

SOUTHBANK NEWS

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Puzzles & Trivia P22



Fishermans Bend Gymnastics Club calls for permanent home

The Fishermans Bend Gymnastics Club is fighting to find a long-term home, and tabled a petition with the City of Port Phillip last month calling on the council to support its cause. *Full story on page 9.*

Fears of displacement as Park Towers earmarked for redevelopment under state government plan

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
HOUSING

Dr Mohammed Ahmed, a public housing tenant at South Melbourne's Park Towers, fears his life will be uprooted without a viable alternative if his building is knocked down at some as yet unspecified point during the next 30 years.

Like many residents, he is concerned about the state government's plan to demolish and redevelop 44 high-rise public housing towers across Melbourne in what would be "Australia's biggest ever urban renewal project".

"I'm extremely happy to be able to live in South Melbourne. I would be depressed because I don't want to see the Park Towers demolished in my life," Dr Amed, 62, said, a retired veterinarian who lives with a disability af-

ter suffering a stroke eight months ago.

Dr Ahmed came to Australia from Ethiopia in 2012 and has lived at Park Towers at 332 Park St for five years in a three-bedroom unit he shares with his two teenage children and his cat, Chickpea.

"From my point of view, I consider this building an iconic building for Australia because this building is one of the first prefabrication buildings," he said.

"Keeping it would definitely be precious for the people. Improvements are welcome, but I don't think there's a shortage of money and technology to upgrade the building without demolishing it."

Some of the estates listed as first to go are Flemington, North Melbourne, and Carlton, with the buildings ranging from 50 to 70 years old.

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Victoria Barracks up for review, advocates call for heritage to be respected amid sale concerns

A cloud of doubt has been cast over the future of Southbank's historic Victoria Barracks after the federal government announced it would be reviewing its entire Defence estate portfolio.

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PLANNING

An independent audit, announced in late August, would consider the 5.7-hectare military site on St Kilda Rd, with its findings and recommendations to be presented to the government for consideration at the end of the year.

According to the government, the review would "consider a range of matters to ensure the Defence estate meets operational and capability requirements, now and in the future".

"In particular, the audit will examine whether the estate reflects contemporary needs in light of the government's decision to prioritise investment in Australia's northern network of bases, ports and barracks, in response to the Defence Strategic Review," the government said.

The Victoria Barracks is a prominent landmark, sitting opposite the Shrine of Remembrance and the Domain Parklands.

It is of great historical significance after being built between 1856 and 1872 to house the colonial government's soldiers and officers. During World War II the imposing bluestone building became the headquarters of the Australian War Cabinet.

Today, the site is used as the Department of Defence administrative centre.

While the audit is still in its early stages, it has nonetheless prompted community concern over the site's potential loss of heritage they say cannot be quantified or replaced once divested and possibly redeveloped into housing if the government found it to be surplus to its requirements.

Raelene Lockhorst, deputy director of professional development at the Australia Strategic Policy Institute, said it was their understanding that the Defence estate audit would consider whether the government should "consolidate, divest, or dispose of assets that no longer contribute to ADF (Australian Defence Force) capability and force posture requirements".

According to Ms Lockhorst, Victoria Barracks' is one of the most valuable sites in the Defence estate portfolio in terms of its location and size, but she added, "I would also argue that Victoria Barracks heritage value cannot be measured or replaced once divested".

"One of the key aims of the Defence estate is to recognise and manage heritage values; I would argue that a potential divestment of Victoria

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The deadline for the November edition is November 3.

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Victoria's new "Airbnb tax" only benefits Airbnb, and once again unit owners lose out

“

The Victorian Labor Government has announced a new 7.5 per cent tax on short-stay accommodation, being the first and only Australian state to do so.

”

The effect of this announcement is a body blow and a real kick in the guts to those apartment owners and residents who have been advocating for reform and regulation in the short-term accommodation sector.

Let's not mince words here – the new tax does nothing to curb the popularity of Airbnb, nor does it do anything to improve the liveability of neighbours and owners' corporations (OCs) that have a desperate problem with the noise and disruption of amenity that short-term stays bring with them.

The new 7.5 per cent tax will be passed on to guests staying in the accommodation. The tax is modest enough to not be too expensive to dissuade customers. Airbnb know this, as do the hosts. As does the Labor government. It will simply be business as usual.

What it does do is further legitimise and

entrench the practice of short-term letting in Victoria for 365 days of the year.

The City of Melbourne had earlier announced a proposal to curb short-term letting, and to introduce a cap of 180 nights per year. Well, less than two weeks later the Andrews Government (and Airbnb) have swiftly acted to put that proposal in the garbage bin.

Just when public interest groups such as We Live Here had finally managed to persuade the council to suggest some serious reform in the area, and then Airbnb and now former Premier Daniel Andrews saw fit to intervene.

You have to feel for Airbnb at this time. Less than a month ago, the new laws in New York City to curb short-term letting had finally taken effect, leaving a devastating hole in the company's revenue.

They had to act quickly, otherwise Melbourne might follow suit. Cue some frenzied lobbying to shore up support from the Labor Government, and poof – problem solved.

The Victorian Government looks great in announcing this reform – they get good headlines to rave about how "tough" they are on big business, and the feel-good factor of raising money for new social housing will provide a boost in ratings no doubt.

Meanwhile – Airbnb get what they want: stability. They get to know that Melbourne is open for business 365 days of the year.

Not 180 days of the year like it is in Sydney. Not like 180 days of the year, like it is in San Francisco and other parts of California. Not 120 days of the year like it is in Paris, or Barcelona.

Melbourne is the fifth largest market in the world for Airbnb. They can now watch the



revenue roll in for decades to come.

It's a classic win-win for the government, and for Airbnb. The only losers happen to be, well, everyone else.

So, did the Victorian Labor Government get played like a fiddle over this tax, or was it a joint approach?

We'll likely never get answers unless there is an upper house enquiry into how this tax was rushed through in five minutes flat.

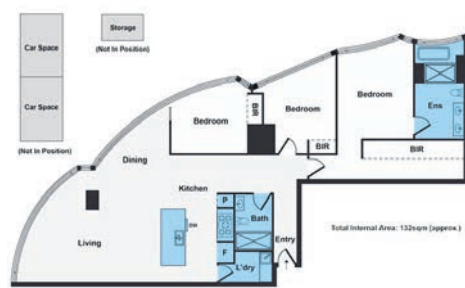
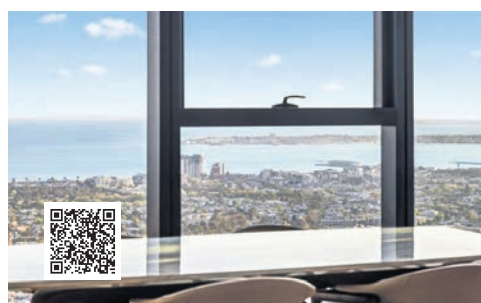
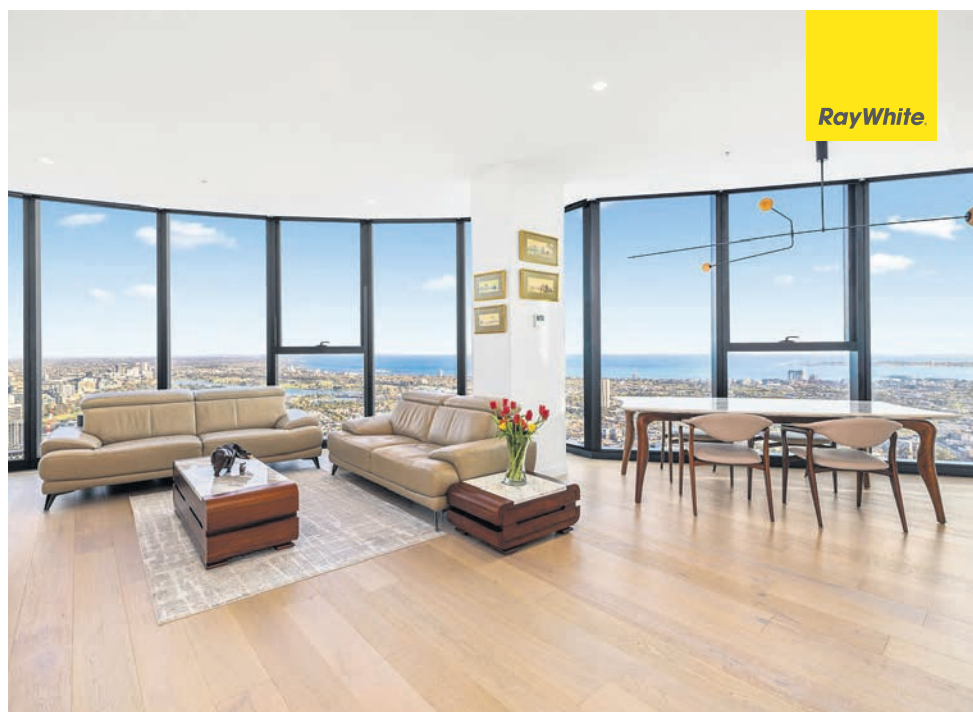
I'm sure there would be great public interest in getting to the bottom of how this happened. I'm not holding my breath though. ●



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Victoria Barracks up for review, advocates call for heritage to be respected amid sale concerns

Continued from page 1.

Barracks and the proposed divestment of the former repatriation hospital does not align with the objectives and had government invested in the sustainment of the assets at the right time, we would not be discussing this today," she said.

Ms Lockhorst said it was not known what the drivers were behind the audit, including whether there was incentive to free up capital for investment in Defence capability such as AUKUS or to reduce sustainment costs of operating a dilapidated heritage-listed asset.

"Further, without understanding the evaluation criteria that will be used to determine a divestment decision, it is hard to determine if Victoria Barracks will be identified as a suitable candidate."

"That said, decisions on retaining, consolidating, or divesting Defence estate are heavily influenced by the location, the size and value, the current use, the electorate in which it sits, and the attitudes of local community."

The Australian National Veterans Arts Museum (ANVAM), a not-for-profit community charity based in Southbank dedicated to the support and rehabilitation of veterans through the arts, has long sought to become trustee of the disused building at 310 St Kilda Rd (located within the Victoria Barracks footprint).

ANVAM's aim is to establish a veterans' arts and cultural institution including gallery, studios, cafe and retail spaces.

ANVAM chairman Mark Johnston said while it was too soon to pre-empt what the audit may consider in respect to the Victoria Barracks, he said any proposal to divest the land must be treated "very delicately" while preserving the site's rich historical and heritage significance.

He said such a move could be achieved based on precedent, in reference to the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust (Harbour Trust), which was established by the Australian Government in 2001 to protect former defence sites and return them to the people of Australia.

Sites under this trust feature heritage-listed structures and other remnants from Australia's colonial, maritime and military history.

"Applying this sort of principle to both Melbourne and Sydney's Barracks, if they were serious about actually selling them, is being very conscious of the history of both World War I and World War II," Mr Johnston said, adding Victoria Barracks represented a shared past and the sacrifices made by previous generations who served in the armed forces.

"Our history and heritage of service is important to us in the veteran community and to Australians, and to not take that into account in terms of those places where we have served ... it



▲ The main entrance to Victoria Barracks on St Kilda Rd.

Photo: John Torcasio.

would be in the face of what the Prime Minister has said that veterans deserve, and his cultural policy touting 'a place for every story'."

Mr Johnston said he hoped the Harbour Trust precedent would pave the way for a similar arrangement with ANVAM appointed as trustee of 310 St Kilda Rd, a former Repatriation Commission Outpatient Clinic built in 1937 for the wellbeing of World War I veterans.

He said members of ANVAM had met with Assistant Minister for Defence Matt Thistlethwaite on September 6, noting "we are in constructive discussions with the Minister and government".

In March last year, a feasibility report commissioned by the Department of Defence in relation to 310 St Kilda Rd put forward three options for Defence, including offices, a conference centre and childcare.

The Department of Defence did not respond directly to a series of questions about the future of Victoria Barracks, including site's estimated value or what was being considered for 310 St Kilda Rd.

Instead, a spokesperson said, "the Defence Estate Audit is enterprise-wide and all estate holdings are subject to consideration".

Community group Southbank3006 president David Hamilton said the site's history needed to be respected in any future plans for the area.

"While it is premature to jump to any conclusions as to what the review may find, the review

needs to recognise that this is a site with heritage buildings that have played a vital role in the lives of many Victorians for over a century," he said.

"If elements of the site were ever surplus to Defence requirements and available for redevelopment, then this should be the subject of wider community consultation, including how any proposed redevelopment is integrated into the needs and life of the wider Southbank community. This is essential."

Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) president Tony Penna said there was an opportunity for Victoria Barracks "to be transformed into much-needed community space".

"ANVAM has been a strong advocate for the benefits to the veteran community through an arts space for many years. SRA has been supportive of ANVAM with their advocacy for this space too."

In 2014, the City of Melbourne's Melbourne Arts Precinct Blueprint found possible future development could include the Victoria Barracks.

"Redevelopment could include preservation of heritage elements. Opened up, the grounds and barracks could host markets, festivals and other outdoor events and new pedestrian pathways would lead from St Kilda Rd to Wells St and beyond, integrating the site into the arts precinct and the civic spine of St Kilda Rd," it said. ●



Works tracking well for new linear park

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Significant progress has been made to transform Dodds St in Southbank into a vibrant green space with preparation for mounded gardens starting soon.

The \$6.5 million project, which spans from Southbank Blvd to Grant St, seeks to contribute to the area's sustainable urban environment while also enhancing the street's visual appeal in the heart of Melbourne's iconic Arts Precinct.

In an update to the community in September, the City of Melbourne said paving at the Southbank Boulevard end of the street was "well under way" with workers preparing for paving on the eastern footpath, preparing tree pits, digging, excavating, and remediating soil.

"Works on the Dodds St linear park are progressing well. The project is taking exciting steps forward to improve this under-explored part of the city," the council said.

Digging in the roadway began in January with the new park expected to open in December.

Public artwork has also been commissioned for the area with planning and design under way.

Once complete, the park will cover 1300 square metres of native grassland planting and 35 new trees set among paved bluestone pathways and gathering spaces. It will also increase the area's tree canopy and biodiversity and be a place for people of all abilities.

In the coming weeks, work will involve laying a concrete base, installing below-ground services, paving, installing light pole footings, and preparing for mounded gardens.

Dodds St is closed to public vehicles, but from October, vehicles will be able to use a shared zone of Dodds St from Southbank Blvd to the service lane next to the Melbourne Theatre Company.

This project forms stage two of the Southbank Boulevard and Dodds Street Draft concept plan endorsed by the council in 2017.

