

# SOUTHBANK NEWS

southbanklocalnews.com.au

Forever Free

Puzzles & Trivia P22



Montague's first supermarket  
*Photo by Martin Keep*

Fishermans Bend's rapidly growing Montague Precinct welcomed its very first supermarket last month with the grand opening of the new Coles Local on Normanby Rd. *More on page 16.*

## Crown Melbourne unveils ambitious redevelopment for Southbank precinct

*Crown Casino has announced plans for a major redevelopment of its complex in what is touted to "capitalise on the power of the Southbank precinct".*

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
PLANNING

The casino giant is finalising a master plan that would revitalise the 30-year-old entertainment venue with a new shopping mall, new international retail, and dining offerings among its proposed developments, as well as enhanc-

ing the connectivity to the Yarra River.

Crown Melbourne chief executive Mike Volkert said the upgrade would herald a new era for the precinct and begin a "shift from being a casino and hotel, to a world-class entertainment destination".

"It will rejuvenate the precinct and reorientate the new entertainment complex, bringing joy, fun and excitement back to the city," he said.

"We want to make sure visitors get to experience the best of Melbourne ... there really will be something for everyone."

Mr Volkert said Crown was currently in talks with luxury fashion houses from around the world and Australia to "develop an amazing shopping mall with a dedicated porte cochere for retail guests" as it sought to "encompass

*Continued on page 2.*

## New crossings; tree islands proposed under council street safety study

*The City of Melbourne has flagged new raised crossings in various locations around Southbank, as well as a series of "tree islands" along Kavanagh St in a bid to improve pedestrian safety.*

WORDS BY *Sean Car*  
TRANSPORT

The proposed changes follow the council's \$500,000 "Improving road safety and walkability in Southbank" review, which earlier this year called on locals to identify locations in the area where pedestrian safety was of concern.

The consultation process that concluded in April included an online mapping tool which received a significant 1160 contributions from locals, with a majority of these raising issues along state-managed roads including City Rd, Power St, and Clarendon St.

Following consultation, two community information sessions were held with resident groups Southbank3006 and Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) last month, where council officers presented eight proposed safety upgrades.

With the council only having remit over streets it manages, the initial upgrades are mainly proposed for local streets throughout Southbank Village, as well as Kavanagh and Clarke streets. They include:

- Zebra crossings and road humps for the roundabout intersections of Coventry and Wells streets, as well as Coventry and Dodds streets
- Upgrading the existing crossing on Kavanagh St outside the Coroners Court of Victoria to a

raised "wombat crossing"

- Installing "tree islands" along the two major sections of Kavanagh St between Balston and Power streets, as well as Southbank Boulevard and Power St.
- Three zebra crossings and road humps along Grant St, between Sturt St and Wells St
- Kerb extensions and road humps surrounding existing zebra crossing on Clarke St
- Zebra crossing and road hump at the intersection of Wadey and Wells streets
- Zebra crossing for Dorcas St at Kings Way – a jointly funded project with the TAC and the City of Port Phillip.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the council was "always looking for ways to make walking and driving on our streets and laneways safer".

"Southbank is one of the city's most densely populated areas, which is why it's important we make it easier and safer to walk around the area – including through unobstructed footpaths, improved seating and more tree canopy coverage," Cr Capp said.

"We'll be investing \$500,000 over the next five years to make sure Southbank is as safe and accessible as possible for residents and visitors – prioritising projects that community members want to see under way first."

*Continued on page 7.*

FEATURE, PAGE 03

### A A sit-down with Food and Wine Victoria CEO



EDUCATION, PAGE 05

### B Local teacher selected as global ambassador



COMMUNITY, PAGE 11

### C Ray White gets behind Movember campaign



ARTS & CULTURE, PAGE 14

### D Buxton Contemporary showcases *Around*



Lilian Kwan David Umama Trinity Paderno Austen Kosasih Taylor Sims Max Hui Tommy-Lee Davies Michael Pastrikos Giorgio Fulli Bence Balazs Tayla Hore

Buy, Sell, Rent

Speak to our team today

8102 0200 | raywhitesouthbank.com.au

RayWhite

# HYPERLOCAL NEWS

**CONTACT**  
Suite 208, 198 Harbour Esplanade  
Docklands 3008  
southbanklocalnews.com.au  
Tel: 8689 7980

**EDITOR**  
Sean Car

**PUBLISHER**  
Hyperlocal News Pty Ltd  
ABN: 57 623 558 725

**ADVERTISING**  
Hyper-local print works for advertisers in our digital world because local people are interested in local news. To sell to the Southbank community, contact Jack Hayes on 0401 031 236 or jack@hyperlocalnews.com.au

Reader contributions are welcome. Send letters, articles and images to: brendan@hyperlocalnews.com.au

The deadline for the December/January edition is December 1.

**SOCIAL MEDIA**  
Follow us on Twitter @SOUTHBANK\_News

Like us on Facebook Southbank News

Follow us on Instagram @southbanklocalnews

Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily shared by the publisher.

hyperlocalnews.com.au  
admin@hyperlocalnews.com.au



## Crown Melbourne unveils ambitious redevelopment for Southbank precinct

*Continued from page 1.*

luxury in all its forms from high-end hotels and retail experiences; from fine dining to casual dining, and gaming”.

Mr Volkert also acknowledged Crown’s dominant presence within the community, which is home to 22,000 residents and more permit-approved dwellings and hotel rooms than the rest of Melbourne, with its master plan aiming to “capitalise on the power of the Southbank precinct”.

Crown would also create a more “vibrant and inviting” riverwalk feel with seasonal activations, better lighting, more entertainment, and a chance to partner with its stakeholders to “bring more life to the precinct”.

Yarra River Business Association executive officer Tim Bracher said plans to breathe new life to the complex were welcomed.

“We also hope that Crown may become more outward looking and that it will start engaging with its local community as well. The ‘fortress Crown’ reputation it has developed over three decades has not endeared it to other businesses and Southbank residents,” he said.

Community group Southbank3006 president David Hamilton said residents were pleased the new owners of Crown were “embarking on a project to refresh the complex that is ageing with many areas that are dated in design or tired”.

“Of particular benefit to the community is the commitment to upgrade and make more appealing the riverwalk area and to ‘bring the precinct alive,’” he said.

“Ideally their plans for this space on the southern bank of the Yarra should seek to complement the [City of Melbourne’s] Greenline project on the northern bank of the Yarra.”

However, he said a downside was that as a destination it “can ignore their impacts on the liability of local residents”, noting there was an



▲ An artist’s impression of the proposed shopping mall at Crown.

“inherent tension in destination facilities and one which the Beulah development will need to address when it is ultimately completed”.

Mr Hamilton said the modernisation of the Crown should also deliver a benefit to traders and increase the profile of the adjacent areas of the promenade strip but added “it is unlikely to deliver any benefit to the wider Southbank community. For most, Crown is a peripheral institution in their daily life”.

Southbank Residents’ Association president Tony Penna also welcomed the news, saying “the place is getting a bit tired so it’s promising to see that they have identified that and are prepared to make the investment”.

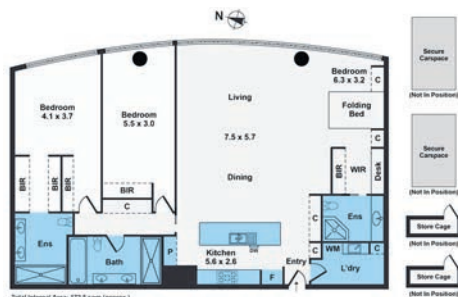
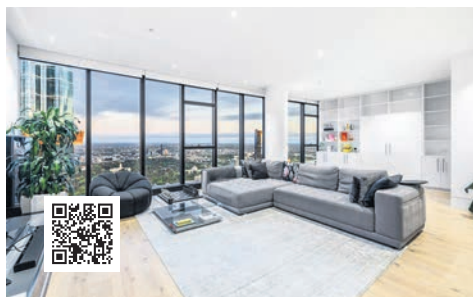
But he said he would have liked the plans to have included an update about Crown’s 1-29 Queensbridge St site, known as One Queensbridge, after Crown initially received approval to build a skyscraper, as well as deliver

a once-promised \$100 million worth of public benefits, before its planning permit expired in March 2019.

“We would like them to have an active plan for what they are going to do with that space,” Mr Penna said, describing the current disused buildings at the site as derelict and “not a good look” for Southbank, which also had implications for perceptions of public safety.

“It’s just a really bad corner of Southbank. I would love Crown to have done something to address that, even if it’s the council using the buildings for community space.”

