

SOUTHBANK NEWS

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Forever Free

Puzzles & Trivia P22



Banding together to combat bicycle thefts
Photo by Rachel Litwin

In response to growing rates of bicycle and scooter thefts in the local area, residents' group Southbank3006 and Southbank Police Station will host a safety forum at Boyd Community Hub on February 26 aimed at equipping locals with the right strategies to curb the issue. *Full story on page 7.*

Southbank rent soars after unprecedented 40 per cent rise

The average Southbank unit costs 40 per cent more to rent than what it did 12 months ago, after an unprecedented rise in local rental prices.

WORDS BY *David Schout*
PROPERTY

In January 2022 the average weekly rent for a Southbank unit was \$450, however one year on that has risen sharply to \$628 according to SQM Research.

Available data, from 2009 on, indicates that a 12-month hike of such magnitude has not been seen before in postcode 3006.

Online message boards contain stories of Southbankers struggling to deal with substantial rent rises imposed on them by landlords.

One local said they were informed that the rent on their two-bed, one bathroom apartment would go up by \$650 per month, which amounted to a 25 per cent increase.

"[I'm] not really wanting to pay \$7.8k more a year to rent. But here we are I suppose," they said.

"[The] REA [real estate agent] gave a range of factors, including inflation, rate rises and 'market prices'. Is this happening to other people? Is it normal?"

Another poster responded: "In Southbank right now, yes, it is unfortunately normal. I was asked to pay a 30 per cent increase and people in my building also had enormous increases passed on. It looks like a combination of making up for lost or decreased rent through COVID, and soaring demand."

Weekly rent in Southbank has now risen above pre-COVID levels, where

it hovered at just over \$600 per week at the start of 2020.

Ray White Southbank principal Andrew Salvo told *Southbank News* that the data was reflective of what he was seeing.

In less than six months, from the third quarter of 2022 to January 2023 (albeit an incomplete quarter), average rent in their portfolio had risen 24 per cent, from \$463 to \$574 per week.

Mr Salvo said there were a number of factors behind this, and while demand had indeed grown with people moving back to Melbourne post-COVID and the return of international students, the bigger issue was on the supply side.

"Generally, we've always got a few projects per quarter settling in the City of Melbourne, with hundreds of units of supply hitting the market. That's not happening at the moment," he said.

A key reason for this was a 20 per cent jump in construction costs but, from a local perspective, Mr Salvo said a considerable number of Southbank units had also been taken off the market through sales.

"A huge amount of tenants have bought — that just goes with the maturity of the suburb. We're finding a lot of our tenants that've been with us for 10 years have converted to purchasing a property. A lot of investment properties have been taken off the market and turned into long-term

Continued on page 7.

Wherefore art thou? Five years on, no word on multi-million-dollar public artwork

WORDS BY *David Schout*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Local government remains tight-lipped about a key piece of artwork destined for Southbank.

As construction on the much-anticipated Dodds Street linear park began in January, public announcements from the City of Melbourne included a glaring omission.

With the landscape works set to feature new trees, decorative walls and mounded grasslands along the stretch of road between Southbank Boulevard and Grant St, the pièce de résistance of the northern Dodds St transformation — a multi-million-dollar public artwork next to the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) — is still being kept under wraps.

"A public artwork has been commissioned for this

area. Planning and design for the work is under way," a footnote of the council's media release announcing the Dodds St works noted.

The "planning" for this project, however, began five years ago. In February 2018 the council approved a "Public Art Strategy for Southbank" and said that by August of that year, the commission would be awarded, artist selected, and publicly announced.

Except since then, locals have heard next to nothing, and any details about the public piece next to the VCA, or the selected artist, have not emerged.

Southbank News has since reported that when appointing the artist, the council chose to significantly increase the scope of the project and opted to invest more than the \$2 million figure originally announced for the showpiece work.

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D Yalingwa fellowship winner announced



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

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

EDITOR
Sean Car

PUBLISHER
Hyperlocal News Pty Ltd
ABN: 57 623 558 725

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The deadline for the March edition is March 2.

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New linear park set to transform iconic arts precinct

Construction has begun on a much-anticipated green space in Dodds St, which the City of Melbourne promises will be a “sanctuary” for the community.

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The \$6.5 million project is part of the council’s commitment to creating more open spaces in Southbank to enhance the urban environment for a hitherto green space-deprived densely-populated precinct.

The park, situated between Southbank Boulevard and Grant St, is set to become an attraction with 3200 square metres of open space, featuring native grasslands, wildflowers, 35 new trees, paved bluestone pathways and community gathering spaces.

It will be a place for people of all abilities with the design bearing accessibility in mind so everyone can explore the lush green space in the heart of Melbourne’s iconic Arts Precinct.

The northern end of Dodds St will become a shared zone, with accessible parking and pick-up and drop-off areas to make it easy for those visiting the Arts Precinct, while the southern end will be closed to traffic and converted into public parkland.

Work on the park began in January and will take 12 months to complete.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp visited the work site in early February when heavy machinery had begun to dig up the roadway.

Cr Capp said the new park would breathe new life into an under-explored part of the city by increasing foot traffic and the area’s tree canopy and biodiversity.

“The Southbank community has told us that accessible green open spaces are essential in this densely populated part of the city, so we’re creating a sanctuary with native grasslands,



wildflowers and trees, places to sit and rest, and spaces to explore,” she said.

“The park’s design reflects its significance on the local and global artistic stage, creating a world-leading cultural tourism destination for all to enjoy.”

The council’s environment portfolio lead Cr Rohan Leppert said city greening was “essential to support a diverse urban forest, increase canopy cover and keep our city cool in a warming climate”.

“Sustainability has been a key focus in our design of the Dodds St Linear Park – with inbuilt rain gardens and remediated soil, and native species to encourage biodiversity in the heart of our CBD,” he said.

The Dodds St Linear Park forms stage two of the Southbank Boulevard transformation, which has created more than 22,000 square metres of new public space – including two brand new parks and more than 400 new trees.

A public artwork has also been commissioned

for the area with planning and design under way.

Vice-president of local residents’ group Southbank3006 Jannine Pattison said they were “delighted to see work finally well on the way on Dodds St.”

“This linear park will hopefully extend the useable green space available to Southbank residents. We are looking forward to the planning and implementation of even more green space on the ACCA forecourt, which will create a beautiful green corridor, if executed well,” she said.

During construction, the council said Dodds St would be closed to traffic, except for delivery and service vehicles. Accessible parking spaces will be temporarily relocated to Sturt St. Access to properties in Dodds St will be maintained at all times.

The council has wasted no time getting to work on the park after announcing the approval of its preferred contractor last November. ●

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Faces of Southbank



What brings you to Southbank, and what do you like about it?



JIE

I'm travelling Victoria right now. There are so many activities to do and it's so close to the river. I enjoy the restaurants, bars, and cafes.



SIMING

I work here in Southbank for an arts company and I'm having my lunch break. I enjoy sitting by the river and going to all the restaurants around here.



KAREN

I live here. I am enjoying the way Southbank is being developed, the bars and the restaurants. I like that the city is so close. It's very cosmopolitan here.



JANET

I'm meeting a girlfriend for lunch. I'm a rower and I've been rowing through the Yarra River since the 1980s, and I think the river is the best part of Southbank.



PAUL

I work in the CBD and it's a beautiful spot to come have my lunch break. I love the openness here, that I can enjoy the sunshine and shade.

Wherefore art thou? Five years on, no word on multi-million-dollar public artwork

Continued from page 1.

Details of this, however, are yet to emerge and it is unclear how much ratepayers will contribute to the work promised to be "ambitious in thought and form".

A councillor confirmed with *Southbank News* that there was no significant update on the project.

Back in 2017 the City of Melbourne considered a number of different sites for the major piece, including Melbourne Metro, University Square and the Queen Victoria Market renewal space.

However, it landed on Southbank — specifically the northern section of Dodds St — as the "most profound, imminent opportunity".

Visions for the "destination" piece, the first of four major public art commissions in Southbank, was that "it is to be visited over and over".

A report by SGS Economics and Planning released in 2021 found that a \$1 million investment by the City of Melbourne in public art would generate an increase in visitation and subsequent tourist spending of \$4.2 million.

When announcing the public art strategy in 2018, then Acting Lord Mayor Arron Wood said the council was "a little bit nervous" about large public artworks ever since *Vault* — popularly known as the "Yellow Peril" — was erected at City Square in 1980 and is now housed in Southbank.

The abstract, minimalist yellow sculpture by Ron Robertson-Swann received widespread criticism at the time, including by city councillors, and was re-erected in Batman Park in 1981.

In 2002, it was moved again to a position outside the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art where it remains today.

"To see us getting back into the public art commissioning I think is a good thing," Cr Wood said in 2018. ●



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CENTRAL EQUITY 

Melbourne Arts Precinct Co calls on locals for reference group

COMMUNITY

The Victorian Government body leading the transformation of Melbourne's Arts Precinct is calling on Southbankers to be part of a new community reference group for the \$1.7 billion project.

Melbourne Arts Precinct Corporation (MAP Co) is establishing a community reference group "as an important channel" between the project and the Southbank community to share information about construction impacts.

The project, which begins construction this year and is due for completion in 2028, will provide 11,000 jobs over the course of the build, a new galley – The Fox: NGV Contemporary – at Southbank Blvd, as well 18,000sqm of new public open space.

MAP Co director and CEO Katrina Sedgwick encouraged Southbank locals who were active in the community to register their interest for the new reference group, which she said would help share regular and detailed updates on the progress of the project.

"The transformation of the Melbourne Arts Precinct is Australia's largest ever cultural infrastructure project, and we're committed to ensuring the local community is as informed and engaged in the project as possible," she said.

"That's one of the reasons we're establishing a community reference group, to share regular and detailed updates on the progress of the transformation as well as create genuine opportunities for the community to have input. We encourage Southbank residents, business owners and people who are active in the community to register their interest in being a member."

Applications close at midnight on Saturday, February 26.

Enquiries: hello@mapco.vic.gov.au ●

Win for Eureka residents as hours cut back on bright business signs

WORDS BY *David Schout*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

An application for 24-hour illuminated business signs at Freshwater Place that threatened to impact residents at Eureka Tower has had its hours cut back and the signs will be turned off between 11pm and 6am.

It was determined that the concerns of objectors, most of whom were Eureka residents, were well founded and the City of Melbourne has recommended a revised planning permit.

It was proposed that two signs worth \$200,000 for real estate group RPM were to be installed atop the Freshwater Place commercial building, where the company is the major tenant.

The illuminated area of the larger sign, facing east towards Eureka Tower, was around 10 metres wide by four metres tall.

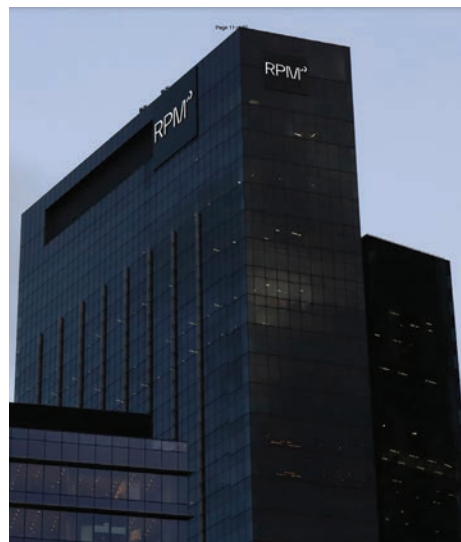
Building management at the 92-storey Eureka Tower, which sits around 120 metres across from the RPM offices at 2 Southbank Boulevard, alerted residents of the proposal in July 2022.

"This could be an issue to some of you, as the signage on the east elevation may shine directly into your apartment," management wrote in an email to owners.

"The sign will be illuminated in white all through the night. It is important the City of Melbourne hears your objections and how it may affect you personally."

A total of 18 objectors did exactly that and raised concerns about the proposed signage's lighting and how it might impact their quality of life.

According to council documents released prior to the February 7 Future Melbourne Committee meeting — where councillors were expected to vote in favour of the revised planning permit application — the City of Melbourne raised issues about the signs.



▲ (Left) An artist's impression of the illuminated signs, which must be turned off between 11pm and 6am. (Right) the proposed works (in red).

"Council officers raised concern with the potential impact of the illumination of the signs, both with regard to the impact the light spill may have on nearby apartments late at night and also the environmental impact of the illumination," the documents read.

"To address concerns relating to illumination, the applicant amended the plans to turn off signage illumination between the hours of 11pm and 6am."

It was deemed by council officers that the size and location of the signs were consistent with the character of signage on towers in Southbank and was appropriate for an anchor tenant in a building.

A follow-up email from Eureka building management to owners on February 3 said the outcome was "a relatively good result as the sign

won't be on all night".

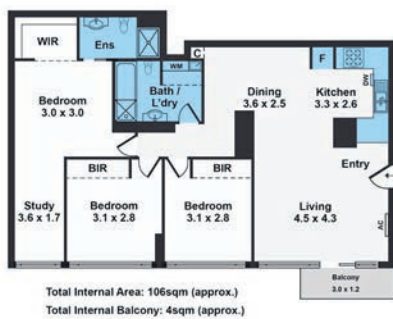
There was, however, additional concern about the proposed brightness of the signs, and council documents included a condition that should a public complaint be made, it would undertake a "signage brightness review".

City of Melbourne policy generally discourages high wall signs on buildings visible from the Yarra River corridor.

However, in this instance the proposed signs were considered acceptable as they "seek to replace previously-approved signs and as such are not entirely new".

The space now occupied by RPM was previously leased by Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PwC) as the major tenant for the building.

PwC has since relocated to a building across the road at 2 Riverside Quay. ●



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Spending up in Southbank, but traders say they're still recovering post-COVID

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
ECONOMY

Southbank business owners have expressed their doubts about the accuracy of data that suggests spending in the area has jumped exponentially.

The economic analysis, released by the City of Melbourne in February, revealed that retail spending in Southbank East (containing the Arts Precinct) had rebounded by 151 per cent on pre-pandemic levels while dining and entertainment was up 184 per cent.

