Knowledge Week, Melbourne Music Week.

All the fun begins in July when Firelight Festival will light up Docklands for a three-night celebration of the winter solstice – featuring a new immersive lighting display, fire installations, music, live performances and food trucks.

We're drawing again on our constructive partnership with the State Government, to boost community festivals and initiatives, through the \$200 million Melbourne City Revitalisation Fund.

## RATES KEEP OUR CITY SERVICES RUNNING

We continue to create city confidence with this year's budget, and rates have their part to play.

Rates are necessary to keep our city running. Our teams work around the clock delivering essential services from waste and recycling collections to road works and street cleaning, public health and safety schemes.

After two years of rates relief for residents and businesses, we will return to the normal rates cycle by implementing the Victorian Government's 1.75 per cent rates cap.

This will ensure we can deliver on all essential services residents and traders rely on, as well as continuing to deliver on all major projects.

We will help cost of living pressures for pensioners by providing a rates discount of up to \$247, the most generous in the state.

To provide ratepayers with a clearer picture of what they're paying, waste costs will be listed as a separate item on rates notices. This brings the City of Melbourne in line with most other Victorian councils.

Finance portfolio lead Councillor Philip Le Liu said investments in the draft Budget will ensure Melbourne remains the engine room of the Victorian economy, while building momentum to create a fairer, better-connected city, and delivering more initiatives than ever before.

'Years of disciplined financial management made it possible to increase investment to support our community as the pandemic steered our city off track over a difficult two years,' Cr Le Liu said.

'After delivering consecutive recovery-focused budgets and providing \$17 million in rates relief, this draft Budget puts us in a strong position to deliver a surplus in 2023-24.'



We're working hard to keep the city clean

## KEEPING THE CITY CLEANER AND SAFER

We've listened to our residents and ratepayers, and keeping our city attractive, clean, and safe is imperative.

So, we're doubling down on our efforts to keep the city clean, safe and free from graffiti, with a huge \$33.6 million investment. That's almost \$5 million more than last year to do this.

We're expanding our Rapid Response Clean Team to fast-track graffiti

removal and doubling our investment in high pressure cleaning.

To keep people safe and crack down on antisocial behaviour, \$5.4 million will be invested into critical safety infrastructure and resources, including \$2 million to improve city lighting in areas such as St Kilda Road and the Yarra River's north bank.



All your favourite events are back



We continue to deliver for our community

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Greenline will transform the north bank of the river



Floating wetlands will transform the river

**Green light for Greenline**

In the biggest vote of confidence yet for the landmark Greenline project, we'll invest \$140 million in the city-shaping project over the next four years. In the next year, a record \$40 million will be spent to create floating wetlands, begin transforming almost 600 meters of the river's edge at Birrarung Marr and continue early works along the north bank.



Backing business with continued support

**FIRST CHOICE FOR BUSINESS**

Our draft Budget invests in making Melbourne the first choice for business by cutting red tape and attracting new investment and visitors to boost spending and restore confidence. We'll spend \$730,000 to extend our Business Concierge service - providing recovery and specialised support, startup advice and mentoring at no cost to more than 15,000 businesses.

A \$1 million commitment for Invest Melbourne will ramp up work to encourage new proposals, attract global headquarters and significant projects, and simplify start-up processes.

More than 60 businesses looking to establish in Australia have already been identified, and Invest Melbourne is actively targeting these organisations to choose Melbourne over any other capital city.

A new digital system to fast-track permits is also set to be introduced, making it even easier for businesses and developers to lodge and track applications for dozens of different permit types, including on-street trading and business advertising.

More than \$500,000 will support 1,500 hospitality venues and 1,000 creatives through the extension of outdoor dining and busking permit fee waivers until 31 October. Since 2020, Council has absorbed \$2 million in permit fees to ease the burden.

**A GREENER CITY**

Our draft Budget includes a \$50 million investment to create new open space, protect parks, charge ahead with Power Melbourne and cut emissions.

More than \$26 million has been committed to protecting and maintaining the city's parks and gardens, along with an additional \$1.6 million to replace public toilets in Fitzroy Gardens and Carlton Gardens, and \$2 million to improve the southern sports field in Fawkner Park.

The city's green canopy will be vital in efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change, with \$1.8 million for

the annual tree planting program to add 2,400 new trees across the municipality.

We will continue to build on our commitment to combat climate change and move towards net zero emissions with a \$650,000 investment in the landmark Power Melbourne project - creating a neighbourhood scale battery network to supply renewable energy to the community.

Work in the coming year will focus on engaging with the community, as well as designing and funding the first batteries in partnership with the private sector.

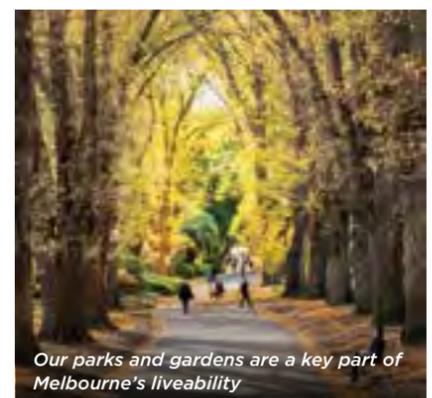


We're turning grey space into green

Feedback on the draft Budget 2022-23 can be provided on Participate Melbourne until 11.59pm on Tuesday 14 June.

After a special meeting of the Future Melbourne Committee on Thursday 23 June to consider community feedback, the final Budget is expected to be endorsed by councillors on Tuesday 28 June.

**HAVE YOUR SAY**  
[participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/our-plans](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/our-plans)



Our parks and gardens are a key part of Melbourne's liveability

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You can also join conversations to influence plans for your neighbourhood through Participate Melbourne at [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

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CITY OF MELBOURNE

# Arts Precinct



## A night in the wild to be inspired by

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

Escaping into a wild extravaganza has never been easier thanks to the latest winter night-time festival to open in Melbourne.

A festival three years in the making, RISING has been much anticipated with 225 events spanning the city and showcasing 801 local and international artists.

The extensive program contains events for all ages in the realm of art, theatre, dance and live music, with the central drawcard of the festival being *The Wilds* at Sidney Myer Music Bowl.

Running from June 1 to 19, RISING's artistic directors Hannah Fox and Gideon Obarzanek said they were incredibly proud for audiences to experience the event.

"For RISING we wanted to create a large-scale cultural event that truly captured the essence of this city," they said.

Equally inspired by the city and more specifically the location of the Sidney Myer Music Bowl is Filipino contemporary fine artist Leeroy New.

Specialising in large-scale immersive installations and landscape-inspired work, Leeroy New's latest installations for RISING are made out of woven bamboo, various collected discards and surplus materials from a local recycling centre.

Located at *The Wilds* on various sites, Leeroy's four sculptures capture the otherworldly aspect of the festival and transport audiences to an "alien-like landscape" with their sci-fi form.

"The landscape is a big inspiration and a lot of it has to do with us responding to the specific terrain, the environment and how the work can physically interact with what's available and what's already in the space," he said.

"We tend to intuitively respond, and the work adapts and evolves according to the site."

Also at *The Wilds* and showcasing an all-new technicolour world where nature, art and science coexist in the form of inflatable sculptures and digital art is New York based Australian artists Tin Nguyen and Edward Cutting (Tin & Ed).

While the wild terrain of the transformed Sidney Myer Music Bowl will have people captivated by sculptures, the festival event also has eccentric performances, a set-up DJ to get visitors dancing and pop-up kitchens to grab some late-night snacks.

The addition of the Rinky Dink ice-skating rink has also gained plenty of attention, with people seen skating around to reconstructed catchy pop tunes from the RISING Night Chorus.

A quadrasonic sound environment called *Glass Paintings* has been created by Nick Huggins and Ben Talbot Dunn in preparation for the festival and can also be heard at Rinky Dink at times.

For a true winter escape where all the senses will come alive, book tickets for the Sidney Myer Music Bowl and visit from 5pm on Tuesday through to Sunday.

RISING is funded by the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria and Visit Victoria, and *The Wilds* has been created in partnership with Arts Centre Melbourne. ●

**For more information:**  
[rising.melbourne/festival-program/the-wilds](http://rising.melbourne/festival-program/the-wilds)

## Shining a Light on the moving image

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

Light. It's a phenomenon that has mystified humankind for millennia.

The challenge of wrangling and manipulating light has long fed the machinations of artists and scientists alike.

In an Australian exclusive, the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) will examine the relationship of light and art in a major exhibition of more than 70 works from the national collection of renowned British art institution, Tate.

*Light: Works from Tate's Collection*, which runs from June 16 to November 13, celebrates ground-breaking moments from more than 200 years of art history, and the artists who harnessed this elemental force through painting, photography, sculpture, drawing, installation and the moving image.

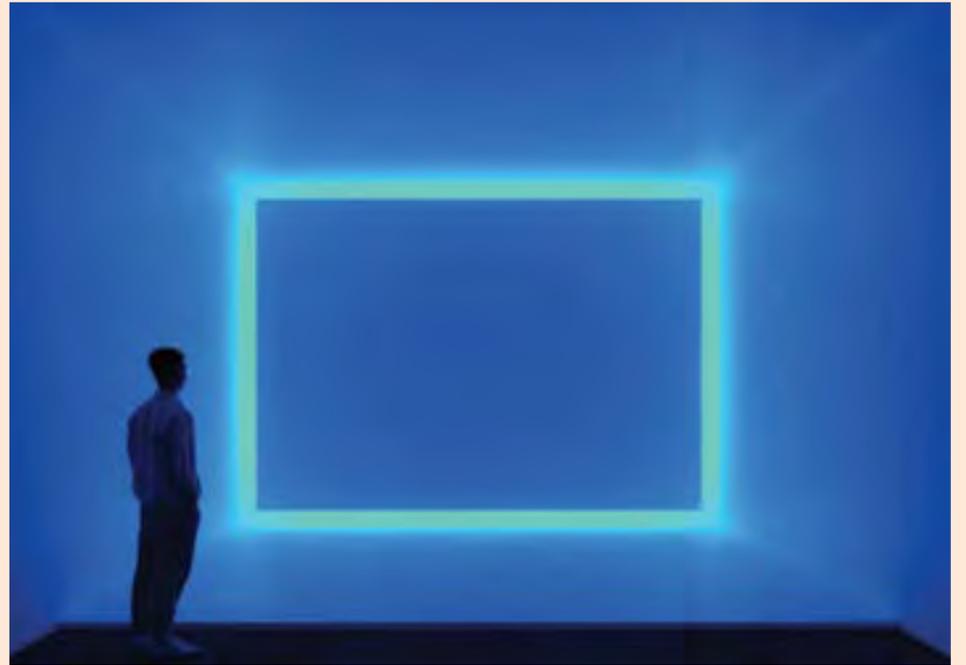
With works like JM Turner's 1805 *The Deluge*, considered one of the earliest examples of harnessing light on canvas; Monet's 1894 *The Seine at Port-Villez*; James Turrell's *Raemar, Blue* and Olafur Eliasson's *Stardust Particle*, there is one question that looms like a shadow over the entire exhibition.