Queensbridge St is also connected to the neglected Kings Way undercroft, which the council has promised to turn into a community space with a skate park, basketball courts, climbing walls, sports courts, and a group fitness. The council said earlier this year that concept plans would be “announced soon”. ●



3 3 2



**Michael the most recommended agent in Southbank!**

### The Southbank Expert with a Tenacious attitude

With extensive local experience, Michael thoroughly understands the Southbank property market. He was very persuasive when dealing with prospective buyers, understanding their needs and promoting my property. He provided me with helpful advice throughout the sale process, from pricing to presentation and strategy.

**Vendor Andrew, Wells Street, Southbank**

Thinking of selling or buying? Contact him today.

0404 282 864 | michael.pastrikos@raywhite.com | raywhitesouthbank.com.au

### SALE

6206/35 Queens Bridge Street, Southbank

- Luxurious 172.5m<sup>2</sup> Apartment on the 62nd Floor of Prima Pearl
- Ceiling Heights Soaring as High as 3.2m Approx.
- Oversized Central Living/Dining Zone with World-Class Vistas of Iconic Landmarks

**WHY WAIT?**  
Ray White Southbank | Port Phillip | 03 8102 0200

**Michael Pastrikos**  
0404 282 864  
michael.pastrikos@raywhite.com

**Giorgio Fulli**  
0422 806 188  
mp.southbank@raywhite.com

raywhitesouthbank.com.au

# A sit-down with Anthea Loucas Bosha: CEO of Food and Wine Victoria



*The role of CEO of Food and Wine Victoria – the overarching body responsible for the celebrated Melbourne Food & Wine Festival (MFWF) and Drink Victorian, among other events and projects – may sound like the perfect job. And, for Anthea Loucas Bosha, it is.*



WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Kristoffer Paulsen*  
FEATURE

After forging a career leading renowned industry titles like *Gourmet Traveller* and the *Sydney Morning Herald's Good Living* (now *Good Food*), Loucas Bosha possesses an industry pedigree like few others. Not without its challenges, such as a global pandemic, skilled worker shortages, supply chain disruptions and growing cost-of-living pressures to name a few, Loucas Bosha sat down with *Southbank News* to discuss her journey into the culinary world, stresses on the industry, where Melbourne, and Victoria, sits on the global gastronomic stage, and where to next for Food and Wine Vic.

"It's a really interesting time," she said. "There are almost two different economies working parallel to one another. On the one hand, places are struggling to keep the lights on, and on the other hand, venues are flying, and you can't get bookings."

"It's very expensive to eat out now, and you must be exceptional to make it work. With increased costs and workforce shortages, some places are opting to operate with restricted hours, and within those hours [they are] in search for better yields."

"Like for all of us, costs in hospitality are increasing. You go to the supermarket and it's stark how expensive living is today. That's no different for restaurants, bars, and cafes."

With Victoria leading the nation as its biggest exporter of food, from a land mass of just three per cent of the country, Loucas Bosha said Melbourne was uniquely positioned ahead of other major culinary cities like London, New York and Hong Kong due to its accessibility to, and celebration of, world-leading fresh produce.

"We produce most of the country's dairy, a huge chunk of its lamb ... we can grow anything because of the climates and microclimates we have," Loucas Bosha said.

"Then to layer on top of that we have incredible fresh food markets which are quite exclusive to Melbourne, and then layer on top of that the incredible cultural diversity of this city ... all these things combine as to why we have so many great restaurants, bars and cafes."



Following a resounding success from MFWF's Regional Edition last year, its first major foray outside Melbourne, the festival is back again this November with the Yarra Valley, Ballarat and Gippsland playing leading roles.

Along with a return of Drink Victorian, a Victorian Government partnered program that forms a conduit between producers and bars, pubs, restaurants, and retailers, and Vic Grown, a program in its youth which aims to bring the agriculture sector to the fore, Loucas Bosha's team is never short of projects to fill their plates.

"You don't need to go to Latvia to see really interesting wine, we have it right here," she said. "Vic Grown is only in its infancy, but we do have its official slogan: 'Fresh from Australia's food bowl.' We are the food bowl of Australia, but we don't talk about it."

"The problem we have is Victoria is not the international brand of Victoria, Melbourne is. Internationally, Victoria is somewhere in Canada. We have Melbourne Grand Prix, Melbourne AO [Australian Open tennis] and other major events, so it's all about Melbourne."

"Our job is to figure out how we create that linkage, because you can't talk about Melbourne as the Yarra Valley or Gippsland."

Following a long stint in Sydney, Loucas Bosha returned to Melbourne in 2017, became CEO of Food and Wine Vic in 2018, weathered a global pandemic, and is now leading an industry that is undoubtedly under strain, but at the same time, so crucial for the fabric and lives of all Victorians.

"You look at how travel, events or live music have bounced back, it's just a human reflex to what we have gone through to want to be together," she said.

"It is the antidote to social media, being together at a gig, or a restaurant or a café. It's the connection we all crave."

Organisation for MFWF's traditional Melbourne-based program, which runs from March 15 to 24, is already under way with a line-up on a scale and calibre like never before. ●

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



▲ An artist's impression of the proposed expanded reserve, looking east.

## Council launches community engagement on Miles St and Dodds St Reserve expansion

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne is inviting the community to have its say on a proposal to expand Southbank's Miles St and Dodds St Reserve with the first draft high-level concept now revealed.

The concept plan proposes to increase open space in the area by 690 square metres, providing a larger and improved "local backyard" for nearby residents.

Suggested features include new lawn areas, more trees and garden beds, and improved seating and picnic tables.

Under the plans, the eastbound lane of Miles St would close, and about 12 car parks would be removed on the northern side of Miles St.

"Discontinuing Miles St would likely divert traffic turning left from Dodds St to Coventry St, resulting in a likely increase of eastbound traffic volumes in Coventry St," the plans stated.

Following community feedback on the proposal, which is open until December 17, a feasibility study and designs for the project are expected to be completed next year with construction earmarked to begin in early 2025 at an estimated cost of \$2.52 million.

According to the council, an early-stage design and feasibility investigation had determined that an expanded Miles and Dodds St Reserve would not be a suitable location for a fenced playground or dog off-leash area.

As reported by *Southbank News* in June, the proposed project was listed as part of the council's 2023/24 draft budget in May and funded as part of its "Pocket Parks" program. It would also act as an ecological corridor for wildlife.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp recognised that the reserve was a "local backyard" for many residents, "which is why we're looking to improve the area, proposing to nearly double the amount of open space available".

Community feedback will be incorporated in a final concept plan, which will be presented to council for consideration in the middle of next year.

To have your say, visit: [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/miles-dodds-street-reserve](http://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/miles-dodds-street-reserve) ●



QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET  
*make it a market day*

Home to the best fresh produce, great shopping, delicious food and coffee and fun events.

OPEN TUESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY

CORNER ELIZABETH & VICTORIA STREETS, MELBOURNE

[QVM.COM.AU](http://QVM.COM.AU)

# Experience BLVD's new parkside display gallery now open at Melbourne Square.



# BLVD <sup>M</sup>

## Discover Melbourne's Most Livable Parkside Precinct.

The next residential release at Melbourne Square is designed to engage and enhance the senses. Set on an elegant, tree-lined boulevard and surrounded by 3,745m<sup>2</sup> of lush green parkland, this peerless inner-city address in an established and thriving precinct delivers resort-style amenities and elevated wellbeing.

Designed by award-winning landscape architects TCL, BLVD taps into the remarkable ability of plants to produce cleaner air, harnessing the benefits of nature beyond the mere aesthetic. With immersive and layered gardens woven into shared entertainment spaces and lounging areas, residents can peacefully reconnect with nature.

Visit the Display Gallery today to find out more.

[blvdmsq.com](http://blvdmsq.com)

Display Gallery open daily 10am–5pm.  
29 Balston Street,  
Southbank, Melbourne.

1 Bedroom from \$541k  
2 Bedrooms from \$748k  
3 Bedrooms from \$1.201m

**M** MELBOURNE  
SQUARE®

COX

carr

T.C.L

**OSK**  
PROPERTY



## Southbank Police Station to reduce reception hours amid residents' crime concerns

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
SAFETY & SECURITY

Victoria Police will temporarily reduce the reception hours at Southbank Police Station in the coming months with resources to be redirected towards conducting community patrols.

Southbank will be one of 43 police stations across the state to be affected as the force insisted such a reduction "gives police the best opportunity to respond to urgent incidents, prevent crime before it can occur, and engage with large sections of the community".

"When a station reception counter is closed, police will always be patrolling the local community and in many cases, still working from within the station," Victoria Police said.

The reduced opening hours will occur mainly at night when station counters are rarely attended by the public.

South Melbourne Police Station will also have its reception hours slashed towards the end of November with the community to be notified of the exact date.