Residents say they are looking forward to the green space opening, which will link a future park at the ACCA forecourt, creating a "beautiful green corridor". ●

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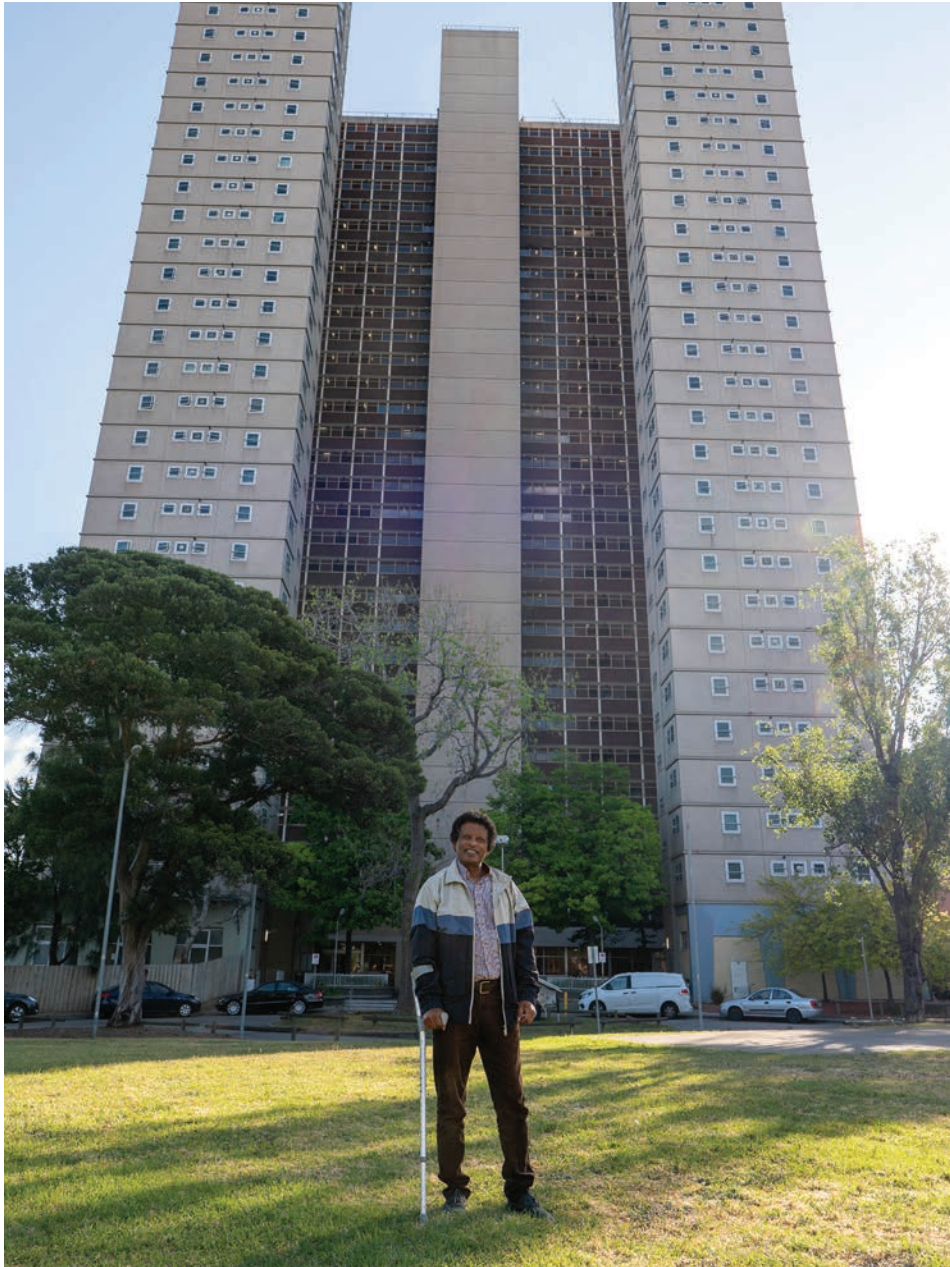
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Fears of displacement as Park Towers earmarked for redevelopment under state government plan

Continued from page 1.

But little information is known as to when or what will happen to residents when the Park Towers and other buildings are razed, leaving residents anxious and uncertain about what lies ahead, including relocating to unfamiliar areas.

The announcement was made as part of the much-awaited housing statement and the government's pledge to build 800,000 homes over the decade to 2034 to accommodate the state's growing population.

Former Premier Daniel Andrews said in September that "unless we take bold and decisive action now, Victorians will be paying the price for generations to come".

Currently, there are 10,000 people living across the 44 towers but after all the sites are rebuilt, the state government said 30,000 people were expected to be housed, along with a boost of 10 per cent more social housing across the sites.

However, it is reported that 11,000 would be public housing tenants, with 19,000 other residents "in a mixture of social and market housing". While the housing reforms have gained some support from advocates and community groups, the prospect of a public-private partnership with land being sold to developers has prompted fears the move could exacerbate the existing shortage of public housing.

Public Housing Residents' Network and Save Public Housing Collective spokesperson Cory Memery said, "it's going to be a relocation camp" with moving residents from "tower to tower" while new buildings go up.

"There are better ways to do it. They can retain, repair, and reinvest the money and keep people in the same communities they're already living in without disrupting their kids from school, their hospitals, or their community," he said.



Improvements are welcome, but I don't think there's a shortage of money and technology to upgrade the building without demolishing it.



State Greens MP for Melbourne Ellen Sandell said the proposed project "could be the end of public housing in Victoria", adding the Greens had demanded that the estates were rebuilt with 100 per cent public housing, "not expensive private apartments".

"Without this, the public housing waiting list and rental stress will continue to grow," she said.

Also calling for the government to reverse its decision is the Inner Melbourne Community Legal (IMCL), which said it "will not solve the housing crisis in this community, which is one comprised of vulnerable or marginalised people". ●



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Southbank set to host its first festival event of pre-loved treasures

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
EVENTS

Excitement is building in Southbank as the community prepares to host its first-ever festival at the Boyd Community Hub when it is transformed into a bustling market this spring.

Named the Re-Love Festival, the free event will feature second-hand treasures, workshops, kids' activities, entertainment and more when the nation-wide Garage Sale Trail initiative comes to the neighbourhood on Sunday, November 12 from 9am to 2pm.

Organisers are encouraging all community members to register a free stall, in what will be a chance for people to declutter their homes and give a new home to their belongings, that otherwise may end up in landfill.

The event will offer residents and visitors alike the chance to bag a bargain as they

explore a wide range of second-hand offerings including, but not limited to, antiques and collectables, clothing and accessories, home wares, books, kids' stuff, plants and garden tools and more.

The Garage Sale Trail's general manager Barbara Gill said they were thrilled to host the festival, with hopes it would become a fixture in the Southbank calendar.

"We're super-excited to be bringing this event to Southbank and to be providing a way for those living in unit blocks and apartments, who might not otherwise be able to host a garage sale, to make some extra cash selling items they no longer want or need," she said.

"It's free to participate in and is all about neighbours connecting, making some money and keeping their good stuff out of landfill, with a good dose of fun on the side."

The Garage Sale Trail is a not-for-profit organisation that runs a national festival of

garage sales across Australia, while supporting a sustainable way of living and fostering a strong sense of community. Last year almost 300,000 Australians participated in the event, saving three million kilos of items from landfill and generating \$4 million for local economies.

A community information session was held on September 16 at the Boyd Community Hub, with residents throwing their support behind the event, which is being supported by the City of Melbourne, the Victorian Government, and Sustainability Victoria. Anyone can register for a stall space whether it be a school, homeowner, community group, or local business. ●

For more information:
garagesaletrail.com.au/sale/the-re-love-festival



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CITY OF MELBOURNE

STUDENT Q&A

ARTS



Get to know a student's experience studying at The University of Melbourne's Faculty of Fine Arts and Music. Ellie Carroll is studying a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Music Theatre) at the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA).



PHOTOGRAPHY BY Livi Morrison & Ben Fon
ARTS & CULTURE



What motivated you to choose your degree?

After watching *The Sound of Music* countless times as a child, I decided that musicals were for me. The music theatre course at VCA is highly regarded and appears in programs of many professional productions worldwide. I didn't get into the course on my first audition, so I trained for two years full-time before re-auditioning and getting accepted in 2021.

Describe a typical day of study ...

We train from 9am to 6pm, five days a week. I'm currently in rehearsals for our graduating

production while maintaining regular dance, acting, and vocal classes. I'm also involved in weekly mock auditions with guest panellists and industry skills seminars with industry experts.

What has been your favourite experience?

Working on a production of *Elegies* in 2022. This was the first work our cohort performed in its entirety, especially after spending a good portion of our first year becoming far too friendly with Zoom; it was such a memorable experience.



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

We're lucky to study right in the thick of one of Australia's leading theatre hubs. We get the opportunity to keep our finger on the pulse, see all kinds of theatre in our city, and work with theatre makers with incredible arts careers.

What are your goals for the coming years?

Besides booking work in my chosen field, I want to follow where my curiosity leads me and create my own structure of classes and artistic practices. I want to tell stories I'm passionate about and that move others in the way I know art can move me.

You will soon perform in an upcoming production of the musical *Heathers*. What are you most looking forward to?

Heathers will be a fantastic time. This production has great music, clever writing, laughter, tears, horror, and elation. This satirical commentary on the American high school experience in the late '80s is nostalgic and eerily relevant to today's world. I'm excited to make the most of my last production before graduating. I'd tell you to buy tickets, but we sold out in four days! ●

New speed sensor installed at Southbank Promenade

An AI driven sensor, installed by the City of Melbourne, has given unprecedented statistical insight into traffic patterns on Southbank Promenade.



WORDS BY Edmund Coleman
SAFETY & SECURITY

The sensor is located at the southern end of the Evan Walker Bridge, and captures data from the intersection of Southbank Promenade, Southgate Avenue, and the Evan Walker Bridge.

Known as AIRS (Artificial Intelligence Road Survey), the sensor uses artificial intelligence to analyse video footage and collate both the amount and respective speeds of pedestrians, cyclists, and e-scooter riders.

The data shows that on an average weekday 27,000 pedestrians move through Southbank Promenade. On weekends, this number increases to 37,000 pedestrians.

Through Monday to Friday, just over 1000 cyclists ride through the promenade.

Of these cyclists however, only 15 per cent adhere to the 10km/h speed limits. More than one-in-10 ride at speeds of more than 20km/h.

Executive officer of the Yarra



▲ The speed sensor at Southbank Promenade.

River Business Association Tim Bracher said, "at long last we have irrefutable evidence that commuting cyclists and a large percentage of e-scooter riders are creating havoc and danger on the Promenade." "For many years, various authorities have been able to dismiss our concerns by saying that there is no evidence of a problem, citing that there are very few recorded instances of serious collision and hospitalisations," Mr Bracher said.

Cyclists typically ride slower on the weekends, and the number of riders decreases by 100.

The most popular day for e-scooters is Sunday, with an average of 330 daily e-scooters on the promenade each weekend. During the week the number of e-scooters is 270.

Of the weekday e-scooterists, 57 per cent travel faster than the designated 10km/h speed limit.

On weekends this improves

marginally, however more than one-in-three e-scooterists still travel over the speed limit.

The sensor is part of an ongoing campaign for traffic-flow data as part of the Southbank Pedestrian and Road Safety Study, which according to the City of Melbourne aims to improve pedestrian safety.

According to the City of Melbourne, the study aims to improve pedestrian safety, including the potential implementation of additional crossings.

The study is supported by the Southbank Residents' Association and the Southbank Safety and Security Committee.

AIRS technology is also in operation at Queen's Bridge, Royal Park Capital City Trail and Swanston St.

The data recorded by AIRS is "de-identified", meaning no video footage is relayed or stored in the City of Melbourne's database. ●



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Measles exposure site at Woolworths Melbourne Square

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
HEALTH

A “high alert” has been issued after a measles case was detected in a returned overseas traveller who visited a Southbank supermarket on September 20.

Victoria’s Department of Health (DoH) confirmed the positive case visited Woolworths at Melbourne Square between 5pm to 7pm while infectious and is urging those who visited the store during this time to monitor the onset of symptoms up to Sunday October 8.

“Anyone who presents with signs and symptoms compatible with measles should be tested and notified to the DoH,” the department said. “There should be an especially high level of suspicion if they have travelled overseas or visited any the site listed above and are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated for measles.”

According to the Department of Health, symptoms of measles include fever, severe cough, sore or red eyes (conjunctivitis) and runny nose (coryza), followed by a maculopapular rash usually starting on the face before spreading down the body. Symptoms can develop seven to 18 days after exposure.

“Anyone who develops symptoms of measles should seek medical care. Call the health service beforehand to advise that you have been exposed to measles and wear a mask,” it said.

Four cases of measles have been identified in Victoria since January.

Measles is a highly infectious viral illness that can lead to uncommon but serious complications, such as pneumonia and brain inflammation (encephalitis).

The department said suspected cases should be tested, advised to isolate, and notified to the Department of Health immediately by calling 1300 651 160. ●

Roaming cats could be kept at home 24 hours under new council policy

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
ANIMAL WELFARE

Cat owners may have to keep their feline companions within the boundaries of their homes “at all times” under a proposed 24-hour containment policy being considered by the City of Melbourne.

The plan, set out in a motion by Councillor Dr Olivia Ball, could affect more than 4400 households across the municipality with owners who have one or more cats, half of which live in apartments.

According to Cr Dr Ball, the policy would ensure the safety and welfare of all cats.

“Containment benefits cats by protecting them from injury and disease caused by fighting between cats, from dog attacks, snake bite, poisoning, road accident trauma or other misadventure, and from getting lost or irretrievably separated,” she said.

Between 2020 and 2021 the council impounded 355 cats, a jump of 62 per cent between 2016 and 2017 when 219 cats were found wandering the streets.

Under the plan, Cr Dr Ball has requested the council to produce a report by March next year which could consider “requiring all domestic cats to be confined to the property of their owner at all times, with reasonable exceptions, under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*” and prohibit cats from “environmentally sensitive areas”.

At the time of publishing, the motion was considered at the council’s Future Melbourne Committee meeting on October 3.

Cr Dr Ball said mandatory cat containment would be consistent with the council’s biodiversity emergency declaration and its Nature in the City strategy.

“Some Victorian councils have introduced night-time curfews for cats, allowing them to



▲ Cats like Lulu will need to be kept inside for 24 hours a day under a new City of Melbourne containment policy.

roam freely during the day. The proposal set out in the motion is not a curfew, but a policy of 24-hour containment to the owner’s property,” she said.

“Pets die on roads during the day, just as they do at night; and cats kill wildlife in the daytime, just as they do at night.”