How do static masterpieces like these relate to the moving image?

According to ACMI curator, Laura Castagnini, through a chronological voyage from the 18th century to now, the thematic fascinations of light form the symbiotic foundations of a connection between static and moving art.

"Light is the building block of cinema, but it is also a phenomenon that has fascinated artists over the past 200 years. It has inspired artists to make work in all different media and spurred them on to develop innovative techniques," Ms Castagnini said.

"The exhibition takes the audience on a journey through the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries with different sections cross-thematically presented.



We have a section on impressionism, a section on Bauhaus photography, or 1960 light sculpture and dotted throughout that history there are contemporary artworks that draw out those thematic connections."

"Take John Constable's iconic seascapes for example. We have paired his serene *Harwich Lighthouse*, with *Disappearance at Sea* by Tacita Dean from the mid-1990s."

"These two artists, one from the 19th century and the other from the late 20th century, are both thinking about a very similar concept, but one is doing it with paint and the other is using the moving image."

The exhibition tests how light can invigorate, deceive and conjure emotions. Its malleability is the essential component that has wondered artists from all disciplines.

As French artist, filmmaker and writer, Jean Cocteau said, "cinema is the form of modern writing whose ink is light."

*Light* is one of three major exhibitions to grace the confines of ACMI's new \$40 million upgrade which will also house a major new commission by contemporary Australian artist Mikala Dwyer, along with the much-anticipated feature of *Light Music*, 1975, by Lis Rhodes.

As one of the early proponents of expanded cinema, Rhodes positions audiences as both participants and spectators in a work revealing the experimental interrelationship of light and the moving image.

*Light* will also feature a program of talks, where you will see Ms Castagnini host curator Matthew Watts, as well as film screenings, performances, workshops and late-night events. ●

**For more information:**  
[acmi.net.au/](http://acmi.net.au/)

## CRITIC

## Picasso and his fellow artists

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*

If you take a time capsule and travel back to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, the name Pablo Picasso dominated the popular impression of the outrageous artist.

He was photographed in black and white in magazines hanging around Europe with a succession of girlfriends.

To the conservative Australian eye, he seemed to epitomise the wayward artist.

Jump forward to almost 50 years after his death to the National Gallery of Victoria and *The Picasso Century* exhibition and he is anything but.

The exhibition has been curated by a Parisian and it is exact, elegant, restrained and moving in the sense that Picasso's achievements seemed to be hard-won.

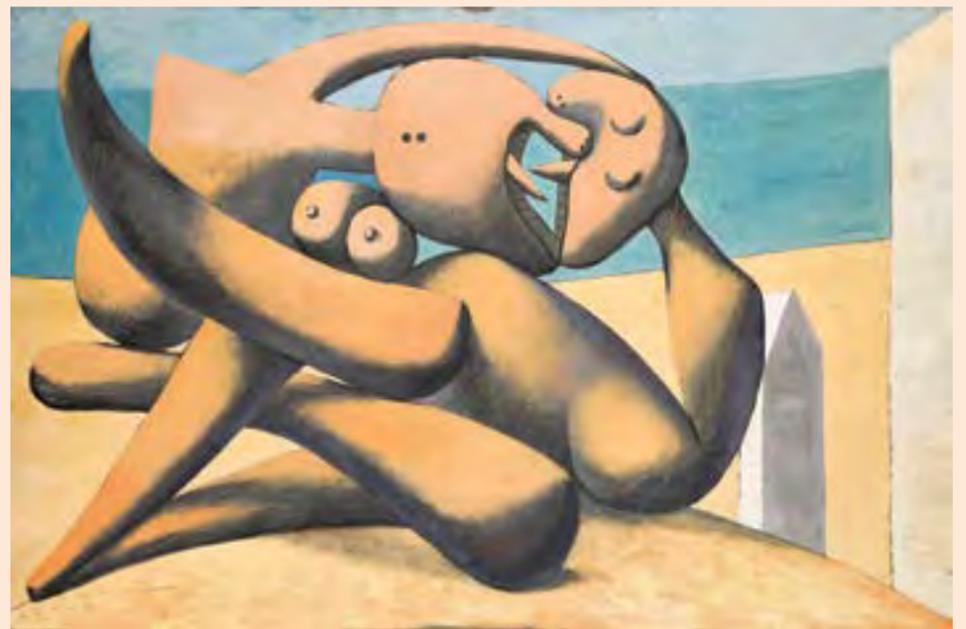
The same could be said for the recent *Chanel* exhibition at NGV, which focused on the techniques of dressmaking rather than the hype.

Picasso, like many 20<sup>th</sup> century pioneers, lived through two World Wars and these politicised him to the extent that after *Guernica*, his 1937 painting of the Spanish Civil War, the message began to dominate his approach.

For those more interested in painting, though, this exhibition is a gold mine of experimentation, with collaboration with other artists the feature of the show.

Of the more than 180 works, just 80 are Picasso's, the rest made by lovers, mates, technical guys and other artists such as Georges Braque who worked on one of the most inspiring developments with Picasso – cubism.

According to the didactic board, the two painters egged each other on like mountain climbers, one making a step forward then the other following. Sometimes they finished each other's work.



▲ *Figures by the Sea*, Pablo Picasso, 1951.

Would they have had the courage to have abandoned representation and gone into pure abstraction without each other? Probably not.

The exhibition demonstrates how world events changed their style. After the first world war, Picasso's work became more conservative, reverting to an almost classical style of portraiture.

One of the most decisive moments for Picasso was a meeting with Julio Gonzalez, a Spanish sculptor and blacksmith who offered technical help.

They were all living together in Montmartre where they had a chance to bounce ideas off each other.

Picasso began making metal sculpture and his painting jumped forward miraculously as he began painting the human figure in volumetric

forms.

His famous bather series, so copied and taken for granted, jumps out of this exhibition as a major step forward in figurative painting with its restrained palette and free intertwined forms.

Soon after Picasso's death, post-modernism put a cynical tarnish on this period of intense experimentation, casting Picasso and others of his generation as sole "geniuses" working alone in their egotistical cells.

This exhibition not only resurrects an important period in painting but shows how artists privilege their communities.

Picasso's so-called artist model girlfriends were fellow artists whose work is also included.

*The Picasso Century*, National Gallery of Victoria, until October. ●

**PROFILE PICTURE**

**PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIES COLLEGE**



LUCKY FRAWLEY

# Making connections through photography

*For Lucky Frawley, getting back into photography has come at just the right time.*

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

Dabbling in photography on and off between the ages of 12 and 28, only to stop and take on other activities, it is at the age of 36 that Lucky has truly found his way back.

"It is something I have kept coming back to through my whole life," Lucky said.

"I would try other things and then keep coming back to it before I finally decided to just get on



▲ Images from Lucky's *The Way We Love* series at the PSC exhibition.

Photo: Lucky Frawley

with it. I then fell in love with it really hard and fast and stayed with it."

Beginning his journey at the Photography Studies College (PSC) this year, Lucky said his diagnosis of ADHD had encouraged him to continue with photography.

"I was diagnosed six or so years ago and finding a career to suit my brain has really been important to me and photography works so well," he said.

"I can always switch up what style or genre of photography I'm working in and who and what I'm working with. Photography also helps me find stillness and be in the moment."

Considering himself a reasonably "new" photographer, Lucky is determined to remain open to change – a choice that has surprisingly seen him gravitate more towards art for the time being.

But, despite it being too early for him to pinpoint exactly what he wants to do, Lucky said "backstage photography is my jam."

"My favourite thing up to this course was shooting backstage at theatre shows and cabaret shows, because you really get to see the raw emotion and everything that isn't put in front of the audience," Lucky said.

"I do want to get more into art and storytelling though because storytelling is a big thing for me."

While Lucky's previous work has focused on drawing on his varied experiences to make connections with the people he photographs, his latest series of work encapsulates the exploration of self.

Using the opportunity of PSC's latest exhibition *Queer Pride*, Lucky is exploring, in an artistic and investigawtive way, self-acceptance and

self-context and how this impacts his relationship with his non-binary partner.

"In *The Way We Love* I invite the viewer to witness the unseen everyday domestic life and love of a gender queer couple," Lucky said.

"I hope to challenge the perpetuated – and often misrepresented – ideas of transgender and queer people, and their values."

Lucky's series of photos that centre around the familiar and relatable side of home life and domestic comfort can be seen at the exhibition until June 30. ●

**For more information:**  
[@instagram.com/luckyfrawley](https://www.instagram.com/luckyfrawley)

**ENQUIRE NOW !**

IMAGE BY PSC STUDENT JAYDE BURNETT

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## Vertical village “Strata Hub”

“

*The NSW Government is introducing “Strata Hub” which aims to consolidate core information about strata schemes – but who will it really benefit?*

”

Information, and its management, is well-recognised as a vital organisational resource, essential for informed decision making. And it is now widely accepted that an organisation’s performance is strongly linked to how well it captures, stores, analyses and utilises its information assets.