Southbank Police Station will be among further stations earmarked for reduced counter hours "in the coming months".

When the closure does occur, both Southbank and South Melbourne police stations will only keep their receptions open for eight hours a day. This would remain in place while the force continued to recruit to fill current vacancies.

"Make no mistake - Victoria Police is not closing any police stations," Deputy Commissioner Regional Operations Neil Paterson said.

"Even when reception counters are unstaffed, police continue to patrol the local community and often, still work within the station."

The announcement follows concerns of crime in Miles St, Southbank. Numerous vehicles have been broken into, with the situation further aggravated by the occurrence of loud noises at night, residents and business owners said.

One resident, who has had their car broken

into a "million times" even though they kept no valuables inside, said they were "100 per cent" concerned, saying criminal activity and the number of people loitering have "gone gang busters".

In one incident in late October, a business owner in Miles St, said he caught a trespasser jumping on top of his roof.

"He climbed down one side of the building, I tried to approach, and he began shouting. I did nothing," he said, speaking on the condition of anonymity for fear of retribution.

While the man was caught by police, the business owner said, "It's worrying for me because I could've got stabbed according to the cops ... they hinted he might have had a weapon."

"We see all these private security firms driving around the area, but what they actually do, I wonder," they said. "The main reason I'm sharing this is so that more people can come forward and we can take action."

A victim of a daytime burglary in late August said they were devastated after thieves made off with multiple items including his grandfather's 120-year-old fob watch.

"It [Southbank] used to be a good area but now I'm not so sure. I do notice the police do drive-bys every now and again, but you ring them, and they take forever to turn up," the resident said, also asking to remain anonymous.

They said the burglary happened at around 2pm after CCTV footage captured four people getting out of a Toyota Camry. They also came back later in the night and allegedly stole his car, which was recovered within a week in Ashburton. Other items stolen from their home included passports, a safe, a coin collection, bluetooth speakers, spare keys, a laptop, sunglasses, and clothing.

Southbank police commander Senior Sergeant Alex O'Toole gave assurances that patrols were conducted "where the crime is occurring".

"The patrol areas are updated weekly to ensure that we provide a proactive policing service to the community of Southbank." ●



## Emily selected as ambassador for World Teachers' Day

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
EDUCATION

South Melbourne Primary School's dedicated and passionate educator Emily West says being chosen as an ambassador for World Teachers' Day was an "honour and a privilege".

The annual event, which was celebrated on October 27, aims to showcase the contributions made by teachers and promote the importance of education while also reflecting on the value teachers bring to children's lives.

Ms West, a first-year grade five teacher, has become a beloved figure at the school with her appointment as ambassador in recognition of her ability to inspire and empower students.

Her popularity has also grown through her use of social media in which she not only shared "little moments of the day in the life as a teacher", but also challenged common misconceptions surrounding the profession, which she and many other educators believed was more than just standing in front of classroom and reading from a textbook.

This was a message Ms West hoped to convey through World Teachers' Day after she joined other Victorian teachers and the Department of Education to "challenge narrow and outdated perceptions of the profession", in what they say was critical to attracting more people to the teaching profession.

"There can be a misconception, that if you're not in the field of education, that it's just a person standing at the front of your classroom," Ms West said.

"But there's a lot more that goes into understanding the signs of how students learn, the science of teaching, and you have to teach in a manner that allows students to transfer content from their short-term memory to long-term memory," Ms West said.



"It's something I hold close to my heart. It's a privilege that we, as educators, can really ignite these conversations and shape how young minds think."

Asked what she loved most about teaching, Ms West, who is into her second year of her teaching career after studying at the Australian Catholic University, said not only was "everyday different" but "you're the reason why they are learning and building knowledge ... teachers have the power to make these lasting impressions on a person for their whole life".

"It's a labour of love," she said. "You can have up to 20 to 30 different kids and they all learn in different ways. There's no one universal way a student's going to learn."

"They are all their own person and that poses their own challenges and we have to make sure we're adjusting and accommodating our teaching so that they can succeed."

The teachers' challenging activity was also part of the Teach the Future campaign, which aims to inspire more people to consider a career in teaching, and curb teaching shortages across the state. ●

## Minuteman Press Melbourne

We design, print and promote

We work with the local business community providing Design, Brand Promotion and Print Services.

Visit our website or contact us for more information.



📍 18 Kavanagh Street, Southbank  
W: [www.southbank.minutemanpress.com.au](http://www.southbank.minutemanpress.com.au)  
T: 03 9866 8588

Supporting Local Business **Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation**



## A LOOK AT OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

# SOUTHBANK SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPIONS FIND FRIENDSHIP IN THE GARDEN

Seema Misra Thakur, Faye McDonald and Lily Bednikov with their planter boxes outside Boyd Community Hub.

**From a handful of proactive gardeners who began growing plants under the A60 flyover in 2017, Southbank Sustainability Group has grown into a group of dedicated community volunteers.**

It now welcomes a diverse group of people from the neighbourhood to enjoy practical sustainability workshops and care for planter boxes provided by the City of Melbourne outside Boyd Community Hub.

The group has seen strong friendships form and life-bonds made. Hear from Southbank Sustainability Group members on how they came to be part of the local community and why sustainability matters to them.

Lily Bednikov moved to Australia as a child from a peaceful and connected community in China where everyone had bicycles. The big city buildings of Melbourne seemed overwhelming at first, and Lily lived in Southbank for more than 20 years before taking a career break, when she became more connected to her neighbourhood.

She was drawn to the Boyd Community Hub and saw the Southbank Sustainability Group advertised on the noticeboard.

"I learnt about when to plant, plant propagation, zero waste, and gardening for small spaces. There's a real community spirit in the group around sharing ideas and knowledge," Lily said.

Being part of the group has also helped Lily feel like part of the Southbank neighbourhood.

"Really, once you get to know the area it has a village feel. Southbank is really a group of small sub regions or neighbourhoods. I really enjoy living here and have a strong sense of connection," she said.

As a schoolchild in 1970s Mumbai, Seema Misra Thakur lived in a green area and learnt about the environment and pollution. She went on to major in botany and biochemistry, and complete a PhD on micro-algae as an energy source.

After falling in love with Southbank and moving here with her family, Seema has enjoyed reading hundreds of books from the local library at Boyd and living car-free to reduce her carbon footprint.

A chance encounter while exercising in the Boyd garden during the pandemic led her to deepen her community connections, and share her scientific knowledge in her own backyard.

"This has been a true journey of over 50 years, from when I first heard about the environment as a girl in India to being part of this sustainability group in Melbourne. From Mumbai to Melbourne, it all tied up beautifully for me," Seema said.

"This community is a home away from home. Now, when I think about going away, I think about missing the

family I have made here through the community in Southbank."

Retired nurse Faye McDonald has lived in Southbank for 27 years. It was a shock when she first moved, coming from a house with a half-acre garden to the eighth floor of a high-rise building, but she's come to love living in the city.

"Every morning I stand at the window and look at the view and it's magic. When the sun comes up it's quite exciting to watch. I just love the big sky and clouds," Faye said.

"High-rise living suits us well. There are so many benefits, including access to public transport.

"At the beginning it was a struggle to foster a community feeling in a high-rise, but after 27 years we know what we're doing. There are book clubs, the canasta club, and of course the Southbank Sustainability Group is very important to me."

Faye was one of the Southbank Sustainability Group's earliest members.

"The City of Melbourne saw what the group was doing and became interested in supporting us. They gave us some green planters outside Boyd Community Hub and asked us to help look after them. Council has been very supportive right from the start," Faye said.

Follow the group on Facebook for meet-up dates.

## OUT AND ABOUT IN SOUTHBANK

Described as a collection of neighbourhoods, residents agree Southbank is a great place to live. Check out what's going on.

- This Sunday, 12 November, head to Re-love Festival at Boyd Park from 9am to 2pm. Expect a second-hand market, kids' activities, repair workshops, music, and more, meet local residents and businesses at the stalls, reduce the amount of landfill, and enjoy a fun-filled day.
- Get involved at the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting, which is coming to Southbank on Tuesday 21 November.
- Southbank Neighbourhood Parking Review is open on Participate Melbourne until 29 November. It follows on from the Parking and Kerbside Management Plan, and aims to make parking simpler and fairer.
- Did you know that you can borrow junior books in many languages from Southbank Library at Boyd? Browse books in Chinese, Hindi, Spanish, Korean, Italian, Japanese, and Somali.
- Have your say on the Miles and Dodds Reserve pocket park consultation, which is open on Participate Melbourne until 11 December.

