

SOUTHBANK NEWS

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Forever Free

Puzzles & Trivia P29



▲ Daniela Hernandez and Darcy Poynter from Mystik River Gallery.

Southbank's riverside gallery of Zen
Photo by Murray Enders

Since the reopening of Southgate's shopping precinct in October last year, Mystik River Art Gallery has been successfully creating a space of calm among an otherwise busy strip of restaurants and shops. Full story on page 15.

Southgate traders left in the dark over major redevelopment as developers go "silent"

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PLANNING

Southgate traders say their futures have been left in limbo as any talk of a \$470 million redevelopment of the shopping and dining complex – if it goes ahead – falls silent.

The state government announced its approval last December for a rejuvenation project of the Southgate complex which would create a "world-class" precinct.

Under the plans, the existing three-level complex would be partly demolished to make way for new bars, restaurants, and shops within a new five-storey podium, as well as a 26-storey office building, which would be complemented with riverside parkland.

But with no news as to when or if the development, by Hong Kong-headquartered real estate fund manager and

investment firm ESR Cayman Limited, would kick off or whether traders would keep their leases, business owners have felt increasingly uncertain about their livelihoods and left in the dark about what would happen next.

"It's a very complicated situation and I don't know what they're doing," a Southgate business owner, who asked not to be named, said.

"I don't know in this current market whether they're going to redevelop it or not. Leasing signs are going up, it's very confusing."

The owner said since the COVID-19 pandemic had begun, the developer had "been silent" – leaving traders in a "terrible situation".

When the complex was shut down during extended lockdowns, the business owner believed the developer had

Continued on page 13.

Uncertainty rises over CityLink decking, as council urged to keep "dreaming big"

The vision to build an elevated park and developable space over CityLink to connect Southbank's "two halves" might appear further away than ever, but one City of Melbourne councillor says he's "not ready to give up on that dream".

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
PLANNING

The ambitious vision to construct a decking over CityLink in front of the Domain Tunnel to connect the City Rd precinct with Southbank Village was mooted as the signature project in the City of Melbourne's 2010 Southbank Structure Plan.

In unlocking 3.4 hectares of developable space above the "CityLink void", the vision proposed in the structure plan sought to address several "key issues" in Southbank, namely a lack of open space, which remains a prominent local issue today.

But 12 years on, no master plan or formal business case for the decking of the tunnel entrance has ever been completed by the council in partnership with the state government, as recommended in the structure plan.

And, amid the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the rising construction costs, fresh doubts have been cast over the project following the Southbank Residents' Association's (SRA) annual general meeting (AGM) last month.

Meeting with residents on September 21 along with Deputy

Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece, the council's general manager infrastructure Roger Teale presented an update on a "highly anticipated" audit of all Southbank plans, including the 2010 structure plan.

SRA president Tony Penna said the presentation followed on from last year's Southbank Community Forum, whereby Mr Teale and other senior members of council management took the status of several of the plan's components, including the decking, on notice.

In presenting the *Southbank Report on Projects & Priorities*, which was published on the council's website late last year, Mr Penna said that Mr Teale had informed residents that the CityLink decking was not currently featuring in any plans for the city.

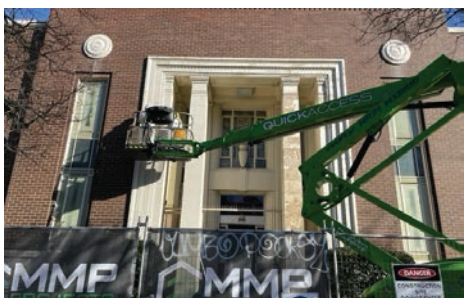
While the report stated that investigations remained ongoing into the structure plan's second proposed "local activity node" in the Arts Precinct, the third – the CityLink deck – was not included.

In what Mr Penna described as "a massive blow" to the Southbank community, he said Mr Teale "indicated the CityLink deck was not feasible, owing to its prohibitive cost" of "somewhere around \$700 million".

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Michael Pastrikos Georgina Zeneldin Tommy-Lee Davies Andrew Salvo Max Hui Lilian Kwan Trent Bonnici Georgia Ackroyd Austen Kosasih

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The deadline for the November edition is November 3.

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“An insult to veterans”: Former repatriation clinic to be used for offices and meeting rooms

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Department of Defence says it plans to use the long-disused former repatriation clinic at 310 St Kilda Rd for its own purposes in the form of offices and meeting rooms – a move which veteran groups have labelled “an insult”.

It comes after the former Morrison Government announced a review into the historic building's future use in February, with Melbourne architects Lovell Chen engaged to conduct a feasibility study into its refurbishment and re-use.

The Australian National Veterans Arts Museum (ANVAM), a not-for-profit community group dedicated to the rehabilitation of veterans, has long sought to become trustee of the site and establish a gallery, arts studios and mental health support services.

Despite many years lobbying all levels of government on the proposal, which has attracted widespread community support, new Assistant Minister for Defence in the Albanese Government Matt Thistlethwaite wrote to ANVAM last month stating the building would instead be used “to support Defence purposes”.

“Within its adaptive re-use design, some meeting areas may be made available for use by any Defence-related community organisation, such as the Australian National Veterans Arts Museum, on a non-exclusive basis,” Mr Thistlethwaite wrote.

“Defence recognises the Australian National Veterans Arts Museum's ongoing interest in the site and its continued efforts to support wellbeing of current and former Australian Defence Force members.”

ANVAM chairman Mark Johnston described the latest move in what's been a long-running saga as “an insult to veterans everywhere, who had put his or her life on the line”.



“I find it hard to believe this use in this building passes that test when there are so many other sites around Melbourne and every other city in the country that would be more cost effective,” he said.

Southbank News contacted Lovell Chen regarding the outcome of the review, but it directed all enquiries on the building to the Department of Defence, which did not respond by deadline.

However, in response to an earlier enquiry requesting an update on current restoration works at the site, a Defence spokesperson said that it was progressing adaptive re-use works, taking into account the broader strategic needs for Victoria Barracks.

“The current preparatory works to maintain the heritage elements of 310 St Kilda Rd are well progressed and Defence anticipates completion of this project by November 2022,” the spokesperson said.

“Further plans to refurbish and re-use the building are currently in development, with the additional works anticipated to commence in 2023 and be completed by mid-2024.”

The former Repatriation Commission Outpatient Clinic was built at 310 St Kilda Rd in 1937 for the health and wellbeing of World War One veterans, and subsequently supported World War Two, Korean War and Vietnam

War veterans.

The building has been vacant since 1995, and in 2015 the Department of Defence listed the building as surplus to requirement and has since attempted to offload it to another level of government for a peppercorn sum under Commonwealth property disposal rules.

But previous efforts to offload the site to both the Victorian Government and the City of Melbourne have failed due to what Liberal Senator David Van last year described as “the disrepair it's been allowed to fall into”.

At a Senate Estimates hearing on October 27, Senator Van grilled leaders from Defence's estate and infrastructure group following a decision by the council not to facilitate an acquisition of the property from the Commonwealth.

“Both in the precinct and in Melbourne, opposite the Shrine, it was built for veterans, it's been allowed to fall into disrepair to the point where it can't be sold to another level of government, which leaves a public sale,” Senator Van said.

“What would the public perception of Defence be if it was allowed to be turned into a block of apartments overlooking Victoria Barracks?”

The property was taken off the surplus to requirement list in February as part of the review by the Department of Defence, which at the time had yet to determine any valuable need for the building, as per Commonwealth property disposal policy.

Mark Johnston said with current office occupancy rates in the inner-city still high following the pandemic, there was “no way” offices and meeting rooms “passed the value for money test”.

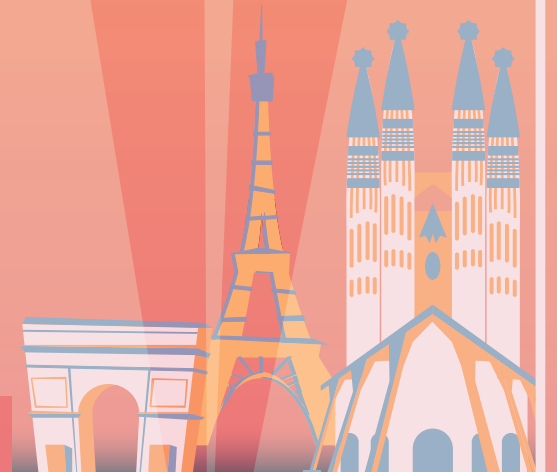
He also added the move represented a “backflip” on a “promise made to veterans” by the current Labor Government, which first expressed support for the ANVAM proposal in 2016 when in opposition. ●

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▲ A diagram highlighting the key stages of the Southbank Promenade works.

Works halted along Southbank Promenade

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PLANNING

Works along Southbank Promenade have been halted until next year following concern from traders they would be disrupted ahead of the busiest time of year.

The City of Melbourne is revitalising a 300-metre section of the promenade from Princes Bridge to Evan Walker Bridge to provide greater safety and improved amenity.

It will see bluestone paving replaced, lighting upgraded, new seating installed, stairs and ramps reconfigured, and more trees added.

But after hearing from traders “about the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on business” the council said works would be put on hold from mid-October until April next year.

“We have worked with our contractor to revise the stage two project timeline to avoid works affecting traders on Southbank Promenade in the lead up to Christmas 2022,” the council said.

Stage two, to the east of Evan Walker Bridge in front of the Southgate shopping and dining precinct, will now be split into two phases.

The first phase will see temporary fencing removed when construction pauses in mid-October. A ramp and staircase to the east of Evan



Walker Bridge will be closed during this phase, but a fully accessible temporary ramp will be available.

Works will then restart again next April for phase two at the western end next to Evan Walker Bridge and be completed during July 2023. Temporary fencing will also be installed.

Pedestrian and cycling access along Southbank Promenade will continue to be maintained, as well as access to the residential properties and businesses.

Construction hours will be 7am to 6pm Monday to Friday with occasional work on Saturdays between 8am and 6pm.

“We will continue to work closely with our contractor to minimise impacts on traders and promenade users and will ensure noisy works are completed outside of the busy lunch trading

hours,” the council said.

A trader, who asked not to be named, said they welcomed the pause but questioned the rationale behind the project. However, they commended the council for accommodating their business’s concerns.

“They spent six weeks reforming the shape of the footpath which had nothing wrong with it,” he said, adding “they’ve replaced one concrete ramp with another concrete ramp”.

The trader also said there had also been a lack of communication and notice about the works.

“We live in the world’s most liveable city, there’s got to be works and progress around you, but make it worthwhile and communicate and time it right.”

Executive officer of the Yarra River Business Association Tim Bracher said the warmer months would be crucial to the viability of many businesses moving forward.

“The council’s support in so many ways to help business get through the pandemic has been commendable,” he said.

Meanwhile, 2.5-metre-high hoardings installed along the promenade block the views of the Yarra from two riverside restaurants while also creating a bottle neck for pedestrians and cyclists. When *Southbank News* enquired earlier this year, traders claimed they hadn’t been compensated for loss of business. ●



Meet the Candidates

ELECTIONS

Southbankers can meet their local candidates vying for the seat of Albert Park ahead of the November 26 Victorian Election at a local “Meet the Candidates” event on November 6.

Local residents’ group Southbank3006 will host the event at the Holiday Inn Express at L7, 47 City Rd on Sunday, November 6 from 2pm to 3.30pm.

Labor candidate Nina Taylor, The Greens’ Kim Samiotis and Independent candidate Georgie Dragwidge have all confirmed their attendance. The event will be moderated by former City of Port Phillip Mayor Bernadene Voss.

To register for free, scan the QR code below or visit southbank3006.com ●

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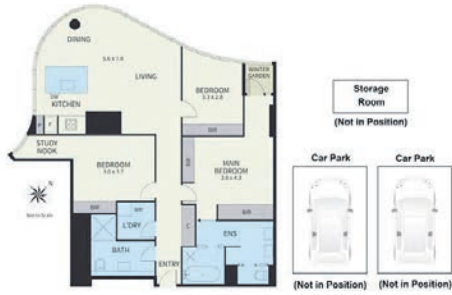
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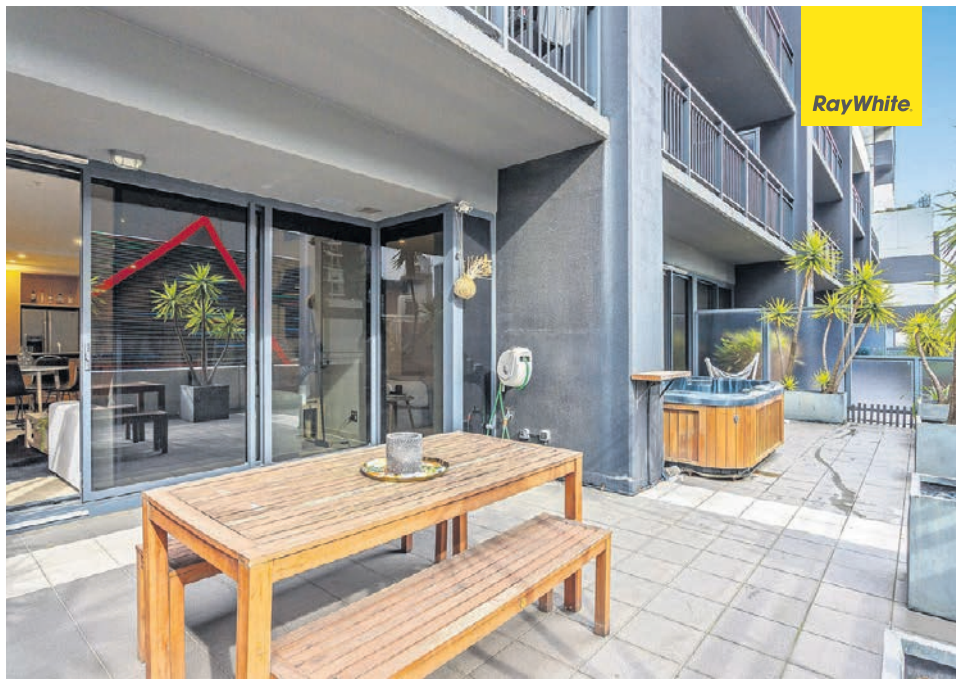
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September Auctions - 100% clearance

102/28 Southgate Avenue	Sold at auction	\$2m	\$500k above reserve
7/18 Wells Street	Sold at auction	\$1.08m	Full asking price
310/173 City Road	Sold at auction	\$910,000	\$60,000 above reserve
6/106 Southbank Boulevard	Sold prior to auction	\$835,000	\$35,000 above reserve

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E-scooter riders put on notice in a bid to improve road safety

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
SAFETY & SECURITY

Victoria Police have put e-scooter riders on notice after vowing to crack down on illegal rider behaviour in a bid to improve road safety ahead of the warmer months.

Victoria Police Road Policing Command Superintendent Justin Goldsmith said there was still confusion around the rules with the trial e-scooters and privately-owned e-scooters, but warned the onus was on riders to ensure they understood the rules.

“Victoria Police will be increasing its focus on e-scooter riders coming into spring and summer – if you’re using an e-scooter, you should expect to be intercepted and spoken to by police,” he said during a press conference on September 19 at Queensbridge Square.

“Education is always our preference, but we won’t hesitate to issue infringements for non-compliance and blatant disregard for the rules – particularly if it involves putting other road users’ safety at risk.”

On-the-spot fines of \$185 or more can be issued for non-compliance with trial e-scooter rules.

The presence of bright orange and green scooters in the city – from companies Neuron Mobility and Lime respectively – is part of a 12-month, three-local government trial that started earlier this year.

But their place in the transport network has drawn criticism, particularly about how they intersect with pedestrians.

Police have issued 487 e-scooter infringement notices to scooter riders since December 2021 with majority of these including failing to wear a helmet, riding on the footpath, and carrying more than one person.

Strict rules are in place for the trial e-scooters, with Lime and Neuron’s e-scooters featuring pre-set speed limits and parameters to ensure they can only be ridden in trial areas of the CBC including public roads with speeds capped 20km/h.

In addition to enforcing rules around the e-scooter trial, police will target privately-owned e-scooters, which, under current laws, are illegal if they travel more than 10km/h or have a power output greater than 200 watts, and therefore cannot be used on public roads, bike lanes or footpaths in Victoria.

High-powered e-scooters are considered a motor vehicle and riders can receive a \$925 fine for using an unregistered vehicle.

Privately-owned e-scooters can only be legally ridden on private property.

E-scooter riders must not use footpaths, with police focussing their attention on ensuring helmets are worn, and only one person aged 18 and over riding on the e-scooter.

Police will also be warning riders that drink and drug driving penalties that apply to motorists also apply to e-scooter users. Those caught riding over 0.05 blood-alcohol limit can lose their driver’s licence.

Jannine Pattison, vice-president of residents’ group Southbank 3006, applauded the crackdown but questioned whether it was best to invest in education rather than “handing out fines”.

“There is no doubt that micro transport, and scooters in particular play an integral part of the future of personal transportation. But what seems to be lacking is a fundamental law governing the use of scooters,” she said.

“Much like road rules and cycling rules, scooter riders need a clear message on how, when, where and by whom, scooters may be used.”



Ms Pattison said leisure riders using hire scooters appeared to pose a much greater risk to the community than those ridden by private owners.

“With the implementation of kilometres of bike lanes, we should be encouraging responsible scooter riders, as, like bikes, scooters reduce congestion and pollution, making them a greener and more sustainable mode of transportation.”

Southbank Residents’ Association (SRA) president Tony Penna also welcomed the crackdown but believed an education campaign was just as important.

The police clampdown comes after a 28-year-old man died following an e-scooter crash in Pascoe Vale on September 30. The rider was not wearing a helmet.

Walkers Victoria’s acting executive officer Duane Burt said a ramp up in enforcement would help improve safety as e-scooters had presented a “real problem” for walkers, particularly older people, people with disability and families with young kids.

“There are so many loopholes in the company insurance policies, they will usually escape liability if a person is seriously injured by someone riding one of their scooters,” he said.

“The government needs to extend TAC coverage, or something similar, to walkers injured by an e-scooter, bike or mobility scooter.”

Mr Burt added more bike lanes were needed on main roads and traffic calmed local streets for bike and e-scooter riders, while adding the state government should undertake a broader education campaign to direct e-scooter users to permitted roads and paths and encourage drivers to accept and respect them on the road. ●

\$30.5m bike lane project at St Kilda Rd gets under way

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

A \$30.5 million state government project to create separated kerbside bike lanes along St Kilda Rd has begun with works kicking off in Southbank.

The rollout, managed by Major Roads Project Victoria (MRPV), begun in late September and will be completed in several stages – with a section between Linlithgow Ave and Dorcas St under way.

MRPV will deliver wide, separated lanes along the kerb in the service lanes on both sides of most of St Kilda Rd, as well as bike markings, with additional bike priority at intersections.

Bicycle Network’s chief executive Alison McCormack was thrilled with the news, saying “we have waited an eternity for this project”.

“It is one of the most important commuter routes into the city, yet the infrastructure has been primitive, resulting in too many collisions and dooring incidents,” she said.

The new bike lanes are expected to improve the safety of 3500 cyclists by eliminating the risk of being struck by car doors or “dooring” and reducing the risk of crashes.

The state government hoped it would also encourage more people to take up cycling, therefore easing congestion on busy St Kilda Rd, reducing vehicle emissions, and freeing up public transport.

To complete stage one, crews will temporarily close a section of the outer traffic lanes in each direction on St Kilda Rd, between Linlithgow Ave and Dorcas St, with works expected to be completed by December.

MRPV noted there would be temporary bike lanes, reduced speed limits, reduced parking, and restricted access to loading zones while the works took place.

Southbank 3006 residents’ group vice-president Jannine Pattison welcomed the rollout saying, “anything that increases safety for cyclists the 3500 cyclists who use St Kilda Rd daily is a positive thing”.

“However, \$30.5 million is a heck of a lot of money to spend on bike lanes whilst other road initiatives and traffic calming measures are begging for attention – roads which could see deadly outcomes if not addressed,” she said.

Southbank Residents’ Association president Tony Penna said his group also supported the project as “we’ve always been advocate of trying to make the roads friendly for everyone”.

RACV’s general manager of

The new bike lanes are expected to improve the safety of 3500 cyclists by eliminating the risk of being struck by car doors or “dooring” and reducing the risk of crashes.



mobility Elizabeth Kim said it supported the continued rollout of bike lanes, particularly given the increased uptake of bike riding over the past few years.

“RACV has been advocating for safer bicycle infrastructure for several years, including championing changes on St Kilda Rd,” she said.

“Balance is achieved when consideration is given to all forms of transport. Behaviour is also important - as bike riding becomes more popular, drivers need to remain vigilant of all road users and remember to keep enough distance and be patient to help prevent incidents”.

Victorian Automobile Chamber of Commerce spokesperson David Dowsey said while bicycle lanes improved cyclists’ safety and may encourage people to take up cycling, a balance needed to be struck.

“One lane of traffic can transport many people, but how often do you see a banked-up car lane and next to it is a bike lane with no-one in it?” he said.

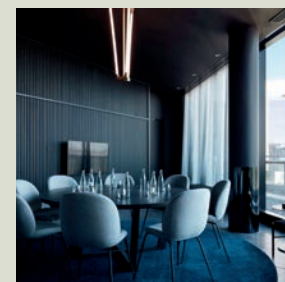
MRPV program director Adrian Furner said they were working hard to reduce disruptions and would continue to work with the local community and key stakeholders “to ensure the best outcome for this important project”.

Meanwhile, the Department of Transport is ending its pop-up bike lane trial at Armstrong St and Nelson St in South Melbourne following community concerns of safety, amenity, and aesthetic impacts. Removal works are taking place from September 19 for up to three weeks. ●

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CELEBRATING OUR LITTLE ONES

This Children's Week we're celebrating the 16,406 children who live in the City of Melbourne.

