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Puzzles & Trivia P25



New CEO to lead Arts Centre Melbourne through major overhaul

Hailed as an “exceptional leader”, Arts Centre Melbourne has welcomed its newly appointed CEO Karen Quinlan just as the organisation embarks on a major overhaul of the Melbourne Arts Precinct. Ms Quinlan will take up the reins on October 3. *Continued on page 10.*

Residents call for greater input in the delivery of the Melbourne Arts Precinct transformation

The project leaders behind the Melbourne Arts Precinct transformation will consider forming a working group with the Southbank community to ensure they are actively engaged in the \$1.7 billion redevelopment.

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PLANNING

The proposal, which would see the community and the project’s team meet on a quarterly basis, was discussed during a forum hosted by the Southbank3006 residents’ group on July 31 that heard how the development would integrate with and have impact on the community. Speaking at the forum, which was attended by more than 80 people, were the two agencies leading the Arts Precinct’s redevelopment, including Hannah Clement, group head of civic infrastructure at Development Victoria; and Katrina Sedgewick, the chief executive of the Melbourne Arts Precinct Corporation (MAP Co), an entity created by the state government to drive the vision for Australia’s largest ever cultural infrastructure project.

While questions from the audience centred around the timing of construction, traffic management, and noise, a key concern raised was whether residents and businesses would be actively involved in consultation – an initiative they felt would provide “a much more prescient way of getting information rather than us being provided with information”.

The need for the community to have a greater say in the delivery of the project was raised by Southbank3006’s secretary Trisha Avery, which drew applause from the gallery. Ms Sedgewick welcomed the

proposal, saying it was a “terrific idea” as “transparency and conversation are critical”.

“I think meeting quarterly is a really sensible idea and we’ll take that on notice and work through the comms team about how we could structure that most effectively,” she said.

MAP Co will also work closely with traditional owner groups, precinct partners, including Arts Centre Melbourne, NGV, resident organisations and tenants, and the broader creative community.

The meeting, held at the Holiday Inn Express on City Rd, also heard about the vision of the new gardens across 18,000 square metres of new public parklands. A question was asked as to how it would be different as the community wasn’t “overly-fond with what we have already”, referring to existing steel bench seating.

Residents also made it clear that they did not want the project to be a letdown like the Southbank Boulevard greening project which was “taking forever”.

But the project leaders at the forum said not only was it doing “everything we can” to finish on time in 2028, but also assured the new gardens would be “exquisite” with concept plans being “important to share and get community input and feedback”.

“It will be beautiful but also hopefully engaging and ever-changing which is the intention, which is really exciting,” Ms Clement said.

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Could MCEC’s roof be the key to unlocking a decarbonised energy system in Southbank?

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
SUSTAINABILITY

A leading expert in renewable energy and advisor to the City of Melbourne’s Power Melbourne program says Southbank could play “an important role” in enabling the next steps in a decarbonised Australian energy system, amid potential plans for an “inner-city solar farm” to be installed on the roof of the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC).

Following Federal Labor’s election pledge to build a community battery in Southbank in partnership with the council, MCEC’s sustainability manager Jacinta Carabello confirmed with *Southbank News* that it was “exploring solar as a renewable energy option”.

“[MCEC is] in ongoing discussions with the City of Melbourne about how this can be achieved and have a positive environmental impact,” Ms Carabello said.

As reported in the March edition of *Southbank News* ahead of the May election, Labor MP for Macnamara Josh Burns and new Minister for Energy and Climate Change Chris Bowen announced that a victorious Albanese government would work in partnership with the council as part of its Power Melbourne program to identify an appropriate location for a Tesla battery in Southbank.

The federal government announced a number of community battery projects across the country as part of its Powering Australia plan to deliver 82 per cent renewables in the National Energy Market by 2030.

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One-off event or new approach? AFL mulls over river parade plans

WORDS BY *David Schout*
EVENTS

The AFL is deep in negotiations to stage this year's Grand Final parade on the Yarra River, with plans for players to travel down the famous waterway before disembarking to head towards the MCG precinct.

While at the time of publication the AFL had not confirmed where this year's parade would take place, a source confirmed with *Southbank News* that Parks Victoria had notified affected businesses that the river would be closed between Princes Bridge and Swan Street Bridge for a period on Friday, September 23.

This measure has suggested that the league's governing body is serious about a change in route for this year's parade, rather than floating it as a mere idea.

It is understood that the persistent risk of COVID-19 is the key driver of the shift, with the league desperate to avoid last-minute infections prior to the big day, which Melbourne has missed out on hosting since 2019 due to the pandemic.

The parade is a key date on Melbourne's events calendar, and gives the opportunity for fans of both clubs to see their idols up close on what is now a public holiday.

Since 2015, the route has seen vehicles (carrying players and coaches) begin at the Old Treasury Building, turning left onto Wellington Parade before making its way on to a stage at Yarra Park.

Prior to 2015, the parade started at the Arts Centre and finished at the Treasury Building.

But the reported changes for this year would completely shake things up.

Fans would likely stand either side of the Yarra River; on the southern side in front of rowing sheds and the Yarra River trail, and on the north side along the wider expanses at Birrarung Marr.



It is understood there are still regulatory hoops for the game's governing body to jump through on this, however, with safety concerns about the number of people lining the riverbank.

At this stage it is likely the AFL would be looking at the river-based parade as a one-off before returning to the CBD streets in 2023.

However, if successful, it could signal the start of something new.

The league has, after all, changed the route four times already since it was first held on Grand Final eve in 1977.

Co-founder of Southbank-based GoBoat Oliver Swan said the AFL's idea was a good one.

"Any activation on the river, especially to minimise COVID risks to the players, is a positive thing that can work," he told *Southbank News*.

Mr Swan said the City of Melbourne and Victorian Government should look more consistently at the river and the potential it offers.

"I definitely think so. If not, look to do some permanent activations with infrastructure that's already there to generate life along the Yarra. Not just an events-focus, but if we had some form of light show or permanent fixture at night that brought people down to the river, I definitely think that would have a bigger impact connecting the city to Southbank and driving visitation to the restaurants and other venues along the river."

This year's AFL Grand Final will take place on Saturday, September 24. ●



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Once-per-decade strategy reveals renewed vision for Southbank



Southbank's local population will almost double by 2040 according to a once-per-decade planning blueprint that pledges to develop the local area into "truly walkable neighbourhood that provides a great environment for people".



WORDS BY *David Schout*
PLANNING

The City of Melbourne's Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS), last updated in 2010, vowed to push for a continual growth of Southbank "as Melbourne's premier arts precinct" and an "extension of the central city, focused on the Birrarung (Yarra River)".

It was proposed to address what it deemed a poor quality, car-dominated public realm in certain areas of the suburb.

The updated city-wide vision, released by the council in July, focused heavily on huge projected growth west of the CBD.

Industrial and former industrial areas such as Arden, Macaulay, and Fishermans Bend will "accommodate a significant portion of the growth and change in the municipality over the next 20 years".

It is proposed these areas will become "the new Fitzroy or Collingwood for the west of the city".

"The growth of the municipality is now moving west, onto the lower, wetter plains," the strategy stated.

The blueprint indicated that within Southbank itself, the council had forecast continual growth despite the impact of COVID-19.

Southbank's 2020 population of 27,839 would almost double to 50,041 while worker numbers would also grow from 38,954 to 60,302.

This was despite the fact that many workers have shifted to a hybrid-style arrangement since the start of the pandemic.

Further, Premier Daniel Andrews declared in March that he believed a shift to hybrid working was "permanent" and did not believe things would return to how they were pre-pandemic.



Focus areas to 2040

Among a series of goals for Southbank within the next 20 years, the council noted three "key moves" that would shape the area.

These were the Melbourne Arts Precinct transformation, Southbank Boulevard and Dodds Street open space and public realm improvements, and delivery of the already-delayed City Road Master Plan.

It acknowledged two key local issues it would seek to address; a lack of open space and social infrastructure, and the "poor quality" public realm on City Rd, Kings Way and the West Gate Freeway that have a significant impact on pedestrian and cycling amenity in much of the local area.

The MPS promised a renewed focus on Southbank's public realm.

"New local parks, enhanced streets and

community infrastructure will deliver valuable new amenity and public open space for Southbank residents," it read.

"New developments will be well-spaced and will provide through-block links to ensure Southbank remains walkable and inviting for visitors."

Southbank is one of Australia's densest suburbs, and the council pledged to enforced greater design standards in the decades to come.

It pledged that:

- New developments would provide through-block links;
- Towers would be well spaced to maintain views to the sky;
- Buildings would respect viewlines to, and visual dominance of, key sites including the Shrine of Remembrance and the Arts Centre Spire;

- New buildings within the Arts Precinct would demonstrate design excellence befitting of this area's national significance; and
- Streets and spaces would celebrate public art.

The City of Melbourne is also considering transforming dilapidated spaces under Kings Way on City Rd in Southbank into attractive and useable areas for people to visit.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said the council had plans to "reimagine" the under-crofts and would use the model of other international cities as inspiration.

He said this included investing in facilities like basketball courts, boulder climbing areas, table tennis tables, lush landscape architecture and planting.

"These spaces are dilapidated, derelict and devoid of people so we want to try and reinvent these spaces," he said.

An overarching blueprint

While not introducing an entirely new vision for the future of the city, the updated MPS rather consolidates the council's already-endorsed policies (from recent years) related to planning matters, such as the Affordable Housing Strategy and the Transport Strategy 2030.

Planning chair Cr Nicholas Reece said it was a "once in a decade opportunity to chart a course for what Melbourne will look like in the decades ahead."

"We're planning out to 2040," Cr Reece said.

"Modern Melbourne, as we know it, is not just a city that happened by magic. It's the result of very deliberate, and strategic, decision-making by the city and by the state. It's the product of one good decision building on another."

Cr Reece said that just like inner suburbs to the northeast of the CBD have markedly changed, so too will those to the west.

"Suburbs like West Melbourne will transition. They've got a strong industrial history — they'll continue to be a place where a lot of people are employed but will also take on a much more residential character, becoming like the new Fitzroy or Collingwood for the west of the city."

Deputy planning chair Cr Rohan Leppert said the strategy would play a hugely influential role in upcoming planning matters and meant that the "unholy friction" between local and state government planning agendas could be managed.

"[That relationship] can be managed in a way that there's some certainty and some understanding by all parties in the planning system, especially local residents of the City of Melbourne, as to what the government's agenda is and why, and how these different pieces come together," Cr Leppert said. ●



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Heartless thieves pinch wheel from disabled woman's car

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
CRIME

An elderly woman has been left shocked and disgusted after a wheel was stolen from her car while she was parked in a disabled space in Southbank.

Hanah Lilja parked her car on Dodds St about 9.45 am on July 14 before returning an hour later to make the awful discovery.

Ms Lilja, who has a mobility condition, said she didn't realise the wheel was missing at first until attempting to reverse her car and feeling like she had hit a bump.

But after establishing there was no car behind her, she got out to investigate and found the rear right wheel including the rim and tyre of her Lexus sedan was missing with a piece of wood "stuffed underneath".

"I got out of the car and was absolutely dumb-founded. It's just ridiculous," she said.

The 75-year-old said she parked in the same spot when visiting her friend in Southbank and had never had a problem as she displayed her disability parking permit.

However, after later learning the two rear wheels of her car were an aftermarket model and unable to be sourced through Lexus, she suspected the thieves had specifically targeted her car.

"They were very well organised. They knew



▲ Hanah Lilja was shocked after finding a wheel was missing from her car.

exactly what they were looking for," she said. "If someone saw it, they probably thought they were fixing a puncture or some problem with the wheel."

Ms Lilja said she reported the incident to

police and noted to the call-taker that there was a CCTV camera nearby. She was also willing to hand over photos she took at the scene and the piece of wood, neither of which police had as yet asked for.

When she recently called police for an update, she said disappointedly, "it just didn't sound like they did anything".

Ms Lilja said she called her roadside assistance company which fitted her spare tyre to her car so she could drive home.

Luckily her son, who works in the tyre and wheel industry, was able to find four new rims with lock nuts for her 2008 model car so the theft "doesn't happen again".

Ms Lilja said she wanted to share her story to not only call out the behaviour but to also make others aware and prevent it from happening again. She also hoped anyone with information may be able to assist police.

"A crime is a crime. It's just absolutely disgusting that someone would do something like this."

A Victoria Police spokesperson confirmed Southbank police were investigating the theft. ●



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Motorcyclist killed in Southbank collision

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
SAFETY & SECURITY

Police are investigating after a motorcyclist died following a crash in Southbank on July 22.

Emergency services were called to the Kings Way on ramp of the Westgate Freeway about 4.50pm after reports of a collision between a truck and motorcycle.

The male motorcyclist died at the scene. The driver of the truck stopped after the crash and spoke with police.

"The exact circumstances surrounding the collision are yet to be determined and investigations remain ongoing," a Victoria Police spokesperson said.

Investigators were keen to speak with anyone who witnessed or had dashcam footage. ●

Police appeal after boy allegedly stalked

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
CRIME

Police are on the hunt for a man after a boy was targeted in an alleged stalking incident in Southbank on July 11.

Investigators have been told an 11-year-old boy was walking near Freshwater Place about 6pm when he was approached by an unknown man.

"The man asked the victim a number of inappropriate questions before following the victim along City Rd and asking further questions," a police spokesperson said.

"The victim called a family member and the man walked off along Southbank Boulevard."

The man is described as Caucasian, 195cm tall, 55 to 65 years old, 90kg, grey/white hair and with a gut.

At the time of the incident, he was wearing a black cap, grey jumper, blue jeans, and possibly fingerless gloves.

Detectives have released CCTV and images of a man they believe may be able to assist with their enquiries.

Melbourne Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Team detectives are investigating.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers. ●

Residents call for safety upgrade to Kavanagh St pedestrian crossing

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
SAFETY & SECURITY

A pedestrian crossing at a dangerous intersection in Southbank – which will soon have a playground open nearby – needs to be made safer, worried residents say.

Concerns have been raised that a zebra crossing on Kavanagh St had become a "blind spot" for drivers turning left from Southbank Blvd due to a new neighbourhood park with trees at the corner having attributed to the problem.

Residents' group Southbank3006 has flagged the intersection as "dangerous in its design" and needed an immediate safety fix.

"I think an easy and immediate improvement would be flashing yellow lights like the crossing outside the [Coroners Court] on Kavanagh St. It's even more dangerous in the low light twilight hours," vice-president of Southbank3006 Jannine Pattison said.

"It concerns me greatly that no additional safety provisions are in place considering the foot traffic and children who will supposedly use the park."

The park Ms Pattison referred to is a new play space between Kavanagh St and Fawkner St, which is expected to open in September as part of the City of Melbourne's Southbank Boulevard linear park project. It is in addition to a pop-up park at the corner that also faces the pedestrian crossing.

The call for a safety solution comes as Southbank3006's secretary Trisha Avery said

her car was struck from behind by a 4WD after she stopped at the pedestrian crossing.

Neither driver nor any pedestrian were injured, but it has raised safety concerns from Ms Avery after the 4WD driver told her, "I didn't know there was a pedestrian crossing there."

"I pulled up and he went straight into the back of me. If he had not had me in front of him, he could have killed someone," she said of the incident which happened on August 4 at 3.40pm.

"It's not just that I was rear-ended, it's the fact that the guy didn't know there was a pedestrian crossing."

The council said it was not aware of any complaints regarding the zebra crossing, which was installed in 2019 as part of the Southbank Boulevard project.

"Nevertheless, we'll investigate possible signage options to alert drivers of the crossing," it said.

However, Ms Avery said the intersection was busy and used as a thoroughfare for motorists accessing Power St and the Westgate Fwy, thus making it hazardous enough to warrant flashing lights, or at the very least, signs installed to warn motorists of the pedestrian crossing.

She also expressed concerned that the soon-to-open playground would not be safe enough with people walking from Kavanagh St.

"It is a blind corner; people are coming off Southbank Blvd and it's a very big pedestrian crossing," Ms Avery said.

"I'm concerned now about mainly tradies or people cutting through with large trucks and



▲ Trisha Avery (pictured crossing) of the Southbank3006 residents' group is concerned about the safety of pedestrians using a crossing on Kavanagh St.

not seeing the pedestrian crossing."

