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Puzzles & Trivia P25



Playground is a hit!
Photo by Rhonda Dredge

The new playground on Southbank Boulevard is encouraging people to tap into their adventurous spirit and take a few risks. Local two-year-old Roczen and grandmother Vicky Wales were among the many enjoying the new space when *Southbank News* visited in December. Full story on page 18.

New Dodds St park moves ahead after council called out for “prematurely celebrating” the end of Southbank Boulevard

Work to create a much-anticipated linear park in Dodds St is set to begin in January, with new decorative landscape walls, mounded grasslands, and trees among its features.

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne’s Lord Mayor Sally Capp announced the news at the council’s Future Melbourne Committee meeting on November 22, after the tender evaluation of a preferred contractor for the \$5.05 million project had been completed.

“With council approval of the preferred contractor, construction will begin in January 2023, which is really exciting,” Cr Capp said, adding works were expected to take 12 months.

The new park will be situated between Southbank Boulevard and Grant St, and will cover a 2700 sqm area. The project will be carried out in conjunction with the Southbank Major Public Art Commission.

According to the council, the park will comprise “high-quality paved areas, mounded grasslands and swales with native planting and trees, civic meeting spaces with seating walls and features and public lighting”.

Once completed, it will link a state government-backed proposal for a pocket park to be created near the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA), which would transform the current area of granitic sand.

The announcement of the Dodds St park comes after the council was publicly called out for “prematurely celebrating” the transformation of Southbank Boulevard while stages

two and six, including landscaping at Dodds St and a section between City Rd and Queensbridge Square, had yet to begin.

The Lord Mayor admitted the \$44 million project – which had been beset by delays and cost blowouts – was “not yet complete” after the council embarrassingly issued a press release in November declaring the “Southbank Boulevard transformation complete”, in which it claimed the final stage of the project – a children’s playground at the corner of Southbank Boulevard and Kavanagh St – marked its completion.

Cr Capp made the acknowledgement after councillors faced a series of questions from concerned residents and community stakeholders over the incomplete major project during the council’s Future Melbourne Committee meeting on November 22, which was held in Southbank.

“Stage six of the original project was designed to connect the gardens with the river, yet it seems to have quietly dropped off the project agenda,” Yarra River Business Association president Jeremy Vincent said, who also called for the removal of the “eyesore” red steps at Queensbridge Square, which had “suffered from maintenance neglect for many years”.

Southbank Residents’ Association president Tony Penna also addressed

Time to abandon the City Rd Master Plan?

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
PLANNING

The president of an emerging Southbank residents’ group has called on the council to consider abandoning the City Road Master Plan, arguing the 2016 strategy is no longer fit for purpose.

In his submission to councillors at the first-ever Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting held in Southbank on November 22, Southbank3006 president David Hamilton described the City Road Master Plan as an “outdated concept”.

Led by former City of Melbourne planner Leanne Hodyl, the master plan was endorsed by the council in 2016 following years of consultation, with the strategy setting the scene for more pedestrianisation, traffic calming measures and street greening.

The master plan conceptually split City Rd into three sections: “Alexandra Avenue”; City Rd East”, between the

St Kilda Rd overpass and Power St; and “City Rd West”, between Power and Clarendon streets.

In acknowledging City Rd’s use as a major arterial road connecting Swan Street Bridge to the Monash Freeway, the strategy for Alexandra Avenue and City Rd East was largely underpinned by a need to improve pedestrian safety and connectivity.

However, the vision for City Rd West is vastly different. While the plan seeks to improve street greening and connectivity along the entirety of City Rd, wider footpaths, bicycle connections and traffic calming measures seek to transform its western end into a “great central city street”.

Proposals put forward in the 2016 Master Plan to achieve this included new pedestrian crossings, lowering traffic speeds, providing active street frontages, separated bike lanes and a new community activity node at the Kings Way undercroft.

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Time called on basketball courts as developers move in

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*
COMMUNITY

Residents have expressed dismay after watching bulldozers and cyclone fence contractors move in on their beloved basketball courts at Boyd Park and another across the road.

Demolition of the half court at Boyd Park – which only opened temporarily two years ago as part of a new neighbourhood park – took place in late November as work began on a contested 42-storey development at the western edge of Boyd Park.

The other, a full court on Queensbridge Street opposite Boyd Park, was also recently dug up to make way for a hotel and residential development – another blow to weary urban eyes.

The development at the rear of the former JH Boyd Girls' School site, which will eventually deliver new recreational facilities, was endorsed by the City of Melbourne in December 2020 despite attracting 128 objections.

"The closest [basketball court] is now at MSAC at Albert Park but it's not for local kids. You have to pay fees," Adrian Kidd, a newcomer to the Boyd Park area, told *Southbank News*.

Mr Kidd outlined his concerns at the City of Melbourne's Future Melbourne Committee meeting on November 22, which was held at Freshwater Place.

"This issue is that we have one and a half basketball courts at the moment. Shortly we will have none," he said.

"Two street courts in Southbank are what the kids need. The same as they need that new playground (on Southbank Boulevard), which has been such a great success."

Others addressed the meeting saying they would see up to 20 people on the half court at Boyd Park at any one time.

"This area is great," one local said, who has been living nearby for 12 years. "It's a green oasis in an area full of towers." Now the only park in the area has tragically been cut in half.

The issue of public space and development



▲ Adrian Kidd tackling the problem of basketball courts.



▲ The proposed new basketball site beneath Kings Way.

has so dominated the local politics of this densely populated area, that locals can't help but lick old wounds.

"There used to be a height limit of 100 metres," another said, pointing at the towers to the east of Boyd Park.

"Once a precedent is set, forget it." At the council meeting, Lord Mayor Sally Capp responded to community concerns about the loss of a concept for the construction of a proposed new basketball court in the undercroft of Kingsway.

"Negotiations with the Department of Transport are ongoing, and council will provide an update on the timing once finalised," she said.

"While those negotiations are ongoing, work on the design for the northern undercroft adjacent to City Rd has progressed."

"Council will be looking for community feedback in the new year and once we get through selection, we can return with gusto to those negotiations. It is important to note that this is owned by the Department of Transport and council will need to get the appropriate occupation terms for the space."

A designer from the City of Melbourne spoke to Mr Kidd over the phone to discuss the issue. Mr Kidd's son works for the Melbourne United Basketball League, but he claims to be no expert himself, just a fresh pair of eyes on the problem.

"It's a bit noisy and dirty," Mr Kidd said, about the undercroft site, but the designer assured him there would be enough light between the roads to grow plants.

Mr Kidd is from Mildura and was shocked at what could be squeezed into an urban landscape that is now used as a carriageway to the back of the casino.

"The last time I was here two guys were racing each other on yellow scooters," he said.

Locals say the undercroft basketball idea was first mooted five years ago, among others which included a plan to demolish the garden in front of the Boyd Community Centre.

"We stopped them from doing that," they said.

"All I'm looking for are a couple of street basketball courts, no building, no lighting, no air-conditioning, just somewhere young people especially can throw hoops ... shoot hoops," Mr Kidd told council. "All you need is a floor, a fence and two hoops." ●



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Locals have their say on Greenline's first stage

WORDS BY *David Schout*
PLANNING

Locals have had their say on the revitalisation of the Birrarung Marr river edge, mostly endorsing the first of five stages in the \$300 million "city shaping" Greenline project.

A broad cross-section of survey respondents — from teenagers to septuagenarians, and residents to workers — were generally positive about the designs, with 56 per cent of the nearly 200 respondents saying they were "very good" or "excellent".

The Birrarung Marr precinct is the first of five precincts to be transformed as part of the Greenline project, with more than 450 metres of new boardwalks, a six-metre-wide promenade and new native habitats.

The other four precincts, from east to west, are The Falls, River Park, Maritime, and Saltwater Wharf, and, together with the Birrarung Marr segment, will complete the entire four-kilometre green trail that is set to run through to the Bolte Bridge.

Survey respondents focused on a range of topics, but the topics of greatest intrigue revolved around active transport and tree cover.

Participants identified potential for conflict between cyclists or scooter riders, and pedestrians.

One respondent said that a "separated space for cycling slowly through to enjoy the space" was required, and that the revitalised Birrarung Marr "must not resemble Southbank Promenade's shared space", a space where the interaction between cyclists and pedestrians is an ongoing concern.

Another participant said that, due to the area's use as an event space, there was a need to "balance use of space by commercial operators and recreational users to avoid conflict".

Feedback also indicated a desire for the design to include a connection with nature, increased canopy cover, and grassed areas.

Further, respondents expressed support for a



▲ An artist's impression of the revitalised Birrarung Marr river edge.

billabong to be included as part of the site, on the basis that it would add to cultural expression.

However, council officers have recommended that the wetland area not be included, with the "focus of the project to be the upgrade to the river edge".

Councillors were expected to endorse the Birrarung Marr concept design at a December 6 Future Melbourne Committee meeting which took place after this edition of *Southbank News* went to print.

Stage one works are expected to start by mid-2023.

Meanwhile, the council has appointed the design studio and landscape architects to deliver the entire Greenline project, which is expected to be completed in 2028.

ASPECT Studios, an international design practice which has worked on greening projects such as the Bondi to Bronte coastal walk in Sydney and, more locally, the Caulfield to Dandenong skyrail linear park, will work alongside award-winning landscape architecture firm T.C.L.

The two entities will work together on each

precinct site, collaborating with the council, state government and key project partners.

"The Greenline project is a transformative vision for our city, and we're thrilled to have two of Australia's leading landscape architecture firms on board to help us make this vision a reality," Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

"It's a significant vote of confidence that traders and residents strongly endorsed our concept for Birrarung Marr, enabling us to move forward with our plans for the rest of the project."

"The Greenline project will help to revitalise the north bank of the Yarra River while also creating thousands of jobs, attracting waves of new visitors and injecting millions of dollars into our economy."

In September, economic analysts found that the project would deliver more than \$3 of value for every dollar spent.

A business case prepared by consultancy group Ernst & Young forecast an increased economic activity in Melbourne of \$740 million over 20 years as a result of Greenline, which is anticipated to create more than 3400 jobs during construction and more than 6400 ongoing jobs by 2042.

The council has hoped that the business case will attract greater levels of investment from upper levels of government.

So far, the federal government has committed \$20 million to the project, while the state government is yet to come to the table.

The council, which has proposed a \$100 million contribution from each level of government, needs further commitment for the entire project to be fully delivered, however is confident of garnering the required investment. ●



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▲ Images showing the building's state of disrepair.

Feasibility study "does not respect the heritage" of 310 St Kilda Rd

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
VETERANS AFFAIRS

A prominent veterans' organisation has slammed a feasibility report commissioned by the Department of Defence into the future use of the former repatriation clinic at 310 St Kilda Rd as "tone deaf".

Renowned architecture and heritage consultant Lovell Chen was engaged by the building's owner, the Department of Defence, after the former Morrison Government announced a review into dormant facility in March.

The Lovell Chen report, seen by *Southbank News* and released under Freedom of Information, put forward three separate options for Defence to consider, being offices, a conference centre, and childcare.

Veterans' group, the Australian National Veterans' Arts Museum (ANVAM), has long sought access to the building to establish a gallery, arts studios and mental health support services for the rehabilitation of veterans.

But despite years of lobbying to government and amid a recent damning Royal Commission into veteran suicide, the scope of services listed by Defence in its tender documents for the review didn't include ANVAM's proposal. ●

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This exhibition was organised by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, in partnership with the National Gallery of Victoria.

Top left and background: **Jožef Tominc** *Man in Ottoman dress* 1830–40 (detail), National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne. Purchased with funds donated by Luisa, Simona and Luca Valmorbidia in memory of Carlo Valmorbidia, 2010; Centre: **Alexander McQueen** *Look 30* (detail), from the *Dante* collection, autumn–winter 1996–97. Photo © Robert Fairer © Alexander McQueen. Model: Kristen McMenamy; Bottom: **Alexander McQueen** *Look 15* (detail), from the *Horn of Plenty* collection, autumn–winter 2009–10. Photo © Robert Fairer © Alexander McQueen. Model: Kamila Filipcikova

Time to abandon the City Rd Master Plan?

Continued from page 1.

The master plan includes six actions. With City Rd being a state-managed asset, three of the actions are the council's to fund and have been mostly completed.

To date, only the Alexandra Avenue pedestrian crossing, some expansion of Southbank's bicycle network, limited street greening and slip lane removal as part of the Southbank Boulevard upgrades have been completed.

Connecting the Arts Precinct to City Rd will now be delivered by the landscape transformations that come with the construction of NGV Contemporary.

The elusive final two actions are City Rd East, which is the state government's to fund, and City Rd West is a shared project. This year, the council is progressing designs for both sections of City Rd with a view to seeking the state's support and funds in 2023.

While the council's current annual plan for 2022/23 lists "delivery" and "advocacy" of the master plan as one of its "major initiatives", Mr Hamilton used part of his submission on November 22 to call on the council to "repudiate" it.

Speaking in response to the council's report on neighbourhood plans in Southbank, Mr Hamilton – a long-term resident with a decorated background in government, planning and economics – urged that funds for City Rd be redirected to "low-traffic neighbourhoods". Much like laneway culture and the council's outdoor dining parklets had reclaimed street space in the CBD, Mr Hamilton said more attention was needed on creating pocket parks and meeting places in Southbank's local streets.

"How do Southbank3006 and residents 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?" Mr Hamilton posed to councillors.

"What is clear is that the City Road Master Plan will only exacerbate the existing traffic management problems along the full length of City Rd ... let's jointly agree to abandon the City Road Master Plan and replace it with strategies to address the traffic management of the entire neighbourhood recognising that City Rd is a State Highway and major arterial and needs to be made to work."

"We would strongly advocate that the council repudiates the City Road Master Plan as an outdated concept and cease relying on it as a panacea for Southbank's economic

or traffic management."

The City of Melbourne recently finalised its "Southbank Neighbourhood Portal" – a one-stop-shop for locals to access council services following its "Participate Southbank" process, led by the council's "neighbourhood partner" for Southbank, Ash Lee.

Mr Hamilton said Southbank3006 was disappointed that the economic development strategies identified as "neighbourhood priorities" as part of this process has focussed on hospitality and retail on City Rd.

In describing Southbank as a densely populated "dormitory suburb" whereby residents predominantly work outside the area, he said Southbank's "economy of the future" required a bigger vision "than coffee shops and dining".

The council's deputy chair of planning Cr Rohan Leppert, who was serving in the planning portfolio at the time the City Road Master Plan was conceived, said it was included in the Council Plan "not because of its traffic-calming potential alone, but for its local economic and health benefits".

"I remain a believer in the potential of the City Rd West upgrades in particular to transform Southbank into a place that is easy and pleasant to walk around. That's quite a transformation of course, but if we can convert a hostile traffic barrier into a low-traffic, tree-lined 'High Street' with generous footpaths, new local hospitality offerings will flourish and the entire local road network will benefit," Cr Leppert said.

"I suspect that the council and Southbank3006 share the same objectives for a greener, high-quality public realm, but in lieu of better alternative proposals, I do think the City Road Master Plan is the best plan to get us there."

As a major initiative of its current annual plan, the council's master plan activities for 2022-23 include ...

- Completing the design, planning and tender for the upgrades to the City Rd northern undercroft and City Rd Park, and beginning construction on both; and
- Continuing to advocate to the state government for upgrades to City Rd East and West by undertaking further traffic studies.

The council included \$9 million in its current budget to progress the Kings Way undercroft, and says it's working closely with the site's owner the Department of Transport to extend its tenure. It's also due to submit revised concept materials to the state government for funding consideration this month ●

Two teens arrested after fleeing two-car crash at notorious intersection

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
SAFETY & SECURITY



Police have arrested two teenagers after they were seen fleeing the scene of a two-car crash in Southbank, which resulted in a woman being taken to hospital.

Emergency services were called to the collision at the intersection of Kavanagh and Power streets at around 3.50am on Sunday, November 27.

Police arrested two Roxburgh Park males, aged 17 and 18, near the accident scene after it was reported three people were seen running from one of the cars.

A 30-year-old woman from Clifton Hill, who was on her own in another vehicle, was treated by paramedics for upper body injuries before being transported in a stable condition to The Alfred Hospital.

A police spokesperson said the two teens had been released pending further enquiries.

"Police are investigating the circumstances surrounding the collision and have ongoing enquiries to make in relation to the third man who ran from the scene," the spokesperson said.

Photos taken by witnesses at the scene showed a badly damaged SUV veering onto a footpath.

The safety of the intersection has long been of concern to residents, particularly the vice-president of residents' group Southbank3006 Jannine Pattison.

For the past 12 months, she has called on authorities to make safety improvements at the site before someone was seriously injured or killed.

"My heart goes out to the young

woman injured in this horrible collision, and we send our best wishes to her for a speedy recovery," she said.

"This intersection has long posed a problem with traffic exiting the freeway, as well as local traffic turning onto Power St from Kavanagh St, and sadly this is another example of the devastating effects of development taking precedence over community safety."

"With another six buildings approved for the Melbourne Square development, there are only going to be more people, more pedestrians, and more traffic. Now is the time to act."

She has reported several crashes at the intersection, including a multi-car crash in August, which saw a man in his 40s being taken to hospital.

However, the Department of Transport (DoT) has maintained that while it would continue to monitor safety at the intersection, there were currently no plans to make any changes at the site.