From 22 to 30 October, Children's Week celebrates the delightful inquisitiveness and joy that youngsters bring to our city.

Council is hosting a number of fun events across the municipality to celebrate the week and bring together children and families in the

community to promote the health and wellbeing of children.

Become the next world-famous trapeze artist or discover the natural world through art and creativity – whatever you imagine, you can achieve this Children's Week in the city.

Choose your own adventure with an exciting range of events and activities specially designed for kids and their adults.



I AM NATURE

Join us at ArtPlay to celebrate Children's Week in an interactive play-space inspired by the natural environment.

I Am Nature invites children and their adults to explore the world of native animals through music, movement, and natural materials.

In each 45-minute session, artists Gaby Georges, Pepe Inostroza Aqueveque and Ashlee Hughes will guide you on a narrated journey of discovery through an interactive installation.

Dressed up as animals, Gaby will play original songs, Pepe will show you how to move, and Ashlee will create with you and invite you to add to a growing installation.

Through storytelling and play, I Am Nature will stimulate creativity and imagination, and develop respect and care for the natural environment.

This is a New Ideas Lab project which supports artists and children to work together to develop new arts experiences.

This work was co-created with children online in 2021 and at ArtPlay throughout 2022 in collaboration with City of Melbourne Family Services and 16 children aged two to five years.

Suitable for children aged two to six. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Where: ArtPlay, Birrarung Marr, Melbourne

When: From Saturday 22 October to Sunday 30 October.

Session times: 10.30am-11.15am and 2-2.45pm.

Cost: Free, bookings essential

To book: Visit artplay.com.au/whatson Bookings will open at 10am on the day before the event.



There's fun for youngsters and the young at heart in the city this Children's Week

CIRCUS NEXUS

Circus club is a series of after-school workshops at Circus Nexus, proudly presented by VicHealth.

Circus Club incorporates dance, physical theatre, social interaction and healthy food.

Families can drop in and have a healthy, fun and social time.

Wednesdays: 4-6pm at Canterbury Street Stables, 49-53 Canterbury Street, Flemington

Thursdays: 4-6pm at Open Door, 480 Lygon Street, Carlton

Fridays: 4-7pm at North Melbourne Community Centre, Bunclie Street, North Melbourne

Cost: Free

To book: Contact Lizzie Doyle on 0412 006 424 or visit circusnexus.com.au

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES IN THE CITY

Melbourne is a city for everyone. We offer a range of services for children and their families year-round.

Our services include everything from Maternal and Child Health programs, playgroups, family support and counselling, Children's Services, parenting education sessions, through to child care at Lady Huntingfield Early Learning and Family Services Centre and North Melbourne Children's Centre.

For information on our child and family services, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/children

For the full program of Children's Week events happening in the City of Melbourne, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/children

FASHION SET TO TAKE OVER THE CITY



What you see on the runways at M/FW you can find in-store in the city

Iconic city venues will be transformed into spectacular runways and experiences as Melbourne Fashion Week (M/FW) spills onto the streets this month.

Bringing colour, energy and vibrancy to the city, M/FW will feature more than 600 celebrated and emerging designers and retailers across more than 100 events.

Ten premium runways and fashion experiences at eight unique city locations are among the highlights of M/FW from 10 to 16 October.

The City of Melbourne will again partner with Vogue Australia to deliver event favourite, Vogue American Express Fashion's Night Out.

Four pop up runways will bring colour and style to city streets throughout the week, as well as seven Fashion Capsule exhibits presented by Creative Victoria..

For the full program and to purchase tickets, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/mfw

IN BRIEF

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

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

BUSINESS SUPPORT

Do you run a local business? For one-on-one advice, contact our Business Concierge team on 9658 9658 (press 1 for business) or enquire online, and subscribe to our Business in Melbourne newsletter for regular updates, opportunities and activities for city businesses.

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SIGN UP TO STAY IN THE KNOW

Be first to know about what's happening in your neighbourhood – from amazing events to new community facilities – with our City of Melbourne newsletter.

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FOOTPATH BLITZ

Pedestrians will have a spring in their step thanks to a footpath blitz to upgrade some of the city's busiest thoroughfares.

We're undertaking \$6.3 million in footpath repairs as the city prepares for summer.

More than 4,800 sqm of footpath upgrades and repairs will take place across some of the most popular areas of the city, including Collins Street, Exhibition Street, La Trobe Street, Queen Street and Lonsdale Street.

Priority repair work will be undertaken on asphalt footpaths in poor condition, which will be replaced with bluestone pavers.

The majority of the blitz will happen from now until December, with smaller scale works being conducted into 2023.

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Green tram tracks lack appeal as authorities work to find a solution

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
ENVIRONMENT

A year-long trial to green tram tracks along Southbank Boulevard has been met with criticism as unhealthy-looking plants and bare sections of concrete fall short of community expectations.

Plant-covered tram tracks were first unveiled in 2018 as part of the City of Melbourne's Southbank Boulevard project which sought to complement the creation of open spaces in Southbank.

At the time the council boasted how the new grasses and succulents were in "full bloom" as it worked to beautify the area, but four years on the project hasn't quite hit the mark, according to critics and locals.

However, the City of Melbourne, Yarra Trams and the Department of Transport have rebuffed any suggestion there was a dispute over the project, saying they were "working closely" together to improve the green tramway while determining the "best options moving forward".

"We want to create a long-lasting and sustainable result that delivers benefits to surrounding residents and visitors to the Arts Precinct," a Yarra Trams spokesperson said.

The issue was brought into the spotlight after the former president of the Public Transport Users Association, Daniel Bowen, posted a message to Twitter in September saying Melbourne hadn't "quite mastered" trams on grass, with a photo depicting the unappealing look outside the National Gallery of Victoria.

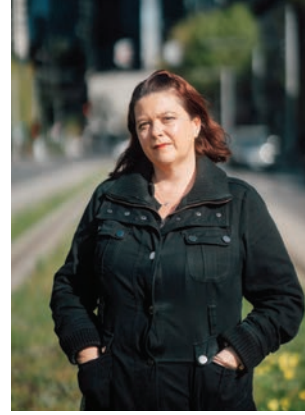
Mr Bowen told *Southbank News* that the attempted green tramway along Southbank Boulevard had not been "looking great" and he hoped it could be improved.

"When done well, grassed tramways can be very aesthetically pleasing, providing greenery in a street otherwise full of concrete and asphalt, and reducing the effects of urban heat islands," he said.

"It can also serve as a reminder that trams are an environmentally friendly transport mode for



▲ Jannine Pattison, vice-president of Southbank 3006 residents' group, hopes Southbank Boulevard's "green" tramway can be improved.



our cities."

The current state of the trial is in stark comparison to the City of Melbourne's artist's impressions which showed a picturesque tramway lined with grass.

RMIT Centre for Urban Research planner Thami Croeser, who advises the European Union, said while it was common for artist's impressions to be more ambitious and hopeful than the real thing, the grass tracks at Southbank Boulevard "does fall quite far short – both in appearance, and extent".

"It's disappointing to see such a short strip of unhealthy-looking plants, surrounded by wide sections of bare concrete, possibly reflecting some kind of conservative engineering requirements," he said.

"A number of European cities have managed to deliver green tramways that look a lot like the artist's impression at a much bigger scale, so it might be time to look abroad for lessons."

Southbank 3006 residents' group vice-president Jannine Pattison said while the trial was initially a "positive initiative and an innovative way" of greening the area, it was now "very poor" and had "failed miserably to meet community expectations".

"It is indeed unfortunate that as the Southbank Boulevard upgrades get closer to completion the further away from the artist's impression presented at community consultation seem to be," she said.

"There is no point in promising a beautiful green tramway and then not delivering it in full."

Southbank Residents' Association president Tony Penna said the start of the trial was welcomed as "innovative and progressive", but the community was a "little disappointed at where it's at now".

"We're hoping the powers that be, whether it be Yarra Trams or the City of Melbourne or collectively, can find a solution that will get us back to what was originally desired."

Experts from the University of Melbourne have been tasked to review and analyse the results of the trial and provide recommendations.

Yarra Trams said the project was just one area where it was working to reduce their impact on the environment, with solar panels, skylights and energy efficient lighting having been installed across most Yarra Trams depots, while all of Melbourne's trams were already powered by solar power. ●



Power Melbourne consultation open

SUSTAINABILITY

The City of Melbourne is calling on feedback from the local community on potential locations for community batteries in its ambition to transition Melbourne to 100 per cent renewable energy.

The council has launched a Participate Melbourne, where locals can jump online to have their say by taking a survey or attending an information session, with consultation closing on October 31.

As already announced in partnership with the federal government in Southbank, the council's Power Melbourne project seeks to install a network of neighbourhood batteries around the city.

The batteries will be linked to a retail electricity plan to help renters, people living in apartments, and those running small businesses access more affordable renewable electricity.

"We'd like to know what you think about neighbourhood batteries and when the time comes, how we can make it easy to switch your energy bills to a Power Melbourne plan," the council's Participate Melbourne site said. ●

To have your say:
participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/power-melbourne

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CREATIVE VICTORIA

Tower gets council approval for Montague Precinct

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PLANNING

A revised plan to build a 20-storey tower at a prominent corner in the booming Montague Precinct has won the City of Port Phillip's endorsement.

The state government is considering a planning submission for development at the site of 272-280 Normandy Rd, South Melbourne, to include a 68-metre tower and a four-storey podium that would house a medical and wellness centre, a gym and yoga facility, retail shops, a café, a restaurant, a function space, and a total of 31 apartments.

The plans also propose streetscape and landscape works on Johnson St between Normandy Rd and Munro St including a new park.

The application by developers Samma Group Pty Ltd and Spec Property originally submitted plans to build a 33-storey tower but received approval for a 24-storey tower.

In April 2022, a new proposal was lodged with the Minister for Planning to build a 20-level mixed use retail and residential tower.

The amended plans went before the City of Port Phillip's planning committee meeting on September 29 where councillors voted unanimously in favour of the application subject to final plans.

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning will ultimately decide if the proposed development goes ahead.

However, it had sought the council's position to prepare, adopt, and approve amendment C207port to the City of Port Phillip's Planning



▲ An artist's impression of the development at the Normandy Rd, Johnson St and Munro St site.



Scheme for the proposed development site.

Gateway Ward Cr Peter Martin said the current application had made "significant improvements" and looked forward "to something marvellous arising on that corner block" – which is in the core area of the Montague Precinct within the Fishermans Bend urban

renewal area.

But Cr Martin noted, "there's still some things the officers would like to see improve and I fully support those."

The amended plans included a request to remove four trees on Normandy Rd subject to a requirement for a tree pit system for the replacement trees.

An existing two-storey building which occupies the Normandy Rd, Johnson St and Munro St site would be demolished to make way for the development if approved.

In August, the Minister for Planning referred the application to the Fishermans Bend Standing Advisory Committee and invited the council to provide comments.

Since 2010, three previous planning applications had been submitted for development at the site including a proposed 40-storey tower.

The Montague Precinct has experienced significant growth in recent years – with some residents fearing their way of living would be compromised with issues of noise, reduced parking and dirt and dust arising.

Trisha Avery, the former head of the now defunct Montague Community Alliance, a group that represented residents and businesses, said it was important residents had a voice amid the rapid development.

"A new group has to form. The name is still there for anyone that's wants it. It really needs to be a completely different energy now," she said.

"If someone wanted to talk to me about starting a new group, I would be more than happy to help them start one." ●

Exploring the intangible through sound and screen

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
ARTS & CULTURE

Eight emerging artists have recently completed a 12-week program with creative studio SIGNAL, and their finished screen and sound works are on display along Flinders Walk, Northbank.

The City of Melbourne studio's Screen and Sound Commissions program was set up to allow for young artists to develop digital and online works alongside industry professionals, and to showcase their talent.

"SIGNAL is leading the way in unearthing new creative talent, who will go on to contribute to our vibrant and diverse cultural sector," the council's Creative Melbourne portfolio lead Cr Jamal Hakim said.

"This is a celebration of so much hard work by our fabulous screen and sound artists who have turned ideas into reality."

The launch of the individual works started being displayed from September 9 with an outdoor projection on the side of the SIGNAL building, which will continue to be shown every night from 6pm to 10pm until October 8.

In addition to the individual works, the



▲ Sound artist Rebecca Bracewell, and experimental filmmaker Sofie McClure.

students were paired up to create a collaborative audiovisual work to be featured online.

Two of the emerging artists selected for the program, and who partnered up for the collaborative project, were experimental filmmaker Sofie McClure and sound artist Rebecca Bracewell.

Proud of the work that they have produced

individually and collectively, both Sofie and Rebecca agreed that the program was very beneficial to developing their skills.

"This kind of experience exposes you to a lot of different artists at different stages, and to have that time to work with someone at a similar stage in their development is such a good learning experience that I would recommend," Rebecca said.

"I also really connected with my [industry professional] mentor and was really well matched because she encouraged me to just go with my gut, think about it more conceptually and think about different aspects in a way that I hadn't before."

In the weekly classes, students were required to show their work in its vulnerable uncompleted stages, and received feedback from not only their own mentor but also the other students' mentors.

This process of seeing other artists' work also gave the students a clear idea of who they thought they would work well with for the second project.

While Rebecca works with sound design and composition to creatively explore her experience with hearing loss and having hearing aids, Sofie is drawn to sensory elements of film and seeing it as a multi-sensory work over just a visual medium.

Working together using their unique skills and ideas, they created a short film called *Fugue* which explores a series of poetic exchanges in an attempt to capture something inherently fleeting and intangible; a rainbow.

"For us the process of making it was really important to what it became, because we would send a letter to each other about a certain colour and the other person would respond. Rebecca would respond with sound, and I would put imagery over the top, then vice versa," Sofie said.

The other screen and sound emerging artists selected from the 55 proposals submitted during the application process were Li Xing Yu, Amy Manson, Carmen Yih, Monique Gawne, April Guest and Fette Wondimu Nega.

The screen artists were mentored by Devika Bilimoria, Corinna Berndt, Eliza Hutchison and Aaron Christopher Rees, and the sound artists by Bridget Chappell, Yeo Choong, Fayen D'Evie, and Thembi Soddell. ●

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▲ Maintenance workers at Bistro Guillaume after fire caused damage to property.

Police Briefs

Man arrested following non-fatal shooting

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
CRIME

A 23-year-old Southbank man wanted by detectives from Queensland following a non-fatal shooting in Brisbane has been arrested.

The officers, supported by Victoria Police Echo and VIPER task force detectives, executed a warrant at an apartment in City Rd about 7am on September 23.

The man was arrested without incident and faced the Melbourne Magistrates' Court on September 23 where an extradition was ordered for him to be returned to the Brisbane Magistrates' Court.

Detective Acting Inspector Danny Travaglini of the VIPER task force said the work of specialist units had been critical to the arrest.

"This is another example of Victoria Police working collaboratively with interstate law enforcement agencies to hold gang members involved in violent offending to account," he said.

"The support of the Gang Crime Squad and the VIPER task force has been crucial in making this timely arrest."

The VIPER task force, which stands for visibility, intelligence, prevention, enforcement, and reassurance, is a tactical and investigative unit based within the Victoria Police's Crime Command.

It focused on preventing, detecting, deterring, disrupting, and dismantling the criminal activities of groups such as outlaw motorcycle gangs, organised crime networks and street gangs. ●

Man allegedly attacked at Princes Bridge

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
CRIME

Police have appealed for public assistance after a man was pushed to the ground and robbed of his laptop while walking along Princes Bridge on September 13.

Investigators have been told a 44-year-old man was approached by three men about 8.40pm before they allegedly demanded that he hand over his wallet and threatened to hit him.

After the victim refused, the alleged attackers began assaulting him.

"As the victim tried to run away, he was dragged to the ground by one of the offenders," a police spokesperson said.

"While on the ground the trio stole the victim's laptop from his backpack before they ran from the scene."

Melbourne Embona task force officers are investigating.

They have released CCTV footage and images of three men they believe may be able to assist with their enquiries.

The men are believed to be Caucasian and aged in their 20s. ●

Man charged after allegedly hurling a Molotov cocktail at a Crown restaurant

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
CRIME

A Southbank man has been charged after allegedly throwing a Molotov cocktail at a Crown Casino restaurant, causing a small fire to erupt on September 28.

Emergency services were called to Southbank Promenade, outside Crown Casino, about 1am, after receiving reports of an "incendiary device" being thrown through the window of a restaurant.

Police arrested a 39-year-old man a short time later before charging him with reckless conduct endangering persons and two counts of arson.

Investigators were also told the man had allegedly lit a small fire in the toilets of a Whiteman St hotel just before 12.30am, before heading towards Clarendon St.

A Fire Rescue Victoria spokesperson said firefighters responded to the Whiteman St incident within four minutes after receiving multiple triple-zero calls.

The spokesperson said a small fire was contained to an outdoor area of a restaurant, which was brought under control just before 1.15am.

"Ambulance Victoria and Victoria Police

were also on scene, with the incident handed over to Victoria Police for investigation," the spokesperson said.

However, FRV was unable to provide details of the Southbank Promenade fire as police were investigating.

The Melbourne Magistrates' Court, confirmed the man was refused bail on September 28, and remanded to Melbourne Magistrates' Court for a committal case conference on January 18 next year.

A Crown spokesperson said it was assisting police with their investigation, while confirming the restaurants that had been impacted by the fire – including Ging Thai and Bistro Guillaume – had reopened.

"Crown's customers' and employees' safety and well-being are always our number one priority, and our security team moved swiftly to contain the incident and engage the services of Victoria Police and Melbourne Fire Brigade," the spokesperson said.

"This matter is now in the hands of Victoria Police, and we are assisting them with their investigations."

Staff at Ging Thai declined to comment as it was owned by Crown. ●



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Council to reintroduce outdoor dining fees

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne will extend outdoor dining permit fee waivers for traders in Docklands until June 30 next year, while providing a 50 per cent discount for parklets in the rest of the municipality including Southbank.

After supporting hospitality businesses to trade outdoors for free during the past two years, the council says it will look to reintroduce some fees – allowing business owners to choose if they want to continue using their outdoor space.

Councillors supported a recommendation from management at its meeting on September 27, which will see fees reintroduced in all other parts of the municipality except Docklands from November 1.

In “realising revenue of up to \$716,000” the council said the measured return to regular permitting would support “city-shaping projects, events and activations, and initiatives to make the city cleaner and safer”.

And in offering further respite to business owners in Docklands, the council has agreed to continue waiving fees for another eight months – providing \$34,000 in benefits to 107 permit holders.

The council says busker permit fees would also be frozen until June 30, 2023 “to keep the city streets humming with local talent”.

With the council reporting that monthly pedestrian activity has exceeded the pre-COVID 2019 level at Southbank since April 2022, with activity in August 2022 up 13 per cent, Acting Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said it was the right time to reintroduce fees.

“Melbourne is springing back to life. We’re continuing to see steady growth in foot traffic, retail and night-time spend back to



pre-pandemic levels. The data tells us that now is the right time to return to our regular outdoor dining permitting processes,” Cr Reece said.

“By gradually reintroducing fees, we can continue to improve our neighbourhoods, build our city-shaping projects and deliver stellar events that make Melbourne the best place to live, work, study and visit.”

Yarra River Business Association executive officer Tim Bracher said it appreciated the “extensive help offered to businesses by the council” and agreed with the gradual reintroduction

of fees, “as a no-fee regime cannot stay forever”.

“The outdoor dining has not only helped businesses get back on their feet but has enlivened the streets of Melbourne and we hope it is an element that stays,” Mr Vincent said.

“We urge the council to reintroduce fees and other restrictions always in consultation with the business community.”

Business owners can also apply for flexible payment plans with the option to pay permit fees in instalments rather than one-off payments, while traders with existing permits can

“

Since October 2020, the council has waived more than \$2.36 million in application and permit fees for outdoor dining and busking and provided \$1.1 million in outdoor dining infrastructure to hospitality businesses.

”

choose to opt out of the program and return parklet and footpath dining areas to the council. “Parklet infrastructure would be removed at no cost to businesses,” the council said in a statement.

Since October 2020, the council has waived more than \$2.36 million in application and permit fees for outdoor dining and busking and provided \$1.1 million in outdoor dining infrastructure to hospitality businesses.

The council said that the “Extended Outdoor Dining Program”, funded through the \$200 million Melbourne City Revitalisation Fund – a joint partnership between the council and state government – had also helped sustain the city’s “bounce back”. ●

Safety summit positive “step forward” in addressing community concerns

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
SAFETY & SECURITY

A safety summit has been staged bringing together the City of Melbourne, Victoria Police, residents’ groups including those that represent Southbank, and stakeholders, to address various issues facing the city.

More than 50 people attended the August 19 summit at Town Hall, including members of resident associations, where issues of safety infrastructure, safety at night, community policing, and the Connect Respect program were among the topics discussed.

The Connect Respect program, which is delivered by the Council to Homeless Persons and the City of Melbourne, helps businesses build their understanding of and support their response to homelessness in the city.

Victoria Police and members of City of Melbourne City Safety team gave presentations.

“Community safety is a priority for us at the City of Melbourne,” Lord Mayor Sally Capp said, adding the summit aimed to “facilitate

safer neighbourhoods for everyone and agree on actions to be taken”.

“We heard from Victoria Police and our own City Safety team, as well as broader questions and feedback from our presidents of residents’ community groups,” she said.

“We’re looking forward to continuing these discussions and working together towards agreed outcomes.”

The Lord Mayor said the council would investigate increasing lighting outside commercial buildings, as well as making it easier for building owners to install external CCTV cameras.

Cr Capp said the council would also find ways of better communicating safety programs it had in place.