However, as a sector, residential strata is not known for its information management prowess.

Indeed, even the management of documents (records) is widely regarded as deficient.

Owners, for instance, often bemoan the availability of their building’s records and point to the difficulties of inspecting these (especially if they are not digital). Owners’ corporation (OC) committees meanwhile criticise the availability of government records (especially those developer agreements negotiated decades past), the

details of which can be spread across a myriad of ever-changing government agencies. Residents are cited as having concerns about knowing key contact-points, such as their building manager or emergency connections.

And all these concerns have also been attributed to prospective purchasers, who, according to the NSW Government, believe that finding information on strata schemes is “just too difficult”.

It is these information deficiencies in strata schemes that are claimed as the impetus for the NSW’s Government’s new regulation – *Strata Schemes Management Amendment (Information) Regulation 2021*. This requires all strata schemes to annually submit key information about their building to NSW Fair Trading, and it will then form part of the government’s Strata Hub.

There is, however, another reason for this new system. It goes to the realisation of the NSW Government that it had little information about, and no reliable way of communicating with, strata schemes – a point emphasised during the pandemic.

Hence, the introduction of a new annual reporting requirement for all NSW strata schemes which will come into force on June 30, 2022. Significantly, there is both a fee to submit (\$3 per lot) and a fine if you don’t. There are also obligations to correct or update information within 28 days. Again, fines apply.

So, *what* is being required and *who* can access this information?

With regard to what is required, much of this is straightforward, such as the strata plan number, date of registration, address, number of lots, etc. Interestingly, if your building has a NABERS rating, this must be provided, which

may mark the beginning of this scheme becoming mandatory. There are also requirements for proof of certification (e.g., insurance).

But what has caused a few ruffled feathers is the requirement for the full name, telephone number and email address of the secretary, chair, strata manager and emergency contact person. This issue was recently raised by Jimmy Thomson in his *Australian Financial Review* column, where he speculated that this requirement could cause “a mass exodus of office-bearers.” The rationale given is that strata committee chairs and secretaries likely won’t want to be too contactable by the general public.

This now goes to who can access this information on Strata Hub, as it has been stated that not all will be publicly available.

Starting with the information custodian, NSW Fair Trading, it is understood it will grant access to other regulatory authorities for compliance purposes. Also, emergency services, such as the NSW police, the ambulance service and NSW’s State Emergency Service will likely be able to view particular details.

Managing agents, owners, residents and members of the public will be able to access *some* information on Strata Hub but not, it is believed, the personal contact details of the secretary and chair. Stay tuned to what level of access will ultimately be made available!

As regards what this might mean for our vertical villages, currently there appears little appetite within the Victorian State Government to follow NSW’s lead. However, now that Pandora’s Box (otherwise known as Strata Hub) will soon open, we may find that the interest of our Victorian regulatory bodies has been piqued.

Our hope, then, is that they do not slavishly



follow NSW. But take the opportunity to consider how such a system, rather than being a reporting burden, could assist OCs with their information challenges ●



*Dr Janette Corcoran*

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### MEET A NEIGHBOUR

## Meet Dylan Anderson

*I met Dylan Anderson when a bike narrowly missed clipping us as we walked on the footpath in front of Malay Momma on Kavanagh St.*

We shared frustration over the fact that near-misses with e-bikes and e-scooters are a common occurrence in Southbank.

I told him that a new community group, Southbank3006, had formed to address issues such as these, and Dylan has been an active member ever since.

Dylan is an ABC news cameraman and moved to Southbank in 2019 to be within walking distance to ABC’s offices on Southbank Boulevard.

“I like the fact that I don’t need a car and love the lifestyle and environment of high-rise living,” he said.

Community is very important to Dylan and the inability to connect with others during lockdowns was tough on him.

“There you are in an apartment surrounded by people next door, above and below yet there is no communication, no connection.”

That’s when he came up with the idea of making cookies and leaving them for everyone on his floor along with an invitation to get in touch. And get in touch they did!

In addition to meeting up socially, Dylan created a WhatsApp chat group for the floor as a way to stay in touch, share news and look out for one another. Now his floor feels like a neighbourhood.

“It’s nice to know who is living around me and to bump into them when I’m out and about,” he said.

Dylan is proud of his indigenous heritage



(Yuin Nation from the south-eastern NSW coast, around the Bega-Tathra area) and is very involved with indigenous activism and policy at ABC.

He serves on the Bonner Committee, the ABC’s internal advisory and representative body relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff, content and communities.

The committee oversees ABC’s Reconciliation Action Plan to strengthen the corporation’s commitment to champion initiatives that recognise and embrace Australia’s indigenous

history and cultures.

When I asked him about the indigenous history of Southbank he suggested I visit the Koorie Heritage Trust at Federation Square.

“They have a display space showing the history of the area, art and some cool people to talk to,” he said.

The Trust is a not-for-profit First Nations owned and managed arts and cultural organisation that holds events and exhibitions for people to connect with the cultural heritage of Aboriginal Victoria – it’s free and open daily

*“It’s nice to know who is living around me and to bump into them when I’m out and about,”*



from 10am-5pm: [kooieheritagetrust.com.au](http://kooieheritagetrust.com.au).

As we finished up at Mr Summit café, I asked Dylan which Southbank issue was most important to him and he laughed.

“You invited me to have tea at your place today, but I wanted to meet here instead. The last two years have been really hard on small businesses, and they are such an important part of what makes a neighbourhood interesting.”

He mentioned several of his favourite hangouts that didn’t survive the lockdowns.

“I think we need to support the small businesses here as much as we can.”

*MaryKay Rauma is a founder of Southbank3006 – a not-for-profit community and advocacy group focused on connecting residents and improving the liveability of Southbank. Southbank residents can join for free at [southbank3006.com](http://southbank3006.com) or by scanning the QR code. ●*



# Congratulations to 285 cladding winners!

*The latest figures from Cladding Safety Victoria (CSV) website show that about 35 per cent of cladding-affected apartment buildings have been selected for financial assistance for remediation works. Only “extreme risk” or “high risk” buildings qualify for state government funding.*

The CSV website shows that a total of 802 buildings have been referred to them by the Victorian Building Authority’s state-wide cladding audit. CSV has assessed these buildings for eligibility and risk. From the total referred to CSV, 285 funding agreements have been signed. Cladding remediation work has been completed on 52 buildings and underway on 151 more buildings.

Around this time last year, the CSV annual report showed the figures were 723 buildings referred, 253 funding agreements, 40 buildings completed and 160 buildings underway.

Cladding remediation work appears to be progressing at the rate of one building per month.

The comparative data also show a consistent funding rate of 35 per cent. In other words, your building has just over a one-in-three chance of obtaining CSV funding to remove flammable cladding.

Owners’ corporations that have been denied CSV support are telling us that the qualification process is opaque. Many buildings have received building orders from their council stating that the cladding is “a risk to life” and yet these dangerous buildings do not qualify for financial support from CSV.

The CSV website also shows that 262 government buildings have been selected for remediation, a number not too dissimilar from the number of apartment buildings selected - 285. You may recall this column expressing disappointment after unsuccessfully seeking an explanation from CSV about how much of

the \$600 million pot of money is earmarked for private apartments versus government buildings. We are tempted to feel vindicated for the predictions that we made in this column many months ago – that half the money would be spent on government buildings.

We can also conclude – if no further buildings are approved for funding – that the average cash subsidy is just over \$1 million per building.

## COVID exposes housing crisis

The COVID crisis has affected us all in so many ways – medically, socially and economically. As the world readjusts, researchers are finding that COVID has also been instrumental in exposing the economic downside of short-term rentals.

Housing researcher Professor Peter Phibbs has been analysing data since before COVID and has found disturbing links.

“COVID really showed there’s a connection between the short-term rental market and rents all across Australia, and indeed across the world,” the professor told *ABC News* this month.

Professor Phibbs has studied the housing crisis in Hobart, which predates COVID. “When housing stock went from short-term rental back to the long-term rental market, in places like Hobart we saw a sharp reduction in rents,” he said.

In the interview, Professor Phibbs estimated that during COVID, rents in Hobart dropped by about nine per cent.

In another study, researchers William Thackway and Christopher Pettit in Sydney found rent prices in the most active short-stay neighbourhoods dropped by up to seven per cent.

The ABC reported Professor Phibbs as saying, the evidence is clear: you cannot have an unregulated short-term accommodation industry and a healthy long-term rental market. “Those two things just can’t co-exist,” he said.

“We need some sort of regulation to limit the spread of short-term rentals so we can enable the long-term rental market to provide homes for so many households that are looking for them at the moment.”

Another expert who backs up this view is Leith van Onselen, chief economist at the MB Fund and MB Super. Mr van Onselen, who has

previously worked at the Australian Treasury, Victorian Treasury and Goldman Sachs, is also concerned that short-term rentals like Airbnb are having a major impact on the rental market, exacerbating Australia’s acute shortage of rental homes.

Last month we reported on the steps being taken in jurisdictions around the country to regulate short stays. Sadly, Victoria lags far behind the rest of the country and the world. We are continuing to lobby for meaningful change in Victoria, and the professor has some salient advice for us.

“Making the regulation is probably the easy part,” Professor Phibbs told the ABC. “Enforcing the regulation can be quite difficult. It’s certainly resource-intensive. It sometimes involves quite long legal processes. It’s important to have some kind of taxing regime where short-term rentals pay for the cost of that regulation through some sort of bed tax.”

We Live Here has been highlighting the favourable tax treatment handed out to the short-stay industry at the expense of all other Australians.

We have also highlighted the woeful inadequacy of the enforcement process in the light-touch legislation known colloquially as the Airbnb bill – the short-stay provisions in the amended *Owners’ Corporations Act 2021*.

