

# SOUTHBANK NEWS

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Puzzles & Trivia P22



## Preps settle in at South Melbourne Primary

There were hugs and tears as parents and guardians said their goodbyes, but for 65 Preps at South Melbourne Primary School, the start of their education journey has been nothing but excitement. *Read more: southbanklocalnews.com.au*

## Long-awaited release of Montague Precinct plans “very imminent”

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
PLANNING

The long-awaited release of the state government’s Montague Precinct plans could happen during or before April, with locals finally having the opportunity to view specific plans for the area.

Former City of Port Phillip Mayor and current Fishermans Bend Business Forum president Bernadene Voss told *Southbank News* she believed the plans could be released “in the next month”.

The precinct plans are set to provide more specific, street-level details on how a future Montague might look, and would complement the already-released Fishermans Bend Framework.

Ms Voss said she believed that with the government now settled in after retained office in November, a release date was “very imminent”.

“I know that they were completed years ago, and they continue to refine them which is understandable,” she said, adding that the “political landscape” was a key reason for the delay.

The state government did not commit to a release date when contacted by *Southbank News*, but confirmed that local residents and business owners would play a role in refining the precinct plans.

Ms Voss said this next step was pivotal.

“It’s really critical the community is taken on the journey, they’re informed about what’s going on, and they have

*Continued on page 2.*

## E-scooter giant Lime says it’s “making progress” in preventing footpath riding, but residents not so convinced

*Global electric scooter company Lime says it is continuing to take steps to prevent its vehicles from being ridden illegally on footpaths within Melbourne, as Southbank residents express concern about the ongoing behaviour.*

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
SAFETY & SECURITY

Lime’s general manager for Australia, Hugo Burt-Morris, said preventing footpath riding “is a key objective in Melbourne”, and “an important goal we share with the city”.

“We’re making progress and always pushing for further change and improvement,” he said.

Orange and green electric scooters in the city — from companies Neuron Mobility and Lime, respectively — form part of a 12-month, three-local government trial that started 12 months ago, but their place in the transport network has been met with criticism, particularly about how they intersect with pedestrians.

E-scooter riders must not use footpaths, with police focusing their attention on this issue during summer, along with ensuring helmets were being worn, and only one person aged 18 and over riding on the e-scooter.

Privately-owned e-scooters can only be legally ridden on private property, but according to the commander of Southbank Police Station Senior Sergeant Alex O’Toole, their presence had “increased dramatically” along with other electrically powered skateboards.

When told of Lime’s objective to prevent footpath riding, Southbank

Residents’ Association president Tony Penna said that “I don’t think anything’s changed”.

“We’re not seeing that [improvements] on the ground, they’re saying they’re doing stuff but we’re not seeing that; so really, it’s their word that we’re hoping to believe, but what are they doing? How can they police it?” he said.

Mr Penna said he had raised his concerns with Lime staff during a meeting in early March where he was told they are “doing everything we can” to make it safer for riders and pedestrians.

“I said, ‘you’ve got the big data, you know exactly where these people are riding,’ but more importantly they’re not meant to be used on roads [with designated speed zones] greater than 50km/h.”

Mr Penna said in the most part, people needed to ride on 60km/h zoned roads to get to 50km/h zoned roads, of which there was “only a handful” in Southbank.

E-scooters are limited to low-speed roads (up to and including 50 km/h).

Mr Penna said “more troubling” was that he had seen Lime technicians charging batteries of e-scooters in Southbank while parked on roads that were in a 60km/h zone, “which should be picked up and relocated” to where they can be legally ridden.

*Continued on page 2.*

STUDENT Q&ARTS, PAGE 03

### A Meet VCA dance student Jake Ware



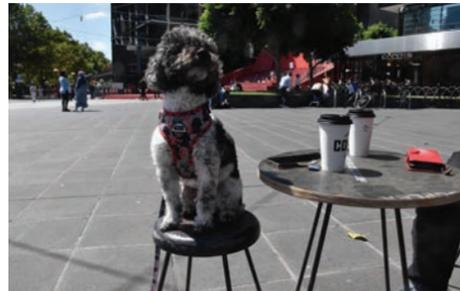
COUNCIL AFFAIRS, PAGE 05

### B Music academy to lease South Melb Town Hall



COMMUNITY, PAGE 07

### C Calls for more dog-friendly venues



FEATURE, PAGE 09

### D Redefining arts and cultural experiences



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

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## E-scooter giant Lime says it's "making progress" in preventing footpath riding, but residents not so convinced

*Continued from page 1.*

He said he told Lime that, "You're endorsing them to be riding on those roads," to which they acknowledged they "need to do more".

"I've been raising this several times since the trial started and nothing's changed."

Mr Penna also expressed concern about the loophole in Lime and Neuron's respective insurance policies, in which third parties, such as pedestrians, are not covered if they are struck by a rider using a footpath or not wearing a helmet.

Lime has implemented measures to discourage illegal riding, including geo-fencing, which prevents riders from unlocking the scooters' designated areas, and top speed restrictions of 10km/h.

Southbank3006 residents' group vice-president Jannine Pattison said she was concerned about riders using footpaths "with little regard for pedestrian safety".

"We have heard multiple stories of near misses from members when stepping out of their apartment buildings," she said.

"As a community we want people to embrace micro-transport and to encourage responsible riding."

"This can only be done via education, enforcement and one implementation of technology (to prevent riding or high-speed riding in high pedestrian zones). Hopefully the expansive bike lane projects will make it easier for scooter riders to follow the rules and leave the footpaths to pedestrian traffic."



*We have heard multiple stories of near misses from members when stepping out of their apartment buildings.*



Ms Pattison applauded those who rode responsibly, but noted "sadly, like any motorised vehicle, the damage that can be inflicted by those not following the rules can prove to be quite devastating".

"We tend to highlight the negative impacts rather than address the core issue of 'how can we ensure riders ride safely to reduce potential incidents?'"

A Victoria Walks spokesperson urged riders to do the right thing by sticking to 30-50km/h roads, or to shared paths "where they're required to travel safely and always give space to people on foot".

In February, Lime posted a record \$466 million in gross bookings in 2022, and earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation of \$15 million.

"We strive to provide riders and cities with the best shared electric vehicle experience out there and get closer to fulfilling our mission," Lime's CEO Wayne Ting said. ●

## Montague Precinct plans "imminent"

*Continued from page 1.*

a say in how that all happens. The plans will give certainty to the residential and business community about how the details are going to play out, what's expected and what the priorities are."

Residents and key stakeholders have in recent years criticised the ongoing delays of releasing the plans, arguing it had meant planning was occurring concurrently with rapid private development in the precinct.

According to the government, there was currently a \$5.9 billion pipeline of development activity occurring in Fishermans Bend, which included almost \$1.8 billion of development (construction value) in the Montague precinct, with 16 separate projects either completed or being built.

"At the moment we have a number of buildings going up and they're going up in an ad hoc way — there isn't any planned process to it, it's just happening whenever the builder or the owners decide they want to do that," Ms Voss said. "It will be good to finally get that really clear. Most of Montague now is really under way anyway, so it will be good to get the plans completed."

Medium- to long-term plans for Montague, according to the government framework, include the upgrade of local streets and open space, plus recreation and cultural hubs.

New development in Montague North would be centred on the transformation of Normanby Rd into a landscaped active street that is pedestrian friendly and provides key cycling connections.

The southern part of Montague is set to be characterised by its laneways and heritage buildings. Ms Voss said the precinct plans would put further meat on the bones of this framework.

"At the moment we've got a high-level framework which outlines the vision and type of things we can expect. This next level is the detail, and it should outline more of the smaller things and when they will actually occur. That could be lighting, footpaths and the type of streets we're likely to see."

She said Montague's transformation in recent years had been considerable. "Only three years ago you'd go down Buckhurst St (and surrounds) and there was no development. Now, pretty much every building has changed or has plans to change. It's really taken on its own character, a new and different character that suits the area."

A Department of Transport and Planning spokesperson said Fishermans Bend, Australia's largest urban renewal project, was forecast to become home to 23,200 Melbournians and host 4000 jobs by 2050.

"We are continuing to refine plans for the precinct in collaboration with local councils and will keep the community informed as we look to transform Fishermans Bend into a diverse and well-connected mixed-use precinct," the spokesperson said. ●

# QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET *online*



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# STUDENT Q&A ARTS



*Get to know a student's experience of studying at The University of Melbourne's Faculty of Fine Arts and Music – Jake Ware is currently in their final year of the Bachelor of Fine Arts (Dance) at the Victorian College of the Arts ...*

### What attracted you to studying at VCA?

**J:** The desire to study and pursue dance as a professional career and not just get a piece of paper out of it but an actual comprehensive understanding of dance education and performance.

### Describe a typical day of study ...

**J:** A typical day is set out with classes in the morning, based on technique and learning how your body moves. Then we move into repertoire or classical training to form the basis of a technique or learning a piece of work in the industry, and we also have academic classes where we study the body, dance history, and psychology.

### What has been your favourite experience during your degree?

**J:** Connecting and working with industry professionals and hearing their experiences of the industry and working with companies and independent artists, based within Naarm Melbourne, Australia and internationally.

### How do you bring your own identity and experiences into your creative practice?

**J:** Dance is one of those art forms where you must always bring your full self and find moments where you can highlight aspects of yourself but also moments where you need to conform to a piece of work. But it shows how your identity can adapt with dance and how it forms your identity as a dance artist.

### How have you collaborated with other students while you've studied and what is the campus community like?

**J:** We have been stuck in COVID for a lot of this degree but last year we were very fortunate that we were able to collaborate and do classes with the acting students and the interactive composition students who are based in the music department. I performed and collaborated most recently with the interactive composition and animation students at the New Year's Eve Celebration in Federation Square, supported by University of Melbourne.

### What advice would you give to someone considering your degree?

**J:** Go for it. I came from a very classical background and now all I do is contemporary, so it broadens your understanding of what it is to be a dancer, and you don't become a dancer, you become an artist. It's about telling your story through dance in whatever form you can, and we do that through our course in the multidisciplinary projects we do.

### How do you feel connected to your industry through your degree?

**J:** I had the privilege of travelling to Europe last year as part of the professional placement for an elective called Travelling Studio. I was over there training in *Impulstanz*, which is an international dance festival and I performed



with a lot of international artists and watched performances, so my breadth of understanding about the industry in Australia and internationally is broader. A lot of our teaching staff are also based in the industry, so it's a beautiful way to bring the industry into VCA.

### What are your goals for the coming years?

**J:** Exploring more of my choreographic practice, so working as an independent artist and trying to express my identity through dance and explore what that means for me. I would also love to go back to Europe and be based in Austria, and work with them and their avant-garde experimentalist style.

### What does a creative career look like?

**J:** The beautiful thing about being a creative person and an artist is you are not limited to what you study. So yes, I am a dancer, but through doing projects with the other students at VCA I have learnt how to understand a multitude of practices. I understand what it is to be a professional, but also how to be multifaceted in pursuing that.

### Tell us about the Close to Home project that you'll be performing in as part of the Shepparton Festival, with the Alleyne Dance company?

**J:** It delves into themes of change and settling, and it explores the land we call home and looks at the positives and negatives of migration and how it has impacted community.

We have been beginning the process of looking at our personal migration and displacement stories, both recent and past, and noted a correlation between our collective experiences of displacement of culture and identity. We are also acknowledging the First Nations experience of migration.

It will be so exciting to perform in Shepparton on Yorta Yorta country and tell people, through the work, our stories and show them that we all have that feeling of displacement and feeling alone. ●

For more information: [sheppartonfestival.org.au/event/close-to-home-project](http://sheppartonfestival.org.au/event/close-to-home-project)

## Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation

### Permanent closure of Sturt Street between Kavanagh Street and Southbank Boulevard

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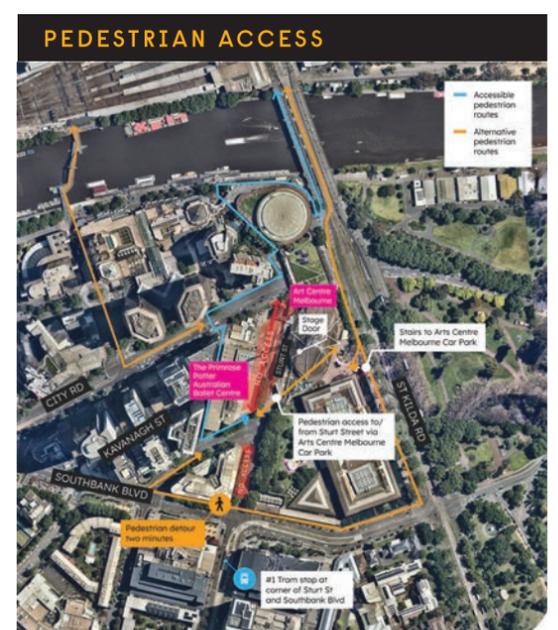
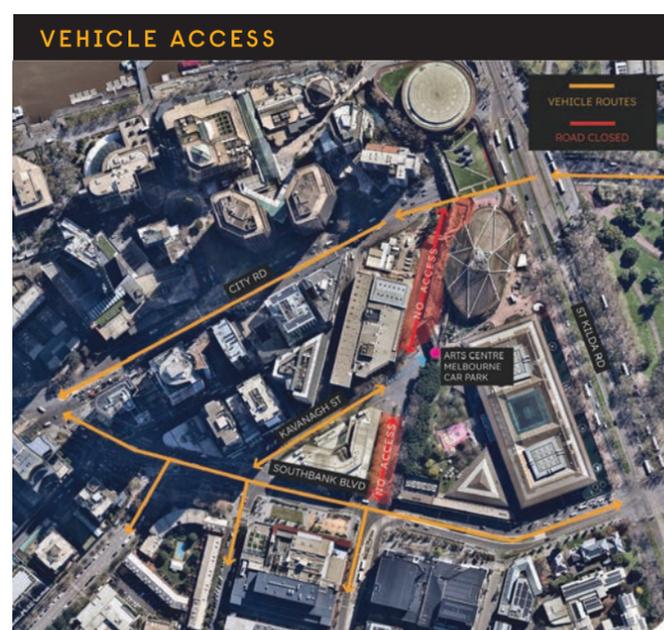


To continue the works on the Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation project, we need to close the remaining section of Sturt Street between Kavanagh Street and Southbank Boulevard. Closing this section will allow for construction of The Fox: NGV Contemporary and the new 18,000 square metre public urban garden.