Southbank Residents’ Association president Tony Penna said the meeting was “very productive” and allowed people the opportunity “to see the faces of the policing community”.

However, while he welcomed the engagement with police and the council, he noted some of the topics discussed were issues that may not affect everyone.

“All the different precincts have got their

own issues and things that happen in their own environment,” he said.

“Between the CBD and the other areas, it’s chalk and cheese, they’re so different.”

“A good example might be hooning; you don’t get hoons in the CBD and Southbank, because the streets are not conducive to hooning.”

Mr Penna said he was also a little surprised to see the issue of people experiencing homelessness raised as a safety matter as not all rough sleepers are “part of the safety problem”.

However, he understood it was “purely a perception thing” and that people “too often put them [rough sleepers] in the same category” as people engaging in drug use and anti-social behaviour.

From Southbank’s perspective, Mr Penna said he was “pretty happy” with community engagement around safety with the Southbank Safety and Security Committee meeting every quarter to keep on top of issues.

The Southbank 3006 residents’ group communications lead Mary Kay Rauma said the summit was a “good step forward” in listening to community concerns and was pleased to see

homelessness addressed compassionately.

“I do think that connecting communities tend to look out for one another – it also helps provide an overall sense of understanding and ultimately safety,” she said.

Ms Rauma said while police did a great job, she hoped initiatives like the Neighbourhood Policing model and the 24-hour Victoria Police assistance line (131 444) could be better promoted to help tackle community concerns.

“It would be really great if they could widely publicise these ways the community can communicate with the police and work in partnership to share information,” she said.

“In having that dialogue and being approachable they will get so much out of their policing.”

Sergeant Dinah Tremain of East Melbourne Police Station, who coordinates the Neighbourhood Policing model across the Melbourne police service area including Southbank, also attended the summit with three colleagues.

She said it was a highly productive meeting and appreciated the opportunity to hear from the community and help build relationships. ●

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The candidates vying for Albert Park

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
POLITICS

While the Labor Party has held the local seat of Albert Park since 1950, its future remains uncertain heading into the November Victorian Election following the retirement of outgoing member Martin Foley, who has served as Southbank's local MP for 15 years.

Standing in Mr Foley's place for Labor is Nina Taylor, who will be campaigning against Kim Samiotis for The Greens, Lauren Sherson for the Liberal Party, Cassandra Westwood for Animal Justice Party, and Independent candidate Georgie Dragwidge.

The Albert Park electorate covers the Melbourne's inner-south suburbs, with Albert Park, Middle Park, Port Melbourne, St Kilda West, Southbank, South Melbourne, South Wharf, and parts of St Kilda among the areas included.

As a Southbank resident herself, Ms Taylor is leaning on her love and in-depth knowledge of the area to help position herself as an ideal candidate for the locals.

"I would like to think that I can bring my own life experience to the role and having been in parliament for the past four years, it's shown me how hard you need to work and how well you need to listen to people rather than just tell them what they need," Ms Taylor told *Southbank News*.

"It really helps to shape policy and outcomes better if you are truly and authentically listening."

Being in parliament is nothing new to Ms Taylor, having served as an Upper House MP for the Southern Metropolitan area during the past term of government.

Working across areas of health, environment planning, and legal and social issues, she comes with a broad range of experience that she hopes to lean on if elected.

"I am very passionate about looking after the most vulnerable and making sure they are provided the care and support they need, and that includes things such as mental health reforms," Ms Taylor said.

"It is also certainly a personal commitment of mine to drive every possible opportunity to maximise green space, look at where we can cut emissions and have better energy use in the area, and to focus on the liveability rights of renters."

As someone who lives in a high-rise building after a long period of renting, Ms Taylor said she understood the importance of not only having accessible, uplifting and inspiring green spaces, but that renters shouldn't have to wait "until the day they may be able to afford to buy, to have quality of life and liveability."

Taking over from Mr Foley and his unwavering dedication to the position has only served to inspire Ms Taylor as she contests this November.

"[Mr Foley] has an incredible legacy and to me [it has been] a key marker to say this is what is to be expected and that the community expects people to give it their all, and be completely committed," Ms Taylor said.



▲ *Kim Samiotis, candidate for The Greens.*

"There are so many issues that he has advocated for and so many things he has delivered in the local community whether it be South Melbourne Primary School, St Kilda Pier, which is being redeveloped, and heritage protections."

One area Ms Taylor is particularly excited to follow on from is the evolution of the Melbourne Arts Precinct, which came about through a \$1.7 billion investment from the state government.

But while Labor has maintained its hold on Albert Park at recent election, the three most recent federal elections in the now marginal seat of Macnamara has highlighted a growing trend towards The Greens, despite Labor still holding onto power.

Macnamara shares a similar geographic area to the Albert Park electorate and has left Kim Samiotis from The Greens hopeful that the area is "ready to turn Victoria Green."

"We've seen the great achievements of our Greens colleagues in only a few months in the federal parliament and we can bring that success and accountability to our state parliament too," Ms Samiotis told *Southbank News*.

"I believe in the importance of political representation for our community by our community, not donor-influenced or party-controlled 'representatives' who can't fully represent their community members in parliament because their hands are tied by party-room politics."

As a St Kilda resident for 20 years with a career history in executive support across a multitude of private and public organisations, Ms Samiotis said she had seen how "great leaders can operate with empathy and accountability", and would work hard to bring security, safety and more prosperity into the area.

Among the key issues Ms Samiotis hopes to address is the climate crisis, keeping the new government accountable, replacing coal and gas



▲ *Lauren Sherson, candidate for The Liberal Party.*

While the larger parties are battling it out ahead of the election, Albert Park's seat remains anyone's game with independent candidate Georgie Dragwidge, and South Melbourne Market business owner, also quickly gaining attention.



with 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030, and the current housing crisis.

"We need to address the Labor Government's poor handling of unadministered special deals and tax breaks for developers, handing out huge profits instead of ensuring everyone can access an unaffordable home," Ms Samiotis said.

"Rents are now rising three to four times faster than wages and many people are locked out of owning a home of their own, living with uncertainty from pay cheque to pay cheque and fearing another rent rise. The Greens will build more affordable homes, end out-of-control rent rises, and ban political donations from property developers."

While the affordability of housing is high on the list of both Greens and Labor candidates, Liberal candidate and Albert Park resident



▲ *Nina Taylor, candidate for Labor.*

Lauren Sherson is turning her attention to the key issues of mental health and supporting small businesses.

"Albert Park needs a visible, accessible, human-to-human approach to supporting mental health, [because] children, emerging adults, parents, professionals, seniors and people of all age groups are not coping, [and] worse, are forced to wait months for help," Ms Sherson said.

"Minds are breaking, and we must give real support and in real time."

Ms Sherson also said that Labor and Greens were "trying to shut down the gig economy under the guise of targeting insecure employment".

"Andrews' own report found only 0.19 per cent of gig workers do so full time, but rather than helping those people, the remaining 99.81 per cent of self-employed workers across all industries will be forced to close their doors," she said.

Supporting small businesses is of high importance to Ms Sherson, who started her own business as an eight-year-old selling pressed four-leaf clovers and continued on to start her first company at age 22, before completing a Master of Entrepreneurship and Innovation at age 26.

"[Now] as an entrepreneurship educator I am the candidate who can transform locals' ideas into reality," she said.

"I am Albert Park. It is my home, where I married, where I work, and our local community is my family. I am protective of my clan and Albert Park needs a representative who is 'one of us'."

While the larger parties are battling it out ahead of the election, Albert Park's seat remains anyone's game with independent candidate Georgie Dragwidge, and South Melbourne Market business owner, also quickly gaining attention. ●

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Uncertainty rises over CityLink decking, as council urged to keep “dreaming big”

Continued from page 1.

In likening the project to the long-touted proposal to construct decking over the Flinders Street Station railyard as part of Federation Square East, Mr Teale is understood to have suggested the cost of such “platform-type” projects was too financially prohibitive.

Mr Penna said the information had come as a “real disappointment”.

“To only learn some 12 years after the release of the structure plan that this [CityLink decking] isn’t cost effective is a massive blow to the Southbank community, which has always believed this document would be delivered upon,” he said.

But the City of Melbourne later confirmed to *Southbank News* that the council had not deemed the project unfeasible, reiterating that a full business case would need to be in a form accepted and supported by the state government.

It added that given the freeway interchange was owned by the state government, “any elevated park would need significant funding support from them”.

The council’s environment portfolio lead and deputy chair of planning Cr Rohan Leppert reinforced this message, stating that, “until it changes, the council’s policy is to explore the feasibility of a deck over CityLink, incorporating significant new open space”.

“The CityLink deck is the centrepiece of the Southbank Structure Plan, featured on every map,” Cr Leppert said.

“If the council can put together a plan for funding for a project like Greenline, which relies heavily on partnerships with other levels of government, we can do the same for the CityLink deck.”

As part of their 2020 City of Melbourne election campaign, Cr Leppert and his Greens team produced the only costing for the CityLink deck to date, proposing a funding model of \$385 million over 10 years through a mixture of funding streams.

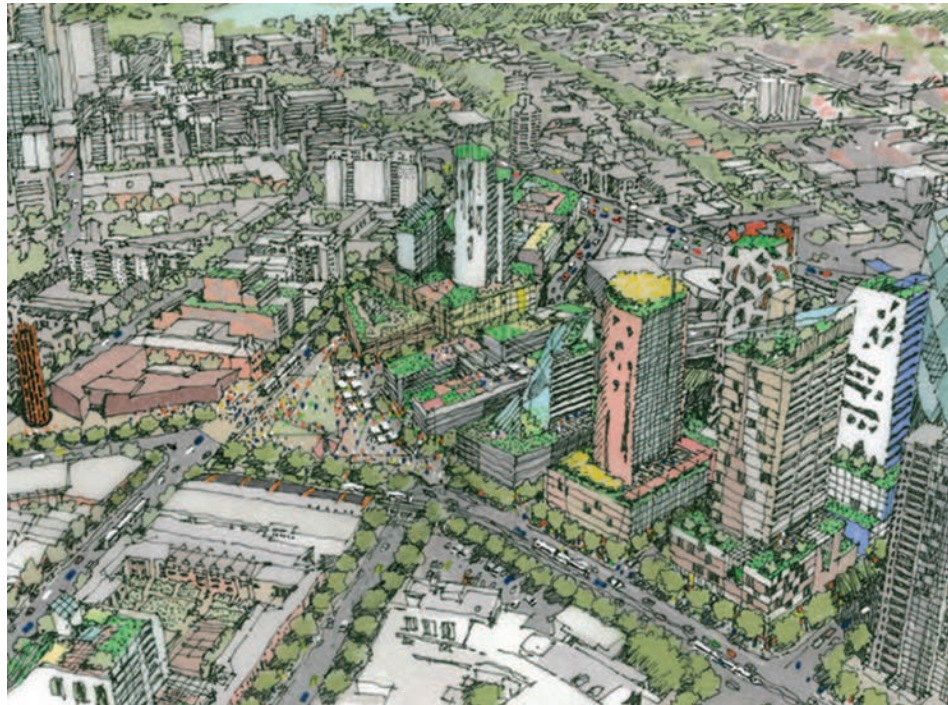
This included \$65 million and \$30 million from the council’s open space reserve and capital works contributions, respectively, as well as a \$290 million contribution from the state government, which Mr Leppert said could be recouped over time from Transurban by extending the CityLink concession deed by nine months.

While Cr Leppert acknowledged times and factors had changed significantly since then, he said it shouldn’t deter the council from continuing to “dream big”.

“Yes, it’s ambitious; yes, it’s expensive. But if it’s technically feasible we should have a crack. It would solve Southbank’s open space conundrum for good,” Cr Leppert said. “The council dreamed big in 2010, and I’m not ready to give up on that dream!”

In December last year, former Minister for Planning Richard Wynne approved Amendment C323, which introduced important planning controls to encourage the provision of arts and creative industries along Sturt St to support the next stage of the Melbourne Arts Precinct transformation.

When asked whether the CityLink decking would be considered as part of future plans for



▲ An artist’s impression of the CityLink decking project from the Southbank Structure Plan.



“Yes, it’s ambitious; yes, it’s expensive. But if it’s technically feasible we should have a crack. It would solve Southbank’s open space conundrum for good.”

the development of the Arts Precinct’s Sturt St spine, a Victorian Government spokesperson didn’t comment, stating that it was a matter for the City of Melbourne.

Transurban was also contacted for comment but did not respond to *Southbank News*.

Council “getting on with the job” of addressing open space shortage

While Deputy Lord Mayor and the council’s chair of planning Nicholas Reece did not comment on the CityLink decking at SRA’s AGM, he told *Southbank News* that the City of Melbourne was “on the hunt” for new open space opportunities in Southbank.

The council’s 2012 open space strategy, which also cited the CityLink decking as an opportunity for a “large Capital City and municipal open space is to be established with community sport, recreation and informal use”, recommends 20 sqm per resident.

With Southbank currently sitting at around two sqm per individual, well below the World Health Organisation’s recommended minimum of nine sqm, a council spokesperson said creating much-needed green open space in Southbank was one of its “highest priorities”.

Having invested included \$25 million over the next four years to identify and secure new open space in the area in its most recent budget,

it said it was currently assessing a number of new open space sites and would “provide updates as plans progress”.

“Creating much-needed green open space in Southbank is one of our highest priorities – and we’re getting on with the job,” the council spokesperson said.

“The Southbank Structure Plan 2010 outlined an ambitious vision for the future transformation of Southbank and securing new open space.”

“Considerable work was undertaken to realise this vision – including significant new open space projects such as the Southbank Boulevard transformation, Boyd Park and Kennedy Park.”

“The City of Melbourne continues to work closely with the community, industry and developers to maximise opportunities to establish new open space.”

Cr Reece told *Southbank News* that the council was continuing to progress the new 1000-sqm riverfront park in front of ESSO House at Riverside Quay, as well as opening up underutilised spaces such as undercrofts for recreational uses.

The Kings Way undercroft is one such space and has long been identified as an open space project for Southbank as part of the City Road Master Plan.

The state government currently owns the undercroft and is believed to currently be offering the council a 10-year lease to manage the space, but *Southbank News* understands the council is seeking a more permanent arrangement.

When asked about the status of negotiations regarding the City Rd undercroft, the Victorian Government didn’t provide comment.

The council says it is continuing efforts to identify new open space opportunities, including working with industry and private owners to secure new space.

While there are very few privately owned spaces remaining in Southbank, the council is understood to be in negotiations with a number of developers about acquiring land, such as developer Holder East’s Clarendon St site.

But Mr Penna said he believed that the council would struggle to secure the land necessary for \$25 million.

“I don’t think there is any land available in Southbank; well, certainly not for \$25 million that will meet the practical requirements for open space,” he said.

“I can’t help but feel that maybe the reason why we are in this dilemma of open space shortage is the town planners have been using the Southbank Structure Plan to inform their planning.”

“If so, then it is understandable why there has been no serious attempts to provide the much-needed open space to Southbank if they thought the CityLink deck was always going ahead.” ●



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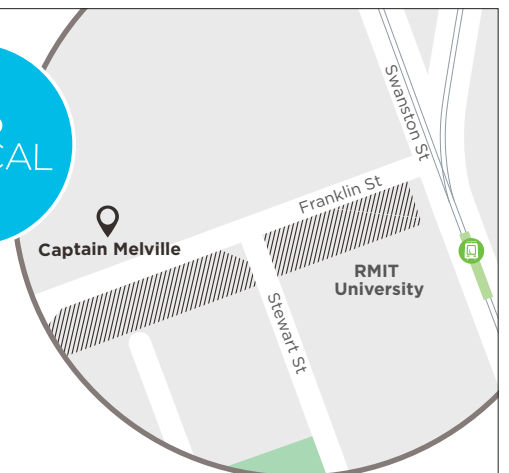
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Supporting business



CYP-BS00328

Southgate traders left in the dark over major redevelopment as developers go “silent”

Continued from page 1.

used this time thinking it “was all going to die in a heap and they wouldn’t have to worry about talking to anyone”.

While the owner said they had a lease until 2024, they were not feeling confident, saying “Of course it’s apprehensive.”

Business uncertainty comes as Southgate experienced a change of hands earlier this year after ESR, a leading Asia-focused real estate services and investment company, bought ARA Management Asset Ltd – which has a subsidiary ARA Australia, a Singapore based property developer and previous owner of Southgate – in a US\$5.2 billion deal, creating the third-largest real estate investment manager worldwide.

ESR did not respond to multiple requests for comment before deadline about the redevelopment plans and whether community consultation would be held.

As previously reported by *Southbank News*, it is not known how or if the recent sale would impact ARA Australia and its redevelopment plan for Southgate.

The City of Melbourne’s Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said, “I would encourage ESR to continue working with businesses at Southgate and to give them certainty and to allow them to run prosperous businesses for as long as possible.”

However, with more shops closing during the week and lease signs going up in the complex, uncertainty is growing.

A long-standing business owner, who also spoke on the condition of anonymity, said there had been no consultation with traders, which they described as being “a nightmare for all of us”.

“It is a huge stress. They’re saying pay your full rent but we’re about to knock it down. What’s my future look like?” they said.

The owner said they had reluctantly signed a lease until 2029 as a “demolition clause” meant they “can just turf us out” without notice.

“It’s almost unconscionable to sign a lease for period of time but ‘I can throw you out if I want to,’” they said.

The trader questioned where the development stood and “what type of consultation or communication has there been with the tenants, locals, and stakeholders?”

“The answer is the landlord doesn’t know, and I don’t mean that in a bad way, they just don’t know what they’re doing.”

With the economic market having also “shifted enormously” in recent months, the business owner said they would be surprised if the project got off the ground at all.

“There’s no builders, there’s no materials, costs have gone through the roof, and when you build an office tower, you look around and they’re empty everywhere,” they said.

“I don’t think it’s going to happen. I don’t know how they make a business case for spending a billion dollars when they don’t know what it’s worth when they finish building it.”

“You’ve got to wipe the whiteboard clean and start again. Is there a business case for this



With the economic market having also “shifted enormously” in recent months, the business owner said they would be surprised if the project got off the ground at all.



development or not? I don’t think there is – not that I’m privy to the details or feasibility study but all the big pieces have moved in the wrong direction.”

The owner added they had noticed about four of the more than a dozen food court shops open in late September, as there’s “no certainty about their leases going forward so they’ve left. It’s pretty sobering.”

Other businesses told *Southbank News* they haven’t “heard anything” since early this year, with one noting “when the ownership changed, a decision at that time was in limbo”.

Executive officer of the Yarra River Business Association Tim Bracher said it was “very excited” about the transformation proposed by ESR and “it offers to be a sounding-board for the company on behalf of the business community generally”.

“However, we would also urge ESR to

directly engage with those businesses most affected as soon as possible, to end the uncertainty and speculation around the precinct at the moment,” he said.

Southbank Residents’ Association president Tony Penna said he would not “hold my breath” with ESR engaging with the community.

“They certainly haven’t reached out to us. We haven’t heard from them. I’m not aware of any additional changes or anything new to that development,” he said.

“It’s unlikely a developer will come to us with changes. We don’t rate on their radar.”

“We would like it but there’s only ever been one developer that has reached out to us independent of anything and that’s Beulah.”

Beulah is the developer behind STH BNK by Beulah – a \$2.8 billion project that will deliver Australia’s tallest tower to the island site encompassing Power St, City Rd and Southbank Blvd currently occupied by the BMW showroom.

“They reached out to us long before I think they put their plan together. They engaged with us and said, ‘what do residents need, what do they want?’” Mr Penna said.

President of residents’ group Southbank 3006 David Hamilton said ESR could perhaps “take a leaf out of” the Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation project after its team leaders held a community forum this year.

“It would be a learning experience for them,” he said.

In a statement last year, an ARA spokesperson said it had conducted “a number of stakeholder meetings and focus groups to date which have helped to inform our initial design and planning considerations”.

The development has been mired in controversy.

ESR Australia manages Southgate, but the owners of the complex are listed as Suntec Real Estate Investment Trust and Peninsula Investment Partners – both of which ARA Management Asset Ltd used in the purchase of Southgate in 2016. ●

Neighbourhood meetings to continue in 2023

WORDS BY *David Schout*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne has announced that it will continue hosting one meeting per month away from Melbourne Town Hall in 2023 after a “successful pilot year” of neighbourhood meetings, as Southbank prepares to host councillors on November 22.

The council will convene for one of two Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meetings (which oversees the implementation of key council strategies) per month at venues across the municipality in a bid to bolster democratic involvement.

The second FMC meeting of each month will be held in 10 different community locations, including Southbank (in November), Carlton, West Melbourne, Parkville, Docklands, South Yarra, North Melbourne, East Melbourne, Fishermans Bend and Kensington.

“Community is at the heart of everything we do. Local meetings make it so much easier for our residents and businesses to get involved with Council and connect with those representing their unique neighbourhood,” Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

“We are proud of our democratic processes at the City of Melbourne, and after a hugely successful pilot year of neighbourhood FMC meetings we’re looking forward to continuing these important conversations outside Town Hall.”

The first FMC meeting per month, plus a standard council meeting held on the last Tuesday of the month, will remain at Town Hall, the 1870-built building on Swanston St.

Neighbourhood locations have been determined based on availability of a suitable venue, with a later start time of 6pm to enable greater attendance.

Southbank will host November FMC meeting at Cliftons Melbourne, Freshwater Place on November 22 at 6pm.

More notice on key reports

The council has also indicated that, from 2023, locals could be given an extra week to consider important reports ahead of FMC and council meetings.

Ratepayers currently have less than five days to read and respond to council policy and strategy papers, and many have argued this was insufficient time.