Want to connect with your neighbourhood? Contact your Southbank neighbourhood partner, Ash Lee, at [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/southbank](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/southbank)

## Discover your Neighbourhood Portal

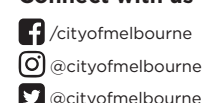
We're working to better understand and respond to community needs in a highly localised way through a neighbourhood model.



Explore the Neighbourhood Portals and City of Melbourne neighbourhood priorities at [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/southbank](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/southbank)



Connect with us



CITY OF MELBOURNE

# New crossings; tree islands proposed under council street safety study

Continued from page 1.

The council said projects were currently being prioritised based on feedback from recent community information sessions, which would then undergo design development this financial year and be programmed for construction in the 2024-25 financial year.

It added that the community would have the opportunity to have its say on which projects should be prioritised in the next phase of consultation.

But at the community information session hosted by SRA on November 1, SRA's president Tony Penna expressed his frustration to council officers about the process, arguing that current projects had been proposed based on just a handful of comments each.

He added that by not making the distinctions between state and locally managed roads clear during the consultation, the council had created the "perception" that actions could be taken to address areas of greatest concern.

However, a council officer confirmed during the meeting that the City of Melbourne intended to share all feedback received during consultation with VicRoads to help inform potential changes at City Rd, and Power and Clarendon streets, as well as Kings Way.

Locals also queried why no changes had been proposed for the council-managed Sturt St, despite being another location which was the subject of significant feedback, particularly the intersection at Miles St near the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School.

The officer told the meeting that Yarra Trams had plans to reposition and upgrade tram stops along Sturt St, and that the council's review therefore hadn't budgeted for safety treatments.

"We'll give the data to Yarra Trams and VicRoads, but Yarra Trams is doing a lot of work in Sturt [St] and it's part of their project to upgrade all stops to platform tram stops," the council officer told the meeting.

"They're relocating the existing stops to where the platform stops will be, as well as widening the stops so it will slow down traffic and provide or move signalised crossings to align with those stops. Basically, it's a gold plate treatment."

A spokesperson for the Department of Transport and Planning, which is the responsible authority for tram stop

upgrades, was unable to confirm when these works would occur, but highlighted that the way in which tram stop upgrades were planned had changed.

"We recognise the important role trams play along Sturt St in Southbank and we continue to work with the City of Melbourne to ensure passengers using trams in the area can get where they need to go safely and efficiently," the spokesperson said.

With Melbourne's more than 1600 tram stops now grouped into "corridors", the department said this allowed for improvements to be assessed along stretches of stops rather than on a stop-by-stop basis and to plan for a more accessible and interconnected network.

The first three corridors the government will focus on are in Footscray/Maribyrnong, Thornbury/Northcote and Fitzroy/Collingwood, while stops in other areas, including Sturt St, will be considered as part of future development packages.

While labelling the council's initiative overall as a "success", Southbank3006 president David Hamilton said meaningful change would only occur through a "comprehensive traffic management plan all of Southbank developed by the council and VicRoads".

"This will enable the development of low traffic neighbourhoods across Southbank that prioritise pedestrians and cyclist safety and enable local resident vehicle movements," Mr Hamilton said.

"Southbank3006 actively supported the council's public engagement program, and we believe that the pedestrian safety initiative this was a success. It forms part of a learning curve for both residents and council."

"But we need to recognise that the council is limited both in terms of budget and reach as to what it can 'solve' with engineering improvements without a comprehensive agreed traffic management plan developed jointly with VicRoads for all of Southbank." ●



Sean Car  
PUBLISHER  
SEAN@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU

# Consultation launches on Southbank's parking review

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS



The City of Melbourne is seeking the community's say on a neighbourhood parking review for Southbank as the council delivers its Parking and Kerbside Management Plan.

The council is reviewing and updating on-street parking across the municipality as it looks to optimise kerbside space and make parking signs as "simple and as consistent as possible".

On-street parking improvements are currently being undertaken in the CBD and Southbank (north of City Rd) while community consultation gets under way to review kerbside parking south of City Rd/Southbank Boulevard, St Kilda Rd, and the gardens precinct.

"After we decide how we'll allocate the local kerbside space, we'll draw up detailed designs for changed parking conditions," the council said.

"Next, we'll schedule the works to make those changes. That schedule will be based on completing parking improvement works in the previous neighbourhood (the central city), and the impact of other works and activities going on in the neighbourhood."

Parking improvements to Southbank are expected to be introduced next year.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the changes to parking would be "simpler, fairer and more reliable".

"We know each neighbourhood has a different mix of community members and needs – whether that's

access to services, shopping, restaurants, or parking near your home," she said.

"We encourage you to share your thoughts about how parking in your neighbourhood could better meet your needs."

Under the council's draft Parking and Kerbside Management Plan, it noted "indicators of success" were reduced reliance on parking, increase in carshare places, reduced "vehicles cruising" to find a park, and improved urban amenity.

Community engagement for Southbank runs until November 29. A workshop will be held at the Boyd Community Hub on November 9 from 5.30pm to 7.30pm. ●

Have your say:



**WAKUDA**  
JAPANESE RESTAURANT | ROOFTOP BAR | KARAOKE  
TAKE LIFT TO LEVEL 3  
MID CITY CENTRE, 200 BOURKE STREET, MELBOURNE  
WWW.WAKUDA.COM.AU / 03 9663 7756

LIVE MUSIC EVERY THURSDAY  
THE PREMIER VENUE TO HOST YOUR END-OF-YEAR  
FUNCTION, SEATING UPTO 400 PEOPLE!

SCAN HERE  
TO CLAIM YOUR FREE  
ROUND OF DRINKS!

Yarra River Business Association's  
**NETWORKING LUNCHEON**  
yarrariver.melbourne

FRIDAY, 24 NOVEMBER, 12 NOON — 1.30 PM  
FUNCTION ROOM, BELGIAN BEER CAFE, RIVERSIDE QUAY,

WHAT DID YOU TELL US?  
HEAR THE RESULTS FROM THE MAJOR RESIDENT 3006 SURVEY - PRESENTED BY NICK JUMARA, RIGHT ANGLE CONSULTANCY.

\$77 PER HEAD, (GST INC)  
2 COURSE LUNCHEON WITH FULL BEVERAGE.  
RESIDENTS MOST WELCOME.

Bookings: [www.yarrariver.melbourne/lunch](http://www.yarrariver.melbourne/lunch)  
Enquiries: **Tim Bracher 0412 502 931** [exoff@yarrariver.melbourne](mailto:exoff@yarrariver.melbourne)

# Council reverts community meetings back to Town Hall

*The City of Melbourne has canned a two-year experiment of holding monthly meetings throughout the community, reverting all assemblies back to Town Hall from 2024.*

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS



▲ Attendees have their photo taken following an FMC meeting held in Carlton last year.

At the October 31 council meeting councillors opted to discontinue holding one of two Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meetings per month at a community venue throughout the municipality.

November's meeting in Southbank, at The Opera Centre, will be the last planned community FMC meeting.

First adopted in July 2021, Lord Mayor Sally Capp said at the time she hoped the monthly FMC community meeting would "become a tradition for decades to come".

"We are bringing local government democracy to the people, and we are engaging local town halls with debates and discussions that affect their lives and livelihoods," she said.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece also said it was a "historic" occasion as senior council staff could not recall any meeting being held outside Town Hall during the previous 40 years.

However, from 2024 all three meetings held during each month (two FMC and one council) will take place at Town Hall.

"Melbourne Town Hall is a centrally located venue with purpose-built accessible facilities, and meeting primarily at Town Hall ensures meetings are accessible to the whole municipality, particularly as agenda items often relate to a number of different neighbourhoods," a report from officers noted on October 31.

However, should the council determine an upcoming agenda next year was "significantly weighted towards a neighbourhood", by either the number of agenda items or significance of items, it may arrange a meeting at a relevant venue within that community.

"We have really enjoyed our Future Melbourne Committee meetings that have been held in community locations," Cr Capp said.

"And while this isn't specified as the way forward for meetings next year, for reasons that we've well understood from the reports received from officers, this in no way signals our intention to in any way diminish our ongoing commitment, engagement and accessibility to members of the community. We note the many ways that we have increased that, particularly through our neighbourhood model, and long may that continue."

Southbank3006 president David Hamilton said they were pleased with the move.

"This was an expensive activity that played

a role before the council's neighbourhood program and participate program for community engagement was on the ground and firmly established. We are pleased that FMC meetings will continue to be held at Town Hall because it is a venue that is accessible to all residents," he told *Southbank News*.

He said the move would not account to any loss and praised the transparency of the current council compared with those in the past.

"Nothing will be lost by the recent decision; in fact, it will make participation in FMC meetings easier for Southbank residents."