Ms Avery added the intersection was also dangerous for cyclists "because people come around that corner and don't see there's a cycle lane".

"It's a very, very dodgy corner." ●



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Southbank's new Queen Bee creating a buzz at Riverside Quay

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
ARTS & CULTURE

A request to developer Mirvac to extend artist Richard Stringer's iconic Eureka Tower colony of bees installation has resulted in a new *Queen Bee* making itself at home on Mirvac's 2 Riverside Quay.

Mr Stringer's original Queen Bee sculptures were created for a series of studio works in 2003 and 2004, before notably making their home on iconic builds.

Following their interest in the artwork, architecture firm Fender Katsalidis commissioned a large-scale version of a colony of bees to be installed on their Eureka Tower design.

Now in an effort to revitalise the Riverside Quay precinct, Mirvac has followed suit with their own extension of the artwork at the building's entrance.

"When Fender Katsalidis came to us with the idea of extending the artwork, we were keen to be involved," general manager of office at Mirvac Andrew Butler said.

"Recently, we have lodged a planning permit application to bring to life a vibrant rooftop venue at the precinct, set to be the crowning

glory for the precinct, adding an incredibly unique and unparalleled attraction to an already popular destination."

The tenants of the building where the new bee is situated are PwC and Fender Katsalidis, and PwC's Melbourne managing partner Peter Konidaris said his team was thrilled to see the extension in place.

"This iconic art highlights the incredible talent of Richard Stringer and pays homage to the world-class arts and culture scene at the heart of Melbourne," Mr Konidaris said.

The most recent additions to the colony in 2019 were announced with a grand opening celebration with Eureka residents, and Lord Mayor Sally Capp was in attendance to unveil the lit-up display of the colony.

Following the latest expansion of the friendliest bees in Southbank, Cr Capp expressed her delight and its importance in the precinct.

"Precincts like Riverside Quay are places for people to come together and enjoy public art that is quintessentially Melbourne," she said.

"I applaud the team behind extending what is a wonderful sculpture that delights tourists and locals alike." ●

New play space

COUNCIL AFFAIRS

As part of the council's transformation of Southbank Boulevard that is currently underway, a new play space is being installed.

The works began in August with some of the equipment being craned in, with more equipment, including claimable rocks, to be installed at the site during August.

As Southbank is one of Melbourne's most densely populated suburbs, Lord Mayor Sally Capp said it was "important to make the most of opportunities for new open space" and to cater to the diverse community.

"The play space will bring a new sense of adventure and play to the Southbank Boulevard area – providing families with a pocket of tranquility among the bustling Southbank streetscape," Cr Capp said.

"Within a matter of weeks, a new play space filled with nature-inspired play equipment will be open for everyone to enjoy."



Come September, the hope is for the play space to be completed and enjoyed by local families.

The new 1000sqm play space can be found between Kavanagh and Fawcner streets on Southbank Boulevard. ●

As Crown undergoes major reform, the question is: should it become more engaged with the local community?

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

As one of the biggest drawcards and employers in Southbank, hopes are growing that Crown Casino will use its major reform process to play a more proactive role in the community.

Crown is currently undertaking a complex and significant reform program after a Victorian Royal Commission into the gaming giant found it guilty of "disgraceful conduct" in 2021.

Since the damaging findings, Crown has begun rebuilding itself and has since changed ownership to Blackstone, which completed a \$8.9 billion takeover of Crown in June.

But as it enters a new era, Southbank businesses, residents, and stakeholders such as the Yarra River Business Association (YRBA) hope it will be an opportunity to forge a more positive relationship with Crown going forward.

"To date, Crown has not been a local player at all. Despite repeated attempts over 20-plus years to get it to become a member of YRBA, it has resisted for most of those years," YRBA's executive officer Tim Bracher said.

"As Crown is the most dominant player in the Southbank suburb and business area, the company's attitude going forward hopefully might change."

Mr Bracher said the YRBA found it hard to reach Crown's businesses with "the community benefit it provides to the local community being almost non-existent".

"It has been incredibly difficult to communicate with. They have been keen to sponsor major events such as the Melbourne Cup etc. but have been very resistant in supporting the local businesses and activities."

This sentiment was shared by Tony Penna, president of the Southbank Residents' Association, who said, "it wouldn't be difficult for them just to reach out and engage with us and have some conversations."

However, Mr Penna noted in Crown's defence, that it did play an active role in the Southbank Safety and Security Committee, which met quarterly with Victoria Police and community stakeholders to discuss neighbourhood safety concerns.

That said, Mr Penna hoped there were other ways the entertainment precinct could involve itself with the local community "in some way, shape or form".

"At the end of the day, they are a critical component of the local community and of our fabric ... a lot of people who work there live in Southbank."

However, Southbank3006 residents' group president David Hamilton said the focus should not be on Crown but rather state-wide destination facilities in Southbank such as the Arts Precinct "and how they interact with a local community".

"Casinos are not about community development. They are the very antithesis of



community development," he said, adding "community groups shouldn't take donations from or be involved with organisations that cause social harm."

"I don't know anywhere in the world that a casino is part of a local community. They are businesses. It's not about a local community," he said.

"Residents might use them, but they're not a purpose-built facility for residents."

He said if Crown was to use its wealth in a proactive way to benefit the community, it could fund the City of Melbourne's Greenline project.

"It's a multi-billion-dollar facility, it can make a multi-million-dollar contribution to the city," he said.

Mr Hamilton said the Arts Precinct and the University of Melbourne's Southbank campus were the perfect examples of what Southbank3006 would hope "can become more outwardly focused on a local community" and thus be a part of the "social fabric and social development of the area."

"That I think is the important issue. As we have put to the council, we think there should be a Carnivale created as part of its reignite Melbourne strategy," he said.

"That should be focused on activating Southbank Blvd because that then links the river and the community – it's a way of bringing all the elements of Southbank together."

Stephen Mayne, a Crown shareholder activist and former City of Melbourne councillor, said Crown's new ownership was "an opportunity to completely change the culture and this should include reaching out to the local Southbank residents and businesses."

"For instance, anyone who is a Southbank resident should be provided some form of discount card when spending at the Southbank complex and the casino should also run quarterly forums with local residents and businesses to deal with any issues arising from the operation of the casino."

Meanwhile, new laws have been introduced by the state government to tackle gambling related harm and address money laundering at Crown.

This included limiting the use of cash to \$1000 every 24 hours and patrons using casino-issued cards, and showing ID to gamble or receive winnings of more than \$1000. ●



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The Lord Mayor's Small Business Awards acknowledge and celebrate Melbourne's longstanding independent small businesses, and the people who run them.

Each year we say thank you for the significant contribution they make to the city's culture, economic prosperity and liveability.

The awards honour the achievements of small businesses who have been operating in the City of Melbourne for milestones of 10+, 20+, 40+ years.

The inaugural Small Business of the Year Award recognises one outstanding business that has demonstrated excellence across all areas of their business, such as sustainability, innovation and customer care.



Lord Mayor Sally Capp with 10-year Achievement Award recipients Adji Baskoro and Yudo Baskoro of Koskosan

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to all our Achievement Award winners.

These small businesses have stood the test of time in the city for 10+, 20+ and 40+ years. Don't miss the stunning photography exhibition to celebrate some of our city's most iconic small businesses. The exhibition runs in the Bourke Street Mall from mid-August to mid-September, featuring portraits of each small business at work.

40+ years

- Michael Cardamone - Amiconi Restaurant
- Alan Adler - Alan Adler Mobile Amusements
- Grant Hamid - Hamid Bros
- Terry O'Halloran - Sole Motive
- Andrew Georgiou - Victoria Market Gifts
- Helen Cacopardo - You Day Spa

20+ years

- Eileen Carney - American Rag
- Brendan Dwyer - Brendan Dwyer Custom
- Phil Calvert - calmatronics
- Sandy Tsindos - Charles Elena Design
- David Neilson - Charles Elena Design
- Christine Barro - CHRISTINE
- Adam Pickett - Dungeon of Magic
- Vivian Dourali - Eimai Melbourne
- Tony Pierrakos - Intone Photography
- Samson Brian Pereira - Nikee Business Group
- Martin Pirc - Punch Lane Wine Bar and Restaurant
- Lou Rendina - Rendina Real Estate
- Janine Hunt - The Chicken Pantry
- Lisa Hong - Wild Wombats Australia
- Julie Fong - Your Jeweller
- Jimmy Fong - Your Jeweller

10+ years

- Stewart Koziara - Asian Beer Cafe
- Anna Carosa - Asian Beer Cafe
- Melanie Ashe - Clementine's
- Dr Leila Zamani - Dr Zamani Dental Practice
- Stewart Koziara - Father's Office
- Anna Carosa - Father's Office
- Adam Ong - Golden Monkey
- David Man Kit Yu - Golden Square Car Park
- Damian Corney - Grafico Group
- Jeff Harper - IGA Express Southbank
- Kelly Gissara - Jissara Hair
- Jimmy Kosan - JKN Migration Consultant
- Adji Baskoro - Koskosan
- Yudo Baskoro - Koskosan
- Roger O'Toole - Melbourne Headache Centre
- Yik Muoa Hong - Motion City Development
- Dave Parker - San Telmo
- Jason McConnell - San Telmo
- Linda Dugan - Petal Back Clothing
- Marshall Waters - ReWine
- Yogesh Gupta - Tax Planners
- Michael Wright - True Thai Massage
- Tae Panuktong - True Thai Massage
- Rongrong Wang - Twenty & Six Espresso
- Wendy Scully - Wendy Scully Millinery
- Nikki Vriends - Zip Zip Wax

Small Business of the Year winner GRAFICO GROUP



Every wall, car and building is a potential canvas for graphic design company Grafico Group.

Maybe it's a panel of custom-printed Italian mosaic tiles. Or wallpaper on an epic scale that adds instant drama to a room... and episodes of The Block.

Maybe you've seen Grafico's wares wrapped around a fleet of vehicles, zipping across the city in sleek custom signage.

From humble beginnings in 2004, this creative services agency has grown rapidly under the eye of Damian Corney to specialise in auto, walls and signage.

Grafico's North Melbourne warehouse is staffed with graphic designers and signage specialists. Together, they serve commercial and domestic markets across the country.

Established by the son of Italian migrants - at first in a garage, Grafico has grown into a business with an innovative range of new products and creative marketing.

It's also working on innovative approaches to minimise impact on the environment, partnering with Werribee Zoo to recycle cardboard cylinders.

Congratulations to Grafico Group on being named 2022 Lord Mayor's Small Business of the Year.

Small Business of the Year finalist MAKE DESIGNED OBJECTS



Every beautiful product on the shelves at this retail store has earned its place amid other thoughtfully designed homewares, clothing and accessories.

MAKE Designed Objects owner Patrick Coppel and his team have carefully crafted an ethos around what belongs in their two-storey terrace shop in Carlton.

To be selected, a product must first be considered 'good'. It needs to be functional as well as aesthetically appealing. Durable and useful. Tread lightly on the earth. And if it has a sense of humour, all the better.

There's a big range of products from Scandinavian countries with a strong

design culture, such as Denmark and Finland.

Where Australian designers hold their own on the global stage, their products too are welcome. Since 2003, MAKE has infused 'good' design into homes in Melbourne and beyond.

Some items are so beautiful they're even held in galleries and private collections worldwide.

MAKE was named a Small Business of the Year finalist for its lovely relationship with the community. MAKE is a Carlton institution, but it's also a successful online business that has built up an extensive, loyal following by email list.

Small Business of the Year finalist KNOVUS



At the nexus of design, innovation and manufacturing, you'll find knitting house Knovus.

Investing in the latest zero-waste knit technology, Knovus has explored, researched and developed sustainable knitwear manufacturing processes since 1999.

Knovus has built up a wealth of knit products such as medical device components, furniture, sports accessories and fashion.

The crew also prototypes technology and helps other businesses get to

market quickly and effectively.

Owner Patricia Chircop and the team are also dedicated to sharing decades of experience with others, offering tailored workshops to improve knit knowledge and efficiency.

Knovus was named a Small Business of the Year finalist for its highly innovative approach to the design and manufacture of knitted products, ranging from fashion to medical technology, and investment in cutting-edge technology and knowledge

To read more about the recipients, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/smallbusinessawards

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A “dynamic, engaged community”: Martin Foley reflects on Southbank

After 15 years as the state member for Albert Park, Martin Foley has announced he is stepping down and will not contest the November state election. He spoke with Southbank News about how he has seen the local area evolve during that time, its challenges going forward, and being health minister in a once-per-century pandemic.

WORDS BY David Schout
POLITICS

In 2006, the year before Martin Foley was elected in a by-election for the inner-Melbourne seat of Albert Park, the national census revealed that Southbank had less than 10,000 local residents.

At the time, further development was forecast to take place in the urban renewal area, and it was earmarked as a suburb to accommodate a growing city population.

And that's exactly what eventuated.

In fact, in the latest 2021 census data released in June, the number of Southbankers had (comfortably) more than doubled in that time and was now at 22,699.

“The population is going up but it's actually getting younger, proportionally speaking compared with the rest of Melbourne, and more professional,” Mr Foley reflected in a wide-ranging interview with *Southbank News*.

“So, it's actually now quite a mature, dynamic community but with its own particular features that come with high-density and vertical living.”

In his time as local MP for the seat (of which Southbank occupies the north-eastern corner), he has seen the growth with a particularly close lens.

As he prepared to say goodbye to a career in politics after announcing his retirement in June, he shared his thoughts on what made the suburb unique.

Referring to Albert Park, as a whole, as “the most dynamic, interesting and engaged community in Melbourne”, Mr Foley said Southbank was indicative of a community that “kept you honest and accountable”.

“The rate of growth and investment, particularly in Southbank, are among the highest in the state. People know change is a daily feature of their lives, but they want to negotiate that change on terms that are agreeable to them both individually and as a community,” he said, paying tribute to the area's community groups.

Southbank's rapid rise has also meant that it was subject to many different and often unique challenges.

Mr Foley said that how climate change looked in a high-density, vertical community like Southbank was a topic of particular interest in the years to come.

“Southbank is particularly vulnerable when you see the City of Melbourne's drainage and water rises. These are big challenges for Southbank, some areas more so than others. When you see the CSIRO maps about what water rising and mega events increasing; it's not just the Dandenongs that'll have a hard time, it's also the kind of risk that high-density living has.”

He said other challenges the area faced in



years to come was, as it matured, how it managed “cradle to grave” services.

“What does accessible early childhood and family support services look like in this community? What does education look like? What about work-life balance — what's that going to do to changes in demand for facilities well beyond just the Boyd centre?”

In a distinctly “young” area like Southbank (the recent census revealed that 66 per cent of locals were aged between 20 and 39), how would it also tackle an ageing population?

“As we increasingly see people move from the suburbs and indeed the regions into Southbank as they downsize and get ready for retirement, what does that mean for an ageing sector of Southbank? What does in-care support and aged care support look like in a high-density community?”

Mr Foley noted that a more pressing concern for locals was something many saw each day; transport, walkability, and the need for an improved public realm.

“The fact that [Southbank] is at the intersection of so many transport connections continues to be a really challenging set of issues for both local and state government.”

During his 15-year political career, Mr Foley has served (among others) in the Creative Industries, Equality, Disability and Housing portfolios.

Most recently, he served as Health Minister during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, when he took over from former minister Jenny Mikakos in September 2020.

He said one thing in particular would remain with him when he reflected on his career in years to come.

“I got the job in fairly unusual circumstances at the height of the worst aspects of the pandemic. And my job was to really build and maintain

“

As we increasingly see people move from the suburbs and indeed the regions into Southbank as they downsize and get ready for retirement, what does that mean for an ageing sector of Southbank?

”

confidence in the public health response in the most challenging set of circumstances the public health system had faced in living memory ... at the time and since, the amazing amount of community goodwill to get through that and support the public health system is the thing that will endure with me.”

Mr Foley was one of four senior Andrews Government ministers to announce they'll step down ahead of November, alongside Deputy Premier James Merlino, Police Minister Lisa Neville and Sports Minister Martin Pakula.