However from next year, important documents could land in the hands of locals far earlier. After “an increasing number of requests for longer notice periods”, City of Melbourne councillors endorsed a proposal to allow an extra week’s notice for significant reports.

Currently, the council publicly released documents for a Tuesday evening meeting at 2pm the previous Thursday.

An additional seven days would more than double the time available for locals to read and consider the contents of significant reports prior to a decision being taken.

“This has been a while coming, and we’re keen to get the balance here,” Cr Rohan Leppert, who put forward the motion, said. ●

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Crown punters restricted to \$1000 cash limits

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
SAFETY & SECURITY

New laws holding Crown Casino to greater account will see a \$1000 cash limit imposed on punters after passing state parliament.

The casino giant will also have to introduce mandatory identification checks before a person can participate in gambling activities or claim winnings of more than \$1000.

The reforms are part of the Casino Legislation Amendment (*Royal Commission Implementation and Other Matters*) Bill 2022, which passed through parliament on September 20.

Patrons will be set a cash-withdrawal cap of \$1000 every 24 hours as the state government takes steps to prevent money laundering and gambling related-harm.

It comes after a royal commission on Crown last year found it had engaged in an “alarming catalogue of wrongdoing”.

Crown has one chance to reform its operations otherwise its licence will be stripped next year.

As part of the reforms, Casino patrons will be able to set time and money limits on their gaming activities through a mandatory pre-commitment system for electronic gaming machines for Australian residents in the venue.

The mandatory pre-commitment system must be implemented by no later than December 2025 to allow for the development of technologies that don't currently exist.

Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation Melissa Horne said it was holding Crown to account and delivering an additional 12 of the 33 Royal Commission recommendations by “targeting money laundering and harm minimisation – to implement every one of the Royal Commission's recommendations”.

“This legislation implements world-leading reforms to make sure the failures uncovered by the Royal Commission can never happen



again,” she said.

Last year Crown appointed a special manager to oversee the casino for two years and increased the maximum penalty for breaches from \$1 million to \$100 million.

Crown must also be limited to holding one bank account for patrons to deposit funds, which was

imposed by the Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission to prevent illegal transfers.

Other reforms included in the Bill will see Crown cover the cost of regulating the casino with the reintroduction of a supervision charge previously abolished by the Kennett government. ●

Council meets in Fishermans Bend, as recurring theme of transport rings “loud and clear”

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Calls for urgent funding for public transport connections to Fishermans Bend in the form of tram and train services were again at the centre of discussions last month, as the City of Melbourne met with locals in the precinct on September 20.

As part of its “neighbourhood series” of Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meetings held monthly in different suburbs across the municipality in 2022, councillors gathered at the Australian Road and Research Board (ARRB) on Turner St in September.

The City of Melbourne is one of two local governments, along with the City of Port Phillip, governing what is Australia's largest ever urban renewal project, overseeing the Lorimer precinct and the future Fishermans Bend employment hub north of the M1 Freeway.

The September 20 meeting heard presentations from various stakeholders about current plans in Fishermans Bend, namely the University of Melbourne, which spoke about its investment in the future national employment and innovation cluster (NEIC).

The university will begin a staged opening of a new engineering and design campus in 2025 at the former General Motors Holden (GMH) site, which was purchased by the Victorian Government to form the heart of the NEIC.

But following her presentation to the meeting, the university's Professor Julie Willis said improved public transport connections were “essential” in making its Fishermans Bend campus a “viable place to be”.

“It's essential for us to have public transport, many of our students and staff arrive to our other campuses by public transport – it's something that they expect. It improves the amount of connectivity through to city and makes it a viable place to be,” she said.

“Melbourne is very well served by its public transport, but Fishermans Bend is like a black

spot in the middle of it, with lots of roads going around it but not exactly great connection through public transport.”

“We really hope that we see that connectivity come online over time.”

Other presenters included chief operating officer of the ARRB Richard Yeo, Fishermans Bend Business Forum (FBBF) vice-president Murray Nicol and Fishermans Bend Development Board chair Meredith Sussex.

Mr Nicol said there was a sense among businesses in the precinct of “waiting for further transformation” and that the FBBF was constantly seeking out more information about the next steps from government.

“Fishermans Bend needs leadership from us all,” Mr Nicol said. “Fishermans Bend now deserves its time in the spotlight.”

While supporting the state government's vision for the precinct of 80,000 workers and 80,000 residents by 2050, Mr Nicol said this vision would only be achieved through “collaboration at all levels”.

“We believe the biggest challenge is the collaboration across the Victorian state government, the City of Melbourne, the City of Port Phillip, the [Fishermans Bend] Taskforce, and also, not to forget, the federal government, in Fishermans Bend becoming a world-renowned area,” Mr Nicol said.

His comments were supported by Meredith Sussex, who highlighted the importance of “partnerships” in her presentation while pointing out the unique challenge of urban renewal in Fishermans Bend, which was largely privately owned land.

“It's important to acknowledge that Docklands was publicly owned land. Most urban renewal around the world is done on publicly owned land. It is very unusual to be in this situation of proposing a massive urban renewal program in an area where there are 320 different private-sector owners.”

“It is really, really hard to do good urban renewal on privately owned land where development viability is fundamental.”

While supporting the state government's vision for the precinct of 80,000 workers and 80,000 residents by 2050, Mr Nicol said this vision would only be achieved through “collaboration at all levels”.



In stressing both this challenge and the scale of what was being proposed for Fishermans Bend both in terms of size and population forecasts, she said transport planning needed to be approached differently.

“Generally, we've planned transport once the demand is already overwhelming,” Ms Sussex said.

“So, what we're saying here is that the plans for development are such that the transport will be overwhelming, very soon. And that's the argument we're all taking forward from the discussions today.”

Among other key issues raised at the meeting included new governance and funding arrangements for Fishermans Bend, and the release of detailed precinct plans for Montague, Lorimer, Wirraway and Sandridge.

The council highlighted its Gateway to GMH

project, which is installing new active transport links and street greening along Turner St to the future NEIC, as well as the pop-up Gateway Hub at Shed 21 on Lorimer St among its key initiatives in the precinct.

Acting Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said the City of Melbourne was “up to the challenge of delivering a project of this ambition and this scale”, and the council would continue to use its powers of advocacy to lobby state and federal governments for public transport.

Lorimer development plans endorsed

In another exciting sign of growth in Fishermans Bend, and specifically the Lorimer Precinct, councillors unanimously endorsed an ambitious development of a Turner St site in Port Melbourne.

Developer Springbank Properties Pty Ltd has submitted plans to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to construct five new buildings in a “podium and tower format”.

Designed by Rothelwman, the five towers built upon four podiums would range in height from 31 to 50 storeys and are proposed to contain both standard and affordable housing dwellings, office space, retail premises and sports and recreation facilities.

The \$600 million plans have already attracted interest from Australian engineering and construction company Acciona Geotech, which intends to establish its new national headquarters as part of the project's first stage.

A report from council management said this investment alone was expected to create up to 860 new direct ongoing jobs within five years, and close to 2000 by 2031.

Acting Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said the plans represented a boost for innovation and the local economy of Fishermans Bend.

“The development will bring a suite of new amenities to this integral growth area, including both standard and affordable housing, office and retail space, as well as the potential for sport and recreation facilities,” Cr Reece said. ●

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Melbourne Fringe Festival turns 40

WORDS BY *Carol Saffer*
ARTS & CULTURE

The 2022 Melbourne Fringe Festival theme “it’s about time” is appropriate for an event that has 40 years of history to celebrate and three lost years to make up for due to COVID.

This year’s first-in-person Fringe Festival kicks off with an enormous free opening night 40th birthday party on October 6. The Festival itself runs through to Friday, October 23.

Southbank residents can look forward to two intriguing productions at the Fairfax Studio at the Arts Centre Melbourne.

Future Proof, bought to you by Gravity Dolls, with their signature style of circus-theatre combining new writing with extreme physicality, will deliver a whimsical, macabre fever dream that creeps under your skin before spiralling into chaos.

While we may all be in the same boat, we are not rowing in the same direction. Buckle up; no one is getting out of this dumpster fire anytime soon.

Australia’s best jugglers, Byron Hutton, Richard Sullivan and Samuel Kreusle, rip through an explosive hour of entertainment in *Escalate*, where virtuosic juggling, innovative lighting and relentless energy collide.

Be enthralled as they shape juggling into a complex and choreographic language brimming with skill and bursting with dynamism.

Southbank3006 deputy president Jannine Pattison said, “Southbank Promenade comes alive when music, performers and



▲ *Escalate* (left) and *Future Proof* by Gravity Dolls (right).



Photos by Alexis D Lea.

entertainment hit the streets.”

“The Melbourne Fringe Festival, much like the Melbourne Comedy Festival, will breathe the life back into the city as well as Southbank, the arts and cultural precinct of Melbourne, as it draws people from all walks of life into our city.”

Melbourne Fringe creative director and CEO Simon Abrahams said the expanded program of new exhibitions, dynamic public art and brand-new art precincts made it the most ambitious festival.

“Through this festival, we’re writing a history of the future,” he said.

“We’ve centred free events as our birthday gift back to the city, including free participatory

public artworks and, of course, the return of our iconic Fringe Parade.”

On Saturday, October 15, from 3pm, join or watch the parade of community groups, marching bands, trade unionists, dog walkers, drag queens, fashionistas and the public, march along Lygon St from Faraday St to Argyle Square.

The Square is the scene for a block party that will rock on until late, with two live stages featuring Fringe acts and live music, roving entertainers, and a reprisal of the famed Waiters’ Race that will keep the celebrations going.

With a long list of exhibitions and performances by extraordinary artists and organisations, there are more than 450 events planned

“

Southbank residents can look forward to two intriguing productions at the Fairfax Studio at the Arts Centre Melbourne.

”

for clubs, theatres, galleries, computer screens, parks, and bars of Melbourne.

The return of the Festival Hub at Trades Hall is greatly anticipated as well as the introduction of a Festival Park at Queen Victoria Market.

Deadly Fringe, Melbourne Fringe’s First Nations program, features brand-new works by senior and established First Nations artists exploring time, past, present, and future concepts.

Productions by LGBTQIA+ artists, including 290 trans and gender diverse artists, account for more than 51 per cent of the shows at the festival, while 238 deaf and disabled artists make up 13 per cent of festival events. ●

For more information:
melbournefringe.com.au

Public vote will choose the 2023 pride tram

WORDS BY *Carol Saffer*
ARTS & CULTURE

For the third consecutive year, a design-wrapped tram will travel in the annual Midsumma Pride March in 2023 and around its network until the end of the year.

This year, however, the public can choose the winning design for the tram.

Yarra Trams, in partnership with the Midsumma Festival and Joy Media, want the rainbow communities of Melbourne to design the next #AllAboard tram.

Yarra Trams CEO Julien Dehornoy said, “I absolutely cannot wait to see what designs Melburnians come up with for #AllAboard 2023.”

“We want to see what you think inclusion on public transport looks like and what #AllAboard means for you.”

Design submissions for the pride tram close



on September 30. A judging panel drawn from Yarra Trams, Midsumma, Joy Media, and the Department of Transport will review all entries and select five finalists.

It is then over to the public to vote for their favourite design.

The finalists’ work will be displayed online at yarratrams.com.au/AllAboard, along with a link to the voting from Friday, October 7.

The winner will be announced on Monday,

October 24, via social media and Yarra Trams website.

The tram will be wrapped in the second week of December and unveiled to the public in mid-December at Malvern tram depot.

The winning artist will be awarded \$5000 for their artwork, which will be applied to a D1-class tram and take pride of place at the 2023 Midsumma Pride March.

The second-placed artist will take home \$3000 for their design which will feature on a tram shelter in the vicinity of the Victorian Pride Centre for the Midsumma Pride March in February.

Midsumma’s CEO Karen Bryant said, “We are thrilled to be partnering with Yarra Trams to provide this important public art opportunity for LGBTQIA+ visual artists to share their talents and unique visual stories.”

The 2023 #AllAboard tram will continue to highlight Yarra Tram’s message that it

celebrates Melbourne’s diverse communities and welcomes those from all walks of life aboard its trams and network.

As the tram rolls along the route of the Midsumma Pride March, Yarra Trams workers are expected to march alongside this symbol of inclusion and diversity as they have done in previous years.

JOY is Australia’s LGBTQIA+ independent media organisation, made up of the diverse voices of the rainbow.

Joy CEO Ange Barry said it was excited to be recognised on the iconic Pride Tram.

“We are proud to be featured alongside the successful artist’s original work and to be seen and celebrated by Melburnians as the Pride Tram winds its way along our beautiful streets, and of course, as the lead of our Pride March,” she said.

The current #AllAboard D-class tram is wrapped in the colours of the Progress Pride flag and operates on routes 5, 6, 16, and 72. ●

Southbank’s riverside gallery of Zen

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
ARTS & CULTURE

Since the reopening of Southgate’s shopping precinct in October last year, Mystik River Art Gallery has been successfully creating a space of calm among an otherwise busy strip of restaurants and shops.

The gallery, which houses a wide range of Buddha sculptures and contemporary art, was originally opened in seaside Brighton before moving to the riverside.

This decision to move was made due to gallery owner Roman Romanoff and his daughter Lolita Romanoff, who is the gallery director, seeing the potential in reaching more people through the current location.

“This gallery is beautiful to be in and all of us are really proud of the space we have created here,” Mystik River Art Gallery team leader Darcy Poynter said.

“The response of others when they are inside the gallery is that it is really Zen, calming and interesting, and they can see our passion for the business and get excited about our beautiful pieces.”

The refurbished modern gallery’s art comes from seven different artists from India, and the pieces are often made through the use of

ancient techniques.

“The techniques and processes of creating the art and sculptures have been passed down for generations,” Ms Poynter said.

“[The artists] use ancient techniques that we are keeping alive by selling their art, and it is really important to us that we are supporting living artists.”

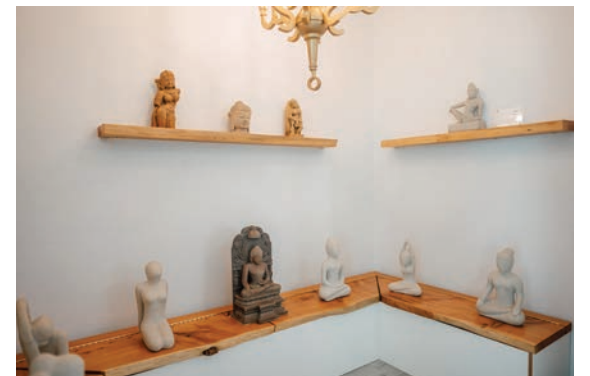
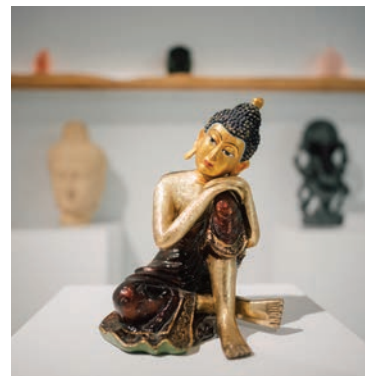
Keeping its strong roots and connection with India alive, Mystik River Art Gallery works closely with Gallery Mystica in India.

This strong connection came about when Mr Romanoff was living in India and used to pass the gallery every day on his way to work, fascinated by all the sculptures he would continue to see.

The owner of the store then one day approached him and invited him in, and the friendship continued on as Mr Romanoff fell in love with Indian culture, art, and Buddhism, and opened what is Mystik River Art Gallery today.

“The gallery is not just to sell art but to also showcase a different lifestyle, way of living, thinking and being, and connecting spiritually with the world in a way that doesn’t necessarily have to be religious,” Ms Poynter said.

To better showcase to the community different ways to connect with Indian culture and Buddhism, the Mystik River Art Gallery offers workshops.



The Saturday and Sunday workshops are quite intimate and generally fit about eight people, with a selected host taking the workshop for one to two hours.

Already on the schedule before the end of the year is the chakra workshop with Sidney Urban on October 16 between 11am and 1pm, and the herbal tea workshop with Lewin Naturopathy on November 5 at the same time.

The chakra workshop will take attendees through the seven chakras (centres of spiritual power in the human body) individually with a focus on aromatherapy, philosophy and meditation, and the herbal tea workshop will show attendees through a range of homemade natural

tea blends with medicinal benefits.

A traditional Japanese tea ceremony and a Japanese ink drawing workshop are also scheduled to take place at the gallery in October and December.

To find out more about the workshops held within the gallery, or to get your hands on some of the new works being shipped in shortly, visit the gallery in-person or online. ●

For more information:
mystikriver.com.au

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Your City of Melbourne community update



OUR SUSTAINABLE CITY

HOW MELBOURNE WILL BE POWERED BY 100 PER CENT RENEWABLE ENERGY BY 2030 AND ACHIEVE ZERO NET EMISSIONS BY 2040

Melbourne has bold goals to be powered by 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030

Cities consume about 75% of the world's energy. So it makes sense that cities are where the climate crisis can be averted.

Like all cities around the world, Melbourne is facing a host of challenges that call for innovative solutions to ensure we retain our famed liveability.

Chief among those challenges is arguably the greatest challenge of our time - climate change and its impacts on communities.

By 2030, the CSIRO predicts Melbourne will be significantly affected by warmer temperatures and heatwaves, lower rainfall, intense storm events and flash flooding.

By 2070, we are predicted to be experiencing more than double the number of heat waves, an 11 per cent reduction in rainfall and a significant increase in storm events. These climate

changes will have a huge impact on businesses and the community.

The City of Melbourne strives to be a leader in responding to climate change, reducing our carbon footprint, building resilience and increasing urban biodiversity.

Melbourne's eco-city credentials are strong. We are proud to be a member of the C40 Leadership Group and the 100 Resilient Cities Network.

Being recognised internationally for our efforts addressing climate change means we also have the great privilege of setting an example for other cities.

This month, Lord Mayor Sally Capp will travel to Buenos Aires, Argentina for the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group (C40) World Mayors Summit 2022.

It is the first major climate convention of city leaders since COVID-19, and

precedes COP 27 in Egypt in November.

At this summit, the Lord Mayor will share the City of Melbourne's biggest and boldest goals to fight climate change.

'The City of Melbourne will be a city powered by 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030, and reach zero net emissions by 2040,' the Lord Mayor said.

"Since declaring a climate and biodiversity emergency in 2019, we've worked tirelessly to transition our city to a more sustainable and environmentally friendly place.

'We are committed to being a global leader on climate action and are delivering emission reduction initiatives that are commensurate with that declaration,' she said.

Our organisation directly contributes less than 1 per cent of the municipality's emissions and has limited control to regulate the remaining 99 per cent.

That's why we're using our position to influence the community to take action too.

We're setting the standard in climate action and sustainability in many ways.

Our operations have been certified carbon neutral every year since 2012.

Our major events such as Moomba, Melbourne Fashion Week, Melbourne Music Week and Melbourne Knowledge Week are certified carbon neutral too.

GREEN POWERED

In 2017, the City of Melbourne led the transition away from coal through a 10-year, \$200 million renewable energy group purchase agreement.

In an Australian-first, the Melbourne Renewable Energy Project saw a group of local governments, universities and corporations collectively purchase renewable energy.

We've now delivered two energy purchasing agreements, reducing the equivalent of 5 per cent of the city's emissions - leading Melbourne to be the first capital city council in Australia powered by 100 per cent renewable energy.

Energy is flowing into the power grid from the wind turbines at the Pacific Hydro wind farm at Crowlands, near Ararat.

Every light on our streets, every treadmill in our gyms and every barbecue in our parks is now powered by renewable energy.

This model has been replicated across Australia and enabled production of 8GW of renewable energy.

POWER MELBOURNE

Power Melbourne will establish a network of coordinated neighbourhood-scale batteries to deliver more affordable energy into the grid.

Environment portfolio lead Councillor Rohan Leppert said 'we're going big with Power Melbourne'.

'Delivering at a scale that is large enough to support the grid, participate in energy markets and provide a meaningful benefit to our community,' Cr Leppert said.

'Neighbourhood battery technology is in its infancy in Australia, and we're proud to be leading the way in creating cleaner energy solutions in Australia with Power Melbourne.'

Many residents and businesses in our municipality are locked out of the renewable energy market. Those who rent or live in an apartment are often unable to install solar panels, and we know from market research that selecting an affordable green power option can be difficult.

Through Power Melbourne, we'll install a network of batteries around the city to create a virtual energy grid.

Local rooftop solar will charge the batteries, allowing renewable energy to be stored, then released back into the electricity grid when it's needed most.

'Not only will Power Melbourne provide access to affordable green energy for tens of thousands of local residents and small businesses, it will also reduce emissions and contribute to a more sustainable future,' Cr Leppert said.

We're exploring suitable locations for Power Melbourne batteries on council-owned buildings, including Queen Victoria Market, Library at the Dock, Kensington Recreation Centre and Council House 2 in the CBD.

We'd like to know what you think about neighbourhood batteries and how we can make it easy to switch your energy bills to a Power Melbourne plan.

From 26 September to 31 October, have your say at **participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/power-melbourne**



We're exploring suitable locations for Power Melbourne batteries on council-owned buildings

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ZERO CARBON BUILDINGS

More than 60 per cent of emissions in Melbourne come from commercial buildings.

We've recently formed a partnership with universities and private businesses to reduce emissions from these buildings.

We're taking a lead role pursuing more sustainable planning requirements to ensure our neighbourhoods and buildings are built to the highest quality and environmental standards, and aligned to best practice in the Australian industry.

We've introduced planning scheme amendments to ensure new development contributes to achieving our sustainability and green infrastructure goals, and ultimately helps to tackle the climate and biodiversity emergency.

Now we're committed to supporting and refurbishing older buildings to improve their energy efficiency.