Let’s hope the Victorian state government can get behind the economic science presented by respected researchers, study the precedents being set by every other state in Australia, and finally take some real action.

## An unfair committee faces a formidable opponent

Nerrida Pohl has provided an update on the committee scandal at her inner-city building ...

“I printed out copies for all 500 apartments of the We Live Here article and an article by a retired politician, about my poorly-run five-member committee. A supportive owner-occupier wrote a nice cover letter, calling for new committee candidates. Letters were dropped to all occupants.”

“I had an excellent response. I had tried and failed on four occasions to be elected to this developer-controlled committee. This time the new owners’ corporation laws were on my side – a five per cent cap on proxies and all emails to

be made available.”

“Before I was sent the owners roll, the OC manager emailed all owners to apologise that their emails were no longer private, and they could opt out if they wished. I applied to VCAT for urgent access to the email list. As soon as VCAT issued a case number the manager sent it to me.”

“Many residents offered to help reach other lot owners. Many agreed the property was not being well managed. Big investors responded with alacrity and with proxies. I received so many I had to return some.”

“During the faceless AGM webinar, a seven-person committee was agreed to by ordinary vote. A screen then appeared listing only the five names of the old committee which we were required to vote for first. The other candidates were on a second screen to be voted for only after the first vote was done. Some people had already voted, and I just scraped home in seventh place from 12 candidates.”

N.B. Ms Pohl could have challenged the election process in VCAT but decided to quit while she was ahead.

“At least I’m on the committee where I have the choice responsibilities of our flammable cladding politics and the issues that I took to court in the first instance,” she said.

We hope this story of dogged persistence, coupled with the new OC laws will inspire others to take on dodgy developers.

Congratulations, Nerrida!

## Campaign donations

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



## METRO TUNNEL

# Metro Tunnel on the hunt for train drivers

*More than 100 new train drivers will be hired to operate Melbourne’s new fleet of trains as a recruitment blitz begins in the lead up to the opening of the Metro Tunnel in 2025.*

Up to 120 recruits will receive a mix of classroom, practical and on-the-job training in an intensive 44-week training program ahead of test trains running through the tunnels in the second half of next year.

Trainees will be accompanied by a driver while operating passenger services, ensuring they are ready to operate the 65 new and bigger trains that will run through the city-shaping Metro Tunnel.

Training on the project’s next-generation signalling system and the use of platform screen doors – a Victorian first – will also be included.

Recruitment for another 180 operational staff, including line and system controllers, signallers and signal maintenance technicians, has also started.

The new staff are needed as the construction



on the project moves towards fit-out of the tunnels and stations, with track being laid through the new twin nine-kilometre tunnels from mid-2022.

Track laying will start at State Library Station, working towards the western tunnel entrance in Kensington. Workers will then return to State Library Station and move east through the Town Hall and Anzac stations, finishing at the eastern tunnel entrance in South Yarra.

The Metro Tunnel will slash travel times and create capacity for more than a half-a-million

extra passengers each week in the peaks by creating a new end-to-end rail line from Sunbury in the west to Cranbourne/Pakenham in the south-east.

By running the Sunbury, Cranbourne and Pakenham services exclusively through the Metro Tunnel, it will free up room for more trains in the City Loop from other metropolitan lines.

The new Parkville Station, under construction below Grattan Street, will connect Melbourne’s world-class medical and education precinct to the rail network for the first time.

Parkville Station – like all Metro Tunnel stations – will connect seamlessly to Melbourne Airport via the new airport rail line being built through Melbourne’s west, with passengers able to get from Parkville to the airport in just 24 minutes. ●

**To apply to be a driver visit:**  
[bigbuild.vic.gov.au/metrotunnel](http://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/metrotunnel)

ABORIGINAL MELBOURNE

# Barring – Nganjin: an exhibition of Stolen Generations survivors

*An Aboriginal art exhibition capturing the stories of grief, loss, and resilience from Stolen Generations survivors will be held at Federation Square as part of National Reconciliation Week.*

Hosted by the Koorie Heritage Trust (KHT), the exhibition will showcase more than 45 artworks from First Nations’ artists including paintings, weaving, prints, and mixed media – which the Trust’s CEO Tom Mosby said would be a powerful display of truth telling.

Titled the Barring – Nganjin, meaning “Our Path Our Journey”, the exhibition will be largest collection of Stolen Generations art in any single exhibition of the KHT, which will also feature work of Link-Up Victoria, a support service for Stolen Generations that helps connect families.

The Stolen Generations are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander peoples who were forcibly removed from their families under government policy and direction from the 1910s to the 1970s.

Mr Mosby said the trauma of the Stolen Generations survivors was still being felt by individuals, families, and communities – with each artwork being both a creative response and an act of healing.

“The powerful thing about this exhibition is that it is how the artists actually portray themselves and the trauma through the art so it’s a powerful exhibition that I really encourage all people to actually visit,” he said. “We all hear about Stolen Generations and Reconciliation Week, but the exhibition is something tangible that people can visit and visually reflect as part of their journey towards reconciliation as well.”

The exhibition will be supported by the curatorial assistance of Link-Up Victoria’s Aunty Bev Murray who will also display some of her

work alongside collections from Connecting Home, which provides broad-range services for Stolen Generations.

“Art and storytelling are important healing and wellbeing elements in our communities and this collection of works strongly portray the visual and powerful stories of each individual,” Aunty Bev Murray said.

As part of Reconciliation Week, which runs from May 27 to June 3, Mr Mosby encouraged people to book in a guided cultural walk at KHT.

“People are taken on a tour where it’s looking at the land on which Melbourne is built, pre-settlement history of Melbourne and also the settlement history of Melbourne as well and the impact on Victorian Aboriginal people and communities,” he said.

“We really encourage people to visit us, not only as part of Reconciliation Week. Reconciliation is something we should all be thinking about all year-round.”

Visitors can also visit the KHT shop which specialises in Victorian Aboriginal products.

Barring – Nganjin: Our Path Our Journey opens May 26 and runs until August 28 at the Koorie Heritage Trust, Yarra Building, Fed Square. Free entry ●

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



HEALTH & WELLBEING

## Calorie deficit – the “not-so-secret” secret to weight or fat loss

*Now I am sure you have heard of the term “calorie deficit” before and if you haven’t then I best explain to give some context.*

Calories (sometimes referred to as kilojoules) are the units of energy you get from the foods and drinks that we consume. When you consume fewer calories than you burn, the net result is a calorie deficit.

On the other side of the equation is the calories that we burn each day, and this can be termed “calorie expenditure” and is the amount of energy that the body uses over a certain period of time (usually measured over a 24-hour period). Everything the body does requires energy, even when sleeping!

So, in the simplest of terms, if we can consume less calories than we burn then we should be able to lose weight! Sustained calorie deficit will lead to weight and/or fat loss. Now that sounds easier said than done but, how do we achieve this? Sadly, an estimated 36 per cent and 31 per cent of Australians are overweight or obese respectively and it is a shame that with access to education, knowledge, exercise and food choice that we are so unhealthy across our population. The food pyramid serves as a great guide in which to base our food choices from but sadly 90 per cent of the population doesn’t follow it!



Instead, we seek quick fixes, gimmicks or follow Instagram influencers or follow some random person’s or friend’s advice because a certain diet worked for them. At the heart of any successful experience with a diet would be based on a calorie deficit being achieved and sustained over a period of time. Following a ketogenic or an intermittent fasting diet may well work if the actual calories consumed are less than the calories burned. It doesn’t necessarily

mean that it is a healthy diet or that it is suitable for you. In fact, some people will work towards a diet that results in a calorie deficit at the neglect of valuable vitamins and minerals that the body needs to function at its best.

So, what is the answer? Simply, optimal nutrition is vital and to achieve that, everyone would benefit from one to three visits to a dietitian or nutritionist (note that these are the only two professions that are qualified to give

you specific dietary advice or provide an eating plan).

There are many “health coaches” out there with minimal, if any, university-backed nutrition qualification and will likely lead you to weight or fat loss at the detriment of your health and your wallet or purse.

There is a fantastic 80-minute nutritional education video that we share with our clients that is most helpful and if you would like me to send you the link, email me. It’s very powerful and insightful and ties in well with the healthy food pyramid and has an emphasis on consuming more fruit and vegetables, while helping with achieving a calorie deficit but in a healthy manner – full of vitamins, minerals and meeting your needs of macronutrients.

The other side of this is the need to exercise for health and wellbeing and we need to ensure that we focus on our fitness and strength. Performing adequate cardio-vascular fitness and performing some regular resistance exercise is vital for us to feel our best and live a healthier and fulfilled life. Remember that muscle is way more metabolically active than fat (they cannot change into each other!) and by building muscle we are helping boost our metabolism.

In closing – calorie deficit is vital for weight and fat loss, but we need to find the right type of sustainable healthy eating to support the body’s many functions. Eat and exercise for optimal health and wellness and weight or fat loss will be a natural consequence and if you need help getting started, invest in a health or fitness professional and/or see a dietitian or nutritionist. ●



*Justin Moran*  
JUSTINTIME PERSONAL TRAINING  
[JUSTIN@JUSTINTIMEPT.COM](mailto:JUSTIN@JUSTINTIMEPT.COM)

HISTORY

Government House and its golden-yellow flag



*On the eastern horizon of Southbank and on the outer edge of the Botanic Gardens, Government House (the official residence of the Governor of Victoria) sits proudly and can be seen by residents of Southbank.*



Erected in the mid-1870s it was designed in the Italianate-style and constructed in stucco-rendered brick on a bluestone foundation. There had been two previous designs – one in 1853 and another in 1864 (a French Baronial style building).

However, the estimated building costs of both were regarded as too expensive and the construction was deferred until 1871 when the Public Works Department of Victoria took up the challenge.