"The City of Melbourne, unlike many councils in the state, maintains an inclusive and open dialogue with its residents via the FMC process including its budget processes."

"It is a far cry from the old style of council that characterised Melbourne for decades."

Southbank Residents' Association president Tony Penna said he was "on the fence" about the decision and could see both the pros and cons.

"It was nice that the council engaged with the community in their respective areas, but what did it achieve? It was a warm and fuzzy exercise," he said.

"Yes, the local community might have felt the love, but so often there were technical problems with the equipment, etc., problems we rarely experienced at Town Hall."

"The council has indicated that should there be a significant issue or announcement in a specific area then it would consider holding a special meeting there. I am not too fussed about this and can see the pros and cons."

In more than two years of assemblies at varying venues, FMC meetings took place at Clifton Freshwater Place in Southbank, The Hub in Docklands, St Martins Youth Arts Centre, Kensington Town Hall and Melbourne Connect in Carlton, among many others.

The FMC is made up of the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and nine councillors, each tasked with one or more portfolios.

Discussion and decisions on these evenings range from planning matters to the endorsement of wider strategies and plans that impact the local community. ●

# Council executive steps down amid conflict-of-interest concerns

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS



▲ Roger Teal with Lord Mayor Sally Capp.

A high-ranking City of Melbourne staff member has announced they will step down from their role after declaring they were "ready to move on" less than three years into their term.

Roger Teale, the council's general manager of the property, infrastructure, and design portfolio, announced in early October that he was quitting his role.

This is despite Mr Teale having an influential role in projects such as the \$268 million Queen Victoria Market precinct renewal, the Kensington Community Aquatic and Recreation Centre upgrade, Southbank Boulevard's greening transformation, and the first stage of Greenline.

The City of Melbourne's CEO Alison Leighton confirmed Mr Teale had notified the council "that he is ready to move on from his role as general manager [of] property Infrastructure and design" and "a transition plan will take place over the coming weeks to ensure we continue delivering what matters most to our community".

*Southbank News* understands that Mr Teale had intended to leave the role to take up a yet to be determined position with the council.

In a post on LinkedIn, Mr Teale said: "I will remain at City of Melbourne in a new role working a number of exciting strategic opportunities with the office of the CEO and council."

However, Mr Teale will step aside from his current role after public concerns had been raised that he continued to be managing director of Lautaret, a CBD-based commercial property consultancy group while holding his senior executive position with the council.

Before joining the City of Melbourne in 2021, Mr Teale was also employed by property developer Lendlease for 12 years as a senior executive.

In June, the City of Melbourne announced Lendlease as the preferred tenderer for its \$1.7 billion transformation of the southern end of Queen Victoria Market.

This concern has prompted Council Watch, a group that aims to hold local governments to account, to lodge a report with the state's anti-corruption watchdog IBAC. However, neither Council Watch nor *Southbank News* are suggesting any wrongdoing, just that concerns have been raised about staff having personal and professional interests outside of the council that may have the potential to act as a conflict of interest.

A City of Melbourne spokesperson said, "a number of commercial partners expressed strong interest in developing the Southern Precinct" and "council has ensured there has been no conflict of interest, and independent probity experts were involved in every stage of the tender".

"Once the shortlist was formed, which consisted of four companies, Mr Teale withdrew from the process," the spokesperson said.

The spokesperson added, "Mr Teale has

disclosed his personal interests and listed these as required under the *Local Government Act 2020*."

The council said it had led a competitive three-stage open divestment process to sell the Southern Precinct to the private sector, starting with an expressions of interest process in June 2021.

In a statement, IBAC said it "does not comment on whether it has a complaint or investigation before it".

Council Watch spokesman Dean Hurlston said there were concerns about local governments having staff and councillors engaging in "financial interests or outside interests that may not be consistent with their role or their duties".

"Councillors obviously have businesses and work interests outside of council so that's quite regular that they declare conflicts, whereas a full-time staff member certainly has a higher level of expectation that they are focused on the council they're working for and no other outside interests," he said.

In relation to Mr Teale, Mr Hurlston said, "We don't assert that he's done or is doing anything wrong. What we are concerned about is how any executive employed full time by a publicly funded role in the council can manage competing interests in the public domain."

Mr Hurlston also referred to IBAC's Operation Sandon, which investigated allegations of serious corrupt conduct in relation to planning and property development decisions at the City of Casey, saying "IBAC has said in Operation Sandon that councillors who had any conflict should not be involved in any part of any decision or the processes to get there".

"What that means for us is that it sets a standard that the same should apply for officers," he said.

Friends of Queen Victoria Market president Mary-Lou Howie said "transparency, accountability and inclusivity are vital to good council governance".

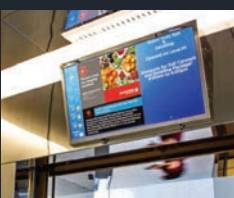
"Councils are elected to represent the needs of their community, not developers and their vested interests."

Meanwhile, Mr Teale, a former president of the Property Council of Victoria, was among three people to be guest speakers at a Property Council event on October 25 to talk about "Melbourne's high-profile projects" and "the opportunities for complementary investment and the policy settings underpinning them". ●

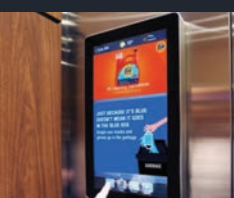
## COMMVISION

# Don't Get Left Behind Join the Digital Revolution in Building Communication!

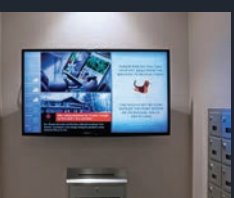
CommVision offers a state-of-the-art solution for strata/building managers to increase communication with residents in lifts and Lobbies.




Real Time Updates



Community News



Saving Time and Resources



Take the first step in transforming your building communication. Reach out to our team at [info@commvision.com.au](mailto:info@commvision.com.au) or call [03 9863 7552](tel:0398637552).



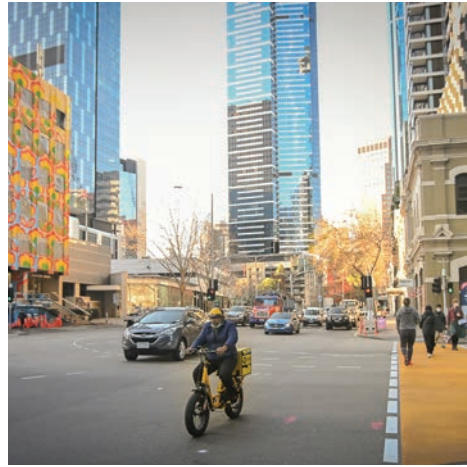
# The good, bad, and delayed: Council releases “honest account” of how key projects are tracking



*The City of Melbourne has released an appraisal on where it's falling behind, and what it's doing well.*



WORDS BY *David Schout*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS



▲ *The City Road Master Plan and Greenline (right) are among projects identified by the council as being behind schedule in its latest Annual Report.*



The City of Melbourne has conceded key projects like Greenline and the Queen Victoria Market renewal were behind schedule as part of an “honest account” of key initiatives.

The appraisal, as part of the council's annual report released in late October, featured concessions it had not met some goals set out for the 2022-23 financial year.

Other indicators within the municipality were positive, in particular, slashing the number of shopfront vacancies, which had become a feature of the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, the council acknowledged that key milestones for big-investment projects had not been met.

As part of a warts-and-all report of happenings throughout the municipality, the City's two key projects in Greenline and the QVM precinct renewal were marked as “behind schedule at 30 June 2023”.

A pledge to establish a funding plan for Greenline – crucial for the full project going ahead – and beginning stage one works at Birrarung Marr were not met.

*Southbank News* revealed in September however that works on site one (at Birrarung Marr) would begin in April 2024.

Key 2022-23 milestones for the Queen Victoria Market precinct renewal (the council's largest ever investment) such as completing the sheds' restoration and the Food Hall, and starting works on the new Trader Shed, weren't met either.

However, the latter two weren't far behind schedule; the Food Hall was set to open in November and works began on the seven-storey Trader Shed in October.

Some delays, the council said, were out of its hands.

“There's no doubt supply chain issues, experienced by others in our economy, have affected our capital works,” City of Melbourne CEO Alison Leighton noted in the report.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said the report was designed to identify where the council had “fallen short”, and to “hold ourselves to account”.

He argued they had even gone further than required.

“We've been fully up-front about activities that have been delayed or deferred and where we're behind or ahead of schedule,” Cr Reece said at the October 31 council meeting.

“This report goes way above and beyond what's required under our statutory reporting obligations. Way beyond.”

Long-time Greens Cr Rohan Leppert said the reporting was “best in the [local government] sector”.

“This sets the standard now,” he said.