According to the council, the inaugural "snapshot" data would be a "free tool" to help equip traders with new information about Melbourne's economic activity "so they can make informed decisions to boost their business – from opening hours and peak staffing periods to unique offerings and services".

However, speaking to *Southbank News*, business owners said while the spending figures were encouraging, they questioned their accuracy, claiming that the area had not seen the same level of recovery as the data suggested.

A Southbank pub owner, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said he remained unconvinced the data painted a true picture of spending.

"We're 20 per cent down on 2019 numbers month by month," he said.

"Speaking to other operators in this precinct, we're all in the same boat. Some have had a bigger fall off than what we've had."

"Perhaps they are being very selective in the data, so maybe they're just looking at Saturday nights – which is certainly a big improvement on 2019."

The trader said the data "cannot be factoring

in" the estimated 10 to 15 per cent of shops that have closed and remain empty.

He said events and activations were key to attracting people, but it must be done midweek as weekends were busy.

Ashwyn Prabakaran, who runs 8 Miles Café in Southbank Village, said he was starting to break even after accumulating debts since the start of the pandemic.

"You have to consider that prices have gone up for a lot of things – we do charge the customers more," he said. "We are better than what we were doing pre-COVID. For the past two weeks it's been really good."

But he added, "We're catching up on all the debts like rent and electricity and we took out some loans during COVID as well to keep our heads above water."

Mary Martin Bookshop owner Jaye Chindusting said while retail spending at Southgate had made a big improvement it had not returned to pre-pandemic levels.

"Fridays in particular appear very low likely due to workers choosing to work from home leading into the weekend," she said.

In the CBD, the snapshot, captured from October to December, showed a record \$1.1 billion was spent across the city in December.

Saturdays saw the highest levels of average pedestrian activity and average daily spend, joining Friday as the two busiest days.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the snapshot would "give businesses the power to make sure they're adjusting effectively to the new pace of our city".

The council's city activation portfolio lead Cr Roshena Campbell said, "City traders have told us these snapshots will help them do just that by allowing them to plan and invest with confidence." ●

Pet's Corner



▲ Photo by Jemma Van Zaanen.

Southbank's littlest guard dog

“

Bella may be tiny, but her attitude sure isn't.

”

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

While often seen walking around Southbank, Bella's owner Kevin said she is known for having "a bit of an attitude".

As a six-year-old Jack Russell cross, Bella has her favourite people and animals, and treats them with the utmost care.

But as for other animals that are not her sister Tali, she tends to steer clear.

"She is very loving to anyone in the family, and is good with other people, but with other dogs she has a little bit of an attitude," Kevin said.

"She is a very good guard dog because you always know if someone is walking by."

As well as having a good relationship with Tali, who is also a Jack Russell, Bella loves to dote on the family's rescue cat.

"We have a rescue cat, and they get along really well," Kevin said. ●

Melbourne
Arts
Precinct
Transformation

Expressions of Interest Community Reference Group



The Victorian Government is investing \$1.7 billion to transform the Melbourne Arts Precinct into one of the great creative and cultural destinations in the world.

The Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation (MAPT) project is establishing a Community Reference Group as an important channel between the project and the local Southbank community to share information about construction impacts.

The Community Reference Group will be made up of an independent chair, Southbank community and business representatives, and representatives from the Melbourne Arts Precinct Corporation (MAP Co).

We're looking for people with the at least two of the following to join the group.

- Be an active member of the community, with strong networks
- Be a resident or a property owner in Southbank, in the vicinity of the project
- Own a business in Southbank, in the vicinity of the project
- Participate in or volunteer with one of the agreed community groups represented

Applications close midnight Sunday 26 February.

For the Terms of Reference and information on how to apply to become a member, please email: hello@mapco.vic.gov.au

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About 40,000 people use Southbank Promenade daily and a vibrant and diverse community of more than 22,000 people call it home all year round. Everyone's welcome in Southbank and there's always something new to discover.

Following a few difficult years, people are flocking back to Southbank's iconic riverside promenade. In fact, Friday and Saturday night activity is exceeding 2019 levels.

Key to the successful revitalisation of Southbank has been the Yarra River Business Association (YRBA) which has represented the interests of small and medium businesses along the Yarra River since 1998.

YRBA President Jeremy Vincent said the magic of the Yarra River - Birrarung is its reputation for fun.

"It's Melbourne's hub of tourism and recreational activity for both visitors and Melburnians. People know that there is always something on along the river," Jeremy said.

Promenade revamp

As one of Melbourne's busiest public spaces, City of Melbourne is revamping a 300-metre section along the river to improve safety and amenity for residents and visitors.

The revitalisation works include lighting upgrades, new seating, replacing dying trees and adding more green coverage, replacing bluestone pavers, and reconfiguring stairs and ramps between promenade levels.

With works due for completion mid-year, Jeremy said the revitalisation works will further enrich people's time along the Yarra.

"The revamp of the Southbank Promenade will create an even better place to mingle and enjoy the Melbourne lifestyle," he said.

In addition to these capital works, City of Melbourne is supporting the YRBA with \$90,000 in funding as part of its Business Precinct Program. The program provides annual funding to local precinct associations to create opportunities for business networking, education and training, and initiatives to encourage visitation and local spending.

Shape the future of the Yarra River precinct

Is there a certain cuisine you'd like to see more of locally, or are you seeking new cultural experiences? Take the Your Yarra survey and share your thoughts.

The Yarra River Business Association, with support from City of Melbourne, has launched a comprehensive survey to take the pulse of Southbank residents. This survey will help shape the future of Melbourne's iconic riverside home.

Following recent community engagement by City of Melbourne that found residents were seeking more diverse hospitality choices, the Your Yarra survey wants to hear directly from Southbank residents.

"In conjunction with the City of Melbourne's Neighbourhood Partner Ash Lee, we have designed the survey to tease-out details about leisure time activity generally in the precinct," Jeremy said.

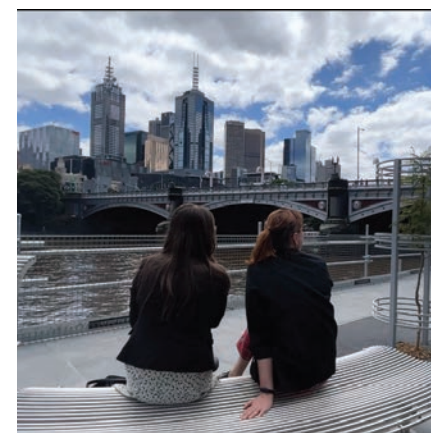


"It will complement the more urban design and neighbourhood planning focus of the Council's earlier survey."

By completing the Your Yarra survey you'll also go into the draw for the chance to win a dinner for two on the Spirit of Melbourne.

"There's 11 prizes to be won, plus those who complete the survey will be contributing to creating a better 3006 lifestyle," Jeremy said.

If you live in Southbank, head to youryarra.melbourne to fill in the short seven-minute survey and be part of shaping the Yarra River Business Association precinct.



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Southbank rent soars after unprecedented 40 per cent rise

Continued from page 1.

owner-occupier properties, so that's depleting. That generally gets topped up; generally, as a building gets older that will happen ... and new off-the-plan buildings get sold to investors, which then replenishes the supply loss."

This however, according to Mr Salvo, was currently not happening.

He said the sharp leap in rent was also a market correction after the pandemic.

"People need to remember that rent also dropped 30 per cent through COVID, so we are recovering. It's a recovery," he said.

"On average across our portfolio we have only just made up our losses from COVID."

In Victoria, there is no law that determines how much a rental provider can put the rent up by.

In most cases, however, rent cannot be increased more than once every 12 months (until recent rental reforms, this was just six months).

According to Consumer Affairs Victoria, letting agents or landlords must tell renters about increases at least 60 days before the rent actually goes up.

The rental provider must also detail how they calculated the increase (for example, the consumer price index) and what the renter can do if they think the increase is too high.

The pinch is not just being felt by Southbankers locked into leases, but also by those hoping to shift apartments or move into the area for the first time.

From a high of 19.2 per cent in October 2020 (where almost one in five Southbank dwellings were empty), residential vacancies in the local area have plummeted to around 2 per cent.

This has made apartment-hunting a far tougher and mentally taxing prospect for those looking to move.

To put this in context, during the height of COVID there were more than 1600 apartments vacant in Southbank.

Now, that figure is below 200, and competition at inspections is high.

Mr Salvo said that a recent viewing for a one-bedroom Southbank apartment attracted 30 registrations and, for the first time ever, the agency required extra staff members to help organise interested individuals.

He said there were ways for prospective tenants to stand out and "get ahead of the curve".

"Your application needs to be squeaky-clean, ready to go ... build the relationship [with the letting agent], and give as much testimonial from your previous property manager as you can to build a case for yourself." ●

Community bands together to tackle increasing bike and scooter thefts

Residents will come together with Victoria Police to address a growing concern of bike and scooter thefts in their community.

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
SAFETY & SECURITY

The local residents' group, Southbank3006, is hosting a forum with Victoria Police on February 26 to discuss and develop strategies to improve bike and scooter safety and security in apartment buildings and on the streets of Southbank.

At the forum, to be held at the Boyd Community Hub from 2pm to 4pm, locals will have the chance to hear from police on the issue, with bike ownership engraving and registration also available on the day.

Police have seen an increase in thefts not just in public places but also in car parks and multi-dwelling locations in Southbank.

"Bicycle thefts have always been an issue and scooters are emerging as a mode of transport so there's a lot of scooter thefts too," Southbank Police Station commander Senior Sergeant Alex O'Toole said.

"There are a lot of bikes that do get stolen even with locks unfortunately. People need to make sure they use a heavy-duty D-lock or a high-quality bike lock and to ensure they park it in as safe an area as possible and covered by CCTV."

Among those to have experienced their bike almost falling into the hands of a thief was Julian, a Southbank resident, who caught a man in the act of breaking a lock on his bike in the garage of his apartment building at 2am on January 23.

"I heard him getting to work. I can hear it because the bedroom is above the garage," he said, before witnessing the would-be thief using a long metal bar to break the bike lock.

Julian, who asked for his surname not to be used, said he stayed on his balcony as the incident unfolded, but as soon as he shouted at the offender, the offender ran off, leaving the bike behind.

"I assume he followed someone through the garages earlier in the day; he then gummed up the internal and external door jambs to ensure he could enter at night when he wanted to," he said.

Julian said he filmed the offender after he broke a security camera in the garage.

"The following day I spoke with the police; apparently they apprehended the guy for



▲ L-R: Southbank3006 vice president Jannine Pattison, Constable Denna Jacobs and Constable Jas Kaur.

another, non-bike related offence in another garage of the apartment complex," he said.

Speaking of his own experience, Julian said, "It was mildly shocking. But not really all that surprising; this happens all the time in cities."

Snr Sergeant O'Toole said there was an ongoing issue of opportunist thieves using cars to "tailgate" into residential car parks before stealing items from storage cages.

"The thing is don't allow people to tailgate because that increases the risk of theft," she said.

"Also, if residents have the ability to put their bike in a bike cage as opposed to putting it on the street – take that opportunity, that reduces the risk of theft."

Southbank3006 believed the forum was an important step in creating a safe environment for cyclists and scooter riders. The group is encouraging all residents to attend.

"The best preventive measure is an engaged community, a community who is not afraid to call out wrongdoing, a neighbourhood watch so to speak. And we are seeing more of this community connection in Southbank," Southbank3006's vice president Jannine Pattison said. ●



▲ Image taken from a video by a resident capturing the moment when a would-be thief broke a lock on a bicycle in a residential building in Southbank.



Brendan Rees
JOURNALIST
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A step forward at the Southgate food court

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge
PLANNING

Hoardings have been erected and leases offered by Southgate's new owner ESR Australia in a refurbishment program aimed at getting people back to the precinct's food court.

Head of asset management at ESR Australia Rob Ewing said the company was offering leases of three or four years to tenants as part of a \$250,000 refurbishment of the food court.

This is despite a major \$470 million redevelopment of the precinct that still hovers over its tenants, which Mr Ewing said the company continued to review after acquiring Southgate from previous owner ARA Asset Management in 2021.

"The masterplan for a large-scale redevelopment is still being reviewed," Mr Ewing told *Southbank News*. "A lot of work is going into it."

While there is greater cause for optimism under the reign of new management, the uncertainty surrounding the project, which was approved by the state government in 2021, has cast a pall over the everyday functioning of the court.

Just seven food outlets are in operation; the popular Lindt store, which kept locals in coffee during lockdown, has closed and the court is lucky to stay open until 3pm, even on weekends.

Customers of the court, who remember its heyday, are putting pressure on management to get their act together.

Lorraine Fraser used to travel in from Black Rock and meet five or six friends in the food court before going to a show at the Arts Centre.



"It's depressing," she told *Southbank News*, as she sat with her friend with two takeaway cups in a dark corner next to a hoarding.

"We'd all come for a bite to eat. We'd get our own thing and meet back at the table. It was our favourite place."

Lorraine met her friend for lunch upstairs at the Greek restaurant and only came down for coffee because the cake shop was full.

Traders are tight-lipped about the situation with pre-made sandwiches stockpiling and custom down to such a point that they're

sometimes closing early.

Customers were around, particularly during the tennis, and the Mary Martin bookshop reported a January that was almost back to normal.

But according to industry sources, Hong Kong-headquartered real estate fund manager and investment firm ESR Cayman Limited, which took over from the previous owner ARA Asset Management, are "keeping their options open" in terms of its future.

Currently there are seven food retailers listed

“

"The masterplan for a large-scale redevelopment is still being reviewed... a lot of work is going into it."

”

on hoardings with invitations for others to enquire about leasing arrangements.

In the meantime, disgruntled workers from nearby office buildings are complaining about the range of food on offer.

"There's no draw card. It doesn't look inviting," said Matt Rose, a local worker, who is keen to see a salad bar installed.

Mr Ewing said the company was trying to turn the food court back into a destination with its recent refurbishment, which began in December 2022.

"It's all about the leasing, getting everyone back engaged. It looks a bit tired," he acknowledged.