Cr Dr Ball also outlined that Animal Welfare Victoria (AWV) recommended cat owners with a yard to build a cat enclosure or cat-proof fencing with balcony netting being an option for apartment-dwellers.

According to the AWV’s website, “Cats don’t need to roam. If their basic needs are met, cats enjoy longer and healthier lives when safely contained to the property”.

Knox City Council’s introduced a 24-hour containment policy in April last year with first offences attracted a \$91 fine while later infringements incurred a \$545 fine. ●



Acrobats take over!

EVENTS

An extraordinary outdoor circus, a vibrant pop-up festival precinct and a celebration of lights illuminating Melbourne after dark are among the latest events being supported by the City of Melbourne to boost evening trade for businesses this October.

The second tranche of the council and the Victorian Government’s Dusk till Dawn Activation Grants program was announced on October 3, supporting four new activations with up to \$100,000 each, including:

- **In Common** by One Fell Swoop Circus and Melbourne Fringe – a large-scale live performance combining sculpture and circus in thrilling acrobatics.
- **Festival Park** by Melbourne Fringe – an after-hours outdoor festival precinct at Queen Victoria Market, bringing together a pop-up circus tent, an outdoor live performance stage, art installations and food and drink market stalls.
- **Melbourne Emerging Screen Festival** by 40 billion Pixels – a 17-day festival showcasing more than 100 video installations across two venues.
- **Diwali at Docklands** by SarasCare – a celebration of lights bringing the sounds and sights of Diwali to life in the heart of Docklands.

More information: melbourne.vic.gov.au ●



Community events hosted by SRA

Exploring Melbourne Men’s Shed, 16th Oct

Find about the comprehensive range of tools in their workshop at Federation Square and the various community activities they participate in. Hear about the experiences of four of the regulars. The Men’s Shed is open to men and women of all ages.



Time: 7:00pm, Date: Mon, 16th Oct

Place: Assembly Hall, Boyd Community Hub, 207 City Rd

Pedestrian Safety Information Session, 1st Nov

Meet the City of Melbourne Transport Engineering team at this information session where they will outline the proposed pedestrian improvement projects. The projects have been devised following the community consultation in March and April this year. Have your say about the proposed projects and broader pedestrian safety issues in Southbank.

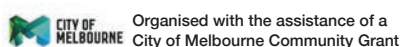
To attend please register at: participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/road-safety-southbank

Time: 7:00pm, Date: Wed, 1st Nov

Light refreshments will be provided.

Place: Assembly Hall, Boyd Community Hub, 207 City Rd

For more details on both, go to www.southbankresidents.org.au



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PROPOSAL TO UPGRADE MOBILE PHONE BASE STATION WITH 5G M0232 Victoria Barracks: 312-318 St Kilda Road, SouthBank VIC 3006 (RFNSA 3006002)

- The proposed facility consists of the upgrade of an existing site with 4G and 5G technologies and associated works as follows:
 - The removal and reuse of existing Optus and Vodafone equipment
 - The installation of two (2) new Optus panel antennas, 2.7m long on new mounts
 - The installation of one (1) new Optus panel antenna, 2.0m long on a new mount
 - The installation of two (2) new Optus panel antennas, 0.79 long on new mounts
 - The installation of three (3) new Optus panel antennas, 0.59 long on new mounts
 - The installation of two (2) new Vodafone panel antennas, 2.7m long on new mounts
 - The installation of one (1) new Vodafone panel antenna, 2.1m long on a new mount
 - The installation of three (3) new Vodafone panel antennas, 0.75m long on new mounts
 - The installation of ancillary equipment including eleven (11) Optus remote radio units and twelve (12) Vodafone remote radio units, feeders, cables, combiners, GPS antennas, mounts, and other associated equipment essential to the operation and safety of the facility
- Optus and Vodafone regard the proposed installation 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 or Unit 2-3, 54 Lyn Pde, Prestons NSW 2170 by **5pm on Monday, 23 October 2023**. Additional information may also be obtained from www.rfnsa.com.au/3006002.



▲ Members Fishermans Bend Gymnastics Club hope to find a permanent home.

Photos: Ajay Viswanath.

Fishermans Bend Gymnastics Club calls for permanent home

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Ajay Viswanath*
COMMUNITY

A petition calling for a long-term home for the popular Fishermans Bend Gymnastics Club (FBGC), which has been “overlooked for too long”, has been tabled with the City of Port Phillip.

Currently located in Port Melbourne, the club has been forced to relocate four to five times during the past eight years at a cost of \$80,000 per move because of rent increases/facility works.

It had formerly leased a space in Boundary Rd in Montague between 2016 and 2020 but after the rent went up by \$30,000 annually from \$120,000 to \$150,000, it was just simply out of reach.

The petition, which attracted 1350 signatures, emphasised the need for a permanent facility to cater to the growing demands of the club’s members.

The not-for-profit club has existed in the community for 70 years and is the only dedicated gymnastics club in the City of Port Phillip.

Club committee member Mandy Moore said a long-term venue would not only secure the club’s future but also provide a “platform for young gymnasts to chase their dreams and achieve their full potential and quality”.

She said their Port Melbourne venue was located within a building complex where apartments were being built, with their lease due to expire in June 2025, which had added to their sense of urgency.

“We don’t mind if it was the City of Melbourne, we’re open to all councils obviously.”

Ms Moore said an added benefit of using a council facility would be for the money to go back into the community, rather than to private landlords, which the club believes “doesn’t make sense”.

According to the petition that was launched online, the “FBGC can further accommodate more senior groups, special needs groups and school groups if a long-term purpose-built facility is secured”.



“City of Port Phillip would hugely benefit from a purpose-built facility that is a community hub, with FBGC running alongside an adjoining maternal health centre/ kindergarten/school and meeting rooms/wellness space as population growth will further increase demand for these services.”

The club said it also prided itself on its inclusiveness and accessibility, and subsidised fees and offered classes for marginalised, vulnerable, and disadvantaged children, as well as offering one-on-one and all-abilities sessions for children with special needs.

Among its achievements was being awarded the Gymnastics Victoria’s Club of the Year (medium category) in 2017 to 2018 with the club continuing to produce talented gymnasts.

“FBGC has been overlooked for too long and is deserving of a long-term home,” the petition said.

At the time of publishing, the petition was considered by councillors at their October 4 meeting, with the council’s management noting it would provide a response to a future council meeting. ●



Visitor numbers back on track at South Melbourne Market

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

Visitation levels at the South Melbourne Market have jumped in the past year, reaching near pre-pandemic levels, according to the annual report released in October.

Almost 5.15 million people visited the iconic market in 2022-23 – an increase of 28 per cent compared to the previous year.

The market’s committee chairperson Amanda Stevens shared her enthusiasm for the market’s recent achievements, noting it had been a “fantastic year”.

“Key achievements have included the completion of a new outdoor dining precinct (adjacent to the Food Hall), the return of the popular Port Phillip Mussel and Jazz Festival, delivering an end of year operating surplus and launching the Environmental Sustainability Strategy, a first for the Market,” she said in the report.

Visitation levels, however, were down seven per cent on pre-pandemic period, but the report revealed that 96 per cent of traders were satisfied with the market as a venue for business, with 97 per cent of customers rating the market as “good/very good”.

Ms Stevens said the “passion, knowledge, hard work and community spirit” of traders gave the market “the friendly village atmosphere that makes it so special and keeps the locals and visitors coming back time and again”.

Stall holder of 10 years Cong Tran, who runs Everything Aussie, selling Australian souvenirs, said business was up and could “see a lot more people coming to the market”.

“It’s a great vibe. I think this is the best so far. There’s lots of Asian tourists coming in recent months, before

it was the Western tourists,” he said.

Freckly Ollie owner Diana, who sells a range of luxury children’s wear, said the market was more vibrant and positive in recent times, enhancing the overall experience for visitors.

“Coming through COVID, anything is amazing,” she said, noting more interstate clients were visiting her stall in-person.

“I think it’s very different for each trader. From our perspective, it is more about the season and people rather than just from a traffic sense for our type of retail.”

“Because we sell baby clothing, we tend to get more locals. Tourists shop with us occasionally but only to buy small items because of the difference in seasons overseas.”

However, a long-term trader who wished to remain anonymous, said while the market felt busier, “it’s nowhere near what it used to be”.

“People are visiting more but they’re not spending, they’re just passing time because they can’t afford to go anywhere,” they said.

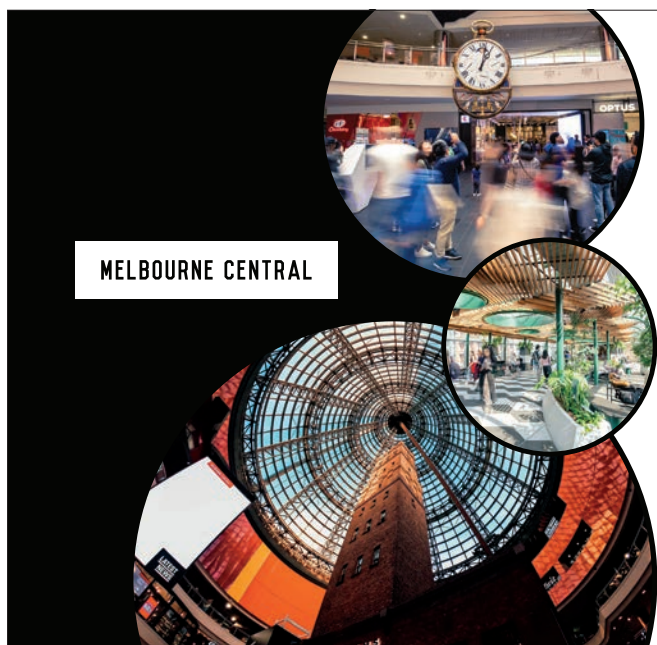
“They’re not strong shoppers or they’re not relying on the market as an everyday shopping precinct, it’s more a casual visitation thing.”

“It’s one of those things that is a sign of the times. The direction of how people shop is changing.”

But they said suppliers had reported that “we are the best market so that’s a positive”.

The market posted an operating surplus of \$380,000 which was “higher than anticipated due to a reduction in operating expenses”.

“While other retail precincts are still experiencing high post-covid vacancies, the market retained 100 per cent occupancy and strong demand from businesses wishing to have a stall at the market, supporting the achievement of the income budget through strong rental income,” the report said. ●



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Walking together: migrants, the Uluru Statement, and our shared Australian journey

As a Lebanese Australian and a councillor at the City of Melbourne, I bear witness to the stunning tapestry of cultures that Australia prides itself on. Yet, beneath this rich weave lies a narrative of dispossession, longing, and resilience.

WORDS BY *Cr Jamal Hakim*
OPINION



As representatives of migrant communities, we must acknowledge this story and take actionable steps to bridge the chasm between our First Peoples and the representation they rightly deserve.

Migrants in Australia, though proud of their adopted homeland, are no strangers to the occasional pang of alienation. The taunts of the high school playground are never far, even today.

These fleeting moments prompt reflection: if such feelings arise from our relatively recent settlement, how profound must be the sense of dispossession among those whose lineage on this land stretches back more than 65,000 years?

On Thursday, September 21 at Melbourne Town Hall, the eminent Noel Pearson provided a perspective that struck a chord deep within many of us. He poignantly remarked on how Australia had generously offered refuge, wealth, and privilege to countless migrants. This vast land has become home, allowing many to claim both an old country and a new home country.

Yet, for our Aboriginal brothers and sisters, it's a singular bond – the same country underfoot, spanning past, present, and future.

The Uluru Statement and the Voice are emblematic of a hand extended in solidarity, from those who lost immeasurably due to a historical oversight in recognition.

The pressing question then becomes: who, in understanding this profound gesture, would dismiss this hand of recognition and peace?

Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, with their deep-rooted connection to this land, have experienced not just dispossession but a silencing of their voice.

Reports like the Closing the Gap continually underscore the stark disparities Indigenous Australians face.

But beyond the statistics, it's the narrative of lost community and suppressed voices that pierces the heart.

I had the privilege to hear Uncle Archie Roach on one of his last public performances before he passed and heard his story as a child of the stolen generation in person. There was

not a dry eye at the Bowl.

The Uluru Statement from the Heart isn't merely a declaration; it's a poignant invitation.

First Nations people invite us all to walk with them in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.

The statement's profound resonance captures their aspirations for recognition, for a voice, and most importantly, for the rightful place in their own country. It's a call to journey together, to engage in a genuine partnership, and to craft a shared future.

Endorsing a Voice to Parliament is both a recognition and a rectification. This isn't just about representation – it's about community restoration, understanding, and an earnest commitment to inclusivity. It's a promise to ensure that no voice, no matter how historically suppressed, remains unheard.

With the Uluru Statement as our guiding star, Australia's multicultural communities can become formidable allies in this journey. Our unique histories and experiences can amplify the cause, forging a united narrative of hope and progress. We've seen the transformative power of Indigenous integration in nations like New Zealand and Canada. Now, it's Australia's turn to answer the call and champion its Indigenous heritage.

To every Australian, especially my fellow migrants: the "Yes" vote is more than a choice; it's our answer to the heartfelt invitation extended by our First Peoples. By championing the Voice to Parliament, we not only start a journey to right historical wrongs but also shape a nation that truly honours and celebrates its diverse lineage.

The Uluru Statement from the Heart is a beacon, guiding us towards reconciliation and unity. It's time we step into this journey, hand in hand, and create an Australia where every voice, every story, and every heart is acknowledged and valued. ●

Jamal Hakim is a councillor at the City of Melbourne and a board member of Democracy in Colour.

No call yet on Greenline cyclists, construction due to start in April 2024

WORDS BY *David Schout*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne is still considering whether Northbank's transformation will be cyclist-free, as construction is set to begin after 2024's Moomba.

The council is weighing up whether to make Greenline a pedestrian-only path, as construction on the \$300m project scheduled to start in April next year.

The council has enlisted the help of Copenhagen-based urban design experts Gehl Architects to assist in determining whether cyclists should travel on the four-kilometre Northbank trail from Birrarung Marr to the Bolte Bridge.

In a September presentation to the Yarra River Business Association, Greenline director Mark Allan said in an ideal world the "city shaping" project would allow cyclists and pedestrians to coexist.

"How do we make it a space that people feel safe and comfortable in? We're aware that people love riding bicycles in Melbourne, and we want to encourage slow speed active transport along the Greenline," he said.

However, Mr Allan acknowledged that conflicts between those on foot, and those on two wheels, has the capacity to change how people feel about a space.

For years the City of Melbourne and Victoria Police have struggled to control the shared space across the Yarra River at Southbank Promenade, with a number of accidents and collisions recorded on the busy thoroughfare.

"It's a question we're very keen to address," he said when asked if the council will bar cyclists from Greenline.