“This is a level of disclosure on not just how each major initiative is being progressed over the course of the financial year but each individual activity beneath that, and it's an honest account as to whether we've been able to complete those activities or not.”

The council said one of its successes in 2022-23 was around retail recovery.

In the two years to June 2023, it had more than halved the number of empty retail spaces, from over 31 per cent to 14.4 per cent.

The “Shopfront Activation program”, which concluded in March, transformed 67 vacant shops into new retail spaces and enterprises in the CBD, Lygon St and Docklands.

Its business concierge team provided 14,081 businesses with support and mentoring.

The council's city activation chair Cr Roshena Campbell said the program was “the most tangible example” of the city's economic recovery.

“Anyone who walked the streets of Melbourne after COVID, towards the end of 2021, the fact that more than 30 per cent of our shops were vacant was one of the most stark realities about the impact of the pandemic on our city,” Cr Campbell said.

“The fact that we have halved that rate, that we are now down to 14.4 per cent, says a lot about how strong our city is, about the green shoots and the fact that we're coming back. But it didn't happen on its own.”

She said there was still a way to go. “The reality is 14.4 per cent isn't good enough, we know that we've still got to go further, but it does say that we have come very far along this journey and anyone walking our streets today can see the difference.”

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said while they were formally required to release an annual report each year, this year's went above the minimum requirements and urged locals to read it online.

“Really what is the point of this document if it's not a document that welcomes and encourages people to read it, and to gather that information and to hold us accountable and to be involved in that measurement of our progress,” Cr Capp said.

“We can also see from the Annual Report that nothing is ever really over, really. And it does really set us up for the ongoing work at council.”

## What's going well?

- Gross local product: \$114 billion (up from \$107.4 billion in 2021-22)
- Number of jobs: 480,600 (up from 465,600)
- Number of visitors: 12.4 million (up from 6.3 million)
- Vacancy rate of retail premises: 14.4 per cent (down from 19 per cent)
- Number of start-ups in the municipality: 1251 (up from 1180)

## What's not?

- Municipal greenhouse gas emissions: 4.55 million CO<sub>2</sub>e (up from 4.23 million CO<sub>2</sub>e)
- Number of businesses in the municipality: 13,829 (down from 14,513)
- Proportion of dwellings within 300m of public open space: 94.7 per cent (down from 96.3 per cent)
- Proportion of people reporting food insecurity (no change)



## Other positives:

- Average score out of 100 for resident wellbeing: 73 (up from 72 in 2021-22)
- Proportion of people who regularly visit a park in the municipality: 88 per cent (up from 85 per cent)
- Proportion of people who participated in arts and cultural activities in the municipality: 24 per cent (up from 19 per cent)

## Other negatives:

- Number of people supported through a range of accommodation: 91 (down from 118)
- Number of trees planted in the municipality: 2554 (down from 3041)
- Melburnians' self-reported sense of belonging to community: 63.1 per cent (down from 64.8 per cent)
- Number of people sleeping rough who have not been offered accommodation: 73 (up from 38)

## Major projects behind schedule

- Greenline
- Queen Victoria Market precinct renewal
- Munro library and community hub
- Increase of public open space
- City Road Master Plan
- Increase/upgrade women's sport facilities

## Major initiatives on track

- Power Melbourne
- Homes Melbourne
- New neighbourhood model
- Public art program
- Heritage reviews/new planning scheme amendments
- Delivery of new design panel/committees
- Rapid response cleaning team



*David Schout*  
JOURNALIST  
DAVID@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU

## UN PEZZO DI MILANO

## Un Pezzo Di Milano

Milan-inspired Italian eatery & patisserie serving freshly baked pizza, aromatic coffee and a selection of delicious pastries.

📍 272a La Trobe St, Melbourne  
[www.unpezzodimilano.com.au](http://www.unpezzodimilano.com.au)  
 @unpezzodimilano

Supporting business

Construction partner:

Design & Construction

CYP-BS00380

# Councillors rack up big bills to attend meetings and conferences

“Ratepayers will foot a bill for almost \$100,000 to cover City of Melbourne councillor expenses including local travel, conferences, and mobile phone internet costs.”

”

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The claimed expenses (\$93,455), including a total of \$52,575 in travel costs, were for the year to June 30, which was on top of allowances given to all councillors.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp had the most claims of any councillor – \$32,451 including \$29,088 in travel bills to cover transport like taxis and private vehicle use, as well as parking fees to get to meetings, conferences, and other commitments, which can be within and outside the municipality.

Next was Cr Roshena Campbell who racked up \$23,435 in expenses, including \$9213 to attend conferences, functions, and training days (separate to travel costs), as well as \$12,949 for carer expenses.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas claimed a total of \$16,946 with \$15,013 in travel costs.

The Lord Mayor also gets an annual allowance of \$248,941, while Cr Reece receives \$124,470.

Council Watch president Dean Hurlston slammed the behaviour of councillors for their excessive travel bills.

“The travel expenses for Cr Capp and Cr Reece just don’t pass the pub test,” he said.

“Have they not heard of public transport? Are they flying all over Australia? If so, why? Isn’t this local council not state government? Cr Capp and Cr Reece are playing Melburnians for fools.”

The expenses, which were published in the council’s annual report,

also detailed the councillors’ attendance at the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meetings over the course of the year. Of the 21 meetings held, Cr Jason Chang, Cr Campbell, and Cr Philip Le Liu went to a total of only 12, 13, and 15 respectively.

Councillors make important decisions at FMC meetings including planning proposals, city transport, heritage issues, local economy and more.

However, Cr Campbell, who contested and lost the eastern suburbs federal seat of Aston on April 1 as a Liberal candidate, was on unpaid leave from February 22 to April 1.

Meanwhile, the council has approved Cr Le Liu to fly to China to participate in the Australian China Youth Dialogue (ACYD) and other meetings with officials, including a visit to Thailand from November 11 to 28 at a cost of \$6000. Other costs will be jointly covered by the ACYD and personally by Cr Le Liu.

According to a council report published in October, Cr Le Liu’s participation at the ACYD “will provide a valuable opportunity to establish connections and foster relations on behalf of the City of Melbourne” and “provide an opportunity to advance Melbourne as a preferred destination for economic investment, international tourism and education”.

Cr Le Liu’s Thailand visit will be in preparation of Melbourne and the Prime Minister hosting leaders from southeast Asia’s ASEAN bloc in March 2024 for a special summit to commemorate 50 years of relations with Australia.

His trip follows Cr Reece’s travel to China in April to participate in a business delegation led by the Australia China Business Council, which cost \$15,900. In March, Cr Kevin Louey travelled to the Philippines, stinging ratepayers \$6880.

International trips did not include councillor expenses for the year.

The total claim of councillors’ expenses would be the equivalent of providing about 9000 meals to help charities feed people doing it tough.

●



*Brendan Rees*  
JOURNALIST  
BRENDAN@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU



# Ray White gets behind Movember

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Hanna Komissarova*  
COMMUNITY

Some call it a caterpillar, others a cookie duster, and it has even been referred to as a lip toupee ... you’ll probably call it a moustache, and this Movember, local real estate agents, Ray White Southbank, are growing theirs to raise funds for men’s mental and physical health.

Established in 2003, the Movember movement, has grown from 30 moustaches to five million, and in the process has raised more than \$1 billion.

According to principal of Ray White Southbank, Andrew Salvo, they are joining this year’s fundraising drive because “as an office and team, mental and physical health is something that we really try to focus on and support each other.”

“Mental health, especially in men, is something that isn’t spoken out loud about as there is often a stigma around it so it’s kept hush hush,” Mr Salvo said.

“

*This is something that we have been seeing in general getting better and we really just want to continue to raise awareness about the cause.*

”

“Movember is an inclusive and fun way to raise awareness to the broader community about men’s health. Movember uses the donations to fund men’s health programs and they provide easy access to information on



how to seek support, guidance and help with whatever life throws men’s way.”

“Our team want to be open and transparent as we have all experienced loss and grief and feel it is a very important cause to get behind. We have a very diverse team with different stories and backgrounds, and we are all coming together with a common goal and involving our local clients and community to get behind our Mo Bro’s and try to make a difference while raising awareness and having a laugh along the way.”

The Ray White team will be handing out flyers at open homes and are asking the community to get on board and snap a photo with their billboard on the corner of Clarendon St and City Rd.

You can follow and tag them on Instagram @raywhite-southbank. For every story or post they are tagged in, their office will donate \$10 and credit the donation to the person who has posted the photo.