Ms Pattison, who launched an online petition in November last year to make the intersection safer, believes the best approach is to turn Kavanagh St into a no through road with appropriate traffic calming measures in place, creating a "greener, safer and quieter precinct". ●

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Sandringham Line	8.30pm to last train each night, 9 to 11 Jan	South Yarra to Sandringham

Road disruptions: Closed lanes

St Kilda Road, Melbourne	Until mid 2023	Lanes closed between Toorak Road and Union Street
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New bike lanes on St Kilda Rd, Princes Bridge complete

WORDS BY *David Schout*
TRANSPORT

Cyclists travelling up St Kilda Rd and into the CBD can now do so separated from cars, after kerb-high barriers were installed along the key route.

One of Victoria's most dangerous roads for cyclists and pedestrians, the physically separated lanes on St Kilda Rd between Linlithgow Avenue and Dorcas St were completed in late November and represent a big win for locals using pedal power.

Further north, the new lanes on Princes Bridge — the key river crossing from Southbank into the CBD — was seen as equally important from advocates.

Cyclists have been calling for separated lanes on the iconic bridge for years as drivers, in particular taxis, have often paid little attention to the previous "painted" lanes.

The new kerb-high barriers ensure the northbound lane can be exclusively used by cyclists.

Nik Dow from the Melbourne Bicycle User Group said the long-awaited St Kilda lanes were "a very good standout of kerbside bike lanes — world's best practice", in an interview with Yarra Bicycle User Group Radio.

Chief executive of fellow cycling advocacy group Bicycle Network, Alison McCormack, has previously said they had "waited an eternity for this project".

Around 3500 cyclists ride along St Kilda Rd daily, and the government said cyclists were more likely to be seriously injured by car-dooring (where a driver opens their door in front of an oncoming cyclist) on St Kilda Rd than anywhere else in Melbourne.

"We're building new bike lanes to physically separate drivers and cyclists to make St Kilda Rd safer for all road users," a government spokesperson said.

"We're improving safety for the 3500 cyclists that currently use St Kilda Rd each day by reducing the risk of car doorings and the risk of crashes."

Successful Labor candidate for Albert Park Nina Taylor, who comfortably prevailed in the



▲ A kerb-high barrier was installed in early November. Picture: Twitter @michael_of_melb

November 26 state election after replacing 15-year MP Martin Foley, was a vocal supporter of the lanes.

While the rollout on St Kilda Rd, a thoroughfare on the eastern edge of Southbank, was managed by the state government, Princes Bridge works were carried out by the City of Melbourne, and Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the upgrades were crucial.

"Princes Bridge is an iconic Melbourne attraction, in the middle of one of the busiest cycling routes in our city," Cr Capp told *Southbank News*.

"We've been working hard to improve the roadway, undertake important waterproofing and install a new set of bluestone lane separators for the northbound bicycle lane."

"These upgrades will help to ensure this busy thoroughfare remains safe for all road users."

Kerbside protected bike lanes separate bike riders from motor traffic, and the physical barriers have been proven to both increase the confidence of cyclists and improve the chances of getting people on two wheels.

The council's 10-year Transport Strategy released in 2019 — which remains its guiding document on transport matters until 2030 and was backed by an independent review in late 2021 — noted that would-be cyclists are far more likely to jump on two wheels with protected lanes. ●



New Dodds St park moves ahead after council called out for "prematurely celebrating" the end of Southbank Boulevard

Continued from page 1.

the meeting, and commended the council for the launch of the new playground but questioned why it had claimed the Southbank Boulevard project had been completed.

"Connecting the river was a central feature of this plan. Is this an attempt to, on paper, reduce the current budget blow-out of this project by stripping these items out of the project?" he said.

In response, Cr Capp said the council was "very aware of" the final two stages being unfinished, and that the development and delivery of stage six was being "coordinated with adjacent developments in order to ensure that disruption to the surrounding precinct and suburb is minimised" to "maximise both the benefits of resources, work time and ultimately benefits to the community".

Cr Capp said the council would keep the community up to date on the Southbank Boulevard transformation including information once planning began but noted, "we absolutely accept all of us as councillors that the Southbank Boulevard project is not yet complete".

"Thank you for calling out on the things and areas where we could do better".

The meeting also heard the council would also come back to residents for feedback on the

red steps and "will review if there is something that can be done in the interim".

As previously reported by *Southbank News*, it is understood that the funding and building for stage six hinges on the completion of the STH BNK By Beulah dual skyscraper at the corner of Southbank Blvd and City Rd, which is due to be finished in 2028.

Southbank 3006 residents' group president David Hamilton applauded the council for moving ahead on the Dodds St park, and maintained the miscommunication about the two final stages was "not worth getting agitated over" as "it would be premature to spend ratepayers' dollars until the Beulah development is completed".

"I think what's really important is that the council is committed to the next major element in Southbank which is the Dodds St linear park which will link with the ACCA green space development," he said.

"Until the Beulah development is finished, and the plans and its contribution of open space are understood, we should just put that section on hold."

Mr Hamilton added Southbank3006 welcomed the opening of the new playground on Southbank Boulevard, which was "such popular asset for the community and highlights the need for more open space". ●

Transformation takes shape at Southbank Promenade

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The first stage of the Southbank Promenade upgrade near Princes Bridge has been completed with Lord Mayor Sally Capp celebrating the improvements just in time for summer.

The revitalised area features a wider promenade space for residents, visitors and business owners, together with reconfigured stairs and a new ramp between promenade levels, fresh bluestone paving and wall cladding, new native trees, upgraded lighting, and new seating.

Stage two, which covers the area east of Evan

Walker Bridge, has been paused to allow a busy summer of trading for hospitality venues, with works set to restart in April 2023 and be finished by July 2023.

"Once complete, a 300-metre stretch of Southbank Promenade will be transformed with new trees and expanded space for pedestrians and cyclists," Cr Capp said.

The Lord Mayor said the council anticipated that there would be a "swarm of summer activity along the promenade" with the latest council data showing pedestrian traffic had soared past pre-COVID levels.

"In November, night-time pedestrian activity in Southbank was at 153 per cent of



pre-pandemic levels, with activity surging as high as 240 per cent of the 2019 benchmark on weekends," she said.

The \$3.8 million transformation was originally to begin with early works in late 2021 but was delayed to support small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 lockdowns, before works eventually kicked off in April 2022.

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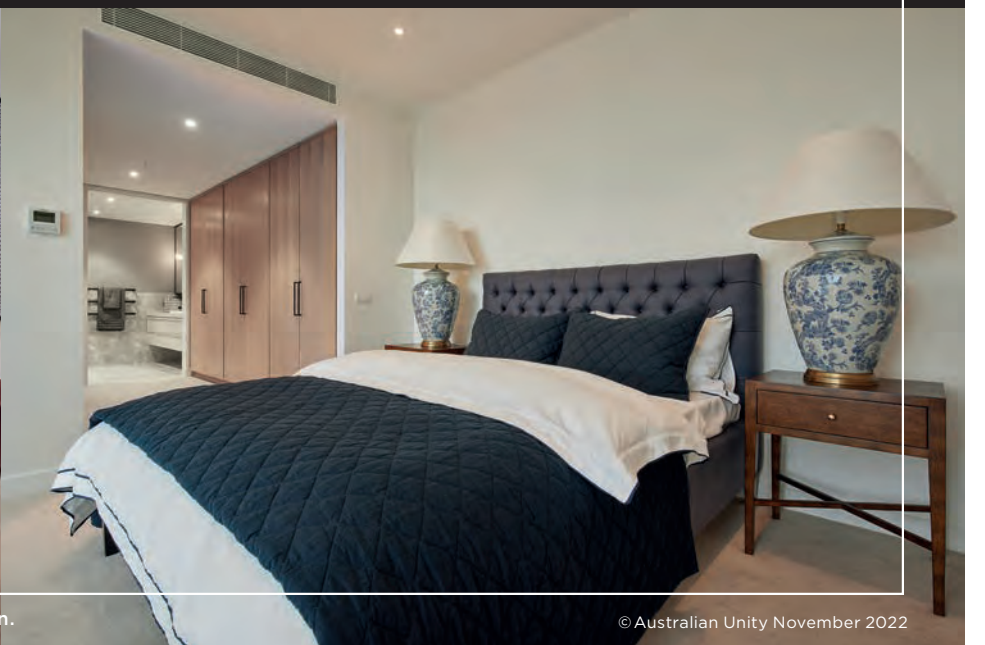
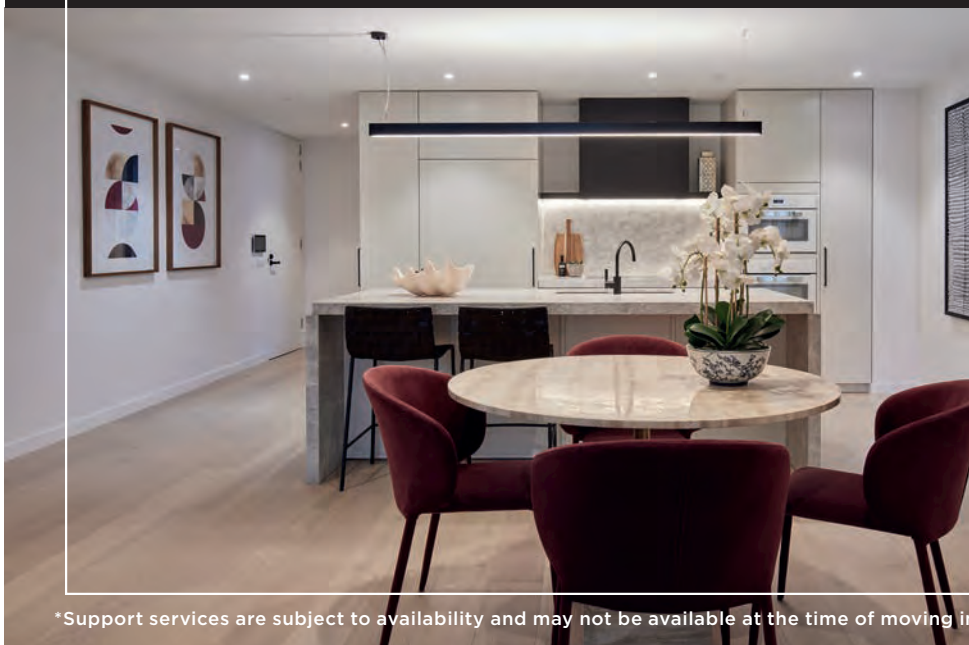
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Southbank substation explodes during attempted copper theft

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
CRIME

Victoria Police are hunting a man suspected of causing a substation to explode in Southbank after allegedly trying to steal copper on November 17.

Melbourne Crime Investigation Unit detectives have appealed to the public in the hope to identify the man who broke into a substation on Fawkner St about 5pm.

Police alleged the man used a spanner to steal copper worth \$1000 from a power board, causing a large explosion.

CCTV captured the incident in which a flash of light followed by plumes of smoke could be seen in the street as a car drove past.

"The man managed to walk out of the substation empty-handed and not seriously injured," a police spokesperson said.

"He was last seen getting into an orange Holden Captiva on Moore St and drove away from the scene."

The man is described as Caucasian and aged between 30 to 50 years old. He was last seen wearing a hi-vis top with navy blue pants and a blue hat.

Detective Senior Constable Mallory Bubb from the Melbourne CIU described the incident as "quite confronting" and that it was lucky no members of the public were injured.

"It was really brazen for the time of day that it was when the explosion and the damage was caused," she said.

Det Sen Const Bubb said there were a couple of witnesses at the scene but urged anyone with any information to come forward.

CitiPower group manager of security Michael Hayes said it was a "very serious incident" and could have resulted in "catastrophic circumstances".

"They [offenders] pose a risk to the electricity suppliers, to customers, to members of the public and, of course, themselves," he said.

"Copper thefts are a big issue not only for our industry, the electricity distribution industry;



▲ CCTV footage captured a substation exploding after an attempted theft of copper.



▲ Police believe this man may be able to assist their enquiries.

it's also an issue for the transport industry, the telecommunications construction industry and it's certainly on the rise and these events just indicate how serious these offenders are at getting their hands on copper."

Mr Hayes said CitiPower was assisting police with their investigation, which was "certainly most recently is one of the most serious ones we've dealt with".

"We have had fatalities on our network and other networks in the electricity distribution industry and that's a real concern," he said.



▲ Detective Senior Constable Mallory Bubb from the Melbourne CIU and CitiPower group manager of security Michael Hayes at the scene of the explosion. Picture: Ajay Viswanath.

"We were fortunate on this occasion that there was no disruption to supply. This asset is in the process of being decommissioned," he said but added it was more the fact that someone could have been standing nearby.

"It's a fine line between stupidity and courage and this person was very lucky in the circumstances."

Mr Hayes said CitiPower took security seriously and was implementing controls, surveillance systems, alarms, and working with other industry partners to resolve the issue of copper theft.

"We're seeing public lighting being targeted, we're seeing consumer mains in new housing estates ... and transformers mounted on poles," he said.

"In our industry it's extremely dangerous ... it's definitely on the increase for our and other industries."

In November, police charged a man after \$30,000 worth of copper was allegedly stolen from a building site on Victoria Parade, East Melbourne, about 2.15am on July 27.

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



Cr Cunsolo elected as new Port Phillip Mayor

COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Port Phillip has a new Mayor, with first-term councillor Heather Cunsolo elected in what will be just her third year of serving on the council.

Serving in the Gateway Ward, which includes South Melbourne and Fishermans Bend, Cr Cunsolo was elected Mayor at St Kilda Town Hall on November 9 alongside long-time Lake Ward Cr Andrew Bond, who was elected as Deputy Mayor. Both will serve a 12-month term.

After being elected as Mayor and succeeding outgoing Mayor Marcus Pearl, Cr Cunsolo said it was "an honour, privilege and huge responsibility to be the 15th mayor of this city".

"I am coming to this role with a strong focus on community and as someone who listens before formulating my views," Cr Cunsolo said.

"There are plenty of challenges ahead of us. Working as a team, we can assure our community we have their best interests at heart in our decision-making."

Cr Cunsolo, who lives in Port Melbourne with husband Joe, said she had no doubt their three children would look back on the next 12 months as an exciting time when they were older. With a background in architecture and residential design, she promised to bring her passion for good practical design to the role and paid tribute to the influence of Port Phillip's longest-serving Mayor Bernadene Voss in supporting her journey on council.

Advocating for the transformation of the Station Pier freight yards and progressing the proposed "Green Line" project in Balaclava were among the projects she said Cr Cunsolo hoped to advance during the next 12 months. ●

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DEPUTY LORD MAYOR NICHOLAS REECE

Think big and act local

Now in his sixth year as a City of Melbourne councillor, the Deputy Lord Mayor said he was inspired to stand for election after being part of a citizens' panel.

"My first encounter with the City of Melbourne - apart from having been a resident and working in the city - was running a citizens' panel that helped develop a 10-year council plan back in about 2014. That experience really opened my eyes to all the important touchpoints local council has in people's lives.

"I have been very fortunate to have a career in public service working for a Prime Minister and premiers, not-for-profits like *The Big Issue* and Movember, as well as having been a lawyer and in business. Having got under the bonnet at Town Hall I was struck by a sense that I could bring all that experience together and make a real difference.

"The thing I love about the City of Melbourne is that you get to think big and act local.

"We tackle some of the toughest issues going around such as economic recovery after the pandemic, homelessness or climate change - but we do it in ways that make a real difference to people's daily lives."

"We also turn up every single day and deliver all those key services that make the city hum. There is a lot of pride to be found in keeping the city, clean, green, bustling, buzzing, healthy, smart and safe."

The Deputy Lord Mayor says sustainability and design excellence are two priority interests in his role as head of the City of Melbourne's planning portfolio.

"We have a big role to play in making Melbourne a truly sustainable city - we are leading the way in moving to zero emissions and zero waste.

"Two thirds of emissions in the City of Melbourne come from buildings - so having more environmentally-friendly buildings is a critical part of the pathway to us being a sustainable city."

The Deputy Lord Mayor said he was proud of the work being done at the City of Melbourne to lift standards of design and architectural excellence.

"Too much crap was being built. So we've introduced a design excellence program which for the first time includes a Design Review Panel and a Design Excellence Advisory Committee.

"We've put in place new standards so Melburnians will see more buildings that they can be proud of, that give back to the city more than they take.

"Buildings that have high quality materials that will stand the test of time, with green roofs and walls, energy efficient, sustainable transport enabled, and delivering high levels of amenity.

"I want Melbourne to be the Copenhagen of the south, a city that people from all over the world visit because we are an exemplar of architectural excellence, urban design and green buildings."

Having been part of council before and during the pandemic, he regards 'Melbourne in lockdown' as his biggest challenge.

"As a city councillor I was coming into Town Hall a lot during that period and it was an absolute tragedy to see those empty streets. Cities without people are sad and scary places.

"COVID-19 was a one-in-100-year disruption for Melbourne and we were the hardest hit municipality in the country economically.

"Melbourne was really tested during the lockdown and the mettle of the council was tested too. I think the city rose to the challenge and showed Melburnians, and the world, our character.

"For example, when nine public housing towers in North Melbourne and Flemington were put into hard lockdown without warning, there were issues getting food supplies in. The City of Melbourne stepped up and played a coordinating role through our community centre to get vitally needed supplies to people in need."

He's also proud of City of Melbourne's support for international students during this period.

"They were left high and dry without work and without any form of welfare support.

"So we stepped in with food vouchers for students which they could redeem at the Queen Victoria Market - we made a very clear statement about the students being part of Melbourne, part of our community, good young people who needed our care.

"Melbourne Town Hall was also set up as a community health vaccination hub that was open to everyone - it became a popular vaccination centre for homeless and marginalised people, international students, people on temporary permit visas, and anyone else who fell through the cracks of the health system.