"We know that when pedestrians have to share space with cyclists that are moving at high speed, you feel unsafe and it's uncomfortable. Importantly, we're looking at a number of ways of sharing the space. We like the idea that you might be able to, at a slow speed, move along for four kilometres because for some, if you're older, that's probably a more efficient way to get along the Greenline. But there are a number of ways we'd look to do it, and that might be a combination of shared bike paths on adjacent streets, we might incorporate design treatment and materials and finishes that discourage high-speed bicycle users."

Mr Allan said the decision on whether to bar cyclists was being considered, but at this stage he did not have an answer and said Gehl's expertise would help them reach the right conclusion.

"We're really pleased to be working with Gehl Architects, Copenhagen. For those [who] have visited there, clearly the Danes have a different mindset to how bicycles work in their downtowns. But importantly what they are doing is bringing international best practice to that. So, I haven't got the solution here to say it's definitely going to be separated, or definitely going to be shared – what we are going to do is work through that as we develop the detail in the precinct plans with our designers to make



▲ Greenline director Mark Allan provides an update on the \$300m project at a September Yarra River Business Association lunch.

everyone to feel comfortable in that space."

It was also revealed that works on site one of the Greenline project, at Birrarung Marr east of Princes Bridge, would commence in April 2024.

Originally forecast to start in mid-2023, the works will see new boardwalks and native habitats installed by the end of next year.

"We will look to execute a contract this month with a builder, to start construction immediately after Moomba. We'd like to get some early works under way in the first 450 metres, roughly from the eastern end at Speakers Corner, and we're going to build that almost to Federation Square. The program is at the moment an ambitious one, but we plan to be in the ground in April and then have that project largely finished in that calendar year."

The Birrarung Marr precinct is the first of five precincts to be transformed as part of the Greenline project, with the other four precincts (from east to west) dubbed The Falls, River Park, Maritime and Saltwater Wharf.

Mr Allan said The Falls precinct, which includes the areas outside Banana Alley vaults, Melbourne Aquarium and Enterprize Park, was a sector they have identified as having the biggest upside.

"[It] is probably the one we would say has the greatest potential. Walking down there now, you can draw your own conclusions about how you feel in that space but there's enormous opportunities to bring about change."

The council has since confirmed that Synam Infrastructure has been awarded the contract to complete site one of the Birrarung Marr precinct, transforming the river's edge from Batman Avenue to the eastern edge of Federation Square at ArtPlay with 450 metres of new boardwalks, viewpoints and green spaces for play and recreation.

Detailed design and early investigative works for site one are expected to begin later this year.

Citywide sale to fund Greenline?

In September the *Herald Sun* reported that the council was considering to sell Citywide in a projected \$300 million windfall, which could be used to pay for the remainder of Greenline.

The waste management company is a wholly owned subsidiary of the City of Melbourne that operates independently.

In response, a council spokesperson told *Southbank News*, "We're always looking at ways to enhance our assets to improve services for the community." ●

SOUTHBANK NEWS

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Peter Elliott Architects to deliver vision of South Melbourne Town Hall revamp



Much-anticipated work to breathe new life into the South Melbourne Town Hall is expected to start early next year, after Peter Elliott Architects was announced as the project's leader.



WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
HERITAGE



▲ Peter Elliott (left) with Australian National Academy of Music chair John Daley (right). Photo: Laura Manariti.



▲ With City of Port Phillip Mayor Heather Cunsolo.



The heritage-listed 140-year-old building is due for a major restoration and renewal after it had fallen into disrepair and sitting empty since July 2020 following the collapse of the roof in 2018 that triggered the fire system, causing water damage.

A \$60 million restoration will be completed in two phases with the first involving a clear-out, which was expected to be completed in September before the second phase sees renewal works start to return the building to its former glory.

The Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM) secured a 35-year lease of the South Melbourne Town Hall from the City of Port Phillip in March after councillors threw its support behind the organisation and its vision.

ANAM, which is internationally renowned as the only purely performance classical music training academy in Australia, and one of only

a few in the world, pledged \$20.5 million to deliver new rehearsal and performance spaces for students, as well as a new café and kitchen.

In an exciting development in September, ANAM announced that Peter Elliott Architects would be its lead consultants for the town hall's revamp.

ANAM's chair John Daley expressed his delight, saying "Peter Elliott brings a deep appreciation of the significance of this wonderful building and the expertise to creatively unlock its potential for people today and in the future."

"Peter Elliott Architects also has the broader vision to locate it at the centre of a precinct, which is possibly one of Melbourne's best kept urban secrets," he said.

"We hope that by inter-weaving our project with the City of Port Phillip works to repair and update the building's structure and basic functions, we can together deliver real value

to the local Port Phillip and wider Melbourne communities".

Peter Elliott Architects' founding director and design leader Peter Elliott said his firm shared ANAM's vision and acknowledged the town hall, designed by architect Charles Webb, was "one of Melbourne's architectural jewels".

"It is a rare privilege to be engaged with such a building," he said.

"We believe that a restored and renewed Town Hall will be quite unlike any other civic building in Melbourne."

"I am personally excited by the potential for our project in the town hall to pave the way for the entire Emerald Hill Precinct to be transformed into one of the country's most important cultural and community precincts in the coming decades."

"Like ANAM we are mindful too of the importance of this special site for First Nations

people and are committed to weaving their stories and narratives through the project."

Peter Elliott Architects' projects include the Victorian Parliament Members' Annexe, the Francis Ormond Building and former Magistrate's Court (RMIT), Ian Potter Centre for the Performing Arts (Monash University) and Tolarno Galleries.

Port Phillip Mayor Heather Cunsolo said, "The much-loved South Melbourne Town Hall will soon come to life with the recent appointment of Peter Elliott Architects by ANAM, working closely with our Council to deliver this significant and much awaited project."

Construction for the project is expected to finish in 2025, with ANAM planning to "return home" in 2026.

ANAM is in talks with the Victorian and Federal Governments, as well as Australian philanthropists regarding its vision. ●

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Your City of Melbourne community update

CELEBRATING OUR CITY'S HERITAGE FOR THE FUTURE

Recognising and celebrating the social and architectural heritage that defines our streets and neighbourhoods is an essential part of our planning work as Melbourne continues to grow and change.

We're currently reviewing the heritage of our municipality to better understand its physical, social and cultural value, and to find out what distinguishes it from other municipalities in Melbourne.

Early next year, we'll begin consultation on our draft heritage strategy which will guide our work for the next 10 years.

We will engage with the community about the challenges and opportunities that heritage can help address, after we release our discussion paper.

To stay up to date, visit participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/heritage-strategy



WHAT DOES HERITAGE MEAN TO YOU?

Places of cultural significance often provide a deep and inspirational sense of connection to community and neighbourhoods, to the past and lived experiences. They can also help to build our future.

Think about which heritage places are important to you, and imagine which sites Melburnians might cherish into the future.

Share your memories, images and love letters for all things that celebrate Melbourne's heritage at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/heritage-strategy or tag #TimelessMelbourne on social media channels.

TREASURES TELL THE EVOLVING HISTORY OF MELBOURNE



The collection features Moomba and Olympic memorabilia along with contemporary Aboriginal artwork



A wander around the fourth floor of Melbourne Town Hall is like entering a portal to the past.

From the first brick ever laid in the city, anti-Vietnam War posters, and a tea set made for Queen Elizabeth II to photo albums filled with black and white photos of potholes, and the keys to the city, the City of Melbourne Arts and Heritage Collection is a veritable treasure trove of the eclectic and authentic.

With more than 13,000 items on display, the collection is a tangible reminder of the stories, people and events that have shaped our city - and our psyche.

Members of the public can take a walk back through memory lane with the 16-room collection now open for guided tours three days a week.

The items are a celebration of all that is synonymous with the city, with Eddie Butler-Bowdon, Arts and Heritage Collection Program Manager, declaring it "the best capital city collection in the country".

There's Lord Mayors' chairs, ceremonial robes, reliquary, the Melbourne Coat of Arms, Melbourne 1956 Olympics mementos, and shelf upon shelf of civic gifts and miscellaneous Melbourne memorabilia.

It's hard to play favourites, but for Eddie, a commemorative Moomba-branded bottle of 1980s sparkling Spumante is high on the list.

"It would've been awful but it really captures a moment in time," he said.

Alongside the bubbles is a slew of Moomba keepsakes, parade float decorations, portraits of Moomba monarchs resplendent in their crowns and photos of Moomba Masters champions.

Amongst the glamour and the gawdy is an extensive collection of civil engineering records including municipal plans and maps, street signs and parking meters.

The collection is ever-evolving and increasingly reflects the inclusiveness of our city.

With both artworks and heritage items, it reflects Melbourne's proud multiculturalism while also celebrating the traditional custodians of the land, the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung and Bunurong Boon Wurrung peoples.

While the artworks by contemporary Aboriginal artists are some of the more recent additions to the collection, they celebrate the oldest continuing culture in the world, spanning more than 60,000 years.

An emu feather skirt by Yorta Yorta artist Lyn Thorpe and a plate-steel maquette of a traditional eel trap provide a rich insight into the traditions and culture of the First Peoples of the land.

Eddie said the once-in-a-lifetime relocation of the collection from Little Bourke Street to Melbourne Town Hall means all items are now housed in a purpose-built temperature and humidity-controlled environment to preserve the pieces and their quality.

The relocation has also made way for our landmark Make Room project, with 50 studio apartments to be built for our most vulnerable community members at the Little Bourke Street site.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said she was pleased the collection had returned to its spiritual home at Town Hall and was now open for the community to enjoy.

"This is a collection you can't see anywhere else," she said.

"The collection tour will take people on a journey through historical events and moments in our history, beautifully captured by some of our most famous artists and photographers."

You can explore it all during a one-hour tour every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at Melbourne Town Hall, 90-130 Swanston Street, Melbourne.



Josh Muir, Dootigala before Batmania #1, 2022

Book online at whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au

Six things we love about Melbourne's heritage buildings



Want to makeover your heritage property? Before you get to work, find out what makes your historic building so special, and if you're eligible for a heritage grant.

Beautiful heritage buildings help make our city a great place to live, work and visit, so we have contributed \$300,000 to a multi-year heritage funding program to help people keep them looking tip-top.

A little restoration work can go a long way to transform your building and keep it in great condition for years to come. But do you know your tuck-pointing from your parapets?

Here are six common heritage features to look out for on Melbourne streets.

Tuck-pointing

When two colours of mortar are used to give the impression of very fine brickwork joints. As well as looking beautiful, tuck-pointing can extend the life of a wall.

Polychromatic brickwork

When bricks of different colours are arranged in a pattern to highlight architectural features. Paint may need to be removed to reveal the beauty of this stunning brickwork, which originated in the 1860s.

Decorative keystones

The wedge-shaped stone piece at the apex of a masonry arch, such as a door or window. For decoration, keystones (also known as capstones) are often made larger than what is structurally required.

Parapets

An extension of a wall beyond the edge of a roof, such as a guardrail, terrace, balcony or walkway. A parapet was originally used to defend buildings from attack.

Decorative cornices

The decorative trim where a wall meets a roof or ceiling. Cornices originated in Greek and Roman

architecture and can be found on the inside and outside of buildings.

Pediments

A decorative gable, usually positioned above a doorway or window and triangular in shape. Pediments are most often found in classical and neoclassical architecture.

If you own a heritage building in the City of Melbourne, located within a heritage overlay, you can apply for funding year-round.

The works you have in mind must be visible from the public realm.

We've also launched a special funding stream for landmark properties, and those that belong to or are leased by not-for-profit, charity or community groups.

For information on heritage grants or for a copy of the Heritage Owners Guide and the Heritage Design Guide, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/heritage

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Your City of Melbourne community update



Celebrating our built heritage

For those who live across our city's great boulevard in South Yarra it's no secret this leafy green inner-city enclave has retained its unique character and charm.

And it's why the City of Melbourne is committed to identifying and protecting its heritage places, buildings and objects.

The Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) recently endorsed the South Yarra Heritage Review Amendment C426, proceeding to the next step of the planning scheme amendment process.

It follows a review of heritage in South Yarra to better understand the area's physical and cultural heritage, and community consultation to find out what makes South Yarra distinctive.

It was the first comprehensive review of heritage here since 1985. The independent review was undertaken by GML Heritage Consultants and was largely focused on previously under-protected interwar and post war places. The review included in-depth research into the history of the buildings, streets and parks of South Yarra.

Among a number of recommendations, the amendment includes changing the heritage category of 351 places, applying 16 new individual Heritage Overlays and Statements of Significance, applying new Heritage Precincts and Statements of Significance to the Yarra Boathouses Precinct and the Pasley Street and Park Place Precinct, and revising the boundary and adding a new Statement of Significance for Hoddle Bridge.

This complex review process ran from 2020 until 2022 and included the assessment of more than 800 places.

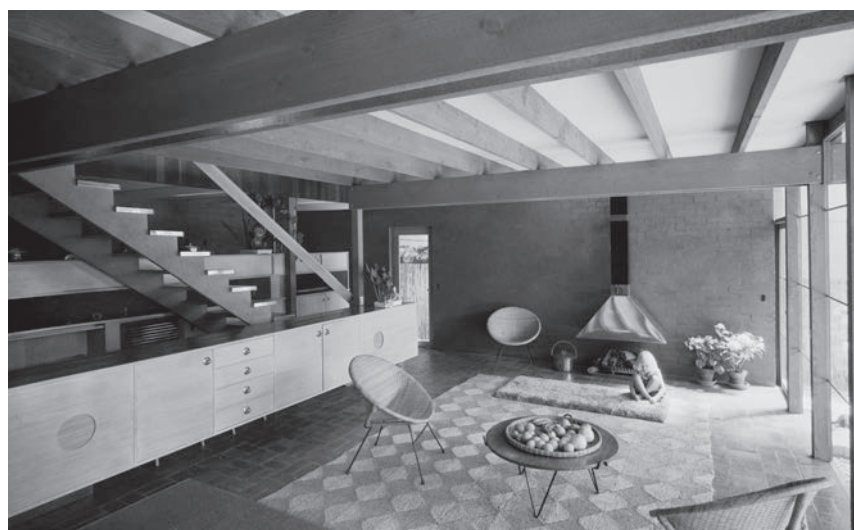
It's the latest study in a rolling program of heritage reviews across the

municipality to ensure we have up-to-date information to protect our valued places and to better understand the physical, social and cultural heritage of the neighbourhood.

Today, South Yarra is home to a diverse range of high-quality architecture, including its post-war and interwar flats.

Robin Boyd was arguably one of the most influential architects in Australia, leaving a great legacy in South Yarra. He was a public educator, designer, author and critic, known for his 1960 book *The Australian Ugliness* which critiques Australian suburbia.