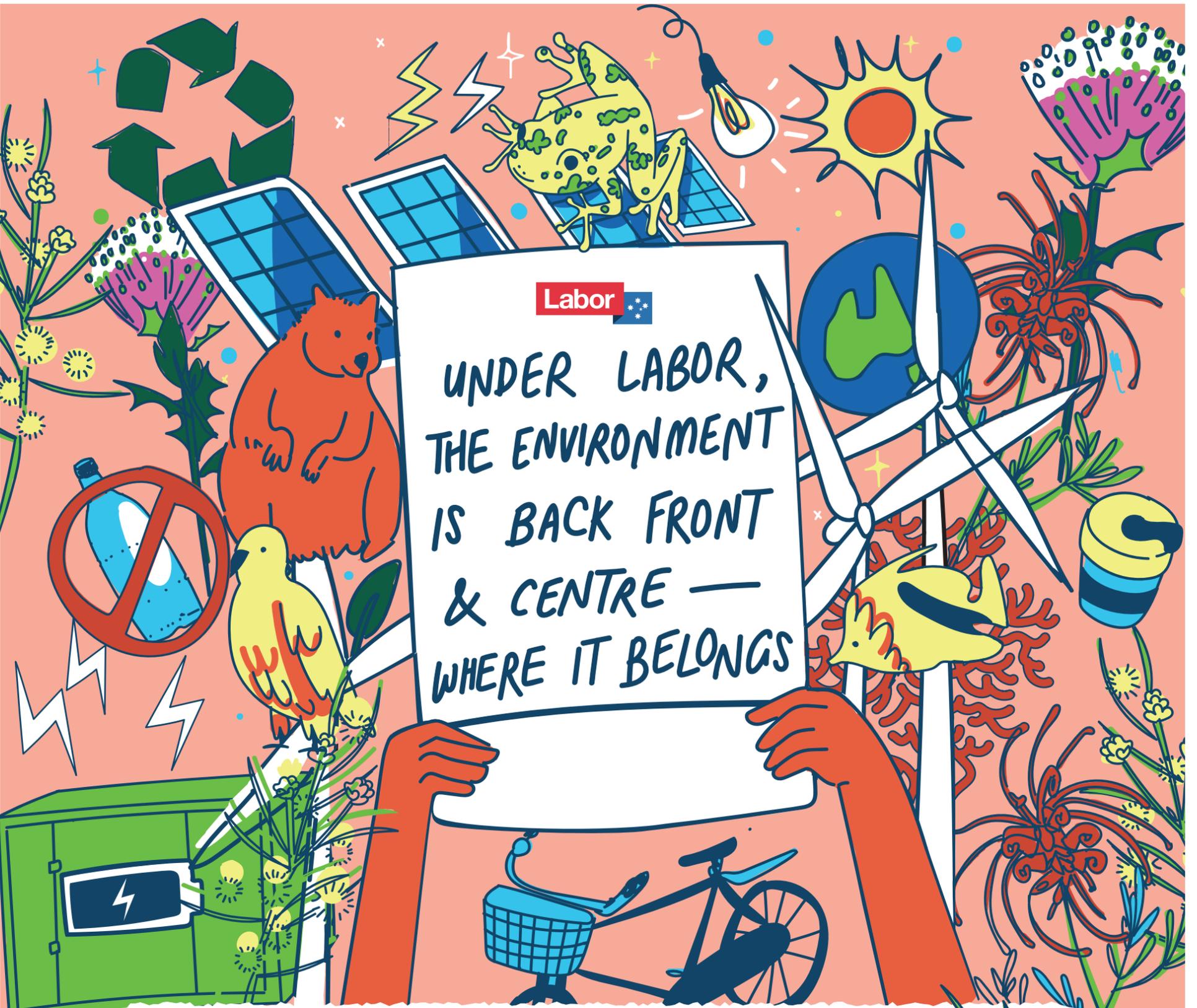
### The section of Sturt Street between the south side of Kavanagh Street and Southbank Boulevard will close on 9 March 2023.

Access to the car parks at Arts Centre Melbourne and The Primrose Potter Australian Ballet Centre will remain open throughout project works.

Please refer to the maps below for traffic and pedestrian detour options.



For more information go to the Sturt Street update on our website: [artsprecinct.melbourne](http://artsprecinct.melbourne)



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- We're updating our environmental laws and establishing an Environment Protection Agency
- We're working with the states and territories to improve our waste management – including recycling problem plastics

**JOSH BURNS MP**  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MACNAMARA



We'd love to hear from you!



Authorised by J.Burns, ALP, 219 Barkly Street, St Kilda, VIC, 3182



## Live Love Work celebrates the inspiring women of Southbank and Montague

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*  
COMMUNITY

In the lead-up to International Women's Day on March 8, community group Live Love Work Port Phillip took to their socials to share the stories of 25 inspiring women who live, work and run businesses in the area.

Founded in 2019 by three local business women, including remaining founders Vesna Grdjan and Alison McDowell, Live Love Work Port Phillip exists to build business and social connections within the community.

And each International Women's Day, a campaign is run to celebrate the hearts, souls, smarts and entrepreneurial spirits of the women who shine a light on Port Phillip.

"International Women's Day is such an important celebration of the achievements and contributions of women around the world," Ms Grdjan said.

"We're excited to use this opportunity to highlight the incredible women of Port Phillip, share their stories, and shine a light on Port Phillip as a great place to live, love, work and run a business."

Among the women recognised for their commitment and connection to Montague and Southbank are:

- Patient Wolf's Marilena Christoforou
- The Incubator's Alison Rentoul and Sophie Hanlon
- Starward's Carlie Dyer
- Photography Studies College's Julie Moss
- Wynne Digital's Maddie Crow
- City of Port Phillip's Mayor Heather Consolo

All of the women selected for this year's IWD boast a number of skills and achievements across a range of fields and workplaces, and Live Love Work Port Phillip is encouraging people to help celebrate the great women who make the area what it is.

To award the efforts and success of all the women selected, Live Love Work has provided write-ups of their achievements on both its socials and website, for all to read.

For more information, visit: [livelovework.melbourne](http://livelovework.melbourne)

# Community throws its support behind leasing South Melbourne Town Hall to music academy

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

A proposal to make the South Melbourne Town Hall home to Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM) under a potentially 50-year lease has attracted huge support from the community.

The building could reclaim its position as a centre of music excellence after ANAM vacated the building in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, which also came at a time when the City of Port Phillip began a major restoration of the 140-year-old town hall after it was left in a state of disrepair.

The council and ANAM have since negotiated a proposal to enter into a long-term lease, which has been met with enthusiasm from residents and stakeholders, with a community survey showing 91 per cent of public submissions (487 respondents) being supportive.

ANAM has been a major tenant of the town hall since 1996 with other arts, cultural and community organisations having, until recent years, occupied other parts of the building.

In considering the community's feedback, which was sought over a six-week period, councillors will vote at a meeting (expected to be held on March 15) to decide whether to enter a lease with ANAM.

ANAM's general manager Nick Bailey said the strong appetite from the community for their lease to go ahead was "incredibly exciting".

"It's a win-win for everyone," he said, if ANAM is given the green light from the council.

"It would bring about the transformation of the building into a cultural, education and community hub, with public performance spaces, meeting rooms and a café. There would be more community access and utilisation of this magnificent building than ever before," he said.

Mr Bailey noted ANAM offered a "very unique model, that is centred in performance. It buzzes with the energy of a performing arts company and will bring this energy back to the town hall."

"We are actually structured more like a performing arts company than a training institution. This year our students will be giving more than 200 performances, and have a roster of guest artists almost every week to teach and play alongside the students."

ANAM is currently using Abbotsford Convent, which Mr Bailey said was a beautiful site but a newly refurbished town hall would offer "huge potential", with more space to house a range of activities, including providing office accommodation to small cultural organisations and allow an ideal platform for students, mainly aged from 21 to 23, to further their careers.

Those who voted against the proposal spoke of their concern that the lease would create potential limitations on other community groups using the hall.

But a council meeting on March 1 heard the lease would "actively encourage" the hiring of



the building at discounted rates, with more spaces in the building being available.

Mr Bailey also said ANAM was committed to ensuring that the town hall remains accessible to all, and the new lease has measures to ensure wide community access embedded within it.

The town hall has been undergoing a major renewal after part of the ceiling collapsed in 2018. The building has been closed to allow the rectification works, which is expected to be completed this year.

Mr Bailey said ANAM was in the middle of raising funds, but it had been a challenge to lock in donors without the security of a lease and in turn "certainty of the project going ahead".

As part of a long-term partnership with the City of Port Phillip, ANAM would bring \$50 million in government and philanthropic funding to the council's \$15 million investment to develop a new cultural and community destination venue.

ANAM's project has funding from both the Commonwealth Government and Port Phillip Council, and was in talks with the state government and Melbourne's philanthropic community regarding potential further investment.

Mr Bailey said the project would generate jobs, economic and local hospitality growth, retail and tourism, while revitalising an important historic building at little cost to ratepayers.

Under the proposal, the lease would not start until ANAM invested \$20.5 million into the building, with the rent "linked to achieving specified performance targets - to support building safety and insurance, conservation and community access".

The duration of the proposed lease is 35 years, with the option to increase it to 50 years if ANAM delivers invests a further \$20 million.



## Hooligan caught on cam jumping on parked cars

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
SAFETY & SECURITY

A Southbank resident has spoken of their disgust and frustration after their car was stomped on while parked in Kavanagh St on January 30.

Chris, who asked not to use his surname, said dash camera footage from his car had captured the moment a male jumped on his Audi sedan at around 2.20am on January 30.

The footage showed a man carelessly jumping onto the bonnet of the car before climbing over the windscreen while others, who appeared to be with the male, watched on.

"His mates egging him on and not preventing him from causing damage to other people's cars and belongings shows no concerns for others," he said.

"I have a scratch on the bonnet of my beautiful blue car and a dent on my roof which I still am yet to repair because I know it'll cost me a few hundred maybe around \$1000 in repairs to have the car looking like it was before the early hours [when the incident occurred]."

Moments before the culprit jumped on Chris's car, the male had jumped on the roof of a car parked in front of his, before jumping off and stumbling to his feet on the road.

Chris said he was angry over the incident and wanted to call out the offender's behaviour.

"I want the community to know and see how selfish that p\*\*\*\* was, with zero concern for other people's belongings," he said.

"This was the first time it's happened to me. I want others within the community to stay vigilant when leaving their cars parked outside publicly."

"To think it happened in a cosmopolitan suburb of Southbank just disgusts me further."

Chris said he has reported the matter to police but was told because no-one was injured, nor was his car broken into, they couldn't investigate.

He has therefore taken to Facebook community groups in hope of seeking help and warning others.

He said no-one had personally contacted him to say their cars had also been damaged.

Watch the video online:  
[southbanklocalnews.com.au](http://southbanklocalnews.com.au)

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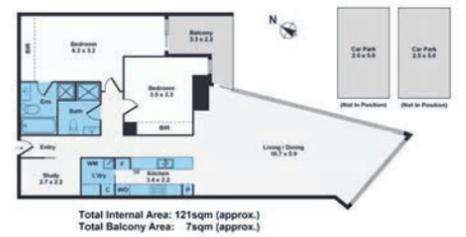




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# A cool place for dog watching

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge  
COMMUNITY

Southbank dogs are superior creatures and their owners are keen to see their urbane style recognised.

Vader prefers a coffee stool to a dog park, and he likes to feel accepted in his neighbourhood.

Yet Bear Brass, according to Vader's owner, is the only nearby restaurant with a welcome dog sign outside.

"He likes to hang out with me," Yvonne Luk said. "He's not that keen on other dogs. He runs away if the other dog is full-on."

Yvonne usually takes him down to South Wharf where the cafes are dog friendly for a pizza and cocktail, or to South Melbourne where he even attends a gym.