"We were there at the coalface, as the level of government closest to the people. The City of Melbourne was there for them."

Now that the economic outlook is more promising, he says council's support for business, events and city activation are all bearing fruit.

"The city has gone through some really tough times, but now there is a real sense of excitement as the recovery takes off."

"Recent data shows a record number of new hospitality venues opening. The buzz is well and truly coming back to Melbourne and it's new and exciting, and different. Melbourne right now is a city of possibility."

In distilling his approach as a councillor, the Deputy Lord Mayor said: "No issue too small, no issue too big. I absolutely love helping people with day-to-day problems around the city, fixing things for them. I also love being part of something bigger than any of us. The survival, then the recovery, and now the reinstatement of Melbourne as the world's best city - bigger, better and brighter than ever before."

To read the full story and watch the video visit news.melbourne.vic.gov.au

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E-scooter injuries sees a rise in hospital attendances, new data shows

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
SAFETY & SECURITY

Electric scooter accidents that have resulted in injured riders being taken to hospital have more than tripled in the past year, new data reveals, as popularity in the transport activity grows.

Data from Monash University's Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit showed 427 riders attended emergency departments in the past financial year compared to 128 in 2020-21, a jump of 234 per cent.

Most injuries were for fractures with 44 incidents recorded, followed by dislocations, sprains and strains (18), the data showed, which was taken from Victorian public hospitals with 24-hour emergency departments.

The highest proportion of injuries had taken place on a road, street, or highway (which included footpaths) with 250 incidents recorded in the past year compared to 57 in 2020-21.

People aged between 20 and 29 accounted for the highest frequency of e-scooter injuries.

Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit analyst Dr Jane Hayman said the rise in people being taken to hospital was not surprising due to the City of Melbourne being one of four local government areas selected to test an e-scooter hire scheme, alongside two other inner-city councils (Yarra and Port Phillip) and the City of Ballarat, with this form of transport becoming ever more popular.

"In terms of the burden of injury, the numbers are small," she said, adding 427 hospitalisations were "not alarming" when compared with cyclist injuries which accounted for more than 10,000 emergency presentations each year.

Overall, the data showed the cause of e-scooter injuries were a result of riders falling off, with 344 incidents recorded in the past year, followed by people colliding with vehicles (30), transport injuries (27), and collisions with bikes (five).

Five pedestrians had also been struck in the past year; a new category that hadn't been recorded in previous years, however, the data did not include pedestrians who had been taken hospital.

Dr Hayman made it clear that the data "doesn't tell us where the [e-scooter] accident happened" but presumed most had occurred in Melbourne.

According to the Department of Transport (DoT), more than two million trips have been recorded under the 12-month e-scooter trial (through companies Neuron Mobility and Lime) which began in February 2022.

"The safety of all road users is our priority, and we will continue to work with Victoria Police, participating councils and e-scooter operators to ensure everyone is doing the right thing and staying safe," a DoT spokesperson said.

"An independent oversight panel will make recommendations about the future of the e-scooter trials closer to their finish date." ●



Survey results back Power Melbourne, as Boyd set to become home to community battery

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
SUSTAINABILITY

The City of Melbourne's plan to install neighbourhood battery assets throughout the municipality has received strong support following a community survey, with Boyd Community Hub among a list of proposed sites.

According to a report tabled at the council's Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting on December 6, more than 75 per cent of the 311 respondents to the Power Melbourne survey were supportive of a neighbourhood battery in their area.

Power Melbourne, which will help achieve the council's aim of becoming powered by 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030, will establish a network of neighbourhood-scale batteries across the city in partnership with the University of Melbourne and RMIT.

Neighbourhood-scale batteries increase energy stability and enable the grid to support more rooftop solar by storing generated electricity during the day and discharging it back at night.

The Power Melbourne program aims to make it "easier and more affordable" for residents and small businesses in the inner city who don't have access to rooftop solar to tap into the renewable energy revolution.

As reported in the March edition of *Southbank News*, Federal MP for Macnamara Josh Burns announced that the Albanese Government would partner with the council to install a neighbourhood battery in Southbank.

In November, the Victorian Government announced that it was providing the council with \$750,000 to help establish a 150kW/300kWh neighbourhood battery at the Library at the Dock in neighbouring Docklands.

A one-megawatt capacity (1000kWh) system is equivalent to powering 2000 average homes for around two hours. So, while the Docklands battery alone won't not make a pronounced improvement on both the price of energy and the consumption of "greener" power, it represents a solid first step for the council in its renewable energy objectives.

Southbank News also reported in its August edition that the council was in talks with the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) regarding a huge solar installation on

its 70,000 sqm roof.

In addition to the council's other proposed locations including Queen Victoria Market, Council House 2 and the Kensington Recreation Centre, survey respondents also identified sporting facilities, universities, shopping centres, train stations and traffic islands as alternative battery locations.

The majority of those surveyed agreed urgent action was needed on climate change, and that now was the time for Melbourne to accelerate its transition to renewable energy.

In 2019 City of Melbourne councillors declared a climate and biodiversity "emergency", and have said this was done to "bring a focus to our efforts and investments".

Addressing the Zero-Carbon Jobs Summit on November 23, held at RMIT University as part of the Victorian Cleantech Expo, the Lord Mayor said council facilities were already 100 per cent powered by renewable energy, however the wider goal was far greater.

"Every light on our streets, every barbecue in our parks and every treadmill in our recreation centres is powered by renewable energy," she said.

"Our next renewable energy endeavour, Power Melbourne, builds on that remarkable success. It will establish a network of coordinated neighbourhood-scale batteries to deliver more renewable energy into the grid - ensuring that Melbourne is powered by 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030 and achieves zero net emissions by 2040."

Councillors were expected to endorse the next steps to deliver Power Melbourne at its December 6 meeting which include to release a tender to identify a commercial partner to build and operate the battery network and provide electricity retail services.

The second phase of Power Melbourne community consultation will begin in early 2023. ●



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No plans to expand outdoor dining on Southbank Promenade

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

The City of Melbourne has no plans to bring back an expanded outdoor dining program on Southbank Promenade as it seeks to ensure the safety of record crowds visiting the area.

Council data showed between April and October the average pedestrian activity in Southbank on Friday and Saturday nights between 6pm and 6am was at 151 per cent of the pre-COVID benchmark.

In October, pedestrian activity was at 153 per cent of the pre-COVID benchmark, while spending had hit \$911 million between October and September. With the spike in foot traffic and visitors now taking advantage of the warmer weather, the council recently received two enquiries from Southgate tenants Waterfront and Pure South to expand outdoor dining.

Southgate centre management was previously issued a temporary permit under the Extended Outdoor Dining program to support six tenancies to trade safely during COVID-19 and during recovery in 2020 and 2021.

The permit expired in March 2022 and "there are currently no active outdoor dining permits held by Southgate centre management," the council confirmed.

In reviewing the tenancy enquiries to have outdoor dining, the council said, "to ensure the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, traders and patrons, the City of Melbourne has decided that these areas will remain for the public and not for commercial use along Southbank Promenade".

The council also said the enquiries were made by two individual tenancies, not by Southgate centre management.

"The City of Melbourne works collaboratively with hospitality businesses to enable and activate spaces in the public realm where possible. There are currently 27 permits (25 footpath, one parklet and one non-standard space) for outdoor dining across the whole of Southbank," the council said in a statement.

Permits fees for outdoor dining were reintroduced in November 2022 with a 50 per cent discount on all parklets across the city and an extended freeze on fees in Docklands until June 2023.

Owner of Pure South Philip Kennedy said he was disappointed the outdoor dining program could no longer proceed.

"I would love to have the outdoor dining on the river, it was embraced by everybody during that COVID period," he said. "We were grateful to have it then and so were our customers, everyone loved it. There are acres of space so I would like to think that we could do that in future when the council is on board."

A small business trader, who asked not to be named, said while business was good on weekends, they questioned how the foot traffic data was relevant to small hospitality venues in Southbank who didn't trade late at night.

"How is that relevant to businesses here who are not open until 6am?" the trader said. ●

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MPavilion launches its ninth season

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
ARTS & CULTURE

MPavilion is one of Australia's more forward-thinking architecture commissions, and with internationally renowned Bangkok-based architecture and design practice all(zone) appointed to design the ninth season, its reputation appears to be in good hands.

MPavilion is an ongoing initiative of the Naomi Milgrom Foundation, with support from the City of Melbourne and Creative Victoria.

It was created with the intention to explore unique contemporary architecture designs and to use these designs to connect people and cultural institutions, an achievement it is striving to continue today.

The choice to appoint all(zone), led by co-founder and design director Dr Rachaporn Choochuey, came about due to the way the playfully innovative studio's designs could make people feel at home while still using reusable and recyclable materials.

"We are honoured to commission all(zone) to design MPavilion 2022," founder of the Naomi Milgrom Foundation, Naomi Milgrom AC said.

"Rachaporn's architectural approach to 'the art of living lightly' and creating spaces with people and the environment at the heart of her practice demonstrates how architecture and design can contribute to creating sustainable, equitable cities."

Invited to work on the MPavilion before a COVID pandemic-induced postponement, highly acclaimed architect and current teaching professor at Yale University, Dr Rachaporn Choochuey hadn't been sure if the commission was still something that was going ahead.

But late last year, she received the call that it was finally happening and was left to excitedly start exploring what she could do to make this ninth MPavilion stand out.

Set on working with recyclable materials, Dr Choochuey and her team soon found that there were not many fabrics available in the market for architectural use, and were left wishing

there were more environmentally friendly products in the building industry.

"The fabric you can apply in architecture is slightly different than the fabric you use in clothing because they have to comply with building regulations and so we spent a lot of time trying to find recyclable products," she told *Southbank News*.

"We quickly learnt there was a very big hole in the material market for not only recyclable fabrics but also environmentally friendly fabrics for architecture."

Focusing on the products that they could use, the final design is one that is made up of three different layers, and encapsulates all(zone)'s vision to "celebrate outdoor living".

"We used three different types of fabric mesh, one is practical fishing net from this factory where we asked them to customise the colours, patterns, and size for us, and then the middle waterproof layer is a new material called STFE, and it's the first time being used in Australia," Dr Choochuey said.

This cutting-edge middle layer is supplied by French manufacturer Serge Ferrari and is iconic for being as transparent as glass while also being 10 times lighter.

The addition of this material will achieve the studio's vision of a relaxing ambience, similar to that of "rays of light flickering through layers of leaves".

The final layer is then a waffle of colour fabric, which acts as a loose hanging ceiling.

As someone who always found joy in imagining structures from very abstract factors, and then turning them into something tangible, Dr Choochuey is looking forward to showcasing the ninth MPavilion, and having it become a place for people to come together.

And with her insisting it needs to be a place that also sells food and beverages, it seems Melburnians are in for an all-new MPavilion experience.

While still in the process of being constructed weeks before its opening, on December 8, the design of the ninth MPavilion and its program points to it being a remarkably captivating and



▲ Dr Rachaporn Choochuey standing in front of MPavilion's structure during its initial stages of production. Photo: Ajay Viswanath.

exciting end product.

Alongside a long list of events on the program, for both kids and adults, the 2022 MPavilion will collaborate with some of Melbourne's finest chefs to provide a new food truck experience each week.

Speaking at the media launch of the 2022 MPavilion program, in mid-November, CEO of the Naomi Milgrom Foundation Sam Redston said the latest design was an "exemplar of design excellence" that "demonstrates Victoria's capacity to lead an international discussion about architecture".

"We never lose sight of the true impact of the MPavilion, and our focus is always upon what happens within the MPavilion," he said.

"The connections and experiences people share through our program, and the new ideas, relationships and initiatives continue beyond the MPavilion."

Incorporated in the unique initiatives and collaborations that can be seen this year is an exclusive MPavilion Pale Ale, which involved teaming up with local Preston brewery Tallboy & Moose, and Melbourne-based graphic designer Anita Shao, who created the beer's bold, summer-inspired label.

Staff at the MPavilion will also be wearing newly designed uniform aprons by Safa El Samad, that can be easily transformed into a tote bag, while still showcasing the carefully embroidered sketch of one of MPavilion's earlier designs.

To celebrate the work of Dr Choochuey and all(zone) and commemorate the 70th anniversary of a business relationship between Australia and Thailand, the program will begin on opening weekend with a Thai Festival.

Coming back to Melbourne for the first time since 2018, the MPavilion Thai Festival is being presented in partnership with the Thai Embassy, and will see an array of performances, Thai food, and a monk blessing all take place.

The MPavilion will be open from December 8, at Queen Victoria Gardens, and will remain in place and active well into next year, until it is relocated to a permanent home yet to be found, as is tradition for every year's designs. ●

For more information:
mpavilion.org/program



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Southbank's first Christmas tree taken down before December even arrives

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
COMMUNITY

Southbank's very first official Christmas tree has been taken down after being deemed unsafe just weeks after its installation at Boyd Park.

Standing seven metres tall, the striking tree was put up to help create a more festive vibe within the Southbank area.

The incident behind its removal came to the attention of the City of Melbourne on Friday, November 18. In a statement to *Southbank News*, the council confirmed that it involved an "unwell individual who was under the influence of substances".

After learning of the incident,

Victoria Police and emergency services were notified by the council to offer support to the affected individual, but not before extensive damage was caused to the tree.

"The Christmas tree was destroyed beyond repair, and it also presented an occupational health and safety risk to the public, so was safely removed," a statement provided by the council said.

The arrival of the tree was a much-anticipated occasion for many Southbank residents, with Southbank3006 residents' group vice president Jannine Pattison stating it was "exciting when [their] dream was realised".

"In 2021 I approached the Lord Mayor Sally Capp and requested better Christmas decorations for Southbank, and in particular, a

Christmas tree," Ms Pattison said.

"It is incredibly sad, but for the actions of a single individual, all residents suffer. I saw so many families taking pictures of the beautiful tree. It is very disappointing to have seen it damaged and removed."

The Christmas tree was planned to be the centrepiece for the upcoming "A Very Merry Friend-Mas in Southbank" event, hosted by Southbank3006 as part of the CoM's Christmas Collective program.

Ms Pattison said the tree's arrival had been "super exciting" for Southbankers, who in previous years were left with minimal Christmas decorations while other suburbs continued to overflow with them.

"The Christmas tree had been



embraced by a community often bereft of festive inclusion, and this

year was looking to be different," Ms Pattison said.

"The tree was a symbol that the City of Melbourne was listening to the community, understanding that Southbank is more than a collection of high-rise buildings, that Southbank is a community of families, couples, and individuals craving for a connected neighbourhood feel."

Southbank residents can still make the most of celebrating the festive season with live music, lawn games, face painting, salsa dancing, a dog parade, and a special visit from Santa to feature as part of Southbank3006's Christmas event.

The community event will be held at the Boyd Community Hub on December 10, from 11am to 3pm. ●

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Southbank3006 to host jam-packed community Christmas party

WORDS BY *Jemma van Zaanen*
COMMUNITY

With Christmas just around the corner, community group Southbank3006 will bring celebrations to Southbank with its festive event this month.

As part of the City of Melbourne's 2022 Christmas Collective Program, friends and family are welcome to attend the celebration on December 10 at Boyd Community Hub from 11am - 3pm.

Music lovers can enjoy live Christmas music from Melbourne's own Glee Club, while animal lovers can watch the inaugural Southbank dog parade.

Locals can register their dog to be part of the doggy parade, with prizes such as best festive dressed and best lookalike to their owner up for grabs.

Other festive highlights of the event to look forward to are salsa dancing, face painting, street performers, giant bubbles, a roving magician, and an elf on roller-skates.

Southbank3006 vice-president Jannine Pattison believed the event would build a stronger connection among residents and hoped the celebration would become an annual event for Southbank.

"We are honoured that Lord Mayor Sally Capp will be in attendance and will be giving a public address," Ms Pattison said.

"I am really looking forward to watching the community come together and enjoy a day of music, food, fun, and Santa."

Attendees are welcome to bring a picnic or enjoy food from some of the many vendors at the event, such as Taco Station and House of Cards Espresso.

The local Southbank Lions Club will be hosting a sausage sizzle while Mr Cool Whip will be serving up some ice-cream favourites.

The Victoria Police Motorcycle Branch will also be stopping by and there will be an opportunity to snap some festive photos.

Word on the street is the man in the red suit will be making a very special appearance at the event as well! ●

For more information:
southbank3006.com/events

Taylor makes history as Labor retains Albert Park

WORDS BY *David Schout*
ELECTIONS

Labor's Nina Taylor has become the first woman to serve the Albert Park electorate, after the Southbank resident and former upper house MP claimed victory in the Victorian Election.

As it has since 1950, Albert Park remained in Labor hands after Ms Taylor saluted on November 26, successfully maintaining the party's grip on the electorate.

Labor's primary vote had received a hit of around seven per cent at the polls when compared with the 2018 election (at the time of publication, when more than 80 per cent of votes had been counted), however the party's two-party-preferred victory margin was set to be comfortable.

Ms Taylor will serve as the Member for Albert Park, which encompasses Middle Park, Port Melbourne, St Kilda West, Southbank, South Melbourne, and parts of St Kilda, after a 15-year period in office from the now retired Martin Foley.

Prior to the election, Albert Park was a seat making Labor figures nervous.

Despite having held onto the electorate for more than 70 years, the Federal Election in May this year saw Macnamara, an overlapping federal seat, almost fall to the Greens, and there were fears Albert Park could change hands on November 26.

In an interview with *Southbank News* after Mr Foley retired in July, the outgoing MP reiterated this point.