Construction took a long time and was finally completed in 1876. It was always controversial, and the finished house was described in *The Age* as a “huge pile, bald and plain to downright ugliness”. Similar comments appeared in *The Argus*. A few years later the stench from the polluted Yarra River was so bad that none of



▲ Government House from around 1900, courtesy of the State Library of Victoria, and the “golden-yellow flag”, courtesy of Ralph Bartlett – Secretary, Flags Australia.

the windows at Government House could be opened.

The house consists of three sections: the State Apartments, which contain a dining room table that seats 54 people and is almost the length of a cricket pitch, the private apartments, and the ballroom.

It remains the largest residential building in Australia with about 240 rooms and is topped with a tower (44 metres high with a 13.7-metre flagpole). When the Governor is in residence, the golden-yellow Governor’s Standard flies over the house (with the tower illuminated at night) and at the front gates and is also flown on the vehicle in which the Governor is travelling (reputedly used by one Governor to take his Airedale terriers to the grooming salon!).

Why golden-yellow? The standard used by all Victorian Governors since 1870 had been the Union Flag with the Badge of the State emblazoned in the centre. The new design was introduced by former Victorian Governor, Rear-Admiral Sir Brian Murray, and adopted on April 18, 1984.

It was based on the Victorian State Flag, but with the blue field colour changed to “golden-yellow”, representing Victoria’s “Golden Past and Golden Future”, and the Southern Cross Stars changed from white to red, so that they can be seen against the “golden-yellow” field colour.

The new design was approved by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in that year and has been used by all Governors of Victoria since that time. ●



Robin Grow

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

SOUTHBANK3006

Inform, inspire and delight

*As the cold weather starts to creep in and the tops of the buildings are shrouded in early morning mist, your committee at Southbank3006 has been hard at work advocating for what matters to you, our members.*

WORDS BY Jannine Pattison

Firstly, we are delighted to welcome two new members to the Southbank3006 committee. It has been fabulous to see how engaged our members are and how many people are willing to volunteer their time to improve our neighbourhood.

A big thank you to all of our members who came along to the recent safety and security forum with Victoria Police Sgt Dinah Tremain. We were delighted with the turn-out and I’m sure everyone would agree that it was a highly informative session. The big take away from the event, was that “if you see something, say something, by calling 131 444”.

May was a big month for the City of Melbourne, which announced the 2022-23 draft budget on May 17, and we encourage all residents to read it and submit your input via Participate Melbourne: [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

Remember your voice is crucial to shaping the future of Southbank and the City of Melbourne, you can submit feedback until June 14. A key focus of the council this year is to commit \$17m to creating more open space in Southbank

with a particular focus on “pocket parks”. This heralds a significant shift in thinking from large-scale expensive projects (e.g., Southbank Blvd) that drag on for years. Pocket parks will enable the council to improve the liveability of all neighbourhoods across Southbank and at a scale that can be rolled out much faster.

Southbank3006 was privileged to attend the following events on behalf of our members:

- The Community Engagement session with the Department of Transport on May 12
- The Future Melbourne Committee meeting on May 17
- The local Safety Committee Meeting with Victoria Police on June 6

Executive members of Southbank3006 met with Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece to help him gain a greater appreciation of the unique needs of our neighbourhood and how we can make it a more liveable community.

We can happily report that he was enthusiastic and open to considering ways to work with Southbank3006 as a residents’ group to focus on the social development of Southbank. Among the issues we discussed was the concept of low traffic neighbourhoods and their role in a comprehensive traffic management strategy for all of Southbank.

So, as you can see, the future for Southbank is looking bright, and we will continue to work hard and more importantly listen to our members and act upon your feedback.

Moving forward we will be running monthly forums where the community can meet and hear from guest speakers across a range of issues.

Our next event will be held on Sunday, June 26 at 2pm at the Assembly Hall, Boyd Community Hub. Our guest speakers will be representatives from the Department of Transport. This will be a great opportunity to come along and hear about the upgrades to the City Rd and Power St intersection.

Don’t forget Southbank3006 is free to join via [southbank3006.com](http://southbank3006.com) and you can follow us on our social pages, Facebook @southbankers3006, Instagram @southbanker3006 and Twitter @SOUTHBANKER3006 where our mission is to inform, inspire and delight. •

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## SOUTHBANK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

## Neighbourhood policing

“

*Victoria Police has launched a new policing initiative, surprisingly called “neighbourhood policing”.*

”

I can't help but think that maybe they may have felt they had somewhat dropped the ball on our neighbourhoods. VicPol has said it's gone “back to basics” as part of a new grassroots approach to tackle local crime.

Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) frequently meets with our local station commander Senior Sergeant Alex O'Toole for the latest on what is happening in our neighbourhood and to pass our community feedback on. Alex has always been keen to receive our insights on our local community.

If you weren't aware, Southbank does have its own police station located on Moray St. This station was another outcome of years of lobbying by SRA for a local police presence. Prior to this our “local” station was on St Kilda Rd – some distance from Southbank.

SRA is a member of the Southbank Safety and Security Committee which meets quarterly. In fact, our vice president, Dan O'Keeffe OAM, is the secretary of this forum.

There is a new Facebook page where you can get the latest details of crime across Melbourne. Take a look and maybe even follow the page: [facebook.com/eyewatchmelbourne](https://www.facebook.com/eyewatchmelbourne)

Statistically, in the most part, crime in Southbank is concentrated around the Crown

entertainment precinct. Crime affecting the residential areas of our neighbourhood is mainly theft from motor vehicles. It is a good reminder that even though we feel our cars are safe in our undercover car parks, thieves will still enter and engage in opportunistic crime.

Therefore, it is not wise to leave your vehicle unlocked, visible valuables or bags inside. Bags create curiosity with what could be inside and will often be subject to undesirable attention. These are simple initiatives, but as Snr Sgt O'Toole frequently informs us, many residents don't heed these warnings and are in her station too regularly needing to report theft.

If you have any safety or security concerns within our neighbourhood we would love to hear from you.

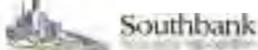
Our annual general meeting (AGM) will be held in the coming months.

Once again, we are looking for members from our community to join our committee. You don't need any specific skills, but you will no doubt find the experience rewarding – it can even look good on your CV! You will certainly make some new local friends. ●

**For more information:**  
[info@southbankresidents.org.au](mailto:info@southbankresidents.org.au)



**Tony Penna**  
PRESIDENT  
PRESIDENT@  
SOUTHBANKRESIDENTS.ORG.AU



## OC LAW

## Water ingress claims against OCs set to skyrocket after marathon VCAT case

*After a hearing spanning 11 days, more than 2000 documents, and extensive legal arguments on both sides, the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) has ordered an owners' corporation (OC) on St Kilda Rd to carry out \$58,000 worth of rectification works to an apartment.*

Furthermore, VCAT ordered the OC to pay around \$60,000 in compensation and damages to the lot owners, as well as a loss of rent claim of \$775 per week up until the completion of the rectification works.

The proceeding was commenced after years of inaction by the OC after countless complaints were raised by the lot owner spanning a decade, regarding water ingress issues to their apartment on the fifth floor of the building. The OC was said to be aware of the water ingress issues and had taken expert advice on how to rectify those issues but had failed to act in a timely manner or at all.

The VCAT Member found against the OC and criticised it for not acting on legal and expert advice to carry out repairs to the common property that would have potentially rectified the issues suffered by the lot owner at a much earlier juncture.

Under the Water Act 1989 legislation as well as the Owners' Corporation Act 2006, there is an avenue for lot owners to bring a proceeding against an OC if water has unreasonably escaped from the common property into lot property.

In making such findings, the law treats this as “strict liability” offence, meaning that it matters little about any supervening factors that might prevent an OC from organising repairs. So, factors such as inclement weather, lack of access due to the COVID lockdown, non-availability of engineers and contractors etc are never held as valid excuses available to an OC to escape or reduce its liability.

Interestingly, this was a case where VCAT was prepared to award damages in favour of the lot owner for “loss of amenity”. This decision contrasted an earlier decision of VCAT where it was found that there was no such jurisdiction to do so.

It therefore appears to be the case that if the right factual circumstances are found, then VCAT might be prepared to make orders of this nature in the future.

Another interesting feature of this case was that the lot owners claimed that they had paid \$27,000 in OC fees since they had moved out to alternative accommodation. They claim they have had to pay these fees but were deprived the benefit of being able to live in the building during this time. VCAT accepted this and permitted the lot owner to recover those fees from the OC.

This whole sorry saga is a timely reminder for OCs all over Melbourne to take these complaints of water ingress seriously, and to take timely action to investigate the issues, and carry out repairs promptly. Otherwise, these types of cases shall spring up all over Melbourne, and the lawyers will no doubt have a bonanza. ●



**Tom Bacon**  
TOM BACON IS THE PRINCIPAL LAWYER  
OF STRATA TITLE LAWYERS.  
TOM@STRATATITLELAWYERS.COM.  
AU

## SOUTHBANK SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

## Get warm with some community events

*While we continue with our regular gardening, winter is marked with community events for Southbankers who want to take control of their environmental impact, while enjoying some neighbourly community time.*

It's time to get out, warm up with a short walk to Boyd and meet more neighbours while learning a fun solution or two that will help improve your environmental impact in Southbank!

On Saturday, June 11, 9.30am to 11.30am, we are honoured to be co-hosting the educational event “Southbank Apartment Gardening 101 plus Bee Hotel Making”, along with Gardens for Wildlife and Bili Nursery & Landcare, who will be donating indigenous plants best suited for Southbank's ecosystem.

Gardens for Wildlife have very graciously and generously offered to host for free this event tailor-made for Southbankers, with a goal to improve our city's biodiversity and support our vulnerable local ecosystems by giving the bee and insect population some much needed help through spaces to feed, rest, and stay safe, across our city's balconies and urban spaces.

While the event is free, we have limited seats available and are almost sold out already. We highly recommend getting on Eventbrite or Facebook soon (search for Southbank Sustainability Group) and register or join the waitlist to help secure your spot.