The vacancy created by his retirement has been filled by upper house MP Nina Taylor, who will contest the seat of Albert Park in the November state election for Labor.

The notion of Southbank, and Albert Park as a whole, being an engaged local community meant that a politician could never be comfortable.

“This is not a safe Labor seat,” he said.

“I've seen it go as marginal as one per cent, and I know that every vote will have to be fought for and fought over ... I don't take anything for granted. It's always been a seat that's been unpredictable, and it will continue to be so. Clearly, I'm going to support the Labor candidate Nina Taylor, but I don't take it granted for a moment that this is anything other than a demanding, hard-to-convince community that need to be actively engaged with to win their support and confidence.”

Albert Park (an electorate that also covers Middle Park, Port Melbourne, St Kilda West, South Melbourne, and parts of St Kilda) has been held by the Labor Party since 1950, including by former Deputy Premier John Thwaites from 1992 to 2007.

Mr Thwaites' resignation in July 2007 triggered the by-election that was won by Mr Foley in September of that year. ●

Salsa and live music at Queensbridge Square among wave of new activations to hit the city

WORDS BY Kaylah-Joelle Baker
EVENTS

Melbourne is set to continue in its rapid reawakening as the weather warms up, with 18 activations soon to be popping up in and around the city.

Among the City of Melbourne's latest City Activation grant round, which will see more than \$800,000 go towards supporting the upcoming events and pop-ups, is Salsa in the City at Southbank's very own Queensbridge Square.

As well as filling the atmosphere of Southbank with live music jam sessions and dancing from September through to December, the event will also take place at Dukes Walk and Collins Landing.

“The City Activation Grants program will give people yet another reason to explore every corner of the city, with pop-up salsa dancing, music jam sessions and video and augmented reality experiences among the line-up designed to entice people in,” Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

The \$1.75 million grant program is part of the joint City of Melbourne and Victorian Government's \$100 million Melbourne City Recovery Fund, and successful grant recipients will receive up to \$50,000 to support the delivery of their idea.

Winter Sessions at the Queen Victoria Market precinct, Lygon St and Alexandra Gardens will farewell the wintry season this month with live music from emerging and established Melbourne musicians.

Spring will then be celebrated with *Floral by the Docklands* and *Bike Valet* which will turn the waterfront precinct into a floral wonderland with street art installations and encourage people to ride their bikes.

An augmented reality experience of the past and future of Melbourne will also be seen through *Remember the Wild*, and *Creek Chat* will acknowledge the underground Williams Creek under Elizabeth St through a sound-based public art intervention.

The council's city activation portfolio lead Cr Roshena Campbell said the council was “doing everything [it] can to breathe new life into Melbourne.”

“We know events are driving Melbourne's recovery, which is why we're supporting a diverse range of new activations, performances and activities to keep visitors coming back to the city, putting dollars into local traders' pockets,” she said.

The unique offerings set for the second half of the year are also another chance for locals and visitors to be a part of celebrating Melbourne for being the world-renowned art, music and cultural city it is. ●

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New court at Fawkner Park opens, but anger remains

WORDS BY *David Schout*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

A new sports court at Fawkner Park is now open for public use, but some locals remain frustrated it was allowed to be installed.

The multipurpose court was opened for public use in June at the South Yarra park, along with upgraded landscaping and playground improvements.

According to the City of Melbourne, the project will improve access and safety for the local community, including the large number of South Yarra Primary School students, teachers and parents who use the Pasley St North entrance to the Park.

However, a group of residents let their feelings known to councillors at a July 19 Future Melbourne Committee meeting held at St Martins Youth Arts Centre in South Yarra.

After councillors had noted the “successful completion” of works, two locals hit back.

“This has not been a successful project,” resident Bea McNicholas said.

“It has been a disaster from beginning to end and, as we say, we hope it never happens again.”

The group said that residents they had spoken to were disappointed with the project, which “alters the character and ambience of the park”.

“It states in the points that there have been a lot of compliments on this. Well, nobody I know, and I deal with over 10,000 people in my groups, they’re really distressed. Most of them don’t go to Fawkner Park anymore. I’ve lost personally, as everyone to the north has, their heritage nature relaxing walk on Sunday afternoons



▲ Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece with South Yarra Primary students at the new court at Fawkner Park.

when it’s really busy,” Ms McNicholas said.

Another resident, Jennifer McDonald, said she was disappointed with what she deemed a lack of community consultation throughout the process and a lack of heritage expertise that allowed the court to be approved.

“We’re told in the report that the new

multipurpose court is consistent with the council’s objective to enhance Melbourne’s unique identity and place,” she said.

“I can’t see how locating this court in the midst of one of Melbourne’s finest assets, a heritage park, how the court achieves that in the middle of the park. The new court has not

been welcomed by the many residents who use the park for recreation rather than sporting activities. The magnificent setting of Fawkner Park, as described in the masterplan, has been altered by the location of a large concrete area of a highly patented sports court.”

However, during what was, at times, a testy meeting, Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the council had to consider the needs of all residents rather than just one group.

And while Cr Capp acknowledged that “the compromise is very difficult to reach” at times, said she and the City of Melbourne were pleased with the new area at Fawkner Park.

“It’s important to acknowledge that when we do have these precious, limited and unique spaces, that one of the big challenges we have at council is to balance the varied and broad uses and needs of our community into limited space. It’s a challenge we’re dealing with all the time, particularly in our open spaces,” she said.

The Lord Mayor noted that feedback as part of the recent 2022-23 draft budget, for example, had included calls for more netball courts and more community sport facilities.

The \$1.5 million works at Fawkner Park, which began in December 2021 and reopened for public use in June 2022, also included drainage improvements to reduce the impact of rain and flood events and resolve long-standing drainage issues.

Nine trees were removed as part of the works, and 21 new trees planted.

Fawkner Park is among the oldest parks in Melbourne, remaining largely unchanged from its original design in 1875. ●

New CEO to lead the Arts Centre through its biggest change and growth

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
ARTS & CULTURE

Arts Centre Melbourne has welcomed its newly appointed CEO, just as the organisation embarks on a major overhaul of the Melbourne Arts Precinct.

Karen Quinlan, who takes up the reins on October 3, has been hailed as an “exceptional leader” with “ambitious thinking” – attributes that will put her in good stead as the State Theatre undergoes its biggest makeover in four decades.

The Arts Centre Melbourne’s renewal project, Reimagining Arts Centre Melbourne – which will be central to the Arts Precinct’s \$1.7 billion transformation – is currently underway, thanks to a fast-track funding boost of \$241 million announced in November last year.

It will see the historic State Theatre fully refurbished including the venue’s much-loved heritage-listed interiors as well as upgrades to lighting, staging technology, better accessibility, new seats, aisles, studios, and back-of-house amenities.

Ms Quinlan, the current curator, arts

administrator, and CEO of the National Portrait Gallery (NPG) in Canberra, said she was thrilled to lead her new team in Melbourne and aimed to deliver a “world class experience”.

“As an arts leader I am excited and energised by the prospect of leading the extraordinary team at Art Centre Melbourne,” she said, which was about “embracing change and growth”.

“Arts Centre Melbourne is a cultural institution of global significance and is a place that connects performers, artists, makers, and presenters.”

“The transformation of the Melbourne Arts Precinct will redefine our experience, engage new audiences and inspire generations to come.”

Ms Quinlan’s wealth of experience included her “game-changing” role as the former director of the Bendigo Art Gallery (2000-2018), where she helped build the gallery’s reputation on the world stage through “blockbuster” exhibitions and driving cultural tourism.

During the past four years, she has also attracted new audiences at the NPG and in turn built its national profile.

President of the Victorian Arts Centre Trust Ian Carson said Ms Quinlan stood out as an



▲ Karen Quinlan AM, has been appointed as new CEO of Arts Centre Melbourne. Photo credit: Arts Centre Melbourne

inspiring leader.

“Karen is well respected nationally and internationally. Her strength working across the arts sector, bringing innovation and fresh thinking, and her deep commitment to diversity and inclusion made her a compelling candidate,” he said.

Minister for Creative Industries Steve Dimopoulos also welcomed the appointment, saying Ms Quinlan was an “exceptional creative leader” who brought “vast credentials and talent to drive this next pivotal stage for our iconic Arts Centre”.

Ms Quinlan was formerly chair of the Public Galleries Association of Victoria and served on boards including Melbourne Fashion Festival and State Library Victoria.

In recognition of her services to the arts, Ms Quinlan was awarded an Order of Australia medal in 2019.

The Arts Centre will remain open as usual throughout the works with events and shows on stages.

The State Theatre will close for auditorium and stage house refurbishment in 2024 and reopen in December 2026. ●



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Residents call for greater input in the delivery of the Melbourne Arts Precinct transformation

Continued from page 1.

“I know we’ve got some really exciting international experts involved but [we’re] also working really closely with the Royal Botanic Gardens.”

Another concern raised was that Kavanagh St residents would be confronted with “a giant brick wall” and if anything could be done to “change that look”.

Ms Sedgewick said Kavanagh St and neighbouring laneways were important and “and the benefit they can get if that side of the building is activated and beautiful”.

“The benefits of it being a triangular site and making sure all aspects of that triangle and all entrances, exits to that triangle have an energy will help activate the spaces around them,” she said.

“I think in the next phases of the design I think you will see a real development in terms of that side of the building.”

Another resident asked about the long-term plan for the former Testing Grounds site, to which Ms Sedgewick replied, “not at this stage”, adding “there are dreams and visions and longings for what could be in that space but that is yet to be determined”.

“Obviously it is a prime piece of space with an incredible adjacency to this new investment.”

One resident mentioned Testing Grounds had some “beautiful trees” that the community did not want lost, but if they were to be removed, asked that they be relocated within the precinct.

The forum also heard that Development Victoria, which delivered the State Library refurbishment and Melbourne Park developments, was “committed to communicating to residents and other stakeholders on project disruptions throughout the life of the project” which would also be minimised “as far as possible”.

Ms Clement said the Arts Precinct would remain open throughout construction; however, it would look at ways to activate the area, so it didn’t feel “blocked off”.

This included working with artists and “creatively linking the public to be able to see and experience what we’re actually doing technically behind the hoarding”.

Southbank3006 vice president Jannine Pattison said it was pleasing to see many engaged residents attend the forum, which attracted such strong interest that the venue had to be changed to accommodate more attendees.

“While the session went a long way to alleviate residents’ concerns, there was no doubt that frequent community consultation and communication is what is needed throughout the process of development,” she said.

“As stated by Katrina Sedgewick, ‘this is the beginning of the conversation’. We can only hold them to their word at this stage, but you can be assured Southbank3006 will be acting as a facilitator and holding additional community forums as the development progresses.”

City of Melbourne councillor Jamal Hakim, who attended the forum, said he had heard “loud and clear” that “open space and traffic conditions are critical [issues] in Southbank that need better communication and more action”.

“I can’t wait to see the accessible and wonderful vision come to life. We need to be creative to create open space in Southbank and this will certainly play a big part in that.”

Another attendee and Member for Southern Metropolitan Region Nina Taylor said that as a local resident and long-time arts admirer, it was “pleasing to see such positive early consultation on the project that will transform the Melbourne Arts Precinct”.

“A packed house of Southbank3006 members eager to be part of the process, bodes well for great outcomes for the local area.”

The forum comes as early works for the project officially



▲ Katrina Sedgewick, the chief executive of the Melbourne Arts Precinct Corporation (MAP Co), speaks to Southbank residents about the Melbourne Arts Precinct transformation.

kicked off the project in July, starting with the Art Centre’s refurbishment which would continue with the demolition of the CUB building at 77 Southbank Boulevard (beginning early 2023) and preparing for the build of The Fox: NGV Contemporary (starting 2024), with the latter not exceeding 60 metres in height, the forum was told.

Several public art sculptures around the Theatres Building have been removed to keep them safe during the work, and will be displayed in temporary homes at other public locations. An area behind the TB and towards HH will also be cleared of plants, trees, landscaping, and paved outdoor areas.

Sturt St will have partial and intermittent closures from the end of July to December this year, while intermittent temporary road closures will affect Kavanagh St.

However, future proposed changes would see Sturt St closed between City Rd and Southbank Blvd. Motorists will continue to have access to the Arts Centre car park via Kavanagh St and Southbank Blvd.

The State Theatre will close for auditorium and stage house refurbishment in 2024 and reopen in December 2026.

To keep the Arts Centre Melbourne open to the public throughout the project, utilities and services will be moved temporarily above ground while site investigations and ground testing are undertaken.

Early works on Arts Centre Melbourne will be completed in early 2023, after which main works will begin.

Project representatives will be on the ground to hear from residents and the community.

“The Melbourne Arts Precinct has one of the highest concentrations of arts, cultural and creative organisations in the world, and this multidimensional project will establish the precinct as one of the world’s leading creative and cultural attractions,” Ms Sedgewick said. ●



A successful pop-up toy library proves its importance in Southbank

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
COMMUNITY

In celebration of the Boyd Community Hub’s 10th anniversary early last month, Melbourne Community Toy Library moved to Southbank to operate a pop-up Toy Library.

While already in Docklands, Carlton and North Melbourne, the success of the pop-up only confirmed for the team that there was a need for a permanent space in Southbank.

But for that to happen it would require both funding and the necessary space; something Melbourne Community Toy Library president Emily Corcoran said was already difficult with their Docklands branch being “expensive to run and not funded”.

“We would be more than happy to continue in Southbank if we can find ongoing funding for an arrangement like that,” Ms Corcoran said.

“There is definitely a need for relaxed services that support families living in the inner city and that build community connections, which is really important for parent and child mental health and child development.”

There on the day to witness the positive impact after setting up the play space herself was Melbourne Community Toy Library staff member and Docklands’ Toy Librarian Ruth Fox.

Passionate about the work done at the Melbourne Community Toy Library, Ms Fox said she was “excited” at the opportunity to do something on the other side of the Yarra River for families who often had to make the trek to the Docklands branch.

“Quite a lot of families we have as members at Docklands live in Southbank and they were so excited that there was something for them on their side of the river because Southbank has a lot of community but there isn’t much for the families there,” she said.

“One Southbank mother in particular looks online for toys at

Docklands and then the father comes over to collect them on an electric bike, but he is limited to what he can carry. Having something closer in Southbank would be worth it for a lot of families.”

As well as having benefits for children, toy libraries also benefit extended family members who are involved in bringing the children along, and within the short few hours the Southbank pop-up was open this impact was already being noticed.

“Being at Boyd was fantastic because there was such a range of people and they were so excited to see what was available and hear all about it,” Ms Fox said.

“It was a great experience to have babies, toddlers, older kids in primary, parents and grandparents there and I was able to set the space up with a range of toys, including STEM toys and games for older kids in primary and for adults.”

“At the end of the session we also had the maternal and child health nurses and library staff of Boyd come and they said it was amazing, and that they could see the benefit of it and the need.”

Following the positive feedback and support for Melbourne Community Toy Library to open in Southbank, either permanently or through consistent pop-ups, the library is looking to the City of Melbourne to further support their endeavours.

A City of Melbourne spokesperson said the council was currently working with the not-for-profit library to investigate options for their future operations across Melbourne.

“We’re acutely aware of the challenges faced by many organisations in accessing funding and affordable operating spaces, and we’re continuously looking for solutions and accommodation options for different community groups,” the spokesperson said.

“Toy libraries play an important role in our community – inspiring young minds, while providing a safe space for families to connect and access resources.” ●



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Montague Precinct faces mammoth growth but without a plan residents say they are the ones to “suffer”

“

Concerns are growing that residents are rapidly “suffering” from an avalanche of development in the Montague Precinct of Fishermans Bend as consideration for the community’s needs appear to dissipate.

”

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PLANNING



▲ A childcare centre and four towers have been approved 6-70 Buckhurst St, South Melbourne (render shows perspective from Buckhurst and Kerr streets).

Residents have watched on in awe as their neighbourhood has rapidly transformed into multiple high-rise construction sites in recent years with more projects still in the pipeline.

But without the release of the precinct’s draft implementation plan – which has put further public consultation on hold – questions have been raised about what lies ahead for the community’s future liveability including its amenity and social benefits.