He said a lot of old redundant infrastructure was being cleaned up "so it was aesthetically okay to attract occupants and the general public."

He said the company was not shutting the food court early, but that foot traffic was not yet back up to pre-COVID levels.

"Operators are doing the same calculations," he said. ●

Greenline stage one designs approved as locals have their say

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, along the Yarra River.

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 near 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 and is likely to comprise more than 450 metres of new boardwalks, a six-metre-wide promenade and new native habitats.

The other four precincts — (from east to west) The Falls, River Park, Maritime and Saltwater Wharf

— make up the entire four-kilometre green trail that was 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 shared space", where the intersection between cyclists and pedestrians is an ongoing concern.

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

Councillors endorsed the Birrarung Marr concept design at the final Future Melbourne Committee meeting of 2022.

Speaking at that meeting, Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the feedback received had "absolutely influenced the final designs" and "will continue to influence outcomes along Greenline".

"We've heard loud and clear many of the consistent messages that have come through: active transport options and making sure they remain available, accessibility [which is] absolutely vital, amenities such as lighting and street furniture being added, and good suggestions about future food options," Cr Capp said.

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 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".

Stage one works were expected to begin by mid-2023.

Meanwhile, the council has appointed the design studio and landscape architects to deliver the entire Greenline project, which was 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 groups 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," Cr Capp said.

In September 2022, economic

analysts estimated the Greenline project would deliver more than \$3 of value for every dollar spent.

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

The council has hoped that the strong 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 was yet to come to the table.

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

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Local author championing gender equality welcomes more statues of women

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

A local author who has been writing about a lack of women in Melbourne's statuary for more than 20 years says she is glad the City of Melbourne "is finally listening".

Maree Coote, the founder of the Melbournestyle Gallery in South Melbourne and writer and illustrator of the book *Daughters of Melbourne: A Guide to the Invisible Statues of Melbourne*, said recognising Melbourne's "great women of history" was a must as "they are our family album, our storytelling, they define what matters to us".

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece (pictured right) successfully led a motion at a Future Melbourne Committee meeting last December to have three new statues installed that commemorate significant women in Melbourne's history as the council looks to close the gap on gender inequality.

Only nine of the 580 statues within the municipality depict women while five of the 25 statues on council land depict women, both of which Cr Reece described as a "gross inequity" and a "moral hazard for Melbourne".

"Through this effort, we hope to send a signal to the next generation that all genders and cultures have a place in our society and are capable of greatness," he said.

Cr Reece said the council would work closely with stakeholders and the community



to deliver at least three new statues depicting women, with public consultation set to begin in February.

Ms Coote said she welcomed the initiative and implored the council to invite appropriate advisors to sit on the panel.

"I'm very glad the council is finally listening. And it's a pretty easy task for politicians now that the subject of women has become a vote-winner. So, I say let's get on with it," she said, while noting the total of nine female statues was inaccurate as she counted one-and-a-half statues of Melbourne women.

"We must remember this is not a matter for political point-scoring. It is vital that we get



▲ Author Maree Coote and founder of the Melbournestyle Gallery in South Melbourne.

on with acknowledging the women who created the culture, commerce and community of Melbourne."

While the council hasn't formally announced which significant women would be celebrated as statues, some suggestions have included Boonwurrung woman Louisa Briggs, who advocated for Indigenous rights; politician Vida Goldstein, and entrepreneur Helena Rubinstein.

Ms Coote said she had made an exhaustive list of her books over the years and believed Ms Briggs and Goldstein were "obvious and worthy choices".

"But remember this is an issue of equality of visibility, and council's suggestion of Helena Rubinstein – who enjoyed immense wealth and visibility in her lifetime – seems a wrong-headed choice," she said.

"Rubenstein arrived in Melbourne in her 20s, spent only 12 years in Melbourne, and her fame was actually established and consolidated in London, Paris and New York. She's a wonderful candidate, but not the first cab off the rank, I don't think."

Ms Coote said "much better candidates" for statues would be "world-changing suffragettes Henrietta Dugdale and Bella Guerin, city-making entrepreneurs Lillian Wightman and Mieta O'Donnell, first woman premier Joan Kirner, legendary diva Judith Durham, or any number of other women celebrated in my books".

"The list of candidates is extensive and extraordinary. Statues define what matters to us. Excluding women from the catalogue of things we value, and respect has real-life, often dire consequences." ●

Rates to rise as cap doubles, but "modest" increase frustrates

WORDS BY *David Schout*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

City of Melbourne locals could pay up to 3.5 per cent more for their council rates next financial year, after the Victorian Government doubled the rate cap for 2023/24.

The cap, which limits the total amount a council can increase its rates each year, was set at 1.75 per cent this financial year, to "help ease cost of living pressures for Victorians".

However, the government has opted to increase that figure from July 1.

Next year's figure is still below the four per cent recommendation from the Essential Services Commission (ESC), in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

"The rate cap for the next financial year takes into account higher inflation and the need to protect Victorians from uncontrolled rate hikes, while ensuring councils can continue to deliver vital community services," local government minister Melissa Horne said.

"Each council is responsible for setting rates

within the rate cap based on the needs of their community."

The new figure means the average local property rate amount – should the City of Melbourne enact a rise in line with the cap in its next budget – will increase by 3.5 per cent.

The rate cap applies to a council's total revenue and not individual properties, and an individual rate bill may increase or decrease by more, or less, than the cap amount.

However, there was some frustration from councils about what the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) described as a "modest" increase.

The City of Melbourne's finance portfolio lead Cr Philip Le Liu told *Southbank News* that, against an underlying inflation of seven per cent across the economy, the cap was low.

"The rate cap set by the state government for the next financial year is well below the rate of inflation, which has seen the cost of providing services to the community rise significantly," he said.

"Council will continue to monitor cost



In the current year costs for these works have escalated in the order of 35 per cent, something the rate cap doesn't deal with, hence the need for the review ... councils are not complex, they raise funds from the community and spend it all back in the community. Less money over time means less services that we can provide.



pressures and will consider rates, potential for cost constraints and other revenue measures as part of our annual budget planning process in the coming months."

MAV president David Clark called for an independent review of the way in which the cap is allocated.

"Each year councils spend between 20 to 40 per cent of their budgets on new infrastructure, be that roads, aquatic facilities, streetscapes, or playgrounds and parks," Cr Clark said.

"In the current year costs for these works have escalated in the order of 35 per cent, something the rate cap doesn't deal with, hence the need for the review ... councils are not complex, they raise funds from the community and spend it all back in the community. Less money over time means less services that we can provide."

Rate capping, as part of the Fair Go Rates system, was introduced in 2016 to "ease cost of living pressures on Victorians" and "encourage sound financial management by local governments". ●



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Shovels hit the ground on contested development at Boyd Park

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PLANNING

Work to tear down a much-loved basketball court and pop-up orchard at Boyd Village has started, paving the way for the construction of a controversial 42-storey tower.

Situated next to the Boyd Community Hub, the development – which attracted strong community opposition due to the removal of scarce open space – will be home to 434 build-to-rent (BTR) apartments, 40 of which will be affordable rental dwellings for “key workers”, as well as public amenities.

The new development on the western edge of Boyd Park is the result of an agreement between the City of Melbourne and developer PDG Corporation after a series of failed attempts to develop the site with previous partner Mackie Group and later Ciaro, which date back to 2011.

PDG’s managing director Vince Giuliano said the development, known as “Boyd Village”, would create “a one-of-a-kind offering unlike anything else in Southbank”.

“Boyd Village will provide Southbank with a diverse residential charm with its expansive park, green spaces, and array of leisure and co-working spaces, which will accompany the current communal facilities such as the library, café and art studios within the heritage-listed Boyd Community Hub,” he said.

A ground-breaking ceremony marking the construction of the site, which included a smoke ceremony with a local Aboriginal elder, was held on February 7.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said it was a milestone occasion, adding the City of Melbourne was “thrilled to partner with PDG to further enhance the offerings in the precinct, including new public space and council facilities”.



▲ Lord Mayor Sally Capp speaks at the sod turning ceremony for the new Boyd Village project. Photo: Ajay Viswanath.

“Southbank is one of our city’s shining jewels – a thriving residential hub and the epicentre of Melbourne’s spectacular cultural, dining and events offerings,” she said.

Speaking at the ceremony, Cr Capp noted the renovation of Boyd Library “was only made possible because of this development – something that unfortunately has been forgotten and lost in the years that have passed since this project was first devised”.

However, she recognised the need for more open spaces in Southbank, which has become Melbourne’s most densely populated suburb,

saying the council was “in the market”.

“We are at the City of Melbourne looking to bring more open spaces to this neighbourhood over time, and we are certainly in the market at the moment looking for appropriate places at affordable prices – not always easy to match,” she said.

PDG is partnering with Investa and Oxford Properties for the Boyd Village development in what will deliver Investa’s BTR platform Indi, a BTR management platform launched in May 2021 with the goal of providing residents with a new and desirable alternative to the traditional

private rental market.

Investa will keep the tower and podium, except part of the ground floor and level one council facilities, which will be owned and managed by the City of Melbourne.

Indi Southbank is billed to appeal to residents “keen for inner-city living with rental flexibility and access to premium amenities” including an outdoor heated swimming pool with views back to the CBD skyline, a full-sized gym, and a multipurpose fitness room, and games rooms.

It will also feature outdoor barbecue areas, co-working spaces, private dining, podcast rooms and lounge areas on level 42 with expansive bay and city views.

The development drew controversy when it was first proposed with the Southbank Residents’ Association president Tony Penna saying in 2021 that “residents of Southbank are disappointed any development was given approval on our sacred green open space”.

The council bought the entire Boyd Park site, formerly home to JH Boyd Girls School, back in 2007. It wasn’t until 2019 that the council decided to sell a 1843 square-metre portion of the site to PDG for \$16.5 million – but as part of the deal, PDG agreed to deliver a range of community benefits in its proposal.

The plans were eventually endorsed by councillors in December 2020 despite 128 submitters overwhelmingly opposing the proposal.

After negotiations initially failed with developers, the council funded a temporary park with a basketball court at the site.

The new development – which will achieve a 6-star Green Star certification – comes as PDG partnered with the City of Melbourne to successfully complete a \$500 million Munro mixed-use development in the Queen Victoria Market precinct. It launched in December and features 490 BTR apartments. ●



The force is strong in Southbank as busker enthralled crowds

A busker dressed as Stars Wars villain Darth Vader has turned heads in Southbank.

Max Robinson, a City of Melbourne street performer who specialises in playing funky bass rhythms, had crowds enthralled on Southbank Promenade in January. Max, who

likes to refer to himself as “The Bass Invader”, can be regularly spotted entertaining crowds along Southbank. But, one thing’s for sure ... this is one performer you won’t ever find yoda-ling. •

Got something quirky or unusual to share? Email it to admin@hyperlocalnews.com.au to be featured in next month’s *Quirky Corner!*

Safety overhaul nears completion at dangerous intersection

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
TRANSPORT

A major safety upgrade of the notorious City Rd-Power St intersection is nearing completion with works expected to finish by the end of March.

The \$3.8 million overhaul, which has involved realigning the intersection and widening footpaths, comes after a truck hit and injured five people in a horrific incident in May 2021.

The Department of Transport (DoT) said installation of underground infrastructure works had progressed well allowing for proposed traffic signals and public lighting.

Works, which began in October last year, has seen traffic lanes reconfigured on City Rd to make room for a new wider footpath and new traffic island on Power St, while pavement works and temporary traffic line marking have been completed, a DoT spokesperson said.

“We thank the everyone for their patience as we deliver these works, which are expected to be completed by the end of March, weather permitting,” the spokesperson said.

The upgrade will also result in all lanes being shifted on City Rd at the intersection.

After the crash, the community launched a petition calling for all heavy vehicles to be removed along the dangerous stretch of road, which is popular for accessing the nearby West Gate Freeway.

Southbank Residents’ Association president Tony Penna has maintained that while the final design of the intersection “certainly goes some way” to addressing safety concerns, trucks



needed to be banned.

An automated pedestrian crossing and sensors to trigger changes to traffic lights were part of several short-term safety measures introduced soon after the crash including plastic bollards and planter boxes, as well as signs and markings warning of turning trucks – at a cost of \$400,000 to the state government.

However, bollards were bowled over by a truck within 24 hours of the safety measures being installed, along with a street sign. In a third incident, which occurred two months later, a truck clipped a car before dragging it onto the side of the footpath as it turned left from City Rd.

During the works, crews will be on site nightly between 10pm and 6am, Sunday to Thursday. City Rd and Power St is open to traffic during the works, with lane closures and traffic barriers in place to keep crews and motorists safe.

Drivers have been encouraged to plan and allow extra time when travelling through the intersection. ●



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MPavilion's exciting February events calendar

WORDS BY *Jemma van Zaanen*
ARTS & CULTURE

MPavilion continues its ninth season at Queen Victoria Gardens in 2023 with a schedule of free thought-provoking events during February.

Located within the Southbank Arts Precinct, MPavilion is an ongoing architectural initiative of the Naomi Milgrom Foundation, designed by Bangkok-based architecture and design practice all(zone).

Throughout this month, the structure will be transformed into an experimental "Material Lab", with more than 150 creatives involved in various events centred around a multitude of materials.

The events, which include talks, workshops, performances, and installations, will invite audiences to challenge their relationship to materials and explore ideas of a circular economy.

A panel discussing how Australia can use bio-design to help transition towards a regenerative economy, will also take place on February 14 from 6.30pm to 7.30pm, with all welcome to come and be a part of the conversation.

Included within the "Material Lab" program theme, and coming back for its fourth year, is MPavilion's mentorship program M_Curators, which involves mentoring 10 young emerging creators interested in design, architecture and art.

As well as being shown the ins and outs of arts programming, the young creators have worked in pairs to research and interpret sustainable materials to inspire event ideas for MPavilion, led by creative director Jen Zielinska and program producer Molly Braddon.

"M_Curators was such a valuable experience in event curation and programming," previous program participant Lily Di Sciascio said.