"This is not a safe Labor seat," he said.

"Clearly, I'm going to support the Labor candidate Nina Taylor, but I don't take it for granted for a moment that this is anything other than a demanding, hard-to-convince community that needs to be actively engaged with to win their support and confidence."

However, the Greens' expected challenge never eventuated.

Victory for candidate Kim Samiotis would have likely required Labor to fall into third place during the count, however this did not occur.

While the Greens improved its Albert Park primary vote by around four-and-a-half per cent, it was not enough to usurp Labor from its long-held seat.

On election day, some Greens figures had declared Albert Park a significant chance of falling to their party along with nearby Northcote, Footscray, Pascoe Vale and Preston.

Victorian Greens leader Samantha Ratnam had even declared a "Greenslide" on the evening of election day, however once counting gave a



▲ *Nina Taylor (right) with former MP Martin Foley.*

clearer indication of results the party's presence in the lower house had increased by just one; from three MPs to four.

It was, however, set to more significantly increase its presence in the upper house.

Ms Taylor said she was looking forward to working alongside locals.

"I would like to express my gratitude for the privilege to be able to serve the people in the seat of Albert Park, as the first woman to ever be elected for this district," she said.

"Albert Park is a seat of many contrasts, with incredible diversity, a creative heart, a generous and caring community, and a place that I call home."

"I am grateful also for the wonderful assistance of so many volunteers, supporters, colleagues, family and friends. In particular, I pay tribute to the support of the former Member for Albert Park, Martin Foley."

Hibbins holds Prahran

Meanwhile the seat of Prahran, which for the first time ever this election contained a pocket of Southbank after a 2021 change to electoral boundaries, was retained by Greens MP Sam Hibbins who secured a third term.

The boundary shift had seen an eastern pocket of Southbank change hands from Albert Park to Prahran and, prior to election day, it was thought that those 4000 Southbankers would have a huge say in who took what was viewed as a knife-edge seat.

However, a significant upswing in the Greens' primary vote in Prahran of around eight per cent saw Mr Hibbins salute with ease.

Labor candidate Wesa Chau, seen as a huge chance of reclaiming the seat for the party prior to November 26, suffered a drop in first preference votes of around four per cent. ●



▲ *Row Ho Ho.*

Photo: Adam Renyard

Christmas comes to Southbank

WORDS BY *Jemma van Zaanen*
EVENTS

The Christmas cheer has come to Southbank this year and here is a list of festive events for everyone to attend.

The playground

Come to Queensbridge Square to swing on a giant illuminated bell or test out your dancing skills on a light-up dancefloor in a festive pop-up playground.

Marvel at a canopy of interactive flower petals or conduct the Lightphonic orchestra in a special installation on the red stairs from December 15-24.

Family Christmas evening on South Wharf

Bring the whole family to South Wharf on December 18 from 5pm to 6pm for a free Christmas celebration with lots of festive food and drinks to purchase.

Attendees will enjoy an outdoor Christmas carol concert by the Australian Girls' Choir, followed by a family Christmas movie by the river at the Common Lawn.

Row ho ho


See the magic of Santa with his floating sleigh and enchanted dolphins light up the Birrarung-Yarra River between Evan Walker Bridge and Sandridge Bridge.

Created by the Melbourne creative studio A Blanck Canvas, catch the 27-metre installation heading down the river from December 2-28 at 1pm and 9pm.

City of Melbourne's Christmas Festival decorations

Get in the Christmas spirit by checking out the Sandridge Bridge for big festive decorations. Or head to South Wharf Bridge to snap some Christmas light photos. Check out the neon "ho ho ho" sign at Southbank Spillway to experience Christmas in Southbank. ●

NEW YEAR. NEW LOOK.



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SIX WAYS TO CELEBRATE NEW YEAR'S EVE

Get set for Melbourne's New Year's Eve celebrations

Welcome 2023 in spectacular style with the city's biggest-ever New Year's Eve celebrations.

We know Melburnians have missed the chance to celebrate together, so we're marking the end of 2022 in style.

If you're planning to head into the city, the best place to see the fireworks is from one of our four Celebration Zones. But you can see them from anywhere you can see the city skyline, or even watch on TV.

Here are six ways to celebrate New Year's Eve in Melbourne:

1. Be dazzled by a fireworks display from 30 CBD rooftops. You can watch the fireworks from anywhere you can see the city skyline.
2. Head to our Celebration Zones at Docklands, Flagstaff Gardens, Treasury Gardens and Kings Domain for family-friendly fun like live music, dance workshops, light installations, food trucks and extra fireworks at 9.30pm.
3. Book a table at one of the dozens of hospitality venues offering special New Year's Eve feasts.
4. See superstars Marina Prior and John Foreman host the Aussie Pops Orchestra's New Year's Eve Gala extravaganza at Arts Centre Melbourne.
5. Settle in at Sidney Myer Music Bowl to watch some of the world's best live acts, brought to you by Falls Festival.
6. Stay home and tune in to the official New Year's Eve live broadcast on Channel 9 from 11pm.

Safety remains our number one priority and a detailed safety plan will be in place to ensure the wellbeing

of everyone celebrating in the city, in partnership with Victoria Police and other emergency services.

Revellers are encouraged to plan early, book into one of the city's world-class hospitality venues and act responsibly.

New Year's Eve celebrations in the city and the Christmas Festival are supported by the \$200 million Melbourne City Revitalisation Fund – a partnership between the City of Melbourne and the Victorian Government.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT melbourne.vic.gov.au/nye

CHRISTMAS IN YOUR PRECINCT



Keen to keep it local this Christmas? Here's how to support your local business precinct, and share the love with nearby neighbourhoods across the City of Melbourne.

Christmas in the CBD: Explore the Christmas Festival across the city. Go old-school with a Christmas Film Photowalk from 4 to 8 December. Take a selfie with the Roving Drag Santa around Degraives Street on 3 and 4 December. Join the Look Draw Love Melbourne walking tour on 10 December.

Giveaways at the Carlton Roller Rink: Headed for the roller rink in Piazza Italia from 10 to 24 December? Enjoy roving performers and Italian Christmas biscuit giveaways and gift vouchers for iconic Carlton shops.

Gift-wrapping on Collins Street: Buy gifts from participating Collins Street stores, save the receipts and head to Howey Place for free gift-wrapping from 10am on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays before Christmas, starting 8 December.

Great Greek Quarter Christmas Feast: Join a laneway party with music, performers and food from local venues. All afternoon, Sunday 18 December. Waratah Place and Heffernan Lane.

Kensington Christmas Fair: Enjoy live music and entertainment on the main stage. Free activities, performers, magicians, face painting, giveaways and a visit from Santa. Saturday 3 December in Bellair Street from 10am to 4pm.

Little Korea Christmas Festival: Experience Korean culture and street food, with market stalls, music and decorations. Sunday 18 December in Little Lonsdale Street and Healeys Lane from 11am to 5pm.

Christmas cheer North and West Melbourne: Choirs, buskers and roving Christmas characters will entertain shoppers. Look for Santa in a fire truck. Enter the Christmas raffle, go late-night shopping and enjoy free gift-wrapping and giveaways.

South Wharf Christmas Choir and Film: Join a family carols concert and screening of *The Grinch* on the Common Lawn on Dukes Walk in South Wharf. Sunday 18 December from 5pm to 8pm.

Twilight markets in Docklands: Stock up on stocking-fillers at the District Docklands Twilight Christmas Market on 10 December from 3pm to 8pm. And at the Docklands NewQuay Twilight Xmas Market on 17 December from midday to 8pm.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au

Keep your cool this summer

By 2050 Melbourne will experience an average 16 days over 35 degrees.

The City of Melbourne is committed to reducing the threat of extreme urban heat for vulnerable people.

Our goal is to turn Melbourne into a refuge for workers, residents and visitors during extreme heat events.

We have already started acting to:

- Cool the city through urban greening
- Invest in projects like Greenline to provide a cool green corridor through the city
- Help keep cool, through our Cool Routes online maps, public drinking fountains, and by providing practical support during heatwaves.

All our efforts combined aim to cool Melbourne by four degrees, to improve liveability, resilience, and community health.

Keep an eye out for heat health alerts on City of Melbourne's social media channels and from the Department of Health, or be aware of upcoming weather.

For tips on how to stay safe during the heat visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/heatwave

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HOW TO HAVE A TREEMENDOUS CHRISTMAS IN MELBOURNE

Roller-skate in Carlton, swing on a giant bell and head to the iconic Myer Christmas windows to celebrate 100 years of Disney this festive season.

The Christmas Festival is well underway, with decorations bringing colour and joy to every corner of the city.

Fed Square has been transformed into Christmas Square with Santa's workshop, our stunning 17.3-metre LED Christmas tree and festive entertainment galore.

Our popular Christmas Projections have returned to Town Hall, plus a new showstopping projection on Flinders Street opposite Fed Square.

We've also welcomed back the String Bean Alley Christmas Night Markets at Queen Victoria Market, the giant Christmas Maze in Docklands and the Christmas Carnival at Birrarung Marr.

Pillars of Light, a Chanukah celebration for all Melburnians, and Koorie Krismas, a First Nations

celebration at Fed Square, are also bringing communities together in celebration.

Exciting additions to this year's festival program include:

- a roller-skating rink in Carlton
- a pop-up playground at Queensbridge Square with bell swings, a dance floor and an interactive orchestra
- the Christmas Eve Circus Spectacular, bringing festive cheer to Town Hall.

We're also supporting small events across the city, such as Christmas markets, workshops and laneway parties, through our Christmas Collective grants program. So there's plenty more to discover.

The Christmas Festival runs until 25 December.

Major partners include the Victorian Government, Fed Square and TAC.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au

IN BRIEF

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE SURVEY

Communities that are well prepared and connected are more resilient during unpredictable events.

We are seeking your feedback on how we can build community resilience to natural disasters, which are expected to become more difficult to manage.

Have your say at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/southbank-community-resilience

PAY IT FORWARD THIS FESTIVE SEASON

Make a difference to Melburnians in need this Christmas by donating to our Good Giving program.

Homelessness is a complex and confronting issue that can affect anyone at any point in their lives.

We believe all Melburnians deserve access to safe and affordable housing. That's why Homes Melbourne, a special entity of the City of Melbourne, is committed to ending homelessness in the city through our housing project, Make Room.

By donating to our Good Giving campaign this festive season, you will support Make Room and help those who need it most.

About Make Room

We're stepping up to address homelessness by working in partnership with the Victorian Government, Unison, and the philanthropic and corporate sectors.

The \$20 million Make Room development will deliver 50 studio apartments, housing and homelessness services, and other support. Residents will stay for up to 12 months, or until they are connected with long-term housing.

We are currently raising funds to complete a dedicated floor for women, who are the fastest-growing group of people experiencing homelessness in our city.



An artist's impression of the Make Room development

How to help

By giving direct to Make Room, you are helping provide for people's immediate needs and deliver the crucial, long-term support they need to exit homelessness.

Donate at lmcf.org.au/makeroom



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Arts Precinct



Arts Centre Melbourne kicks it up a notch this festive season

WORDS BY Kaylah-Joelle Baker and Jemma van Zaanen

Christmas is just around the corner and to celebrate, Arts Centre Melbourne has a jam-packed schedule all throughout December for the community to enjoy. Beginning its celebrations on December 9 and running until December 24, Arts Centre Melbourne is establishing itself as the Christmas hub of Southbank for people of all ages. Paul Kelly's *Making Gravy* concert will return to Sidney Myer Music Bowl on Friday, December 9 to begin the month-long calendar of festivities.

Now an annual event, the night will consist of all the classics that have made up the Australian singer-songwriter's rich four-decade-long career, including his 1996 track *How to Make Gravy* which has become a symbolic Christmas anthem for those separated at this time.

Festivities will then move to Hamer Hall from December 10 to 11, where the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra will present Sir Andrew Davis's new orchestration of Handel's iconic *Messiah*.

The song has been a staple for many years and is made up of various passages in the Old and New Testament and contains the famous *Hallelujah* chorus.

Since singing *Messiah* as a boy himself, Sir Andrew has been labouring away to transform it in a way that amplifies a modern orchestra and his arrangement is being performed for only the second time in Australia.

The following night, December 12, will see Hamer Hall host the annual *Christmas Melodies* concert featuring classic songs and new favourites.

The festive sing-along will be hosted by Gorgi Coghlan and will present musical theatre stars Thomas McGuane from *Frozen* and Sarah Krndija from *9-5 The Musical*.

A great night for family and friends, audiences can also expect to see performances from the Pasefika Vitoria Choir led by music director Rita Seumanutafa-Palala and The Salvation Army Band led by Ken Waterworth.

Christmas movie lovers can look forward to screenings of *Home Alone* (1990) with scores conducted by Nicholas Buc and performed by a live choir, on December 14 and 15.

Home Alone is a classic festive film starring Macaulay Culkin as Kevin McCallister defending his home from two burglars after he was accidentally left behind by his family

when leaving for a Christmas holiday.

Audiences will experience John Williams's compositions from the film brought to life by the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.

Another classic film, Disney's *The Muppet Christmas Carol in Concert*, will take over Hamer Hall on Friday, December 16.

The Muppet Christmas Carol sees The Muppets perform the classic Charles Dickens holiday tale, with Kermit the Frog playing Bob Cratchit, the put-upon clerk of stingy Ebenezer Scrooge (Michael Caine).

Moving closer to Christmas, The Australian Conservatoire of Ballet will return with Tchaikovsky's iconic *The Nutcracker* from December 20 to 22 at Hamer Hall.

Choreography is by former Principal Artist of the Australian Ballet, Christine Walsh and 65 dancers will perform throughout the ballet, including international guest artists. In a unique on-stage setting, 60 musicians of The Australian Conservatoire of Ballet Orchestra will perform alongside the dancers, conducted by the renowned composer Peter Brandy.

To finish the festive season, the crowd favourite Vision Australia's *Carols by Candlelight* will return to the Sidney Myer Music Bowl from December 23 to 24.

This year's celebration will mark the 85th anniversary of the Christmas Eve event and will continue to support children who are blind or have low vision.

Vision Australia CEO Roon Hooten welcomes family and friends in person to the event this year and he believes it will be the "brightest carols yet".

"It's thanks to the funds raised through Vision Australia's *Carols by Candlelight* event that we can provide much-needed services to thousands of children who are blind or have low vision," Mr Hooten said.

New and familiar faces will take the stage to perform feel-good Christmas carols and songs, including Marina Prior, Denis Walter and David Hobson, as well as many more. ●

For more information:

artscentremelbourne.com.au/whats-on

"This is a dream role of mine": Malthouse Theatre appoints new work manager

WORDS BY Kaylah-Joelle Baker

Malthouse Theatre has officially appointed dramaturg, director and creative producer of Green Door Theatre Company, Bernadette Fam as its new work manager.

As an Egyptian-Australian interdisciplinary dramaturg, Ms Fam has a rich understanding of the work theatre companies need to be doing internally to create thriving, safe spaces for all artists, and she is looking forward to creating a space at Malthouse where unique storytelling can thrive.

"Stages are diversifying for the absolute better, but we need to make sure we are also creating the space for artists to be accessing their most authentic form of storytelling," Ms Fam said.

"I believe it is our job in these theatre companies to do the internal work and to tailor a space and environment where artists' unique form of storytelling can thrive."

The role of new work manager is a key role on the theatre's artistic team and will see Ms Fam work closely with Malthouse's team and creative artists, while also delivering professional development programs.

After working with many diverse and underrepresented artists in the past, the meaningful work involved in being Malthouse's new work manager is something Ms Fam considers her "dream role".

"Part of my role is delivering the professional artist development programs, such as the Besen Artists Program and the Malcolm Robertson Writers Program, and making sure there is an active upskilling of new artists and artists of all ages who have found mainstage theatre inaccessible due to systemic barriers," she said.

"My role is also about finding new writers and theatre makers of all disciplines to commission to make new Australian work, and working with them closely as a dramaturg or as a facilitator of the process to help ensure the story they want to tell is being authentically represented through the narrative and all the other elements of the show."

As someone who, upon leaving drama school, found she wasn't really aligning with the roles she was going for or being offered as a woman of colour, Ms Fam started meeting with incred-



ible artists doing their own work, and found fulfilment in dramaturgy and new work development.

Being involved in theatre making, devising, and working with people from all different art forms, including non-text-based artists, led Ms Fam to her passion of being involved in work that addresses and combats against systemic barriers that make theatre spaces inaccessible.

It is now through this role that Ms Fam said she hoped to see to it that Malthouse's programming "is really representative of the Melbourne community and what the Melbourne community is striving to make, as well as see".

"New work development is absolutely what fulfils me as an artist and helps serve other artists to really make the work they want to make and to find their unique and authentic access points to storytelling," she said.

"I also learnt how to produce in the very first place, so I had the skills when I got a role like this to help create, design, and deliver new programs that are always bringing in new artists, especially underrepresented artists."

While still in the process of finding her feet, after making the move from Western Sydney only days before she began the role on November 21, Ms Fam has already been working hard getting to know the Melbourne community better and identify what the artistic community is yearning for.

In expressing his excitement for having her on board, Malthouse Theatre artistic director and co-CEO Matthew Lutton described Ms Fam as a "brilliant theatrical thinker and creator".

"She is a fantastic dramaturg, a passionate supporter and advocate for artists emerging to established, and insightful in her thinking about where theatre is going and how we can get there," he said. ●

CRITIC

Clever show relies on subtle meanings

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

It was quite difficult to pick trends in this year's Grad Show at the Victorian College of the Arts in terms of art influences and history.