His most well-known work, Robin Boyd House II at 290 Walsh Street, is a home he designed for his family and is now the home of the Robin Boyd Foundation.

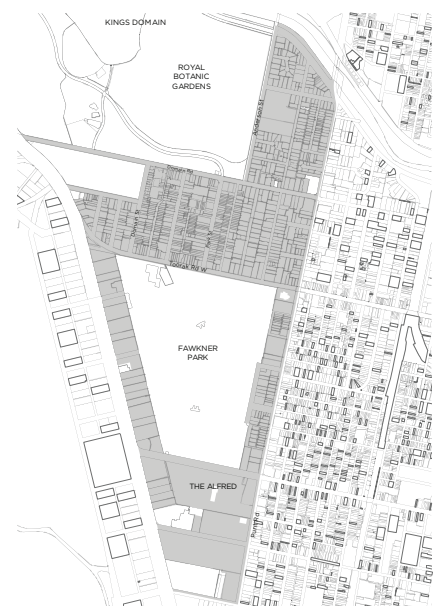


During community consultation on the review, about 30 residents and heritage lovers attended the South Yarra heritage walking tour. The tour focused on the interwar flats along Marne Street and post-war apartment buildings, Domain Park on Domain Road, and Fairlie flats on Anderson Street.

Interwar and postwar flats were a focus of the review as they have been historically under-protected.

Following FMC endorsement, the amendment will progress to an independent Planning Panel, before the amendment returns to FMC next year.

Visit participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/amendment-c426 to learn more about the outcomes of the South Yarra Heritage Review.



KEEP IN TOUCH

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Arts Precinct

Melbourne Theatre Company reveals highly anticipated 2024 season

Following an unforgettable, 70-year anniversary season in 2023, Melbourne Theatre Company (MTC) has announced a stellar line-up of performances for 2024.

WORDS BY *Georgie Atkins*

Under the leadership of MTC artistic director and co-CEO Anne-Louise Sarks for the second year running, the company will feature in 12 productions throughout the season, showcasing a variety of works from Pulitzer prize-winning dramas and internationally renowned plays, to new Australian writing and First Peoples theatre collaborations.

The coming season's productions follow MTC's commitment to telling relatable and inspiring stories, while also celebrating how far they've already come as one of Australia's leading theatre companies.

"Season 2024 will continue to build and strengthen MTC's position a step ahead of the cultural zeitgeist, and invite audiences into conversations about the things, big and small, that preoccupy us collectively at this moment," Ms Sarks said.

Among the featured productions include two new Australian works, two MTC commissioned-works, seven works from Australian writers, four Pulitzer Prize winners, three works from MTC's Writers' Program NEXT STAGE, four cross-industry collaborations with interstate theatre companies, as well as a collaboration with Australia's longest established First Peoples theatre company, ILBIJERRI Theatre Company. "Audiences across season 2023 have responded so strongly to our Australian works," Ms Sarks said. "From *Sunday and Jacky to Bloom and Prima Facie*, confirming there is no shortage of appetite for a wide range of homegrown stories on our stages."

The season will begin in January with Australian writer Matthew White's *Seventeen* (main featured image) directed by Matt Edgerton, which explores themes of transitioning from teenage hood to adulthood.

Additional Australian writing will be showcased in Nathan Maynard's *37* from NEXT STAGE, Kendall Feaver's award-winning *The Almighty*



Sometimes, Emma Mary Hall's *World Problems*, Merylnn Tong's new work *Golden Blood* (pictured bottom right), as well as the Melbourne opening of Joanna Murray-Smith's *Julia*, following sold-out seasons in Sydney and Canberra. The 2024 season will finish in December with an incredible performance of Dean Bryant, Mathew Frank and Sheridan Harbridge's *My Brilliant Career*, a musical adaptation of the iconic Australian novel by Miles Franklin.

"We are more committed than ever to providing a platform for the stories that define Australia

and presenting works that spark conversation and help people understand the world around them," Ms Sarks said.

Other productions lined up for the season include Zinnie Harris' *Meet Me at Dawn*, Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and Pulitzer Prize-winning productions *English* by Sanaz Toossi, *Topdog/Underdog* by Suzan-Lori Parks, and *Cost of Living* by Martyna Majok. MTC's collaboration with ILBIJERRI Theatre Company will also introduce audiences to *Blak in the Room* for the first time, a space that has



evolved from ILBIJERRI's BlakWrights Program to showcase First Peoples voices and stories in the theatre industry.

"At a time defined by 'what to stream next', season 2024 is our invitation to experience the magic of live theatre here in Melbourne." ●

For more information:
mtc.com.au

"Long term friends and collaborators" announce official partnership

WORDS BY *Georgie Atkins*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Arts Centre Melb.*

Arts Centre Melbourne has announced an official partnership with the University of Melbourne (UoM) in a move that is set to "foster cultural development within the Melbourne Arts Precinct".

The partnership aims to reinforce the "longstanding relationship between the two organisations", with both parties indicating a shared interest in "education, connection, artistic innovation and collaboration."

"We're proud to partner with our colleagues at Arts Centre Melbourne to deliver new projects that will enhance the cultural life of our city," deputy vice-chancellor of global culture and engagement, professor Michael Wesley said.

Collaborations will be underpinned by the establishment of five key priorities:

- Precinct and Place
- Training and Learning
- Indigenous Knowledges
- Research
- Programming and Venues



▲ From L-R: Professor Richard Kurth, Professor Sara Wills, Arts Centre Melbourne Executive Director, Strategy, Advocacy and Partnerships Fiona Poletti, Professor Marie Sierra, Professor Emma Redding, Arts Centre Melbourne Deputy CEO Tammy Willenberg, and Arts Centre Melbourne Director of Infrastructure Mark Baldwin.

"It's been incredibly important to ideate and map out our five themes so that we can ensure the partnership is strategic, mutually beneficial and long term," partnerships manager Siobhan Kranz told *Southbank News*.

Arts Centre Melbourne's chief executive officer Karen Quinlan AM said she was looking forward to the "wide-reaching impact" that the partnership will bring with a focus on

these values.

Students from UoM's Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) and the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music will be able to access significant advantages as a result of the partnership, including professional development opportunities, hands-on industry experience, and access to Arts Centre Melbourne's state-of-the-art facilities. In previous collaborations, UoM stu-

dents from the Grimwade Centre for Cultural Materials Conservation have been able to work alongside Arts Centre Melbourne's Australian Performing Arts Collection (APAC) in acquiring iconic costumes by Akira Isogawa from the Sydney Dance Company wardrobe.

"By strengthening this relationship, we not only broaden prospects for our students and researchers but also re-

inforce the UoM's standing as a global hub for arts, culture, and Indigenous knowledge," Mr Wesley said.

Supporting the partnership's commitment to integrating Indigenous knowledge is UoM's recently launched Indigenous Strategy, Murmuk Djerring, as well as Arts Centre Melbourne's appointment of Troy Walsh as executive director of First Nations, equity and inclusion.

The announcement comes in light of Dr Eddie Cubillo's recent resignation as associate dean of UoM's Melbourne Law School (MLS) due to allegations of perpetuating racism he faced at the institution.

In a lecture delivered at the University of Sydney in August that has been removed from the university's website as a result of ongoing legal issues, Dr Cubillo described "casual and pervasive racism" as an everyday occurrence within academic institutions such as UoM.

Dr Cubillo highlighted both the immediate need to establish an anti-racism body at the university, as well as a mandatory Indigenous legal subject as part of the curriculum at MLS. ●



KIM DUMAYNE

The beauty in a career change

For Kim Dumayne, living life to the fullest means trying new things regardless of age or stage in life.

WORDS BY *Afraa Kori*

After 15 years as an interior designer, Dumayne made a powerful move to switch careers and pursue photography. "A career switch to photography came very naturally having already been involved in an art and design profession. I became more interested in the practice of image making as a form of expression and communication," he said. "I have been greatly influenced by the great photographers such as Irving Penn for his still life editorial work, William Eggleston's mundane street photography and Saul Leiter's abstract urban compositions." Dumayne aims to "create images that are both visually pleasing and conceptually interesting". "Through my still life photography, I often start with an idea or narrative to explore and represent visually. I like to incorporate layers within my im-



ages so that they become more than just a pretty picture. I would like to think that my photography is recognisable for a mix of undefinable elements – whimsy, nostalgia and humour – to hold the viewer's attention," he said. "On the other hand, in my urban photography, I enjoy the randomness the urban landscape provides. It becomes almost a form of meditation trying to find interesting perspectives and making seemingly random elements come together in a harmony. I like to distill a scene down to a form of minimalism." Dumayne, who is studying at Photography Studies College (PSC) said it helped him get closer to his career goals and vision for life. "PSC has provided valuable access to a network connected to industry through the teachers themselves as well as extra seminars and exhibitions

and all manner of industry-relevant insights," he said. "I have really learned what my niche is and what kind of photographic work I love to create. "I feel I have gained a genuine gateway to a photography community that I would not otherwise have. In my experience, the college does a great job at supporting students in this regard." "I have always enjoyed making things and being creative, but I wouldn't say it's always been easy to express myself creatively. Partly because I'm pretty introverted when I feel like I'm being judged." "A large benefit of studying has been getting used to the process of producing work, presenting it and being critiqued. It's made me realise it's not the end of something, it's just the beginning of how to improve. Photography has become my vehicle of expression quite naturally and gradually." For Dumayne, whether it's sharing stories about people or social issues, or creating brand awareness and selling services or products, photography is also a great way to connect with the community. "Through my photography, I am either trying to present a narrative that is relatable or intriguing, or I am trying to provide an emotional escape," he said. "I would like to be working either for myself or for an agency providing visual content for brands, businesses or individuals. I would also like to present my creative fine art photographic work through exhibitions. Who knows, it could be a mix of all of that!". ●

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



NGV: 2024 Winter Masterpieces revealed

WORDS BY *Edmund Coleman*

More than 500 breathtaking ancient Egyptian artefacts will come to Melbourne from the British Museum when the "world-exclusive" *Pharaoh* exhibition arrives at the NGV next winter. Leading visitors through 3000 years of Egyptian antiquity, *Pharaoh* is a highly ambitious presentation of the British Museum's collection of Egyptian artefacts, and the largest international loan in the controversial London institution's history. *Pharaoh* will present a gargantuan statue of Ramses II alongside one of the most complete, enduring sculptures of his grandson, Sety II. Among treasured jewellery and sacred relics, other vestiges include a limestone tomb wall inscribed with hieroglyphs and a colossal 1.5-tonne fist from the temple of Ptah. Beyond the trappings and godly grandeur of the Egyptian elite, *Pharaoh* also aims to give the public a personal insight into everyday life in one of the most alluring and astonishingly accomplished ancient civilisations. The exhibition marks the 20th year of the NGV's Melbourne *Winter Masterpieces* series and is predicted to bring thousands to Melbourne. Announcing the exhibition, Victorian Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Steve Dimopoulos said, "*Pharaoh* is an international exclusive exhibition that's set to captivate visitors next winter, drawing crowds from across the state, country and beyond." "This Melbourne *Winter Masterpieces* exhibition marks a 20-year track record of bringing the world's most iconic art and cultural exhibitions to Melbourne." Director of the NGV Tony Ellwood AM said, "*Pharaoh* seeks to introduce a new generation of visitors to the perennially fascinating visual culture of ancient Egypt through an unprecedented exhibition of sculpture, architecture, jewellery and more from the British Museum in London." *Pharaoh* will be on display from June 14 to October 6, 2024, at NGV International. ●

For more information:
ngv.vic.gov.au

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Image by Patrick Bychner

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Southbanker

From IT to busking, Billy follows his love of music

Billy Advic has taken a leap of faith and he couldn't be happier.

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*

The 59-year-old Southbank resident is exploring his musical side after taking up busking in the streets of the CBD.

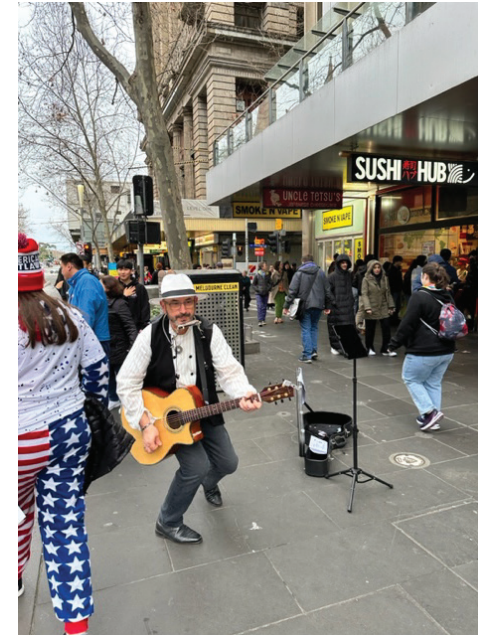
A general manager of an IT company by day, Billy wanted to embrace his love of music by performing live to an audience, which, for years, felt daunting.

But he's now strumming his acoustic guitar with a newfound confidence and enjoying being part of the city's cultural fabric.

"I took out a busker's permit as a challenge – a dare to myself really, since I've never done any kind of street performance before," he said.

"I was amazed at how many people stopped by to have a chat and sing along – I just loved it, totally."

Billy said he had worked in IT all his life, but music was always his passion, noting he was a "big fan" of Bob Dylan, John Denver, Neil Young, and '80s and '90s Aussie rock.



"When I was about 14, a family friend gave me a very old nylon string classical guitar and the *John Wesley Harding* vinyl record by Bob Dylan. I was instantly hooked on Dylan's music because all I wanted to do is play songs (any songs), and Dylan songs were easy to play," he said.

Today, he loves that the power of music was fulfilling and being able to share it with the world on the streets of Melbourne – but noted he wouldn't be quitting his day job.

"I busked for about two hours and played a medley of Dylan and other popular acoustic songs. I earned my first ever income from entertaining others – a total of \$19.05 – woo hoo!"

"The most heartfelt moment was when a young boy maybe five or six years old came up to me and said he had no money to give, so get

gave me his balloon instead. How charming!"

A grandfather of two, Billy moved to Melbourne from Perth just over eight years ago. He recently moved to Southbank and loves the lifestyle, particularly the "carnival-like feeling" in the evenings.

"Melbourne city and Southbank certainly have a cultural buzz about them and it's so nice to be among it all."

While he's taking time to recover from knee surgery, Bill said he looked forward to being "out on the streets busking away".

"I also love listening and watching other buskers and performers along the boulevard – there's some truly amazing talent on display."

Looking ahead, he said he would ultimately love to play at venues after Christmas when he has a "more comprehensive set list ready". ●

BUSINESS

Income solutions for today's investor

WORDS BY *Daryl Hill*
AUTHORISED REP. OF LA TROBE FINANCIAL

In a world that is always changing, investors are constantly searching for high-quality, consistent income solutions.