"Collaborating with the other M_Curators, the MPavilion programming team, and my event participants has been a privilege."

MPavilion and Sustainability Victoria have also partnered together for events in late February, to explore how recycled plastics could shape the future, a topic that coincides with the state-wide ban on single use plastics from February 1.



For music lovers, the MPavilion is hosting the MMusic program throughout February with free gigs spanning several different exciting genres.

One of the events includes a DJ showcase, which will see DJs perform high energy 30-minute sets. *The Daily Commute presented by the Merge* will take place on February 10 from 5.30pm to 10.30pm. ●

For more information:
mpavilion.org



ACCA launches its Digital Wing

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
ARTS & CULTURE

Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA) has officially launched its first-ever Digital Wing, a dynamic online platform allowing creatives, artists, curators and academics to engage in different ways with audiences.

Accessible via the ACCA website from January 30, senior curator Shelley McSpedden said Digital Wing's first live week had been "really exciting".

"We are really thinking of the Digital Wing as being something that evolves through time as an iterative process, and over the coming years we will continue to develop projects and the platform," she said.

"We are being quite transparent about that and having discussions about how it serves our artists, our community and audience."

Spurred on by the rise of digital technology, ACCA decided to engage in the long-term research process in 2021 and started surveying arts organisations, artists, creatives, curators, academics, and technologists about the way they use digital platforms and infrastructure, and online technologies.

This research was the basis for the platform and allowed for ACCA to explore ways in which the Digital Wing could consist of publications, new digital commissions such as artworks, and be a platform for writing.

"It's also about thinking of the future of creative practice and understanding that more digital platforms and technologies will be used within work, in our everyday lives, and to engage with audiences," Ms McSpedden said.

"The key driver for us is really about expanding our reach and an online platform will allow ACCA to access people in different regions in Australia, and also throughout the world,

which helps spread the work of creatives and artists and allows for further discussions and interactions."

To coincide with the launch of the Digital Wing, ACCA launched *Digital Publication* which is based on the current in-person exhibition running in ACCA's physical gallery spaces; *Data Relations*.

The online publication explores the same theme of how technology and AI is impacting people's relationships with one another, but through moving it to online, ACCA has been able to show a multitude of works in different formats.

This has allowed the leading writers, artists, and academics involved in the research to include audio, visual, and interactive digital components.

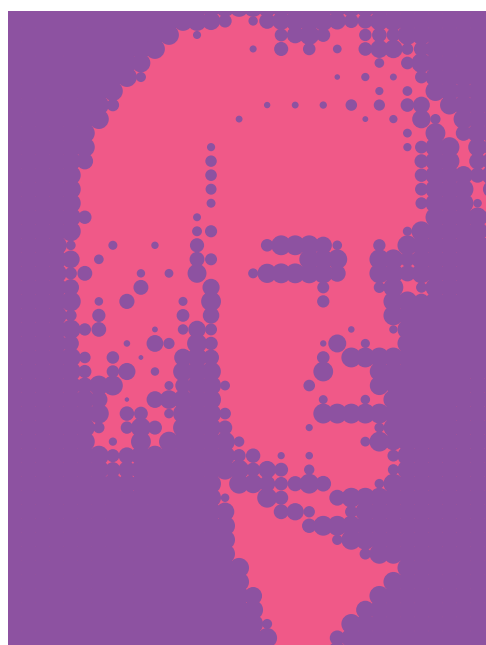
The Digital Wing also rounded off its first week online with the launch of the digital commission *Offset*.

The work is a major new digital artwork by New York-based artists Tega Brain and Sam Lavigne, and "functions as an alternate carbon credit registry for the emerging global voluntary carbon offset market", as described on the website.

Similar to the first publication to go live, *Offset* is considered as part of the current exhibition on show in the gallery spaces, as they are said to be "working in tandem".

Ongoing expansion and growth of the Digital Wing will also see further developments made to continue to allow, when applicable and possible, for the virtual and physical spaces to intertwine and work in conjunction with one another. ●

For more information:
acca.melbourne/digital-wing



Ash Wednesday
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Mein Herze schwimmt im Blut (BWV199)
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CITY GARDENS GO WILD FOR WILDLIFE



Sign up for a free garden visit and become a champion for conservation

Melbourne is home to many iconic parks and gardens, from local reserves to vast open spaces like Birrarung Marr, Fitzroy Gardens and Princes Park. However, one open space people often forget about is in their own home.

Believe it or not you don't need a sprawling backyard in the suburbs to create a thriving natural habitat. Whether you live in a freestanding house, townhouse, or apartment, you can build your own natural space to promote and support local wildlife, right here in the city.

Gardens for Wildlife Melbourne is a free program that provides in-person or virtual walk throughs of people's home spaces with a trained gardening guide. Residents can receive expert advice and recommendations on how

they can improve their spaces for local wildlife and build a beautiful natural habitat in their home.

Garden volunteers will request some images of your home space and book in a virtual or in-person visit to learn more about your space and goals. After the visit, you'll receive a personalised garden report with advice on how you can work towards your goals.

You'll also receive a voucher for free native plants from program partners Westgate Biodiversity: Bili Nursery and Landcare, who can offer even further advice and inspiration on what native plants will suit your space and goals.

Become a champion for conservation and support local wildlife by signing up for a free garden visit at melbourne.vic.gov.au/gardensforwildlife

For Ann-Sofie, living in a 25th floor apartment has a lot of perks – especially the view. What was missing from Ann-Sofie's home though was a natural element.

When Ann-Sofie booked her virtual garden tour, she was looking for advice on what types of plants to incorporate on her balcony. With a personalised garden report, expert advice and a Bili Nursery voucher,

Ann-Sofie was able to transform her balcony from bland to beautiful, even attracting a few ladybugs and butterflies to her slice of heaven.

"It has definitely made our balcony much more homely having the plants, I'd love to do it again. I keep recommending it to everyone. Everyone should be doing this, it's great fun," Ann-Sofie said.

TIPS FOR CREATING A WILDLIFE-FRIENDLY GARDEN

- Planting banksia and grevilleas will help you attract large nectar-eating birds like rainbow lorikeets or red wattlebirds.
- Butterflies will only lay their eggs on specific plants, but adult butterflies will take nectar from lots of different types of flowers, native or exotic.
- You can attract smaller birds like the eastern spinebills by planting thick shrubs for them to hide from bigger birds, cats and dogs.
- If you're lucky you can attract blue-tongue lizards by growing native groundcover plants like nodding saltbush and ruby saltbush, which produce fruit the lizards love.
- Many small bird species like to build their nests using spider webs, fur and grass collected from all around. Keep an eye out for birds collecting nesting material and secure any plastics they might become tangled in.



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Artist's impression of green rooftops across the city

HAVE YOUR SAY ON NEW SUSTAINABLE BUILDING DESIGN STANDARDS

Melbourne is one of the most liveable cities in the world and we're working hard to ensure it stays that way for generations to come.

That's why at City of Melbourne we're taking bold action on climate change and delivering on our promises for 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030 and zero net emissions by 2040.

City of Melbourne is a global leader on climate action and sustainability. To ensure we reach our sustainability targets, we're proposing to introduce new sustainable building design standards for all new buildings, major builds and additions that meet a certain size threshold.

We want to hear your thoughts on the proposed move to more sustainable building design in the municipality.

Buildings are our biggest polluters and account for 66 per cent of emissions in our municipality. This means we must change the way we build our homes and offices to address the climate and biodiversity emergency.

The new best-practice standards are proposed to be introduced into the Melbourne Planning Scheme under Amendment C376. The standards relate to environmentally sustainable design, energy, sustainable transport, heat minimisation, urban ecology, water management, and resource and recovery.

The Amendment also proposes the use of the Green Factor tool, an online green infrastructure assessment tool designed by City of Melbourne that helps developers optimise the design of green infrastructure.

New design standards will improve the way we live, work and get around the city by helping cool our homes and offices, help us deal with flooding events or heatwaves and make buildings cheaper to live in and operate.

To have your say on the proposed standards, and join us in building a more sustainable Melbourne, complete a written submission between 2 February and 17 March. Join one of our information sessions at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/amendment-c376.

IN BRIEF

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

At the City of Melbourne, we believe in bringing people together. Whether you're here to live or learn, to earn or enjoy, we're making our city inclusive and accessible for all. We're a city of possibility – whoever you are, wherever you've come from, everyone is welcome. Visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/community to learn more.

OUT AND ABOUT GUIDE

Are you an older person looking for free or low-cost activities, events, services and support in the City of Melbourne? Our 2023 Out and About guide is here to help. Pick up a copy today at your local library, neighbourhood centre or community hub. Or to download a copy visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/olderpeople

IMMUNISATION CHANGES

Our maternal and child health team provides holistic care for babies and parents. However, we no longer offer child immunisations during regular check-ups. To learn how to book these through one of our community immunisation sessions, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/immunisation

FOOD AND GARDEN RECYCLING

More than 23,000 households are now participating in our food and garden organics recycling service, with 1900 tonnes of organics already collected. Visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/foodgardenwaste to see how you can put your organics to good use.

REPORT IT ONLINE

From graffiti to abandoned vehicles, you can report issues online around the clock. Get in touch from your smartphone when it suits you and we'll get on the case. Find out more at melbourne.vic.gov.au/contactus

IT'S COOL TO PREPARE FOR EXTREME HEAT

Summer has finally arrived, bringing picnics in parks, poolside lounging, rooftop cocktails and the hottest live music.

While we soak up the rays and explore the city, it's important to keep in mind the dangers of extreme heat, what you can do to prepare and how to stay cool when the temperature spikes.

By 2050, it's estimated Melbourne will experience 16 days above 35 degrees each year. This means more intense heat for longer periods.

At the City of Melbourne we're working to reducing the threat of extreme urban heat. We're already taking action through the Greenline Project, urban greening, introducing sustainable building guidelines and providing practical support.

Last year, we became the first city in Australasia to join the Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center's City Champions for Heat Action – announcing our new Co-Chief Heat Officers, Tiffany Crawford and Krista Milne.

Our Chief Heat Officers champion City of Melbourne's heat-related preparedness, response and recovery actions, unify decision-makers and service providers, and raise awareness in the community.

But we can't do it alone – here are our top tips to help you beat the heat this summer:

Be prepared

Keep an eye out for Heat Alerts on our social media channels, set up a 'watch zone' on the Vic Emergency app or subscribe to the Department of Health's heat alerts and be aware of upcoming weather.

Make your home heat-ready by keeping curtains closed during the day, using an air conditioner or fan if you have one and opening windows when it's cool.

Find a cool place

If your home is too hot, try visiting an air-conditioned shopping centre, library, movie theatre, or jump in the pool at one of our recreation centres.

Find cool locations near you with our Cool Places map on our website and plan your journey with our Cool Routes map.

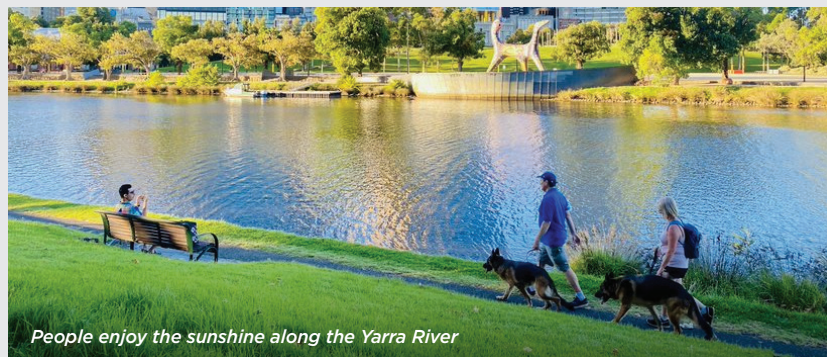
Stay Hydrated

Drinking water is vital during hot weather. Carry a water bottle with you and refill at one of our 60 hydration stations.

Look after each other – including your furry friends

Extreme heat can have severe effects on our most vulnerable, especially older people and young children. Check in regularly with your family, friends and neighbours, never leave children in cars and make sure your pets have plenty of water and a cool place to rest.

Find more tips at melbourne.vic.gov.au/heatwaves



People enjoy the sunshine along the Yarra River

Arts Precinct

Saving a town, but at what cost?