As reported in the March edition of *Southbank News*, City of Port Phillip Mayor Marcus Pearl said the delay in the release of the plans had meant that planning was now occurring “concurrently” with rapid private development in the precinct.

A state government spokesperson said the draft Montague Precinct Implementation Plan would be released soon for consultation – at which point “residents, businesses and local community members will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the plan”.

But as development continued to ramp up in Australia’s largest urban renewal precinct, residents such as Helen Robertson feared their way of living would be forever compromised.

“We are the ones that suffer because we can’t get an on-street car park; we’re subject to this construction seven days a week, it’s hideous,” she said of her Normanby Rd neighbourhood.

“There are no planning permits that have been shared with us, there’s absolutely no consideration for the residents.”

Ms Robertson, who bought into the area three-and-a-half years ago, said she had “huge concerns”, “because we just don’t know what the plan is” which she considered “unreasonable” as ratepayers.

“We’ve got the 109 tram and there’s a 235 bus that goes along Williamstown Rd, but [for] that 109 tram you can sometimes wait four and five trams to get on because there are so many people moving into this area. There’s meant to be another tram; who knows when that’s going to happen.”

Ms Robertson’s concerns were shared by the former Montague Community Alliance convener, Trisha Avery, who said “the community are suffering because they have lost all faith in anybody ever asking them what they need rather than telling them what’s going to happen to them.”

However, the state government said it had made some significant investments in the area and delivered projects in partnership with the City of Port Phillip including Kirrip Park, South Melbourne Primary School and Port Melbourne Secondary College along with upgrades to local parks and streetscapes.

Among the plans approved by the Minister of Planning is for a 40-storey residential and office tower at 249-251 Normanby Rd, South Melbourne with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning currently considering further minor amendments to the plans.

Four mixed towers of 27, 29, 30 and 30 levels at 6-70 Buckhurst St have also been given the green light – with the site currently cleared.

In 2019, then Minister for Planning Richard Wynne further amended the permit for the Buckhurst St site to allow the temporary development of the northern half of the land for a four-level childcare centre.

Current proposed developments under consideration include a 20-level mixed use retail and residential tower 272-280 Normanby Rd, South Melbourne; and a place of assembly for audio-visual exhibitions and installations at 21 Meaden St, Southbank.

At 15-85 Gladstone St, South Melbourne, the Minister approved a permit allowing a 27 storey, two 30 level towers with a four and six level podium containing about 700 apartments, as well as commercial space and 393 car spaces – with demolition of the site completed.

Completed projects in Montague include the high-rise Gravity Tower on the corner of Gladstone and Montague streets, Beulah International’s Habitus Townhouses at 10-16 Boundary St and BPM’s Nightfall on Gladstone St.

Fishermans Bend Development Board chair Meredith Sussex said a “huge amount” of public consultation was conducted before the strategic

plan within the precinct’s planning framework were finalised by the state government in 2018 – “which is not substantially changing in the context of the implementation plan”.

“The implementation plan is about the very fine grain implementation arrangements focusing very significantly on the public realm and that plan is almost ready to go,” she said, which included consideration of pedestrian connections, bicycle access, and transport infrastructure.

“We certainly want to ensure we have an on-going discussion with local residents and welcome feedback and comments in anyway at all.”

In terms of proposed development submissions received so far, Ms Sussex said her team was “delighted”.

“We’re getting some really high-quality applications from innovative and high-quality developers, and we’re really pleased with the way that’s going consistent with the planning controls and framework,” she said.

“Obviously in providing an assessment of the applications that are before us, the thinking we have done about the fine grain informs our advice on the approval or modification of planning applications.”

However, Dr Andrew Butt, an Associate Professor in Sustainability and Urban Planning at RMIT’s School of Global, Urban and Social Studies, said there were “some big movement challenges” facing Fishermans Bend.

“The major transport challenges for Fishermans Bend are going to become the most obvious problems with this site. And they’re not just about big investments like rail infrastructure, but they’re about making permeable and accessible places in a precinct which is dominated by a heavy traffic network and there’s got to be some investments in that,” he said.

“I get these are long processes and they take a lot of work, but this site in particular is a really important one. It’s so close to areas that people are keen to invest in but in some ways a long way away because of the difficulty of accessibility.”

Brendan Gleeson, professor of urban planning at the University of Melbourne, said he firmly believed that the state or local councils should tax some of the uplift in land values they will create through “upzoning”.

“The community creates this betterment through planning and is entitled to recover at least some of it to fund social and environmental infrastructure,” he said.

He also noted the structure plan allowed for “taller towers” in places, which he said should be minimised and the “heights specified and justified to prevent poor-quality overdevelopment”.

Southbank3006 residents’ group president David Hamilton said the lessons applied to Montague should be learnt from Southbank which was “abandoning the social development and the public infrastructure required to support a massive increase in population.” ●



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What People say about us:



Could MCEC's roof be the key to unlocking a decarbonised energy system in Southbank?

Continued from page 1.

The council says its Power Melbourne project will build a neighbourhood-scale battery network and retail electricity offering to enable more renewable energy into the grid and “reduce power bills for consumers”.

But in order for apartment dwellers of Southbank to effectively tap into the renewable energy revolution in the same way a record number of Australian households have through rooftop solar, an array of local renewable energy sources would be required.

As part of its clean energy program, *Southbank News* understands that the roof of MCEC or “Jeff’s Shed”, which offers up to around 70,000 sqm of space, is being explored as a potential option for a significant solar installation.

Chair of Electrical Power Systems at the University of Melbourne and program leader, Energy Systems at Melbourne Energy Institute Professor Pierluigi Mancarella said the opportunity for the installation “should be taken”.

“This sounds a great opportunity because a rooftop of that size that otherwise would be completely unutilised,” Professor Mancarella said.

“In addition to that, at the same time next to a precinct [Southbank] where there are really no other ways to really get solar energy – I think it’s a great opportunity that should somehow be exploited.”

Professor Mancarella, who is leading the research on the economic modelling for Power Melbourne – a program he described as “probably the most exciting project that we [as a city] have”, said community batteries were “so much more efficient” than household systems.

He told *Southbank News* that there were two reasons for this – “one is economy of share, and the other one is economy of scale.”

“When you look at individual solar PVs and solar batteries in individual homes like we are seeing a lot, eventually the cost of that setup is relatively expensive because you have a relatively small PV system and relatively small battery,”



Prof Mancarella said.

“In addition to that, all you can do is locally exchange energy with the grid and in most cases, you can just try and maximise your own consumption because it’s really not profitable to sell back to the grid.”

Professor Mancarella said that particularly in a suburb like Southbank, where there was “so much diversity in the way electricity is used”, a community battery would allow power to be shared and stored according to demand.

“It really facilitates this economy of share of renewable energy that would otherwise not exist, particularly for households that do not have solar PVs [photovoltaic systems] and that is exactly what we’re talking about here,” he said.

“Effectively, the battery creates the tool, this platform, to share electricity between the producers, which would be the Exhibition Centre in this case, and then all these households that would normally not have the possibility of doing that.”

“Environmentally, it is efficient because basically now you are passing your solar energy to someone next to you who doesn’t have it. A community battery more generally allows all of this very efficient trading and sharing of this energy.”

When it came to the “economy of scale”, Professor Mancarella said larger community batteries were much cheaper than the cost of producing many individual units – “having a large photovoltaic system at the Exhibition Centre linked to a community battery is much more efficient than having, for example, the buildings having small solar PVs and small

batteries.”

While the City of Melbourne wouldn’t confirm whether it was planning for the solar installation on MCEC’s roof, it told *Southbank News* that it was exploring a number of suitable locations for battery assets, including Council House 2, Library at the Dock, Queen Victoria Market and land owned by Power Melbourne partners.

It said it would consider a range of delivery options and decide on how to progress Power Melbourne later this year, and that community consultation would begin shortly to better understand how the community would like to be involved in the project, as well as preferred battery locations.

“We’re completing a feasibility study with support from the Victorian Government to determine the most cost-effective way to deliver the project,” a council spokesperson said.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the council was “on a mission to become a city powered by 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030, and to achieve net zero emission by 2040.”

“Our ambitious Power Melbourne project will provide cheaper energy for local residents and small businesses, while reducing emissions and contributing to a more sustainable future,” Cr Capp said.

“We will continue to collaborate with state and federal governments to bring Power Melbourne to life and are open to exploring other opportunities for renewable energy generation.”

With the federal government having recently enshrined a 2050 net zero emissions target into law, Macnamara MP Josh Burns said it was important to now move to the “next phase of delivery of renewable projects” like a community battery in Southbank.

“Investing in a clean, renewable future and getting on with climate action after a decade of neglect was the clear message I heard from Southbankers prior to the election,” Mr Burns said. “Inner-city solar farms are an interesting idea and one I will be raising with the

Minister [for Climate Change and Energy Chris Bowen], and I welcome further engagement by local government on this.” “One of the projects I am most excited about, and which my first election commitment for the recent election, is the delivery of a community battery in Southbank. It’s going to be a game changer for locals, especially for renters.”

“This will mean stored, renewable energy, that the local community will be able to plug into and benefit from, even if you can’t put solar panels onto your roof.”

But with community distributed power models presenting a radical shift from the traditional consumer-retailer relationship, Professor Mancarella said the biggest challenge to a community battery was the changing regulatory and commercial environment.

With the economic studies and business case analysis for Power Melbourne currently focused on implementing a framework that is “flexible enough” to allow different projects to be successful in different contexts, he said projects like the one in Southbank were vital enablers in the transition to a decarbonised national energy system.

“Commercially, there is some complexity there that we need to understand and that’s where the major efforts are going and there are several trials with community batteries, including Power Melbourne,” Prof Mancarella said.

“These distributed PVs and community batteries are the first step of decarbonisation of the whole energy system, particularly when you start looking to heating and transport, which by definition are community based. Everything that is happening in the community system is an enabler to these next steps.” ●



Sean Car
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Southbank family-run business celebrated through Lord Mayor award

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
BUSINESS

Small business owners are being celebrated for their determination and contribution to the city’s culture and economic prosperity through the 2022 Lord Mayor’s Small Business Awards.

Previously known as the Lord Mayor’s Commendations Awards, the awards recognise 49 Melbourne business owners who have been operating within the city for more than 10, 20 and 40 years.

Recognised for their commitment of serving the city for the past 18 years and the only Southbank nominated business is IGA Express Southbank, something owner Jeff Harper said was nice as small businesses can often “get forgotten”.

What makes the IGA Express so special is that the family-run business is not only a place to quickly get your grocery needs, but it is also a store built on creating connections within the community.

“We have locals coming in that we probably see around five or six times a week and they

become like extended family,” Mr Harper said.

“Most of the customers we see we know by first name, and they let us know what is happening in their lives. It’s almost like a meeting hub.”

This special and unique aspect of the IGA Express store became vitally important for the community in Southbank during lockdown, with the IGA being the one place some people could go to pick up necessities and see a friendly face.

Following those rough past couple of years, Mr Harper said the store’s success was all due to his “incredible staff”.

“They put up with a lot during COVID in the sense that they were there day in and day out. They really are the backbone that go us across the line,” he said.

As a city that is built on independent and unique stores, the council’s small business portfolio lead Cr Jason Chang said small businesses were critical to Melbourne’s economy and contributed to the buzz of the city.

“These awards are a celebration of many years of hard work, often building a small business from the ground up, establishing a loyal customer base and adding real flair and



“It is [also] a store built on creating connections within the community.”

character,” Cr Chang said.

The Lord Mayor’s Small Business Awards have been celebrating the small businesses that make up the city since 2005, and each award night one small business takes home the top award.

This year’s award went to boutique wallpaper art and signage business Grafico Group for their innovation, creative marketing, sustainability initiatives and long-standing connection to the city. ●

ATTENTION 3006 RESIDENTS

Don't forget to regularly check your copy of the 2022 Southbank Directory for a range of discounts and special offers especially designed for you.

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Your City of Melbourne community update

TO END HOMELESSNESS WE NEED A PLAN: MAKE ROOM WILL HELP



Artist's impression of the refurbished building at 602 Little Bourke Street Melbourne

Finding safe accommodation is the first step on the way out of homelessness. Peer educator Lisa Townsend shares her story for Homelessness Week.

After contending with the daily grind of homelessness on and off for more than 20 years, Lisa Townsend thought she'd heard it all.

Then one question changed everything. A case worker sat beside her and asked: 'How do you want to do this? What are your goals?'

Lisa had just inched her way into a private rental after a four-year stretch of sleeping rough on the streets of Melbourne.

To have someone ask her what she needed was overwhelming.

'I'd lost sight of what I wanted to do in life. What my passions were. I remember saying, "Can you leave it with me?" because I had to think about it.'

Over the years, her many abrupt interactions with homelessness services had left her with what she describes as 'system fatigue'.

'For whatever reason I thought I didn't deserve the support. Didn't deserve a home.'

The memory of that conversation still brings up strong emotions. Even now that she's got a roof over her head, and purpose in her life.

As a member of the Peer Education Support Program at the Council to Homeless Persons, Lisa channels that emotion into being an advocate for change in the sector.

But before she could figure out what came next, Lisa had to put herself right. Poor mental health, addiction, sickness, family violence and unresolved troubles with the court were weighing her down.

'Everything gets put on the backburner when you're constantly chasing food and shelter.'

'When you get a chance to stop, that's when you find yourself looking at the issues that led you to homelessness. That's when the real work begins.'

This is where City of Melbourne's new Make Room project comes in. It's designed to step in and break the cycle that perpetuates homelessness.

Make Room puts people first

We're teaming up with expert partners to transform a Council-owned building

valued at \$12 million into specialist supported accommodation for up to 50 residents, for up to 12 months.

Make Room will help people reclaim their lives. Wraparound services will help each person recover and heal their own way. That might be anything from mental health support to help with legal issues.

As a person with a lived experience of homelessness, Lisa supports the Make Room model.

'Make Room would have been useful to me, 100 per cent. Especially the way it's set up, putting a roof over your head then bringing in the wraparound services like mental health and dental and legal. Those are the game changers.'

'It means people will get a chance to sit down somewhere safe and have time to themselves. And because they won't be constantly chasing food, warmth, accommodation, they can start to recover from trauma and find a sense of self again.'

Make Room is a unique partnership between the City of Melbourne, the Victorian Government, Unison Housing, and the philanthropic and corporate sectors.

Unison Housing recently signed the lease agreement to convert the six-storey building at 602 Little Bourke Street.

'This is an ambitious project that will help people break the cycle of homelessness and take the first crucial step to securing long-term housing,' Unison Housing CEO James King said.

One step at a time

Lisa knows that even when accommodation becomes available, there's still a long road ahead. Finding the right support is crucial at each step along the way.

'When I first moved into my place I didn't know how to get back to normality.'

'It took me months to actually sleep in my bedroom. Or realise I could eat something after 5 o'clock, or have a shower at midnight. When you're on the street everything shuts at 5, so you condition yourself.'

'The Make Room project is brilliant and everything like that, giving people housing for up to a year. The next thing is where do they go when they get to the end of their stay? We need more affordable housing. Bottom line.'

That's why she's lending her voice to the conversation.

'Because of my lived experience, and the advocacy work that I do, I think I've found my path. It can be confronting talking about difficult situations again and again, but it's an exciting time, knowing that people want to listen.'

Find out more about Make Room at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/make-room

Donate to Make Room mcf.org.au/makeroom



HOW WE HELP

Reducing homelessness is a priority for the City of Melbourne. As well as Make Room, we invest in many initiatives to improve pathways out of homelessness.

- Our **daily support team** supports people who are experiencing homelessness to access services that coordinate housing and health intervention.
- We convene the **Melbourne Service Coordination Project**, which brings together 14 partner agencies to provide a tailored response for people sleeping rough.
- A dedicated **library social worker** provides support services to people experiencing homelessness.
- We established **Homes Melbourne** to improve housing access and affordability in the city, and deliver housing developments on City of Melbourne land and underused properties.



Lisa Townsend, Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Luis Irineo, Councillor Dr Olivia Ball, and Councillor Jamal Hakim at the Make Room launch in 2021.