There were some ironic references to past practices such as hard-edge painting and materiality. But a common thread took a while to emerge out of the mix.

Jackson McLaren's series *Somewhere Between a Sentence and a Song* in 19 parts gestured towards some meaning.

These beautiful experiments in texture combined hessian and paint in a range of abstract applications.

Benjamin Baker in *No Strings Attached Melody* took the prize for scale in his over-sized Picaso-esque figures that dwarfed the visitor.

One Masters graduate told *Southbank News* that students were instructed to make their work schmick and this is a good description of the show. There was little room for a mistake or a problem in the corner, a position challenged by Wylie Siassios in *Confined Artist*.

Wylie was painting from 11am to 5pm over four days inside a large wooden box with peep holes, acting the part of the expressionist with "Warning: Paint Throwing and Splashing May occur" printed on the outside.

"It feels like I'm trapped in a square prison for a while," he said. "Everywhere I go seems like a lobby, waiting for something to take over."

Myles Carew in a series of figurative paintings dealing with prejudice was one of the most overt in terms of content with titles such as *The Pretender* and *Flight*.

Most students go to art school with a range of



▲ Wylie Siassios inside his work *Confined Artist*.

questions about life and the significance of making things to display to others. Grad shows are one way of demonstrating what they have discovered but there was no overriding message coming out this year.

Many of the works on display were of museum quality but art can be more honest than that and demonstrate its own struggles as a maker goes through a rough patch of discovery.

This year's show is more subtle in that it reports on the results of those studies rather than showing the artist's mind at work.

Phoebe Haig's paintings, which engaged with close-ups of elemental transformations such as candlelight, dampness and heat waves, were both clever and beautiful.

The constructions of Joseph Doggett-Williams conjured up memories of strange little forgotten objects from the Edwardian era as he explored anthropological relationships to nature in *A Snail without a Shell*.

The combination of paint, ink jet prints and plastic coatings intensified the uncanny qualities of his source materials. ●



EMILIA FURFARO

Exploring the wide world of photography with an open mind

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

Emilia Furfaro has always had a keen interest in photography, but it wasn't until she studied it as an art form in high school that she realised there was more to it than just clicking a button. Now using photography as a creative escape, Emilia finds joy in the fact that it isn't as "daunting as drawing".

"With drawing you start with a blank page, but with photography you can use things in the real world, make art with it, and express new ideas," she said.

"I thought that side of it was really cool." While high school was where Emilia's interest in photography began, she soon realised there was much more to learn about the craft of taking a photo and understanding the camera's capabilities.

"In high school I found that it was more about the ideas and the history, but not so much about the technical side of things, such as using the camera, while understanding the settings and lighting," Emilia said.



"I came across the course at Photography Studies College (PSC) and thought it was exactly what I needed to learn those skills and get more into photography as a job." Upon signing up to undertake the six-month Certificate IV in Photography and Digital Imaging, Emilia has been able to push herself more into the realm of photography, saying the course teaches its students "everything you need to know".

Learning everything from how to use a camera and its settings, to learning about exposure, different types of lighting, and printing, has now left Emilia sure that photography is what she wants to continue to do, even if she has no specifics of what that future looks like.

"I honestly think photography is something I will continue exploring, because it is so broad and

doing this course has helped me to narrow down where I want to go with it," she said.

"Short term, I hope to do it as another job and get myself started doing anything I can. I'm not too sure where to go with it long term, but I hope it is something I can continue to do and something I enjoy doing for a long time."

As for now, Emilia's work can be seen alongside the other students within the course, with their upcoming class exhibition *Fructus Sem - A Harmony in Mixed Photography* fast approaching. Held at SAE Creative Media institute in South Melbourne, the exhibition will open from Friday, December 9, at 7pm.

The exhibition will be a chance for the students to showcase the work they are most proud of, with Emilia stating that the work she was most proud of was the photos where she had been

able to use specific skills she had recently learnt.

"I managed to create a blue moody scene in a bedroom, and get the blue light into the camera, rather than having to add it in when editing, and that was something I learnt and then was able to apply," she said.

"We also learnt about composite images, and I created a photo where I have chopped my head off and it shows my headless body with the head then sitting on the floor. It's supposed to be horror but with a comical take on it, and I am really happy with what the end product was."

This interest in constructing images is strongly influenced by Emilia's love of coming up with a concept and story, and it is through using these skills that she hopes to continue to experiment and explore various ideas long after the course officially wraps up. ●



Image by Andrew Dorman



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▲ A rocky hollow for drama students.

First steps to adventure

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge
COMMUNITY

The new playground on Southbank Boulevard is encouraging people to tap into their adventurous spirit and take a few risks.

A group of drama students from the Victorian College of the Arts had climbed onto a rock instead of a stage.

A two-year-old from a high-rise was learning how to come down to earth.

And a grandmother from England was wondering how a playground so close to the city was freely available to the public.

The students had chosen the rock as a meeting place for an early dinner before their show at the Southbank Theatre.

“It’s peaceful here. We’re among trees. It’s a creative park. It’s different to other parks,” they said.

Local resident Brad was taking his two-year old daughter Jamila to engage with the drama of the earth and its contours.

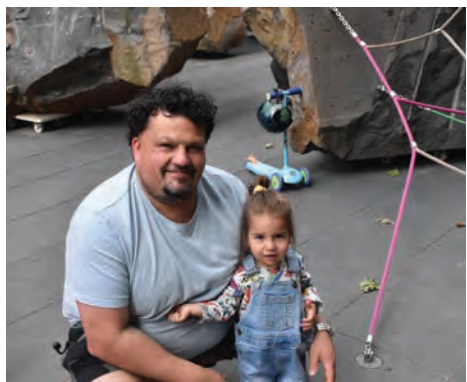
“For inner city kids, the country is made of boulders and rocks. We don’t have a backyard,” he said.

The most enthusiastic supporter was Vicky Wales from Nottingham who was staying in Southbank for her son’s wedding.

“In the UK we have nothing like this. They took away a lot of parks because youngsters trash them. You have to go quite a way to find one,” she said.

Her grandson Roczen was targeting a few rocks to climb and had made a friend from Spain.

The park has large bluestone boulders perched on dollies, abseiling pegs on rocks to encourage climbing, slides, rope bridges and soft pavers to cushion falls. ●



▲ Brad and Jamila pull up at a cave.

Some like it wet: the impacts of climate change on local plant life

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge
ENVIRONMENT

Some indigenous plants have been flowering later this year because of the cool, wet weather, prompting nursery workers to worry about climate change.

But, according to researchers at the Royal Botanic Gardens (RBG), other species have been lapping up the rain and coming back from the brink of extinction.

Megan Hirst, a postdoctoral fellow in seed science, and her colleagues at the Gardens have been comparing notes about the changes.

Dr Hirst said that plants in the Gardens were growing in a semi-controlled environment under a curator’s care and attention in which irrigation was monitored, and fertiliser applied if necessary.

“However, it is the plants in the wild that do not have this buffering from seasonal variation. Flowering appears to be later in some indices,” she said.

Late flowering has had an impact on the collection of seed for propagation at Westgate Biodiversity, a nursery which specialises in local plants.

Southbank News began investigating the issue after getting a tip-off from workers who collect the seeds from indigenous plantings in the City of Melbourne.

The workers collect seed from species such as Lomandra or mat rush, a local grass once prevalent among the open eucalypt forests of the riverbank, and now only available in cultivated form.

Christopher Jakobi, a facilitator of RBG Aboriginal programs, has been keeping an eye on the grasses in the Gardens.

“In the Gardens at the moment, as expected, grasses tend to be flowering at this time of year and in one to two months they should be producing seed,” he said.

“I can see the seed heads on the Kangaroo Grass, *Themeda triandra*, and I can see that Grevillea trees, *Grevillea robusta* are in flower – there is one near The Terrace and one on Oak Lawn.”

However, on a recent trip to Portland with the science team, “we did notice that the orchids were flowering about six weeks late”.

He said that plants in the Gardens were more insulated from changes to the environment.

“It is the same in Southbank and in cities. Cities experience the urban heat island effect, and if they need more water, people tend to water them.”

Seeds are collected from native species growing in the Gardens and stored in the nursery while other rare and threatened Victorian species are collected in the wild and stored at the Victorian Conservation Seedbank.

Dr Hirst said that the changing climate has had an impact on species that are very habitat-dependent, some for the better.

“Some like it wet!” she said. “For example, we are currently working with the Swamp Everlasting, *Xerochrysum palustre* and it is



▲ Healthy stock of lilly pilly and chocolate orchids are benefitting from the rain.

doing exceptionally well.”

“This critically endangered species naturally occurs in lowland swamps but has become rare due to habitat depletion.”

“We have collections of this species in cultivation currently flowering and is showing robust growth in the outdoor research plots given all the rain.”



Other species have been lapping up the rain and coming back from the brink of extinction ...



Council calls for local input on Southbank Community Resilience Assessment

The City of Melbourne is still calling on all Southbankers to participate in an online survey as part of its “Southbank Community Resilience Assessment” until December 19.

Locals can have their say on the assessment via the Participate Melbourne online portal. The council says it is conducting the assessment in response to climate change and the likelihood of “disasters” becoming more difficult to manage.

Southbank has a history of flooding events being a low-lying area along the Yarra River. The council said it was working on a four-year project called “Prepare Melbourne” to engage, and prepare residents and communities to “enhance their resilience” to such events, as well as the health impacts of climate change.

Starting with Southbank as a pilot neighbourhood, the council says it would like to better understand the physical and social vulnerabilities its communities face. ●

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



First “pop-up accommodation” reduces women’s homelessness

WORDS BY Sean Car
HOUSING

Melbourne’s first “pop-up accommodation” for women at risk of homelessness, The Lakehouse in South Melbourne, is undergoing further refurbishment to support even more women in need of housing.

Pioneered by Housing All Australians (HAA), the pop-up model of housing provides temporary accommodation for vulnerable Australians by re-purposing vacant buildings awaiting redevelopment.

In collaboration with community housing agencies and property owners, the scheme takes advantage of the thousands of suitable empty buildings across Australia that can be re-purposed for short-term use as crisis or transitional housing.

It’s the same model underpinning the City of Melbourne’s “Make Room” project – a similar initiative transforming an underutilised council-owned building at 602 Little Bourke St in the CBD into accommodation for the city’s rough sleepers – made possible thanks to the advocacy of HAA.

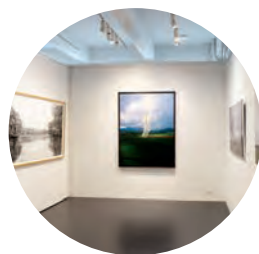
The Lakehouse is a previously empty aged care facility in South Melbourne that was repurposed in 2018 and, so far, has housed more than 100 women aged 55 and over in need of short-term housing.

HAA founder and director Rob Pradolin said that thanks to the support provided by YWCA Australia, more than half of these women had been able to secure permanent public housing or private rentals.

“There are hundreds of vacant buildings awaiting redevelopment across Australia, which is another form of society’s wastage,” he said. “People are sleeping on our streets, on couches, and in cars. Pop-up housing like Lakehouse is not a long-term solution, but they’re a way the private sector can take action to help fix a society in crisis.”

The refurbishment of the original 32 rooms in The Lakehouse was made possible by the generosity of more than 15 businesses, which included pro-bono design and building services, as well as funding from the Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation and the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing.

Planning for the next stage of refurbishment works is now under way, with upgrades to the remaining 20 empty rooms scheduled for completion in 2023. The works will involve upgrades to the existing laundry and kitchen facilities. ●



Flinders Lane Gallery

Situated within the beautiful Nicholas Building, FLG is the perfect destination for anyone looking for a relaxed yet inspiring encounter with art. Showcasing the work of over 40 contemporary and Indigenous artists the gallery presents a dynamic program of exhibitions and boasts an inviting, light filled showroom featuring the latest works from our stockroom.

📍 Level 1, The Nicholas Building

📷 @flinderslanegallery

☎ 03 9654 3332

flg.com.au



CYP-BS00296

Property market update with Ray White

There has been plenty of commentary in the media regarding rate changes and the impacts on the property market.

WORDS BY *Andrew Salvo*
RAY WHITE SOUTHBANK

Many of our clients have been asking what these changes mean for their property and the inner-city market.

Our experience over the past three months has been quite positive, buyer activity has increased with many properties being sold with multiple offers on the table, and auctions with a minimum of two bidders delivering a clearance rate of 75 per cent.

Why are we experiencing this activity?

Melbourne rentals have experienced the fastest increase over the past several years.

Many investors sold out during the COVID-19 pandemic, which reduced stock dramatically.

As Australia reopened its borders and Melbourne came out of lockdown, we have seen a surge of interstate/international migration (including international student arrivals), putting even more pressure on the rental market.

Our office unit rentals have jumped 37 per cent over the year from the lows during COVID-19, reaching up to an average of \$530 a week. That equates to a jump of \$155 per week since September 2021. Rents are now above pre-COVID levels and still on the rise.

Buyer motivation and sentiment

With rents increasing, it is still making more sense to buy, evidenced by the sheer number of first home buyers and inner-city residents we are meeting who were previously renting in the area and now opting to purchase their own home.

Analysts continue to report that more investors are entering the market again, because rents are on the rise supporting the investment income.

Rising interest rates are reducing the loan



▲ Ray White Southbank Team.

sizes, resulting in a lowered borrowing capacity for many buyers.

This shift is pushing buyers to more affordable suburb in the inner-city.

With the dust of the federal election now settled and buyers coming to terms with interest rate rises, there is more certainty in the economy and buyer confidence to make decisions.

What does this activity mean for property values?

To assess this properly it is best to compare the activity in inner-city today to the same

period in 2021 (historically low interest rates, albeit Melbourne was in lock down from 5 August to October 2021) and 2019 (a pre-COVID-19 pandemic market and home loan rates were at a similar level to what's on offer today).

The closure of our borders and general disruption caused by the pandemic and Melbourne lockdowns had a bigger impact on property prices in City of Melbourne than the increase of interest rates.

City of Melbourne has clearly rebounded to where it left off.

What should sellers do?

With buyers demonstrating confidence in the current market, sellers should be doing the same, knowing that prices and activity is back to where it was pre the COVID-19 pandemic.

The properties performing best in the market are those which are ready to move in, with no renovation/maintenance required. With the current surge in renovating and materials costs, most buyers are looking for a turnkey solution right from settlement day.

For more information: raywhitesouthbank.com.au ●

Southbank's newest landmark Focus apartments now complete

Central Equity is proud to announce a milestone in its latest landmark development, with occupants moving in and enjoying all that "Focus" has to offer.

Focus is a \$450 million, 50-level building at 81 City Rd, Southbank.

The building has been designed not only for the needs of young professionals and empty nesters but also for the growing tide of young parents looking to raise their families in the inner city.

Residents will be greeted with a sense of "hotel style" luxury as they enter the foyer. An experienced 24-hour concierge team is available to assist residents' daily needs. The apartments are generously sized and many, whether they be one-, two-, or three-bedroom apartments, have studies which will accommodate the needs of busy professionals or those wishing to work from home.

The abundance of floor to ceiling glazing features breathtaking views of Melbourne's inner city, south towards Port Phillip Bay and east across the Royal Botanic Gardens. The building has a 7.2-star energy rating (average across the building) and it is double glazed, providing additional thermal and acoustic comforts.

All apartments have balconies and openable windows.

Residents will have access to the exclusive resident facilities on level 7.

There are not many buildings that have been built with resident facilities that are ready for use now and incorporate the extensive luxury of Focus. There is around 1100 sqm of resident

amenity, which includes a 17-seat "gold class" cinema, resident lounges and dining areas and kitchen facilities. A large gym, sauna and indoor swimming pool are included. There is a spacious outdoor landscaped terrace for outdoor dining and cooking on one of the barbecues.

The project promotes sustainable transport alternatives with generous amounts of bicycle storage as well as private car parking. Focus is also a short walk to the free city tram zone, Flinders Street Station and St Kilda Rd trams.

Focus is in a premium Southbank location in Melbourne's famous Arts Precinct. The National Gallery of Victoria, Arts Centre, Opera Theatre, MTC Theatre are all a short walk away for residents. The \$1.7 billion redevelopment of the Arts Precinct including the new NGV Contemporary Gallery and new public amenity will further enhance the area and is a major investment for Southbank.

Focus is close by to Melbourne's universities, prestige schools, the CBD employment and retail precinct, Southgate restaurants and cafes and South Melbourne Market.

Southbank has seen somewhat of a resurgence with significant investment in the area to accommodate the growing population. The Boyd Park and community hub, library, meeting rooms and café and the new Southbank Boulevard linear park and playground are examples of this. In addition to this, medical



centres, supermarkets and other household services have opened in the area.

The completion of Focus comes at a time when inner city residential rental occupancy rates are at extremely high levels with strong demand from people wanting the convenience that living in Southbank brings.

Limited immediate new supply of apartments in Southbank will add additional pressure to the rental market.

Central Equity is regarded as the pioneers of inner city living, having completed more than 80 major projects in locations around Melbourne.

There are a limited number of apartments still available for sale at Focus.