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

Malthouse Theatre's latest production of *Nosferatu* has been considered so enticing and thrilling that its season has already been extended by more than a week. Following the outstanding amount of interest and demand for its extension, the production, which is based on the 1992 silent film *Nosferatu: A Symphony of Horror*, will now run from February 10 to March 5. Described as "thrilling, cheeky, delicious, and exhilarating" by performer Sophie Ross, who plays the character of Kate, *Nosferatu* is a scintillating gothic drama, with a vampire protagonist. As a unique genre, not often represented in theatre, Ms Ross kept many of the specific details under wraps, but was quick to assure *Southbank News* that audiences would be "on the edge of their seats the whole time". Set in Tasmania, in the small town of Bluewater, *Nosferatu* follows many townspeople's desperation to save their home after the local mines closed down, leaving it an environmentally



difficult place to live, with little to no work. During this problematic time, philanthropist Count Orlok (actor Jacob Collins-Levy) reaches out with promises and hopes of restoring the town, bringing his money and dreams of planting a vineyard with him. While the Count's proposal may seem too good to be true, the townspeople's desperation causes them to remain in "denial and delusion", despite people suddenly vanishing from sight upon the arrival of this new mysterious man. "Gradually the town, which was dying in one way, environmentally and in terms of economy, starts having people literally dying and disappearing," Ms Ross said. "The play follows four characters who all have a very different relationship with Count Orlok, and it's interesting to explore how different humans can respond to that level of power, danger and intoxication, because he is a very charismatic and powerful figure." Ms Ross' character Kate adds a very intriguing element to the play, because as someone who moved away only to return to her hometown to care for her sick mother, Kate is "immune to charisma" and has the ability to not be fooled. Leaving her to be the voice of suspicion in a crowd too scared to question the rhythm; demanding audience members to also question just how far they would go in turning a blind eye, when they are not the one in danger. *Nosferatu* is written by multi award-winning playwright Keziah Warner, directed by Malthouse Theatre Director in Residence Bridget Balodis, with performers Keegan Joyce, Max Brown, and Shamita Sivabalan joining Ms Ross and Mr Collins-Levy. ●

CRITIC

Striving to be great

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*

There aren't many outfits you could wear to the office in the survey of work by bad-boy English fashion designer Alexander McQueen at the National Gallery of Victoria. Practical solutions for the working girl were not high on the agenda for this imaginative merchant of cloth. Pushing buttons was more like it as McQueen strode through history and the Orient for inspiration. He sides with witchcraft, Scottish nationalism and the warrior ethos to come up with designs that play, according to this exhibition, with the concept of fear. "I want people to be afraid of the women I dress," McQueen is quoted as saying. In his controversial 1995 *Highland Rape* range, there are slashes through the cloth in revealing places and a red ruffled tartan jacket fails to meet in the middle, behaving more like tempting bolero than a sheath for the wind. McQueen, who grew up in the East End and was happy to identify as "the cocky son of a cab driver", studied tailoring in Saville Row. Some of his first pieces used men's suit material in women's dresses with patterns inspired by the Union Jack. It didn't take long before the designer was picking up more exotic influences as he was taken up by the fashion industry. While travelling on a bus on Edgware Rd in the 1990s he apparently heard some Turkish music and that got him going. A great little black top and skirt designed for his *Eye* series incorporates partially detached sleeves and a weighted hemline that might send out a message to the boss. Not all of his influences were as subtle as a bus riff. The *Highland Rape* theme referred, he said, to the violence of history and the toughness of life. "I'm not expecting beautiful women drifting across the moors in swathes of unmanageable chiffon. My star was anti that sort of romanticism." They were more likely to be showing their buttock cleavage. Known for his melodrama, one naval style coat cut out of a single piece of cloth would suit those yearning for a return to Empire as would a dress (variation of Look 37) with a skirt made of synthetic horsehair. Not surprisingly, the Royals were fans, particularly Catherine, Princess of Wales, who is pictured in many Mc-



Queen dresses and jackets at weddings and formal events. In 2009, just before his death at the age of 41, McQueen released his *Reptilia* print. The range was launched with a naked model writhing on the floor with snakes. He had come a long way from the starchiness of *Saville Row*, incrementally breaking out until his swan song, *Angels and Demons*, featuring plenty of gold brocade. McQueen loved the female form and, despite some of his wild imaginings, he created some great little jerkins from historical warrior outfits and some clinging black dresses that could be worn out without looking too regal. This exhibition portrays the designer as having that peculiarly British mix of irreverence and a desire for greatness. For all of his historical poses, picking up a Turkish riff on a crowded bus and making something of it is the stuff of life. *Mind, Mythos, Muse*, Alexander McQueen, National Gallery of Victoria, until April 16. ●



▲ L-R: Max Delany (ACCA), Nina Taylor (Albert Park MP), Jessica Clark (ACCA Yalingwa curator), Hannah Presley (Yalingwa Directions Circle and inaugural Yalingwa curator), Maree Clarke (2023 Yalingwa Fellow), Steve Dimopoulos (Minister for Creative Industries), Kylie Belling (senior manager First Peoples, Creative Victoria).

Yalingwa Fellowship winner announced

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

Senior First Nations artist Maree Clarke was awarded the \$60,000 Yalingwa Fellowship on Monday, February 6, at Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA). Established in 2017, the multi-year fellowship program is a partnership between Creative Victoria, ACCA and TarraWarra Museum of Art, and it supports the development of outstanding Indigenous art and curatorial practice. As a Mutti Mutti, Wamba Wamba, Yorta Yorta and Boonwurrung woman, Maree Clarke has continued to make notable contributions to the First Nations arts community, and the recently awarded fellowship was a chance to recognise her significant impact. Following the announcement, Ms Clarke expressed how grateful she was for the acknowledgement, and for the bodies who created the "visionary program". "I am honoured to accept this award, and to have my name included alongside respected former Fellowship recipients Yhonnie Scarce and Destiny Deacon," Ms Clarke said. "This is an incredible gift, which will allow me to focus on long-term

projects and conduct further research in the UK that will inform my new body of work." Ms Clarke was awarded the fellowship by the Yalingwa Directions Circle, a panel made up of representatives from the founding organisations and bodies, and members of the Indigenous arts and wider community. "Our unanimous decision to award Ms Clarke this Fellowship recognises not only her stellar career as a ground-breaking artist working nationally and internationally, but also the inspirational role she has played in her 35-year career for emerging artists and curators, and her sustained impact on the community through mentoring and collaborating," the panel noted. Ms Clarke is the third recipient of the Yalingwa Fellowship, with the inaugural prize going to Melbourne-based artist Destiny Deacon from the Kuku, East Cape region and Torres Strait, and the second to Kokatha and Nukunu woman Yhonnie Scarce. ●

For more information:
acca.melbourne

PROFILE PICTURE

PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIES COLLEGE



SAMANTHA POLING

Never too old to win a graduate award

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

Samantha Poling is proof that age is just a number, and "it's never too late" to change trajectory and learn a new skill.

In her early 50s, Samantha found herself out of work within the museums and heritage sector, and she was unsure where to go next.

Then one day she had a "lightbulb moment" and decided to use the time away from work to get creative.

"My husband had bought a camera for his business, and I happened to start using it and did a basic course on how to take photos on automatic, and that's what got me inspired," she said. "I always loved interiors and thought maybe I could change careers and go into interior photography."



▲ L-R (clockwise from above) Images from the series *Gathering Home*, *Home Beautiful*, *Pressure* and *Balance*, and *Home Beautiful*. Photo: *Samantha Poling*.



This decision to take a risk and dive straight in led Samantha to Photography Studies College (PSC), where now, four years on from that lightbulb moment, she has completed her final year of the Advanced Diploma.

While going in with an interest in interior photography, Samantha soon discovered art photography and fell in love.

"I found myself slowly gravitating towards art photography," she said.

"I always thought of photography in more commercial terms, through what you see in a magazine or products on a website, not realising that there is actually a whole art side to photography, where the camera is just a tool."

"I am quite happy to be doing things in my own

little studio, setting up objects and decorative homeware, and photographing them. I really like the quietness of it."

While basking in the peacefulness of her own studio, Samantha created her most notable work yet, *Home Beautiful*, which went on to win PSC's GradFoto 2022 award.

"I was most surprised to win, and I only entered to help build my confidence, as I really struggle with putting myself out there," she said.

"I joke that I am 55 and won a grad award, but it is never too late and there is always something more to learn and it's a good thing to be curious."

"What I got out of photography, apart from the fact that it has given me a new career direction,

is this sense of it also being a mindful exercise."

Now in her first year out of PSC, Samantha is continuing to focus on refining her renowned series and using photography as a means to relax and focus on things outside of herself.

She said she will also continue to advance her skillset in some of the more unique avenues of photography, such as photogravure which is an in-depth process used to produce high-quality reproductions of digital photographs in ink. ●

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



Image by Dora Wu



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SAFETY & SECURITY



Bicycle security and safety

With increases in cycling and the undisputed fitness benefits, Victoria has experienced a huge surge in sales during and post the lockdown period as people look for ways to stay fit and commute safely.

WORDS BY *Damien Higgins*
ACTING SNR SERGEANT - SOUTHBANK
POLICE STATION

However, police in Southbank and the CBD have seen an escalation in bicycle thefts during recent months, particularly from residential streets and community locations and apartment complexes. So, what actions can you as a bicycle owner and rider do to prevent the theft of your bicycle?

The Southbank Police station is working collaboratively with the Southbank3006 residents' group to promote Cycle Safe February and remind cyclists of the following safety and security tips...

Always lock your bike and use a good quality lock

Many bike thefts are crimes of opportunity. The best lock to keep your bike safe is a D-lock (also known as a U-lock). The D-lock is a solid, curved metal lock that generally provides higher level security and deterrence than cable or chain locks.

Lock your bicycle properly

Utilise bicycle parking infrastructure where possible. Check your bicycle can't be removed or lifted off/over what you've locked it to. Park

in well-lit public areas with CCTV coverage where possible. Don't forget to take your lights, trip computer and accessories with you. If you have a high-end bike refrain from storing it in a storage cage in your apartment complex, keep it in your apartment.

Make your bicycle identifiable

If your bicycle is lost or stolen, the chances of it being returned are improved if your driver's licence number is engraved on the frame and you retain a record of the serial number. Having a photograph of your bike assists if posting on social media sites.

Remember to wear an approved bicycle helmet

Ride on the road in the direction of traffic flow and have front and rear lights fitted to your bicycle so you can be easily seen by all road users.

Locating owners of bicycles that have been found or seized by police is often difficult. If you are unlucky enough to be the victim of bicycle theft, the more details you can provide to police about your stolen bicycle will improve your chances of being reunited with it.

Southbank Police will be holding another bicycle engraving event soon. Keep an eye out in *Southbank News* for dates. ●

BUSINESS

Shadow Play by Peppers: Inside Southbank's most stunning contemporary building

When it comes to avant-garde design in Southbank, you need look no further than Shadow Play By Peppers.

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

The 46-floor building is home to a 71 room serviced apartment hotel, a breathtaking rooftop cocktail bar, 450 residential apartments and arguably Southbank's best restaurant, Edwin Wine Bar, and it may just be Southbank's true shining light of contemporary architecture.

Shadow Play is the brainchild of renowned Australian entrepreneur Jonathan Hallinan; a man whose clarity of concept covers every square inch of this building.

From its seductively dark corridors lined with art by Australian photographer, Georges Antoni, to the light-soaked, fully-equipped hotel and serviced apartments, there is a deliberateness to Shadow Play that few other buildings in Melbourne possess.

"While Peppers is part of the Accor Hotel Group, we are the only Shadow Play in the world," Shadow Play by Peppers digital marketing executive Nico Mackintosh said.

"Being in Southbank, it is so competitive for hotels, our point of difference is our mix of serviced apartments and hotel facilities; it is quite unique to have a combination of the two."

"The architectural design and fit-out of the building, both for the hotel and restaurant, delivers a unique ambience rarely seen in hotels".

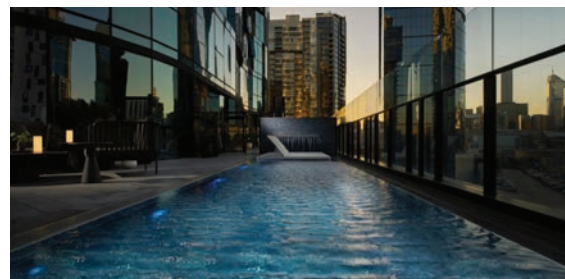
The hotel component of Shadow Play covers levels one to nine of the building and offers visitors a mixture of one- and two-bedroom rooms boasting kitchens fully equipped with utensils, washing machines, and dryers; pretty much everything you would expect in your home, alleviating the hassle and worry from their guests.

Hotel guests have complimentary access to oversized lounge and library rooms, a complete gym and a heated outdoor pool with city views.

Venturing through the rooms and corridors of the building it is easy to be enamoured by the stark but warm aesthetic, however, all feelings of comfort make way for a moment of jaw-dropping brilliance as you make your way to the indoor and garden meeting rooms of the 46th floor.

Panoramic, and uninterrupted, views of Melbourne are what await you, from the Macedon Ranges across Port Phillip Bay to Albert Park Lake.

"Our board room holds 20 people for sit-downs and for cocktail parties we can cater for 30 stand-ups, but what



people come here for is the view, you can't get much better," Ms Mackintosh said.

"Anything that is needed, from catering to equipment hire, we can tailor these spaces to fit the needs of our clients."

From the rooftop back down to the ground floor (or slightly above street level), Edwin Wine Bar has just launched a new seasonal menu with a defined ethos, celebrating and supporting local people and produce.

The team behind Edwin Wine Bar bring to the fore some of Victoria's best wine and food from Gippsland to the Grampians, and everywhere in between.

With a clear focus on seasonality, Edwin's new menu nods to the abundance of quality seafood.

The highlights according to Ms Mackintosh, "the Hiramasa kingfish or barramundi with mushroom emulsion are hard to go past." ●

For more information:
hotelshadowplay.com.au

SOUTHBANKER

Beverley's tireless community work earns her an Australia Day honour

Beverley Pinder, a former City of Melbourne councillor, businesswoman, and Southbank Rotarian, has been awarded an Australia Day honour for her service to the community through a range of organisations.

Ms Pinder, also Australia's Miss Universe winner in 1978, was named a recipient of the Medal of the Order of Australia in recognition of her strong work ethic and dedication to helping others through charitable work.

It's an honour Ms Pinder said that had been "completely unexpected" but one that made her feel "so proud and humbled".

She has been actively involved in charitable organisations since she emigrated from Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) to Australia, aged 13.

Throughout her career in public relations, Ms Pinder said she was always mindful of the opportunities that Australia gave her and her family, "to enjoy a level of success and quality of life that would not have been achievable in Sri Lanka".

She has always felt motivated to "give something back" to Australia, with her most high-profile input being a City of Melbourne councillor for seven years, between 2012 and 2020, particularly as chair of the Homelessness and Disability



Advisory Committee portfolios.

Among her community services has been a commitment to the Rotary Club of Southbank, which she described as a long-time passion and another avenue of addressing people experiencing homelessness.

"The attraction to Rotary was magnetic ... my DNA is embedded within this service," she said, adding her role in mentoring young leaders in Rotary and allowing them to "cut their teeth" in board governance, networking and interacting with local government

had also been a huge reward.

She has also relished the opportunity of being a patron for the Father Bob Maguire Foundation and a "friend" of Major Brendan Nottle and the Salvation Army; all of which have enriched Ms Pinder's life through her work of helping the needy for 55 years.

In her personal life, she said winning the Miss Universe Australia title – the first young woman of colour to have done so – gave her the impetus she needed to springboard into public relations and charity work.

Another highlight was meeting the late Dame Phyllis Frost, who worked tirelessly with governments, prison administrators and non-government agencies for improved conditions, which led to Ms Pinder being inducted into the world of "big time" fundraising by the legendary Dame. The target they achieved was a remodelled Maroondah Hospital.