"He finds the dog park under the freeway smelly," she said. "He's more like a kid."

Yvonne is one of an increasing number of Southbankers who regard their dogs as their closest relative and want this accepted. "There should be more places they can take their dog to dinner."

Assistant manager Ross Edler at Bear Brass confirms that they are the only establishment on Southbank Promenade to fete dogs.

"It works really well for us," he said. "They're better behaved than children. Sometimes we have four or five in at once. We treat them as another customer and don't discriminate between big and small."

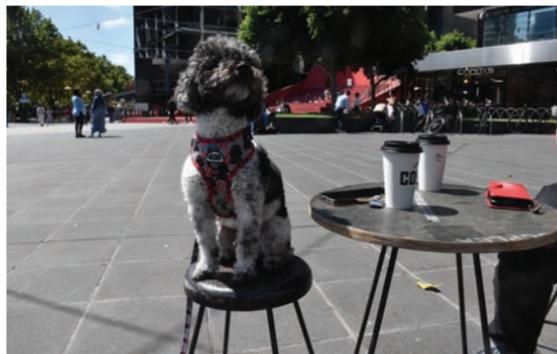
He said the restaurant had a casual approach to dining and lets dogs into the covered terrace where many like to sit on wooden benches.

Victoria's Food Standards Code permits businesses to let dogs into outdoor areas that are not used for food preparation but, according to Yvonne, even when there were outdoor dining areas along the river post-COVID she and Vader were "told off".

Ross says that in Scotland there is a special Dogs & Pubs logo used in promotions to tell consumers dogs are welcome in the beer garden and he'd like to see something similar here.

Owners admit they are willing to change their lives to suit their pets, yet this potential economic force has not been tapped.

One owner told *Southbank News* that her husband refuses to dine at a place unless their Havanese is allowed



▲ Vader takes a coffee break at Freshwater Place.



▲ Dog-friendly manager Ross Edler at Bear Brass.

as well. They eat regularly at Asada because Capsule can come as well.

For urban dogs, trained to fill in their time in apartments, watching TV, Southbank is blessed with plenty of open space.

Capsule's owner takes it on a two-hour walk to the Botanic Gardens every day and drops in at 30 ML behind 1 Southbank Boulevard for a takeaway coffee because dogs can enter as well.

These owners are not looking for doggy gimmicks but for the desires of their dogs to be human acknowledged. ●

# Councillor handpicked by Liberals to contest crucial federal by-election

*A Melbourne councillor will contest a by-election for the eastern suburbs seat of Aston on April 1, in a move that could see her replaced by Town Hall's first-ever Indigenous councillor.*

WORDS BY David Schout  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Senior Liberal Party figures have selected City of Melbourne councillor Roshena Campbell as their candidate for a crucial federal by-election in the marginal seat of Aston in Melbourne's east.

The outspoken councillor, who has been a vocal critic of the council's support of protected bike lanes and a medically supervised injecting room, will vacate her position should she win the marginal Liberal seat on April 1.

Federal Opposition Leader Peter Dutton voted for Cr Campbell in a secret ballot of top Liberal officials on February 21, and the next day the pair fronted a press conference together in the seat of Aston, which largely encompasses the City of Knox in Melbourne's eastern suburbs.

An inner-north resident, she was criticised by some for not boasting any real connection with the local community, but Cr Campbell confirmed she would move to the area if successful.

She did not respond to a request for comment by *Southbank News*.

Aston has been in Liberal Party hands for more than 30 years, and the April 1 by-election is seen as crucial for the opposition after defeat at last year's federal election.

Mr Dutton has visited the electorate at least three times since the by-election was called, underlining the importance of the upcoming vote.

Early speculation suggested former treasurer Josh Frydenberg might run for the seat as a path to re-enter federal politics after losing his seat of Kooyong to independent Dr Monique Ryan at last year's election.

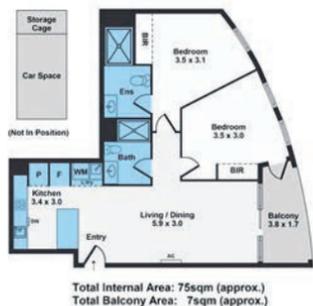
Should Cr Campbell be successful, under local election rules Wiradjuri man Professor Mark McMillan would be elected via countback.

Professor McMillan was third on Lord Mayor Sally Capp's ticket in the 2020 election, behind Cr Campbell (second) and Town Hall's current longest-serving councillor Kevin Louey.

Team Capp did not receive the required 30 per cent of votes to ensure his place on council, but being next on the ticket would see him take the position vacated by Ms Campbell.

It is not the first occasion Cr Campbell has made a bid for higher office since being elected as a City of Melbourne councillor in November 2020. Less than 12 months into the role she put herself forward for pre-selection in the seat of Casey but finished third in a hotly contested count.

Following the result, in November 2021, the first-term councillor said she had "no plans at the moment" to nominate for further pre-selections at either state or federal level but did not rule out the prospect. ●



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# Redefining art and cultural experiences for the next generation

*Grande Experiences founder and CEO Bruce Peterson said after the company staged its first ever exhibition in Melbourne in 2006, it would almost be another 15 years before it earned another dollar on Australian soil.*

WORDS BY *Sean Car*  
FEATURE



Back then, Grande Experiences began its journey just down the road from its current Fishermans Bend headquarters by bringing an exhibition from Italy to Docklands – *Da Vinci Machines – An Exhibition of Genius*.

Internationally renowned at the time, the artefact-based exhibition featured 64 models, many of which could be touched, tried and tested by visitors, brought to life the machine inventions of the famous polymath Leonardo da Vinci.

But while the exhibition proved to be a huge success, Mr Peterson felt it could be done a lot better, and it would mark the beginning of his pursuit of developing a fully-integrated multimedia creative experience.

The former PE teacher, who also has a background working in the pharmaceutical industry, said he was driven by an ambition to establish a “global business”; one focused on reimagining the way art and culture is viewed by making the experience more entertaining, and taking the art and culture to the people.

“The opportunity came my way and I saw the gap that was there in the market in terms of storytelling and the way these experiences were put together, and there were really only a couple of companies like ourselves globally when I first started back in 2006,” Mr Peterson said.

“It was a little bit of a sliding doors moment shall I say, and we were able to move into it once we realised the opportunity that was in front of us.”

Moving to Italy for 12 months, he would then spend the coming years developing the largest and most comprehensive exhibition of Leonardo da Vinci the world had ever seen, which today has culminated in a permanent attraction in the heart of Rome – Museo Leonardo da Vinci.

But the meteoric rise of Grande Experiences began to really take off between 2009 and 2011 – the same time when Mr Peterson said, “the technology kicked in” – and it has gone on to become a global pioneer of its field.

During this period, Grande Experiences would build a technology system, known as Sensory4, capable of delivering the sought-after of experience Mr Peterson had envisioned, and one which was transportable and able to be installed/deinstalled and moved efficiently around the world.

With advancements in projection, audio and

touchscreen technologies, the company soon began bringing the work of other artists such as Vincent Van Gogh, Claude Monet and Salvador Dali to life through immersive multimedia and multisensory experiences.

Fast forward to today, and Grande Experiences has now hosted more than 230 exhibitions and experiences in 33 languages across 175-plus cities around the world, and has attracted more than 20 million visitors to its cutting-edge displays.

Among the many innovative and reimagined experiences have included *Van Gogh Alive*, *Monet & Friends Alive*, *Street Art Alive*, *Dali Alive*, *Connection* (a showcase of First Nations art and music), *Italian Renaissance Alive* and *Planet Shark: Predator Or Prey*.

But having operated “almost 100 per cent overseas” since that very first da Vinci event back in 2006, Mr Peterson said it wasn’t until November 2021 that this fully Melbourne-based international success story brought its product home.

Returning to its home city culminated with the opening of the permanent 3000 sqm immersive multi-sensory gallery, THE LUME Melbourne, at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) at South Wharf – just down the road from its Salmon St headquarters.

Launching with the hugely successful *Van Gogh Alive*, the gallery is now displaying *Monet & Friends* and is on the verge of welcoming its one millionth visitor through its doors – proof that this new destination is already cementing its reputation as an icon on Melbourne’s arts and cultural landscape.

With an ever-expanding global footprint, Grande Experiences has now come full circle with THE LUME Melbourne – an achievement that provides a great sense of pride for Mr Peterson and his talented team.

“We held our very first experience in Melbourne, then pretty much never earned a dollar in Australia until we opened THE



LUME Melbourne in November 2021 and took *Van Gogh Alive* on tour through New Zealand and Australia in 2020-23 (*Van Gogh Alive* is the highest selling experience of any tour in Australian history with close to two million tickets sold). We’ve been 100 per cent overseas and most of our displays are international,” Mr Peterson said.

“We’re world leaders in what we do, and we’ve really pioneered this movement into immersive, multisensory experiences. The experiences put together very large format images in high definition through projection, which are synchronised to musical score. We have aroma, touch, feel, and even a food and beverage cafe that’s integrated into the experience as well.”

“THE LUME Melbourne is the only one of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere, so it’s a unique, cultural attraction that is home grown.”

“I think being able to have THE LUME Melbourne in our own backyard so that our staff can see it and their families can see that the work that they do really is world class is something that is extremely rewarding, beneficial and we’re all proud of here.”

The Melbourne-based digital gallery joins THE LUME Indianapolis, which also opened in 2021, and Grande Experiences now has a number of other international cities on its radar.

Establishing both galleries was no mean feat either. Having worked through licensing, content, securing venues, and establishing partners, Mr Peterson said the opening of THE LUME Melbourne in particular had been significantly delayed due to COVID lockdowns.

While the creative industries suffered majorly during the pandemic, the company was originally fearing a similar fate when many of the exhibitions it was running were forced to close in early 2020.

But with differing COVID conditions in cities around the world, the company was able to find a way to overcome its challenges. With the ability to still tour its experiences, Mr Peterson said his team soon learned to carry out installations

remotely right here from Fishermans Bend.

“Even through COVID, we were probably the only arts and entertainment business that was still operating. And we actually grew during COVID, if you can believe that,” he said.

“Our team put in an amazing effort to work out how to install our very high-tech exhibits remotely. They would sit here in front of their computers while people in Taiwan, Norway or Israel were sitting there with head cams on and a translator and getting instructed how to install our experience.”

“So, we didn’t need to be physically present, and we were able to keep moving things around and keep going without our physical presence, because obviously we couldn’t travel in and out of Australia at the same time.”

With around 50 staff based here in Melbourne consisting of audio visual, technical, creative, marketing and operations specialists, Grande Experiences also employs a further 10 people overseas with offices in London and Rome.

As technology has improved over the years, so too has the quality of the experiences Mr Peterson said the company had been able to deliver, with its early use of projection having come a long way since 2011.

“Those projectors back then were pretty unreliable,” he said. “They were all using lamps, not LED like they are today, and they were very difficult to synchronise to the software and provide a consistent, quality output.”

“Our first experience had 30 projectors, and we were trying to link together to a musical score in perfect unison to the animated images. But the software programming and equipment was quite unstable, so we had to enhance by tailoring with our own code and that’s developed a long way since then.”

“Now, at THE LUME Melbourne, for example, there are 150 LED Barco high-definition projectors, a 99-channel audio system, a complex aroma emission system – it’s improved a huge amount in stability, in quality. It’s expensive tech, but the results are outstanding.”

It’s the constant sense of innovation at the heart of its work which Mr Peterson said also made its future locally in Fishermans Bend all the more exciting.

While the lack of public transport is a challenge for his staff, many of whom he said travelled to work from the northern and western suburbs, the tradeoff was the space and creative environment the area offered.

And like many other businesses in the precinct, he’s excited by what’s to come for the area, and the potential it offers for greater collaboration.

“We’ve always known that Fishermans Bend was going to be a developing, mixed-use business with some pretty exciting things coming in, and I think one of our opportunities and one of the reasons why I was keen is to connect with other businesses and groups,” he said.

“We can be very much interlinked with a lot of the businesses with the technology and know-how that we have that can assist other businesses, and the University of Melbourne coming in here can be a feeding ground for our research and development.”

[grande-experiences.com](http://grande-experiences.com) ●

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# TAKING GREEN WASTE SERVICE TO NEW HEIGHTS



More than 2,368 tonnes of organic waste has been diverted from landfill by City of Melbourne residents

**Do you live in a high-rise apartment? You could be eligible to make use of the City of Melbourne’s Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) collection service.**

In an Australian-first, we’re offering the service to residents of participating apartment buildings six storeys and above – giving more people the opportunity to act more sustainably, reduce waste costs and improve the environment.

This includes access to on-site dehydrators, used to reduce the volume of waste by up to 80 per cent – and process organic waste into nutrient-rich organic fertiliser.

About 70 per cent of City of Melbourne residents live in high-rise apartments, making this service a crucial step forward in the municipality’s sustainability goals.

The pilot program supports Melbourne’s circular economy by converting fertiliser into high-quality compost for use in parks and gardens across the municipality – improving the health, fertility and productivity of our city’s greens spaces.

Residents will also be able to use a portion of fertiliser created in their own gardens.