BREATH is an innovative new retrofit project which aims to improve air quality and ventilation within commercial buildings and move the city closer to its goal of zero carbon buildings.

The project pilot tested and evaluated three types of ventilation systems over three months.

It found simple changes to ventilation systems can significantly decrease the transmission of COVID-19 and reduce energy consumption in office buildings. It's given us the knowledge to predict the best type of retrofit to achieve these aims.

We're set to begin consultation with the building industry so we can work together to ensure buildings in our municipality are zero carbon ready by 2040.

The initial phase will focus on commercial buildings, including high rise residential apartments which contain commercial space.

From 4 October, share your thoughts with us at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au



We're consulting with the building industry to ensure city buildings are zero carbon ready by 2040

ZERO WASTE CITY

We are committed to reducing food waste and diverting it from landfill by implementing food and garden organic waste solutions tailored to different buildings within the municipality.

We are aiming to increase overall waste diverted from landfill by 50 per cent by 2025. More than 22,000 City of Melbourne households use our Food and Garden Organic (FOGO) Service.

As part of our mission to be a Zero Waste City, we have already diverted more than 1200 tonnes of organic material from landfill - that is the equivalent weight of 46 trams.

Our waste trucks then pick up the garden waste for processing.

Here, it is turned into nutrient-rich compost to be used on Victorian farms and City of Melbourne parks and gardens.



Our FOGO program is aimed at moving towards a more circular economy

We continue to roll out Food and Garden Organic service across the municipality - with the service being extended to high-rises next.

Our FOGO program is aimed at moving towards a more circular economy, where we design out waste wherever possible, and reuse and repair items as a priority.

From 3 October to 27 November, have your say on how we can incentivise waste reduction and encourage recycling, at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/waste-charge

COOLING OUR CITY

Our goal is to cool summertime temperatures in our city by 4C by 2040.

We'll achieve this by doubling our tree canopy to 40 per cent and increasing the permeability of our city's surfaces.

We plant 3000 trees every year to reduce the heat island effect in the city.

And we continue to work with developers to incorporate more green roofs in the CBD and to advocate for more greening in the city.

Our Urban Forest Fund provides financial support to new greening projects that otherwise would not be funded.

We'll soon announce the latest Urban Forest Fund grant recipients to create a greener, more sustainable city.



Our goal is to cool summertime temperatures in our city by 4C

'City greening projects like these are essential to adapting our city to a changing climate, supporting its continual transformation into a thriving urban forest,' Cr Leppert said.

'Together, these projects will increase our climate resilience by improving biodiversity and canopy cover, reducing air pollution and mitigating impacts of the urban heat island effect.'

GREENLINE TO BE A COOL ROUTE

While we work to cool the city, we're also exploring new ways people can keep cool when moving about the city.

We've developed our Cool Routes website to enable users to plot thermally comfortable journeys walking and cycling journeys across the municipality.

Cool Routes takes into account the time of day, the city architecture and surrounds to give users not necessarily the fastest route, but the route best protected from the sun and heat.

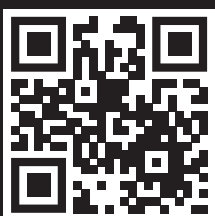
The Greenline Project will transform the northern bank of our city's waterway, delivering a continuous four-kilometre promenade of parks and public space. It will become a designated cool route.

The project will return areas of harsh concrete to its natural riverbank state, improving the flora and fauna of our river and increasing canopy cover by 40 per cent along the northbank.

Not only will it deliver a \$60 million benefit from protecting and enhancing the environment but it will also decrease discharge to improve water quality, improve soil quality and enhance greening, and establish ecological corridor for habitats.






The Greenline Project will create a dedicated cool route through the city



KEEP IN TOUCH

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VCA celebrates 50 years while looking ahead to the future

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
ARTS & CULTURE

Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) is focusing its attention forward as it spends the remainder of the year celebrating its 50-year rich history as a highly-respected and creative educational institution here in Southbank.

Leading the celebrations and the launch of the VCA Director's Dialogue Series, is the newly appointed director of VCA, Professor Emma Redding.

Speaking with *Southbank News* on the exciting and informative Dialogue Series, Professor Redding said the idea of "focusing forward" really stood out as the overriding theme of the four individual talks making up the series.

"The talks we are doing really pose important questions for us all to ponder on that can't be easily answered, but we have to be asking these questions and listening to each other," Professor Redding said.

"What we are trying to do is put ourselves out there, ask questions and make ourselves vulnerable, and I think we are being quite brave by putting ourselves behind some quite difficult themes."

The first talk took place on September 13 and covered the theme of "arts for wellbeing and wellbeing for artists", an area in which Professor Redding is highly trained having previously researched the arts for health and wellbeing.

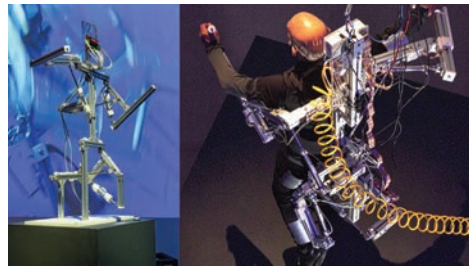
At the beginning of the session, a number of renowned speakers were asked to talk on the topic without any further direction, and what came from it was an expansive session on caring for Country, the environment, and for self in order to, therefore, care for others.

The next talk on October 11 will discuss "celebrating intersectionality and inclusion in the arts", followed by "creative technologies and intertwined innovation" on November 8, and "future forward: emerging artists now" on November 29.

"Having arrived at VCA, the way in which



▲ *Directors Dialogues HERO IMAGE: Spencer Harrison, Installation View, 2021. Image by Drew Echberg*



▲ *Art and technology talk: StickMan / miniStickman, Stelarc, RMIT Gallery 2022*

Indigenous knowledge is absolutely front and centre was really humbling to see and there is an unwavering commitment to have a diverse and multicultural arts organisation," Professor Redding said.

"VCA has [also] always made quite a commitment in the faculty to invest in digital technology, as we know we are co-existing with technology. Coming out of the pandemic, where arts were put online, we learnt so much about the way art is being transformed and sold digitally."

"Lastly, a difficult but exciting [talk] is about how to train an artist and what we should equip artists with as they are training and being educated with us, in a future that is so unknown



▲ *VCA founders.*



▲ *Arts for wellbeing talk: Motherland by Patricia Piccinini from "A Miracle Constantly Repeated", Rising at Flinders Street Station, Melbourne, Australia, 2021.*

and so fast-changing."

Professor Redding has now been in the position for seven months after coming to the Southbank campus from the United Kingdom where she trained at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in London as a contemporary dance practitioner.

Following her experience performing professionally in the UK, the United States and Asia, Professor Redding was then involved in dance science and did a Masters in sport science and a PhD in biological science.



▲ *VCA director Professor Emma Redding.*

This combination of training and studies has not only equipped Professor Redding to be VCA's first ever performing arts director in the position, but to also realise that VCA is "absolutely up there as a world class arts school".

To celebrate its prestige and dedication to the fine arts during the past 50 years, VCA is also having a tea party for the college's alumni and donors on its official anniversary on November 30.

Anyone interested in attending the series and being a part of important forward-thinking discussions while celebrating VCA's strong identity, can book tickets online.

Alternatively, VCA is also filming each series with plans to edit packages together to be shared widely. ●

For more information:
eventbrite.com/cc/vca-directors-dialogue-series-1067329

SOUTHBANK NEWS

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Nervous moment for world champion barista

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*
ARTS & CULTURE

The coffee-making trial of the Australian contender in the World Barista Championship had just finished at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre at South Wharf last month.

The body language of Anthony Douglas suggested he was glad it was over. There had been more hype than the Olympics.

Not only did he have to perform at the centre of a stadium for 800, but he had to do his own commentating.

Anthony appeared nervous, stepping out into the limelight after delivering his final drinks.

Had his espressos been up to the mark with the new machine they'd brought in? Had the judges accepted the high-tech desiccated milk in his white coffees?

The barista championship is about taste and performance, and it was up to Anthony to express his coffee philosophy.

"My goal today is to build trust," he said, while working up to his finale beverage. "Every cup of coffee is a promise. I want to create trust and deliver."

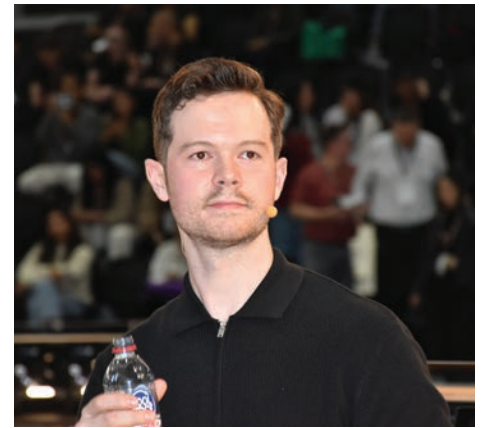
The crowd cheered as he placed the signature drinks in front of the judges. He wouldn't know if he'd won until an announcement later in the day at 4pm.

"It's moments like this that are so important for the progression of this industry we're all a part of," he said, before taking a bow.

But that wasn't the end of his ordeal. Next came the post-mortem. This was when the crowd learned that Anthony was part of a team groomed by Axil Coffee Roasters. He even had a coach.

Team members sat up at a bench with a compere and revealed how they'd been working for months on the technical details of the coffee and practising every day.

They'd tried out hundreds of coffees, tested grinders and experimented with a variety of milks including desiccated milk which gave



▲ *Anthony Douglas at the heats of the World Barista Championship.*

them a "fourth gear or variable" in terms of allowing the flavours to cut through the milk.

"I did make sure to explore all the variables, to take full control at a competition level," Anthony explained.

That meant beating off 49 contestants from around the world, having already won the Australian championship, and during his 15 minutes on stage at the Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre, making a total of 12 drinks for the four judges, an espresso, a white coffee and a signature drink for each.

He must have conquered their palettes (with his plum, sultanas, cranberry and sweet toffee hints) for the announcement came through finally, an hour late, at 5pm.

Australia had won against five other finalists, some with quite flamboyant stage presences.

Anthony Douglas was now World Barista Champion, and the title is a big deal, according to industry observers. "It's like winning the Formula One of coffee."

The barista from Dandenong who was raised on instant coffee and fell into the industry by chance was now "set for life". ●

Arts Precinct

NGV International explores the complex global movement of people and resources

The exchange of knowledge, natural resources, luxury and technologies across the globe will be explored in depth at the NGV International through its latest exhibition The Global Life of Design.

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

The exhibition opens to the public on October 6 and will feature more than 100 NGV Collection works that have either been created from, or in response to, materials that came about through global trade.

Using a wide range of materials and items, from exquisite garments made from silk and muslin, to elaborate teaware and ostrich feathers, *The Global Life of Design* will showcase precisely how the exchanging of commodities have influenced design, and vice versa.

"Art and design have always been shaped by the movement of people and resources," NGV director Tony Ellwood said.

"Placing historical and contemporary design from the NGV Collection in conversation, indeed many for the very first time, this cross-collection exhibition reveals the influence of global trade and exchange on design traditions from the Middle Ages to the current day."

Due to an expansive selection of works, the collections will be presented across four thematic sections – knowledge, natural resources, luxury and technologies – to further explore the



▲ Dress c.1815, cotton, wool 118.5cm (centre back), National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne Purchased, NGV Supporters of Fashion and Textiles, 2018.



▲ Fan 1870-80, ostrich feathers, tortoiseshell, gold, brass, metal, 46.8 x 74.4 x 3.9cm (variable), National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, The Schofield Collection, Purchased with the assistance of a special grant from the Government of Victoria, 1974.



▲ Flax Chair designed 2015, manufactured 2017, Flax fibre (Linum usitatissimum), polylactic acid, 83.1 x 52.0 x 54.5cm, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Purchased with funds donated by Gordon Moffatt AM, 2018. Photo: Christien Meindertsma.

exchanges that occurred in the past and continue on in the present.

The exhibition aims to inform and, perhaps surprise, visitors on the complex legacy of global trade, its entanglement with colonialism, and how networks continue to impact design practices today.

Among the works on display is an 1820s English dress made from fine diaphanous muslin, the work (titled *Dress*) speaks into how particular textiles were luxury commodities within this era, and how muslin was introduced to England from India in the 17th century.

Another noticeable reflection made within the exhibition is the movement of production based on where labour is cheaper, and Christien Meindertsma's *Flax chair* work is directed at speaking volumes into this.

The work is made from a new bioplastic material composed of flax and polylactic acid, and while the processing of flax for cloth could be done in the Netherlands in the past, the Dutch linen mills now lie dormant as flax is exported to large textile factories in Asia.

The Netherlands' role in the early days of modern global trading are also reflected upon in Gerritt Berckheyde's oil painting of the Amsterdam Town Hall, which has been used to symbolise the wealth and power the country gained from those days.

As an expansive exhibition with a notable agenda to raise discussions, *The Global Life of Design* is a free exhibition and in place at the NGV International until January 29 next year. ●

For more information:
ngv.vic.gov.au

The supposed "Dark Lady" of Shakespeare's sonnets shares her truth

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

Three-time Olivier Award-winning stage show *EMILIA* is gracing the stage of Arts Centre Melbourne for its Australian debut from November 10 to 27.

A West End success, the show has been a consistent and powerfully historic drama with a drive to unapologetically champion all women in the process.

Created amid the "Me Too" era, British playwright of *EMILIA*, Morgan Lloyd Malcolm, said this period of time and the bravery of all the women speaking out fuelled the production into what it was today.

"This show was an absolute joy to make and perform but it also opened up important conversations about whose stories we tell and how we tell them," Ms Lloyd Malcolm said.

"I wish I could say things have changed for the better since then, but it honestly feels like things have been getting even worse. So, perhaps we

need this show, and others like it, even more." *EMILIA* is inspired by 17th century poet and revolutionist Emilia Bassano who is known as one of the first women to be published as a professional poet, and she is often deemed the supposed "Dark Lady" of Shakespeare's sonnets.

Emilia is not only a writer and supposed muse, but also a wife, lover and mother, and she had a drive to have her voice heard as a "woman in a man's world".

"This mock historical play by the astonishingly sharp Morgan Lloyd Malcolm shows just how vivid and charmingly powerful *EMILIA* is," Arts Centre Melbourne director of programming Edwina Lunn said.

"*EMILIA* is elevated to the epitome of a feminist wrecking ball – a commanding voice and a modern hero of our times. She is every one of us."

A mixing together of comedy and fury, *EMILIA* is described as a rollicking ride that takes audiences on an exuberant and moving journey through love, loss, identity, ambition, power and rebellion. In 2020, it won the Olivier Awards for Best Enter-



tainment or Comedy Play, Best Costume Design and Best Sound Design, and it is through the drive

and collaboration from Arts Centre Melbourne, Essential Theatre and Geelong Arts Centre that it is gracing Melbourne for the first time.

Lead actors Manali Datar, Cessalee Stovall and Lisa Maza, each take on the role of Emilia alongside a team made up entirely of women and non-binary creatives from diverse cultural backgrounds.

It's a decision that only continues to speak into the drive of the female-led Essential Theatre, which has spent 20 years exploring Shakespeare through a female lens and will be celebrating its 20th anniversary presenting *EMILIA*.

"We knew we had to present this in Australia. We were immediately inspired and invested so we contacted the playwright, Morgan Lloyd Malcolm, within 24 hours," Essential Theatre producers Amanda LaBonté and Sophie Lampel said.

"We'll never forget hearing the final speech from *EMILIA* on a podcast and knowing in our bones we had to bring this extraordinary production to Australia." ●

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▲ Because the Night (left), and Made in China by Wang Chong (right).

Inside the creative minds at the Malthouse

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

The Malthouse Theatre has scrapped its subscriber model so that it can bring fresh plays and create more versatility in the program, a move that has been lauded by industry sources.

Instead of announcing a year's program at once and be locked in by a commercial system, the Malthouse will announce plays in stages.

"We've never had a chance to do this before," said artistic director Matthew Lutton, who confided in critics and industry people at a small launch of the new program.

He said the lockdown had given the theatre the chance to work with new ideas, nurture writers and focus on "what's best told on stage".

One new idea trialled during this long period of complications was an immersive play that ran all 2021 and allowed audiences to be less "passive".

While some observers are critical of audience participation, the play *Because the Night* took over the entire theatre and was artistically successful, while complying with the audience density rules of the lockdown.

"You didn't have to wear a cloak," one observer told *Southbank News*. "You could stand at the back and watch without getting too involved."

The Malthouse announced five new plays that went on sale in September, with priority given to patrons who wish to pay \$50 for the privilege.

"The new system will allow us to keep the program fresh," Mr Lutton said. The model is based on one from the UK.

He said that most of the new plays

will be debuts by writers nurtured during the lockdown. The Malthouse put in extra effort to connect with writers during this period, he said, and actively sought them out.

Industry sources applaud the move and say that the past few years of programming at the Malthouse have been "hit and miss".

The observer said that the new system would mean that plays were not rushed onto stage before they were ready.

One of the more exciting ideas, a one-person show called *Made in China*, will be created at the Malthouse by director Wang Chong, and premiered in Boston.

"Wang Chong is in great demand," Mr Lutton said, and referred to Boston as an outer city for the Malthouse.

Made in China will provide rare insight into what happens inside China by looking into the mind of an artist and provocateur.

The moves will also create more space in the program for another immersive event in the last part of the year to be held in the Merlin, which will once again create a number of alternative worlds for audiences.

The director's tips for the first part of the 2023 program are *Loaded*, a play based on Christos Tsiolkas's novel, a production that had to be released in audio during the lockdown.

Also coming up is *Nosferatu*, "a symphony of horrors in a subverted vampire narrative" set in Tasmania and directed by Bridget Balodis.

"It has the same talented director as *K-Box* which was a sell-out," Mr Lutton said. ●



▲ Malthouse artistic director and co-CEO Matthew Lutton.

Malthouse Theatre building works to continue into 2023 with positive outcomes ahead

WORDS BY Kaylah-Joelle Baker

While the Malthouse Theatre has been busy working on improving the exterior of its heritage building since works started in June, the theatre's interior is also getting a major overhaul.

The renovations come after the major Southbank theatre space received some support from Creative Victoria in the form of \$4.6 million to revamp and improve the space being used.

Speaking at a Malthouse Theatre media preview on Wednesday, September 21, Malthouse artistic director and co-CEO Matthew Lutton said that while most of the work being done was to simply upgrade the site, some was "essential".

Of particular focus, and considered the number one priority, is the roofing which has resulted in some leaks in the past and a "ridiculous heating bill".

"Malthouse hasn't had any building love since our former renovations almost 20 years ago, and so one of the upsides of the pandemic is we had some support from Creative Victoria to upgrade our building and site," Mr Lutton said.

The bathrooms in the foyer are also getting an upgrade and following the renovations there will be additional cubicles in the bathrooms that are more modernised and accessible. The bathrooms will also be moved further back by four to five metres to allow for an extra 80 sqms to be gained in the foyer.

As well as the successful shows that continue to be showcased within the theatre spaces, the Malthouse Theatre is also well-known for its outdoor stage.

The stage has been a popular addition to Malthouse with more than 25,000 people attending 80 live music, comedy and cabaret performances and literary events in the previous two years and revamping the space will only continue to escalate this.

"The courtyard is getting a lot of attention outside and being resurfaced, and we are getting the infrastructure we need for the outdoor stage such as a permanent tech booth, and new lighting bars and dressing rooms are all being added and installed," Mr Lutton said.

Building works will still be well under way in December, with shows still resuming through this time, but it is the hope for Malthouse that within January the new refreshed courtyard and renovated bathrooms will be completed.

Mr Lutton also said that should the works take longer than



anticipated, the organised shows for the beginning of 2023 would still run as planned.

In addition to building works, Malthouse Theatre has also been revamping its online presence throughout the second half of this year.

A *Stories of M* website has been developed with the intention to provide every site visitor with an accessible archive of the theatre's rich history.

"*Stories of M* is our interactive and digital archive, and it has every show and every artist that has ever worked at the company in our 46-year history," Mr Lutton said.

"We remember our history and who we are, and we look back as we look forward." ●

For more information:
stories.malthousetheatre.com.au/timeline

An anti-cap gloss to student show

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

A giant melting marshmallow has won the 2022 Majlis Travelling Fellowship for a final year student at the Victorian College of the Arts.

The \$15,000 scholarship is awarded to an art student so they can travel and potentially pick up more capitalistic tricks.

Shannon Toth won the award for a gross installation *Beating, Bleeding, Breathing*.

Art prizes, unlike those in other industries, award conceptual thinking as well as making and the marshmallow is both authentic and big.

The exhibition of 15 finalists at the Fiona and Sidney Myer Gallery takes quite a few sugary swipes at the emptiness of neo-liberalism.

With everything from video, paintings, photographs, installation and linocut prints, the exhibition gives students the chance to make their often cynical commentaries on mainstream culture.

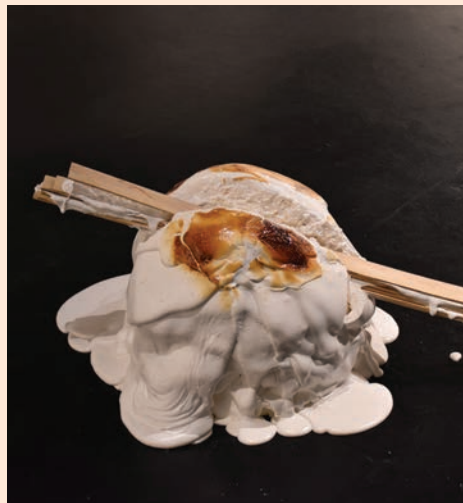


▲ Transformation Vol 2: A Romantic Incident by Jungxuan Chen.