During this event, participants will learn how to grow plants in their apartment and create a balcony mini-bee hotel to take home, so they can help native bees suffering the bio-consequences of urbanisation. Participants will also learn how to overcome some of the common balcony gardening challenges and use local indigenous plants to attract native pollinators to their Southbank balcony. We are honoured to have two amazing guest speakers during this workshop. Julian, a pollination ecologist with the University of Melbourne, will be talking about Australian native bees, with a focus on Melbourne species and bee hotels. He will also walk us through creating a bee hotel, best suited for our local bees. Mars, our second speaker from Bili Nursery & Landcare, will bring along

examples of locally indigenous plants, well suited for pots and other challenging balcony conditions common in Southbank.

### Other community events

This past month, we were honoured to participate in bespoke climate resilience workshops, along with other key and well-respected community organisations from across the City of Melbourne. These workshops are designed to help our council and ourselves better prepare in how to best protect and provide for community organisations and our most vulnerable people and infrastructures from anticipated weather-related crises arising in the future due to climate change's impact. We hope that our participation and input will help inner city

suburbs better prepare and face extreme weather events, while maintaining food security systems, like community gardens, and caring for our most vulnerable people in each community.

Another upcoming event we are very excited to participate in, is Boyd's 10th Birthday Party! It takes place on Thursday, July 7 at Boyd, from 4pm to 6pm. Boyd is a very important space for us, both as our group's home and playground, and the space where our group was founded by 11 residents wanting to do better for our suburb's environmental footprint, six years ago. We are honoured to be included in celebrating our beloved local community centre, as a key Southbank community building organisation and we can't wait to see as many of you there as possible!

As a reminder, we meet every fortnight on Saturdays at 10am to 12pm. Our next two meetups are on Saturdays June 18 and July 2 at Boyd's front garden. 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](mailto:southbanksustainability@gmail.com) or [facebook.com/SouthbankSustainabilityGroup](https://www.facebook.com/SouthbankSustainabilityGroup). ●



**Artemis Pattichi**  
SOUTHBANK SUSTAINABILITY  
GROUP  
SOUTHBANKSUSTAINABILITY@  
GMAIL.COM

## New York meets Southbank with The Queensbridge Building

*At the corner of Queensbridge St and City Rd, across from the Boyd Community Hub, a new kind of building is emerging in Southbank.*

With an architectural style inspired by the enduring icons of the New York City skyline, The Queensbridge Building aims to bridge the gap between city and neighbourhood to create a home for long-term locals, new residents, and experience investors.

Delivered by Time & Place and Hickory, the location has been a popular spot for locals with the iconic Underpark, an urban park created by the development team in consultation with the City of Melbourne, featuring monumental artwork by indigenous artist Reko Rennie.

Now the full tower is set to take shape, with construction commencing this month. Designed by local architecture practice Elenberg Fraser and interiors by star designer David Flack of Flack Studio, The Queensbridge Building has been curated to create an authentic feeling of home within one of the great urban neighbourhoods of Australia.

A striking tower of art-deco elegance and old-world romance, The Queensbridge Building emerges from a textured platform of stone and rock that gives way to a contemporary edifice of bronze and glass.

The architecture is a true meeting of old and new, enriched with a bronze patina that shimmers in the morning and afternoon light.

Throughout the tower you will also notice that every space feels like it has been delicately



designed and crafted, that each has its own mood and feeling. That is intentional. Queensbridge has been designed to feel, in its truest sense, like a beautiful, modern Australasian home balancing rough cut stone, swathes of cool concrete, lush urban greenery, rich woods, abundant natural light and cosy furniture.

The interior effect at Queensbridge is one of timeless quality, nostalgia and comfort.

Walking distance to both the centre of the CBD and South Melbourne's neighbourhood heart, nearby the wonderful and eclectic South Melbourne Market, The Queensbridge Building draws from and gives back to these vibrant places, with an activated street front offering destination dining and the multi-level, multi-layered Queensbridge Clubhouse.

As a resident or investor, you'll get an all-access membership to The Clubhouse. With its workspaces, dining rooms, lap pool, spa, cinema rooms, izakaya, bar, and garden terraces, it's everything a neighbourhood needs wrapped up into a contemporary urban retreat.

Southbank has been waiting for a neighbourhood building, and it's finally here.

With apartments from \$530,000, one-, two- and three-bedroom residences are now selling with damp duty savings until June 30. ●

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

## Community connections

*Gowrie Victoria has a strong belief that children should be active citizens in the community, to help broaden their sense of belonging and self-empowerment. After two years of lockdowns, children from Carlton Learning Precinct are starting to explore the city once more.*



the world around them grew, each time being brave and taking those few more steps into the world," Liz said.

A tram ride to CERES Community Environment Park, followed by a visit to the Melbourne Museum are also on the agenda.

"And we have big plans to visit a nursery to buy some native plants as we are in the process of renaming each of our rooms after a particular plant," Liz said.

As part of Gowrie's Out & About program, these excursions provide extensive learning opportunities for children.

"They involve catching a tram, so we will need to look at things like Myki cards and public transport etiquette," Liz said. "Exploring things like crossing the road, catching public transport, being cautious around other people: This is building life skills for children."

Liz said it was important for children to be connecting with the world again.

"We need to show the children that it's not so scary to open up our lives once more. We need to be cautious, but if we take small steps, we will be able to find our sense of belonging in the world again."

Gowrie Carlton Learning Precinct currently has places available for three- and four-year-olds. For more information, call 1300 446 974. ●

**For more information:**  
[gowrievictoria.org.au/childrens-programs/carltonlearningprecinct](http://gowrievictoria.org.au/childrens-programs/carltonlearningprecinct)

## Renting reinvented at Home Southbank

“

*There are few things more synonymous with Southbank than cranes in the sky.*

”

New development is one of the key pillars of life in postcode 3006. So much so, it's often easy to dismiss a new building as just that, another new building.

There is, however, a new building in Southbank that is likely to set a new precedent for development in Melbourne.

The newly-opened *Home Southbank* at 260 City Rd is the city's first premium build-to-rent (BTR) development, offering residents hotel-inspired services, state-of-the-art amenities, and bespoke community comfort.

Head of *Home*, Christian Grahame, told *Southbank News* he expected this building to be the catalyst for future BTR design and development in this country.

"*Home Southbank* is the first of its kind for Melbourne and we have set the bar high. Once the community has had the opportunity to experience a building that has been specifically designed and managed for renters, I think popularity for this type of development will grow exponentially," Mr Grahame said.

"We've considered each element to make life easier for our community. Whether it's the little things like taking care of the dry cleaning, or the big things like reducing your environmental footprint, *Home* is here to reinvent renting for Australians."

"We know there a number of groups who are watching us closely, studying our design and service model and are considering similar types of buildings in Melbourne."

The 59-level building features 403 one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments with access to sky-high private dining experiences, extensive co-working facilities that are well-equipped for the post-pandemic era of "work-from-home", in addition to luxurious "add on" services such as a Tesla carshare powered by Origin 360 EV, apartment cleaning, fitness classes, personal training and pet care services.

Following in the footsteps of Londoners and New Yorkers, where the BTR model is already a popular phenomenon, in fact, it is the second largest institutional real estate class in America.

According to Mr Grahame, at *Home*, you can paint your walls and bring your pets, to make *Home* feel like your very own sanctuary.

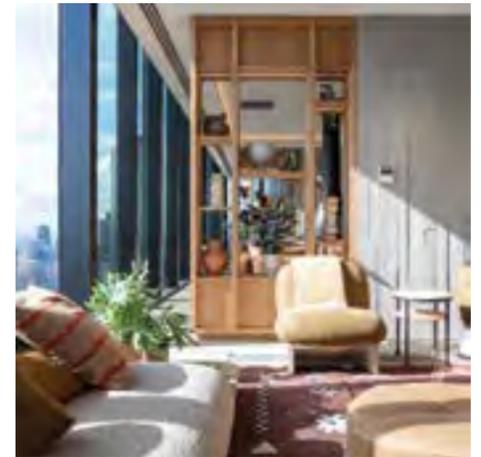
Alongside the freedom to personalise your space, *Home's* BTR model affords residents more flexibility and choice, and greater security of tenure than a normal lease.

"We've taken inspiration from thriving BTR communities from around the world to create something that is tailored to the Australian market, and bespoke to each of our six forthcoming *Home* locations, which are spotted across some of Melbourne and Sydney's most highly sought-after suburbs," Mr Grahame said.

"One of the many things that drew us to the BTR asset class was how naturally this model lends itself to the creation of tightknit apartment communities. This neighbourhood experience is something we're excited to watch grow through *Home Southbank's* ongoing calendar of events and exclusive resident experiences."

"Although our design is specifically for our renters, it is also to hold for the long term. In that way we have been able to invest in the design and quality of the building, not just because it is important for our residents, but also so we have an enduring building that will stand the test of time and add to the community."

Mr Grahame said the brick street-front façade design, led by architecture firm Bates Smart, had been carefully approached to mirror nearby heritage buildings like the Boyd Community Hub and Robur Tea House on Clarendon St.



▲ *Home Southbank* cutting edge interiors and amenities. Photo: Supplied.

"We're at a cornerstone of making real change in the Australian housing and rental market, and we want to thank our supporters, collaborators and partners in bringing, this first of its kind exclusive rental community to Melbourne," Mr Grahame said.

"We're seeing a lot of interest from inner city types, both single and couples, as well as interstateers looking for a move to Melbourne to embrace all that Southbank and the Arts Precinct has to offer."

"The consumer is attracted to the world class amenities, and extensive range of luxurious add on services available to all residents. *Home* offers a hotel-inspired lifestyle experience which you can't get anywhere else." ●

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



Jack Hayes

BUSINESS EDITOR

JACK@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU

# Pet's Corner

## Dexter dog

“

*Dexter is a lovely even-tempered Border Terrier with a gentle yet alert presence.*

”



WORDS BY *Rebecca Broadhead*

He is two-and-a-half years old and has boundless amounts of energy to chase his older cat brother around the house.