Six high-rise buildings have been selected through an expression of

interest process to take part in the 12-month pilot. The pilot has been designed to meet the individual design and needs of each building.

The high-rise trial follows the successful rollout of FOGO collection to more than 23,000 households and low-rise apartments across the municipality. This has seen more than 2,368 tonnes of organic waste diverted from landfill.

The high-rise pilot is being delivered in partnership with Enrich360 and Eco Guardians, as part of Council’s Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy to divert 90 per cent of waste from landfill by 2030.



For more information and to join the next high-rise pilot project, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/foodgardenwaste](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/foodgardenwaste)

## ACCESS FREE PERIOD PRODUCTS AT OUR COMMUNITY FACILITIES

**Free period products will continue to be available from six City of Melbourne community facilities until 30 June.**



We’re continuing our mission to alleviate period poverty with the extension of our free period care pilot program.

The free service aims to support people who menstruate go about their daily lives without the fear or stigma of managing their period.

By providing pads and tampons free of charge, Council hopes to improve the health, comfort, dignity and inclusion of Melburnians.

We’ve dispensed more than 6,700 period care products from vending machines across six Council-owned facilities since the trial program began in September 2021.

Period care products can be found at:

- Library at the Dock
- City Library
- Carlton Baths
- Melbourne Town Hall public toilets (on Collins Street)
- North Melbourne Community Centre
- Kathleen Syme Community Centre

We’ll continue to explore options to expand the program across additional sites, working with the State Government to accelerate the rollout across the municipality.



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# Cloakroom Bar: cocktails in the clouds

Everything about the Shadow Play building on the corner of City Rd and Clarendon St is mysterious, even illusive, but nothing more so than its 46<sup>th</sup> floor cocktail venue, Cloakroom Bar.

WORDS BY Jack Hayes  
BUSINESS

Sitting among the clouds, The Cloakroom's truly unique perspective of Melbourne is only matched by a cocktail menu and a business model with equal intrigue.

The Cloakroom brand was first conceptualised in Brisbane back in 2007, not as a place to drink, but as a tailor delivering some of the best "made-to-measure" suits Australia has to offer.

Fast forward 16 years, with locations in Brisbane, Montreal, Tokyo, and now Melbourne, Cloakroom's reputation for laser-like precision is bursting through the world of tailoring onto Melbourne's hospitality scene.

"The first conversations to open both the tailoring business and cocktail bar in Melbourne came with Jonathan [Hallinan] who is both a business partner and the developer of the building," Callum O'Sullivan, one part of the five-person team behind The Cloakroom brand, said.

"The two businesses operate completely separately. If you come in for a cocktail, we aren't going to try to sell you a suit, but if you are in here being measured up for a wedding or special event, we can offer you a pretty amazing cocktail, rather than just a couple of bottles of whisky in the corner."

"When you're coming in here for a drink, it's not just the view that you are experiencing, you also have some of the best bartenders in Melbourne making you a pretty special cocktail."

The intimate 40-person confines of Cloakroom Bar pushes and pulls you between panoramic views over the city and Port Phillip Bay to its illuminated golden bar harbouring some of the best local and imported liquors.



Their list of 10 cocktails reads as a manifesto in refreshing refinement, from the crowd favourite Gabrielle's Punch, which sees a mixture of a house rum blend meet melon, strawberry, coconut and Champaign acid, to the Silhouette, a mixture of 78° Australian whiskey, shiitake, Umeshu and Sakura Bitters.

"Our cocktails follow a pattern of today's lighter drinking habits, and our team likes to get pretty experimental with liquors and ingredients," Mr O'Sullivan said.

"Every morning when I wake up and look at our figures from the night before, the Gabrielle's Punch is always the leader, but among our other popular drinks is the Viktor and Wolf, a 78° Better Gin, rosé vermouth, cherry blossom, lemon and ginger beer."

"Classic cocktails make up a big portion of what we sell, but our customers like to have the chance to try something a bit different, or be guided depending on their taste, by one of our experienced bartenders."

Mr O'Sullivan and his team have partnered with Australian gin heavyweights, Four Pillars, to present Sunset Sessions, which are running daily from 5pm to 8pm until daylight saving ends on April 2.

Bookings can be made on the Open Table booking system. ●

**For more information:**  
[cloakroombar.co/melbourne](http://cloakroombar.co/melbourne)

# Is this Southbank's best pizza?

“Southbank's best pizza may just be hiding in plain sight.”

”

WORDS BY Jack Hayes  
BUSINESS

Tucked away from the hustle and bustle of Southbank Promenade, but still barely 100 metres from the Yarra River you'll find DOC Pizza and Mozzarella Bar Southbank.

Opening in 2019, DOC Southbank became the first city-based venture south of the Yarra for the DOC Group – the team behind three institutional Carlton venues, and others in Mornington, and in Surry Hills, Sydney.

In that time, DOC Southbank has quietly achieved a cult following among residents, workers and even interstate visitors, for its unwaveringly authentic pizzas; ones that lay claim as the best in postcode 3006.

DOC Southbank showcases the finest imported Italian ingredients, from DOP (Denominazione d' Origine Protetta) tomatoes to the country's finest, cloud-like mozzarella.

Bestowed with the responsibility and privilege of bringing those ingredients to life on your plate is head chef Francesco Chiappalone.

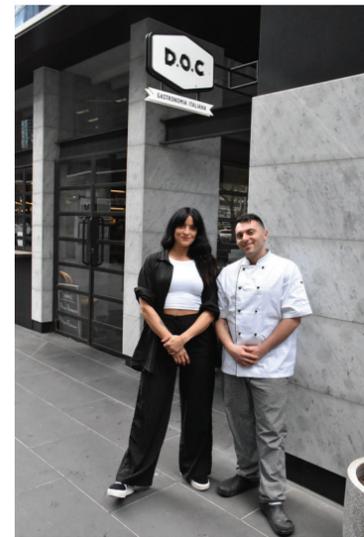
"We haven't really ever marketed DOC Southbank too much, we have just grown organically through the word of mouth," he said.

"People obviously love the food, they love the pizza, mozzarella, and our Italian wines, but they also love the environment we have created between our staff and customers."

"We have a great bond with our customers. They love to have a look into the exposed kitchen and ask us questions about their food or ingredients. It's not enough just to have great quality food, there are lots of places in Melbourne with great food, you need to create an experience that people won't forget."

Mr Chiappalone told *Southbank News* that while you need to "try everything on the menu", there are a few dishes that you just cannot miss.

First, DOC's signature pizza. It's a traditional Margherita topped with San Marzano tomato sauce,



▲ DOC Southbank manager Noemi Frediani and head chef Francesco Chiappalone.

mozzarella, fresh DOP buffalo mozzarella, fresh basil and a drizzle of olive oil.

Other crowd favourites include the Pizza Soppresa, with mozzarella, mild salami, provolone, pesto di casa and Ligurian olives; and their Degustation of Mozzarella which features a selection: Fior Di Latte, DOP Italian buffalo mozzarella, and Australian Scamorza (lightly smoked Fior Di Latte).

For the sweet tooth in you, manager Noemi Frediani said it is impossible to go past the sweet goat's cheese tiramisu with traditional savoiardi and montenegro.

"The goat's cheese is a game changer, it just adds something special," she explained.

"We are very proud of what we have created at DOC Southbank. We love to chat with our customers over our beautiful marble bar top, understand what they like and dislike, and sometimes offer them something outside of the box."

"Yes, we aren't as exposed as other venues in Southbank, it means that we make sure everything we do is exceptional and focused on the satisfaction of our customers."

It may not seat more than 200 people, it may not boast river views, and it may not receive the hype like other venues in the area, but the team at DOC Southbank are okay with that.

What they have created, however, is a trail of happy and loyal customers devoted to their little slice of Italy, in Southbank. ●

**For more information:**  
[docgroup.net/southbank](http://docgroup.net/southbank)

# Council proposes bold action to green city buildings

WORDS BY Brendan Rees  
PLANNING

The City of Melbourne is set to draw inspiration from world leading cities like Singapore to create greener buildings across this metropolis under new planning rules to improve sustainability.

The Sustainable Building Design Amendment proposes to introduce stronger planning controls for developments – covering everything from improving energy and water efficiency, increasing the uptake of renewable energy, and more greenery on roofs and walls.

According to the City of Melbourne's data, buildings are the biggest polluters in the city, accounting for 66 per cent of all carbon emissions in the city – compared to 25 per

cent in other municipalities.

"We're taking bold action to address climate change – and this is another significant step forward to cut emissions and improve sustainability across our beautiful city," Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

"Developers can find clarity and confidence in these amendments to know they are contributing to long-term sustainability, while the buildings' tenants will receive the benefits of cheaper operational costs."

The proposed new amendment – which is open for submissions until April 17 – would also encourage the creation of vertical gardens and the installation of solar panels in what the council said would "transform Melbourne's skyline".

According to council, benefits of the new rules include reducing the urban heat island effect, improving

energy efficiency, and addressing water shortages and resource recovery.

"The amendment includes policy, mandatory and optional controls, and will apply to particular types of developments," the council said.

The City of Melbourne's planning portfolio chairman Nicholas Reece said the city would become a "world leader" in sustainable design and green urban environments by drawing inspiration from the success of cities like Singapore, Vienna, and Copenhagen. ●

**For more information:**



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# BEYOND THE BOOKSHELF: SEVEN WAYS OUR LIBRARIES TRANSFORM LIVES



A modern, multi-purpose space at Library at The Dock

**Our libraries are places full of joy and creativity, where the future is now.**

Local libraries have evolved in many ways over recent years.

Demand for books remains high, and use of digital resources like ebooks, audiobooks, films, music and games surged during lockdowns. But this is just the tip of the iceberg.

Our library offerings can't be contained by walls or websites. They pop up across the central city and hit the road to visit people in their neighbourhoods



Here are seven special ways to engage with our library services:

1. Look out for our Mel-van mobile library visiting public housing, community hubs and festivals near you with books, workshops and wi-fi in a suitcase. We also bring our 'Books and Biscuits' program to older people, with curated pre-loved books and discussions about short stories, poems, essays and articles.
2. Find pathways out of homelessness thanks to library social worker Erin McKeegan. She helps people in need access the support services they need amid the welcoming, non-clinical library environment.

#### HOMELESSNESS ZINE

Pick up a copy of the *Need to Know* zine – made by people with lived experience of sleeping rough – from our libraries and community hubs.

3. Watch the new Munro Library take shape in close consultation with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal artists. This epic library will be located opposite the iconic Queen Victoria Market.
4. Use state-of-the-art creative technology for free in our makerspaces. Devotees have designed games, 3D-printed lizard skeletons for museum exhibits and prototyped groundbreaking medical devices.
5. Share your love of reading, practice French and learn how to do your tax at online and in-person events. Our book clubs, conversations clubs and life-skills workshops build community and counter isolation.
6. Borrow technology kits to make your life easier, cheaper and less wasteful. We have microphones, guitar pedals, robotics equipment, laptops and accessibility tools like the C-Pen Reader, which reads text out loud.



7. Co-work, run meetings, tinker on a creative project, shape-up your startup or just make a cuppa at Micro-Labs, a vibrant, flexible space on Bourke Street. Drop by to enjoy a curated library collection, mini makerspace, kitchenette, movable furniture, pop-up shop and cosy courtyard.

Our permanent and pop-up library locations include the central city, East Melbourne, Carlton, North Melbourne, Docklands and Southbank. Head to our website to view the locations and browse catalogues and events.

For more information, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/libraries](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/libraries)

## LOVE FOR THE MEL-VAN



'It's magic. It means a lot to people. Books and Biscuits is an incredibly stimulating activity that opens up people's minds to new ideas, great chats, and digressions into other fantastic conversations. It's very meaningful and we create real connections through the group interaction and topics.'

Irene, South Yarra Senior Citizens Centre

'The Mel-van brings us books in our language that we can't find anywhere else. They bring games and painting and help us with digital technology like our phones and the internet. The library is very important and we feel very close to the library. We've never had a library visit us every week before.'

Stella, North Melbourne Language and Learning Centre

**IN BRIEF**

**SCRUBBING THE CITY**

Did you know that the City of Melbourne carried out more cleaning in 2022 than ever before, removing the equivalent of nearly eight MCGs of graffiti in the past year?

Council's Rapid Response Clean Team removed a record 150,000m<sup>2</sup> of graffiti across Melbourne in 2022 - a 121 per cent increase on the previous 12 months.

More than 87,000m<sup>2</sup> of graffiti was proactively cleaned, and another 63,000m<sup>2</sup> was removed following reports from the public.

Council has also stepped up its efforts to remove dumped rubbish across the municipality, collecting more than 4,500 tonnes in the past 12 months - and an additional 100 tonnes of discarded mattresses.

**CITY ECONOMY SNAPSHOT**

Do you run a business in the city? Harness Melbourne's new rhythm with the latest city data to boost your business.

The Melbourne Economy Snapshot is a new free seasonal activity guide for businesses that reveals where people spend their time and money in our city.

Our first edition shows a record \$1.1 billion was spent across the city in December. Friday and Saturday are now our busiest days, weekday spending is as strong as pre-pandemic and our night-time economy continues to flourish.