Ms Pinder's latest achievement has been to help set up Turning Hope Into Action Inc., an entity awaiting registration with the Australian Charities

and Not-for-profit Commission, and instilling lived experience director, Lisa Peterson, with the leadership and help needed to be the voice for those experiencing homelessness.

Speaking about her prestigious honour, Ms Pinder, who, like many community-minded people, said it was also an award "for those I have helped through my support for various charities, as well as the young women I have mentored through my business".

"I hope that they share the sense of pride that this award offers, for someone who cares for the less fortunate in our society, but also loves to see young women achieving acceptance and recognition in their new-found home in Melbourne."

Today, Ms Pinder has a soon-to-be published autobiography in which she hopes to tell a migrant story that "reflects the riches of success on several fronts".

She encourages those who set a goal in life to adopt her mantra: "if you want it, go after it; this is the only way it will become yours". ●

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*

BUSINESS

Trielle: where the riverside meets luxury

“

Docklands is set to welcome a new \$350 million luxury residential tower, with renowned developer, Mirvac, revealing Trielle; the tallest building with the most abundant amenity to be introduced to the leading property group's thriving Yarra's Edge community in Melbourne.

”

Combining riverside rarity with timeless luxury, Trielle will be the crowning jewel at Yarra's Edge, commanding a striking view across the CBD and beyond, defining the sought-after north-facing riverbank.

With architecture and interiors by Mirvac's award-winning in-house design team, Trielle is poised to redefine luxury living.

An architectural marvel on Melbourne's skyline, the spectacular exterior will represent a diamond, featuring distinctive, faceted glazing to reflect both the sky and shimmering river.

Just metres from the waterfront and positioned on the Collins St axis, the 45-level tower features sophisticated design and unparalleled amenity.

Focused on celebrating time, life's most precious commodity, Trielle residents will have access to a dedicated concierge to tend to their needs with meticulous attention to detail, giving back precious time in the day to spend how they wish.

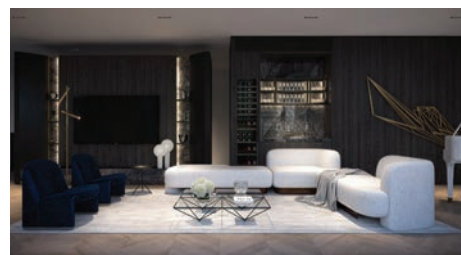
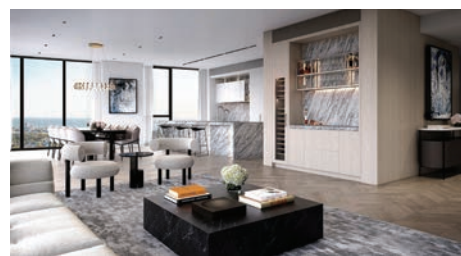
Self-care will soar to new heights at Trielle. The Oasis is a verdant urban rainforest with a running stream through the centre to provide an instant dose of transportive calm and relieve.



Featuring a Scandinavian-inspired wellness club, a 25-metre lap pool, hot outdoor magnesium pool, an infrared sauna, and cold-pooling and treatment rooms, residents can enjoy the Oasis' restorative benefits on any given day.

Whether it's relaxing, entertaining or connecting, the community-oriented spaces at Trielle will allow future residents to "focus" with a biblioteca-style library and work pods; "connect" with a full-time concierge and Saletta Business Lounge, "revel" with a piano bar, chef's table and wine cellar, games room and cocktail bar, teppanyaki barbecue and golf simulator.

"We've designed Trielle to celebrate time, leisure and adventure. The design hinges on the waterfront aspect of Trielle, its view of the



crafted with meticulous attention to deliver a vision of luxury.

Each residence is imbued with an innate sense of home, boasting impressive ceiling heights and finishes that are hotel-like in their quality.

Trielle residents will have access to Mirvac's established inner-city waterfront community, including Marina YE at their doorstep.

Future Trielle residents will soon benefit from wider Fishermans Bend area plans. Described as a "city within a park", it is set to be a hub of architectural excellence, sustainability, innovation, business, nature and community in years to come, making it one of Melbourne's most exciting, richly layered destinations.

Sitting as the central figure of Melbourne's waterfront, surrounded by Fishermans Bend, Port Phillip Bay and the Yarra River, Trielle offers a Melbourne location like no other, combining the CBD's liveliness, the river and the sky.

To be one of the first to experience the Trielle Display Galleria, please contact Janet Walker 0466 440 863 or janet.walker@mirvac.com. ●

city and its commanding presence on the city's skyline. It will be a luxurious base for residents to explore Melbourne's vibrant cafes, laneways and the iconic flagships of Collins Street's Paris end," Mirvac design director, Michael Wiener said.

Featuring one-, two-, three- and four-bedroom residences, a collection of sub-penthouses and the black and white diamond penthouses, the 191 generously sized apartments have been

For more information:
trielle.mirvac.com

Focus apartments – enjoy resort style living at home

Focus Apartments by Central Equity has just completed, and residents are giving it five-star reviews!

Residents are enjoying the extensive resort-style facilities on offer, the professional and experienced onsite management team and the spacious, light-filled apartments.

Residents are 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 that provide openable windows.

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 on level seven,

including a 17-seat "gold class" cinema, resident lounges, dining areas and kitchen facilities. In addition to these ambient and relaxing spaces, a large gym, sauna and indoor swimming pool are there for the residents to enjoy. There is a spacious outdoor landscaped terrace for barbecuing and dining.

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

Focus is situated in the 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 Southbank.

Southbank has seen a significant investment in the area in recent times to accommodate the growing population; the recently completed new Southbank Boulevard linear park and playground has further improved the amenity of the locale.

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

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 has added additional pressure to the rental market in recent times.

There are a limited number of apartments still available for sale at Focus. Flexible settlements are available including the option to move in straight away.

For further information, please 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.

Central Equity is regarded as the pioneers of inner-city living, having completed 85 major projects in locations around Melbourne. ●

For more information:
focusmelb.com.au

SOUTHBANK SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

Reducing our consumption

According to Canstar Blue, Australians are spending \$1956 per person, per year, on storage facilities for their belongings. Significantly, more than 25 per cent of those using these storage facilities could not remember what they had in the storage unit.

WORDS BY *Maria Tarrant*
SOUTHBANK SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

There are plenty of reasons why we may need storage facilities, perhaps because of downsizing or to store equipment only used periodically. Twenty-five per cent of users not remembering what was in storage suggests these items are not needed. Is this the end result of over or unnecessary consumption?

There are some things we can do to reduce the temptation to spend unnecessarily and consider the environmental impact of our spending.

One simple step is to use cash rather than cards. It makes you more aware of your



spending habits. Have a list before you set out and don't get distracted by other items not on the list. Shop locally, seek out second-hand goods and consider the packaging of goods you buy. Taking your own bags and containers to be filled and refusing plastic bags will help reduce our environmental footprint.

We can all be more vigilant consumers, and our budgets and the environment can benefit.

Southbank Sustainability Group (SSG) approached the City of Melbourne about setting up a community garden, open to all Southbankers, so as to provide a space where we could grow some of the food we need and appreciate where it comes from.

The council made available the space at the Boyd Community Hub in Southbank. While the garden cannot support all the food needs of the community, it does provide an opportunity to get in touch with nature in our urban environment. Growing and harvesting locally also reduces the environmental impacts caused by the transportation and packaging often associated with our food.

In recent weeks we have been busy in the garden. Southbankers have enjoyed locally grown vegetables and herbs including potatoes, strawberries, leafy greens, parsley and coriander and we will see more in the summer months.

We also held the first of our events – a demonstration about propagating and caring for indoor plants was conducted by one of our



SSG members. There was plenty of hands-on learning and participants took home cuttings to grow. We are planning for more events throughout the year.

The garden has benefited from the efforts of many locals, and it has been great to meet new Southbank residents at the garden in January. Anyone is welcome to drop by and join in the discussions and gardening. We have fortnightly Saturday meetups at 10am in the garden. The next date in February is the 18th.

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

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

YARRA RIVER BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Calling all Southbankers

Do you know how highly Melbourne ranks in awareness and appeal around the globe?

This year's Australian Open was the highest attended yet, and with a massive worldwide television audience. Love it or hate it, next month's Grand Prix will also project stunning images of our city into the homes of millions of people around the world.

Compared to even 10 years ago, the international profile of Melbourne has lifted enormously, and it is premium events that have achieved it. Thirty years ago this year, the fledgling Kennett government nominated major events as one of the key drivers to building the city's economy, and successive governments have stuck with the formula.

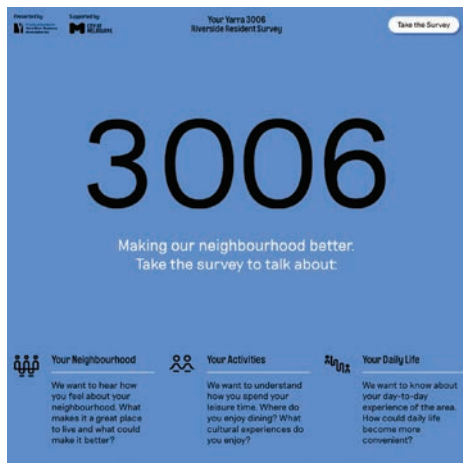
This profile also helps to build the business events for Melbourne – and Southbank businesses are the major beneficiaries. Through the work of Visit Victoria and the Melbourne Convention Bureau, Melbourne is an aspirational place to visit for business or pleasure.

This month, Southbank plays host to 29 Masters of Tourism (Destination Management) students who hail from 12 countries. For the past decade Breda University in the Netherlands has selected Melbourne – and specifically Southbank – as a major case study for their students.

Many of the students are people already working in visitor management roles in very significant tourism countries, yet Melbourne has been chosen to study because of its profile and its special tourism ingredients of events, the arts, dining and sport.

These are factors that also happen to make the Melbourne lifestyle so enviable, and particularly so here in Southbank, where all those elements are at our fingertips.

However, there is still plenty to do to improve the Southbank residential experience and especially to make the tourism offering more aligned to what our locals want. In conjunction with the council, we are trying to bridge that



“resident-tourist” experience gap, but we need your help to do it.

A council-funded and supported research project is under way to obtain more granular information about how locals use the area and what you want in your everyday experiences.

youryarra.melbourne is a highly interactive survey that will provide the business association and the council with that information.

Could you devote seven minutes of your time to tell us what you want and need? By doing so, you could also win one of 11 prizes, including a memorable three-hour dinner cruise aboard the *Spirit of Melbourne* for two people. ●

Take the survey:
youryarra.melbourne



Jeremy Vincent
PRESIDENT
YARRA RIVER BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

SOUTHBANK3006

Your voice matters: Southbank3006

Welcome to 2023 and a big happy first birthday to Southbank3006. What a year it has been for Southbankers.

WORDS BY *Jannine Pattison*
VICE PRESIDENT - SOUTHBANK3006

Southbank3006 was born from a need for greater community connection and a yearning from residents wanting to become more involved with the decisions that are made on local matters.

We were delighted that Southbank3006 was quickly embraced by the community and fast became the largest, highly engaged individual resident group in the area and continues to grow every day.

During the past 12 months we have raised with the City of Melbourne and state government the need for improved green space, dog parks and better recreational facilities in Southbank.

We have posed the question, “what does the economy of the future look like in Southbank?” We have opened the conversation around introducing low-traffic neighbourhoods to improve pedestrian and road safety, and we were privileged to have hosted two Meet the Candidates events for the 2022 federal and state elections, with great attendance numbers.

We invited the community to information sessions with the head of The Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation, the Department of Transport, Victoria Police, and in December we celebrated together with the inaugural Southbank, *A Very Merry Friend-Mas*, with attendees exceeding our wildest expectations! The highlights of which were no doubt the Southbank3006 dog parade and the very special visit from Santa! This event will now be a permanent fixture in the Southbank3006 calendar.



So, after our first-year advocating for community needs and hosting numerous events, we are well rested and hard at work once again planning the 2023 schedule.

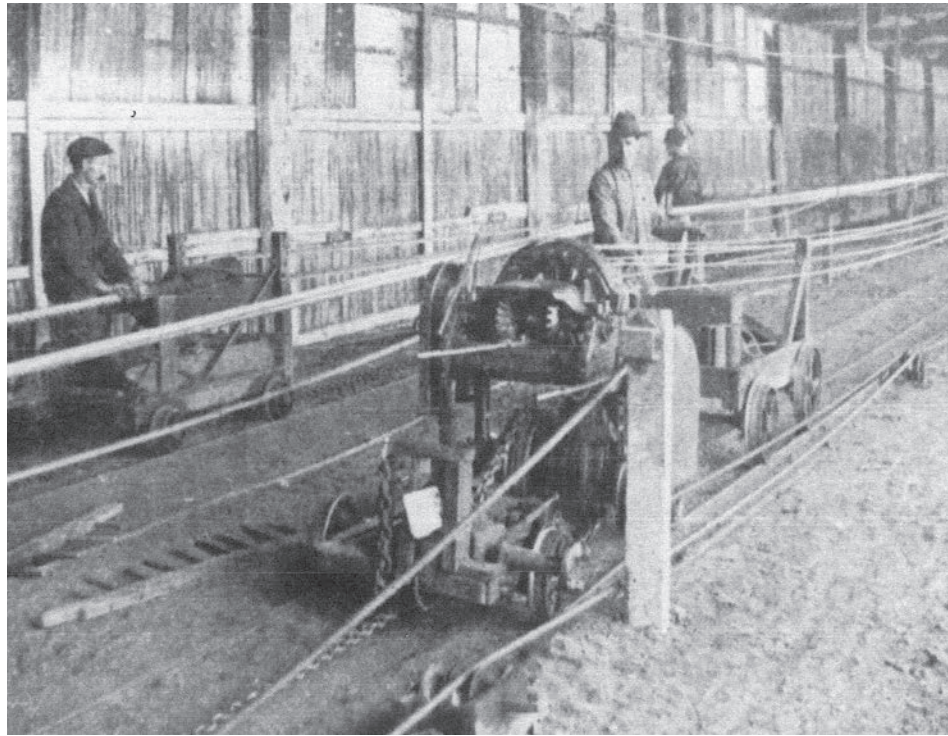
February 26 will see us back with the Victorian Police running a session on bike security and scooter safety. We invite everyone to come along and hear from the crime prevention division who will be offering bike registration and engraving services.