Transformation Vol 2: A Romantic Incident by Jungxuan Chen is a witty parody of the constant portrayal of Asian women in society as "pleasing".

In three videos, an airline hostess, marriage provider and student perform their capitalist roles for the viewer.

"My love comes cheap," says the marriage



▲ A melting marshmallow by Shannon Toth.

chick as she gets marriage candidates to fill in forms at her desk.

"Ladies and gentlemen, we are now experiencing turbulence," says the hostess in her corporate setting.

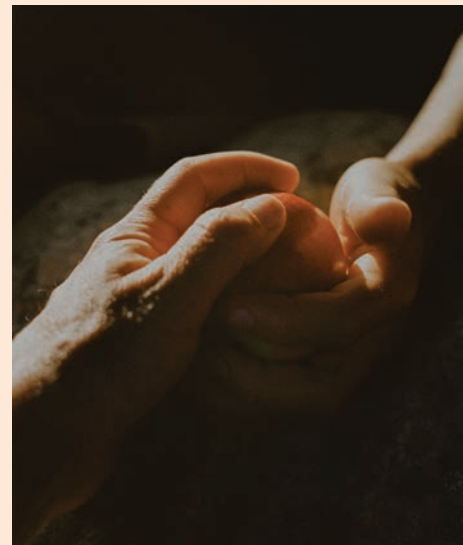
Their performances are flat and regress over time into a peep show, a commentary on the service industry and the way it offers up of subjectivities as cocktails for those with the funds.

Another great feature of this exhibition of students' minds at work is the *Smile* series of paintings by Wylie Siassios.

The smile is virtually invisible on a bold smattering of materials including acrylic paint and deodorant.

If you were looking for a theme behind the slick smile, falsehood might do it.

The ability to turn a trick into a treat is neo-liberalism's coup de grâce and it's not that far removed from the antics of these up-and-coming consumers despite their anti-cap gloss. ●



EJ HASSAN



Sharing hidden histories and truths through a lens

EJ Hassan has always found peace in capturing moments that often go unnoticed, and with only a few weeks until she graduates, she is already successfully giving a voice to the often unspoken.

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

As a mother and teacher for nearly 20 years, creating connections with other people has always been of high importance to Ms Hassan, and what eventually led her to taking photography more seriously and enrolling in Photography Studies

College (PSC).

"I wanted to do something different, and photography had always been there for me," she said.

"I love photographing people and making that connection, and that has definitely been the biggest drawcard for why I went into photography."

Despite initially thinking she would transition into commercial photography, Ms Hassan's passion for creating connection and meaning through her work led her to establishing herself within the realms of art and documentary.

"Art and documentary speak to me because I get so lost in listening to other peoples' stories, considering their perspectives, learning and growing from them, and then sharing them," she said.

"During my time at PSC I have focused on themes of identity, memory, motherhood and youth [in reference] to my boys.

"This year I have moved into [looking at]

my identity, and a mother's identity and legacy through delving into my family history and female lineage through archival documents and found imagery."

While reflecting on her vision to uncover previous female generations of her family standing up for important women rights movements in Melbourne, Ms Hassan also takes time to share the opportunities she has already had to give voice to other important topics.

Not only did she receive second place in the Australian Photography Awards 2021 under the student category and finalist spots for two other images in the documentary category, but she contributed to a notable visual petition that made its way into Parliament.

The #everydayclimatecrisis visual petition was started by photographer Hilary Wardhaugh when she put a call out to women and non-binary people in Australia to create images reflecting the coun-

try's current climate crisis.

In excess of 1200 images and personal statements were tabled in parliament and it was an experience Ms Hassan reflected on as being "incredible", and a lesson for sharing her work more.

"I'm always very aware of [the need to] keep learning and getting better and putting my work out there, it is such a process because confidence plays such a big part in that, but I am definitely learning that you just need to do it," she said.

"I am really keen to continue to create visual projects that share important stories that haven't been shared before. It's really nice to do that visually because it is a good tool." ●

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



Image by Jayde Burnett



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Southbank will be a National Arts Hub

In the three years since I was first elected as the federal member for Macnamara, Southbank has continued to be one of the fastest growing and most dynamic parts of our electorate. It is also entrenching itself as Victoria's arts hub, and this is great news for our area and our state.



Thanks to the vision of past Victorian Premiers, notably Sir Henry Bolte and Sir Rupert Hamer, we have the National Gallery of Victoria (the most visited art gallery in Australia), and the Arts Centre Melbourne (the busiest performing arts centre in Australia), which includes the State Theatre, the Playbox Theatre, the Australian Ballet House and Hamer Hall. Since 1973 the Victorian College of the Arts has been located next to the National Gallery.

Today, the Southbank area is home to more than 30 arts attractions, venues and organisations, and approximately three million people visit these venues every year. Quite apart from their cultural value to the whole city and state, these venues sustain hundreds of businesses and thousands of jobs in the Southbank area, which is one reason why it is attracting so many new residents.

After an almost total shutdown during the COVID pandemic, the Southbank arts scene is now recovering, and is generating new business and new jobs for our local community.

This great project requires co-operation between federal, state and local governments. We have been fortunate in having Martin Foley as our state member for Albert Park since 2007. Martin was Minister for Creative Industries from 2014 to 2020 and has been a powerful advocate both for the Southbank area and the



Melbourne Arts Precinct.

Martin is retiring at the state election in November. His successor as the Labor candidate is Nina Taylor, who has been a member of the Legislative Council for our area since 2018. Nina is a Southbank local, who has been a strong supporter of the Arts Precinct project and I'm sure that as Member for Albert Park she will continue Martin's advocacy for the Southbank community.

At the federal level, the previous Coalition government cut funding to the arts in successive budgets over its nine years in office. While prestige flagship companies like Opera Australia were shielded, the brunt of these cuts fell on smaller community arts organisations, as well as on the ABC. These cuts directly impacted many of the arts organisations based in Southbank.

This was extremely short-sighted. Before

COVID struck, the arts sector contributed around \$50 billion to Australia's GDP, more than returning the taxpayer's investment in the sector. It is in Australia's economic interest to help the arts sector recover from the COVID shutdown as quickly as possible. But not only did the Coalition government cut spending on the arts, they failed to develop a national cultural policy to support the recovery of the sector, and to increase its cultural and economic impact.

Since May we have had a new federal Arts Minister, Tony Burke, who has been a consistent advocate of a national arts policy.

We cannot expect miracles overnight. Given Australia's budget circumstances, it will not be possible to restore immediately the levels of funding which existed before the Coalition government's cuts.

But it will be possible to develop a coherent national arts policy, with a federal government that works closely with the states and with the arts community to make the most of Australia's rich cultural resources and repair some of the damage caused by COVID and by nine years of neglect.

At the heart of that grand enterprise will be the Melbourne Arts Precinct, with Southbank at its heart. ●



Josh Burns

FEDERAL MP FOR MACNAMARA
JOSH.BURNS.MP@APH.GOV.AU

ABORIGINAL MELBOURNE

Layers of Blak exhibition returns for a second year

Eleven Victorian First Nations Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and designers have been chosen for their unique talents and ideas to present their stories through exquisite contemporary jewellery.



▲ STOP KILLING COUNTRY by Nikki Browne (Bidjara). Photo: Fred Kroh.

WORDS BY Kaylah-Joelle Baker

Taking layered jewellery to a new meaning, the completed works, which will be displayed at the Koorie Heritage Trust from October 1 until February 19, will unveil stories of healing, resilience, collaboration and empowerment.

Selected as a First Nations artist to participate in being taught new skills in jewellery making and refining what jewellery means through the use of found objects and natural

materials, is Nikki Browne.

As a Wurundjeri country-based Bidjara artist who works mainly in sculptures, Ms Browne is inspired by her love of Country, environment, wildlife and culture.

"My sculpture pieces are always predominantly related to Country and everything has to have a message and a story, so normally my stories are about protecting the environment,

our waterways, and our Country," she said.

"[Jewellery making] is just another medium to express that."

Ms Browne's jewellery has come together through the use of gifted sea urchin shells, sewing machine cogs she found and gum leaves that fell upon her one day and spoke into a memory from her childhood.

"Growing up, my mum's best friend had this great big blue gum tree with these amazing big gum leaves, and I used to paint them and gift them to my family for Christmas," she said.

"The sea urchin shells and the gum leaves talk to protecting Country, and they link together with the sewing machine cogs which speak to the industry [sector] needing to make smarter, more eco-friendly choices."

"It represents care for Country, our old-growth forests being logged and pollution."

As a program that allowed Ms Browne to encourage everyone to "all do a small part to help the environment", she said it was one of the best things she had ever done.

"I am so chuffed to have been a part of it and come out with such an amazing experience," she said. "I cannot thank Koorie Heritage Trust,

the artists, designers, jewellers and everyone involved enough for their time and support."

"We have come from all different places and have come out with new friendships, a community and an absolutely amazing experience, and people will be quite moved by the collection of work."

Following the exhibition, the participating artists will find continual support as the program strives to foster First Nations cultural innovation within the Victorian design sector.

The *Layers of Blak* exhibition is an outcome from the Blak Design program, a program developed in partnership with the National Gallery of Victoria and RMIT University with the support of the Ian Potter Foundation.

Among the selected participants with work displayed are Thelma Austin (Gunditjmarra), Mandi Barton (Yorta Yorta/Barapa Barapa/Wemba Wemba), Lorraine Brigdale (Yorta Yorta), Deanne Gilson (Wadawurrung), Tammy Gilson (Wadawurrung), Elijah Money (Wiradjuri), Yasmin Silveira (Palawa), Sammy Trist (Taungurung), Dominic White (Palawa) and Tracy Wise (Barkindji Ngiyampaa Maligundij). ●

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WE LIVE HERE

Cash to ditch short stays!

A city in Arizona, USA is implementing an innovative plan to enhance housing availability for locals.

The city's "Rent Local" program aims to lure Airbnb hosts in Sedona away from the holiday platform with significant cash incentives.

A host can receive up to US\$10,000 (about AUD\$14,500) to remove their short-term listings from Airbnb and revert to long-term rental.

In an exquisitely ironic twist, the bold move targeting hosts on short-stay platforms has the firm imprimatur of the local tourism industry.

Local tourism operators have been pressuring the council to fix a housing shortage that has driven their workforce out of town. The economic reasoning is that no housing means no workers means no tourism industry. The controversy and its coverage with the local media has inspired the council's courageous move this month.

The council insists the move will improve housing options for locals in a climate of rent increases and general uncertainty in the real estate market.

The city council will grant US\$3000, US\$6000 or US\$10,000 to Airbnb hosts depending on whether the listing is a room, studio apartment or whole property. Properties qualify if they are rented for a minimum term of 12 months to someone employed in the city – a clear indicator of the council's socioeconomic objectives.

State election – is anybody listening?

Meanwhile, here in Victoria, we are struggling to get even the most basic of regulations, such as registration of short stays. We have been pressing the government to introduce a cap on the number of short-stay nights per year for each listing, a regulation already adopted in New South Wales

and in so many jurisdictions around the world. We have also invited opposition parties to make policy announcements along these lines. So far, only the Greens have done so.

With the election looming, there is an unmissable opportunity for all candidates to stand up and support a policy that delivers these long-overdue and globally proven reforms to short-stay regulations.

Does cladding mean "covering up"?

We Live Here has received a plea from a reader trying to help a family member buy a cladding-free apartment ...

"I keep hitting a brick wall with most apartments having a history of flammable cladding or an outstanding unresolved issue with cladding – these are noted in the body corporate minutes either in the contract of sale or in the Section 32. Also, I read with interest your recent article about a similar problem with the curtain walls within buildings which I greatly appreciated."

"To save time and money, I was hoping that there was a register of buildings with cladding or curtain wall problems. However, contacting Cladding Safety Victoria and the Victorian Building Authority, they quickly went to ground and didn't want to talk about anything."

"Do you know someone of authority who could help me in steering clear of a list of buildings that may suffer from flammable cladding and or flammable curtain walls which would greatly help futureproof this first-home purchase?"

We Live Here has discussed this issue with Cladding Safety Victoria (CSV) whose website in early 2021 did indeed have a list of Aluminium Composite Panel (ACP) cladding-afflicted buildings in Melbourne.

Now, even the official "Cladding Safety Victoria Annual Work Program 2021-22" does not disclose the affected building names or details.

The information publicly available from CSV

last year included names and addresses of buildings, the number of apartments, along with photographs of the highest-risk parts of the buildings and fire engineer risk rating summaries. We Live Here has seen a copy of the list, although now it would be out of date of course because a proportion of these buildings may have commenced or completed remediation works.

This diktat leaves apartment buyers like our correspondent in the dark – with the onerous task of scouring the Section 32 pages for each apartment contemplated.

CSV has previously informed We Live Here that its determination that the list should be confidential was based on security concerns.

This is quite frustrating for apartment buyers. The public deserves a solution that balances public security and the right to know the risks associated with what is the largest investment for most.

Yet more disadvantaged, tenants in these properties are not even afforded the opportunity to peruse a property's section 32.

We Live Here has tried to obtain information from CSV about the pool of money available for remediation since the initial pool of \$600 million was announced in 2019.

We participated in discussions with CSV prior to and during the early stages of the remediation program. Since October last year, updates to us from CSV have stopped. We can only wonder what information is not being disclosed – is it too unpalatable to share?

There has been insufficient transparency about the programme from the outset – the public needs more information than has been offered.

How many buildings have been fully funded, partially funded or denied funding? How many buildings cannot obtain insurance? Is there any information about cases of buildings denied funding where the remediation runs to the tens of millions?

With an election not far away, it would be helpful if CSV could release the basic information that apartment owners and residents have a right to know – now. If we have to wait for the CSV annual report – possibly late October – there would be little time for review before the electorate votes.

Update on the reformed committee

Readers will recall that we have been following the saga of an inner-city apartment building that was saddled with a developer-controlled committee.

We have been reporting the tribulations and triumphs of one stalwart lot owner who initiated a revolt and galvanised the residents to create a fairer committee. The committee election campaign delivered some success and now we are keen to hear of reforms that restore equality and fairness.

Of note is that the case has drawn interest and support in senior civic circles. This networking accomplishment will certainly help throw a spotlight on planning decisions that have been swayed too easily by powerful developer interests.

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

CAMPAIGN@WELIVEHERE.NET
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SOUTHBANK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

What a travesty!

September was a big month for SRA having held our Annual General Meeting (AGM). This is often our highlight event of the year as we will usually have an engaging and interesting guest speaker/s. This year was no exception.

We had the pleasure to hear from general manager infrastructure at the City of Melbourne Roge Teale, and supporting him was the Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece. Once again, we had a full house.

Hearing from Roger was highly anticipated as this was his promised report of a Southbank audit of all Southbank plans after our widely attended forum "Southbank: Where to from here?" in April 2021.

In that forum I referenced the Southbank Structure Plan 2010 and queried the status of many of its components. Roger, nor the other speakers, including the Deputy CEO Alison

Leighton, were able to provide the answers. Roger took it on notice and promised the community a complete audit of all Southbank plans.

So, here we were ... Roger started by introducing a report "Southbank Report on Projects and Priorities" which was apparently published on the City of Melbourne website late last year. I was certainly taken aback that such a significant report was not brought to the community's attention and that it was just quietly uploaded.

Sadly, Roger didn't go into much detail regarding the specific aspects of the Southbank Structure Plan as I did, nor this audit report, but the big take-away was his comment that the CityLink deck was not feasible owing to the anticipated cost, somewhere around \$700 million. This was massive news for Southbank.

For years SRA has been questioning the council on this initiative of the Southbank Structure Plan particularly requesting it be costed. Over those years, all these queries and requests seem to have fallen on deaf ears as we never received any official response. However, to our surprise it appeared the Greens were listening to Southbank as at the last council elections they did cost this project and had some very innovative ways in which to fund it –

credit to Cr Rohan Leppert.

The council's open space strategy recommends 20 sqm per resident. Southbank currently sits at just over two sqm per resident. As such, the residents of Southbank are certainly feeling the impacts of a lack of open space.

SRA has particularly highlighted this to the council at each of our attempts to overturn the sale of the Boyd Park land to a developer – valuable open space which would have provided a significantly better return on council investment than the dollars grabbed from a land sale.

I can't help but feel that maybe the reason why we are in this dilemma of open space shortage is the town planners have been using the Southbank Structure Plan to inform their planning. If so, then it is understandable why there has been no serious attempts to provide the much-needed open space to Southbank if they thought the CityLink deck was always going ahead.

Yes, the council has recently allocated \$20 million in the budget to source open space for Southbank, but as I have indicated when this was announced, I don't think there is any land available in Southbank; well, certainly not for \$25 million that will meet the practical

requirements for open space.

It is a real disappointment that the council was not able to be creative with how the CityLink deck could have been achieved, but worse is that a conversation wasn't even had with the state government, let alone internally.

How do such projects even make their way into a structure plan if the council had no intention to cost them? Are they only there as a tease to residents – a carrot to silence them while they live in the clouds dreaming of their CityLink decking?

However, thank you Roger and Cr Reece for finally allowing the community to know where they truly stand with the CityLink decking and open space going forward – don't hold your breath! ●



Tony Penna

PRESIDENT
PRESIDENT@
SOUTHBANKRESIDENTS.ORG.AU



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BUSINESS

The world's biggest fitness brand on Southbank's doorstep

With more than 530 clubs nationwide, Anytime Fitness is a giant of the fitness industry.

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

According to American magazine and website, *Entrepreneur*, its 4000-plus clubs globally rank it the ninth largest in the world, mixing it with franchise heavyweights like KFC, 7-Eleven and McDonald's.

With such a monumental presence across the world, it would be easy to assume its two-and-a-half million global members would become just that, a number.

But as co-owner of Anytime Fitness Docklands Phil Edwards has seen first-hand, it is his team's personal approach that is embedding its roots in the local community.

"The response since opening back in 2016 has been phenomenal which has been great to see," Mr Edwards said. "Since then, we have become an integral part of the thriving Docklands community." "Anytime Fitness Docklands is targeted to both



▲ Anytime Fitness Docklands co-owner Phil Edwards. Photo: Murray Enders.

a residential and worker population by providing a convenient space where people can work out during lunch time or after hours, have a shower and go back to the office."

"With workers slowly coming back to the city, we have noticed an increasing number of local residents both from Docklands and surrounds who are looking for a premium fitness offering." Anytime Fitness Docklands is located a short walk across the river in the Collins Square precinct at 747 Collins St and is one of four clubs from Mr Edwards and his business partner,

Julie Mazzarella, who have more than four decades of combined experience working in the health and fitness industry.

Since opening Anytime Fitness Docklands, Mr Edwards has formed partnerships with local businesses and community groups to solidify his team's commitment to the area and grow the brand.

Now, with almost six years of service to the community under their belt, Mr Edwards told *Southbank News* the convenience of 24/7 access, state-of-the-art equipment, and inclusivity for all members, "no matter your body type, fitness level, ability, gender or background," is what attracts people to our club.

"There can be a fear of the unknown for first timers joining the fitness community, and with so many options out there, it's a matter of picking the right fit for the individual," Mr Edwards said.

"So, to have a personal touch, where our members are treated like a person not a number and are greeted when they come in and when they leave is incredibly important to us."

"Our members mean the world to us, their health and safety matter to us, we are here to hold their hand every step of their journey, no matter what that journey happens to be."

"We want our members to have the feel of belonging to something. Belonging to a community that is focused on achieving their goals."

Anytime Fitness Docklands boasts a huge range of state-of-the-art equipment, multiple training zones, functional training zones, individual showers, separate toilets, a beauty bar – where you can use hair dryers and straighteners – individual showers and bathrooms and gives members the ability to use their membership at any of the 4000-plus locations worldwide.

"For our members, convenience is everything. We love the fact that we can remove any barriers they may have in wishing to exercise, while having access not only to their home club but also any Anytime Fitness club in Australia or overseas," Mr Edwards said.

"Also included in every membership is access to the Anytime Fitness app where we further support our members with education on training and nutrition. Also included is rewards program where you are rewarded the more you work out."

Anytime Fitness Docklands is located at Shop 9B, Collins Square, 747 Collins St, Docklands. For more information: anytimefitness.com.au/gyms/au-1256/docklands-vic-3008 ●

Re-defining Melbourne's property management industry

In the last instalment of this three-part series uncovering the issues and opportunities in Melbourne's inner-city property management market with Re-define Real Estate's Philip Middlemiss, we ask "where to next?" for an industry under severe pressure.

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

Mr Middlemiss's story is a cautionary tale, not of pity-pandering, but of a need to educate and inform rental providers (landlords), tenants and agents of the dark underbelly of our city's leasing market.

After significant deliberation and a long process of due diligence, Mr Middlemiss purchased a business and with it a rent roll of 520 properties, almost entirely within Melbourne's inner-city apartment market.

What he alleges to have found, was a network of properties in various states of disrepair,

apartments overloaded with tenants and huge amounts of rental arrears.

"It was horrific," Mr Middlemiss said. "After the four-month retention period, we had a mass exodus of clients who no longer wished to use our services; most running from the requirements of the new legislation, claiming that they would be 'self-managing' their properties".

What he also uncovered was a culture of agents assisting these rental providers to avoid doing the right thing.

According to Mr Middlemiss, you need to ask yourself, how do you know if your agent is doing the right thing?

He says it is easy for these agents to discount fees when they are only doing half of the work, and cautions any investor who has secured a bargain management fee, encouraging them to look deeper into what the agent will do in return for taking the fee.

Mr Middlemiss estimates the dollar value of loss to his business in less than a year to be around \$500,000.

Instead of wallowing in both financial and personal pain from the experience, he is turning his experience into a platform to revolutionise the property management industry by bringing technology and flexibility to the forefront.