To access the Melbourne Economy Snapshot, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/business](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/business)

**STAY CONNECTED**

Be first to know about what's happening in your neighbourhood - from amazing events to new community facilities - with our City of Melbourne newsletter. Sign up today at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/subscribe](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/subscribe) to get the latest news straight to your inbox.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS**

Our neighbourhoods in the City of Melbourne are all unique, with their own priorities and needs. That's why we've created online Neighbourhood Portals - to provide a specialised place you can go to learn about your suburb. To visit your Neighbourhood Portal, visit [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/participate-neighbourhoods](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/participate-neighbourhoods)

**REPORT IT ONLINE**

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



**There's more to love about Moomba this March with five days of free, family fun and entertainment.**

The banks of the Yarra River - Birrarung will be buzzing with Moomba magic from Thursday 9 to Monday 13 March.

There are loads of fun, free activities to keep the whole family entertained - from epic skate park competitions and water sports to face-painting, crafts, dance workshops, Design-a-Float, kids' yoga and loads more.

So whether you're a dare devil bursting for a ride fix, a food-truck-loving-foodie, or looking to get your dance groove on to some awesome beats, Moomba has something for everyone.

Enjoy event favourites such as the beloved Birdman Rally on Sunday 12 March, where courageous competitors don inventive homemade flying devices to hurtle themselves over the Yarra River - Birrarung for a good cause.

Don't miss the iconic Moomba Parade on Monday 13 March, with five new floats and puppets joining the fun alongside Moomba Monarchs Rob Mills and Rhonda Burchmore, and more than 1,800 performers from cultural groups, dance troupes, marching bands and more.

And to cap off a big day at Moomba, relax by the Yarra River - Birrarung

as nightly fireworks light up the Melbourne skyline, as well as nightly feature films on the Moomba big screen.

Other highlights of the program include:

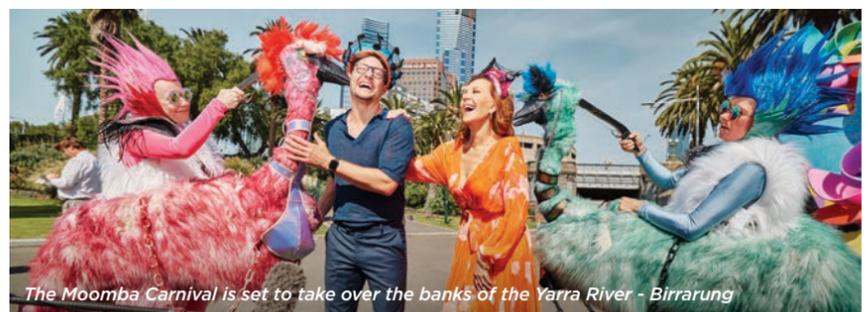
- The Moomba Masters water sports competition, showcasing elite Australian and international athletes
- Rides and games for thrill-seekers of all ages at the Moomba Carnival
- More than 60 performers and entertainers, from acrobats to dancers, musicians, actors, roving performers, and more
- Interactive activities and play zones, with crafts, face painting, workshops and a Bluey Live experience.
- Exhilarating scooting, skating and riding across a bustling Moomba Skate Park Program.
- Food and drinks galore, with more than 25 food truck offerings featuring cuisines from around the world.



Moomba is Australia's largest free community festival and is proudly owned and delivered by the City of Melbourne.

It is an accessible and certified carbon-neutral event.

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# Arts Precinct

## Compelling story about living with autism debuts at Arts Centre Melbourne

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

*ARCO Jnr* is coming to Victoria from Western Australia for the first time on Saturday, April 1 to share its unique story and message about living with autism.

Performing at Arts Centre Melbourne's creative learning hub, The Channel, *ARCO Jnr* is an award-winning autobiographical show, following performer Adam Kelly's life story.

Adam is from WA Youth Theatre Company, and his honest performance has launched him straight from youth performer to mainstage artist, making it a work he is proud to showcase to new audiences.

"*ARCO Jnr* is a unique and beautiful show and I feel very proud to be able to share it with others," Adam said.

"It'll be awesome sauce in Melbourne."

The performance follows Adam and his friend Finbar, who is a fish as they dance, draw, fly and share in plenty of laughs with the audience.

The mesmerising performance also incorporates exciting animations from Perth-based neurodiverse artist Ben Hollingsworth.

Described as a heartfelt look at the life and struggles of a young man trying to make connections with the people and world around him, *ARCO Jnr* asks audience members to look



outside of themselves and consider life from Adam's perspective.

"Autism itself is really difficult to explain. It's not simply something that affects how I function, it is how I am wired," Adam said.

"This is my story of endurance, learning, adaptation, and optimism. Everyone can identify with it and have some fun at the same time."

*ARCO Jnr* is produced by WA Youth Theatre Company, written by both Adam Kelly and director James Berlyn, with its creative team consisting of lighting designer Pete Young, sound designer Tristen Parr, arts mentor Johanna Keyser, dramaturg Alex Desebrock and stage manager Catherine O'Donoghue.

Presented as part of Art Centre Melbourne's year-round Families and Children program, which was launched in 2009, *ARCO Jnr* will have 10.30am and 1pm sessions.

Both sessions will include a 35-minute performance followed by a 15-minute Q&A, with Arts Centre Melbourne advising anyone interested in attending that it will be a relaxed and non-judgmental space, where noisy enthusiasm and movement is embraced.

Anyone requiring their own access methods are also welcome to bring in and use their own headphones, sunglasses and stimming devices or fidget toys, and the lights will remain on at a dim level with a quiet area available, if needed, to take a break. ●

To access a visual story with information about the venue and the show, visit:

[artscentremelbourne.com.au](https://artscentremelbourne.com.au)

CRITIC

## Preoccupations of a young artist

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*

The 2023 academic year has started with a light touch after so many years of doom with a self-portrait exhibition. The exhibitors are none other than the art staff at the Victorian College of the Arts.

Usually, they're the ones meting out the critique to students. Now their own self-representations are up on the wall for students to assess.

The struggle to get into art school is still uppermost in the minds of those lucky to have landed a place in 2023.

Many dreamed of becoming artists from childhood and have had to deal with practice via the one-dimensional mechanism of Zoom.

This exhibition was their big chance to mingle in 3D space at the Fiona and Sidney Myer Gallery and dig deeper into the psyches of their mentors.

It is fair to say that the humans behind the façade of the art professional were quite muffled in this show.

There was a postcard from a famous theorist, plaster models of a printmaker's thumbs, a flattened aluminium wall hanging depicting fists, and clever graphics with a whiteboard marker among 60 works.

But for sheer poetry of line, use of traditional materials and relevance to a young student Nick Selenitsch's *Self Portrait, aged=16=1995* hit the mark.

"The first self-portrait was done by Albrecht Durer," the painting and critical theory teacher, who is now in his 40s, said. "It showed the development of an 'I' as a modern idea."

Nick's "I" is holding up well, despite nearly 30 years since his grandfather framed the portrait and hung it on the wall of his Geelong house.

"They were refugees from Europe and most of their family was lost in the war," he said. "I gave it to my grandparents. They were special."

He said that self-portraiture had almost died out in the art world and that the annual Archibald Prize had a curious place in contemporary culture.

In true art school fashion, Nick outlined the way the practice of self-portraiture might be used to critique mainstream preoccupations.

"Every day I come to work, and I have to argue for my expertise," he said. "What would you know?" the students ask. It's for them to see that knowledge relates to how they



▲ *Nick Selenitsch with Self portrait, aged=16=1995.*

fit into the world. It's often the beginning point." "I do talk to them and say that this is the most self-absorbed culture ever. The idea is not to enhance that but to critique it."

A lot of students didn't do self-portraiture for that reason, he said. "If I was teaching in Soviet Russia of the 1970s, I'd be pushing individuality but here with the focus on individualism I'm teaching collectivism."

He said that there had been an anti-technology "folksy" push in the past five years with things that were authentic and handmade.

And to look yourself in the mirror at 16 and record what you see in brush and ink is an honest appraisal of the preoccupations of a young artist. ●

*It's not you, it's me, Fiona and Sidney Myer Gallery, until April 1*

## ACCA Family Art Day returns

WORDS BY *Helena Morgan*

Following the success of its previous Family Art Day event, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA) is gearing up for another day of art-making as inspired by its current exhibition *Data Relations*.

On Saturday, March 18 from 11am to 2pm, families are invited to attend a day of free family art in the gallery.

The program is targeted at children aged three to 10 who are accompanied by an adult. Registrations are not mandatory but are encouraged.

Participants will be involved in an interactive large-scale weaving project, which is a salute to Mimi Onouha's new installation, and individual mixed media collages as inspired by the work of Hong Kong-born artist Winnie Soon, who is particularly fascinated with metadata.

Participants will also work with tactile materials, mainly through collaborative weaving, to learn how artists are using technology to forge new relationships and artworks.

The exhibition influencing the family art day, *Data Relations*, explores some of the primary issues and obstacles within our data-driven society.

Both local and international artists created site-specific installations that represent the way data economy and related technological developments are revealed in interpersonal and larger social relationships.

In line with the motivations behind *Data Relations*, the family art day also aims to incite discussions across all ages surrounding data and the collective human relationship to technology.



In reflecting on the previous family art day, ACCA's education manager Edwina Hill said families were very receptive towards a day of organic and creative expression for the whole family.

"Parents appreciated how the program was engaging and accessible for young toddlers as well as older primary school-aged children," Edwina said. Participants also praised the efficient organisation of the event, alongside the "exceptional" staff and the chance for a fun and interactive activity to add variety to the weekend and school holidays.

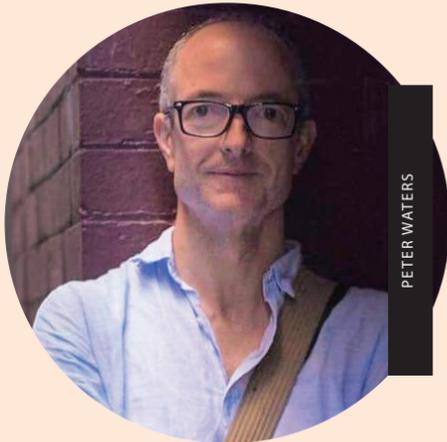
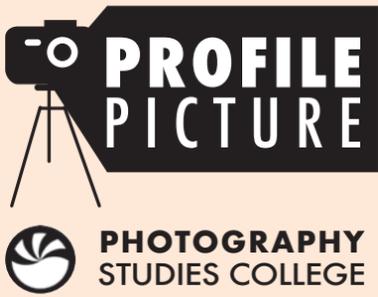
Edwina also said the event welcomed many first-time visitors to ACCA, who were excited to realise the child-friendly nature of the centre. Parents also reportedly embraced the activities just as much as their children.

"There was a buzzing atmosphere and a space for creativity and thoughtful



reflections for all ages," Edwina said. Ms Hill also relished seeing the sense of teamwork and togetherness the collaborative weaving activity produced. Children wove in messages for their future selves to create an expansive installation in the gallery foyer inspired by Mimi Onouha's works *These networks in our skin* and *The cloth in the cable*.

"It provided a great space for us to chat about the artworks and ideas in the exhibition with real-world examples," Edwina said. [acca.melbourne](https://acca.melbourne) ●



PETER WATERS

## How capturing meaningful images went from a pastime to a passion

*Inspiration can come from a range of different places, and for Photography Studies College (PSC) student Peter Waters the moment that sparked his interest in photography came during a visit to the NGV exhibition, An incomplete world.*

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

Blown away by the works that not only captivated him but also triggered a strong emotional response, Mr Waters left the exhibition and purchased a camera. "I went away inspired, and so I bought my first decent camera shortly after with the modest goal

of documenting a family trip to Europe and it became a serious pastime on holidays," he said. "Then I began entering *The Age* and *Sydney Morning Herald* Clique competition and had some early success, culminating in winning Clique Photographer of the Year in 2015 and an internship at the newspaper." "Now I'm most passionate about making intentional, crafted, meaningful images, and creating something that would not have otherwise existed." As photography quickly turned into a passion, Mr Waters knew there was just so much more to learn, and one way to access more information was through Photography Studies College. "I wanted to learn from scratch, in an organised way, to fill any gaps in my knowledge. I also enjoy the technical side of photography, so I was surprised at how much I didn't know," he said. "I have enjoyed learning and there is access to so much information, it's like drinking from a fire hydrant." While undertaking an Advanced Diploma at PSC, Mr Waters has also had many opportunities to

showcase his work outside of the college and its exhibitions. And after putting in lots of time and effort into a project series called *Empyrean*, Mr Waters was both "chuffed" and "relieved" to find out he was selected as a finalist in the 2022 People Category of Australian Photography Magazine. This dedication to capturing meaningful projects has only continued to strengthen through his studies. "Working hard on a series, iterating, receiving feedback and encouragement, not just from lecturers but classmates too, culminating in work that I feel proud of, that I know I couldn't have produced without the course, are some of my highlights," Mr Waters said. And as for the projects Mr Waters wants to continue to cover, he said, "Whatever the subject matter, portraiture, conceptual, documentary, I want my images to evoke an emotional response in my audience or convey some meaning." In the short term, he will be continuing to work on his series titled *100 seconds*, that he started at PSC, while also finding endless amounts of inspiration and subject matters where he lives. ●

*"I feel very fortunate to live in the City of Port Phillip, to swim daily in Narrm as an Iceberger [open cold water swimmer], because it's a boundless source of inspiration and subject matter"*



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Image by Cathy Thunder



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Seth has more than 15 years of professional practice and commercial accounting experience in the UK, Australia, India, and China. He is a member of CPA Australia and Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (UK), and a Registered Tax Agent (Australia). ●

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## Awards roll in for Ray White Southbank

*Ray White Southbank has continued its dominance of the local real estate market taking out Agency of the Year and Agent of the Year in the recent RateMyAgent awards.*

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

With more than 1.5 million reviews nationally, RateMyAgent is Australia's leading resource for real estate reviews, ranking agents and agencies based on the feedback of their clients.