This year will be jam packed with activities, so make sure you join us as an official member to keep updated on all the upcoming events southbank3006.com

Southbank, thank you for trusting us to be your voice on the matters that matter. ●

On the ropewalk!

Ropemaking can be traced back to early days of seafaring, and became more necessary with the rigging and lashings of sailing ships, which required large quantities of strong, large diameter ropes for shipping together with ropes for haulage, rope drives, lifting cranes, etc.



Not surprisingly, ropeworks were often concentrated around the larger seaports in Britain, Europe and the USA, along with specialist engineering firms that supplied the ropemaking machinery. In Australia, Melbourne became a major centre of ropemaking, when Scotsman James Miller erected his first ropeworks in Emerald Hill (South Melbourne) in 1862 in the industrial precinct that is now part of Southbank. Originally between City Rd and Queensbridge St, floods in 1874 caused him to move to Moray St where he set up a plant for weaving corn sacks and wool packs.

The principles of ropemaking were relatively simple and have remained the same for thousands of years. There were three steps – firstly, the heckling, where the fibres of the basic raw material were pulled out and straightened (raw materials included jute, hemp, flax, Manila, cotton, sisal or synthetic and were drawn from countries such as New Zealand, Philippines, China, Java, India, Italy and Russia).

The second was the spinning of the fibres into yarn or thread, which required materials to undergo about a dozen steps in the process. The

factory was described as very noisy, as the noise of the looms stunned the ear with the rattle of weaving shuttles, a whirring noise of spindles, the rotating iron rollers, and the constant admonishment by managers to keep up the pace.

The third was making of the yarns into rope where they were processed in a ropewalk – a long piece of land (more than 1000 feet long and 14 feet wide) where bundles of fibres attached to two machines which revolved, and

the strands were twisted together into a rope. Workers attending to the ropewalk was a familiar site to those walking around the district.

In 1888 Miller relocated to Yarraville, erecting a new factory, and closed the South Melbourne works soon after. A ropewalk was included among the buildings at Yarraville and ran along the southern boundary of the site (with river frontage) all the way to Whitehall St, a distance of about 350 metres.

“

Originally between City Rd and Queensbridge St, floods in 1874 caused ropemaker James Miller to move to Moray St where he set up a plant for weaving corn sacks and wool packs.

”

Rope was distinguished from other types of cordage (such as cord, twine, string, etc.) by its size, it being generally accepted that rope is an inch (25mm) or more in diameter. While rope generally had an industrial or commercial function, it was also used for recreation purposes, such as tug of war and the game of quoits (still being played by workplace teams in South Melbourne in the 1950s). As the processes for manufacturing rope became automated and electrified, ropewalks disappeared but their memory remains a distinctive part of the industrial heritage of Southbank and a pioneer institution of the district. ●



Robin Grow

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

WE LIVE HERE

Other councils take the lead

Hello Melbourne City Council – what action will you be taking to improve the lives of Melbourne apartment residents?

Several Melbourne councils with simmering short-stay issues are taking matters into their own hands, frustrated by interminable inertia at the state level.

Now City of Port Phillip, the municipality that includes the tourist mecca of St Kilda, is planning to implement regulations like those adopted by other councils covering the regions of Mornington, Frankston and Yarra Ranges. One of the most fundamental reforms is a registration system – which, if nothing else, will at least provide empirical data on the short stay industry juggernaut.

In its magazine last month, Melbourne City Council congratulated itself on its 2023 agenda while quietly forecasting that the city’s population will increase 100 per cent by 2041.

Such a density-doubling trajectory can only be achieved with near commensurate growth in apartment dwelling – hardly a surprise.

With their crystal ball polished so wonderfully, what is the council doing to make sure the mega-population can be accommodated while enriching the community fabric of the city?

We need to know what the council is going to do about planning issues that include short-stays and the impact on residents of continual, intensive building development.

We are following up with the Future Melbourne Committee this month.

The state of the State

We hope the New Minister for Planning, Sonya Kilkenny, will have a broader view of her portfolio than her predecessor, Richard Wynne, who always seemed to be on the side of the developers, evading requests for balanced discussion on issues affecting residential buildings.

Although Melissa Horne retained her seat at the 2022 election, Danny Pearson has taken over as the new Minister for Consumer Affairs. We look forward to continuing the regular dialogue that we had with the Consumer Affairs office under Ms Horne.

We have learned that the proposed review of the *Owners’ Corporations Act 2021* will cover both acts that were incorporated into the *Owners’ Corporations Act*:

- *Owners Corporation (Short Stay Accommodation) Act 2018*
- *Owners Corporations and Other Acts Amendment Act 2021 No 4 of 2021*

The timetable has now been promised sometime between 2023 and 2027 – first slated for 2021! Victorians deserve a more definitive timetable for this review.

In its original 2014 issues paper, the government expressly excluded short-stay accommodation from the review of the *Owners’ Corporation Act* – alleging “planning issues” as the reason. Have these self-declared issues been resolved to allow a simultaneous review of both acts? We certainly hope so, because the current legislation is far from workable. ●



Barbara Francis & Rus Littleton
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CBD - 5 MINUTES TO YOUR DOOR

たくさんの美しい女性 日本語を話します

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

Wet 'n' wild comes to high-rise Melbourne



Unfortunately, we are well into storm season in Australia, and the east coast is being battered with its usual fair share of heavy rains and high winds.



Dealing with the aftermath of a storm is difficult for everyone affected. It is particularly difficult for owners' corporations (OCs) because they must also deal with upset lot owners, dispossessed tenants, and damage caused to common property. But where exactly does an OC's obligations start and end?

The most important thing that an OC should have in place is the right coverage under their insurance policy. It is a statutory requirement to be insured for the full replacement value of all common property assets (unless you are in a two-lot scheme). In addition, you should ensure that your insurance policy covers damage such as storm damage, to the greatest practicable extent, and covers the cost of emergency or crisis accommodation for displaced residents, to the greatest possible extent.

In the aftermath of a storm, an OC needs to be proactive to ascertain the extent of any and all damage to the common property. Ideally, its manager or a consultant should come on-site as soon as possible to assess damage, and if a resident reports any damage, the OC should act promptly to investigate and make repairs.

This assumes, of course, that the damage is



done to common property, not lot property. In Victoria, the boundaries within a lot that delineate the point between common property and lot property can vary widely. Much depends on the notations recorded on the header sheet of

the registered plan of subdivision as there are no hard and fast principles of interpretation.

Often the notations read like gibberish to the ordinary person and state matters such as "location of boundaries defined by buildings

- interior face - all boundaries." What this seemingly innocuous phrase means is that items such as tiles and waterproof membranes, and the underside of ceilings will belong to the lot owner, not the OC.

This matters a great deal when there is storm damage to these types of items, as it might well mean that lot owners might be required to claim any damage from a storm to these items under their own home and contents policy. If their insurer does not provide this type of coverage, then the owner can be left high and dry.

In recognition of this situation, some OCs elect to ensure that their policy of insurance for damage covers all parts of the building (including lot property) but may have a rule in place to require owners to pay for the excess under any claims made to the insurer. Committee members ought to discuss these types of situations each year when the policy is up for renewal.

The legislation states that OCs have a strict duty to repair and maintain the common property in good condition. Where an OC fails to meet these obligations, they may be liable for any property damage caused as a result, as well as pure economic loss if that loss is reasonably foreseeable.

In other words, when a storm damages common property and that damage causes consequential damage or loss to a lot, the OC may be responsible. If a body corporate does not act promptly, it places itself at risk of being sued. That is why being proactive and acting promptly is so important. ●



Tom Bacon

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

10 YEARS ON

Looking back at Southbank News - 10 Years On

FEBRUARY 2013 | ISSUE 15 |

SOUTHBANK NEWS

Men's shed opens, near Southbank

Southbank handymen and women may not yet have their own space to work but in the mean time there has been a "Men's shed" open in neighbouring South Melbourne, and it is encouraging Southbank residents to use the facility.



The shed is tucked behind the St Luke's church on Dorcas St.

Peter Harkin has been at the forefront of the fight for a Southbank men's shed and has joined the committee of the Port Phillip Men's Shed. He said it was a good start for Southbank residents.

"It's a relief after our two years of hard work on a Southbank men's shed, to have something open up in our area. I'm hoping many other Southbank residents to come and have a look. It's a good start," Mr Harkin said.

Port Phillip Men's shed president Peter Simmons said the response for a shed in the area has been overwhelming.

"When I first had the idea I just put a few boards out about a meeting and we got 50 people coming along who were interested," Mr Simmons said.

The groups membership officer, Steve Ingrouille said until Southbank has a shed of its own, its residents were more than welcome to cross the border.

"We are absolutely encouraging Southbank residents to come down. It's a great space and it's not just a shed, it's a social group. It's a great way to get to know others from the area," Mr Ingrouille said.

"There are some great jobs on offer at the moment, so the shed will not only be a place to partake in your hobby, there will be a real sense of achievement from the work as well."

For more information you can head to the website www.ppmensshed.org or email Steve about becoming a member membership@ppmensshed.org ●

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New life for arts in Australia



Southbank is the arts capital of Australia.



Within this little patch we have iconic institutions of national and international significance such as National Gallery and NGV Contemporary, the Arts Centre, the ABC, Hamer Hall, the Victorian College of the Arts, Orchestra Victoria, the Southbank Theatre, the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, the Australian Ballet, the Ian Potter Centre, the Melbourne Conservatorium, the Fiona and Sidney Myer Centre, the Grant St Theatre and many others.

It's estimated that about one in 10 people in the Macnamara electorate work in the arts and creative industries. In Southbank, I can confidently say the figure must be higher than that.

So, it's not surprising that many Southbankers have been asking me what the new Albanese Labor government is going to do for the arts, both nationally and locally.

This month we revealed our plan when both Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Arts



Minister Tony Burke came to Macnamara to launch our government's arts policy. Even though both ministers are from Sydney, by coming here they recognised that this part of Melbourne is the hub around which Australia's cultural life rotates.

The government's arts policy is called *Revive: A Place for Every Story, a Story for Every Place*. It is designed to address the decade-long neglect of the arts and entertainment sector under the previous Coalition government.

Revive will provide a broad and comprehensive roadmap for Australia's arts and culture for the next five years.

The policy is built around five guiding principles:

- First Nations First
- A place for every story
- Centrality of the artist
- Strong cultural infrastructure
- Engaging the audience

Revive's centrepiece is the establishment of Creative Australia.

Creative Australia will be the Government's new principal arts investment and advisory body. Within Creative Australia four new bodies will be established:

- A new First Nations-led body that will give First Nations people autonomy over decisions and investments in the arts.
- Music Australia, a dedicated new body to support and invest in the Australian contemporary music industry
- Writers Australia, to support writers and illustrators to create new works
- A new Centre for Arts and Entertainment Workplaces to ensure creative workers are paid fairly and have safe workplaces free from harassment and discrimination.

Revive will make sure more Australian TV shows and movies are seen across streaming platforms. The Minister for Communications,

Michelle Rowland, and Minister Burke will be conducting consultations with the industry over the next six months, in preparation to legislate Australian content quotas for streaming services.

Unlike many arts policies in the past, this one is not just words. After years of chronic underfunding, it will be backed by real money: \$286 million in dedicated funding over four years.

This restores the Brandis-era cuts to the Australia Council in full, which many of you probably remember as it inspired a fitting protest, with hundreds of people taking to the streets outside the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art to demonstrate their anger through dance.

As one of Australia's premier cultural precincts, I will continue to advocate to ensure Southbank and its many workers in the arts will be supported to do what they do best - make our local community that much more colourful, inclusive, and vibrant through the arts. And with our new cultural policy, we will help revive our iconic cultural organisations to their world class best. ●



Josh Burns

FEDERAL MP FOR
MACNAMARA

JOSH.BURNS.MP@APH.
GOV.AU

METRO TUNNEL

Metro Tunnel's First Nations artwork "unexpected delight" in Federation Square

If you've passed through Federation Square in recent weeks, you might have noticed some powerful new artwork adorning the Metro Tunnel site fence facing the East Shard.



Created by Woi-Wurrung Wurundjeri and Yorta-Yorta Traditional Owner, Knowledge Holder, Keeper of Language, elder and artist Aunty Zeta Thomson, the mural depicts the artist's own family totem - the emu.

"Every Aboriginal person has a totem. The emu is my totem," Aunty Zeta said. "Our totems are passed down within family over generations. They define who we are in the Aboriginal world."

"We are told we cannot harm or eat our totems. They are our spirit protectors, our Dreaming - it is to keep a balance on Country and the environment."

The mural is part of the Metro Tunnel Creative Program, which is designed to maintain Melbourne's vibrancy, liveability and public spaces during construction of the Metro Tunnel.

Through her artwork, Aunty Zeta celebrates her strong links to her ancestral homelands along the Birrarung (Yarra River), the river of mist and shadows - and the Dhungala (Murray River).

Using an original painting by Aunty Zeta and working collaboratively, the mural was painted by mural artist Mike Makatron, who works in a variety of media, mainly on walls, canvas and illustrative works on paper. He has painted and collaborated in more than a dozen Aboriginal communities.

Assisting Makatron was Aunty Zeta's daughter and Naarm-based artist Simone Thomson.

While Aunty Zeta chose not to physically paint any aspect of the mural herself, it was

very important to her that someone from her family painted the cultural elements, such as the emu chicks.

According to Metro Tunnel Creative Program creative engagement manager Sarah Robins., the striking mural offers something special to those passing through Federation Square.

"For a lot of people, it will be an unexpected delight to walk around the corner and see this beautiful work."