With the advent of a new arm to his business, Respect Residential, which sees a dedicated



team carrying out routine inspection for agencies, Mr Middlemiss is already in talks with other city-based agents, about how he can help divert their workload into a specialised service.

"Compliance documentation is exhaustive for rental providers and agents, working with trust accounts can be overwhelming, maintenance is time consuming and routine inspections are often dreaded; that's why I'm removing those tasks from the traditional property management job, so agents can dedicate their time to

speaking with rental providers and overcoming any issues they may have," he said.

"We now have the technology that allows our team to operate much more effectively and efficiently; we have embraced this change and have created much more flexible working conditions for those studying or returning to the workforce."

"With Respect Residential, we are offering \$40 to \$50 an hour for someone to work the hours they want and have their own business to fit in their own lifestyle."

With this revolution of a traditional property manager, or as he calls them "Relationship Managers," Mr Middlemiss is not only hoping to increase productivity, but also the quality of work and life of those within the industry. "We can do more as employers to support the mental health of our employees. We need to ensure the industry, which has already lost 30 per cent of its workforce, moves with the times and creates a safe and rewarding environment."

"If your agent is not doing the right thing, you as the landlord could be tens of thousands of dollars short at the end of your dealings, but we also need to be compassionate to those who are doing the right thing."

To discuss any issues read in this series with Mr Middlemiss please call 0402 840 674.

For more information: re-define.com.au ●

Celebrating more than two decades of property management success in the city

A lot has happened in the Melbourne since the turn of the millennium.

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

We've seen an initially frosty reception to the design of Fed Square (2002), we've seen the Commonwealth Games come and go (2006), we've seen the sad demise of iconic venues like the Palace (2014), we've even said goodbye to Metcards and welcomed the Myki (2012).

Throughout this time, there has been one constant in Melbourne's property management game: Jill Anderson.

As founder of local property management agency, Leasing Melbourne, it's not the moments in local history which have shaped Ms Anderson's career but the people she has met and the relationships she has developed along the way.

"It is relationship-building that I really enjoy – I call myself the CBD concierge," she said. "The highlight of my career has been all the

people I have met and the places I have seen; I've walked into so many beautiful apartments."

"Sometimes you walk up to a door and wonder what's going to be behind it, but I'm constantly surprised by what people can do with their interiors."

Ms Anderson is a traditionalist. She likes things done the old way, with a personal touch, face to face or at the very least over the phone.

It's how she has built and grown her agency organically from the ground, since opening her own agency in 2000 to surviving the global financial crisis, and now, a global pandemic.

In a world where a growing number of real estate agencies outsource property management admin work offshore, Leasing Melbourne provide a truly tailored and boutique service offering.

"Because we have grown the business organically, I feel we are much more hands on and personalised in our service, I feel that is our point of difference; being able to provide answers straight away and talk through problems and find solutions," Ms Anderson said.

"Fletcher Anderson joined the business in 2005 and his genuine interest in IT and photography was a huge benefit for the growth of the business and keeping us current; as the industry



▲ Left to right: Leasing Melbourne's Anna Krilis, Kerri Hotton, founder Jill Anderson, Donna McGrath, Helena Krilis and Emma Powis.

has become so digitised. I am so grateful for my team – they are so loyal."

According to Ms Anderson, partly due to the pandemic and partly due to the rental reforms from early 2021 causing a huge increase in workloads, the industry has lost 30 per cent of its property managers.

With a portfolio of more than 500 properties, 90 per cent of Leasing Melbourne's business has been generated through referrals; a true nod to its leadership in personalised, efficient, high-end property management.

"I've had clients with me who have been with me from the start and built up their property portfolios," she said. "Now I'm seeing the next generation of their children coming to live in those apartments to study."

"For those landlords who stuck through the tough times from the last two years, we are starting to see pre-COVID rental yields."

"We are not being ridiculous and putting massive increases in place, a lot of people are still getting back on their feet and finding jobs, and just because there is a bit more stability, we aren't going to take advantage of that."

Ms Anderson said in another 12 months to two years, landlords would likely increase rental prices at a greater rate due to the cost of their mortgages to cover interest rates and owners corporation fees.

Whether it's the relationships she has formed during her journey, from finding apartments for the many theatrical superstars, to working with Melbourne's culinary elite along Flinders Lane, Ms Anderson hasn't just left her mark on the city's property management market, but the CBD as a whole. ●

For more information: jill@lmrealestate.com.au



A bottle shop like no other to open at Southbank's most secluded restaurant

Edwin Wine Bar may just be Southbank's best kept secret.

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

Nestled on the corner of City Rd and Clarendon St, you'd be forgiven for walking past this ground level bar and restaurant without batting an eyelid; but if you did, however, you will have missed a true jewel in Southbank's reputable culinary crown.

With a simple philosophy to celebrate and support local people and produce, the team behind Edwin Wine Bar bring to the fore some of Victoria's best wine and food from Gippsland to the Grampians, and everywhere in between.

Having championed our state's culinary credentials for more than three years, Edwin Wine Bar is now adding a new offering for locals; Edwin Cellar.

Opening Thursday, October 27, Edwin Cellar will showcase a rotating selection of eight to 10 Victoria-only wines, as well as beers, ciders and charcuterie dining.

According to venue manager Sav Dong, the selection of wines will change frequently, with an emphasis on promoting smaller producers from lesser-known regions.

"Victoria is a treasure trove of amazing places to offer great produce, particularly for wine," Mr Dong said.

"When you think of popular wine regions people tend to think of the Yarra Valley or Mornington Peninsula, they don't necessarily think of the Macedon Ranges, the Bellarine or the Beechworth. We have the great privilege to introduce them to these places and wines, and the people that produce them; that is our aim and goal."

"When locals come in, our staff will be able to talk to them about the regions, show them where the wines come from and talk to them about how it is made and how it will taste."

"We have high-top tables and a large communal table, so if you want to sit and have glass from that bottle there and then, you can absolutely; then you can take the rest home as we are also licenced to do so."

Entering from the Clarendon St side of the building, locals can walk in from 4pm to 10pm Thursday to Saturday to grab a glass, grab a bottle or even grab a snack.

While the venue will be showcasing a revolving selection of carefully curated and affordable wines, Edwin Wine Bar and Cellar's full wine list will be on offer for those looking for even more variety.

Mr Dong aims for the new Cellar to become the more relaxed and easily accessible, younger sibling of the



▲ A sneak peek of Edwin Cellar (above) and Edwin Wine Bar (top).

Edwin Wine Bar's premium dining offering.

"We have the great produce, we have the quality service, it's just letting people know that we are here," Mr Dong said. "Visibility has been one of the main challenges with our restaurant; we want to be a destination venue for premium dining and drinking, but also now accessible for locals to come off the street."

"Our main point of difference is our use of strictly Victorian products. Everything from our bottles of water, spirits, beers, wine and food produce, it was either made in Melbourne or Victoria."

"I don't know many other places with that kind of commitment to sourcing and celebrating local products."

Along with collaborations with award winning Port Melbourne whisky distillery, Starward Whisky, Mr Dong and his team have forged partnerships with producers like Mornington Peninsula experts in Italian "funky" varietals, Quealy Winemakers, or the Hawkins family from Gippsland's The Wine Farm in Koonwarra.

Pairing Victoria's best wine with exceptional produce may seem like a daunting task, but Mr Dong seems unfazed, especially when you have crown favourites dishes like their Gippsland grass-fed steak, or Gisborne duck cassoulet.

Edwin Cellar is open to the public from 4pm Thursday, October 27 and Edwin Wine Bar continues usual opening hours.

For more information: edwinwinebar.com.au ●



▲ Left to right: Eton Property's Emily Schweizer, Celeste Hall and Jennelle Marden

A familiar face in property management returns with a new team

During the past few years, Eton Property Group, one of Melbourne's leading agencies specialising in both off the plan apartments and townhouses, has carved out its mark on our city's property scene.

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

With major residential developments from North Melbourne to Malvern East, or bespoke townhouses from Fairfield to Cheltenham, the company is growing at a steady pace.

Under the tutelage of seasoned property manager Jennelle Marden, Eton Property Group has added property management to its long list of services, only strengthening its grip on Melbourne's real estate market.

Since founding the company's property management arm more than four years ago, Ms Marden has grown her rent roll from zero properties in 2018 to a current total of north of 400 properties.

With more than 60 years of combined experience, Ms Marden's team of property managers is what she described as "the best team I think I have ever worked with".

"We have a huge breadth of experience. We are only as small agency, we never want to be a big agency," Ms Marden said.

"Sticking to that boutique feel is really important for us. That means handing out our mobile numbers, speaking to clients over the phone, being accessible to our clients. We pride ourselves on communication and efficiencies."

"We like to pride ourselves on being the apartment specialists. We make sure we pay all outgoings for our landlords; we want to make their life as stress-free as possible, so all

they need to do is collect the rent each month."

Eton Property handles the leasing and management of properties from all over Melbourne, including Point Cook, Bundoora, Camberwell, Brighton, Docklands, and here in Southbank.

While 25 years of experience working with some of the city's biggest agencies moulded her into the agent she is today, Ms Marden wants to keep her team small and her rent roll growing at a manageable rate, which will see its boutique and personal service continue for years to come.

"I've worked with larger agencies, and you can become a bit of a number, they don't know you and they don't know your property," she said.

"Whereas at Eton Property, I know all my landlords across our 400 properties, because as the leader of our team, I put them on."

"We spend a lot on programs and technology that help immensely in giving a better service to owners. Whether that be a portal where they can get access to all their documents like routine inspections or conditions reports, or whether it is basic maintenance, we need to cover off."

"Property management can be easy when it's done correctly and by a professional. By having the experience, it pays. The experience of my team pays to invest in; you can always get cheap property management, but will that be in the best interest of landlords? The answer will almost always be no."

According to Ms Marden, she expected the rental market to dry up, with the hope government would step in to entice investors.

"We have always maintained a under two per cent vacancy rate on our rent roll, even throughout lockdowns we managed to keep that number around the two per cent mark," Ms Marden said.

"Using our professional skills and the latest technology, we find quality tenants, minimise vacancies and handle marketing, repairs, maintenance, accounting and legal compliance efficiently and cost-effectively." ●

For more information: etonproperty.com.au/property-management

SOUTHBANK SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

Spring is here

We are certainly experiencing the change of season; the days are warming up and getting longer with more sunlight. It has been lovely to see so many Southbankers making the most of the green spaces around the Boyd Community Hub as spring starts.

WORDS BY *Maria Tarrant*
SOUTHBANK SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

People, young and old, are walking, sitting in the sun, exercising, enjoying the playground, picnicking, gardening and harvesting some of the edibles in the community vegetable and herb beds at the front and back of Boyd.

The Southbank Sustainability Group (SSG)

takes care of the garden beds and we are always keen to talk to locals about what they would like to see in the garden. In response to community suggestions, we have recently added quite a few indigenous plants to the beds. Over time they will offer wind protection and attract native insects and bees.

The SSG meets every second Saturday morning at 10am to do some gardening and catch up

with other Southbankers who are interested in living more sustainably. The October dates for these meet ups are October 8 and 22. Everyone is welcome to come to get their hands dirty or share their thoughts and ideas.

Visit our Facebook page if you are looking for information on how to live more sustainably. There are guides on subjects as diverse as sustainable travel, reducing the impacts of your pets on the environment, volunteering and food composting.

And we hope to run some more workshops, given the success of our workshops on balcony gardening, building bee hotels and making at home cleaning products that do minimal environmental damage.

We are busy planning spring and summer

plantings so we would love to get your suggestions about what you would like to see in the gardens over the next six months. Email us your suggestions.

We love to see Southbankers enjoying the herbs, greens and other vegetables in the garden beds for their personal use. Quite a few people are dropping by to harvest the greens they need for the lunchtime sandwich or the handful of herbs they want for a salad. At the moment there is plenty of endive in the front garden and cress in the back garden ready to eat.

Southbank Sustainability Group is keen to hear from anyone wanting to volunteer to support our education, communication, events and gardening efforts – simply email us at southbanksustainabilitygroup@gmail.com ●

HISTORY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Mid-century modern on St Kilda Rd

The firm of Bates Smart McCutcheon (BSM) has been a major contributor to architecture in Victoria for more than 150 years.

For much of this time BSM has been located in the city and inner eastern suburbs but, in 1958, with a large increase of work in the post-war era, the firm relocated to 366 St Kilda Rd.

The site, opposite the Shrine of Remembrance, was previously occupied by legendary architects Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahoney Griffin and modified by them before it was demolished.

The new office, in what is now Southbank, reflected changes to styling, facilities and materials that were becoming popular in the immediate post-war years and became referenced as mid-century modern.

It was one of a few architectural offices that was purpose-built and fully occupied by one firm.

It was fully air-conditioned, had large plate glass windows (in cool grey), and with an external side wall punctuated by protruding bricks, was brightly lit and light-filled, included garden courts, a separate caretaker's flat and, in keeping with the latest trends in transport for busy architects, room to park 36 cars beneath the building (although the site was wonderfully served by trams along St Kilda Rd).

The interior featured partitions – but only to a height of four feet, so finding anyone in the office was extremely easy. It also suited the firm's philosophy of locating specialist teams in separate areas but close to each other.



There were seven departments (architecture, structural engineers, services, cost estimating, interior design, accounting, clerical and filing). Within the architects' teams there were also multiple groups that focused on different building types and projects.

Throughout the building were many indoor plants, such as tropical monstera and philodendron, which became a trend in 1950s offices. The building layout and organisation was highly innovative for the time (with a nod to Japanese design), reflecting the firm's passion for integrated structures, and served the firm well for the next 14 years.

It was later demolished as part of the massive changes to St Kilda Rd in the 1970s. What a loss it was to Southbank. ●



Robin Grow

PRESIDENT - AUSTRALIAN ART DECO AND MODERNISM SOCIETY

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▲ A children's slide, which is one of the very few play features at the Boyd playground.

More playgrounds

Seeing lots of prams on the streets it's clear that more and more Southbankers are raising families here. However, not enough has been done over the years to make it family friendly.

One of the major headaches for the families is a lack of good playgrounds – many have to drive to Albert Park, Port Melbourne or Middle Park to entertain their kids. That's not good for anybody, including our environment ...

Frankly, existing playgrounds feel like attempts to tick the box rather than make a great space for kids to play and for parents to connect with the community. Grant Street Reserve is tiny. The Boyd playground also has very few play features and doesn't have a cover making it very hot in summer. The new Southbank Boulevard playground, for which our community has been waiting for years, is also quite small and focused on climbing for older kids. Its safety

is also yet to be tested.

We could take a lesson from Vienna, now the world's most liveable city, where most main parks including Stadtpark have unashamedly spacious and fun playgrounds, which comfortably coexist with beautiful, landscaped gardens and historical monuments.

Wouldn't it be amazing to have Melbourne's best playground in Queen Victoria or Alexandra Gardens for kids from Southbank and all over Melbourne to come and play? Who knows, it may even help move us a few notches in the most liveable cities list ...

Max ●



SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:
ADMIN@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU

SKYPAD LIVING

Vertical Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch is about neighbours looking out for neighbours, but can this work in our vertical villages?

There's long been debate over what to call our inner-city locales of the CBD, Docklands and Southbank. Are we districts, precincts or can we claim the title of "neighbourhoods"?

Of late, there has been a definite trend towards the "neighbourhood" label, as evidenced by City of Melbourne, which recently launched a new place-based program called "the neighbourhood model". This aims to help the council connect with the municipality's various communities and one of the first to come on board was the "CBD Neighbourhood Portal". The Docklands and Southbank neighbourhood portals are promised to be close behind.

Also bestowing the "neighbourhood" title upon us is Victoria Police. Under their Neighbourhood Policing program, they too are seeking to focus on grassroots engagement, with all inner-city locales having scored their own friendly neighbourhood officer!

But perhaps most tellingly is the current focus upon our vertical villages by Neighbourhood

Watch. Those of us living in Australia in the '80s, '90s and early 2000s may well remember the Neighbourhood Watch signposts which displayed a four-heads in silhouette logo, with the tag line "working together to prevent crime". These signposts were a physical notification to people that they were in a Neighbourhood Watch Zone.

Originally launching in 1983 in Frankston, Neighbourhood Watch became a significant program with approximately 36 full-time staff and 30,000 volunteers. But in 2009, Victoria Police closed the program.

In the intervening years, Neighbourhood Watch has re-established itself as an incorporated association. Now led by Bambi Gordon and supported by a team of five employees and more than 4000 volunteers, Neighbourhood Watch has again become a community-based crime prevention program. It has the primary aim of improving the quality of life within a neighbourhood by minimising preventable crime and promoting closer community ties. At its heart, the program relies on working partnerships between the community and the police.

Bambi was drawn to reinvigorating Neighbourhood Watch because she recognised the potential of the Neighbourhood Watch brand, most especially its strength as a trusted

voice, with a still relevant message – "it just needed to be made more suited to current times," she said.

And move with the times they did, with their first pilot program trialling the use of synthetic liquid DNA for property marking – a method that is used in around 40 countries.

Their second pilot is similarly ground-breaking as it focuses upon a demographic which was not part of the original Neighbourhood Watch, namely those dwelling in high-rise apartments. This high-rise pilot is called "Connect Up" and is being undertaken with Safety Alliance Victoria (which comprises Victoria Police, RACV, Federation University and Crime Stoppers).

Connect Up tests different approaches to engaging residents of high-rise apartments and has the aim of removing barriers between residents and police, improving residents' sense of safety and decreasing crime.

"We want to educate residents as to the simple things they can do to prevent crime – in particular to know their neighbours – and encourage planners, councils, developers, to 'build' community engagement into future high rises," Bambi said.

While still in its early stages, Bambi reports that the themes of mail theft, cage security and ID theft are critical issues for our vertical

villages. However, and perhaps more insightfully, there have been learnings about how to engage our vertical communities, including one important lesson about translating messages. Initial findings suggest that simply transforming the same text into different languages is often not sufficient to convey messages. Additional support is required, which could take the form of video or even augmented reality.

As to the future of Vertical Neighbourhood Watch, already many discussions are underway as to how the original suburban model of Neighbourhood Watch (which placed great weight upon lines-of-sight) could manifest in vertical villages where our neighbours' sightlines are often cropped to shared areas of common property. ●

If you are interested in the work of Neighbourhood Watch Victoria, please visit nhw.com.au



Dr Janette Corcoran

APARTMENT LIVING EXPERT

LEARN MORE ON FACEBOOK.COM/
SKYPADLIVING/

Three fundamental questions to shaping the future of Southbank

As the air becomes warmer and the blossom trees spring into bloom, Southbankers are yearning to spend more time outside. But where can we go to enjoy these approaching balmy nights?

WORDS BY *David Hamilton - President*

Quality, useable green space has long been lacking in a community dominated by high-rise buildings and vertical villages. It was a sentiment that came out loud and clear from the recent Participate Melbourne survey. While the results from the survey told us a lot of what we already knew, and validated concerns we hold in relation to traffic, safety, and the lack of social amenities, it also poses the question – how connected to the City of Melbourne are Southbankers?

So, let's start the conversation.

Considering we live in a suburb with more than 22,000 residents, why was the take-up of the Participate Southbank Survey so low?

Community insights can be very effective because they identify gaps or potential issues

that may not be known by the council. But with participation of around 600 actual residents did the City of Melbourne achieve its goal of obtaining a strong representation of the community of Southbank?

Our thoughts are “probably not” but that isn't a criticism of the Participate Melbourne team. It demonstrates how different Southbank is and how difficult it is to bring people together to articulate a shared view about this location. Southbank is not a simple neighbourhood location; it has several vastly different small districts. Southbank East, around Kavanagh St and the Arts Precinct, is different from Southbank West and the old Village areas. We learned that from the last Census.

The 2021 census tells us that out of the 22,000 residents that reside in Southbank, 15,000 are under the age of 40. Once upon a time Southbank used to be considered a transient community, but more recent data has uncovered a desire for residents to put down more permanent roots and stay for five years or more, meaning Southbank has developed into a dynamic and bustling neighbourhood. The census also challenges many of the perceptions about ethnicity, language, diversity that have gained some currency.

Adding to the complexity of the area is the fact that Southbank has become the home to a hospitality industry along its northern

border along the Yarra that is targeting the wider Melbourne market, as does the arts industry on its eastern boundary. Both are convenient to residents but are not neighbourhood or local in their outlook and their business models do not lend themselves to a neighbourhood focus.

The Participate Melbourne process is the beginning of the dialogue with the city. It needs to be supported wholeheartedly by all residents. The council is reaching out to us. It is refocusing its service delivery and making itself more accountable to locals for the services it delivers.

The difficulty it and the community in Southbank face is that despite the “newness” of the building stock, the area is deprived in terms of community facilities and social development. In fact, the very structure of the vertical villages contributes to that as has the lack of planning by past state and local governments. This has left the residents and the council now trying to play catch up, so we all need to work together with the council to make the vision for the neighbourhood model a reality and changes what happens local in the future.

So how can council ensure it reaches a broader cross section of community? The neighbourhood program is a great start, and by encouraging residents to get involved with volunteering and community building it will lay the foundations to a more engaged community

One of the disappointments arising from the council's work is the view of people that the “economy of the future” in Southbank is hospitality and retail which abound here but not necessarily where people live. Hopefully the “economy of the future” has a bigger vision than that whether it be Web3, or other knowledge-based industries as the focus.

Perhaps arts bodies here can transform from places where things exist to become places where voices are heard especially local. The importance of the social environment in which they exist, and technological change should dominate them whether it involves algorithmic

creation or digital.

We as a community need to drive creative thinking about our future, we need to get inspired, and we need to inspire the council so it can bring its resources and political force to bear on other levels of government to rebuild Southbank's social infrastructure and economic base.