For the fourth year running, Ray White Southbank's Michael Pastrikos has been recognised as Southbank's leading agent with a rating of 4.9 stars out of five from more than 200 reviews.

Ray White Southbank principal Andrew Salvo told *Southbank News* the awards were great acknowledgement of the relationship his agency and team developed between vendors and buyers alike.

"For us, it is just about doing the right thing by our clients. It's not so much about the transaction and because we're so invested in the city of Melbourne and Southbank," he said.

"We're in here [Southbank] for the long haul and we know we're going to grow within the community if we do the right thing."

"We measure every part of our business on

customer satisfaction, from our landlords, our tenants, our buyers or sellers... every single transaction that we do in every direction, we make sure our clients are happy."

During the past 12 months, Ray White has sold 125 properties with a staggering \$87 million in sales value.

For Mr Pastrikos alone, not only is he the best agent based on client reviews, but he oversaw the sale of 53 properties as lead agent worth a total of more than \$48 million and an average sale price of \$906,610.

According to Mr Salvo, the results reflect, not only the hardest working real estate team in Southbank, from administration to its leadership, which operates within the largest real estate network in the country.

"I feel like our team is made up of genuinely good people. We often have clients who have purchased properties from us, knowing that they paid top dollar for the property, and now they would like us to achieve the same result for them," Mr Salvo said.

"Ray White as a franchise is very much run on customer service. We have a lot of internal surveys and professional development that is measured by head office, and Ray White Southbank continues to lead the way on a national scale." ●

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### More civic pride

I am prompted by your recent report "New linear park set to transform iconic arts precinct" (*Southbank News*, February 2023), to write about the apparent lack of civic pride in relation to sections of Southbank by both the City of Melbourne and some of the city's major commercial interests, in particular Crown Resorts (I assume Crown continues to have an interest in the properties it intended to develop in Queensbridge St).

I learn from your report that the city is about to outlay a further \$6.5 million in the Southbank Boulevard area. This follows the extravagant \$40-50 million already spent there. Meantime, parts of the "gambling precinct" have been, and continue to be, a disgrace.

Improvements to City Rd have been promised for years but nothing has eventuated apart from a very expensive "doggy park".

I recently counted 28 manhole covers and the like along the footpath on the northwest side of City Rd between Power and Balston streets; opposite, along the same stretch, there were two.

A similar contrast in the footpath surfaces can be observed: on the northwest side, bitumen repairs on top of repairs and unattractive stunted or root bound trees, making walking hazardous; on the other, neat

paving blocks and well planted and maintained trees, a pleasure to see and use.

The second instance of lack of civic pride is the disgraceful way some properties have been neglected for years, becoming increasing eyesores over time. The site at 21-35 Power St was cleared some years ago; development plans have been announced on and off since.

Both sites can only be described as

disgraceful and potential health hazards. They bring shame to the city.

I call on the City of Melbourne to address both these issues as matters of some urgency. ●

*Anonymous, Southbank*



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# Southbanker

## Arts philanthropist awarded Australian honour



*Since learning to play the flute from a young age, music and the arts have always been a part of John Simpson's life.*



WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*

A regular visitor to Southbank, John has performed on stage at Hamer Hall with the Scotch College Symphony Orchestra, had singing lessons at the Victorian College of the Arts and had a long association with the National Gallery of Victoria and the NGV Foundation - where he was a board member. He also became a member of the board of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.

Today, he and his wife Cathy are philanthropic supporters of the NGV and the Melbourne Recital Centre (MRC), which Mr Simpson said, "has raised the bar of music performance in Australia".

Mr Simpson has held a range of positions in the community, with his involvement in business, education, and the arts having recently

seen him appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) as part of this year's Australia Day Honours List.

"I'm a big supporter of giving time to things that really interest you and I think it's especially important to find interests well outside your field of work," he said.

"There's so much to be learned from working with people in a variety of fields, whether it's business, philanthropy, the rural sector, the arts, science and of course, education."

Speaking about his honour, Mr Simpson said he was surprised, but grateful for being "part of something special".

"I was very surprised - mostly as I have personally gained far more from the experiences, I had in various fields than I have given. I'm very grateful for all the opportunities I've been offered and hopefully have made worthwhile contributions over the years."

Mr Simpson is currently a member of council of Monash University, a role he has held for the past eight years, while also being the director of the Bionics Institute, which conducts vital research and applied work in hearing, vision, tinnitus, Parkinson's Disease and Alzheimer's Disease.

Passionate about education, Mr Simpson was a member of council at Scotch College for almost 15 years.

"I support the full diversity of choice we have in Australian education - that is the public, independent, Catholic/other denomination schools - but I think we are not achieving the outcomes that individual students are capable of or that the country so obviously needs.

"Everything stems from a quality, broad-based education and every child deserves to be



▲ *John Simpson.*

able to set goals and to achieve them."

Outside of his professional life in the energy sector, Mr Simpson has been a board member of the National Science and Technology Centre (Questacon), and of SecondBite, the national food rescue charity. In addition to MRC, Mr Simpson and his wife are strong supporters of the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra.

His passion for music stems from his own experiences of learning music at school and joining a choir outside of school in his early teens.

"I had the benefit of playing in a symphony orchestra while at Scotch College and discovered the full power of being part of something uplifting and joyful. I remember performing Handel's *Zadok the Priest* for the first time and being bowled over by it," he said.

Although a regular traveller, it is his love affair with Southbank, which he described as "a gem on the very edge of the City of Melbourne", that will always remain close to his heart.

"Cathy and I walk to Southbank to concerts and exhibitions through the beautiful parks surrounding the Melbourne Botanic Gardens. For me this area is what Melbourne is all about."

"It's a privilege to live here." ●



*Brendan Rees*

JOURNALIST

BRENDAN@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU

## Tough Guy Book Club: What does it actually mean to be "tough"?

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*  
COMMUNITY

The words tough and book are not seen together all that often, but for the Tough Guy Book Club that is precisely the point.

Having a name that sparks so much conversation allows for the members to get to the crux of the meaning and expectations of the word and serves to represent that it is a space where tough open conversations can be had.

As the president of the Southbank chapter of the book club, Matt Shaw said while there was a particular book focused on each month within the meetups, the ultimate goal was for "good quality conversations".

"Tough Guy Book Club provides an opportunity for guys to get out of their house, away from work and their commitments, to find a social connection and have conversations on tough topics," Mr Shaw said.

"It's not a space to have intolerant views or to be misogynistic, and at the end of the day we are a book club that entertains and challenges the idea of what it means to be a man in today's society."

Tough Guy Book Club first started around 10 years ago in Collingwood, and was founded by Shay P Leighton, after he and some friends simply wanted to combine conversations around books and famous authors while relaxing at a pub.

From this, the book lists have grown as rapidly as the members and numerous locations of Tough Guy Book Club chapters.

As well as having chapters based all around Australia, Tough Guy Book Club and its message of encouraging reading, building comradery, fighting isolation, and improving mental health in men has grown, stretching all the way over to New York, Portland, Seattle, London,



and Oamaru in New Zealand.

And while it is commonly known for being a book club, Mr Shaw said "reading the book is not actually a requirement".

"We have guys who read the book every month, and we have guys who won't even open the book but choose to show up for the conversations and the comradery," he said.

While the club is not one bound by many rules, it is strict on members not being allowed to talk about work.

"We don't talk about work because we don't want to identify ourselves by our work, and we want to break the societal norms around the first thing we do when introducing ourselves is stating our job title. Plus, there is all the baggage that comes with that," Mr Shaw said.

"So, if you are looking for a free club where you can meet new people and choose to come for the book discussions or for a casual chat or deep conversations, then we are always looking for new guys to join."

Southbank's Tough Guy Book Club meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm, at Hophaus in Southgate.

To read more about the Tough Guy Book Club, and how to get involved in one near you, visit: [toughguybookclub.com](http://toughguybookclub.com) ●

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# Faces of Southbank



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



**EDUARDO MUZZI**

I'm a tourist from Rome. I like the skyline here; in Rome we don't have so many tall buildings like in Melbourne.



**ELEANOR CROWLEY**

Today I'm on my way to buy some coffee pods from Nespresso. I moved to Prahran recently, so I haven't been to the city very much. It's nice to walk along the river.



**TIBERIUS ANGHEL**

I am from Romania. I work and travel here. I came here with my company to present our products for the next position. It's very nice here. The combination of skyscrapers and old buildings is really nice.



**REUMANENE NASIO**

I have been working in Southbank for nearly eight years. It's a good place to work. I like the people here; they are really nice.



**LYDIA FAN**

I live here in Southbank – I like the river and I can see it from my apartment. The river is more clear in summer which is nice.

SOUTHBANK3006

## A traffic management strategy for all of Southbank

*Southbank3006's micro-mobility forum on February 26, the first for the year, brought together experts to discuss the future of transport in Melbourne. This was timely as the City of Melbourne opens its dialogue with residents on pedestrian safety in the coming months.*

WORDS BY *David Hamilton*  
PRESIDENT, SOUTHBANK3006

Central to safety is getting the risk hierarchy right in our traffic management and transport planning in Southbank. Not having a comprehensive traffic management strategy for Southbank makes this difficult so we should use this consultation as a community to agree that:

- That pedestrian and bike rider safety, as the most at-risk groups in road safety, is best served by making low traffic neighbourhoods across Southbank a priority for the council to deliver.
- We need a traffic management strategy for Southbank, not piecemeal, quick-fix solutions to problems.
- We need City Rd and Citylink Tunnel working as they were designed so freight movement is done efficiently.
- Car rat runs are shut down and speed limits are addressed in our residential streets.
- We take back road space used for parking for much needed open and green space.

Southbank3006's micro-mobility forum showed what can be done. First up we heard from Dutch Cargo, which specialises in micro-mobility solutions, highlighting the benefits of cycling, including the positive effects on physical and mental health, the speed and convenience of e-bikes, and the benefits for children's social and spatial awareness. Dutch Cargo also emphasised the environmental benefits of cycling, such as reducing pollution and carbon emissions.

The City of Melbourne's transport strategy was also discussed during the forum, with a focus on promoting safer and more equitable transport options. The strategy includes initiatives to reduce motor vehicle speeds, install bike lanes, and use infrastructure improvements to protect vulnerable road users.

Ash Lee, the City of Melbourne's community partner for Southbank, was also present, and announced an exciting new pedestrian safety study that has just launched. More information on this is available through the Southbank Neighbourhood Portal. So, please participate and help address what we need to make Southbank residential areas low traffic neighbourhoods.

At the forum, Victoria Police were also present to help attendees prevent bike and scooter theft and to give some great practical tips for keeping your property safe and secure. More than a dozen bikes were engraved at the event, and attendees were encouraged to register their bikes and other property with PropertyVault, an online database that has helped thousands of Australians recover their stolen property.

The forum also raised interesting questions about the privatisation of public spaces, with the private scooter trials being deemed a success by the City of Melbourne. This is particularly important that if franchises are



given to private operators, the pricing for using public assets is appropriate and they commit to service level agreements as part of a social contract with residents and the council. This can then address many of the concerns people raise about their operations.

The Southbank3006 committee looks to the example of Portland, Oregon, where Bird, the primary e-scooter provider, agreed to collect all its vehicles each night for charging and necessary maintenance, and remit \$1 per vehicle per day to the city to build more bike lanes, promote safe riding, and maintain shared infrastructure as part of their social contract.

Southbank3006 considered the question of whether Melbourne's local councils are following other municipalities in raising funds from the privatisation of public space. With a great push towards providing more equitable space in the city's heavily car-dominated road network, it was questioned why those who are clearly profiting off the already limited public space are not paying for it.

Overall, the micro-mobility forum provided attendees with insights into the benefits of



micro-mobility solutions such as cycling and e-bikes, as well as the challenges that need to be addressed to promote their wider adoption. The forum also highlighted the importance of addressing bike and scooter theft and exploring opportunities for partnerships with private companies to invest in micro-mobility infrastructure.

By working together to address these challenges and consider innovative funding solutions, we can create a more sustainable and financially resilient city, and a more liveable future for all residents. For more information on sustainable, financially resilient, liveable places, check out the Strong Towns movement at [strongtowns.org](http://strongtowns.org).