La Trobe Financial's performance record in times of volatility has proven popular with investors for more than seven decades.

Established in 1952 and now with \$17 billion of assets under management, La Trobe Financial is Australia's flagship alternative asset manager, specialising in funding and investment solutions.

Across its history, La Trobe Financial has built a deep reservoir of trust with investors. A proven investment partner for institutional and retail investors alike, La Trobe Financial operates Australia's largest retail credit fund.

The La Trobe Australian Credit Fund is the highest rated, most diversified and widely awarded fund in its asset class. The credit fund's portfolio accounts provide low-volatility variable monthly income across a range of investment options. The flagship 12-month term account currently offers a variable rate of return of 6.25 per cent* per annum. The rate is set monthly, and income distributions are also made monthly.

It has an incredible track record of performance, including zero investor losses since it commenced as an investment offering in October 2002. It has won *Money* magazine's award for "Best Credit Fund – Mortgages" for the past 14 years.

*For terms and conditions, continue reading online at southbanklocalnews.com.au ●

For more information:
latrobefinancial.com.au

Come for Wakuda's dining, and stay for the karaoke

There is a new venue calling Melbourne's Midcity Centre home promising to deliver a dining and entertainment experience that "fosters connections and creates lasting memories through the universal pleasure of good food and fun times".

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

When you step into Wakuda Japanese Restaurant, you're instantly transported to Japan.

The decor, the apple blossoms, the furnishings, the vibe; it's like a mini-Japanese getaway. And the staff, well, they don't just serve great food; they sprinkle a little "omotenashi" (Japanese hospitality) on everything.

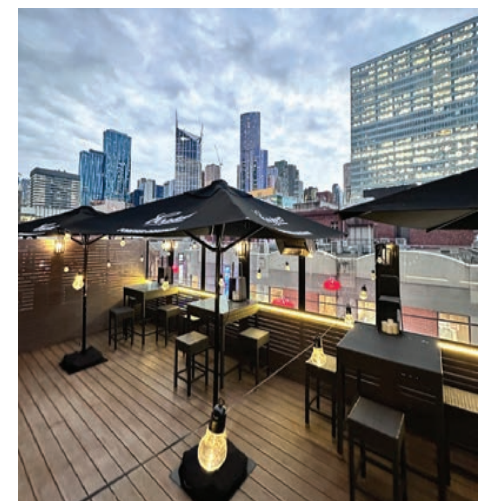
"Who doesn't love a dining experience that's more than just a meal, but a story you'll retell to your friends?" owner John Wong said. "Wakuda is that kind of place, where every bite and every moment make memories that last."

"There's something for everyone here. We've spent the past few months rebranding to introduce new spaces, new menus, offer private function packages and entertain the late-night crowds with karaoke and a cocktail bar."

"There's a genuine passion that drives our team. It's our privilege to be able to bring people together, celebrate diversity, share memorable moments, showcase culinary creativity, and strive for continuous improvement."

Wakuda is a place where you celebrate the big stuff and the small stuff.

The multi-storey venue is an all-in-one offering, providing locals with the ultimate spot for



your spring or summer late afternoon drinks on the rooftop balcony, before you move indoors to enjoy shabushabu hot pot in a private booth or share some of their signature dishes.

Next on your night at Wakuda is a few cocktails at the level-three bar, and then finish your night off with karaoke in one of the five VIP rooms.

Wakuda's head chef Bob San said that he loved what his career as a chef had given him, and that "creating culinary dishes is an art".

According to Mr Wong, customers are raving about Wakuda's latest signature dishes curated by his head chef, like their truffle string scallops and tuna tacos.

"Even something as simple as edamame, with a touch of Wakuda spicy sauce creates something extraordinary," Mr Wong said.

"The secret? It's all about using fresh ingredients and well-rehearsed culinary skills that add a magical touch and leave you craving more."

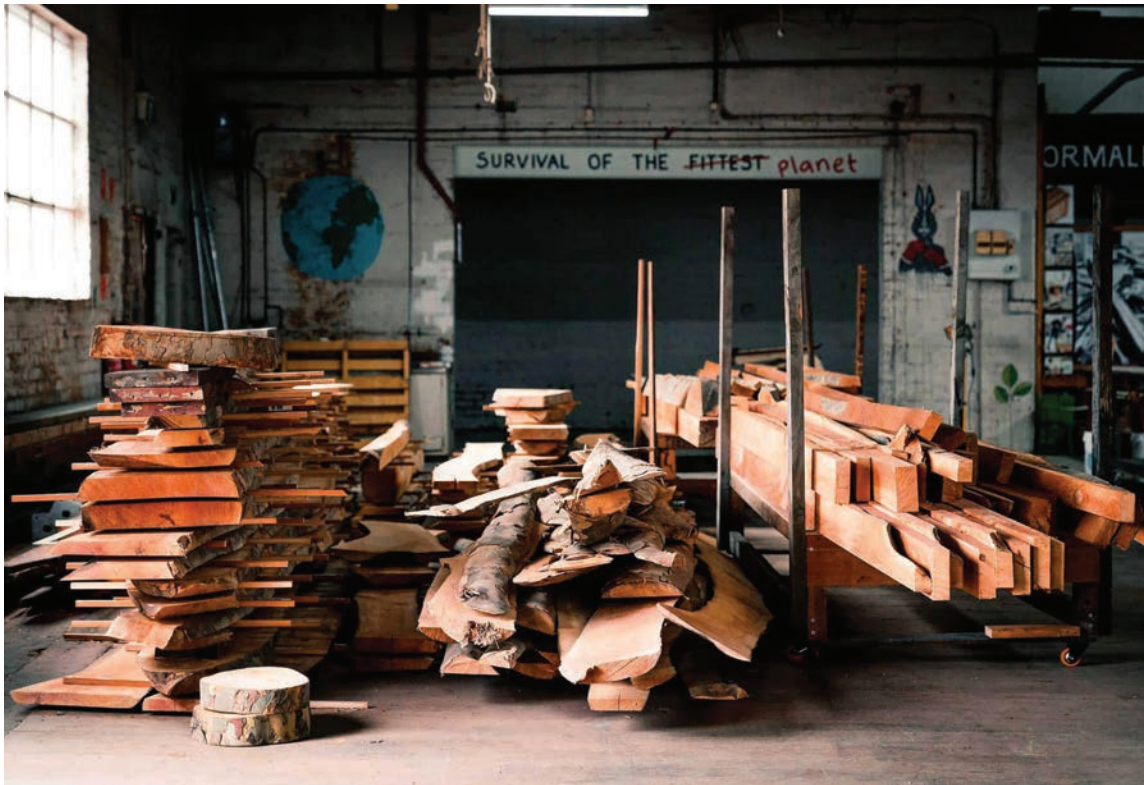
Mr Wong is also part-owner of Tian38 on Flinders Ln which offers a contemporary and progressive approach to Singaporean Chinese cuisine.

Tian38 have been awarded numerous hospitality industry awards including Asian Good Food Guide Readers' Choice Award for 2022 and 2023, as well as Victorian Restaurant & Catering Award Asian Finalist two years in a row.

Mr Wong believes that food is one of the most authentic ways to experience a culture. It's not just about flavours and ingredients; it's about the stories, histories, and traditions that come together on a plate.

With five private VIP rooms available for private group bookings of 10, 15 or 25 guests, each equipped with state-of-the-art sound systems and furnished with comfortable leather seating. The Karaoke experience is the perfect way to entertain your guests after dinner, or perhaps kick start your bachelorette party. ●

For more information:
wakuda.com.au



How the MAPT project is reusing, reducing, and recycling

The Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation is a historic city-shaping project in many ways.

WORDS BY *Melbourne Arts Precinct Corporation*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Tom Graham*

It is the largest cultural infrastructure project in Australia's history and the precinct is being designed with forward-thinking strategies around sustainability, biodiversity, and minimising carbon impact as a driving force.

With sustainability as a key focus, the project partners are looking at different ways to reuse, reduce, and recycle. One of the significant project milestones is the collaboration with Revival Projects, an Australian B Corp accredited existing materials consultant, which specialises in sustainable design and construction.

Revival was established with a unique ambition to make sustainable building practice more accessible to everyone. Over the next six years, Revival will be working closely with the project and design teams to explore how trees removed from the precinct for construction can be reused and repurposed through their urban tree recovery initiative.

Director of Revival Projects Robbie Neville explains how the urban tree recovery initiative can help to repurpose and reuse existing materials.

"Through this initiative, we can do something

extremely special helping people utilise trees that need to be cut down," Neville said. "When trees from our city need to be cut down or removed for construction, we have made it possible to approach this resource as responsible custodians. We're here to help make the most of that resource and make it more accessible to use that resource."

The removal of trees in the precinct is being done thoughtfully and professionally, taking into consideration the welfare of local wildlife, local biodiversity, the community's connection to the trees and leading sustainability practices.

The trees from the area have been brought to Revival's urban tree recovery facility in Collingwood, where they have begun the process of milling and exploring the most feasible applications for use in ways that are respectful of the materials, resourceful, and environmentally conscious.

The project partners are also working on another important initiative in terms of sustainability for the precinct – a new 18,000-square-metre urban garden. This expansive public space will be designed to change with the seasons, be climate resilient and foster biodiversity. When complete, it will add new green space to the heart of the Melbourne Arts Precinct for all visitors, workers, and local residents to enjoy. ●

For more information:
artsprecinct.melbourne

Support for renters

Demand for rental properties is skyrocketing. These days, the reality for most people trying to land a rental is that they find they are just one of dozens of applicants at an inspection.

WORDS BY *Nina Taylor*
STATE MP FOR ALBERT PARK

We know the best thing we can do to make rental properties more affordable for more Victorians is build more of them.

Everyone deserves the chance to have a safe, secure, and affordable home – whether you own it or not. But when it comes to protecting renters' rights, there is always more work to do to make sure tenants get a fairer deal.

Victoria already has some of the strongest rental protections in the country. The Victorian Government has worked hard to expand and protect renters' rights, with more than 130 reforms already in place since 2018.

Our recently released Housing Statement includes many major reforms to boost housing supply and affordability. Here are some of the key reforms helping Victorian renters:

- We will restrict rent increases between successive fixed-term leases, cracking down on an emerging trend which has seen some landlords evict tenants at the end of their first fixed-term lease in order to raise the rent substantially when re-listing the rental property. If agents or landlords are issuing a new lease after they have evicted previous tenants on their first fixed-term one, they will have to offer the property at the same rent for at least 12 months. It will reduce the incentive for landlords to churn through renters by evicting them and give renters more certainty over their living arrangements.
- In 2021, we made it illegal for real estate agents or landlords to solicit or encourage higher offers than the advertised price of a rental property. However, a tight rental market with vacancy rates at record lows has put an incredible amount of pressure on prospective tenants. Increasingly, we are seeing people make their own unsolicited bids to try to give



their applications a competitive edge. We will close this loophole, making it an offence to accept bids, and introduce tougher penalties for agents and landlords.

- With more people in Victoria renting than ever before, it is inevitable that the number of rental disputes has increased, too. Often, a rental dispute can be just one of a range of cost-of-living pressures a renter could be facing. VCAT should be a last resort for tenants and landlords, not the first stop. We will establish Rental Dispute Resolution Victoria, providing a one-stop shop for renters, agents, and landlords to resolve tenancy disputes over rent, damages, repairs and bonds. It will have a clear pathway to settle issues in a faster, fairer, and cheaper way – freeing up VCAT for more serious or complicated matters.
- We will build a portable rental bond scheme, where tenants can carry their rental bond from one property directly to another, rather than having to pay a new bond each time. It will ease the financial burden on tenants, who will not have to expend a substantial amount of money every time they move or wait until they have received their old bond back to pay their new one. It will also streamline the administrative process for agents and property managers, who handle dozens of rentals at any one time. And it will create a more efficient rental market, which is good news for both renters and landlords. ●



Reformation
9am Sunday 29 October 2023
Eucharist with Bach cantata
Gelobet sei der Herr, mein Gott (BWV129)
for 3 soloists, choir, strings, 2 oboes, flute,
3 trumpets, timpani and continuo
St Johns Bach Orchestra
directed by Graham Lieschke



Every Sunday
9am Worship
Check our website for updates

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



LIZZY
I will be voting "YES" in the referendum



MICHAEL
I will be voting "YES" in the referendum

Faces of Southbank

Question:
How will you be voting at the referendum for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament on October 14?



SID
I will be voting "YES" in the referendum



UJJWAL
I will be voting "YES" in the referendum

SOUTHBANK SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

Championing the four pillars of sustainability



September saw a series of events throughout Melbourne built around the theme of sustainability.



WORDS BY *Maria Tarrant*

What was interesting was to hear the range of discussions considering human, social, economic, and environmental sustainability. These are the four pillars of sustainability.

- Human sustainability considers how to improve people's health, education and training and access to services so that we can improve the human capital in society.
- Social sustainability is about improving society through sustainable development including developing social cohesion and equality in the community.
- Economic sustainability aims to improve the standard of living while addressing environmental and social risks.
- Environmental sustainability has at its core achieving positive economic outcomes without doing any harm, in the short- or long-term, to the environment.

We need to think about all four of these concepts together when exploring how we plan to live more sustainably.



In a practical sense many of the activities of the Southbank Sustainability Group (SSG) try to integrate these four concepts. Our events bring together people of Southbank for a common purpose, building cohesion and knowledge, often saving money, and reducing our environmental footprint.

Our next event is a free workshop (supported by grant funding from the City of Melbourne) designed to teach you the art of caring for and repairing your winter woollens. It is on Saturday, October 14, 11.30am to 1pm in the Assembly Hall at the Boyd Community Hub, 207 City Rd. You can book a place on Eventbrite. Numbers are limited so you will need to book a place. More details can be found at our Facebook page.

And, there is another great Southbank focused event coming up in November, with the nationwide Garage Sale Trail initiative coming

to Southbank on Sunday, November 12.

As part of this there will be the Re-love Festival, which will feature a pre-loved market, repair workshops, kids' activities, food, local entertainment and more, making this is an event for all the community.

The organisers are currently looking for stallholders keen to turn their stash into cash and host a stall at the event. It's free to book plus tables and chairs are provided. Find out more and book a stall at garagesaletrail.com.au/sale/the-re-love-festival or contact the organisers at contactus@garagesaletrail.com.au

We are seeing the benefits of the efforts of members who have been tending the community garden at the Boyd Community Hub. We have been harvesting turnips. Radishes, lettuces, and kale. The crop of broad beans is well under way, and we are seeing lots of bees and insects enjoying the lavender and other flowers.