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MOBILE LIBRARY DRIVES DIGITAL LITERACY



The City of Melbourne has launched its first mobile library van – and it might just be popping up near you. ‘Mel-van’ has hit the road, making it even easier for Melburnians to access books and resources, Wi-Fi and digital support.

The colourful van will visit those who may find it difficult to access Council’s six library branches, including school children, the elderly and culturally diverse communities – popping up at neighbourhood houses, community centres, parks, and festivals and events.

With a collection of books, technology, craft supplies and games, handpicked for the communities en route, Mel-van also offers a publicly accessible Wi-Fi hotspot, enabling library staff to connect community members with online resources including the City of Melbourne’s digital library collection.

Mel-van is part of our pop-up library series, joining a food-themed library in the Queen Victoria Market precinct, a library for kids at Fed Square, the Express Book Bar for



city workers on Little Collins Street, the Lygon Street Biblioteca for enthusiastic writers and the Bourke Street Micro-Lab.

The initiative is part of the \$200 million Melbourne City Revitalisation Fund – a joint partnership between the City of Melbourne and the Victorian Government.

To find out more about our new library on wheels – as well as what’s on at our other six library branches across the city – visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/libraries

HAVE YOUR SAY ON GREENLINE

The Greenline project will transform the north bank of the Yarra River all the way from Birrarung Marr to Bolte Bridge.

We’re inviting the community to share their thoughts on the first project in Birrarung Marr which will kickstart in 2023.

To have your say from 1 August, visit participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/greenline

REPORT IT ONLINE

From graffiti to abandoned vehicles, you can report amenity issues online, around the clock. Get in touch from your smartphone when it suits you and we’ll get on the case.

Find out more at melbourne.vic.gov.au/contactus

FOOD AND GARDEN ORGANICS SERVICE

New bins for food and garden waste have been rolled out to more than 23,000 homes across the city, and we’ve already collected more than a thousand tonnes of organic waste and diverted it from landfill – that’s the equivalent weight of 46 trams!

Find out how you can help by visiting melbourne.vic.gov.au/foodgardenwaste

BUSINESS SUPPORT

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Sign up at melbourne.vic.gov.au/business

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Watch meetings live from wherever you are thanks to our live-streaming capability. Tune in live or catch up later.

Find all the details about Council and committee meetings at melbourne.vic.gov.au/aboutcouncil

COUNCIL BACKS BINS4BLOKES TRIAL

One in 10 men across Australia are living with some form of incontinence.

Melbourne is set to be the first capital city in Australia to trial the installation of incontinence product disposal bins in its facilities.

The BINS4Blokes initiative will see bins installed in male and all gendered toilets across six Council-owned facilities, including libraries and hubs, recreation centres, and community baths.

The City of Melbourne is an inclusive and accessible city and we want people who experience incontinence to have access to services so they can manage their needs without shame or stigma.

Councillor Jamal Hakim said it’s important more people have access to proper disposal bins for their incontinence products – particularly given many instances of incontinence can be much better managed with the right resources.

“With the proper facilities to dispose products, we hope those living with incontinence can continue getting out and about, and doing what they love when they’re here in the City of Melbourne,” Cr Hakim said.

“The trial will not only showcase a practical solution for those living with incontinence, but importantly, raise awareness and facilitate a much-needed conversation on the topic,” he said.



The BINS4Blokes initiative led by the Continence Foundation of Australia will also serve the important purpose of reducing the stigma around bladder and bowel control health. The stigmatisation of incontinence can affect the emotional and physical health of people and prevent them from attending school or work, participating in sport and engaging socially.

Like our pilot program to provide free period products in a range of locations across the city, this trial will also be used to provide options on the expansion of the program across City of Melbourne facilities and offices.

Endorsed unanimously by Council in May, the trial will begin on 1 September.

For the trial period, bins will be installed at:

- Library at the Dock
- City Library

- Carlton Baths
- Melbourne Town Hall public toilets (on Collins Street)
- North Melbourne Community Centre
- Kathleen Syme Community Centre.

Users will be able to locate the disposal bins via the National Public Toilet Map, a web-based map and phone app that shows the location of more than 19,000 public and private public toilet facilities across Australia. Users will be able to highlight the location of toilets that have incontinence product disposal bins.

To find a toilet near you, visit toiletmap.gov.au



[FACT] 1.34 million Australian boys and men experience incontinence



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Arts Precinct

Anna K shows “the best and worst of human society” at Malthouse

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

Written, directed and designed by women, upcoming Malthouse Theatre production *Anna K* explores the life of a woman trying to live authentically in the age of social media.

Inspired by the 19th-century Leo Tolstoy novel *Anna Karenina*, award-winning playwright Suzie Miller's play *Anna K* speaks into the backlash modern women can face in the media when they go against certain social norms.

“This production is an interrogation of how women in public roles are attacked by hostile voices intent on silencing them,” Ms Miller said.

“In high-profile positions women risk significantly more negative criticism than men in the same positions, and furthermore also endure violently sexualised online comments and messages intended to intimidate and shame.”

While the character of Anna K, played by Caroline Craig, may only be fictional, the production aims to explore recent cases of women in the media who have been demonised by the public.

The decision to make the character of Anna a top-rating television journalist has been a distinct choice, as it places her directly in the spotlight to face the wrath of social media when she leaves her husband for a younger man.

“The play delves into trolling on social media and how it pushes women in the public eye to the brink of insanity, even to where they are taking their own lives because they feel like it is the only escape,” Ms Craig said.

“It's kind of a feminist play about being true to yourself, living your own truth and your best life and it's about public shaming and standing up for yourself in today's complex society.”

Noting the cleverness of the adaptation in relation to today's social media dilemma, Ms Craig said she was “thrilled” to play the role of Anna K and be involved in a new Australian play.

“It's exciting to support new work and to see what new work can come out of the really difficult pandemic time,” she said.

“It's a dark and thrilling ride and goes into something I think we are all facing about where we exist not only in the real world, but also in this virtual world which can some-



times be just as powerful if not more powerful psychologically.”

Anna K is opening on Wednesday, August 17 on the Meryl Theatre stage at The Malthouse, with previews starting from August 12. ●

For more information:
malthousetheatre.com.au

K-BOX explores the hard truths of parent-adoptee relationships

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

Malthouse Theatre's current Artist in Residence (AIR) Ra Chapman is making her mainstage theatre writing debut on September 2 with *K-BOX*.

As Malthouse's 2018/2019 Writer in Residence before becoming an AIR, Ms Chapman said she was drawn to the new program at Malthouse due to her interest in what the theatre was currently doing with their storytelling.

“I really enjoy the work Malthouse Theatre is making and what they are trying to change and achieve about the type of stories that are on our stages, and I wanted to be a part of that,” she said.

Funded internally by Malthouse, the program is designed to support new perspectives and fresh ideas, and after writing *K-BOX* for years Ms Chapman is getting the chance to share a story very close to her heart.

While not based on her life specifically, the storyline follows the confusing journey many people face in the adoptee community – a community Ms Chapman is a part of.

“Ever since I met my birth father in Korea, I have been reconnecting with the adoptee community in Australia and internationally, and it made me realise there was so much I had been missing or that I didn't know about the adoptee experience,” Ms Chapman said.

“It's not a play that has all the answers because the experience of being adopted and choosing to connect with your birth culture, birth family and other adoptees is a rocky one with lots of ups and downs.”

“The writing mimics the very condensed version of the emotional



rollercoaster that it is to have this awakening.”

Although written to be both moving and emotional, *K-BOX* also leans into comedic moments as Korean adoptee Lucy's life gets turned upside down in her 30s and she has to move back home to live with her adoptive parents.

It is then as an adult she is met with destabilising questions that leave her wondering who she is.

“I want to share with audiences the joy and devastation and the impossible choices you are faced with when you attempt to find something you've lost, while still wanting to hold onto what you have,” Ms Chapman said.

A confronting storyline that steers away from delving into what is wrong and right or good and bad about adoption, *K-BOX* lifts the lid on the relationship between parent-adoptee relationships and brings the audience along to discover the awakening that occurs.

As well as being written by Ra Chapman, *K-BOX* is directed by Bridget Balodis, Malthouse Theatre's Director in Residence.

Performed in the Beckett Theatre, *K-BOX* will run until September 18. ●

CRITIC

Feminist photographer creates her own archive

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*

Feminist photography is a relatively new area of study with strong links to the politics of the archive and the way work is stored and displayed.

Clare Rae is doing a PhD on the topic at the Victorian College of the Arts with a strong link back to the Nazis.

Her photographs were on display in July in a joint show *Sedimentation* at the Artspace Gallery on campus.

These exhibitions provide a rare chance for the public to get into the current trends in research and talk to candidates while their ideas are fresh.

Clare's powerful performative photographs were taken on the island of Jersey in the English Channel where a key feminist photographer was imprisoned by the Nazis.

Jersey was the only part of Britain occupied during the war and Claude Cahun, the photographer, has become a powerful figure of resistance for young feminists.

“She was a POW [prisoner of war], then lived there for 20 years,” Clare said. “She was very androgynous, shaved her head and was a lesbian.” But she was forced to live undercover and pretend that her partner was a friend.

Cahun used performance in her photographs which were “very transgressive” and have attracted a younger audience.

Clare did a residency on the island and visited many of the sites that appear in Cahun's work.

“I'm interested in how feminist practice might



have changed. In the '70s and '80s it [feminist photography] was still relatively new.”

She's interested in the politics of the archive and the significance attached to which artists are represented.

“Are they collected by institutions? Museums are authoritative structures. They tell you how to behave,” Clare said.

Her photographs feature herself performing for the camera in poses and places originally appearing in her mentor's work.

The Nazis built retaining walls around the island, and these have been dismantled, the stones numbered and scattered in secret places, as if the barricades could be rebuilt.

One of her photographs depicts Clare lying on these bizarre commemorative stones in a field.

In another she wedges herself into a corner of a building to simulate a photograph Cahun took. A younger artist is supporting a brave pioneer who didn't let her vision be swamped by the invaders.

She is using her body to recreate the archive for herself and others. ●





JASON PERRY



Creating meaning and purpose through photography

For Jason Perry, moving to Australia from the United States wasn't just for a change of scenery, but rather it was to find his purpose after 27 years in the US Marines.

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

Towards the end of his career as he was getting ready to retire and explore a life outside of what he had always done, he fell upon his old camera and discovered a new passion.

"I was at a loss with what I wanted to do with my life beyond the military, but I knew I didn't want to go back to doing anything close to what I was doing there," Mr Perry said.

"I had an old camera and I dusted it off one day and that was the start of it. I fell in love with landscape photography and then one day I saw

someone had taken a night image and I was super eager to learn how to do that and take pictures of the stars."

Moving with his partner and their dog to Australia in November 2019 after he discovered Photography Studies College (PSC) and drawn to its curriculum, Mr Perry hasn't looked back.

The move has proven to be successful for his flourishing career as he has already been short-listed by *Australian Photography* magazine for "Nature Photographer of the Year", something he said "feels great" as he had been eager to get his work out.

Mr Perry is in his final semester at PSC, and he already has plans for what he wants to do, which will aid in helping support war veterans like himself.

"I have had a clear idea of what I want to do since before I got [to Australia]. My plan is to run workshops for veterans," he said.

"In the workshops I want to teach veterans, specifically in non-profit, and take them out to teach my style and type of photography and night photography."



Nature and creating art for me has been a healing process after leaving the military and I want to share that and give other people some purpose and meaning in life.

"Nature and creating art for me has been a healing process after leaving the military and I want to share that and give other people some purpose and meaning in life."

Passionate about healing being found through photography, Mr Perry has already volunteered with not-for-profit organisation Soldier On, taking out eight veterans to Kilocunda beach for a night of photography.

The event was in the works last year but was rescheduled six times due to the pandemic.

"It was really good to finally get it done and do it with people," Mr Perry said.

Mr Perry's work speaks to the concept of healing being found in nature, and his work *Dark Tonic* is an example of his passion for night pho-

tography and nature coming together.

"If you have ever felt a quiver or shake in your body due to the sudden excitement of witnessing something so infinite and grand that things run out of human control, then you have experienced the sublime," he said.

"Looking out into these incredibly vast scenes and photographing them, I feel a sense of controlled fear that fuels my soul and heals me from within." ●

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



Image by Jayde Burnett



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BUSINESS

Cleaning up Melbourne's property management game

Managing director and owner of inner-city real estate agency Re-Define Real Estate Philip Middlemiss has seen a thing or two during his 21 years in the industry.

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

After recently purchasing a new business with a portfolio of more than 500 properties, Mr Middlemiss was shocked to see the state of property management in Melbourne's inner city.

From forged, out-of-date or incorrect documentation to properties without essential services; he knew something needed to be done.

Now, he is on a crusade to clean up the industry, for the benefit of not only his growing business, but the rest of Melbourne's property management game.

"Our industry is in a state of flux. The recent changes to legislation, including the introduction of the bi-annual safety checks, have created more work for agents," Mr Middlemiss said. "Combined this with the effects on rents due to



COVID-19, which have caused mass movements of people in and out of the city. The inner-city agent, is very busy indeed."

"Some of the practises we have uncovered include people other than the owners signing documents, agents telling rental providers "not to worry about safety checks, no one is checking", and renters having to go without essential services for prolonged periods of time, as the rental providers don't want to spend the money to fix the issue."

"My competitors are going to hate me for shining a light on this, but property management in Melbourne needs to be cleaned up and we need to support those who are leading the

way in the industry."

According to Mr Middlemiss, with an investor market that consists dominantly of overseas owners, the property management industry is primed for local agents wanting to cut corners when it comes to property inspections and dodging new legislation.

At Re-Define Real Estate, Mr Middlemiss's team of 12 staff work across 400 different properties, an unusually high agent-to-property ratio, to ensure his staff provide the best possible service for their investors.

"Throughout the pandemic more than 4500 property managers have left the industry nation-wide," Mr Middlemiss said. "A lot is due to the condition's property managers have been forced to face, particularly during routine inspections."

"Aggressive animals, undressed tenants, hoarding, drug use and plenty of dirty underwear, we have seen it all recently."

In an attempt to shake up the way his business and the industry functions, Mr Middlemiss has forgone the traditional idea of a property manager in exchange for a term he feels is more apt: "relationship managers."

He has introduced fair representation for both the rental provider and the renter, which has levelled the playing field when it comes to

getting this done.

The job of his relationship managers is to proactively educate and communicate with investors to keep them abreast on changes to legislation and the state of their property.

Mr Middlemiss has also revolutionised the traditional role of a property manager by forming a new business, Respect Residential, which offers inspection services for local agents and those wanting to "self-manage".

"I have a number of clients interested in the service, even agents on the Gold Coast, asking if I can fly up and help them," Mr Middlemiss said.

"They don't have the time or people to inspect apartments, but for less than \$100 a year, they can get someone to do it for them."

"Routine inspections are a vital role when it comes supporting both the Rental Provider and the Renter alike. With such busy schedules due to the recent legislative changes, an agent or now property owner can now employ a professional to do the job for them." ●

For more information:
re-define.com.au

Honest & Young – more than just accounting

If you're looking for local accountants who not only offer high-quality service during tax time but will go that extra mile for you or your business at every step of your journey, then look no further than the award-winning team at Honest & Young.

WORDS BY *Sean Car*

While the company itself may have only been around since 2011, its co-founders Sid Sharma and Pritpal Singh have more than 40 years of industry experience between them, combining to bring honesty, integrity and a strong sense of dynamism to their practice.

Having originally set up their business in Hawthorn in 2011, the pair recently expanded their team's presence closer to the heart of Melbourne's CBD with the establishment of an additional office on St Kilda Rd in 2020.

And having recently become a resident of Southbank himself, Mr Sharma said postcode 3006 and its surrounds were of particular focus

to the business as it sought to bring its relationship focused approach to accountancy to the local community.

"It's been good setting up on St Kilda Rd as it's very close to Southbank," Mr Sharma said. "I'm a local in Southbank and so I can relate to the whole community. The locals are very good here."

"We're still getting local clients, and this is a market that I want to grow because we're so close by and, by all means, we're always open for a coffee, catch-ups, and we have this kind of informal relationship with all of our clients."