Southbank3006 hosts monthly forums on important community topics. To find out more, join for free via the website. ●

**For more information:**  
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## Telephone exchanges in South Melbourne

*Newspapers in 1920 stated their opinion that the day was not far distant when the telephone would be installed in every home, just as the water, mains and sewers are connected in the cities.*

Telephones were part of the massive technological advances of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and they had quickly replaced the use of telegraphs and messenger boys in the business community.

They came into existence in 1877 and arrived in Victoria in 1880, when the first Australian telephone exchange opened in Melbourne. It was privately owned and operated by the Melbourne Telephone Exchange Co. Ltd, with calls initially able to be made directly from one subscriber to another.

Switchboard equipment was then introduced, with exchanges, extensive wiring, and telephone poles, which added to the tangled street forest of poles and wires. Soon more exchanges were developed, becoming able to host large numbers of lines.

In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, as an increasing number of residents of Melbourne took the opportunity to subscribe, even more exchanges were required. In 1887 the Post Office took over the operations of the rapidly expanding telephone network.

Exchanges required switchboard operators whose job was to receive calls from subscribers and connect them to the slot allocated on the switchboard for the required number. Originally the tasks were laborious, noisy, and slow, but exchanges were models of ingenuity and improvements soon demonstrated rapid

changes, although there was a heavy workload. Soon each operator had 1000 connecting slots representing subscribers, all within an arm's length.

Their tasks were originally carried out by men, as were early secretarial roles, but it soon became apparent that women operators were more efficient and able to operate the equipment with more dexterity. In every test taken, women attendants had proved their superiority over their stronger rivals and by 1910, female operators were timed at an average of seven seconds per call, while very vexatious delays often occurred when male attendants were on duty.

The first exchange in South Melbourne was on the corner of Bank St and Green Place, behind the South Melbourne Town Hall. A new exchange was approved in 1922, managing 7000 subscribers and in 1927 an automatic exchange was introduced in Bank St (on the border of the block later occupied by the new Park Towers high-rise tower), necessitating a change of numbers for subscribers.

The numbers changed again in 1937, with addition of the prefix X to numbers in South Melbourne, and the introduction of a "dial tone" that indicated that the line was in order.

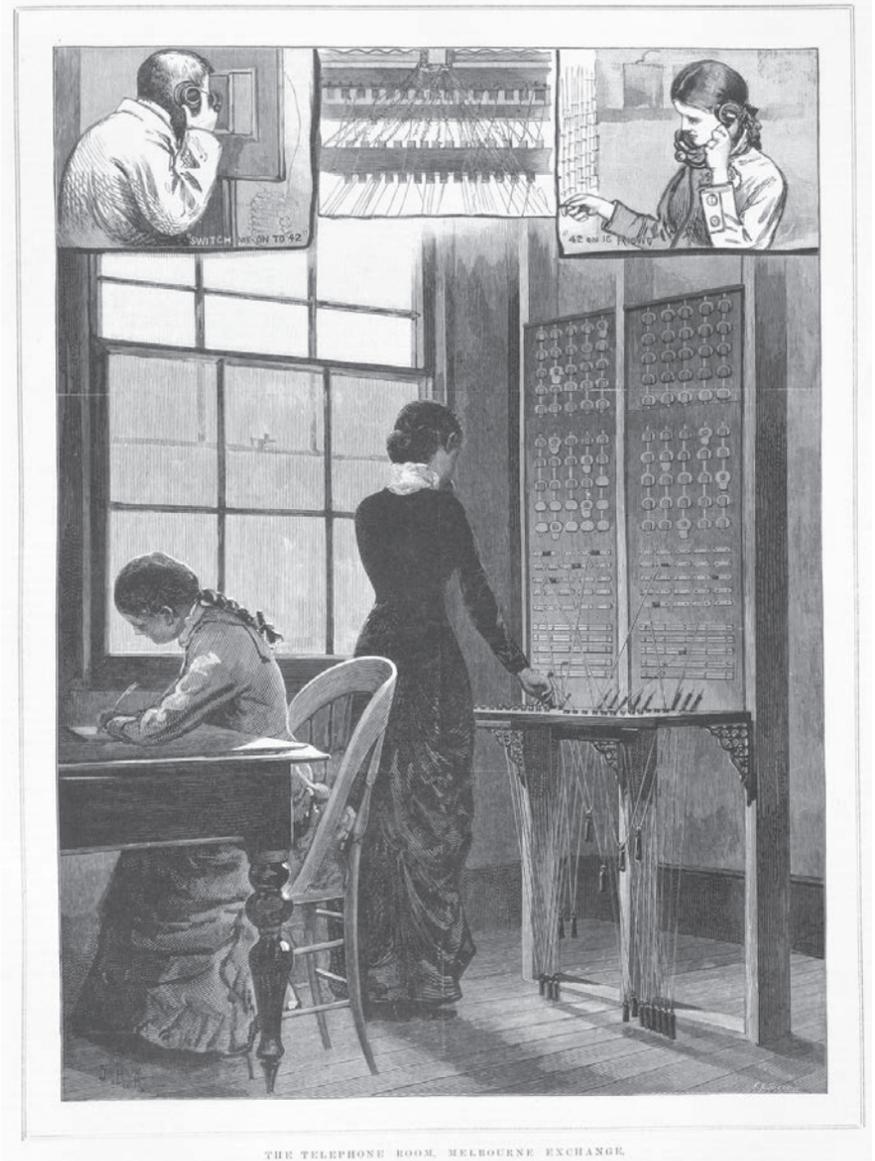
By this time many large businesses managed their own switchboards for multiple internal lines, telephone directories "White Pages" and "Yellow Pages" became common, as did phone boxes on streets.

The South Melbourne exchange played a major role in connecting businesses and citizens. ●



Robin Grow

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



THE TELEPHONE ROOM, MELBOURNE EXCHANGE

### WE LIVE HERE

## The monster eating Melbourne

*Local councils are fighting back against the short-stay behemoth that's causing chaos across the city.*

Melbourne councils suffering with short-stay issues want the state government to codify the powers needed for basic regulations to manage the virtually uncontrolled short-stay industry.

Mornington Peninsula Shire Mayor Steve Holland has reportedly called on the state government to give councils stronger powers over short stay operators.

Speaking to the media, the Mayor said, "we get the complaints, so our feeling is we're best placed to deal with some of these problems."

The council is seeking the powers to ban short-stay operators from listing properties with repeat problems. The issue is large scale – Mornington Peninsula has about 5000 properties just on Airbnb, according to insideairbnb.com, a site that monitors the platform. The council says almost 4000 people are on the public housing waiting lists and an estimated 1000 are experiencing homelessness.

Recently Mornington Peninsula introduced a \$311 registration fee for short-stay listed homes. While the council can revoke an operator's registration, its powers are limited and enforcement costs are greater than the fees collected.

Meanwhile, Warrnambool City Council has introduced a registration scheme, charging operators \$400 for properties listed as short stays.

City of Port Phillip is also under pressure to implement regulations, with a registration system being the bare minimum. Residents in the municipality have been contacting We Live Here to express their frustration. Here are some examples of the *vox populi*:

- "The reformed rules at the VCAT regarding short terms looks great on paper but are actually very weak when it comes to a legal process. It takes years to follow the process, meanwhile neighbouring residents sell up or move on because their apartment is unbearable to live in."
- "These unregulated short-term rentals are affecting the wider community in terms of homelessness, affordable housing purchase and rental availability for people who want to live here."
- "Victoria needs to wake up and understand how this unregulated business is destroying neighbourhoods and implement laws like WA, TAS and NSW by making it compulsory for short term providers to register their business with the local council and limit any short-term rental to 180 days a year."
- "Imagine living next door to a venue that does not have to answer to anyone in terms of sound pollution, number of patrons, age-limits or operating hours. This is in fact what goes on across our suburb."

The state government claims that its short-stay bill "limits disruption" caused by short-stays. We have been campaigning against this anaemic, unworkable Airbnb bill for six years – we are unable to find a single case where VCAT has ruled in favour of residents.

Let's change this, Minister Pearson. ●



Barbara Francis & Rus Littleton

LEARN MORE AT:  
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OWNERS' CORPORATION LAW

# Water damage claims expose risk to owners' corporations

*Studies of recent VCAT cases in water damage claims highlight the need for owners' corporations (OCs) to work faster and work smarter.*

Two recent decisions from VCAT (the decision of Guy, and the decision of Dunn) involving claims by lot owners for compensation from water damage to their units has highlighted the risks that OCs are exposed to.

In both cases, the claimants reported water damage, but the OC dragged their feet in investigating the causes of the water damage.

Pausing for a moment, a number of committee members and strata managers are under the misapprehension that if the OC's strata insurance policy declines a water damage claim, then that is the end of the matter.

Of course, that position is wrong in law. If the insurer declines the claim, all that means is that the OC is unable to obtain insurance coverage for the loss. If the lot owner has suffered loss and damage, then the OC is liable at law for that loss and damage.

In both of these cases, the OC's defence in VCAT was that the expert evidence was inconclusive as to the exact cause of the water ingress, and potentially on an interpretation of the strata plan – there was an argument that the water damage originated from lot property, rather than common property.

These legal arguments failed in VCAT, and the OCs were hit with massive bills for fixing the apartments and compensating for rental losses and damage to furnishings and personal effects.

Some important lessons that OCs should take away from these two cases are:

Failure to take proactive action to properly investigate and address issues concerning the maintenance and repair of common property may result in significant financial penalties as the Tribunal is as concerned with the conduct of the parties in attending to the matter quickly, and will not rescue the OC on technical legal arguments; and,

Supporting expert evidence (especially where there is countering evidence available) or delay caused by the conduct of another party cannot be solely relied upon to absolve the OC of its liability set out in the relevant legislation and case law.

If your OC receives a complaint about an issue with water ingress from the common property into lot property, it is important to first thoroughly investigate the issue, source advice from a reliable expert (and where there is doubt if the issue has arisen because of the common property, then consult a specialist lawyer also) and follow the recommendations provided. Above all it is important that the OC does not delay in responding and acting on a complaint as this is the most common way an OC can open itself up to liability and be found in breach of its duty. ●



Tom Bacon

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

# Pet's Corner



## Southbank's littlest new explorer

“

*Bella is an adorable tiny French bulldog.*

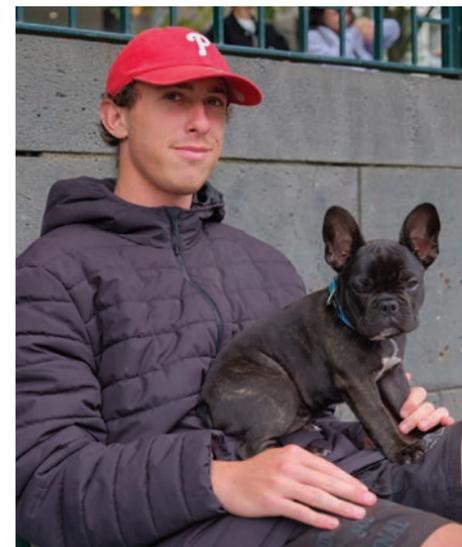
”

WORDS BY Kaylah-Joelle Baker

She is only two months old, and already out exploring the wide and busy suburb of Southbank for the first time with her owner Callum.

While new to this specific area, Bella is a big fan of exercising, so much so that her fur has been in the process of changing colour a little due to being outside in the sunshine so often.

“She has a light brown tinge now, and I think it's because she has been out in the sun



exercising every day,” Callum said.

As a typical Frenchie, Bella is the perfect mix of “chilled and crazy at the same time”, making life all the more interesting for Callum.

While super playful, Bella is also very careful to never hurt anyone during one of her energetic zoomies.

And when not racing around or walking with Callum, she can be seen cuddling up to her favourite fluffy toys, including a plush McDonald's drink and burger toy. ●

10 YEARS ON

## Looking back at Southbank News - 10 Years On

MARCH 2013 | ISSUE 17 |

SOUTHBANK Local NEWS

### Melbourne's tallest approved

*The controversial Australia 108 tower will be built at 70 Southbank Boulevard after Planning Minister Matthew Guy approved the final proposal last month.*

The tower, which will stand at 388 metres tall – 91 metres taller than Eureka – will be the tallest building in the southern hemisphere, and the 19th tallest in the world.

Minister Guy hailed the new tower as an iconic addition to the city's skyline.

“I am proud to approve a tower that will define our city for many years to come and which I am sure will become as iconic a Melbourne landmark as Flinders Street Station or Federation Square,” Mr Guy said.

“Towers such as Australia 108 are consistent with the Coalition Government's drive to concentrate high-density development in defined areas and out of existing, quiet neighbourhoods,” he added.

“Every apartment in this tower is one less apartment in an existing quiet neighbourhood.”

The tower contains 646 apartments, a 288-room 6 star hotel, plus retail and office space. ●



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SOUTHBANK SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

# Lowering our energy consumption in Southbank

*It's been a busy few weeks in the garden in front of the Boyd Community Hub.*

The City of Melbourne donated many potted flowers, vegetables, and herbs. We planted many in the garden beds and members of the Southbank community dropped by and were able to take home sunflowers, rosemary, and marigolds for their balconies.