For further information, contact Central Equity on 9278 8888, visit focusmelb.com.au or visit onsite at 81 City Rd, Southbank where there are nine fully furnished display apartments available to inspect. ●



St Johns

Southgate

Christmas Day

10am Festival Eucharist
with Bach cantata

Jauchzet, frohlocket! Auf, preiset die Tage (BWV248/i)
from the Christmas Oratorio
for 3 soloists, choir, strings, 2 oboes, 2 flutes,
3 trumpets, timpani and continuo
St Johns Bach Choir and Orchestra
directed by Graham Lieschke

Christmas Eve

7:15pm Brass on the Grass
7:30pm Service with readings,
poetry and carols
with brass quintet and organ

Every Sunday

9am Worship
Check our website for updates

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

BUSINESS

YARRA RIVER BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Bringing the joy of music to South Melbourne

Since launching more than 50 years ago in Australia, Yamaha Music School continues to embody Yamaha's internationally designed curriculum by fostering student potential and nurturing their capabilities to express themselves through music.

Music education is widely recognised for the multitude of positive benefits music can have on the brain, especially when introduced at an early stage of development. Yamaha Music School recognises these benefits and delivers courses specifically designed for your child's age group, giving them an exciting and rewarding experience while learning music.

There are four main values Yamaha Music School focuses on: a comprehensive music education, timely and age-appropriate learning, the strength of group lessons and their highly trained teachers.

A comprehensive music education

Music education can improve collaboration and social skills to build meaningful relationships. When a child attends a Yamaha Music School lesson, you may notice a difference in the way they interact with others. Playing music with friends is a form of teamwork, even in small ensembles. Children will have this wonderful opportunity to be a member of a team, listening to their friends play and playing along with them.

Timely, age-appropriate learning

Listening skills develop especially well at ages four and five and playing skills from ages six to eight. Yamaha Music Schools offer a balance between elements of listening and playing for each age group.

Lessons start with simple concepts and gradually increase the difficulty to draw out each child's strengths. This broad exposure to the wonderful art of music from such a young age greatly enriches their sensitivity. Yamaha Music School students take the skills their lessons uncover with them well into adulthood!

Group lessons develop skills for the future

In group lessons, children get the opportunity to play music in an ensemble. Children play their parts, learning how they intertwine, how to listen and wait for their turn to play, and how to engage in musical dialogue with the other members of the ensemble. Through this experience,



they naturally learn how to express themselves in the context of their own parts and how to collaborate with others.

The singular experience of helping each other, teaching each other, and making music together yields inspiration and stimulation that cannot be found elsewhere.

Experienced and engaging teachers

A part of what makes Yamaha Music School so unique is their teachers. Yamaha Music School teachers are highly trained and qualified musicians who are dedicated to delivering the very best in music education.

Yamaha Music School teacher Rebecca Dwyer recalled, "I grew up with a strong love for music and I believe learning with Yamaha as a child is the reason for that. As I share the joy of music with my students and families each week in our lessons, I continue to be inspired by what my students are able to achieve through the excellent age-appropriate curriculum at Yamaha."

This rewarding experience has now landed in South Melbourne at the prestigious Yamaha Premium Piano Centre on Market St, where you and your family can experience all things music from imagination to creativity. Enrolments are now open for 2023. Head to au.yamaha.com/education for more information on their courses and how you can enrol for next semester. ●

The buzz is back in Southbank and South Wharf

You may have noticed that Southbank's promenade and commercial areas have returned to pre-COVID activity level and, indeed, Friday and Saturday night activity even exceeds that recorded in 2019.

WORDS BY *Jeremy Vincent*
YARRA RIVER BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
PRESIDENT

It's so encouraging to see life return to our businesses, even though they are still constrained by a lack of staff. We ask for your continuing patience with restaurants and cafes as they cope with Christmas demand with staff shortages and inexperienced staff members.

To celebrate the festive season, the business association is inviting you to join fellow Southbankers for a free family evening on South Wharf on the evening of Sunday, December 18.

We have the Australian Girls Choir singing from 5pm, and then the screening of *The Grinch* on the big screen in the Common Man Lawn area. Everything is free. In fact, we will be distributing South Wharf Christmas money to the value of \$20 per family, to be claimed on the night when you spend \$50 or more in one of the participating restaurants, cafes or bars.

DFO South Wharf will be open until 7pm on December 18, so why don't you combine the free family evening with some Christmas shopping? Many thanks to the state government,

through the City of Melbourne, for providing the funding for us to stage this festive family event.

As you settle into a little more relaxation after Christmas, please consider spending just a few minutes to complete the survey at youryarra.melbourne. It is a follow-up survey to the one you might have completed for the City of Melbourne earlier this year. The findings of that survey included the recommendation for a more diverse and appropriate food and beverage offering for Southbank residents.

To help our businesses better align their product and service to meet your needs, we have developed this survey to not only learn about what you want from the area's cafes, restaurants and bars, but also how you like to spend your recreation time. It's endorsed by the City of Melbourne, as we are working closely with the council to improve the amenity of Southbank.

There are good prizes to be won for those who participate in the survey as well. A stylish night's dining for two on the Spirit of Melbourne is the main prize, plus there's also 10 x \$50 dining vouchers in the prize pool. So, seven minutes of your time at youryarra.melbourne will provide the business association and the council with some very valuable feedback, plus you could win yourself a dining prize.

An enjoyable festive season to you all. ●



Jeremy Vincent
PRESIDENT
YARRA RIVER BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

SOUTHBANK3006

The advent of the council's new neighbourhood model heralds a rebirth for Southbank

On November 22, Southbank3006 gathered with the City of Melbourne in Southbank for two important events.

WORDS BY *David Hamilton*
SOUTHBANK3006 PRESIDENT

The first was the opening of the completed Children's Playground, the most innovative and adventurous element of the Southbank Blvd Project. Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Cr Jamal Hakim, and council officers along with Southbank residents explored and revelled in this highly original addition to the neighbourhood. Sally unleashed the inner child in us all in a facility that is already drawing international attention as how to deliver a new dimension to inner-city family living.

Anyone who has passed the playground knows it has become a magnet for families and children in Southbank east. The council needs to be congratulated on its bold initiative to break the mould of tired old playgrounds with what it has delivered. A great first step to generating facilities across the precinct not just around Boyd which for many is an inaccessible and remote location. Hopefully the ACCA space redevelopment we have promoted will emerge in 2023 to provide a third focal point for families and community to gather, adding another major leap forward in green open space and liveability.

As important as the playground opening was, a far more important event was to unfold that evening, with the formal launch of the "neighbourhood model" and the feedback from the council's participation consultation with Southbank residents across 2022. The neighbourhood model is important for residents because it is designed to make it easier for residents to find out about the council and its services and to enable connection between us to know what is happening in Southbank. This is enabled by the council's web portal and resourcing of this process with a dedicated neighbourhood partner (Ash Lee) to work in the community.

BUT our neighbourhood partner has a far more important audience and that is inside the council itself. The real delivery measure will be for a partner will be to get the council staff out and into the local community and eventually to be located physically in Southbank. That way they will know and understand our local needs and create services that are tailored to Southbank's needs not a cookie cutter model of strategies and programs for the city.

The neighbourhood model and its resourcing by the council is, like the Southbank Children's Playground, a new model and a bold initiative of the current councillors designed to break down the "US and THEM" mentality that has dominated resident and council interactions for decades. "WE" (residents and council) have common problems that need to be solved. WE need to work together thrashing out local solutions and not retreating into our bunkers reinforcing our cynicism about the other. Going forward the

statement that "I'm from the CoM and I'm here to help you" will mean just that and WE as residents will need to be solutions-focused and accepting and open to council staff, and not hostile as they adapt to a new model. Creating this process is the greatest challenge for the neighbourhood model and the council's neighbourhood partners.

The conclusions from this first neighbourhood process for Southbank demonstrate that localisation is key.

Overcoming decades of neglect and zero social and community development in the most densely populated brownfields development in Australia is the overarching issue that Southbank faces. A planning process, which was "development by development"-focused, ignored the social development of the area. This is not the fault of either the developers or the council. It is a systemic failure of a physical planning process for a brownfield "Capital City Zone" without any social context and ignoring the lessons of 50 years of new town developments. To date there has been minimal investment in the social infrastructure and the social development of the community of residents. The outcome of this process is that Southbank is the deprived south in the city.

In 2023 for Southbank3006 the neighbourhood priorities that need urgent attention to achieve liveability and localisation are ...

- How do we generate localised services, from the council and other agencies? This is needed to reframe the social development in Southbank, so we are no longer the deprived south of the city. Let's

deal with the legacy dormitory suburb issue and make Southbank liveable, and part of the economy of the future.

- The destination issues in the arts and hospitality industries and how residents and these bodies coexist.
- How do Southbank3006 and residents 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?
- Let's jointly agree to abandon the City Road Masterplan and replace it with strategies to address the traffic management of the entire neighbourhood recognising that City Rd is a state highway and major arterial and it and Citylink need to be made to work as they were intended.
- What does the economy of the future look like for Southbank? It has to be more than coffee shops and after-hours dining. So, let's work together to frame a long-term economic development strategy for all of Southbank recognising the educational and arts bodies located here can provide a foundation for this.

Southbank3006 stands ready to work alongside the council and its officers to facilitate these neighbourhood priorities.

As 2022 draws to a close we wish all in Southbank a wonderful peaceful festive season. We wish to thank all our members for their support and encouragement this year, and we can't wait to see you at our 2023 events! Join us at southbank3006.com ●

Merry Christmas, Macnamara

Being in government is a huge privilege. It is about delivering for the people who gave us the opportunity to serve the community. So, I thought I would wrap the year by providing an update on some of the work that has already happened in our first six months of government.

In the last sitting week of the year, we fulfilled our promise to legislate a National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC). We promised we'd get it done this year and that's exactly what we've done.

The NACC will be a powerful, independent body with teeth that will deliver on our community's expectations to raise the standards in parliament.

I commend my good friend Mark Dreyfus on working with the cross-bench and community stakeholders to deliver on this important reform.

After 10 years wasted with countless failed energy policies and failed energy ministers under the previous Coalition government, Australia

finally has a legislated climate bill as the law of this land.

Our climate change bill is already proving to be a gamechanger for our economy. It's helping create hundreds of thousands of jobs, as well as helping local businesses and households thrive into the future with it being the cheapest form of new energy.

This is all while making serious ambitious action on climate change and protecting our native species, the Great Barrier Reef and investing in local ecological projects.

From our youngest to our oldest Australians, the federal Labor government has also delivered critical change to these sectors.

Making child care cheaper is a key economic reform that's good for parents and good for working parents – especially working mums. And from July 2023 it will become a whole a lot cheaper for a whole lot more families.

Some of our most vulnerable citizens reside in aged care. I'm very proud that one of our very first reform bills was to restore dignity to our oldest Australians.

We passed major improvements to aged care in line with the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

In addition, we have legislated 10 days domestic and paid violence leave and have extended paid parental leave up until 26 weeks.

And the best part about this latter



▲ Attorney-General the Hon Mark Dreyfus KC, MP and Josh Burns MP, Federal Member for Macnamara.

reform is it doesn't matter what your family make up is or how you choose to split it – we are empowering you to make that choice.

And last but certainly not least, we have legislated to get wages moving again. After 10 years of wages stagnation being a deliberate economic design feature, this government is restoring the balance and giving workers a fair go.

Those were just a few of my highlights, but there is a lot more to do. It's a real privilege to be able to represent you federally from within government.

I look forward to recharging my batteries over summer and continue to represent you strongly in our federal parliament as we continue to embark on our strong and progressive policy agenda.

I wish the entire Southbank community happy holidays, and no matter what or how you celebrate, I hope it is a restful and important time to you and your family.

And a special thank you to all workers working over public holidays. You deserve your penalty rates and all of our thanks. ●

I look forward to recharging my batteries over summer and continue to represent you strongly in our federal parliament as we continue to embark on our strong and progressive policy agenda.



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

SOUTHBANK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

A win for Southbank!

It was a busy month for the Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) committee, holding two "Meet the Candidates" events for the recent state election, "Joining your Owners' Committee" information session and a controversial Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting held in Southbank.

Firstly, I would like to extend a massive thank you to the entire community who got behind SRA's call-out on social media and our newsletter to assist us with our lobbying to the council after it announced the Southbank Boulevard Transformation project was complete, albeit, missing two stages.

Stage 2 (Dodds St) and Stage 6 were still to be completed. Stage 6, joining the Boulevard to the Yarra River, was a centrepiece of the Southbank Boulevard Transformation project. SRA was gobsmacked with how the council could arbitrarily declare this project complete with these two fundamental components still

outstanding. We certainly felt blindsided considering this was not previously communicated.

The community certainly got behind SRA's call-out with their own submissions to the council, inundating the agenda item at the FMC meeting which was held in Southbank. I spoke at length to SRA's submission and the injustice an incomplete project would have to the Southbank community and how we felt we were being played as fools considering the years of promises and community consultation the council had made for the project. My cynicism felt this was an effort to reduce the budget blow-out on this project.

You will be happy to know, after much consideration the council has committed to complete Stages 2 and 6 after all – and so they should! Once again, a big thank you to all who supported our call-out, without you we are not sure this outcome could have been achieved.

Oh, and how great is our new park between Fawcner and Kavanagh streets as part of this project? Every day I see the park filled with excited youngsters and even teenagers enjoying the space. While there was initially a great deal of trepidation and negative sentiment throughout the community, particularly around safety and appearance, I am hopeful this has waned, and those individuals are now on-side. But I guess as the saying goes, you will never please everyone. SRA has been actively involved with this project for more than 10 years and we think this park is going to be the highlight.

We now have the state election behind us. SRA would like to congratulate Nina Taylor on her successful election to the seat of Albert

Park having replaced retiring member Martin Foley who represented our community for 15 years. We wish Martin all the very best with his next endeavours post politics and look forward to working closely with Nina to achieve great things for Southbank. Nina, you have big boots to fill!

It has been an eventful year for our SRA committee and Southbank having to navigate post-pandemic life. We would like to extend our warmest wishes to our entire community for a very happy festive season and to keep safe. See you in 2023! ●



Tony Penna
PRESIDENT
PRESIDENT@SOUTHBANKRESIDENTS.ORG.AU



SAFETY AND SECURITY

STOPIT

With the excitement of the holiday period rapidly approaching it's important to remain aware of our own personal safety and surroundings.

WORDS BY Acting Senior Sergeant Damien Higgins
SOUTHBANK POLICE STATION

The number of commuters taking public transport is returning to pre-COVID levels, and while most users are well behaved, there has been an increase in antisocial behaviour across the public transport network.

Reported sex offences on public transport have been increasing during the past three years and remain largely underreported. These offences impact on safety and perceptions of safety, with victims being predominantly women and girls.

Victoria Police has introduced a new text-message service for Public Transport Users to report anti-social

behaviour. **Simply text "STOPIT" to 0499 455 455.** The sender will then receive a link to an online form that enables users to report details of the incident, the location, time, and type of behaviour.

Users can report incidents like, but not limited to, unwanted sexual behaviour, graffiti of property damage and suspicious behaviour, such as drug activity. Reports are triaged by the STOPIT team which ensures reports are referred to the appropriate unit for follow up investigation.

Users can upload a photograph or video of the incident captured. Users

may submit the incident at the time of recording or after the incident has happened.

The STOPIT system can be used on all transport systems.

The system is not monitored live. For immediate police assistance, please call 000. Users are advised in the return message should they need immediate police assistance to call 000.

The service is available in 12 languages, these being, Chinese, Vietnamese, Arabic, Cantonese, Korean, Khmer, Persian, Dari, Thai, Karen, Turkish and Punjabi. Deaf Victoria has also provided feedback that the text-based service

is expected to be highly valued by its members, given its accessibility

Between July 8 and August 29, 242 notifications had been reported, with some fantastic feedback including this from a young teenager ... "Seeing this person regularly (since January) and not having the confidence to do anything about it has made me feel really uncomfortable during my commutes on transport."

We remind everyone using public Transport to save the STOPIT phone number (0499 455 455) into their phone and report any suspicious behaviour. ●

WE LIVE HERE

A legal labyrinth

Navigating the legislative changes affecting owners' corporations (OCs) over the past four years is quite a challenge. We offer this thread to help you through the maze:

The *Owners' Corporations Act 2006* has had two acts incorporated:

- *Owners Corporations and Other Acts Amendment Act No 4 2021* – a range of welcome reforms with noticeable omissions.
- The unreviewed *Short Stay Accommodation Act 2018* – the so-called “Airbnb party bill”. This Act was supposed to be reviewed in 2020 and the review is now scheduled “between 2023 and 2027”. This Act has been treated as an amendment, despite its standalone name.

If you want to find the latest version of the *Owners Corporations Act 2006*, search for the “Authorised version 019”, dated December 1, 2021. This version has annotations showing where the amendments have been made.

We Live Here has ongoing dialogue with Consumer Affairs Victoria, which is part of the Department of Justice and Community Safety. In our most recent meeting, we learned that the proposed review of the *Owners' Corporations Act 2006* during the term of the next government would cover both acts that were incorporated into the Act.

Short-stay accommodation was excluded from the 2014 review of the Act because of planning issues. Have these issues been resolved to allow a simultaneous review of both acts? We certainly hope so, because the current legislation is far from workable.

The short-stay legislation has been tested twice recently – sadly the plaintiff residents struggled to prosecute the most fundamental types of claims against commercial short-stay interests.

In both cases the VCAT member sided with the short-stay operators.

- In the first case, the OC recognised that the



VCAT member's expressed sentiments did not bode well. The OC quietly negotiated a compromise settlement for the damage done to their building.

- In the second case, which was also lost, the OC was left frustrated and fuming because the law requiring three consecutive breaches was prohibitive.

After four years of so-called short-stay party laws, the number of VCAT orders we can find in favour of residents is still zero. If you know of any exceptions, please let us know.