Border Terriers were originally bred by

shepherds and farmers to hunt foxes and vermin, so he can't help following his instinct to chase!

Dexter's owner, Simon, said Dexter was a "fun-loving dog," and together they enjoy living in Southbank because of the easy access to facilities and activities. ●

10 YEARS ON

## Looking back at Southbank News - 10 Years On

JUNE 2012 | ISSUE 08 |

SOUTHBANK NEWS



## Dancing in the square

*Southbank locals and visitors have now got the chance to get their groove on every Friday night after the City of Melbourne introduced First Friday Dance Club.*

The first Friday in May saw dancers Marybeth and Chris from Swing Patrol conduct a swing-dancing class for the gathered dancers of all abilities. The upcoming months will see a diverse range of classes including Bollywood, ballroom, disco and Ukrainian folk dancing already booked in. The classes run for an hour, but the fun doesn't stop there, because at the conclusion of the class, dancers are invited to have a free dance, ensuring

the party continues long into the evening. Lord Mayor Robert Doyle encouraged everyone to come down for a boogie, saying the idea was born out of Chinese cities and towns, which have similar public dances. "This is a fun and creative way to activate the city and encourage a sense of community. The classes are for everyone. You don't need to have any dance experience and they are free," Cr Doyle said. ●

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## 修建开放空间 上调市政费率

墨尔本市政发布的最新预算，未来的四年将花费约2500万澳元，用以南岸新的开放空间，同时也宣布了市政费的回升。

David Schout

于5月17日发布的市政最新预算中还包  
括在未来12个月向“塑造绿色城市”(Green-  
line)项目提供承诺的4000万澳元，该项目  
提议沿雅拉河北岸修建一条4公里长的步行  
和自行车道。

为期四年耗资2500万澳元的“南岸新开  
发公共开放空间”项目，进一步显示了该地  
区对新绿色空间的需求。

南岸是澳大利亚人口最稠密的区域之一  
(即当地人口除以土地面积)，公共开放空  
间的缺乏多年来一直是当地居民所焦虑的。

为此市政已经表示，南岸是整个城市建

设新开放空间的“首个优先考虑”区域。

但目前还不清楚会在哪些特定地区建立  
新的小公园。

市政最新的预算还包括另外500万澳元  
用于Dodds街的直线公园。

总体而言，市政承诺在未来12个月内投  
入创纪录的2.54亿澳元用于基础设施建设，  
其中包括 Greenline项目以及另外5000万澳  
元用于其有史以来最大的投资，即维多利亚  
女王市场区域的更新改造。

明年将在Greenline项目中投入4000  
万澳元用于修建浮动湿地，并且开始改造  
Birrarung Marr近600米的河岸。

市政已提议为这个3亿澳元的项目提供



三分之一的资金，其余将要求州政府和联邦  
政府各出资1亿澳元。

新当选的联邦工党政府承诺投入2000  
万澳元启动那里的道路工程，该工程将从  
Birrarung Marr一直延伸到Bolte 大桥。

然而，在墨尔本市政宣布了市政费上调  
1.75%，这是自2019年以来第一次市政费上  
调，这对于已经担心生活成本上涨的当地居  
民和商家来说，这并非是个好消息。

## 居民呼吁增加警力

南岸成功举办了第一次警察社区会议，这是一项新举措的一部分，  
旨在关注居民最担心的问题并提高社区的安全性。

Brendan Rees

5月29日，大约20名居民聚集在  
Boyd社区中心，东墨尔本警察局的 Dinah  
Tremain 警长在那里倾听了解了有关居民对  
社区安全的经历和问题。

由南岸居民团体Southbank 3006主办  
的两个小时会议讨论了许多安全问题，如  
飙车驾驶问题、交通问题、“敌对的”驾驶行  
为、反社会行为以及涂鸦，要求加强街道上的  
警力。

维多利亚警方最近在社区推出了一种邻  
里治安模式，作为解决犯罪和支持社区安全  
的“回归社区”方法的一部分。

警长Tremain正在协调包括南岸在内的  
整个墨尔本警务区的新模式工作。

这个模式的程序是由当地警察局负责对  
问题作记录备案，然后由警察去处理这些问  
题，再向居民报告他们的处理进展。

南岸居民团体副主席Jannine Pattison  
表示，这个首次会议是一个与当地警警察接  
触的极好机会，听听他们对“南岸每天面临



问题”的看法。

她说：“下午会议的一个热门话题是交  
通管理或缺乏管理的问题。”

“关于Power街与Kavanagh街交叉路  
口，以及St Kilda路地下通道的 City路是否  
需要交通灯或测速摄像头的问题进行了热烈  
的讨论。”

Pattison女士补充说，“很明显”，居民希

望看到更多的“现场执勤警察”，尤其在高峰  
时段加强交通执法，并增加周五和周六晚上  
反社会行为的打击力度。

Pattison承认警察局受到警员数量的限  
制，但她表示：“我们需要的南岸治安警务  
是‘积极主动的，而不是被动的’。”

她表示，这次会议的“最大的收获”是让  
居民报告警方可以进行处理的任何事件。



## 女王桥街大楼项目获批

开发商Time & Place在女王桥(Queensbridge)街的开发  
项目获得州规划部长Richard Wynne的批准，即在女王桥  
(Queensbridge)街88号建造价值4.1亿澳元的65层混合用途项  
目，其中包括收购毗邻Kings Way 430平方米的土地。

Sean Car

开发商在5月12日发布公告时表示，  
目前建筑公司 Hickory将进驻工地“立即开  
始施工”，这个场地最近用于一个临时篮球  
场。

开发商Time & Place最近从Crown Re-  
sorts收购了位于Kings Way 15-23号的430  
平方米土地，用以扩建大楼的裙楼以及增加  
整体占地面积，并为将来更新Kings Way路  
桥下Crown的旧出租车停车场。

该项目开始建造的消息对南岸来说是个  
好消息，作为墨尔本市政City路总体规划的  
一部分，Kings Way路桥下面的空间一直以  
来被认为是应该升级的新公共空间。

“皇后桥大厦”将坐落在Queensbridge  
街的西角，填补了南岸整体开发中的一个重  
要空白，同时也显示了市政City路区域总体  
规划中一个主要项目的形成。

对毗邻地块的收购实现了总计1370平  
方米的项目土地，总实现价值(GRV)从2亿  
澳元提高到4亿澳元以上，同时“大大改善建  
筑内部的便利设施”。

该修订的项目许可于去年12月获得未  
来墨尔本委员会(FMC)的一致支持，允许将最  
初的250套公寓的许可改为最多可建造367  
套公寓和一个拥有200间客房的酒店。

## 悬赏百万 再寻凶手

15年前，一名年轻男子在南岸一家夜总会外被一拳致命，  
其父母至今悲痛不已，仍迫切希望肇事者归案。

Brendan Rees

Shannon McCormack在人们的记  
忆中是一个“非常风趣”和爱家人的年轻  
人，2007年5月27日，他在Queensbridge  
酒店外受无端袭击去世，年仅22岁。

刑事调查组的警侦探已经查访了几名证  
人，并花了数千小时查看当时的闭路电视，  
但仍然没有找到罪犯。

目前警方再次发出呼吁，悬赏100万澳  
元(2009年悬赏10万澳元)，以获取有助  
于破案的信息。

维多利亚警方表示，McCormack先生  
在试图阻止他的朋友和另一群至少三名男子  
之间的争吵后，在距Queensbridge酒店约  
100米处遭到袭击。

当时McCormack先生被打倒在地，头  
部受到重创。

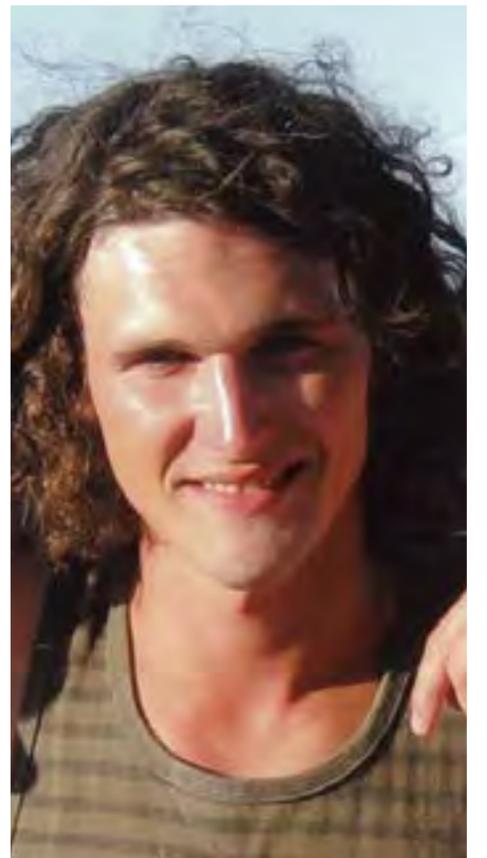
他的朋友和夜总会的工作人员对他进  
行了急救，然后叫了出租车把他送回了他在  
Eltham的家。

但是他的伤势在一夜之间恶化，经过几  
次手术，7天后他在医院去世。

他的父母 Cheryl 和Bill McCormack  
说，自从他们的儿子去世后，就觉得时间  
静止了。

McCormack先生说：“这已经是15年  
了，但对我们来说就像15秒钟。我们一直深  
陷痛苦之中，什么都没有改变。”

“每当圣诞节到来，每当有家庭聚会，  
就会有一把空椅子。每一次洗礼，每次我们  
家有事，总有一人空缺。这太难了。”



McCormack先生补充说：“当你失去父  
母时，你失去了过去；但当你失去了一个  
孩子，你失去的是未来。”

# What's On: June

## Community Calendar



### Pop-Up Pavilion of Indulgence

Chocolate, grain and cane are the buzz words for this epic winter wonderland. Enjoy a variety of delicious Mörk hot chocolates either virgin or try one of their loaded hot chocolates spiked with gin, rum and other liqueurs under the pavilion while warming next to one of the many open-flame fire heaters.