Thank you to the City of Melbourne and the team who arrived by truck early one morning to offload all the pots.

Many Southbankers are dealing with higher costs of living, particularly energy costs. There are some simple things we can do to reduce our energy use and reduce our environmental footprint. Chris Jubb, one of the members of Southbank Sustainability Group, has put together a useful guide titled, "How do I reduce my energy use?".

The guide provides information on a range of practical steps we can take to reduce our energy consumption and explains the link between different sources of energy and their environmental impact. You can find the full guide at our Facebook page.



As an example, many Southbankers rely on gas for hot water. To help reduce the cost, remember to shorten your shower time, and report or repair any hot water leaks. If you have a dishwasher, washing machine or dryer make



sure you have a full load before using it. Get into the habit of turning off all appliances you are not using at the plug so you can avoid the costs of the standby mode drawing electricity.

Change your lights to LEDs and turn off

lights when they are not in use. On warm days remember to close blinds and curtains and then open windows in the evenings when the air is cooler.

You can also consider switching your energy supplier to a renewable only supplier and if you are in an apartment building talk to the owners' corporation manager or committee to find out what they can do to negotiate a renewables contract of supply for the building.

We have continued to meet people moving into Southbank at our fortnightly meetups. Many come for coffee and stay to garden or join the watering roster or help at events.

Anyone is welcome to drop by and join in the discussions and gardening. The next fortnightly Saturday meetup is March 18, 10am in the garden at the front of the Boyd Community Hub.

### About the group

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

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

SOUTHBANK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

# What a start to the year

*Our committee has been as busy as ever with lobbying and planning the year ahead. I can feel there are going to be some great things happening this year for our community.*

It is great to finally see the first of the pedestrian crossings installed on Balston St. Needless to say, it has taken quite some time.

Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) first raised this with council pre-COVID, it has essentially taken three years for the wheels of bureaucracy to turn for this to come to fruition, but we are delighted to finally see this first one completed.

We are constantly in discussions with the council and the state government regarding road issues around Southbank as there are so many dangerous intersections. It is good to see the Power St and City Rd upgrade finally taking shape. We were highlighting the dangers of that intersection long before that tragic accident in 2021.

While on lobbying, we are acutely aware of the community disappointment/outrage at the loss of the basketball court at the Boyd Park. There is a lot of history with regard to the whole Boyd space, which SRA has been instrumental to from the outset when the JH Boyd School closed and the state government was entertaining the sale of the site. Fortunately, the council decided to purchase the site. Back to the basketball court ...

Originally the basketball court was supposed to have been installed at the front of the library where the current community garden is located. SRA didn't feel this was an appropriate place for a basketball court and suggested it be positioned where it had been, temporarily, until the completion of the transformation of the Kings Way undercroft, which included a basketball court.

We didn't foresee the construction of the residential apartments commencing any time before the completion of the undercroft, but we weren't to know, and nor was the council, of the delays with state government facilitation of the land beneath the undercroft.

Since the closure of the basketball court, SRA has held many discussions with the council and brainstormed ideas to somehow bring back a

basketball court.

One such initiative floated by SRA was for the council to enter into an agreement with the developer and landholder of Melbourne Square and utilise a section of the northwest corner (corner Balston and Kavanagh streets) as the proposed development on that site is not likely to begin before the completion of the Kings Way undercroft upgrade.

This would be a great location as it is still within the vicinity of the Boyd Park. We have even been as bold as suggesting finding a way to utilise the rooftop space above the electrical substation on the corner of Balston and Kavanagh streets (next to Imagine apartments).

After much brainstorming, what was concluded to be the simplest and quickest solution would be to TEMPORARILY utilise a section of the Boyd Park green open space.

As such, SRA is reaching out to our community to canvass its appetite on this solution to help guide our further lobbying efforts.

We know the basketball court was a much-loved part of our park, but we also know how valuable green open space is to our local community.

Hence, we don't claim to know the sentiment of the community with this initiative.

Below is a QR code to a poll where we would like to hear from you whether you are in support of, or not, of utilising part of the Boyd Park green open space for a basketball court.



Don't forget our lobbying voice is only as powerful as our membership base, you can join by visiting our website [southbankresidents.org.au](https://southbankresidents.org.au) or send us an email to [info@southbankresidents.org.au](mailto:info@southbankresidents.org.au) ●



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



METRO TUNNEL

# New contemporary art exhibition reveals the making of the Metro Tunnel

*As the opening of the Metro Tunnel draws closer, an upcoming contemporary art exhibition will offer a unique glimpse into the incredible feat of engineering taking place deep under Melbourne.*

Commissioned by the Metro Tunnel Creative Program, the *Making the Metro Tunnel – reflections by contemporary Australian artists* exhibition aims to explore and celebrate the massive

rail project that will transform how people move around Melbourne when it opens in 2025.

Artists, including painters, ceramicists, and sculptors, have taken inspiration from archaeological digs that took place before construction, heavy machinery, and the aesthetics of worksites and workers' equipment to produce their own portrayals of the project.

Paintings by Troy Argyros depict several important objects discovered during the project's archaeological digs that are now under the guardianship of Heritage Victoria.

Kenny Pittock's ceramics playfully represent items found in the digs that were not deemed significant but still contain clues to Melbourne's social history, from old beer cans to straws.



First Nations artists Jenna Lee and Iluka Sax-Williams with Dan Bowran have transformed fragments of post-European settlement objects from the digs into contemporary artworks.

Michele Hamer's intricate cross-stitch works use a warm material to translate photographs

of the concrete-lined tunnel and giant digging machines called roadheaders into art.

Harley Manifold's atmospheric oil paintings capture the activity – above and below ground – of construction sites busy with machinery and industry as workers build the tunnels and stations. Chelsea Gustafsson's paintings pick up the common visual references that tie all the diverse workers on the project together—the highly recognisable protective equipment such as hardhats, high visibility vests, steel-capped boots and safety glasses.

*Making the Metro Tunnel – reflections by contemporary Australian artists* opens April 1 and runs until May 7, at Domain House, Dallas Brooks Drive, Royal Botanic Gardens. ●



# What's on: March 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.



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, 5PM - 9PM  
**Thursday Nights at Malthouse**  
 Join some of the best DJs at Malthouse Outdoor Stage for this year's Summer Sessions.  
 March 9 and 16.



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.  
 MPavilion, Queen Victoria Gardens  
*Photo: John Gollings.*



SATURDAYS, 10AM - 12PM  
**SOUTHBANK SUSTAINABILITY GROUP**  
 Join a group of green sustainability enthusiasts who meet on the first and third Saturday of each month. Details on facebook.  
 Boyd Community Hub

# Business Directory

### Church

**St Johns**  
Southgate

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

### Physiotherapy

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### Real Estate

Ray White Southbank | Port Phillip  
 111 Clarendon Street, Southbank 3006  
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[www.raywhitesouthbank.com.au](http://www.raywhitesouthbank.com.au)

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### Public Notice

**PROPOSAL TO UPGRADE OPTUS MOBILE PHONE BASE STATION WITH 5G AT**

**M7814 South Wharf -0: 20 Convention Centre Place, South Wharf VIC 3006**  
**RFNSA reference: 3006024**

- The proposed facility consists of the addition of new 5G equipment and associated works as follows:
  - The installation of three (3) new panel antennas, 2.7m long on existing mounts on the existing rooftop facility
  - The installation of three (3) new panel antennas, 0.59m long on existing mounts on the existing rooftop facility
  - The installation of ancillary equipment including up to twelve (12) remote radio units, antenna mounts, cabling and works within the equipment shelter
- Optus regards the proposed installations as Low-impact Facilities under the *Telecommunications (Low-impact Facilities) Determination 2018* ("The Determination"), based on the description above.
- In accordance with Section 7 of C564:2020 Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment Code, we invite you to provide feedback about the proposal. Further information and/or comments should be directed to: Archie Aparicio of Genus at [Feedback@Genus.com.au](mailto:Feedback@Genus.com.au) or L2, 71-73 Alexander Street, Crows Nest NSW 2065 by **5pm on Monday, 3 April 2023**. Additional information may also be obtained from [www.rfnsa.com.au/3006024](http://www.rfnsa.com.au/3006024)

### Functions

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### Politician

We're here to help. Please get in touch if you need assistance.

Your Federal MP for Southbank.

**Josh Burns MP**  
 FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MACNAMARA

[joshburns.com.au](http://joshburns.com.au)  
[josh.burns.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:josh.burns.mp@aph.gov.au)  
 (03) 9534 8126  
 219 Barkly St, St Kilda VIC 3182

# SOUTHBANK NEWS

Talk to Southbank News owner Sean Car  
 t 0433 930 484 e [sean@hyperlocalnews.com.au](mailto:sean@hyperlocalnews.com.au)  
 about how to customise your campaign to our audience every month.

# Here today, gone tomorrow

**RayWhite**



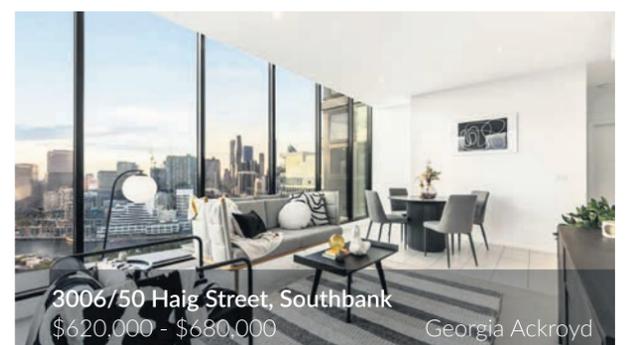
Scan QR for further details. Call us on 8102 0200 or email us via southbank.vic@raywhite.com to book an appraisal for sale or rental. Visit raywhitesouthbank.com.au for more details.



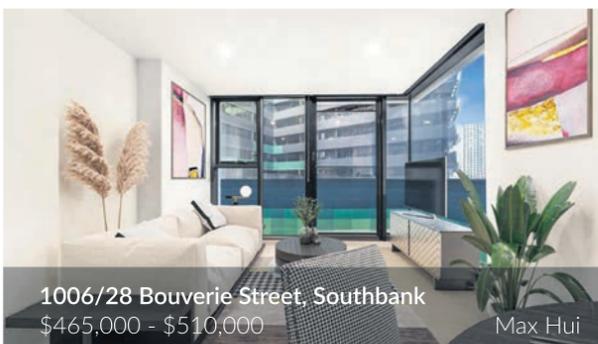
1106/109 Clarendon Street, Southbank  
\$495,000 - \$535,000  
Max Hui



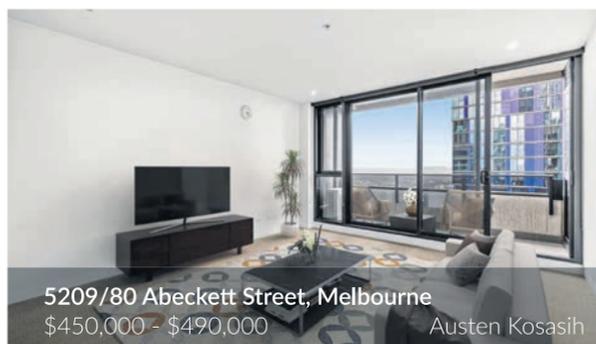
3303/70 Southbank Boulevard, Southbank  
\$560,000 - \$615,000  
Max Hui



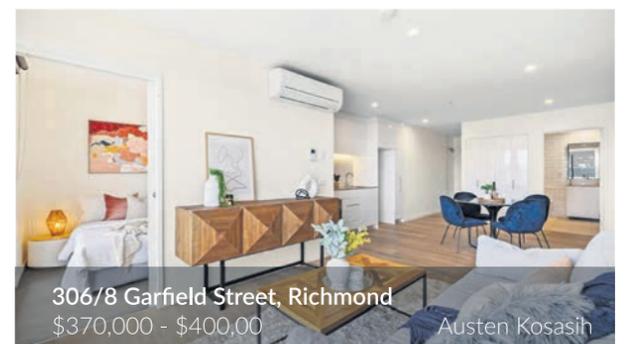
3006/50 Haig Street, Southbank  
\$620,000 - \$680,000  
Georgia Ackroyd



1006/28 Bouverie Street, Southbank  
\$465,000 - \$510,000  
Max Hui



5209/80 Abeckett Street, Melbourne  
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Austen Kosasih



306/8 Garfield Street, Richmond  
\$370,000 - \$400,000  
Austen Kosasih



107/8 Garfield Street, Richmond  
\$350,000 - \$370,000  
Austen Kosasih



1103/58 Clarke Street, Southbank  
\$280,000 - \$300,000  
Austen Kosasih



116/138 Camberwell Road, Hawthorn East  
\$440,000 - \$480,000  
Trent Bonnici



805b/609 Victoria Street, Abbotsford  
\$365,000 - \$399,000  
Max Hui



2/184 Murray Road, Preston  
\$550,000 - \$600,000  
Max Hui



107/1A Middlesex Road, Surrey Hills  
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Max Hui



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Austen Kosasih: 0422 396 900

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