"It's quite visually spectacular, but it will also make them think about the Country they're on. Australian native animals are important to everyone, but they are also culturally significant to this artist and her family," Robins said.

Aunty Zeta's artwork was selected by a committee that had representation from ACMI, The Koori Heritage Trust, National Gallery of Victoria and Federation Square.

The Metro Tunnel Creative Program welcomes artistic proposals and actively invites First Nations artists to participate.

The program uses a number of ways to commission artworks, including inviting artists to register for the Artist Pool, as well as direct commissions. ●

For more information:
bigbuild.vic.gov.au

SOUTHBANK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Welcome, 2023



Let us sincerely hope this can be a year of progress after so much uncertainty of years gone by. The Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) committee has already had its first meeting and we have hit the ground running. We have much planned for the year and are looking forward to making progress with the council on a number of its Southbank projects.



The Department of Transport (DoT) has certainly hit the ground running after FINALLY starting the City Rd and Power St upgrade. You may recall the accident on that intersection about 18 months ago where five pedestrians were hospitalised. It is disappointing it has taken them this long to start these works, but even more disappointing after all the years of lobbying by SRA that nothing was done.

While this is not the perfect solution, it will go a long way to improving pedestrian safety at that intersection. Please bear with the department and the disruptions while this work is under way.

Your SRA committee will keep the pressure on the state government to find an alternate route for the placard loads. In fact, we have

noticed a number of trucks using the route which are not placarded, presumably to avoid the tunnel tolls. We are also addressing this with the DoT in the hope of getting some of the trucks off those roads.

The loss of the basketball court at Boyd has certainly been noticed over the summer holiday period. Last year during the City of Melbourne's Future Melbourne Committee meeting I suggested that it try to "loan" an empty block from a developer for temporary use as a play space, particularly with another basketball court, until the Kings Way undercroft upgrade is complete as there is a basketball court scheduled with that. We have suggested to talk with the Melbourne Square developer as those empty blocks would be an ideal location in the interim. I believe discussions are forthcoming. Let's hope this might be a temporary solution.

Going forward through 2023, you will begin to see the construction of the Beulah development on the BMW site on City Rd. This is a transformational development and will have a massive impact on the heart of Southbank and all those who reside on City Rd when it's completed. We are in constant discussion with the developer, and we are assured traffic disruption on City Rd will be minimal. This is a five-year development, so there will be some disruptions in that time, but it will offer a lot to the community once it is finished.

As usual, I will always reach out and ask our readers to consider joining our organisation as without our members we don't have a voice. Maybe you might like to even consider joining our committee and helping out? You can find us at southbankresidents.org.au. ●



Tony Penna

PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT@
SOUTHBANKRESIDENTS.ORG.AU



Quiz



- 1. Recognised and protected by the National Trust of Victoria as a significant piece of public is Forward Surge (1972-1974) by Inge King. Where in Southbank will you find it?
2. What is the hottest planet in our solar system?
3. The Australian Music Vault at Arts Centre Melbourne celebrated what momentous occasion in December?
4. Completed in 1994, Crown Casino was originally located where?
5. Do hurricanes form over land or sea?
6. Which sports brand was founded in Sydney in 1914?
7. What was Jordan Peele's (pictured) third feature film as a director?
8. How many countries does the United States share a land border with?
9. Toshikazu Kawaguchi wrote the 2015 book titled Before the Coffee what?
10. What was the first sport to be played on the moon?
11. Then known as the Australasian Championships, the tournament we know as the Australian Open became a major championship in what year?
12. The City of Melbourne's is on track to record more than how many billion dollars in new development applications this year?

QUIZ SOLUTIONS

1. Arts Centre Melbourne lawn (between Hamer Hall and the Arts Centre Spire) 2. Venus 3. Its fifth birthday 4. World Trade Centre on North Bank 5. Sea 6. Speedo 7. Nope 8. Two (Mexico and Canada) 9. Gets Cold 10. Golf 11. 1924 12. \$2.5 billion

5x5

No. 020

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

Grid for 5x5 puzzle with letters W, T, R, M, N, D, O, G, E, D, E, S

SOLUTIONS

WATER, AMINO, DITTO, EGRET, DOERS

PUZZLES AND PAGINATION ©PAGEMASTERS PTY LTD PAGEMASTERS.COM Feb, 2023

Sudoku

No. 020

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

EASY

Sudoku solution for Easy level

HARD

Sudoku solution for Hard level

Wordfind

Theme: Birds

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

Wordfind grid with letters G, N, U, M, N, H, B, N, S, I, E, L, N, E, A, A, U, C, R, E, L, R, W, D, I, K, Z, L, E, N, A, S, E, O, V, R, Z, C, H, L, G, I, H, T, A, O, A, U, T, I, N, A, C, F, S, D, R, K, A, M, I, H, I, R, E, O, D, O, E, C, T, S, R, C, L, D, O, U, F, V, H, U, T, T, G, E, A, R, C, F, G, E, S, C, A, I, W, O, W, K, I, L, O, P, E, L, I, C, A, N, N, P, A, R, A, K, E, E, T, K, D

- AVIAN BUZZARD CHICKEN CUCKOO DAW DOVE DRUMSTICK DUCK EAGLE FEATHERS

- FINCH MALLARD NEST NIGHTINGALE OSTRICH OWL PARAKEET PELICAN ROOSTER

Secret message: Guinea fowl

Crossword

No. 020

ACROSS

- 1 Bones; frames (9) 6 Pursues (5) 9 Regimen (7) 10 Involve (7) 11 Pleases (9) 13 Rested (5) 14 Devalued (7) 16 Indoor shoe (7) 18 North American country (1.1.1) 19 Lattice (7) 20 Challenge (7) 21 Opposite of day (5) 23 Delayed (9) 26 Starch extracted from cassava (7) 27 Roads (7) 28 Lads (5) 29 Watches; attends (9)

DOWN

- 1 Rashes; infections (5) 2 Impartial (9) 3 Changes (5) 4 Knight-hood (1.1.1) 5 Slides (5) 6 Withdrawal; separation (9) 7 Evade (5)

Crossword grid

- 8 Suffered from the heat (9) 12 River flowing from Tibet to the Arabian Sea (5) 14 Exploded (9) 15 Fixes; liquids (9) 16 Bags (5) 17 Most beautiful (9) 22 Opened wide (5) 23 Opposite of tails (5) 24 Fortune telling cards (5) 25 Work tables (5) 27 Prosecute (3)

SOLUTION

Crossword solution grid

Codeword

No. 020

Codeword grid

SOLUTIONS

Codeword solution grid

Codeword solution grid

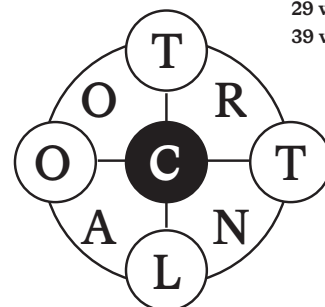
9-Letter

No. 020

Today's Focus:

- 19 words: Good 29 words: Very good 39 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

actorn, acton, actor, cant, canro, carton, cart, cartn, cartton, carton, clan, clot, coal, coolant, coor, coral, corn, corona, corra, cotton, croon, locaton, loco, ocral, octanal, taco, tact, talc, tract

Reference: Collins Concise English Dictionary

What's on: February 2023

Community Calendar



UNTIL DECEMBER 2023, 10AM - 4PM
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



THURSDAYS, 10.30AM - 11AM
Stompers at Southbank Library at Boyd
 Come along for an energetic 30 minutes of stories, songs, rhymes, music and most of all, fun. Ages 18 months to 3 years; no bookings necessary.
 03 9658 8300

WEDNESDAY TO SUNDAY, 11AM - 5PM
Buxton Contemporary
 Located at the University of Melbourne's Southbank campus, the gallery draws upon the Michael Buxton Collection as inspiration for exhibitions, performance, research, teaching and publishing.
Current exhibition: Peter Tyndall



THURSDAYS, 6PM - 9PM
Thursday Nights at Malthouse
 Join some of the best DJs at Malthouse Outdoor Stage for this year's Summer Sessions.
 Every Thursday night, February to April (note: March 2 changed to March 3, 5PM - 7PM).



UNTIL APRIL 6
MPAVILION
 The ninth season of MPavilion is back with a long list of events on the program, for both adults and kids.
 Photo: John Gollings.
MPavilion, Queen Victoria Gardens



MARCH 9 - 13
MOOMBA
 Melbourne's annual community music festival is back for its 69th year, with five days of a street parade, the Birdman Rally, carnival and nightly fireworks.
Along the banks of Melbourne's Yarra River - Birrarung

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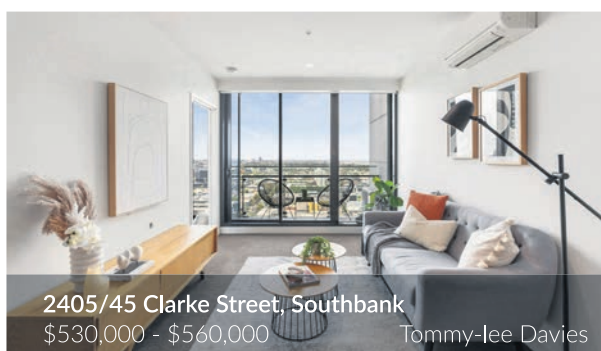
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3205/45 Clarke Street, Southbank
\$500,000 Tommy-lee Davies



2405/45 Clarke Street, Southbank
\$530,000 - \$560,000 Tommy-lee Davies



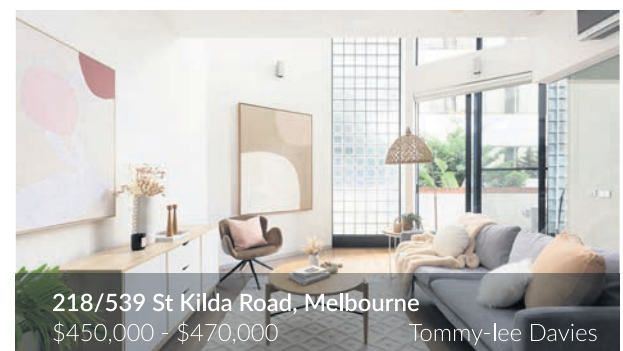
4813/70 Southbank Boulevard, Southbank
\$750,000 - \$820,000 Max Hui



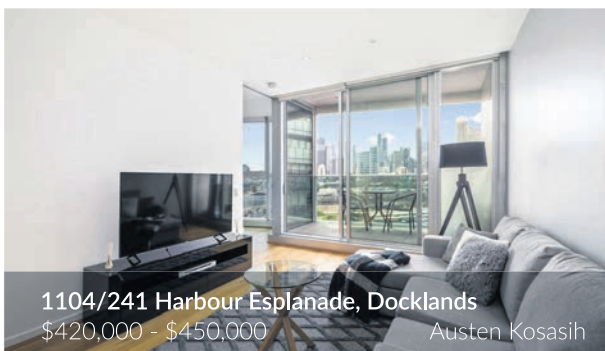
4204/45 Clarke Street, Southbank
\$565,000 - \$625,000 Max Hui



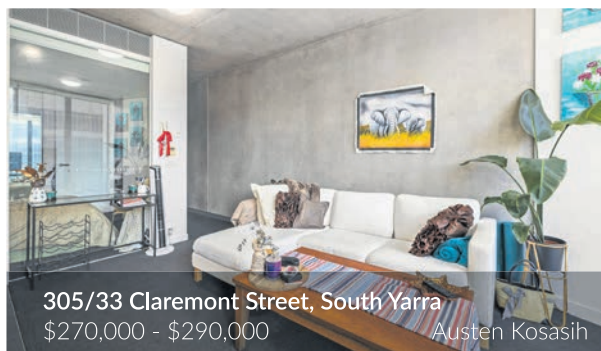
4110/1 Queensbridge Square, Southbank
\$950,000 - \$990,000 Trent Bonnici



218/539 St Kilda Road, Melbourne
\$450,000 - \$470,000 Tommy-lee Davies



1104/241 Harbour Esplanade, Docklands
\$420,000 - \$450,000 Austen Kosasih



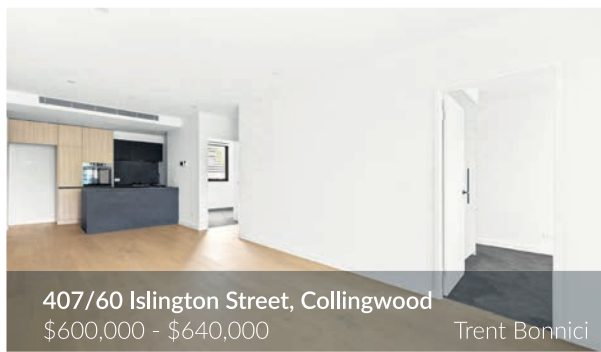
305/33 Claremont Street, South Yarra
\$270,000 - \$290,000 Austen Kosasih



307/138 Camberwell Road, Hawthorn East
\$360,000 - \$380,000 Trent Bonnici



108/60 Islington Street, Collingwood
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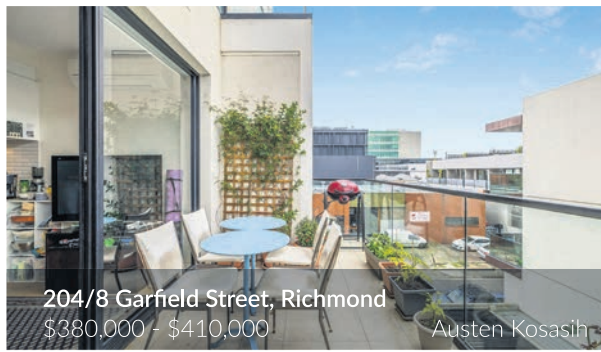
407/60 Islington Street, Collingwood
\$600,000 - \$640,000 Trent Bonnici



925/627 Victoria Street, Abbotsford
\$575,000 - \$625,000 Max Hui



118/8 Garfield Street, Richmond
\$310,000 - \$330,000 Austen Kosasih



204/8 Garfield Street, Richmond
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