"It's not a case of our clients sitting on that side of the table and we're sitting on the other, it's an open and honest relationship and that's very much how I like to build our client base as well."

Having established their business together upon a shared appreciation for how the accountancy industry was "changing shape", Mr Sharma said both he and Mr Pritpal were equally as passionate about embracing collaboration and innovation.

With a diverse team of six accountants, Honest & Young offers everything from general accounting and taxation to bookkeeping, compliance and business advice – the latter being something Mr Sharma described as a proud "point of difference" to other practices.

"We work very, very closely with our clients. I'm really passionate about finding solutions to



a client's problem," Mr Sharma said.

"For small businesses, being an accountant, I feel we're part of the management – we feel the pain the business owner is feeling, particularly during the past two or three years with COVID."

To establish whether a client is the right fit for our services, Mr Sharma said Honest & Young offers free 30-minute consultations and made a point of always meeting a client at where they or their business was located to gain the best possible understanding.

And when it comes to its service fees, Mr Sharma said Honest & Young offered a fair and transparent structure, which didn't charge clients for additional enquiries or questions via phone or email.

"Once we set up a fee proposal for a business client, we have weekly payment option for their yearly package. No more invoice surprises – this will include their yearly accounting, bookkeeping, payroll, it doesn't matter how many times

they call us or email us."

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Southbank News readers can also claim an exclusive tax return offer (valid for basic individual tax returns only) by scanning the QR code below: ●



For more information:
honestandyoung.com.au

Help Ray White Southbank raise \$10,000

Ray White Southbank is hoping to raise \$10,000 as part the annual Jeans for Genes fundraising event for the genetic condition community.

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

Starting with the weekend beginning Friday, August 25, the Ray White team will be decked out in double denim to open inspections and are encouraging all Southbankers to follow suit.

Ray White Southbank principal Andrew Salvo told *Southbank News* his team would be reaching to all corners of the community, encouraging them to dip into their pockets in the name of a great cause.

"We will be encouraging our customers to donate through our open-for-inspections, we will be reaching out to our large network of landlords, renters and vendors," Mr Salvo said.

"The weekend of August 26 we will be dressed in double denim for our open inspections and

encourage anyone in the marketplace on that Friday to wear denim as well."

"We will also be doing a targeted social media campaign promoting our team to raise awareness for Jeans For Genes and get some community engagement. We are hoping to raise around \$10,000."

Mr Salvo said, the real estate industry is, by its very nature, heavily focused on financial gains.

By shifting that focus and raising some awareness for members of our community that are doing it tough, it has been invaluable, not only for those charities who will benefit from the funds raised, but also for Ray White Southbank's workplace culture and mental health.

"As a business owner, you have to give back,



not just financially, but also in terms of our resources," Mr Salvo said. "We have a large customer base in the area and access to a lot of people, so utilising that and raising funds for a good cause is a great thing to do."

"Along with Genes for Jeans we also have our annual 'A little Ray of Giving' each Christmas, where our Ray White team, our customer base and the wider Southbank community, donate presents to Launch Housing to get gifts to kids who wouldn't receive them otherwise."

While fundraising efforts are in full swing, Mr Salvo explained, Southbank's sales and rental market continued to punch above its weight.

"We had a record financial year. Southbank has seen a little bit of price growth but is seeing a flood of first home buyers cashing in on Australia's best value for money market," Mr Salvo said.

"We haven't witnessed the price drops that you are seeing in other areas. We are seeing strong interest from around the country as Southbank shows a great level of value."

"The Australian dream of buying house and land is becoming lost. There is a shift of people who are entertaining apartment living and stamp duty savings for first home buyers." ●

For more information:
raywhitesouthbank.com.au/news/jeans

Community, community, community

“

July has been all about community, and I'd like to start with a big "Happy Birthday" to the beating heart of Southbank.

”

WORDS BY *Jannine Pattison*

Boyd Community Hub celebrated 10 years as a meeting place, library, and community support service space. The celebrations on July 4 saw many people gather to celebrate, enjoying crafting, music, storytelling, good coffee, and cake.

It is a joy that this heritage protected building, with so much history, has been restored and embraced by the community as a much-loved part of our every day and has maintained its original, though much evolved, purpose of putting family first.

In keeping with this month's theme of community, one of the biggest projects has just broken ground in Southbank...

The Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation incorporates the refurbishment of the Arts Centre, the creation of 18,000 sqm of open green space in Southbank and building the Fox NGV

Contemporary gallery which will be the largest contemporary gallery in Australia and one of the largest in the world with 10,000 sqm of exhibition and education space. Construction of this major infrastructure will occur over several years and will change the area during and post construction. It will change life and how we know and experience the eastern end of Southbank.

As a major destination gallery, it is designed to attract people from across the world not just from Australia. The challenge for residents, MAP Co, and the NGV will be how this facility and space work together to enhance the amenity for local people.

The announcement of this major and incredible project naturally raises uncertainty, generating concerns for residents. In response to the fear, uncertainty and doubt residents flagged with us, Southbank3006 reached out to MAP Co – the Victorian Government Agency responsible for the Arts Precinct Transformation – to come and brief residents in an open forum of the project, timing, and design developments.

On Sunday, July 31 we convened one of our regular Sunday Issue events to enable residents to discuss this major project with CEO of MAP Co Katrina Sedgwick and group head, civic infrastructure for Development Victoria Hannah Clement, to talk about the precinct transformation, the project build and what residents can expect throughout construction.

This event was so overwhelmingly popular. With the assistance of MAP Co, we were able to move from our regular venue at the Assembly Hall, Boyd Community Hub, to the much larger Festival Space at the Holiday Inn Southbank and yet we still reached full capacity! This speaks to

the importance of communication around this tremendous project but also highlights the lack of community facilities in Southbank with its dense population.

It also highlights that even though we have many theatres, education, and arts facilities none of these are accessible for community use as their focus is outside our area. Helping destination facilities to better align to meet the needs of the local Southbank community is a challenge we have set ourselves to bring about to enhance the vibrancy and liveability of Southbank for the people who make it their home. We opened our event by setting out the need for MAP Co to consider how its facilities work in the area.

The development team listened and committed to ongoing engagement with Southbank3006 and residents on a regular basis throughout the project and post construction. MAPCo will communicate frequently with Southbank3006 at each stage of the build so residents' ongoing concerns and needs are both heard, validated, and, most importantly, acted upon.

We also learned that key issues around traffic management, wind, noise are being revisited at present. On design we also learned that the public realm connecting St Kilda Rd, the rear of the NGV, the FOX NGV Contemporary and Sturt St will now be a green open space adding a much-needed area to Southbank and not another version of Federation Square as originally discussed by the project. This is a very welcome development for a neighbourhood where open space isn't a premium.

Finally, and most importantly, the next



iteration of the designs for The Fox NGV Contemporary will be realised shortly. This will add greater detail on the façade of the building, including the northern façade onto Kavanagh St and the proposed height of the various elements in the gallery including its roof top restaurant and garden space and how this will work.

The openness and engagement of both the MAP Co and the Development Victoria team was appreciated by all who attended, and Southbank3006 look forward to productive ongoing engagement with them over the coming years.

Southbank3006 is committed to connection and improving liveability, as such our next community forum will be held on Sunday, August 28 and will focus on connecting community by helping members start up special interest groups.

To keep up to date with all things Southbank related, please be sure to join our FREE membership via southbank3006.com ●

OWNERS' CORPORATION LAW

Government's new legislation to ban embedded networks a welcome move

Victorian Energy Minister Lily D'Ambrosio has announced a ban on developers entering into embedded network agreements in new residential apartment buildings, in a move that has been welcomed by owners' corporations (OCs) all over Melbourne.

The ban will take effect in January 2023 and will only apply to new apartment buildings completed after that date.

However, in welcome news the Victorian Labor government is also working with stakeholders to develop consumer protections for Victorians currently stuck and suffering in a building with embedded network contracts. Some suggested protections would be to permit an OC to forcibly bring such contracts to an end, and to enforce a buyback clause for the infrastructure for a reasonable price.

With soaring energy costs across the East coast of Australia, this move is welcomed.

Power bills costs are tipped to increase by hundreds of dollars this year and next, as the fallout from Putin's war in Ukraine worsens a global energy crisis.

An expert panel heard from a large number of frustrated apartment dwellers that reported feeling "trapped" in an uncompetitive and overpriced energy arrangement with their embedded network provider.

There are an estimated 140,000 Victorians living in a building with an embedded network.

Some embedded network contracts "lock" in the residents and prevent them from transferring or changing their account to a different

provider, and therefore, deny consumers the choice of reducing their energy bills.

While there are some good embedded network operators out there that source competitive pricing and pass on dividends to the OC and provide discounts, this new legislation will act to stamp out the cowboy operators that were taking their pound of flesh from frustrated Victorian apartment residents.

The ban on new apartment buildings being outfitted with embedded networks will reduce the profits of these operators and will make their business model harder to sustain.

But the sting in the tail may be that embedded network operators might seek to offset their reduced "new business" uptake by increasing the prices of their existing customer base to compensate themselves.

This is one reason why it is of crucial importance for the Victorian government to not delay with the second stage of reforms, so

that apartment owners and residents will not have to suffer those increased energy prices for years and years to come.

The sooner that the Victorian Government can introduce legislation so that OCs can pass resolutions to forcibly end the embedded network agreements, the better off consumers will be.

The Energy and Water Ombudsman Victoria (EWOV) will no doubt play an increased role in assisting consumers with exiting from their embedded network agreements. ●



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Ahoy there! Vertical village onboarding



Resident move-ins are opportunities to create lasting impact, but all too often are more list-checking than engaging experiences.



Many may be familiar with the saying, “start the way you mean to finish”. And this sentiment is a good guide for how we greet and treat newcomers to our vertical villages. This is especially important for those new to high-rise living (e.g., downsizers) or those new to high-rise living Melbourne-style.

Unsurprisingly, many vertical villages are well aware of this and have established induction processes designed to set the scene and share “how things are done here”.

Typically, these inductions take the form of:

- Finalising paperwork (e.g., registering cars and cats)
- Activating access keys and logins (such as the building’s communication system)
- Training on equipment (e.g., food dehydrators).

Some buildings complement this process with a tailored “Welcome Pack” which may outline specific building features, list active clubs

and identify local food and amenities (i.e., the nearest good café).

At its heart, this type of induction primarily aims to integrate new residents into the way a building operates. Newbies are introduced to “the rules” and given guidelines around how they are expected to behave.

There are, however, a few vertical villages which go further.

In addition to the initial “move-in day” session, an ongoing component is added which has the aim of directly engaging the resident – drawing them in!

The term sometimes applied to this approach is borrowed from the business world and is referred to as “onboarding”. This process is about ensuring residents feel more part of your vertical village and includes a specific focus upon making connections.

For example, an induction approach simply lists the clubs operating in your building, while an onboarding approach will have a club member directly connect with the newcomer.

Another feature of an onboarding approach is that it starts before a new resident moves into your vertical village. For example, before moving day, some vertical villages send a welcome letter with a coffee voucher (i.e., local loyalty program), coupled with an invitation to meet up for the coffee. There are also cases where newcomers are personally greeted by a nominated committee or resident representative – but this could become a full-time job in our high-density buildings!

What is key to an onboarding approach is that it predicated upon an understanding of the “resident experience” and requires mapping of this process to identify when and where it is best to have touch points. Vertical villages need



This ongoing component is added with the aim of directly engaging the resident – drawing them in! The term is sometimes applied to this approach is borrowed from the business world and is referred to as “onboarding”. This process is about ensuring residents feel more part of your vertical village and includes a specific focus upon making connections.

to be very clear about their aims of undertaking onboarding as it requires additional time and effort. Consider for instance, do you want to foster a “home” ambiance where residents know each other by name? Keep in mind that your residents might value privacy more!

Realistically, for our vertical villages, we will likely aspire to a blend of induction and onboarding as the lion’s share of these activities will likely fall to building management.

What can be of value, however, is for the committee to purposefully review the move-in process from the perspective of a new resident. This could start by discussing the move-in experience of recent arrivals – or you could even go further and shadow the next move-in (just don’t be creepy!).

And in terms of food for thought, there is also “offboarding” to consider. This is when residents leave your vertical village – and in

addition to taking back keys and switching off access, this could provide a very rich source of information about how your vertical village really operates! ●

For more information:
facebook.com/SkyPadLiving



Dr Janette Corcoran
APARTMENT LIVING EXPERT

OWNERS' CORPORATION MANAGEMENT

This Southbank building future-proofed with EV charging, and how you can do the same

Owners' corporation (OC) managers are seeing increasing demand for retrofitting electric vehicle (EV) charging across their portfolios.

WORDS BY *The Knight - Body Corporate Managers*

The Knight recently spoke with David Hamilton, an OC committee member at Triptych and an EV charging solutions consultant. He graciously agreed to share with us his experiences with EV charging in strata.

The Knight: Starting with your OC, Triptych, could you explain what drives your sustainability ethos?

David: Triptych was designed to be a building with extensive sustainability features incorporated into it from its conception in 2007, so it was ahead of the curve as far as Melbourne high-rise apartment developments back then, and even today.

Sustainability has been a key attraction for many owners and renters over its history but more so today with greater awareness of climate change and the need to transition to a low carbon economy. In a building where the ethos is sustainability, it is an easy step for people to understand the benefits of becoming EV ready. In fact, some of us started thinking about what would be needed as far back as 2016.

The Knight: How can we help facilitate the community wide decision to adopt EV charging?

David: OC managers and committees need processes that bring people on the journey towards sustainability and avoid divisive debates. You need to recognise you are living in a



community and there is a collective responsibility to improve the lot of all owners, rather than preserve the status quo or sectional interests.

OC committees have a duty of care to all owners and to protect and preserve the common property in a way that enhances the value of all owners’ assets, especially their building’s image and individual apartment values.

A good starting point is to ask residents and owners their views and let them see what is possible. Engaging via surveys is great, not just about sustainability and EV but about important common property issues. Surveys educate people but more importantly, they show the committee is listening. They also have the benefit of airing and addressing objections and revealing where the majority of residents stand on a topic.

The OC can then formulate a strategy around sustainability and not waste time on objections that are unsupported by the broader community.

The Knight: What do you see as the future of EV charging in strata?

David: Soon, there will be two classes of buildings: those that have the facility and those that don’t. By the end of this decade, the bulk of new vehicle models available for purchase will be EV and strata buildings (including existing buildings) will have no choice but to adjust to that reality.

The National Construction Code is likely to be amended as early as 2023 requiring in-car-park EV charging infrastructure to be part of the base build. Today’s strata committees should recognise the need to facilitate this now or face competition from new buildings and other developments which have made that move. Owners in those buildings will have a significant competitive advantage over buildings without EV charging.

Surveys I have run show that even owners who do not plan on owning an EV recognise

Sustainability has been a key attraction for many owners and renters over its history but more so today with greater awareness of climate change and the need to transition to a low carbon economy.



this risk and are willing to support retrofitting so that the entire building is EV ready, and their apartment’s value is maintained to prospective purchasers.

David Hamilton works as an EV solutions charging consultant. You can find out more and contact him at ghic.com.au ●

To read more of our interview with David, visit:



The end of embedded networks – a false promise?

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During the past month the Premier Daniel Andrews announced an end to embedded networks beginning January 2023. You may recall, this is an issue that Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) lobbied the government on more than four years ago.

”

Many of our members, and the broader Southbank community, complained about being locked into energy deals, depriving them of choice, and, in many cases, at a higher market price than what could be sourced elsewhere.

Before the last state election, this was an election promise of the Andrews government. While it is comforting to know that finally, after almost four years, this promise has been delivered, it is far from adequate for nearly all our Southbank residents as it only applies to new high-rise developments. So, we as a community have been delivered a false promise.

At a time when inflation is biting, coupled with higher energy prices, we are all doing it tough. Existing apartment residents shouldn't



have been deprived of market choice but allowed the same freedoms as every other Victorian resident.

SRA will continue to lobby the government on this issue, especially with an election looming. But we are certainly disappointed that we were short-changed from the Premier's last election promise.

SRA will be holding its AGM next month with the date, venue and guest speaker/s announced in the September edition. Our AGM is an opportunity for any interested members to join our committee.