And, if you would like to learn a little about three of the members of SSG and what they enjoy about Southbank go online and read about them at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/southbank-neighbourhood-portal/stories

Visit our Facebook page if you are looking for information on how to live more sustainably.



There are guides on subjects as diverse as sustainable travel, reducing the impacts of your pets on the environment, volunteering and food composting.

About the group

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

If you are interested in getting involved with SSG, send us an email or come to one of the upcoming fortnightly Saturday meet-ups on October 14 or 28. ●

SOUTHBANK3006

Southbankers, it's time get out your diaries and start saving these dates!

When Southbank3006 was formed in February 2022 our aim was to bring together the diverse community of Southbank, improve the liveability, culture, and the connected feeling in our vertical village.

WORDS BY *Jannine Pattison*
VICE PRESIDENT - SOUTHBANK3006

It was quickly identified that there were several key issues in Southbank that residents cared about. These included:

- Connecting with neighbours
- Safety and traffic management issues
- Quality of public spaces
- The impact of short-stay apartments on liveability

Fast forward 19 months and we are delighted to share our report card.

Not only has Southbank3006 challenged the City of Melbourne to think differently about green space and where it could creatively be found in Southbank, we have successfully negotiated with the City of Melbourne and state government to look at the ACCA forecourt, gaining a commitment to convert this space into green space for the community to enjoy.

Southbank3006 advocated for a fully comprehensive traffic management strategy for the whole of Southbank, with a focus on creating low-traffic neighbourhoods and reclaiming selected parking for community gardening. This resulted in the recent community consultation regarding traffic – which saw more than 1100 pinpoints.

A continued pain point for Southbank3006 members has been the impact short-stay accommodation has on the liveability and peaceful enjoyment on the place we call home.

Southbank3006 has publicly supported the recent proposal for reform in this area. Everyone deserves a safe and peaceful place to live, and these proposed reforms will address not only the “Short-Stay Wild, Wild West” but will go a long way to release housing stock onto the long-term rental market, delivering back housing stock in Southbank for the purpose for which it was designed.

This will help ensure housing becomes available in our rich diverse community to the people who want to live, not as a tourist destination.

We need an urban strategy for Southbank

Southbank needs an urban strategy which focuses on its micro-neighbourhoods, the so-called three-minute villages awakening the sense of place and community. Achieving this will transform the lives of people and the urban fabric of Southbank.

This becomes the platform by which people can create resilience to, and potentially mitigate, the growing number of crises that urban populations face, including loneliness, extreme heat, and inequality.

In other words, the future of Southbank is to be found in creating public spaces and neighbourhoods.

So, what's next for Southbank3006 and our members?

Well, the time has come to get those diaries out as the next three months will see some great events coming to Southbank.

Information session on the City of Melbourne's pedestrian and road safety community survey for Southbank – Tuesday, October 24, 6pm to 7.30pm @ Boyd Community Hub

Southbank3006, in partnership with the City of Melbourne, will be hosting an information night releasing the findings from the recent Pedestrian and Road Safety Community Consultation Survey.

This event will see engineers from the City of Melbourne share the outcomes from this consultation. This will be a solutions-based information session highlighting the areas for improvement as shared by the transport engineers.

Koorie Heritage Trust walking tour of Birrarung Marr and Southbank, Sunday, November 26, 11am to 12pm

Learn about the culture and heritage of our neighbourhood. This is a FREE event, part of Southbank3006's cultural awareness series, funded by the City of Melbourne. It's an opportunity to learn and discover the richness of First Nations People's culture firsthand.

In this momentous year there could not be a more important event for people who live in Southbank to participate in. Whether you were born in Australia or have moved here from overseas this is an event you should come and participate in.



A Very Merry Friend-Mas, Saturday, December 9

Southbank3006 is delighted to announce that the highly anticipated, Southbank event, A Very Merry Friend-Mas will be back in 2023! In 2022 this event was the first of its kind in Southbank and our committee is hard at work making this year's Friend-Mas even better in 2023!

Come on down to Boyd Park from 11am to 3pm and share the joy of Christmas. This event celebrates family, friends, and our furry little mates, with the annual Southbank Dog Parade. Not forgetting, music, food, kids' games, face painting, fairy floss and rumour has it Santa will make an appearance again this year! ●



For more information:
southbank3006.com

METRO TUNNEL



Spring has sprung at Anzac Station

The Metro Tunnel's Anzac Station site is welcoming in spring with a garden-themed display packed with stories, history, and nature's wonders.



As construction continues in the station below, the fence surrounding the site has been transformed with a vibrant new large-scale artwork that is almost camouflaged by its garden surroundings.

The work features iconic parts of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, including the cactus garden, fern gully, the Shine of Remembrance and some uniquely Australian flora and fauna.

Illustrator Annie Davidson said the image drew viewers in using different perspectives, such as the bird's eye view of the gardens' picnic and rainforest areas.

“I also wanted to give a sense of the seasons and different times of day through the changes in colour and foliage from left to right, as well as a sense of movement throughout the scene,” Davidson said.

For Davidson, the gardens are a place for everyone to gather. She hopes people can gain a sense of peacefulness when they look at her artwork, aptly named *Gathering in the Gardens*.

Alongside Davidson's artwork is a collage of photographs and prints simulating a grassy woodland.

Created by photographic artist Dianna Wells, the collage *Walking*

within a grassy woodland includes groups of plant communities such as native grasses, trees and Australian shrubs found prior to settlement and observed on her daily walks.

“My inspiration for this artwork came from reading reports and letters by Ferdinand von Mueller, Botanist and Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria between 1857 and 1873,” Wells said.

“My artwork is a simulated grassy woodland, and the great thing is that the actual plant community was once existing on this site.”

Wells is one of four artists to be offered rare access to the State Botanical Collection of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, as part of a collaboration with the Metro Tunnel Creative Program.

Work on Anzac Station is progressing well with both station entrances now in the final stages of construction. Crews are also realigning, rebuilding, and resurfacing roads, as well as building new public spaces around the station.

Albert Rd reopened in both directions last month, and drivers are again able to turn right into St Kilda Rd from Park St. ●

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SOUTHBANK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

YARRA RIVER BUSINESS ASSOCIATION



Come hear from your local Men's Shed



Your Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) committee has quite a bit planned for this month and we hope you will be able to find some time out from the beautiful sunshine we are now experiencing.

Firstly, we have invited Melbourne Men's Shed to give our community a presentation on what they are about and how you may be able to benefit from this wonderful community organisation servicing our neighbourhood.

If you didn't know, the Melbourne Men's Shed is located in the car park of Federation Square. They have an extensive workshop with all the tools and machines you could imagine. But if you don't know how to use a machine or tool, don't despair, there are many volunteers who will be very happy to assist.

Melbourne Men's Shed was established in 2013 and is a place for new friendships to form in a space with like-minded individuals.

Surprisingly to many, Melbourne Men's shed membership is not exclusive to men or retirees. There are a number of women and young people who are active in the shed too, who are always welcome.

We will be fortunate to have four members of the Melbourne Men's Shed committee provide us an overview of what our local shed offers. Come along to Boyd Community Hub on Monday, October 16 at 7pm and be enlightened.

Also, on Wednesday, November 1, 7pm at Boyd Community Hub, SRA will be holding a pedestrian safety Information session. This is a follow-up from community consultation

earlier this year on pedestrian safety.

The City of Melbourne engineering team has reviewed this feedback and formulated a number of projects to address some of the issues identified.

This is a great opportunity to have your say on the proposed projects and broader pedestrian safety issues in Southbank. Light refreshments will be provided.

More information on both of these events can be found on our SRA website southbankresidents.org.au.

Are you social media savvy? SRA is looking for someone in the community to guide and manage our social media space. If you think you would like to assist our not-for-profit community group, we would love to hear from you.

We can be contacted at info@southbankresidents.org.au ●



Tony Penna
PRESIDENT
PRESIDENT@SOUTHBANKRESIDENTS.ORG.AU



Support for a new app for Southbankers is rising

The old saying that you should never waste a crisis was true for the Yarra River Business Association (YRBA) during and after the COVID-19 lockdowns.

Robbed of tourists and corporate business, all that our businesses were left with was the local community. However, very few businesses knew anything about the needs and wants of the local residents, and fewer still had ever bothered to reach out to them.

The lockdowns highlighted to us that the residents of 3006 should be a key part of their members' business modelling. Not only to open-up a new market, but also as an insurance policy if such an economic catastrophe should arise again. A real and authentic connection with the people of Southbank needs to be a major aim of most of business members.

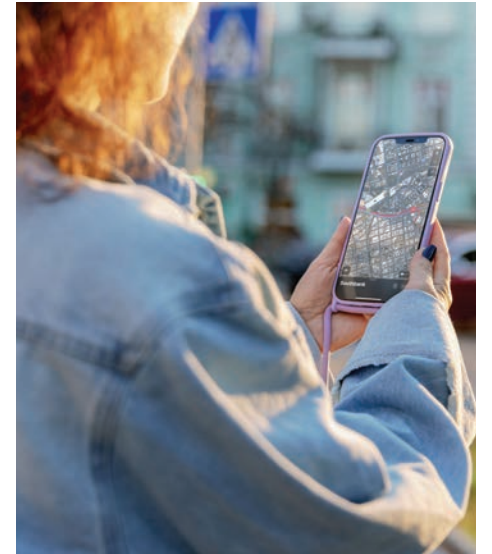
However, until recently we have not had the data to enable our businesses to understand residents' needs and wants. YRBA has just released the first major piece of data highlighting the behavioural patterns of Southbankers, including what they are seeking from the 3006 business community.

Many of you may have been involved in contributing to the granular data gathering between November 2022 and May this year. If you did, then may we extend our sincere thanks.

Right Angle is a Sydney-based consultancy, with a Melbourne office. They prepared and supervised the survey, which reached around 300 residents of 3006, all of whom provided very valuable and often detailed feedback.

The list of recommendations arising from the survey is too numerous to mention here, but one statistic jumped out at us. The difficulty of communicating with residents of 3006 has long been a problem. More than 70 per cent of survey respondents said that they would really appreciate and benefit from an app that could both "push" and "pull" information to them about local events, special offers and discounts available only to the locals.

Initial chats with local businesses has also elicited enthusiasm about being part of an app that would help to bridge the community-business divide. How good would it be to be



recognised by a business as a "local" and to gain special offers? For example, a restaurant may decide at 3pm that their bookings are down for that evening, and so be able to quickly issue a post on the app that offers 40 per cent discount that evening to local people upon production of the offer on their smartphone. How good for a local theatre to be able to let locals know at 5.30pm that they have 30 seats to that night's 8pm performance at 50 per cent discount.

See how it could work? It benefits local business, and it provides a real service to local people and, hopefully, through the process helps to build a greater sense of belonging and community.

So, stay tuned. YRBA looks forward to working over the next six months with the Southbank Residents' Association on the finessing of such an app.

If you're interested, watch for the advertisement in next month's *Southbank News* about a lunch we are running in November, when Right Angle will be detailing the major findings of the 3006 resident survey. ●



Jeremy Vincent
PRESIDENT
YARRA RIVER BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

CONNECT WITH YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

The Southbank community Hub is a free online space to connect with fellow Southbank locals, stay in the know, post requests for help, share skills and local knowledge, ask for recommendations, discover local services, classes, retailers, events and more

SOUTHBANK NEWS



If you're a local resident or business you can join up here

Cash without the cure



Victoria's proposed tax on short-stays will generate cash for the state government while ignoring internationally recognised solutions to tackle problems with the industry.



Major cities and jurisdictions, including London, Paris, Barcelona and even New South Wales, are all trying to regulate the behemoth industry that is having a devastating effect on housing affordability.

This month New York strengthened its laws to rein in the out-of-control short-stay industry. Under the new rules, rentals less than 30 days are only allowed if the operators are registered with the city. Operators must sign a commitment to being physically present throughout the rental, sharing the home with their guests. Plus, there is a limit of two guests per booking.

Valuable lessons from cities like New York are being disregarded in Victoria, and Melbourne will continue to suffer.

The proposed Victorian tax on short-term rentals will be factored into the accommodation price and the guests will pick up the tab.

Short-stay operators already enjoy the loophole that allows the entire industry to avoid paying virtually any GST, and this new state tax only partly impacts that advantage.

If this tax is the only regulatory policy to be implemented at the state level, short-stay issues will continue unabated. The tax appears to legitimise the industry while leaving it unregulated. The government has missed the opportunity to gather intelligence on operators because the tax will be collected from the platforms like Airbnb, while operators will remain uncounted and unknown, carrying on regardless.

The only beneficiaries of the new tax will be Airbnb and other short-stay platforms; because the policy gives the impression that something is being done. Together, state government and the major short-stay platforms now have a policy outcome that will continue to ensure that Victoria is one of the most heavily saturated short-stay markets in the world.

Where did the short-stay tax idea originate? We know rising interest rates have been eroding the state's stamp duty bonanza, and the Commonwealth Games cancellation costs will be excruciating. Perhaps the state government just needed what the largest platform claims to offer hosts: "an extra bit of income" on the side?

We Live Here has just started liaising again with the government after a two-year hiatus. It is indeed disappointing that the issues we have been raising seem to have been discounted.

Eight years and we're still waiting

After eight years of inaction the Victorian Government has announced a policy that will only generate income for the state coffers, without solving systemic short-stay problems.

What else has the government done since 2015? It made one dismal attempt to look like



it was taking action on short-stay parties, with a Bill that has had zero effect and, the last time we checked, zero tribunal orders in favour of residents.

- Our policy is waiting to be heard and acted upon:
- A state-wide registration system for short-stay operators.
- Allow owners' corporations to make rules on short-stays.
- An annual day cap.
- Realistic and enforceable penalties.

All these basic requirements are being brushed aside while the government merely imposes a tax that might help balance its books.

Campaign donations

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



Barbara Francis & Rus Littleton
CAMPAIGN@WELIVEHERE.NET



10 YEARS ON

Looking back at Southbank News - 10 Years On

OCTOBER 2013 | ISSUE 24 |

SOUTHBANK LOCAL NEWS

Council to act on flooding reports

The City of Melbourne has confirmed it will begin to take action on the Port Phillip Bay Coastal Adaptations Pathways project, the report into potential flood concerns released in April.

The project, which was outlined in edition 18 of the *Southbank Local News*, was produced hypothetically as an example of the sort of tools councils might have access to when tackling climate change.

Given the flooding risks the study exposed in Southbank, it's little wonder the council has decided to act on it. While not specific at this stage, the Future Melbourne Committee on October 1 endorsed the draft Total Watermark - City as a Catchment Strategy.

The draft report states that the council will implement an "investigation and potentially deliver a project that aims to reduce flood risks in the catchment, including Southbank, and provide an alternative water resource for the surrounding parklands including Fawkner Park."