UNTIL DECEMBER 31 2022

### Aboriginal Heritage Walk

Gain insight into the rich history and thriving culture of the First Peoples of Australia through a journey of identifying significant native plants within the Gardens.

[rbg.vic.gov.au](http://rbg.vic.gov.au)

**Buxton Contemporary**  
Buxton Contemporary, located at the University of Melbourne's Southbank campus, draws upon the Michael Buxton Collection of contemporary Australian art as a foundation and inspiration for exhibitions, performance, research, teaching and publishing.  
[buxtoncontemporary.com](http://buxtoncontemporary.com)



### Stompers at Southbank Library at Boyd

Come along for an energetic 30 minutes of stories, songs, rhymes, music and most of all, fun. Ages 18 months to 3 years; no bookings necessary.

03 9658 8300



MARCH 10 - AUGUST 21 2022

### Queer

Queer shines a light on the NGV Collection to examine and reveal the queer stories works of art can tell. The exhibition explores the NGV Collection from a queer perspective, presenting and interpreting queer concepts and stories.



### Songbirds at Southbank Library at Boyd

Songs, rhymes and stories will engage your budding bookworm's mind and introduce them to the fun and rhythm of language.

For babies and toddlers to 18 months old; no bookings necessary.



### 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](http://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)

## Business Directory

### Church

**St Johns Southgate**

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

### Functions

**Facilities hire Beautiful venue for weddings and memorial services Concert venue with excellent acoustic and comfortable seating Spacious function room Meeting rooms Kitchen**

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

### Real Estate

Ray White Southbank | Port Phillip  
111 Clarendon Street, Southbank 3006  
P: (03) 8102 0200  
[www.raywhitesouthbank.com.au](http://www.raywhitesouthbank.com.au)

### Childcare

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WorkCover/TAC Claims

Mezzanine Level, 13-15/1 Freshwater Place, Southbank  
PHONE: 8640 0328 WEB: [www.elitesportsphysio.com.au](http://www.elitesportsphysio.com.au)

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# SOUTHBANK NEWS

Talk to Southbank News owner Sean Car  
t 0433 930 484  
e [sean@hyperlocalnews.com.au](mailto:sean@hyperlocalnews.com.au)  
about how to customise your campaign to our audience every month.

# Here today, gone tomorrow

**RayWhite**



Scan QR for further details. Call us on 8102 0200 or email us via southbank.vic@raywhite.com to book an appraisal for sale or rental. Visit raywhitesouthbank.com.au for more details.



2401/60 Kavanagh Street, Southbank  
\$1,100,000 - \$1,150,000 Austen Kosasih



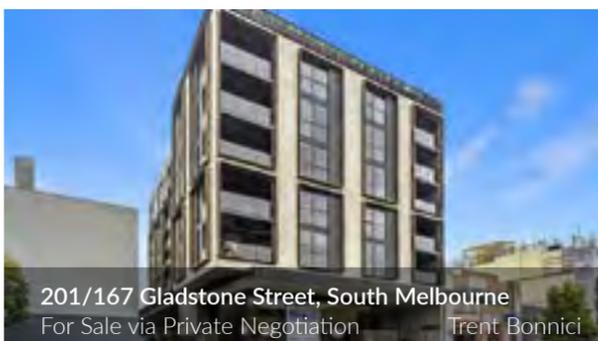
1402/33 City Road, Southbank  
\$460,000 Austen Kosasih



4602/45 Clarke Street, Southbank  
\$1,100,000 - \$1,200,000 Tommy-lee Davies



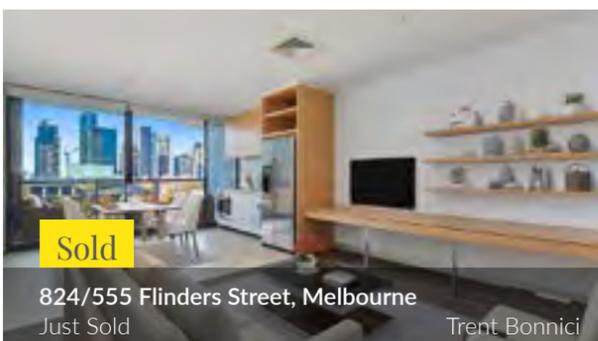
2602/283 City Road, Southbank  
For Sale via Private Negotiation Trent Bonnici



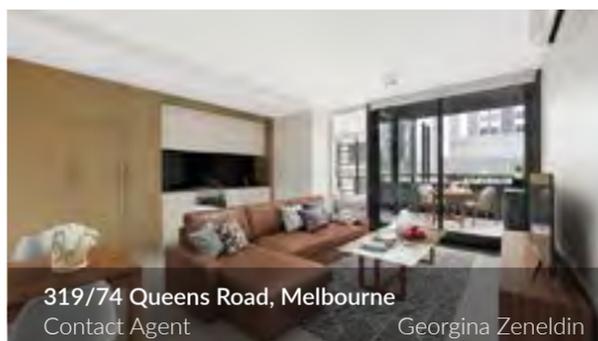
201/167 Gladstone Street, South Melbourne  
For Sale via Private Negotiation Trent Bonnici



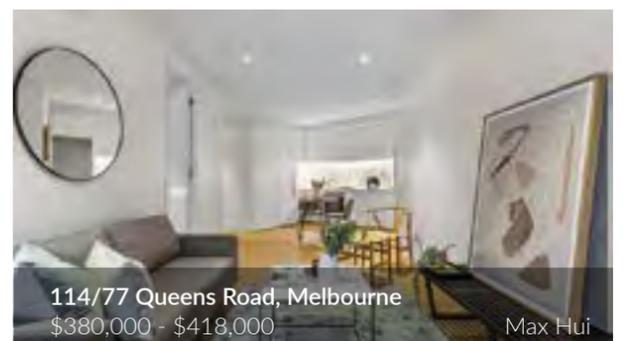
1104/241 Harbour Esplanade, Docklands  
\$420,000 - \$440,000 Austen Kosasih



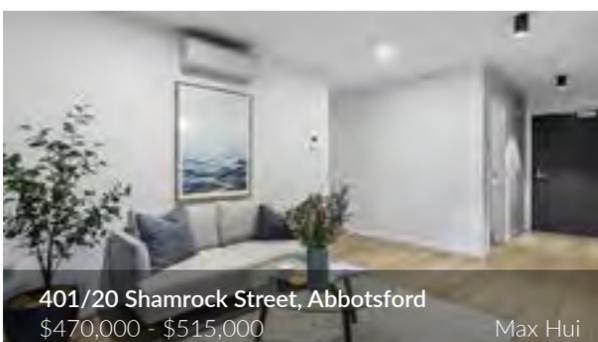
**Sold**  
824/555 Flinders Street, Melbourne  
Just Sold Trent Bonnici



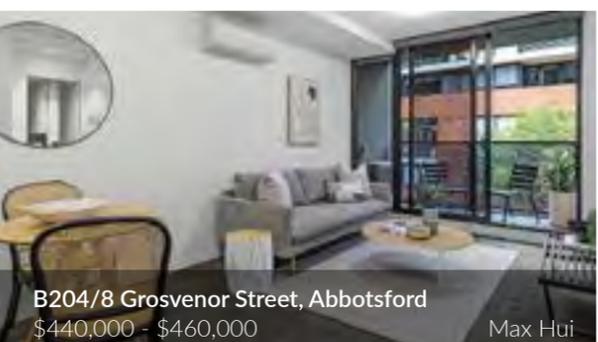
319/74 Queens Road, Melbourne  
Contact Agent Georgina Zeneldin



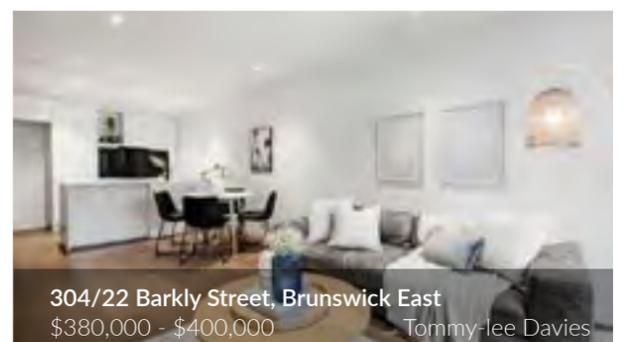
114/77 Queens Road, Melbourne  
\$380,000 - \$418,000 Max Hui



401/20 Shamrock Street, Abbotsford  
\$470,000 - \$515,000 Max Hui



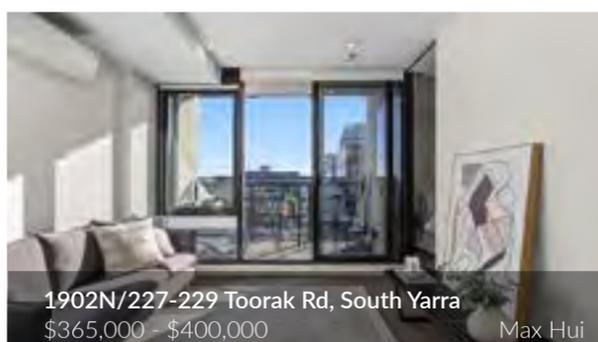
B204/8 Grosvenor Street, Abbotsford  
\$440,000 - \$460,000 Max Hui



304/22 Barkly Street, Brunswick East  
\$380,000 - \$400,000 Tommy-lee Davies



108/1215 Centre Road, Oakleigh South  
\$425,000 - \$455,000 Max Hui



1902N/227-229 Toorak Rd, South Yarra  
\$365,000 - \$400,000 Max Hui

Michael Pastrikos: 0404 282 864  
Max Hui: 0430 238 021  
Tommy-Lee Davies: 0416 823 173  
Georgina Zeneldin: 0481 577 772  
Trent Bonnici: 0402 670 441  
Georgia Ackroyd: 0437 810 755  
Austen Kosasih: 0422 396 900

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