We welcome any interested community members to reach out and express interest, whatever skillset you may bring, or even if you would like the opportunity to hone a new skill. In the past, students have been interested as it is a great skill to have on their CV.

We know we will certainly be looking for volunteers for treasurer, secretary, marketing, social media and membership roles. If you have any interest, please send us an email. ●

For more information:

info@southbankresidents.org.au



Tony Penna

PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT@
SOUTHBANKRESIDENTS.ORG.AU



WE LIVE HERE

New report: it's curtains for some owners

“

Another major fire risk has been uncovered in Melbourne – curtain walls containing flammable aluminium composite cladding (ACP).

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At least 10 residential buildings in Melbourne have a type of curtain wall with flammable cladding concealed within the wall cavity, according to a report by a high-profile fire safety consulting firm.

A curtain wall is a window system positioned externally to the building structure, spanning multiple levels and forming a continuous facade.

This curtain wall fire risk is a late discovery, outside the original scope of Cladding Safety Victoria (CSV). Affected apartment owners are facing insuperable remediation bills in the tens of millions and sometimes more than \$100 million.

We Live Here has seen a copy of the alarming fire expert report, entitled *Preliminary Overview of Melbourne City Buildings with Non-Compliant Curtain Walls*. At the date of going to press, the report is yet to be released. When released, we expect it should set off alarm bells for the state government.

The consultants' report was triggered by the discovery of a staggering quantity of cladding in a curtain wall of an inner-city Melbourne apartment building. Previous investigations by others had failed to discover much of the cladding concealed in the curtain wall.

The consultants found the vertically connect-ed curtain wall system posed a credible risk of rapid fire spread over multiple storeys.

Including the additional flammable material uncovered, the total area of flammable cladding in the building is an astonishing 50,000 square metres. This Melbourne building now holds the unenviable record for the largest cladding project in Australia – easily surpassing the previous record held by a Perth building with 28,000 square metres.

The consultants have warned the owners that the issue is serious:

“With the building in its current state, [this firm] is of the opinion that the City of Melbourne's initial evaluation that the building is a danger to the life, safety or health to members of the public and to any person using the building or to any property; is indeed correct.”

Extending their research, the consultants found several other high-rise buildings in the Melbourne CBD fitted with the same curtain wall system from the same overseas manufacturer.

On top of this, the report found that there were several ignition risks within these high-rise buildings that could create fires.

Raining glass shards?

The research by the fire risk consultants includes findings that the extensive presence of ACP within the curtain wall cavity can lead to broken sheet glass falling in the event of a fire.

In contrast, most other windows installed on Melbourne high-rises are fire resistant. In a fire, the outer layer of glass in non-curtain windows will break up into very small pieces and fall. The peculiar construction of the curtain wall, with flammable material immediately behind glass, is prone to make the glass crack and fall in larger pieces.

Out of sight?

How has this issue gone undetected, or at least unreported? The fire consultants explain it may be a case of “out of sight, out of mind”.

The ACP panels within these buildings' curtain wall cavities are not visually identifiable from outside the buildings. To see the flammable material, you need to undertake “destructive investigation of the external wall system or internal wall linings.”

The expert report paints a disturbing picture for the owners of the building that initiated the study:

“Twenty-six insurers have been approached and denied insurance for the building. A full replacement cost could be in vicinity of \$150 million.”

The consultants add:

“Once the insurers know the full extent of the cladding there is simply no way they will provide cover.”

And we all know that you need insurance to get a loan. With the building unable to source insurance, owners are unable to obtain any funding for remediation works. The owners also risk a fine of \$462,000 if they do not remove the flammable material to satisfy the building order that has been issued by the council.

How many experts know about this fire risk?

The consultants cite engineers and scientists around the world who have been studying the curtain wall fire risk issue for some time now.

A paper published in the *Architecture and Planning Journal* in 2018 analysed how fire spreads in curtain wall facades. The study by Mostafi Elehefnawi was able to demonstrate the behaviour of fire spreading in the gap between a curtain wall and floor structure slab. A further danger was found to arise from secondary fires ignited by burning debris falling from the upper floor levels.

The report also cites a 2020 Australian study by the CSIRO that examined a series of fire incidents involving ACP. For example, the Wooshin Golden Suites apartment building in South Korea was a building that was affected by a combustible curtain wall system. A fire at the building in 2010 started from a spark in an

electrical outlet on the fourth floor. Within 20 minutes the fire spread up the vertical facade to the top floor of the 38-storey building. The vertical fire spread was around one of the building's exterior alcoves. The resultant re-radiation and chimney effect appeared to enhance the fire spread. The fire brigade deployed helicopters to drop water on the building and to evacuate some occupants from the roof. While thankfully there were no fatalities, several people were seriously injured.

So, it appears that a huge, invisible fire risk that has long concerned experts here and overseas is only now being becoming known to the general public.

A plea to government

The consultants conclude their latest report with a statement addressing the role of the state government regarding the several buildings' flammable curtain walls:

“Whilst external wall cladding continues to be rectified, it is of our belief that equal importance should be apportioned to curtain wall systems and their use in high-rise buildings to ensure the safety of dwellings and life. Government intervention will be required to help the owners' corporations deal with the financial burden this will place on the buildings.”

Campaign donations

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



Barbara Francis &

Rus Littleton

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MEET A NEIGHBOUR

Meet Zarina Husein-Ellis



If you run into Zarina Husein-Ellis (she prefers her nickname “Z”), chances are she’ll have a book in her hand just as she did when we met to chat. I noticed that she was intently reading a page marked, along with several others, with a paperclip.



“I love reading and libraries,” she said. “I used to buy books, now I only read books from the library.”

She credits books, non-fiction and autobiographical, for giving her sound money management guidance in her youth, something she is grateful for now in retirement. These days she’s absorbing everything she can about Australian history; in particular, the Indigenous story.

“I’ve just returned from an historical tour of the Top End that helped bring much of what

I’ve been reading to life,” she said.

She’s currently reading *Dark Emu* by Bruce Pasco, a book that challenges historical conceptions that have worked to justify Indigenous dispossession.

Caring, travel and bravery are recurring themes throughout Z’s life. As an 18-year-old she left her family and birthplace of British Guiana to move to England where she studied to become a nurse—a profession that landed her a recruitment offer from Cabrini Hospital in Malvern.

“The offer came at a time in my life when I needed a fresh start. I’ve never regretted it. Australia has so much to offer—I think it is one of the best countries in the world,” she said.

The places she’s visited within Australia is a testament to her adoration—a list of locations vast and daring.

Three weeks after the Ukraine war broke out, Z awoke with an epiphany.

“I felt that I needed to go help the people of Ukraine. I got my affairs in order, obtained travel documents and was on a plane headed to Warsaw just a couple of weeks later,” she said.

Her goal was to get to Kiev, but the war had escalated to a point where that wasn’t an option.

Instead, she went to Warsaw Central and joined the volunteer efforts of assisting hundreds of newly arrived women and children war refugees.

“I helped wherever I was needed, but apparently there was a different plan for me,” she said, looking upwards.

Several days into her volunteer work she fell



crossing a street, seriously injuring her leg, an injury that forced her to return to Australia just over a week later.

Z has been an active member of Southbank3006 where she’s helped to inspire the focus of our next forum on “connecting community”.

“There are so many things we could be doing together. Trivia nights, book groups, games night socials, multicultural food nights, painting classes, a multi-generational orchestra,” she said.

One of her wishes is to see the space between Crown and the Yarra River used for a community dance – “the speakers to pipe in music are already there.”

Did I mention that this is only the preface to the many chapters of Z’s life story? She’s been a pilot, flown helicopters, ridden motorcycles and can sharpshoot. Perhaps we’ll get lucky, and she’ll write it all down.

MaryKay Rauma is a founder of Southbank3006 a not-for-profit community and advocacy group focused on connecting residents and improving the livability of Southbank. Our next forum, Connecting Community is Sunday, August 28, 2pm at Boyd. All Southbank residents are encouraged to join for free by scanning the QR code.



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HISTORY

Spencer Street Bridge

At the western end of Southbank lies the Spencer Street Bridge, a major interwar crossing that carried traffic to and from the city over the Yarra River.

First contemplated in 1860, it was not completed until 1931. In the meantime, a steam ferry carried passengers across the river from 1884 to 1929. The ferry’s steam engine drove a capstan that pulled on a chain (secured on each bank) and thus pulled itself across the Yarra, connecting the southern end of Spencer St with the northern end of Clarendon St. The chain had lots of slack and mostly rested upon the river floor.

By 1922 it was agreed by all authorities that a new bridge was an immediate necessity and was essential to the development of the southern suburbs and would result in the opening up of Crown land in South Melbourne and the provision of trams on a new outlet from the city.

But who would be responsible for construction and, more importantly, who would pay for the bridge? It was a story repeated many times as Melbourne grew rapidly, described in newspapers as “municipal and political turmoil”. There was also the issue of what type of bridge was desirable – fixed, which would prevent shipping east beyond Spencer St, or movable – able to be raised for shipping, which would disrupt bridge traffic (including trams) in and out of the city throughout the day.

After careful consideration, the government chose the fixed bridge option in 1925. The new bridge reflected current engineering and design standards. It was a reinforced concrete structure of balanced cantilever type, together



with subdued Art Deco styling at street level, including stylish lights at street level. Because there was still some concern in government departments about the strength of concrete, extra precautions were taken with the specifications and additional tests were undertaken by the Railways, who had won the tender and become responsible for construction.

The volumes of materials were impressive, consisting of 18 steel girders (each 40 metres long) and nine girders (25 metres long), delivered in the early hours of the morning because of their massive size. Construction had two main phases – the underwater sections (which

could not impede navigation along the river) and the superstructure of the bridge. It would have a major effect on ship owners, trade, and infrastructure, as ships now had to find berths below Spencer St. Finally, it was finished and ready for opening for the official opening to all traffic in February 1931. Flags of all nations fluttered in the gusty breeze and the arrival of the official party was welcomed by ship sirens and the gasp of donkey-engines. The ceremony consisted only of the cutting of a ribbon, as all parties were conscious of keeping costs to a minimum in the Depression years.

But at last, Melbourne had another bridge over the Yarra and another tramline to service the area that became Southbank.



Robin Grow
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SOUTHBANK SAFETY AND SECURITY

Private versus commercial e-scooters

Since the CBD has opened up post pandemic and workers have returned to the office, the use of personal electric scooters (e-scooters) has increased dramatically along with other electrically-powered skateboards.

WORDS BY *Southbank Police Station commander Snr Sgt Alex O’Toole*

The vast majority of e-scooters are illegal to ride on public roads and can only be legally ridden on private property. E-scooters that are more than 200 watts or can travel at more than 10 km/h, and e-skateboards that are used on public roads are classified as motor vehicles and

subject to the same legal requirements, such as:

- Licensing
- Registration
- Road rules
- Drink/drug driving laws
- Safety standards

Most e-scooters/e-skateboards do not have number plates, speedometers, signals or warning devices and don’t always have visible rear lights so they can’t be registered. This can make e-scooters very dangerous to the rider, pedestrians and other road users.

The City of Melbourne currently has an e-scooter trial running which began in February this year. Two companies – Lime and Neuron – are the approved commercial hire companies where riders can rent e-scooters as a form of transport. The use of these commercial e-scooters is legal – as opposed to personal e-scooters that are more than 200 watts or can travel more than 10km/h.

The following trial rules must be followed by

e-scooter riders:

- Must not ride on footpaths
 - Can only ride in bicycle lanes, on shared paths and lower speed roads (up to 50km/h)
 - Will be automatically speed-limited to 20km/h
 - Must be at least 18 years old
 - Must wear a helmet
 - Must not ride under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Riders must be below 0.05 blood alcohol concentration (BAC) and have zero presence for prescribed drugs (heavy fines and loss of licence penalties apply)
 - Must not consume intoxicating substances while riding
 - Must not use a mobile device while riding
 - Must not carry passengers
 - Must ride single file
 - Must park an e-scooter in accordance with council and operator requirements
- It’s important to note that e-scooters are not

permitted on footpaths and roads where there is a speed limit above 50 km/h, even if there is a protected bike lane.

The trial will run for 12 months. Southbank residents can report issues surrounding e-scooters by scanning the QR code, which leads to the City Of Melbourne e-scooter web page:



Lime and Neuron are responsible for their e-scooters. Southbank Police are aware of issues where e-scooters are parked outside residential buildings obstructing entries and carparks. We encourage residents to report parking and other identified issues.

The reluctant Southbank runner with a few stories up his sleeve

Southbank resident Andre Jones wears many hats, and through all his roles he continues to prove anything can be done if you put your mind to it.

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

He is an ultramarathon runner, an independently published author and a Navy veteran, and if that wasn't enough he decided to come out of retirement to become a doorman at The Langham over the weekend.

Moving to Southbank in September last year, his time as a Southbanker has been a much loved experience for himself and his wife.

"We love it," he said.

"We have been far more active being in the CBD than when we were out in the suburbs. There is always something to see and do."

While you might spot Mr Jones walking his Jack Russell, Gordon, around Southbank, he said you probably wouldn't catch him running around Southbank because even though he was an ultramarathon runner he didn't actually love running.

He went as far as to label himself as "the reluctant runner".

"My wife was a Beyond Blue speaker, so I was moved by the organisation and thought I should do something but didn't really feel I had a great deal to speak about, but thought I could run for the charity," he said.



"If I don't have to run, I won't. But I always imagine what I could do if I did love running."

Reading up about marathon runners and the World Runners Association – where people run the equivalent length of all the continents east to west – motivated Mr Jones to try and see what he could do.

Putting a buggy together for the journey so he could carry 40 litres of water, camping gear and supplies, Mr Jones set off to run from Melbourne to Darwin, running the 3400

kilometres in 94 days and raising \$10,000 for Beyond Blue.

He then followed it up with a run in 2019 around Australia, but had to call it quits before his goal of 15,000 kilometres at 5400 kilometres over 131 days when his buggy tyres started presenting problems.

Putting the next 10,000 kilometres on hold for now, Mr Jones became an avid writer and spent the 2020 lockdown completing his dream of publishing his first book that has been 20 years in the making.

"The book that I first wrote was 20 years old. I am a bit of a gamer with role-playing games like Dungeons and Dragons and wanted to develop my own role-playing system and put



it into a book, but then I joined the Navy," Mr Jones said.

"Then during COVID and lockdown I was retired, and the book basically had already been written. I went over it and explored more ideas, expanded and re-wrote some stuff."

The "epic fantasy" book was published in August 2020 shortly followed by two more books, and now Mr Jones is up to having six published books that are available on his website, in various local bookshops and on amazon.

A man of many talents and pursuits, there is no slowing down for Mr Jones who is already onto thinking about his next marathon and his next creative pursuits. ●

METRO TUNNEL

World-class artists to bring new Metro Tunnel stations to life

The Metro Tunnel's Anzac Station on St Kilda Rd will feature a permanent large-scale artwork from esteemed Melbourne artist Raafat Ishak.

Mr Ishak will join four other world-class artists selected to create works for each Metro Tunnel underground station following a rigorous selection process by leading figures from Victoria's creative industries.

Ishak, a multi-disciplinary artist, is Head of Painting at the Victorian College of the Arts. His work is informed by the history of painting and architecture, crossing mediums of painting, sculpture, installation and site-specific drawing.

He has been awarded a number of Australian Council grants including residency at the Cite International des Arts in Paris in 2013, and his work is held in many significant public and private collections.

Ishak will be in good company as each new underground station is set to feature a wealth of Australian and international talent.

Internationally acclaimed Melbourne artist Patricia Piccinini, who represented Australia at the 50th Venice Biennale, will create a work for Parkville Station.

Other artists include Abdul Abdullah (Arden Station), Danie Mellor (State Library Station) and Rafael Lozano-Hemmer (Town Hall Station).

They will join Maree Clarke, a Yorta Yorta/Wamba Wamba/Mutti Mutti/Boonwurrung artist who will create a work bringing together all five new underground stations.

The stations' artworks and architectural design features will become new landmarks in the cultural fabric of the city, giving Melburnians and visitors the opportunity to experience world-class art and design every day

For now, the pieces remain under



development as each artist works closely with Metro Tunnel architects and engineers, ready to be revealed before the opening of the Metro Tunnel in 2025 – a year ahead of schedule.