The report says the investigation and possible action will take place from July 2013 to 2015. A City of Melbourne spokesperson confirmed to *Southbank Local News* that the reference to flood risks in the Southbank region came from two sources: the Adaptation Pathways



▲ A map from the Adaptations Pathways report, showing the level of flooding, up to 85 centimetres in 2100. The map shows the result of a one-in-100-year flood, without any adaptation measures taken in that time.

case study and a project on water flow through Albert Park Lake, prepared by Parks Victoria and The Office of Living Victoria.

The Adaptation Pathways case study revealed that Southbank was at high risk of flooding now and, without remedial action, a large portion of the suburb would be under two metres of water in the event of high tides and a one-in-100-year storm.

The report encouraged the City of Melbourne to take action.

"Council should continue to progress actions to improve drainage in conjunction with Melbourne Water. This is expected to be the most cost-effective approach to reducing both current and future flood risks." ●

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Quiz



- 1. What is the predominant colour of the Australian civil ensign flag?
2. Malé is the capital of which country?
3. How long has Angelo Bonacci owned Southgate Pharmacy?
4. Southbank Residents Association have announced they are developing what piece of technology?
5. The name Yarra Yarra is derived from a waterfall located where the Queen Street Bridge stands today. What happened to it?
6. Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back is being shown in partnership with which major arts institution?
7. The TV series The Mentalist mostly took place in which US state?
8. The Burj Khalifa was officially opened in which year?
9. Damon Wayans Jr. (pictured) starred as Coach in which US sitcom?
10. Mount Ararat is the highest peak in which country?
11. Which two teams competed in what is considered the first ever game of 'Aussie Rules Football'?
12. The City of Melbourne's Greenline project has come under scrutiny for renders that omit which popular riverside venue?

QUIZ SOLUTIONS

1. Red 2. Maldives 3. 20 years
4. A Southbank app to connect residents with businesses 5. It was demolished with dynamite (1883) 6. Melbourne Symphony Orchestra 7. California 8. 2010 9. New Girl
10. Turkey 11. Melbourne Grammar and Scotch College 12. Arbury Afloat

5x5 No. 029

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

Grid for 5x5 puzzle with missing letters: P A E, O A, A O T, E G R.

SOLUTIONS

PLACE, ROMAN, ABOUT, TENSE, EDGER

Sudoku

No. 028

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

EASY

Sudoku grid for EASY level.

HARD

Sudoku grid for HARD level.

SOLUTIONS

EASY

Sudoku solution for EASY level.

HARD

Sudoku solution for HARD level.

Wordfind

Theme: Vikings

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

Wordfind grid with letters: E N Y S D R A G S A O, R I R G L L R U N E T, V H R E G E A E R N N, N A C Y K D I K W A I, A F L O K R R P S H D, A R F H N L E A N T O, D E R E A Q A S S I R, D Y I L N L U V R I R, E J R O R R L E A E L, S A R O H T I A S X B, J S A G A K I R E T E

- ASGARD RUNE
AXE SAGA
BERSERKER SKALD
CONQUEST SLEIPNIR
EDDA THANE
ERIK THOR
FENRIR VALHALLA
FREYJA VALKYRIE
JARL YGGDRASIL
ODIN

Secret message: Northern warriors

Crossword

No. 028

ACROSS

- 1 Plate (4)
3 Broken (9)
9 Tradesman (9)
10 Savoury meat jelly (5)
11 Arranged (6)
12 Drink (9)
14 Crossing; corridor (7)
16 Recruits (7)
18 Ratify (7)
19 Incinerated (7)
20 Prison-breakers (8)
22 Renowned (6)
26 Mediterranean island (5)
27 Impact; crash (9)
28 Stated (9)
29 Ova (4)

DOWN

- 1 Quacking birds (5)
2 Startled (9)
3 Destiny (4)
4 Mutual arrangements (10)
5 Wayfarer (9)
6 Animal protection group (1,1,1,1,1)
7 Fell; lessened (9)
8 In this place (4)
13 Job testimonials (10)
14 Establish in advance (9)
15 Flying machine (9)
17 Education (9)
21 Bird call (5)
23 Very keen; ardent (4)
24 Descends underwater (5)
25 Ran away quickly (4)

SOLUTION

Crossword solution grid.

Codeword

No. 028

Codeword grid with numbers and some letters: 19 5 2 14 12 23 20 11 15 20 23 12, 18 16 10 11 24 16 17, 2 16 2 14 12 24 1 14 12 7 20 23, 9 21 19 19 12 12, 9 12 12 18 3 2 7 7 9 2 24 23, 11 20 9 1 18, 7 20 18 5 9 12 21 12 7 3 6 1, 11 2 4 2 12, 1 12 16 11 1 19 12 23 2 16 7 19, 12 7 20 1 12 20, 8 1 2 13 11 19 Q 24 2 9 20 23, 24 18 24 12 1 11 24, 19 2 14 20 19 F 6 9 24 17 22 12

SOLUTIONS

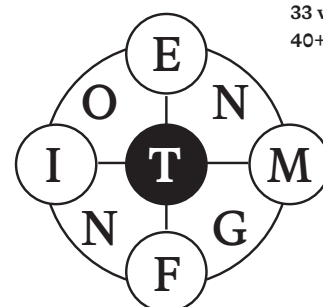
Codeword solutions: J X M N C S I Z G D U F O, R A H J K Y B L W O E V

9-Letter

No. 028

Today's Focus:
24 words: Good
33 words: Very good
40+ words: Excellent

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



SOLUTIONS

emil, emoting, feint, fetter, figment, foment, fomenting, font, gemot, gent, gift, ingot, into, intone, item, mention, netting, mint, mote, mot, monte, more, motif, nothing, nite, nition, none, note, nothing, often, omit, tenon, tigon, time, tinc, ting, tinge, toeing, toing, tone, tone, toning, tonne

Reference: Macquarie Dictionary

What's on: October 2023

Community Calendar



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 7PM
THE BOITE - QUEEN OF HEARTS

All women. All original. Violins, big bass, trumpets and more. Queen of Hearts Mariachi is an all-female band drawing from the Mexican Mariachi tradition.

Primrose Potter Salon, Melbourne Recital Centre - melbournerecital.com.au

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.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 7PM
CHARLES MAIMAROSIA
Witness tradition and innovation come together through the evocative music of Solomon Islands singer Charles Maimarosia.
Primrose Potter Salon, Melbourne Recital Centre - melbournerecital.com.au



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 6PM
Brenda Gifford & Ensemble Offspring - Wadhu/Skin
Witness the world premiere of Wadhu/Skin, Brenda Gifford's award-winning 2023 Merlyn Myer Music Commission.
Primrose Potter Salon, Melbourne Recital Centre - melbournerecital.com.au



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 7PM
YO CiTY Brotha Asanti & Soulectric - I Was Born this Way

Vibrant African percussion and the infectious underground rhythms of New York and Chicago House come together in a night of celebration.

Primrose Potter Salon, Melbourne Recital Centre - melbournerecital.com.au



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 6PM TO 8PM
Botanica Sculptilia by Elsa Thorp
Botanica Sculptilia will showcase nature's fascinating forms and the therapeutic benefits of crafting with natural materials.
Angela Roberts-Bird Gallery, Gasworks 21 Graham Street, Albert Park VIC 3206

SATURDAYS, 10AM - 12PM
SOUTHBANK SUSTAINABILITY GROUP
Join a group of green sustainability enthusiasts who meet fortnightly each month.
Specific dates can be found at facebook.com/SouthbankSustainabilityGroup



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 6PM
NAT BARTSCH - HOPE RENEWED
Experience Nat Bartsch's full spectrum of musicality with her critically acclaimed album, Hope Renewed.
Primrose Potter Salon, Melbourne Recital Centre - melbournerecital.com.au

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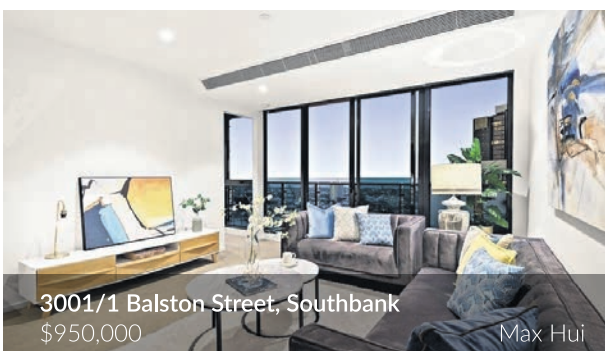
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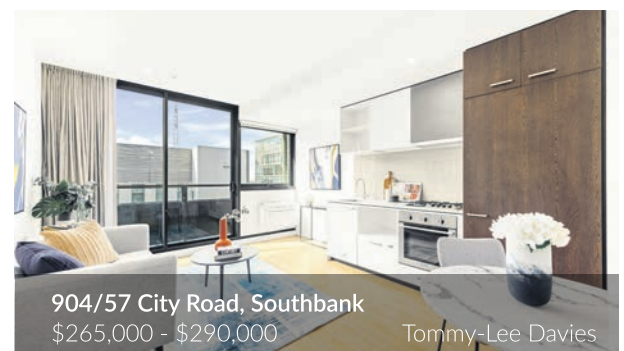
3001/1 Balston Street, Southbank
\$950,000

Max Hui



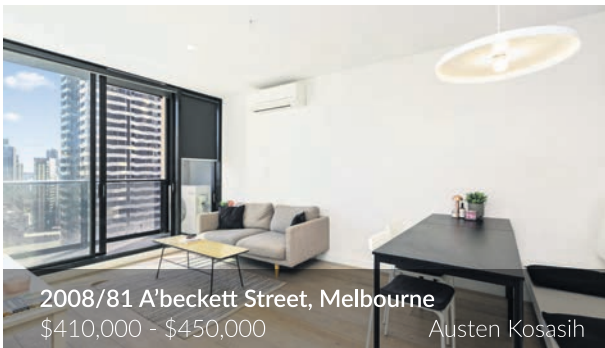
1101/45 Clarke Street, Southbank
\$520,000

Max Hui



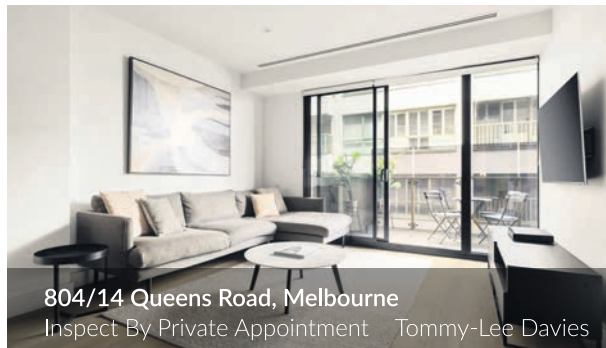
904/57 City Road, Southbank
\$265,000 - \$290,000

Tommy-Lee Davies



2008/81 A'beckett Street, Melbourne
\$410,000 - \$450,000

Austen Kosasih



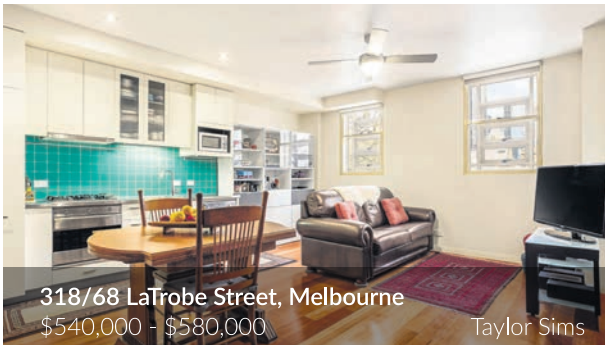
804/14 Queens Road, Melbourne
Inspect By Private Appointment

Tommy-Lee Davies



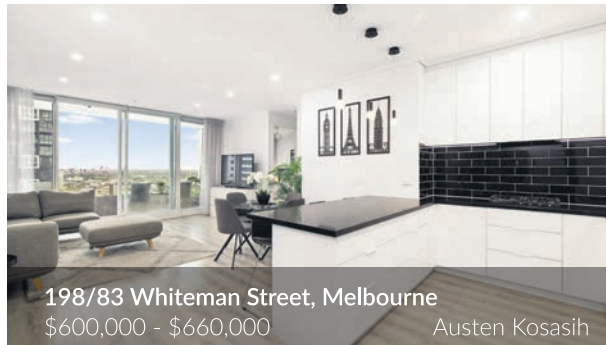
806/108 Flinders Street, Melbourne
\$390,000 - \$400,000

Trent Bonnici



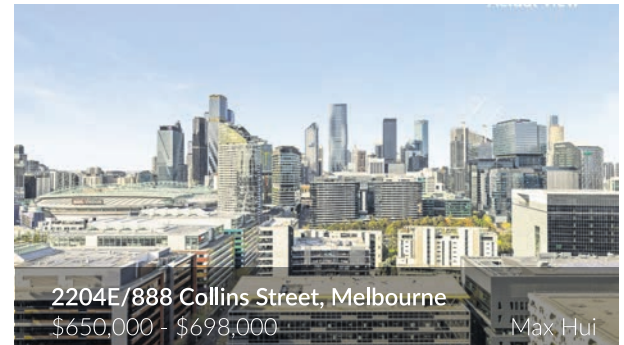
318/68 LaTrobe Street, Melbourne
\$540,000 - \$580,000

Taylor Sims



198/83 Whiteman Street, Melbourne
\$600,000 - \$660,000

Austen Kosasih



2204E/888 Collins Street, Melbourne
\$650,000 - \$698,000

Max Hui



1309/555 Flinders Street, Melbourne
\$298,000 - \$325,000

Max Hui



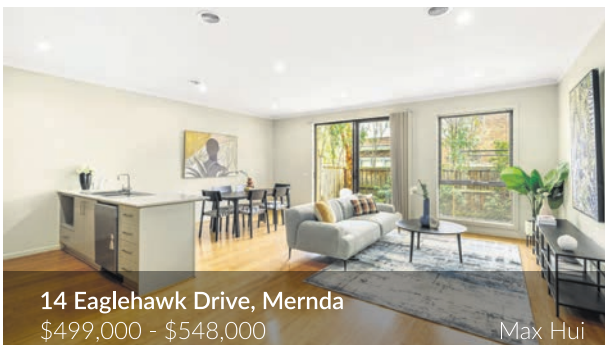
T505/348 St Kilda Road, Melbourne
\$470,000

Austen Kosasih



16H Stables Lane, South Yarra
\$330,000 - \$360,000

Austen Kosasih



14 Eaglehawk Drive, Mernda
\$499,000 - \$548,000

Max Hui



1204/283 City Road, Southbank
\$580,000

Tommy-Lee Davies



Michael Pastrikos: 0404 282 864

Max Hui: 0430 238 021

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