The next steps in the participate process will unfold on November 22 right here is Southbank when the City of Melbourne's Future Melbourne Committee meets here for the first time. This will also coincide with the launch of its Resident Portal opening a communication channel between locals and the council. All a precursor to moving services into Southbank and making the council's service providers more accountable. None of this would have been possible without the energy and commitment of the Lord Mayor and the Deputy Lord Mayor to driving this change in focus.

It is time for residents to engage in a more active way with the council, so its officers listen, learn, and adapt. An engaged community is a powerful community and Southbankers have the potential to reframe the future.

So, Southbank3006 is asking, three fundamental questions ...

- How do we make localised services happen to reframe the social development in Southbank, so we are no longer the deprived south of the city?
- How do we work with the council to make Southbank a centre of low traffic neighbourhoods with the creative use of open space to enable community gardens and pocket parks to meet in?
- What does the economy of the future look like for Southbank – it has to be more than more coffee shops and afterhours dining?

We want your ideas, your thoughts, we would love for you to reach out to us at community@southbank3006.com ●

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Weight loss: What's more important – diet or exercise? Or is it a case of chicken or the egg?

Now for those of you that don't know what total daily energy expenditure (TDEE) is, I should first explain that it is generally broken into three areas ...



Seventy per cent is your basal metabolic rate (BMR) which is the number of calories that your body uses just to survive. Ten per cent is accounted for from the thermic effect of food – which is required when we eat, as we need to burn calories to process what we've just consumed. The remaining 20 per cent is attributed to physical activity.

Now with that said, it is important to note that to achieve weight and/or fat loss, we need to achieve calorie deficit daily, weekly, monthly or for set periods of time and interchange with an energy balance (not a surplus).

So, to do this requires specific attention paid to our dietary intake and, therefore, if diet or exercise were more important, it is clear that it is diet that is more important.

But I want to show a story of how regular exercise, behaviour change, and accountability can be the catalyst in achieving better nutrition and in turn, weight loss.

You see, I was referred an 18-year-old girl some years back by one of Melbourne's extremely sought after and highly regarded psychologists and a dietitian. The instructions were simple – “get her exercising and do not discuss nutrition, especially telling her what not to eat or she will rebel”.

As someone who has spent countless hours counselling, educating, guiding, and supporting clients on how to improve their nutrition, this went against everything that I had done.

But equally, teaching my clients how to enjoy exercise, find the time for exercise and to develop a safe an effective gym program is something I know how to do well. So, that is exactly what I did.

We started with two personal training sessions per week and a starting weight of 128kgs. We set out with a basic but varied and flexible program focusing on small wins physically. In the first year we barely discussed nutrition at all.

Twelve months later and she had lost a rather modest seven kgs. We cut down to one session per week in the second year, but she started asking nutrition questions of me and I remember taking her and partner to a Coles supermarket

and we spent 30 minutes going through her typical food choices and exploring “good” and “not so good” options and of course “why?”.

This led to a deeper discussion and moved more toward the typical educative approach I take and then setting her a “fruit and vegetable challenge” that we give to our clients. She scored the lowest number of fruit and vegetables consumed over the seven-day period I have seen but it was the catalyst for things to come.

She lost 16 more kgs in year two (a total of 23 kgs since we started). We then moved down to one session per fortnight in the middle of our third year together and she lost a further 14 kgs (a total now of 37 kgs lost). Then she started her career and life got in the way somewhat. We needed to make further adjustments to her nutrition and exercise to fit in with her new lifestyle but managed to lose another six kgs and achieving a total weight loss of 43 kgs!

Now as you can see here, if she and/or we focused on nutrition from the outset, it is safe to say that we would not have achieved all that we have. So, while in theory, nutrition is the winner when it comes to weight loss; both nutrition and exercise are of equal importance and the best part is they are both required for keeping active, fit and healthy and that above all else should be the focus for us all.

Weight and body size do not define who we are. Life is all about health, happiness, fitness and wellness, so whether it is the chicken or the egg in your case, take your pick and get started.

Find the support you need to help you either get going or back on track and then make it part of your life from today.

For more information: justintimept.com ●



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METRO TUNNEL

Finishing touches for Anzac Station canopy

“

The eye-catching canopy of the Metro Tunnel's new Anzac Station is nearly complete, with the final key architectural feature installed.

”

Fourteen skylights have been recently fitted as crews apply the finishing touches to what will be the centrepiece of Melbourne's first direct train-tram interchange.

The skylights run down the centre of the 85-metre-long canopy and have been designed to help direct natural light down into the station concourse, which sits 17 metres below.

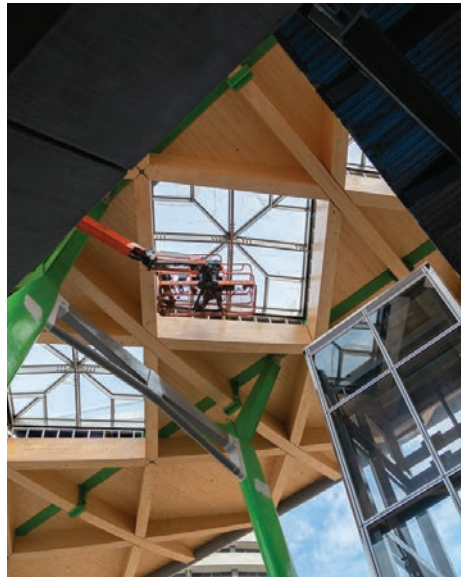
The open design and use of clear glazing not only allows natural light in, but also ensures views across St Kilda Rd towards the Shrine of Remembrance are maintained.

The canopy will provide weather protection for the interchange between tram and train passengers at what will be the new station's busiest entrance.

Work on the canopy started earlier this year when 12 massive green steel columns and 13 curved timber rafters were craned into the site.

The canopy has been designed to complement the nearby green parkland of the Royal Botanic Gardens and tree-lined St Kilda Rd.

When Anzac Station is finished, the area will be a heavily patronised transport hub, with the Metro Tunnel cutting the daily commute to and from St Kilda Rd by up to 50 minutes – providing turn-up-and-go services on the doorstep



of the CBD, and eventually direct services to Melbourne Airport.

The fully accessible tram super-stop will sit in the middle of the road, connecting passengers to the underground station below.

From the end of November, St Kilda Rd's tram tracks will be realigned for the final time over the station, after being twice realigned already as part of the construction plan that allowed the station to be built underground while traffic and trams continued using the road above.

When Anzac Station opens to passengers in 2025, it will provide an overdue train connection to iconic Melbourne destinations including the Shrine of Remembrance, the Royal Botanic Gardens and Albert Park and reduce travel times to the St Kilda Rd employment precinct.

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

MEET A NEIGHBOUR

Coula Pagagis and Judith Coghill

I was five minutes into my interview with Coula Pagagis when her phone rang. She told me her good friend Judith Coghill would be joining us. Five minutes later there was a knock on the door and suddenly an interview with one became an interview with two.



Coula, a retired nurse, and Judith, a retired secondary teacher, became quick friends after meeting at a social event arranged by their apartment building. Coula explained, "We are both fully embracing retirement," but not resting on their laurels. The two were drawn to living in Southbank for its Arts Precinct that both of their apartments overlook.

Fittingly, their schedules are packed with arts events, their favourite being the NGV Art Readers program where members gather in a small group to discuss essays and discussion points about current exhibits. The last discussion they attended about Picasso and the strong women that influenced his work is their favourite to date.

The two also share a concern for the natural environment, sustainability and artificial light at night (ALAN) pollution. Coula, actively involved in the International Dark-Sky Association of Victoria (IDAVic), is focused on addressing the many issues surrounding Victoria's replacement of amber-colour 2000K lamps on roads and public spaces with 4200K LEDs – a conversion that is five times more damaging to the environment.

"The blue-violet short waves of 4000K LEDs cause of spectrum of issues in humans, animals and plants and a range of adverse environmental and ecological effects. In humans, it disrupts our circadian rhythm and the life cycles of plants and animals." She pointed out a tree beneath a 4000K LED lamp – "Its leaves never change. While those outside of the lamp's reach follow seasonal transitions, that tree remains unchanged."

An article in Harvard Health, *Blue light has a dark side*, states that research shows the blue-violet component of LEDs may contribute to the

causation cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and obesity.

The problem is particularly prevalent in Southbank where most of the population lives in high rises, many adjacent to commercial buildings where LED lights remain on 24/7, causing high levels of ALAN emissions. High rises around City Rd in particular are faced with this issue illustrated by a photo Coula took from her apartment at night—a residential high-rise in darkness next to a fully-lit *Herald Sun* office tower.

Coula reflected on her childhood in North Queensland where the stars shone brightly in a dark night sky. I asked if giving up a night sky was a trade-off of living in the city. "There are solutions to the problem. Warm light is less intrusive and commercial buildings can shut their lights off where they aren't needed at night. It doesn't have to be this way."

MaryKay Rauma is a founder of Southbank3006 a not-for-profit community and advocacy group focused on connecting residents and improving the liveability of Southbank. To receive information about an upcoming forum on artificial night light pollution join SB3006 for free by scanning the QR code. ●



MaryKay Rauma
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SOUTHBANK3006.COM

10 YEARS ON

Looking back at Southbank News 10 Years On

OCTOBER 2012 | ISSUE 12 |

SOUTHBANK local NEWS

Vegie patch in the sky

Freshwater Place has found an interesting way to use previously discarded space on the side of the building, converting a disused balcony into a vegetable garden for residents.



On the same level of the building as the half acre green space, the garden was installed to give residents a chance to try out their green thumb.

Resident Lindy Capelli said it was a great use of the space and provided a unique opportunity within Southbank to maintain a hobby like growing plants.

"One of the biggest lifestyle changes resulting from the move into high-rise apartments is the loss of a garden," she said.

"The Garden Club is a great initiative, open

to everyone, it gives Freshwater residents the opportunity to get together as a community and enjoy the benefits of planting, tending and harvesting an edible garden." ●

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安全峰会解决社区忧虑

由墨尔本市政府、维州警方、包括代表南岸的居民团体和利益相关者共同举办了一场安全峰会，以解决本市面临的各种问题。

Brendan Rees

超过50人参加了8月19日在市政厅举行的峰会，其中包括居民协会的成员，主要讨论了市区的安全基础设施、夜间安全、社区警务和社区联系计划等问题。

由市政对无家可归者实施的联系尊重 (Connect Respect) 计划，可以帮助商家企业加深对无家可归者的理解，并且支持商家企业对无家可归者所采取的应对措施。

维州警方和墨尔本城市安全小组成员作了演讲介绍。

市长Sally Capp表示，“社区安全是我们墨尔本市政的首要任务”，她补充说，此次峰会旨在“为每个人提供更安全的社区，并就采取的行动达成一致意见”。

她说：“我们听取了维多利亚警方和城市安全团队的意见，以及来自居民社区团体



主席所提出的更广泛问题和反馈意见。”

“我们希望继续这样的讨论，并为达成一致的结果而共同努力。”

市长表示，市政将审查增加商业建筑外的照明，以及让业主更容易安装外部闭路电视摄像头。

市长表示，市政还将对已经实施的安全计划找到更好的沟通渠道。

南岸居民协会主席Tony Penna表示，这次峰会“很有成效”，让人们有机会“看到社区警务工作”。

然而，虽然他欢迎与警方和市政的接触，但他指出，讨论的一些议题可能不会涉及每个人。



强化电动滑板车管理

维多利亚警方已经向电动滑板车骑手发布了通知，誓言打击非法骑车行为，以在气候温暖之前改善道路安全。

Brendan Rees

维州道路警察指挥部负责人Justin Goldsmith表示，试用电动滑板车和私人拥有的电动滑板车的规则仍然存在混淆，但警告说，车手有责任确保他们理解这些规则。

他在9月19日于皇后桥广场(Queensbridge Square)举行的新闻发布会上说：“维州警方将在春季和夏季强化对电动滑板车骑手的管理，如果你使用电动滑板车，你应该准备好被警察拦截和谈话。”

“教育始终是我们的首选，但我们会毫不犹豫地不遵守和公然无视规则的行为进行处罚，尤其是处罚那些危及其他道路使用者安全的行为。”

对于不遵守电动滑板车试行规则的行

为，可以当场处以185澳元或更多的罚款。

目前在市区使用的橙色和绿色的滑板车分别来自Neuron Mobility公司和Lime公司，这也是今年早些时候开始在三个地方市政区域，为期12个月的电动滑板车试行计划。

但是电动滑板车在交通网络中的位置引起了争议，尤其是有关滑板车如何在行人之间穿行的问题。

自2021年12月以来，警方已经向电动滑板车骑手发出了487份罚款单，其中大多数是未戴头盔、在人行道上骑行、以及搭载多人的违规行为。

电动滑板车的试行有严格规定，Lime和Neuron的电动滑板车具有预设的速度限制和范围限制，确保这些电动滑板车只能在CBC的试验区骑行，包括速度上限为20公里/小时。

居民团体Southbank 3006的副主席Jannine Pattison对这次强化管理行动表示赞赏，但提出是否投资教育比“罚款”更加有效。



剧院建筑 翻新改造

自6月开工以来，Malthouse剧院一直致力于改善其历史建筑的外观，但剧院的内部也在进行大修。

Kaylah-Joelle Baker

这次翻新和改造是在南岸主要剧院空间得到维多利亚创意公司460万澳元的支持之后对正在使用的空间进行的。

在9月21日星期三的Malthouse剧院媒体预审会上，剧院艺术总监兼联合首席执行官Matthew Lutton表示，虽然正在进行的大部分工作是场馆升级，但有些工作是“必不可少的”。

特别是剧院屋顶的失修漏水，导致了“巨额的取暖费用”，是这次改造工程的第一个要务。

Lutton先生说：“剧院上次的装修是在20年以前，现在很多地方都失修了。在这

次疫情期间，我们得到了维多利亚创意公司的一些支持，使剧院得以升级改造。”

剧院大厅的卫生间也将得到升级，翻新后的卫生间将有更多的隔间，更具现代化以及设有无障碍进出。为了让大厅增加80平方米的空间，卫生间将向后移动4到5米。

Malthouse剧院不仅持续地展示了剧场内的成功演出，还因其室外舞台而闻名。

室外舞台一直是剧院的一个热门补充舞台，在过去两年中，有超过25000人参加了80场现场音乐、喜剧和歌舞表演以及文学活动，为此升级改造该空间将会继续扩大这一规模。

Lutton说：“剧场外面的庭院正在引起很多人的关注，现正在重新铺设路面，我们正在获得室外舞台所需的基础设施，比如一个永久性的技术展台，并且增加和安装新的灯条和更衣室。”

此次改造工程在12月仍将继续施工，在此期间演出照常进行，但希望能在明年1月内完成装修新的庭院和卫生间。

南岸禅宗艺术馆

自去年10月Southgate购物区重新开放以来，Mystik River艺术馆成功地在繁忙的餐馆和商店之间创造了一个平静的空间。

Kaylah-Joelle Baker

该艺术馆收藏了大量的佛像雕塑和当代艺术品，最初在Brighton的海边展出，后来搬到了南岸河畔。

艺术馆馆长Roman Romanoff和他的女儿Lolita Romanoff (艺术馆主任) 决定把艺术馆搬迁到南岸，是因为在这儿可以接触更多的人。

Mystik River艺术馆团队负责人Darcy Poynter说：“这个艺术馆很美，我们所有人都为能在这里创造的空间感到自豪。”

“当参观者来艺术馆时，他们的反应是，这里真的很禅宗、平静而且很有趣，他们而且可以看到我们团队对艺术的热爱，并对我们的精美作品感到兴奋。”

翻新的现代艺术馆，其艺术作品来自印度七位不同的艺术家，这些作品通常是通过使用古代技术制作的。

Poynter女士说：“雕塑艺术的技术和创作过程已经传承了好几代。”

“我们通过销售他们的艺术品来保存艺术家所使用的这些古老技术的生命力，对我



们来说，支持在世的艺术家真的很重要。”

Mystik River艺术馆与印度的Gallery Mystica艺术馆密切合作，保持其深厚的根基和联系。

这种强烈的联系是Romanoff先生住在印度时产生的，他过去每天上班路上都会经过该艺术馆，对看到的所有雕塑作品着迷。

后来有一天，店主邀请他进去，随之他们的友谊持续发展。Romanoff先生爱上了印度文化、艺术和佛教，并且开设了今天的Mystik River艺术馆。

欲知有关艺术馆举办研讨会的更多信息，或了解一些新近作品，可以上网查看Mystik River艺术馆。

mystikriver.com.au

What's On: October

Community Calendar



OCTOBER 31, FREE
A Witches Ball Movie Night

Visit Southbank Library for a Halloween screening of the film A Witches Ball. Rated G, and suitable for children aged from 5-12 years. Bookings essential (open on October 17).



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



Melbourne Bearbrass Probos
Covering Southbank, Docklands and the CBD, Bearbrass Probos for active retirees meets at 10am for 10.30am, Tuesday October 11 at the Dock Library. Visitors welcome to hear Athenaeum senior librarian Fiona Malcolm speaking on her love of crime fiction and other book business.
bearbrassprobos.org



Southbank Sustainability Group
A growing group of green and sustainability enthusiasts who meet up at Boyd on the first and third Saturday of each month. Connect via Facebook for more information and educational tips!
Facebook: SouthbankSustainabilityGroup

Oktoberfest at Munich Brauhaus
Oktoberfest is here! Bigger and bolder than ever before, Munich Brauhaus is offering 10 different kinds of German beer, steins in a shoe, keg tapping, 4L beer tubes, schnapps tasting paddles and more.
Munich Brauhaus Melbourne
45 S Wharf Promenade, South Wharf 3006



OCTOBER 8, 9.15AM - 11AM
Spring Clean the City
Join the hundreds of Love Our Street volunteers and help clean the CBD of more than 2000kg of single-use disposable plastic litter.
Queensbridge Square
3 Queensbridge St, Southbank 3006



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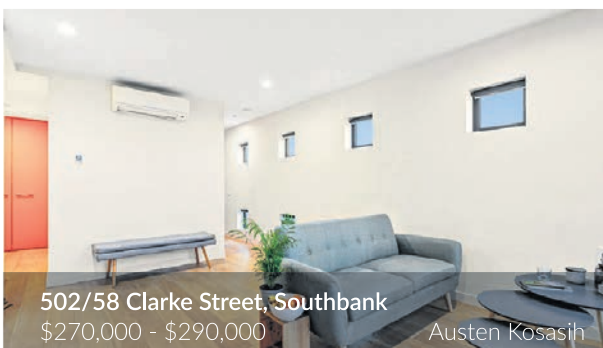
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\$270,000 - \$290,000
Austen Kosasih



2001/58 Clarke Street, Southbank
\$390,000 - \$420,000
Austen Kosasih



30/5 Fulton Street, St Kilda East
\$270,000
Austen Kosasih



111/363 Beaconsfield Parade, St Kilda West
\$340,000 - \$360,000
Austen Kosasih



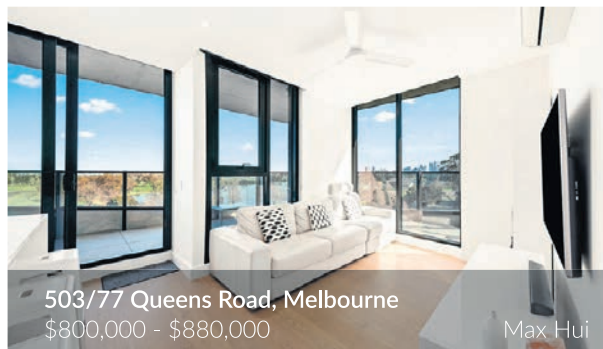
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\$420,000 - \$440,000
Max Hui



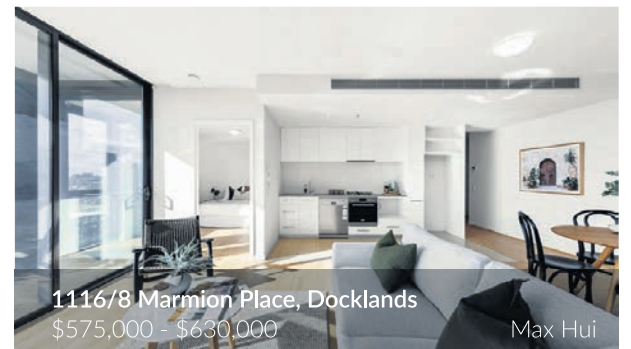
96/183 City Road, Southbank
\$395,000 - \$420,000
Trent Bonnici



2201/135 City Road, Southbank
\$520,000 - \$550,000
Tommy-lee Davies



503/77 Queens Road, Melbourne
\$800,000 - \$880,000
Max Hui



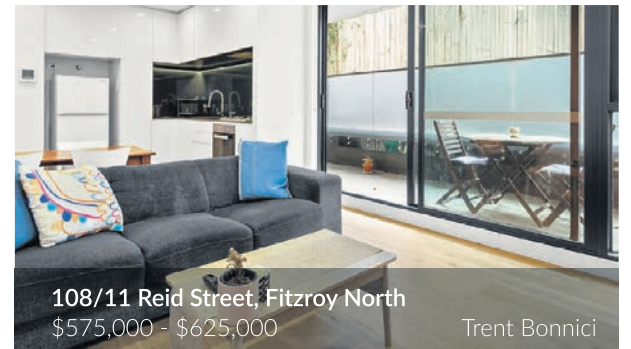
1116/8 Marmion Place, Docklands
\$575,000 - \$630,000
Max Hui



5605/81 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne
\$390,000 - \$415,000
Max Hui



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108/11 Reid Street, Fitzroy North
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Trent Bonnici



113/138 Camberwell Road, Hawthorn East
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Trent Bonnici



116/539 St Kilda Road, Melbourne
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Tommy-lee Davies

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