Meanwhile work on the new Anzac Station is progressing well, with the station's signature timber canopy taking shape on St Kilda Rd.

Crews have craned in 13 timber cross beams, each weighing around 4500kg, along with 164 timber sections to form the diagonally intersecting framework that is a distinctive feature of the canopy.

Inside the station stairs and escalators are in place and workers are fitting out mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems.

The Metro Tunnel will create capacity for more passengers across Melbourne's rail network and bring locals and visitors to the doorstep of iconic Melbourne institutions including the Shrine of Remembrance, NGV Australia and the Arts Centre, while easing pressure on the St Kilda Rd/Swanston St tram route – the busiest tram route in the world. ●

For more information: metrotunnel.vic.gov.au

For more information: andrejonesauthor.site

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GBD - 5 MINUTES TO YOUR DOOR

たくさんの美しい女性 日本語を話します

We have survived COVID-19 AND ARE STILL HERE TO HAVE BEAUTIFUL LADIES PRIVATELY TO YOUR DOOR 24/7

“Date Day”, “Daddy Day” – whatever you want to call it – make it happen!

I have always considered myself a very lucky man, but some say that you make your own luck. Either way I have worked very hard to get to where I am in many facets of my life.



It dawned upon me recently at a business event when I was asked what I was doing tomorrow to which I replied that it was “Date Day!”

Now I was in a room with very successful people in their own right, but they were all taken back by this notion ...

One commented, “I’ve heard of a date night”, and then they asked what I meant. I outlined that Thursdays were, in fact, a full day of spending time with my beautiful wife Lauren.

Now many equate success to wealth, but others equate it to having more time to do the things that you love or enjoy.

Yes, I am a driven person and what drives me is helping people to discover what is important in life – health, fitness and wellbeing make up the major vehicle in this process, but also to try to find a balanced and happy lifestyle.

You see happiness is what I like to focus on the most, and I then almost reverse engineer from that focus to set up what that looks like. The key ingredient being time.

So, to me spending time with the woman I love and adore the most is a vital part of my happiness and helps balance out the rest of my very hectic week juggling a successful business, three kids with their school and sporting commitments, my own health and exercise and everything else you can think of!

Now making all of this happen took a bit of time to set up and, in fact, it started 10 or so years ago when I first started Just In Time Personal Training.

I decided that Thursdays would be “Daddy Day” and I would wake to get the kids breakfast and then either walk, ride or drive them to school (early to play some sporting games first) and depending on their stage of life spend most of that day at a play centre, the zoo, Scienceworks or relaxing and playing games or sports.

It was an amazing time and brought much joy to both me and the kids but also allowed time for Lauren to chill out and take some time to herself after doing the bulk of the parenting every other day of the week! During COVID, Daddy Day blended into family day a lot of the time and during any given lockdown, we had days and weeks of it – it was actually great for our family.

As the kids were all in school as of the start

of 2021, I suggested that Daddy Day evolve into Date Day and that we spend some quality time together and to be brutally honest, it is awesome!

So, I thought that I would put this little article together in the hope that it might prompt you to sort out your priorities – you may not be in a position to make a day of it, but perhaps it could be a two-hour date night or, if on your own, it could involve setting up some form of weekly commitment to yourself that is uninterrupted but doing something that you love or enjoy.

Life is short and we can work and work away and before you know it, life has passed you by. I don’t want that and, sure, I could possibly work harder and make Thursday a day of work, but then I could also have loads of money, lose half of it with a costly divorce, see the kids infrequently and be nowhere near where my life wants to be.

Goals can come in many forms and when happiness is your driving force, it makes it very

easy to set small steps to head in the direction that you want and as the old saying goes, “if you build it, it will come”.

I hope that this article motivates you to find whatever day you want to call it and that you can make it happen.

Incidentally I am writing this article at 12.15am and it is time for bed before Date Day when I wake up! ●

For more information:
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10 YEARS ON

Looking back at Southbank News - 10 Years On

AUGUST 2012 | ISSUE 10 |



Hamer Hall reopening upon us

Mark July 26 in your diary. After a long redevelopment, this is the date the Arts Centre will reopen and spectacularly reintroduce itself to the Yarra River.



ears and we are absolutely delighted with its stunning transformation,” Ms Isherwood said.

“Not only has the auditorium been improved but we now have new restaurants, new bars, new cafés, new box offices, new digital art technology and changes to the building’s opening hours will ensure Hamer Hall becomes a new favourite haunt for Victorians and visitors alike,” she added.

Victorian Minister for Major Projects, Denis Naphthine said the re-opening was a landmark moment for one of the state’s favourite facilities.

“This is a great moment for Victoria. Built 30 years ago, our wonderful hall had begun to lag behind other concert halls around the world and so this project has transformed it into a first-class contemporary facility,” Mr Naphthine said.

“The Victorian Government’s \$135.8 million redevelopment of Hamer Hall has made it more accessible, providing a better experience for audiences and ensuring that it can continue to attract and present a wide range of top international and local performers for many more years to come,” he added.

The hall will re-open with a bang. The four-day celebrations kick off with a massive concert on the opening night with performances by k.d lang, Rachele Durkin, Caroline O’Connor, Eddie Perfect, Archie Roach and Lior. ●

Hamer Hall has been out of action since 2010, so excitement levels for its return are at fever pitch. This is especially true among the major tenants of the hall, such as the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (MSO), which have had to make do with temporary homes since the renovations began.

MSO cello player Rohan de Korte told Southbank Local News the entire organisation was anticipating the reopening.

“Everyone at the MSO is very excited about our return to our home at Hamer Hall, after a two-year gap. For the musicians we’re most looking forward to the improvement in acoustics in the hall – making it easier for us to hear each other across stage, but also for our audiences to get the most out of our performances,” Mr de Korte said.

“It’s opened up the concert hall to the river, making music and the arts even more a part of Melbourne’s life,” he added.

The Arts Centre management was equally excited about the pending opening with chief executive Judith Isherwood saying the whole organisation was looking forward to the re-opening.

“Having Hamer Hall back is music to our

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会展中心屋顶拟建太阳能装置

墨尔本市政的Power Melbourne项目顾问又是可再生能源领域的资深专家表示，在墨尔本会展中心(MCEC)屋顶安装“市内太阳能发电场”的潜在计划，可以使南岸(Southbank)在实现澳大利亚脱碳能源系统中发挥“重要作用”。

Sean Car

工党在联邦选举中承诺与墨尔本市政合作，在南岸建立社区电池储能装置，墨尔本会展中心的可持续发展经理Jacinta Carabello向本报证实，正在“探索太阳能作为可再生能源的选择”

Carabello表示：“我们正在与墨尔本市政就如何实现这一目标以及由此产生的积极环境影响进行讨论。”

正如本报(3月版)在5月大选前报道的那样，Macnamara选区的工党议员Josh Burns和前任能源和气候变化部长Chris Bowen宣布，获胜的Albanese政府将与墨尔本市政合作，作为Power Melbourne项目的一部分，以确定南岸电池储能装置的合适位置。

为了让南岸的公寓居民有效地利用可再生能源，就像创纪录数量的澳大利亚家庭使用屋顶太阳能板一样，需要一系列当地可再生能源。



本报了解到，作为市政Power Melbourne项目的一部分，墨尔本会展中心的屋顶，可提供大约7万平方米的空间，可考虑作为安装大量太阳能装置的潜在选择。

墨尔本大学电力系统主管兼墨尔本能源学院能源系统项目负责人Pierluigi Mancarella教授说，应该抓住这个安装太阳能装置的机会。

Mancarella教授说：“这是一个很好的机会，因为那种规模的屋顶本来是不会被利用的，而且在一个基本上没有其他方式可产生太阳能的区域，这是一个非常好的机会，应该加以利用。”



十年战略揭示南岸新愿景

根据十年一次的规划蓝图，到2040年，南岸的人口将增加近一倍，规划蓝图承诺将该地区发展成为“真正适合步行的区域，为人们提供良好的环境”。

David Schout

市政的城市规划战略(MPS)的上一次更新是在2010年，承诺要推动南岸继续发展成为“墨尔本首屈一指的艺术区”以及“中心城市的延伸，重点是Birrarung(雅拉河)”。

规划战略承诺解决城区某些区域被认为质量差、以汽车为主的公共领域问题。

根据墨尔本市政7月份发布的十年规划蓝图，重点是墨尔本西部的巨大发展。

Arden、Macaulay和Fishermans Bend等工业区和前工业区将成为“适应未来20年市政发展变化的重要部分”。

规划蓝图表明，尽管受到新冠疫情的影响，但市政预测就南岸本身，会继续增长。

南岸2020年的人口为27839人，将会翻倍达到50041人，上班族数量也将从38954人增长到60302人。

在南岸未来20年的一系列目标中，市政指出了将塑造该地区的三个“关键举措”。

这些是墨尔本艺术区的改造，南岸大道和Dodds街开放空间和公共领域的改善，以及对已经推迟的City路总体规划的交付落实。

规划战略承认将寻求解决两个关键的地方问题：缺乏开放空间和社会基础设施，City路、国王大道和西门高速公路上的公共区域“质量差”，对当地大部分地区的步行和骑车设施具有重大影响。

规划战略承诺重新关注南岸的公共领域。



南岸家族企业获市长颁奖

市政为小型企业业主颁发2022年市长小企业奖，表彰他们为城市文化和经济繁荣所做出的贡献。

Kaylah-Joelle Baker

该奖项以前被称为市长表彰奖，这次获得颁奖的有49位墨尔本小企业业主，他们在墨尔本经营超过了10年、20年和40年。

南岸唯一被提名的企业是IGA Express Southbank，庆贺他们为这座城市服务了18年而闻名，其业主Jeff Harper说这很好，因为小企业经常会“被遗忘”。

为什么IGA Express如此特别，这是因为这家家族企业不仅是一个快速满足客户杂货需求的地方，而且还是一个在社区内建立联系的商店。

Harper先生说：“当地居民来这儿，一周可能见到五六次，他们就像我们的大家庭一样。”

“我们见到的大多数顾客都能叫得出名字，他们会告诉在生活中发生的事情。这里就像一个聚集中心。”

在疫情封闭期间，IGA Express有其独特的作用，成了南岸社区极其重要的地方，因为人们可以去IGA购买必需品，并在那儿见到亲切友好的面孔。

Harper表示，经过了几年的艰难岁月，商店的成功完全归功于他那些“难以置信的好员工”。

他说：“这些员工在COVID期间克服了很多困难，日复一日地坚持工作。他们真的是这个店的中坚力量。”

市政小型企业投资组合负责人 Jason Chang表示，这座城市是由独立和独特的小企业为基础，小企业对墨尔本的经济至关重要。

呼吁对墨尔本艺术区改造项目有更多社区发言权

墨尔本艺术区改造项目负责人考虑与南岸社区组建一个工作小组，确保社区能积极参与这项耗资17亿澳元的改造开发项目。

Brendan Rees

在7月31日由Southbank3006居民团体主办的论坛上，讨论了社区和项目团队每季度举行一次会议的提议，并听取了这个开发改造项目将如何整合和影响社区。

在有80多人参加的这个论坛上，有领导艺术区改造开发的两个机构发了言，其中有维多利亚发展市政基础设施小组负责人 Hannah Clement和墨尔本艺术区公司(MAP Co)的首席执行官Katrina Sedgewick，这个艺术区公司是由州政府创建，旨在推动澳大利亚有史以来最大的文化基础设施项目的愿景。

虽然与会者提出的问题集中在施工时间、交通管理和噪音方面，但提出的一个关键问题是居民和企业是否会积极参与协商，居民认为这一举措将提供“一种更有预见性的获取信息的方式，而不是仅仅向社区提供信息”。

Southbank3006居民团体的秘书 Trisha Avery提出，社区需要在项目的建造中拥有更大的发言权，这引起了与会者的掌声。Sedgewick女士对该提议表示欢迎，称这是一个“非常好的建议”，因为“透明度和



对话至关重要”。

她说：“我认为每季度举行一次会议是非常明智的，我们会注意这一点，并通过我们的信息团队来讨论如何最有效地实施这个项目。”

艺术区公司还将与原住民团体、区域合作伙伴(包括NGV墨尔本艺术中心)、居民组织和租户以及更广泛的创意社区密切合作。

这次会议在City路的假日酒店(Holiday Inn)举行，会议还听取了占占地18000平方米的新公共园地的设计愿景，以及居民提出的一个问题，即如果社区并不十分“喜欢我们原先有的东西”，包括钢制长凳座椅，那将有什么变化。

What's On: August

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

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

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



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



UNTIL AUGUST 21

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.



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



UNTIL AUGUST 25

The Hundred with Andy Lee Live Studio Audience

Come along and be part of the studio audience backed by Andy Lee and a panel of Australia's funniest comedians. Tickets are free (maximum four) but seats are limited; ages 18+.

NEP Studios
55 Coventry St, Southbank 3006

SEPTEMBER 1
Father's Day Storytime
Join for stories and songs and stay to make a special gift for your special person. Suits ages 18 months to 5 years; no bookings necessary.
Southbank Library at Boyd
207 City Rd, Southbank 3006



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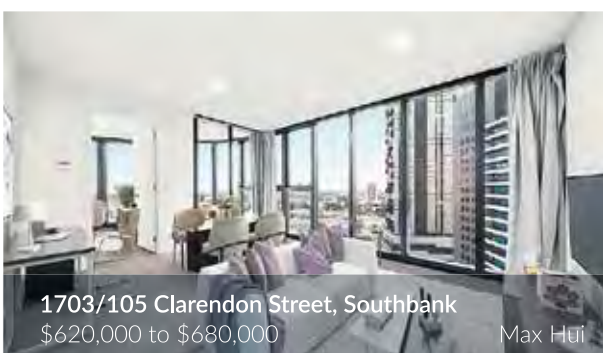
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about how to customise your campaign to our audience every month.

Here today, gone tomorrow

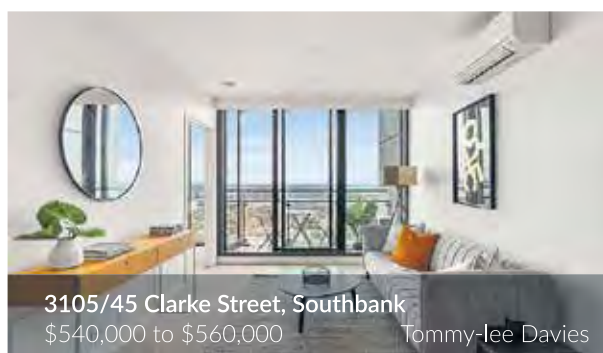
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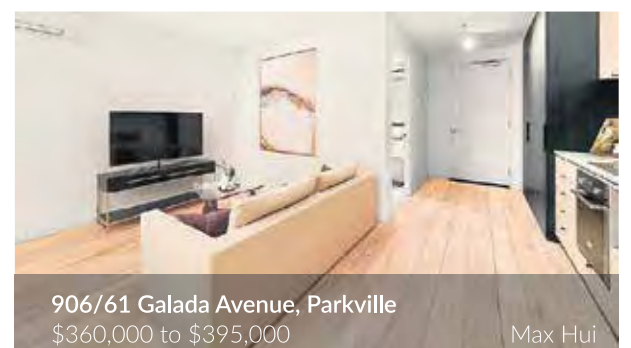
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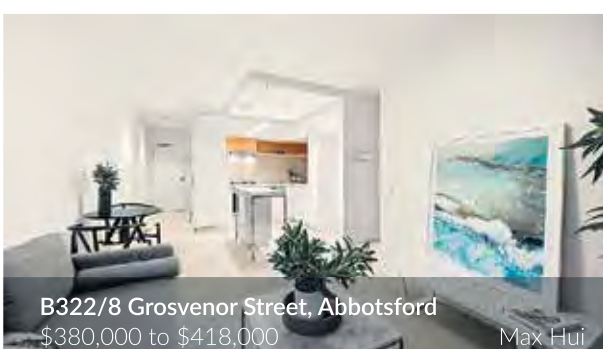
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