To donate, head to the website below or scan the QR code on page 11. ●

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

**Your Federal MP for Southbank.**

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

**joshburns.com.au**  
josh.burns.mp@aph.gov.au ✉  
(03) 9534 8126 📞  
219 Barkly St, St Kilda VIC 3182 📍

**JOSH BURNS MP**  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MACNAMARA

📱📺📷📺 joshburnsmp



# STUDENT Q&A

# ARTS



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



PHOTOGRAPHY BY Hanna Komissarova  
ARTS & CULTURE

### Why did you choose your degree?

I've always been obsessed with drawing. I can't picture doing anything else. Animation is an artistic medium with zero limitations and a fantastic way to channel that obsession. The best part is the ability to give life to anything you can imagine.



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

Lots of drawing. Hours of it a day. Drawing the same characters thousands of times in slightly different positions can be mentally exhausting. But I feel fortunate to be spending every day drawing bizarre characters.

### What has been your favourite experience?

I exhibited a virtual reality experience at Science Gallery Melbourne and screened my work on the Fed Square screen. I loved sharing my art in public settings.

### Do you feel connected to your industry?

I've met many people in the industry, like Princess Bento, and was involved in Adam Elliot's upcoming stop-motion film production. Melbourne is a hub for creatives, and being surrounded by so much talent is motivating.

### What advice would you give?

Every assignment is an opportunity to create something expressive, memorable, and experimental. Try to make each piece of work valuable to your artistic journey. I've also met some of my closest friends through the course,

who I look forward to collaborating with in my career, so take advantage of opportunities to connect with other creatives.

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

I want to make more art with others. I love collaborating with local musicians to create animated music videos.

### You are currently in your final year - how does it feel to have nearly finished?

I'm proud of the work I've put in and am grateful for the experience. It's been great getting to know my peers and teachers who have been so supportive and inspiring. I will always remember walking into such a motivating and positive space to create every day.

### Tell us about your graduation film showcasing on the MIFF Play platform ...

I've created a 2D animated horror film, *After Party*, about three friends hanging out after a house party exploring substance-induced anxiety and paranoia. This animation film is a culmination of the style I've developed over the course of the degree. ●



## New mural on hidden rooftop

ARTS & CULTURE

The rooftop of a soon-to-be-demolished building in Southbank has been transformed into a "biophilic oasis" large-scale mural of Australian natives by Melbourne artist George Rose.

Only visible from above, the hidden masterpiece on the top of the former BMW building at the corner of City Rd and Southbank Boulevard has pleasantly surprised overlooking residents, office workers and visitors in surrounding towers. In an expansive botanical display of bright and surreal colours including greens, purple and pinks, the mural celebrates a variety of Australian natives including Kangaroo Apple, Royal Bluebell, Beach Pea, Grevillea, Spider Orchid, and the Bush Pea.

George Rose's work is known for exploring the fragility of nature, featuring endangered flora and fauna, and the transformation of the micro into macro-scale, with the BMW rooftop evident of her signature gradients.

Commissioned by Beulah Foundation, property developer Beulah's philanthropic arm, the artwork aspires to promote art, wellbeing, and sustainability, while advancing culture.

The concept for the mural focused on rejuvenating the current site's urbanscape and is complementary to the eye-catching Atong Atem mural that adorns the exterior of Hanover House, with both sites celebrating local female artists.

Both buildings will soon make way for the developer's STHBNK by Beulah development – a mixed-use twin-tower project. ●

**southgate pharmacy**

All your pharmaceutical, healthcare and lifestyle needs right in the heart of Southbank!

8am-6pm Mon-Fri | 9am 2pm Sat | Closed Sundays

03 9699 7000 | southgatepharmacy@bigpond.com  
P14 Southgate Shopping Centre, Southbank, VIC, 3006

# Team Austen's November Auctions

Austen Kosasih: 0422 396 900  
David Umana: 0481 222 376

Please contact Austen Kosasih on 0422 396 900 for November auction campaign details.

**RayWhite**

**WHATEVER YOU GROW WILL SAVE A BRO**

NOVEMBER SUPPORTER

- 2809/118 Kavanagh Street, Southbank \$550,000 - \$600,000
- 5/32 Westbury Street, St Kilda East \$520,000 - \$570,000
- 2002/50 Haig Street, Southbank \$390,000 - \$429,000
- 1212/39 Coventry Street, Southbank \$490,000 - \$520,000
- 2905/63 Haig Street, Southbank \$480,000 - \$520,000
- 801a/609 Victoria Street, Abbotsford \$580,000 - \$610,000

raywhitesouthbank.com.au

ADVERTISEMENT  
Your City of Melbourne community update

# SMALL BUSINESS AWARDS

## A Melbourne book lover's paradise

As a UNESCO City of Literature, books and reading are embedded in Melbourne's culture.

Independent bookshop Mary Martin represents the best of literature in our book-loving city, taking home the Bookshop of the Year award in 2019, and it's why we've recognised it as a Small Business of the Year finalist in this year's Lord Mayor's Small Business Awards.

Since its humble beginnings in Adelaide in 1945, Mary Martin Bookshop's mission is to provide a second home for book lovers, creatives and students.

Current owner Jaye Chin-Dusting left behind a career in medical research to bring new life to Mary Martin, and today, it extends to three stores - in Southgate, Port Melbourne and a newly-opened branch at Queen Victoria Market.

Mary Martin caters to all ages and tastes, from toddlers to the elderly, and everyone in between.

True to the spirit of the original Mary Martin bookshop, all are welcome to take their time perusing the shop's extensive collection.

"Mary Martin is a very personal space. It's not just about the books - it's about people coming in and feeling at home to browse to their heart's content. Particularly in our Southgate shop, we get lots of office workers coming in during their lunch break who just need a breather. It's meditative for them and we are very comfortable accommodating that," Jaye said.

Beyond just a place to browse, Mary Martin hosts a wide range of events,

including book clubs, author readings and 'mystery nights', where participants are invited to receive a mystery book and meet the author for a conversation over a glass of wine - Mary Martin's way of supporting local talent.

About 70 per cent of the books stocked are standardised across the three stores - but the rest are cleverly targeted towards that area's demographic.

"In the Port Melbourne branch, we stock more children's books as it's a more suburban area with families coming in. For the Queen Victoria Market branch, we'd carry books that might be appealing to an impulse buyer who has come in for a browse," Jaye said.

As an independent bookstore, the staff at Mary Martin can choose which books come into the shop, using extensive product knowledge to curate a unique selection suited to their customers.

**"As one of the world's strongest reading communities and a City of Literature, Melbourne is a great place for a bookshop to do business," Jaye said.**

Mary Martin Bookshop can be found on the ground floor of Southgate Shopping Centre, Southbank, in String Bean Alley at Queen Victoria Market and at 2/188 Bay Street, Port Melbourne.



Jaye Chin-Dusting has been keeping Melbourne's literary lovers well-read through Mary Martin Bookshop.



Lord Mayor Sally Capp at the awards ceremony.

### ABOUT THE LORD MAYOR'S SMALL BUSINESS AWARDS

Melbourne is full of fantastic small business success stories.

The business owners showcased on these pages are recipients of this year's Lord Mayor's Small Business Awards. The awards celebrate the people behind inner-city businesses that have stood the test of time.

Among the recipients are legends who have been in business in the city for 10+, 20+ and 40+ years. We also name a Small Business of the Year and Small Business Innovation Award.

To read our full profiles on these businesses and more, visit [news.melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://news.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

### KEEP IN TOUCH

To stay connected with all the latest news from the City of Melbourne, follow us on social media and subscribe to *Melbourne News* at

[news.melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://news.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

### Connect with us

- [/cityofmelbourne](https://www.facebook.com/cityofmelbourne)
- [@cityofmelbourne](https://www.instagram.com/cityofmelbourne)
- [@cityofmelbourne](https://www.twitter.com/cityofmelbourne)



ADVERTISEMENT  
Your City of Melbourne community update



**LE TAJ RESTAURANT**

**Curry. Some like it hot, some like it not. But one thing we can all agree on is that curry connoisseurs are spoilt for choice in Melbourne.**

But if it's heat you seek, Le Taj Restaurant and Lounge in West Melbourne is home to the hottest curry in Melbourne.

It's a hefty claim but restaurateur Prabjeet (Pat) Oberoi said Le Taj's recipe for the bhut jolokia packs a heat level to test even the most seasoned spice lover.

Made using Naga Viper peppers or ghost chilies as they're also known, the bhut jolokia is "five times hotter than a vindaloo", Pat said.

"The idea for the dish came about when I thought of cooking

something super spicy which not many Indian restaurants were doing."

From breads to biryanis, crispy samosas to savoury pakoras, and vindaloos, tindaloos and every curry in between, Pat and his team combine authentic Indian spices and techniques to create a menu of traditional and contemporary North Indian meals.