Turning to the positives, the 2021 amendments introduced some long-overdue reforms to resolve unfair practices in the appointment of OC managers.

The reforms limit the common practice of apartment developers awarding long-term OC manager contracts to associates. The legislation targets these ball-and-chain contracts, limiting terms and outlawing clauses that require a special resolution to remove a manager. We Live Here applauds the overall reforms – they are closely aligned with the recommendations we have made for several years.

Regrettably, there was a huge oversight in these reforms; similar principles should apply to all contracts, particularly building or facilities management. There are some inner-city apartment buildings whose committees are burdened with one-sided, irrevocable facilities management contracts, for 20 years or more.

The excessive tenure of these contracts can breed contempt and disrespect for committee members and owners. The government must regulate these contracts with the same type of reforms that apply now to OC manager contracts.

Builder's roadblock: residents turn to the council

Residents at a La Trobe St apartment building are furious over a neighbouring builder's plan to create traffic chaos for at least four years.

The builder has reached stage 2 of a twin tower project. Rather than use the vicinity of its first tower for stage 2 construction traffic management, the builder plans to endanger and distress hundreds of neighbouring residents.

The affected OC has contacted We Live Here, hoping we can help.

The OC has already put its case to Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece, and councillors Rohan Leppert and Davydd Griffiths:

The OC said, “To date, there has been zero community consultation and so we are contacting [the council] directly. We have already contacted the site services of the Melbourne City Council, which has repeatedly referred us to [the builder], and when we have contacted [the builder], they have refused to engage with us in any meaningful way or respond to our genuine questions and queries.”

This case highlights problems at intersection of the state and municipal tiers of government:

- severe deficiencies in the building approval process, in this case overseen by the former Minister for Planning Richard Wynne.
- flawed traffic management processes – the responsibility of the City of Melbourne, although the council does not have an active role in the implementation.

We Live Here suggests that any residential building that could be affected by a new development must be consulted in the early planning stages so that proactive measures can be taken to ensure resident safety, minimise noise and preserve amenity.

The La Trobe St residents in this matter should not have been placed in this intolerable position.

An OC recovers

We have been following a long-running resident challenge to a developer-dominated OC. Nerida Pohl has this update:

“After amended laws enabled fresh new candidates to be elected, residents have complimented the obvious changes.

- The previous committee members (three of the committee of five) removed their real estate agency from our residential lounge, which can be enjoyed now by all residents.
- After the cleaning company of the members was replaced, we now can instruct our cleaners independently.
- We have sub-committees working on freshening the landscape, energy and waste reduction issues, pool and gym upgrades, management of short-stay visitors.
- A lawyer is representing the committee against the forces of the shopping plaza, which still tries to keep us out of our private undercover loading dock and goods lift.

We are optimistic going into the new year that we can put all this behind us.”

We Live Here is delighted to hear there has been positive progress – a vindication of the stoic determination of Nerida and fellow residents to fight for a representative and productive committee.

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. ●



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OWNERS' CORPORATION LAW

It's raining election promises, but nothing in sight for owners' corporations



What has been most surprising during this most recent election campaign is that there has been no post-election commitment to fund Cladding Safety Victoria (CSV) from either of the major parties.



Maybe they don't think there's any votes in it?

Without desperate and emergency funding being allocated to the struggling government agency, hundreds of residential apartment buildings are going to be left on their own without taxpayer-funded relief.

The CSV was established in 2019, and the government announced this new agency with much fanfare and to great applause. However, problems soon emerged. The problem was far bigger and more widespread (and costly) than the original bean counters had envisaged.

While rapid progress has been made with cladding removal and replacement, issues have

emerged that go beyond the purview and tenure of CSV, particularly in relation to building defects beyond the scope of combustible cladding removal.

It should also be noted that while CSV's focus has been directed at rectifying buildings prioritised as highest risk, it also had an important role to play in providing guidance to owners of buildings assessed as a lower priority who may still need to take action to reduce the risk posed by combustible cladding but are ineligible for CSV funding.

CSV has acquired world-leading expertise in this area over the past two years and is in a position to apply that expertise in a practical way to help owners. A comprehensive plan is required to deal with these buildings and CSV is contributing to this with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), the Victorian Building Authority (VBA), local government and other stakeholders.

However, with no more funding being announced, the program will shortly be unable to continue to deliver upon its promises, and its statutory purpose.

This will create a huge outcry when it finally happens. Melburnians don't expect to be left high and dry when it comes to the supposed equal distribution of taxpayer-funded resources. Those who get left out will have a bitter taste in their mouths when their place in the program is taken away and are told they can no longer rely on funding from the CSV.

While cladding can elevate a building's fire

Owners' corporation groups that have the ear of parliamentarians will need to do their best to ensure that funding can be found to resolve this situation. It is imperative that Melbourne's apartment buildings are made safe and compliant with the Building Code of Australia. After all, it is not the building owners' fault that this situation has occurred.



risk to an unacceptable level, the level of risk posed to building users varies in accordance with the type, amount and configuration of cladding on each building. The Victorian Cladding Taskforce recognised that a balanced approach is needed to ensure that safety obligations imposed on building owners are proportionate to the risk posed by combustible cladding.

Buildings identified as moderate risk in the audit will need to be further assessed to determine if they require replacement of combustible cladding or whether other steps can be taken to enable them to be categorised as low risk and compliant with the *Cladding Safety Victoria Act 2020*.

Owners' corporation groups that have the ear of parliamentarians will need to do their best to ensure that funding can be found to resolve this situation. It is imperative that Melbourne's apartment buildings are made safe and compliant with the Building Code of Australia. After all, it is not the building owners' fault that this situation has occurred.

Decades of lax government building regulations and building industry self-certification has created this problem. A solution to this issue is required urgently. ●



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HEALTH

Steer clear of “network marketing” personal trainers!

So, you are looking at making a rather significant financial and time commitment by engaging the services of a personal trainer (PT). Where do you start when looking for one?

You want value for money but most importantly you want one who is going to deliver you results! Please remember this – you want results, you want value for money but you should want your results to be sustainable and long-lasting.

What you need for this is a trainer who is going to help teach and educate you towards long-term behaviour change - not a quick fix - and not trying to sell you products that will supposedly do the job for you.

Enter the personal trainer who is aligned with a network marketing company such as any of the following; Herbalife, Isagenix, Nutri-way or Juice Plus (to name a few). You see this is the issue and the thing I want you to know and help you avoid being sucked in.

Any PT who is aligned to one of these

companies has their own best interests at heart – not yours. Sadly, it is these guys who are increasing in number in a mad dash for cash to stay afloat and viable in a time where PTs and courses are churned out at an ever-increasing rate.

Let me strip it back for you. A PT (like me) earns money from the price that we charge our clients for our time, our years of education and experience, coupled by (if successful) an increase in demand for our services. As you can imagine our time is limited to the hours that we can work. So essentially that could mean 30 to 60 hours a week.

I am fine with that, and it is the way it should be. I train a client at a time that suits us both and I deliver a fantastic service that serves to educate and empower my clients to do all that they need to do in between our sessions to get long-term and sustainable results. Hey, it has worked for more than 25 years now, and my demand has increased to the point that I now have 13 trainers working within my team and we all deliver an hourly PT service.

What the business approach and heavy-handed marketing tactics, and the fitness industry as a whole will tell you is that you need to make

money while you are sleeping, and you need to sell “health-products” and “supplements” to your clients and basically anyone else that can help you become a rich “PT entrepreneur”! So, here is the reality ...

While you may “derive” some benefit from any of these supplements, please know that you are being sold a product not essentially for your benefit but for your “PT entrepreneur” to profit at your expense and help them as they most likely struggle at the art of PT and helping you achieve long-lasting results. Sure you “may” get some positive results initially but at what financial cost? Have you been taught how to eat and exercise properly on a daily, weekly, monthly, yearly basis?

Integrity is increasingly rare in this dog-eat-dog world and sadly the fitness industry severely lacks it!

A PT who is aligned to a network marketing company has little or no integrity. Their primary purpose is to profit/rip-off the very people who are entrusting them with their health, wellbeing and their body. A PT is seen as a fitness expert and the very person to help steer the client to be better and happier.

My point of view is that when a PT works with a new client, they are presented with an almost blank canvas to help steer that client toward a healthier, happier and more balanced life. The job is to take that client for one, two or three hours per week and then help structure and improve the remaining 98 to 99 per cent of their week in between sessions to set them up for continual improvement and success.

My approach is that if they need assistance with their diet more than I or my team can help them with, we refer them to a fully qualified and experienced dietitian. If they have an injury and require treatment, we send them to see one of a handful of fantastic physiotherapists.

If requiring massage, we recommend them

to see a fantastic masseur and if needing the assistance of a psychologist or any counselling, we refer them accordingly.

The difference here, is that we never have and never will receive any financial kickback for doing this, but merely we are providing a service with reputable practitioners that will ultimately help steer our clients towards the results they are trying to achieve and that will ultimately keep them motivated and missing minimal if any training.

If we were to recommend any supplement or foods to eat or exercise gear to do on their own, we would happily do this free of charge as part of our service – as that is what we are paid to do!

So, I hope you can see that I write this to be transparent and help any unsuspecting potential PT client sift their way through the shallow end of the pool and find the trainer that is right for them.

My final words are these – PT is not only a financial expense but it also a rather large time commitment over time. You need to enjoy the company you are keeping, and you are better off spending that time with a positive experience from a mentor or leader who is going to have your best wishes at heart. One that will tell you the truth and what you need to hear, not what you want to hear.

Choose wisely! ●

SOUTHBANK SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

Thanks to fellow Southbankers for your enjoyment and support

Let me take this opportunity to thank all the Southbankers who have told us how much they enjoy watching the Boyd Hub Community Garden over the different seasons and how much they have appreciated being able to harvest something fresh from the garden during the year.



WORDS BY *Maria Tarrant*
SOUTHBANK SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

Southbank Sustainability Group members have enjoyed the many conversations they have had with people wandering through the gardens. The feedback we receive helps us make the gardens a better place for everyone.

The end of the year is fast approaching and with that, a time to reflect on the year that was, plan for next year and hopefully enjoy some time with family and friends.

With that in mind the next gathering of the Southbank Sustainability Group and other like-minded Southbankers on December 17 at 10am will be more an opportunity to meet with others who are interested in sustainability and catch up on what has been going on. The meet up this time round will be less about the garden and more about conversation. We look forward to seeing you.

Our meetup on December 17 will also be the last for this year and we will recommence our meet ups on January 7, 2023, at 10am and then every fortnight after that. Keep an eye on our Facebook page [facebook.com/SouthbankSustainabilityGroup](https://www.facebook.com/SouthbankSustainabilityGroup) for further details of meet ups and workshops in 2023.

One of the things that is striking as you spend time in the garden and play areas around the Boyd Hub is the number of people walking their dogs and enjoying the canine company. No doubt the holiday season will bring more pets of different kinds into households in the Southbank area. After all pets play an important role in our mental and physical health.

As owners of cats and dogs and other animals we can also be giving consideration to how we reduce the environmental impact of our pets.

Your choice of pet, what you feed them, how you ensure they do not endanger wildlife and how you clean up after them all impact the planet.

Give thought to the size of your pet. In simple terms, the larger the pet, the greater the environmental impact. Ensure you can control your pet in the outdoors. Local wildlife, especially birds, are at risk if our pets run loose in the outdoors. Pick up any pet waste in compostable bags and don't leave it in public spaces. Explore with your vet dietary options for your pet, so that they are not totally reliant on red meat which produces higher levels of greenhouse gas emissions than other food sources.

And if you are planning to buy pet toys and accessories remember the “five Rs” – **refuse** to buy what you don't need, **reduce** the impact of what you buy by being mindful of how it is manufactured and packaged, and look to **reuse**, **repurpose** and **recycle** whenever you can.

About the group

Southbank Sustainability Group is a solutions-focused community group of Southbank residents working to bring positive change in sustainability practices. Reach us at southbank-sustainability@gmail.com or [facebook.com/SouthbankSustainabilityGroup](https://www.facebook.com/SouthbankSustainabilityGroup)

If you are interested in getting involved with Southbank Sustainability Group, send us an email or come to one of the upcoming meet ups. ●

For more information:
justintimept.com



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HISTORY

A history of fire in Southbank



“Fire! Fire!” was a cry that was feared during the 19th century in South Melbourne, much of which is now known as Southbank.



This area contained many wooden warehouses, with contents full of combustibles such as straw, lumber, kapok, jute, cork and the highly flammable materials called “mungo and shoddy”, produced from the recycling of wool waste.

Factories and workshops figured prominently in reports of the fire brigades, as did fires in wooden houses – often built in groups, heated by open fires and lit by candles.

As Melbourne grew rapidly in the 1880, the organisation of fire services was quickly seen as inadequate and in 1891 the Metropolitan Fire Brigade was created – a professional organisation, managed by a board and with latest communications, modern equipment and fire trucks, located in Eastern Hill from 1922.

But what about the years before 1891?

Melbourne’s major fire-fighting force was provided by the insurance companies, usually known as the



GOING TO THE FIRE

Insurance Brigade. Reports of fires invariably stated value of damaged goods and the name of insurance company. A report on a fire at Sowerby’s ropeworks in Normanby Rd in 1903 stated that the contents of the building were insured with the Federal Mutual Insurance Co. of Australia Ltd. for £500.

They were supported by brigades

operated by local volunteer groups (supplemented by funds from the council, local businesses and property owners). They could be ineffective and very quarrelsome, and often lacked equipment (such as hoses, uniforms, reels and horses) required to fight fires. It was intended that the volunteer brigades and insurance brigades work collaboratively and

co-operate under a simple set of agreed rules, which they generally did. But not always.

When a fire broke out the voluntary brigades rushed to it. The one that got there first commandeered the water hydrant and water. Some merely removed the hose from the hydrant and substituted its own. Or cut the hose of the opposing brigade!

Southbank was served by a volunteer group from the late 1870s and by the end of the 1880s there were three brigades operating in South Melbourne, generally working well together. The firemen, often a rough and ready group, were often praised for their efforts, generally at much inconvenience and sacrifice, and without remuneration.

Slow and cumbersome machines (called steamers) were used to generate water streams. But it took them 15 minutes to get up steam and by the time the engine was ready, it was often impossible to save the building. Accidents sometimes occurred when brigades were racing to fire sites, such as 1891 when the wheels of a cart became fixed in tram lines at the corner of Clarendon St and City Rd and it was overturned, causing the occupants to be thrown on to the street.

The replacement of horse-drawn services with motorised equipment made a huge difference and by the early 1930s horse carts, hand reels, manual engines and steam engines had given way to the most modern appliances and expertly trained men. ●



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10 YEARS ON

Looking back at Southbank News - 10 Years On

DECEMBER 2012 | ISSUE 14 |

SOUTHBANK local NEWS



Fright night at La Camera

Southgate restaurant La Camera was transformed into a house of horrors last month, to celebrate Halloween.

Guests were invited to dress up as they dined in the fitted out restaurant.

Not to be outdone, manager Paul Scidone was roaming the restaurant ensuring no guest left without a fright.

He is pictured here with other staff members scaring (and serving) Amy Winehouse and a princess.

Other guests came as batman, witches, devils and skeletons.

Probably the scariest outfits of the night belonged to the bar staff!

For guests who didn’t the memo on dressing up there was face-painting on site, so nobody missed out on the fun.

Thankfully the food on the evening was all treat and no trick.

La Camera continues it’s theme nights every month, for more information on these, head to its website www.lacerasouthgate.com ●



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PUZZLES & TRIVIA

Quiz



- 1. Labor have pledged \$1.5 million for a pocket park outside what Southbank institution?
2. Which two state electorates fall within Southbank?
3. Mt Isa is a mining town in which Australian state?
4. Where is the Sea of Tranquility?
5. The City of Melbourne have launched what new services for residents of Southbank?
6. Which song by Adele (pictured) features the lyrics, 'There's a fire starting in my heart, Reaching a fever pitch, it's bringing me out the dark'?
7. True or false: the banksia plant is native to China?
8. Which Australian bird is sometimes known as the 'bushman's clock'?
9. Which Southbank-based television service has been celebrated at the Melbourne Awards?
10. Are white or green beans used in the French dish cassoulet?
11. Which iconic Melbourne landmark celebrated its 20th birthday in October this year?
12. City of Melbourne CEO Justin Hanney resigned recently for not declaring a donation to what event?

QUIZ SOLUTIONS

- 1. ACCA 2. Albert Park and Prahran
3. Queensland 4. On the moon 5. An online Southbank Neighbourhood Portal
6. Rolling in the Deep 7. False (Australia)
8. Kookaburra 9. Channel 31 (C31)
10. White beans 11. Federation Square
12. Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race

5x5 No. 018

Insert the missing letters to make 10 words - five reading across the grid and five reading down.

Grid for 5x5 puzzle with letters A, E, I, G, U, S and blank spaces.

SOLUTIONS

ABASE, VALID, EKing, REVUE, TRESS

Sudoku

No. 018

Fill in the blank cells using the numbers from 1 to 9. Each number can only appear once in each row, column and 3x3 block

EASY

Sudoku grid for EASY level.

HARD

Sudoku grid for HARD level.

SOLUTIONS

Solution grids for EASY and HARD Sudoku puzzles.

Wordfind

Theme: War

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

Wordfind grid containing letters related to the theme of war.

- ARMY FRONT
ATTACK HOSTILE
BOER INVADE
CAMPAIGN IRAQ
CIVIL NAPOLEON
COMBAT OCCUPY
CONFLICT STRIFE
CRIMEA TRENCH
DISPUTE TROOPS
FIGHT VIETNAM

Secret message: Peace train

Crossword

No. 018

ACROSS

- 1 Swamp (7)
5 Slid; dashed (7)
9 Tribes (5)
10 South American (9)
11 Wrath (3)
12 Connect; associate (11)
13 Struggles; filters (7)
15 Dried or cleaned without wiping (6)
18 Scottish delicacy (6)
20 School (7)
22 Bug poison (11)
24 Common pet (3)
25 Emitting (9)
26 Expel; escape (5)
27 Accounts (7)
28 Feather cleaners (7)

Crossword grid with numbered starting points.

DOWN

- 1 Strangest; craziest (8)
2 Exchange (5)
3 Descending with rope (9)
4 Argues (7)
5 Boxed; fought (7)
6 Oily fruit (5)
7 East Asian nationality (9)
8 Tangoed (e.g.) (6)
14 Epic; instrumental (9)
16 Those with faith (9)
17 Grows in the womb (8)
19 Alcohols (7)
20 Wincing (7)
21 Reflector (6)
23 Seat (5)
24 Greek island (5)

SOLUTION

Solution grid for the crossword puzzle.

Codeword

No. 018

Codeword grid with letters O, B, A, N, R, C, T, U, Y, S.

SOLUTIONS

Solution words for the codeword puzzle.

Vertical grid for codeword puzzle.

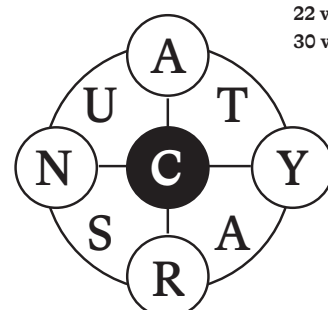
9-Letter

No. 018

Today's Focus:

- 15 words: Good
22 words: Very good
30 words: Excellent

Using the nine letters in the grid, how many words of four letters or more can you list? The centre letter must be included and each letter may only be used once. No colloquial or foreign words. No capitalised nouns, apostrophes or plural words ending in "s".



SOLUTIONS

Reference:

Collins Concise English Dictionary

acts, actuary, arcs, canary, cans, cant, carts, cast, crust, crusty, curt, curts, cuts, cyan, cyst, façy, sacra, SANCTUARY, saucy, scan, scant, scanty, scar, scarp, scar, scur, tranquy



南岸第一棵圣诞树被拆

在南岸(Southbank) Boyd公园安装的第一棵圣诞树，几周后被认为不安全而拆除。

Kaylah-Joelle Baker

墨尔本市政为了在南岸地区营造一种更加喜庆的氛围，安装了这棵高达7米引人注目的圣诞树。

11月18日星期五，墨尔本市政接到了这颗树受到破坏的报告。市政给本报的一份声明中证实，此树遭到“某个受毒品影响的人”而毁坏。

事发后，市政通知维多利亚警方和紧急服务部门向受影响的个人提供援助，但是圣诞树已经受到大面积破坏。

一位市政发言人指出：“圣诞树被破坏得无法修复，并会给公众带来职业健康和安全的风险，所以被安全地移走了。”

对众多南岸居民来说，这棵圣诞树的到来是众人期待的，Southbank3006居民团体副主席Jannine Pattison表示，“当看到这棵树，非常令人兴奋，大家的梦想得以实现”。

她说：“2021年，我找到市长Sally Capp，要求南岸有更好的圣诞装饰，特别是一棵圣诞树。”

“这件事令人难以置信，由于一个人的行为，所有居民都受到影响。我看到很多家庭在为这棵美丽的圣诞树拍照。现在看到这棵树被损坏以及被移除，真是非常令人失望的。”

圣诞树计划是即将到来的“朋友欢聚南岸”活动的中心，该活动由Southbank3006居民团体主办，是市政圣诞节集体计划的一部分。

南岸居民仍然可以通过现场音乐、草坪游戏、面部彩绘、Salsa舞蹈、狗狗游行以及圣诞老人特别来访这项特色活动来庆祝圣诞节。

社区活动将于12月10日上午11点至下午3点在Boyd社区中心举行。

危险路口又一起撞车事故

南岸(Southbank)发生了一起两车相撞的事故，导致一名妇女被送往医院，警察逮捕了两名逃离现场的青年男子。

Brendan Rees

11月27日星期日凌晨3点50分左右，在Kavanagh和Power街道的交叉口发生了一起汽车相撞事故，紧急服务人员接到电话赶到了现场。

警方在附近的Roxburgh公园逮捕了两名男子，年龄分别为17岁和18岁。据报，有人看到三人从其中一辆车中逃跑。

一名来自Clifton Hill的30岁妇女独自在另一辆车上，因上半身受伤接受了医护人员的治疗，然后被送往Alfred医院，情况稳定。

警方发言人表示，这两名青年男子已被释放，等待进一步调查。

发言人说：“警方正在调查撞车事故的相关情况，并持续调查与逃离现场的第三名男子有关的情况。”

目击者在现场拍摄的照片显示，一辆严重受损的SUV转向人行道。

十字路口的安全是当地居民长期关注的问题，尤其是居民团体Southbank3006的副主席Jannine Pattison所关注的。



在过去的12个月里，她一直呼吁有关当局改善这个路口的安全状况，否则有人将会严重受伤或死亡。她说：“我对在这场可怕的撞车事故中受伤的年轻女子深表同情，我们向她致以最美好的祝愿，祝她早日康复。”

“长期以来，这个十字路口一直是高速公路出口处的道路安全问题，也是当地交通从Kavanagh街转向Power街的一个安全问题，遗憾的是，这又是一个例子，由于开发项目优先于社区安全而造成的破坏性影响。”

“随着另外六栋建筑被批准用于墨尔本广场的开发，将会有更多的人、更多的行人和更多的交通。现在是行动的时候了。”

她报道了该地点的几起撞车事故，包括8月份的一起多车相撞事故，事故中一名40多岁的男子被送往医院。



新的直线公园明年一月动工

一个备受期待的Dodds街直线公园工程将于明年1月开始动工，工程包括修建新的装饰性景观墙、土丘草地和树木。

Brendan Rees

墨尔本市长Sally Capp于11月22日在市议会的未来墨尔本委员会会议上宣布了这一消息，此前这项505万澳元项目的首选承包商招标评估已经完成。

市长表示：“在市政批准首选承包商后，这项工程将于2023年1月开始施工，这真是令人兴奋”，她补充说，此项工程预计需要12个月能完成。

新公园将位于南岸大道和Grant街之间，占地2700平方米，该项目也将与南岸主要公共艺术项目一起交付。

根据市政的说法，新公园将包括“高质量的铺面区域、土丘草地和长有本地植物和树木的洼地、带有座位墙和特色的公众集

会空间以及公共照明”。

新公园一旦完成，将与州政府提出的创建一个袖珍公园联接起来，袖珍公园是在澳大利亚当代艺术中心(ACCA)附近，这将改变目前的花岗岩砂区域。

在宣布Dodds街公园工程之前，市政由于“过早庆祝”南岸大道改造而受到公开批评，因为项目的第二和第六阶段包括Dodds街和城市路与皇后桥广场之间的一段景观美化还尚未开始。

市长承认，这个4400万澳元项目一直受到延迟和成本激增的困扰而尚未“完成”，此前市议会在11月尴尬地发布了一份新闻稿，宣布“南岸大道改造完成”，其中声称在南岸大道和Kavanagh街拐角处的儿童游乐场是标志着这个项目最后阶段的完成。



偷铜导致变电站爆炸

11月17日在南岸变电站，一名男子涉嫌偷盗铜而引发变电站爆炸，目前警方正在追捕这名男子。

Brendan Rees

墨尔本犯罪调查组的侦探们呼吁公众，希望能辨认举报在下午5点左右闯入Fawkner街变电站的男子。

警方称，该男子用扳手从一个配电板上偷走了价值1000澳元的铜，引发了一场大爆炸。

闭路电视捕捉到了这一事件，当一辆汽车驶过时，可以看到街道上出现一道闪光，随后冒出浓烟。

警方发言人说：“这名男子当时设法走出了变电站，空着双手，并没有受重伤。”

“最后一次看到这名男子是在Moore街上，进入一辆橙色的Holden Captiva，然后开车驶离了

现场。”

该男子被描述为是白人，年龄在30至50岁之间。他当时身穿反光工作服、海军蓝裤子和蓝色帽子。

墨尔本犯罪调查组的高级警探Mallory Bubb称这起事件“相当震惊”，幸运的是没有公众受伤。

她说：“这天发生的爆炸以及造成的破坏极为严重。”

高级警探Bubb说，现场有几名目击者，她敦促任何知情者提供有关信息。

城市电力集团(CitiPower)安全经理Michael Hayes表示，这是一起“非常严重的事件”，可能会导致“灾难性的情况”。

任何知情者请致电制止犯罪热线1800 333 000。

What's On: December - January 2023

Community Calendar



UNTIL DECEMBER 2023
Arts Centre Melbourne Sunday Market
 Featuring local designers and artisans, discover handcrafted treasures made by local artisans at Arts Centre Melbourne's Sunday Market.
Between Hamer Hall and the Theatres Building, Arts Centre Melbourne



DECEMBER 16 - JANUARY 28, 2023
Firefly Zipline
 Zoom across the Firefly Zipline for 130 metres, 6 metres above the Yarra at speeds of up to 35 km/hour or take a fully harnessed leap from the 10-metre-high Quick Jump platform! Pump up the action today - see fireflyzipline.com.au/book-online

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



DECEMBER 10, 10AM - 5PM
MMEETS THAI FESTIVAL
 The opening weekend of the ninth MPavilion will see the return of the Thai Festival to Melbourne - a one-of-a-kind celebration of Thai culture, architecture, art and design!
MPavilion, Queen Victoria Gardens



JANUARY 18, 3PM - 4.30PM
BOOK CLUB
 Meet locals here at Book Club and learn how to build your financial literacy skills and promote inclusivity.
 Books to be discussed - *Nice Girls Don't Get Rich* - Lois P. Frankel.
 Although women may not know it, certain behaviors and habits that they learned when they were girls are now preventing them from attaining financial fulfillment. Women are more likely to depend on men for financial advice and decisions and make mistakes that men don't make. The book provides a list of 75 Unavoidable Mistakes Women Make with Money.
 Financial literacy is supposed to have a positive impact on mental health and community. The initiative is being supported by The Women's Investment Club - a social enterprise promoting financial empowerment, investment know how and community in Melbourne.
 A series of book clubs are being held in the city, docklands and Southgate. The Book clubs are funded by a Inclusivity Grant from City of Melbourne.
 Supported by the Womens Investment Club.
Boyd Community Centre
 207 City Rd, Southbank VIC 3006



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3305/250 City Road, Southbank
\$510,000 - \$560,000
Georgia Ackroyd



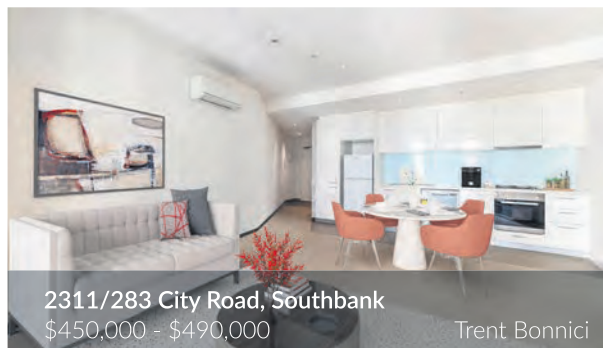
1508/50 Haig Street, Southbank
\$500,000 - \$550,000
Georgia Ackroyd



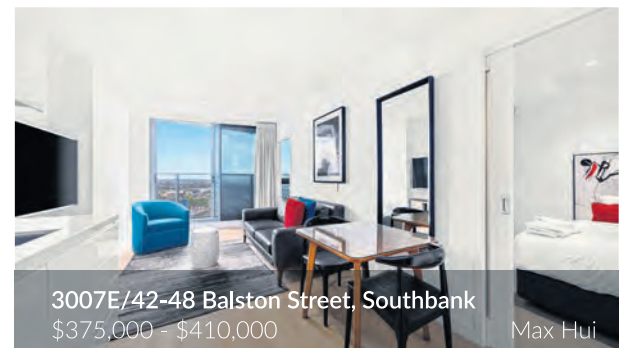
1210/163 City Road, Southbank
\$480,000 - \$510,000
Georgia Ackroyd



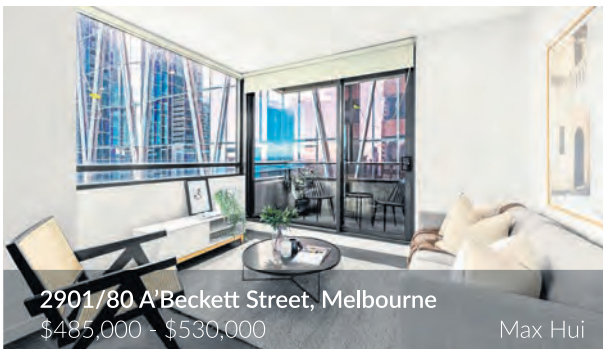
3106/45 Clarke Street, Southbank
\$590,000
Tommy-Lee Davies



2311/283 City Road, Southbank
\$450,000 - \$490,000
Trent Bonnici



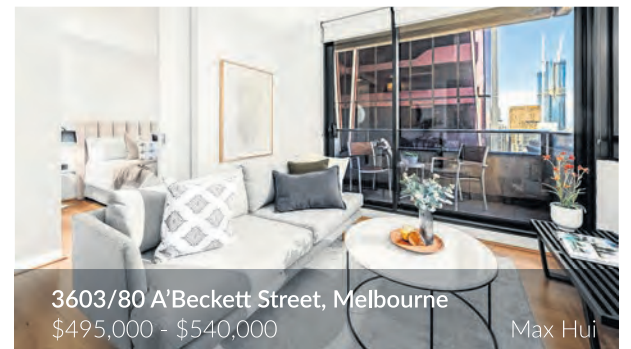
3007E/42-48 Balston Street, Southbank
\$375,000 - \$410,000
Max Hui



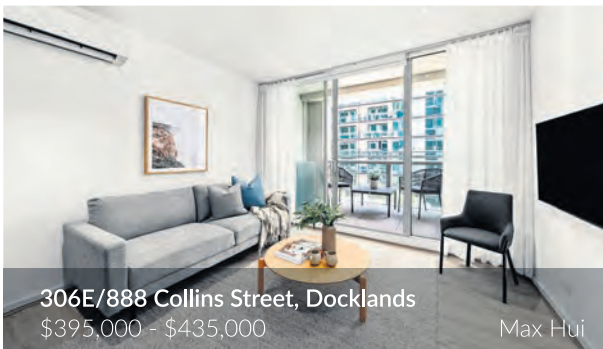
2901/80 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne
\$485,000 - \$530,000
Max Hui



2202/568 Collins Street, Melbourne
\$430,000
Max Hui



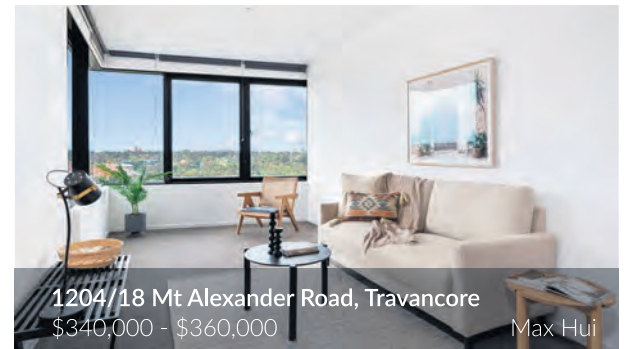
3603/80 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne
\$495,000 - \$540,000
Max Hui



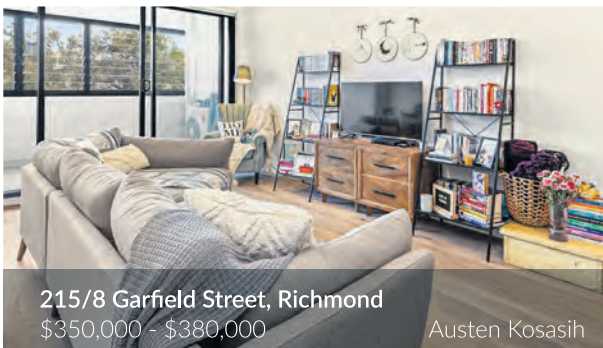
306E/888 Collins Street, Docklands
\$395,000 - \$435,000
Max Hui



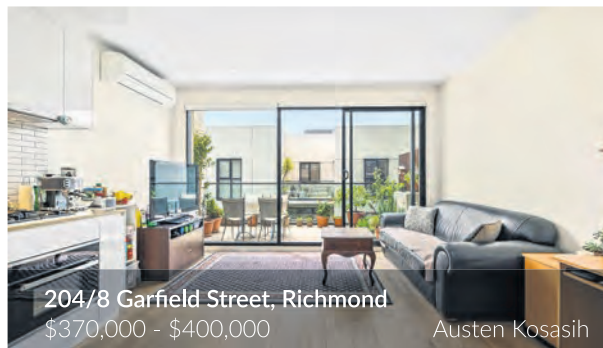
1509/8 Sutherland Street, Melbourne
\$550,000 - \$600,000
Max Hui



1204/18 Mt Alexander Road, Traralgon
\$340,000 - \$360,000
Max Hui



215/8 Garfield Street, Richmond
\$350,000 - \$380,000
Austen Kosasih



204/8 Garfield Street, Richmond
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Austen Kosasih

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