Migrating from India to Melbourne in 2001, Pat knew he was destined for a long career in the hospitality industry, and it wasn't before long he opened Le Taj in 2006.

We've recognised Pat and Le Taj Restaurant with a Lord Mayor's Small Business Achievement Award.



**AMERICAN DOUGHNUT KITCHEN**

**Those queues you often see at the Queen Victoria Market lead to one of Melbourne's best-loved treats – a sugar-coated, jam-filled delight of a doughnut produced by the same families for more than 70 years.**

The American Doughnut Kitchen was recently recognised with an Achievement Award in the Lord Mayor's Small Business Awards. Julie Boening is the daughter of one of its founders and brings its history to life with her warm memories of time spent bagging up doughnuts as a child.

"My father would be absolutely amazed to think the business has thrived for so long. To be recognised by the award means a lot to me," she said.

It's almost impossible to imagine the market without the doughnut kitchen handing out bags of sweetness to locals and tourists alike.

"It's the smell that gets everybody in. The doughnuts are made fresh every day, they're made from dough so they have to prove overnight. I think the vintage van is the attraction too," Julie said.

"Lots of people come for the theatrics. Early in the morning people stand outside and watch the staff rolling the dough and cutting it out by hand. Once cooked, the doughnuts get turned into a tray. Jam is put in using a hand-pumped machine, then they're put in the sugar bowl to coat them nicely."



**PETAL BACK CLOTHING**

**Dignity, comfort and ease are at the center of Linda Dugan's mission at Petal Back Clothing in Docklands, one of the most innovative adaptive clothing brands in the world.**

Linda, a former swim and resort wear designer, first encountered the need for garments that could accommodate the elderly, disabled and those with limited mobility when her grandmother suffered a stroke and could no longer dress herself.

Using her design skills, Linda created a nightie that could be easily slipped on and off, without her grandmother having to hoist her arms in the air.

Linda has since expanded to an impressive range of pieces catering to a wide clientele including blouses,

pants, singlets, polos and options for men as well.

Linda's designs, with their distinctive 'petal back', are reverse engineered from the swimskirt. Each garment is meticulously designed to minimise the need for movement and manual handling when those in care are being dressed by someone else.

Linda has thought of everything from patterns designed to cover up food and tea spills, to how stronger, high-quality fabrics made to last are needed as garments must go through medical grade industrial laundering.

Petal Back Clothing was a Lord Mayor's Small Business Innovation Award finalist.



**CARLTON YACHT CLUB**

**It's for very good reason Melbourne was named in the world's top five travel-worthy drinking destinations this year.**

The key to this acclaim is Melbourne's cultural diversity and the waves of migration over the years from Italy and Greece to more recently from Asia which have influenced our city's bar scene.

Take Carlton Yacht Club Bar for example. It's behind a blink-and-you'll-miss-it door, in a sea of espresso bars and cucinas in the heart of Little Italy.

But it's owner Andrew Leonedas' Greek heritage that has perhaps unwittingly influenced the nautical theme.

"I came up with the name as it represents the relaxed environment I wanted to create and constructed cocktails and added decor to suit. Customers love the name and the irony that Carlton has no water," Andrew said.

Carlton Yacht Club Bar is now one of Lygon Street's longest-standing cocktail institutions, evoking a sense of carefreeness and fun one would associate with sailing the Aegean Sea.

We've recognised Andrew and Carlton Yacht Club Bar with a Lord Mayor's Small Business Achievement Award for more than 20 years in business.

# Arts Precinct



## Melbourne artist showcases her first survey exhibition at Buxton Contemporary

*Buxton Contemporary's latest exhibition, titled **Around**, will run from November 24, to April 7, featuring Melbourne-based artist Nadine Christensen in her first career survey.*

WORDS BY *Georgie Atkins*

The free exhibition will include around 80 of Ms Christensen's works spanning across "25 years of practice", including some that have never been shown before, as well as new works that have been created especially for the exhibition. "We've had to find a lot of artworks because Nadine's work has very much been collected by individual collectors and institutions such as National Gallery of Victoria," senior curator of Arts Museums at The University of Melbourne (UoM), Samantha Comte said. "It's been a bit of detective work in how we've actually had to find those works, the earliest being from 1998, so tracking them down has been a really interesting process in this particular exhibition."



Exploring the theme *Around* aims to convey the "circularity" of Ms Christensen's practice, while also connecting with the surroundings and found objects that she has drawn inspiration from over the years.

While Ms Christensen's work predominantly consists of paintings that play with "unusual colour combinations" and engage with "notions of the everyday", *Around* will also feature various "audience-activated kinetic works" and major sculptures throughout the two-storey gallery. "Nadine is a really great painter and that has obviously been her focus, but you're also going to see other works that really disrupt what can sometimes be very quiet gallery spaces," Ms Comte told *Southbank News*.

This includes various external works that audiences will be able to interact with in different ways before even entering the gallery.

"One thing we have done is use the façade of Buxton Contemporary, to my knowledge this hasn't been done before, so look up as you walk down Dodds St," Ms Christensen said.

"What Melbourne hasn't seen enough of is career surveys of women artists, especially painters, so that may be a new experience for some audiences."

Existing as part of UoM's Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) campus and the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, Buxton Contemporary works

to "bring the university and public together", with Ms Christensen also teaching in the art school. Being one of the artists in the Buxton collection, *Around* will be a way of showcasing the incredible story of Ms Christensen's work, "both within the education context and also the general public".

"This is the biggest show I've done, and it's been a great pleasure to work with so many knowledgeable people in bringing it to fruition," Ms Christensen said. "I think art is a really important part of society, I value it highly in my own life and I am driven to continue because of this and because I find it so challenging."

Accompanying the exhibition will be a major publication of essays representing the artist, written by curator and researcher Rosemary Forde alongside Jennifer Higgle, art critic and former editor of London-based contemporary art magazine *Frieze*.

Buxton Contemporary is located at the corner of Southbank Boulevard and Dodds St. The exhibition will open Wednesday to Sunday from 11am to 5pm, between November 24 to April 7. ●

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

## Triennial exhibition set to delight

*The National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) has announced the return of its Triennial exhibition celebrating the work and life of local and international artists.*

WORDS BY *Afraa Kori*

The exhibition will take place from December 3, 2023, to April 7, 2024, at NGV International. It brings contemporary art, design, and architecture into one dialogue, traversing all four levels of the gallery.

This year's *Triennial* will feature more than 120 artists, designers and collectives working at the forefront of global contemporary practice, while also showcasing 100 projects led by creatives and more than 25 projects commissioned by NGV.

NGV director Tony Ellwood AM said the exhibition sought to highlight the extraordinary ways emerging artists and designers captured and recounted contemporary stories.

"The artists, designers and architects play an



important role in helping us to understand, navigate and relate to the world around us," Mr Ellwood said.

"The 2023 NGV *Triennial* offers audiences a valuable opportunity to experience new and surprising forms of creative expression from around the globe, which, together, present a compelling snapshot of the world as it is, while also asking how we would like it to be."

Visitors will encounter various forms and disciplines, ranging from robotics to AI, textiles to sculpture, and animatronics to conceptual art. A unique feature is the three thematic pillars of magic, matter and memory that anchor the 2023 NGV *Triennial*.

Minister for Creative Industries Colin Brooks said *Triennial* would be a remarkable event for summer.

"Get ready for a huge summer of art with the return of the NGV *Triennial*. Free and exclusive-to-Melbourne, the exhibition brings together the work of more than 100 of the most exciting artists and designers working around the world today," Minister Brooks said.

NGV invites everyone to attend and celebrate the opening of *Triennial* in early December, with a week of free talks and conversations, including tours led by curators and artists from across the globe.

With many of the works on display entering the NGV Collection, Mr Ellwood said *Triennial* established a lasting legacy for Victoria that could be accessed for many generations to come.

"In the three years since the last NGV *Triennial*, the world has experienced a great many structural shifts, including a global pandemic," Mr Ellwood said.

"Through the work of more than 100 artists, designers, architects and collectives from Australia and around the world, the NGV *Triennial* offers a powerful insight into the ideas and concerns empowering creative practice in 2023." ●

**For more information:**  
[ngv.vic.gov.au/triennial](http://ngv.vic.gov.au/triennial)



CODY O'BRIEN

## Exploring people and places through the lens of Cody O'Brien

*Twenty-seven-year-old Cody O'Brien is "at the tail end" of studying for a bachelor's degree in photography at Photography Studies College (PSC), and will soon celebrate the completion of three years at the institution.*

WORDS BY *Georgie Atkins*



Originally from Warrnambool, Cody moved to Melbourne three years ago to pursue study at PSC, which he described as being a "big learning curve".

"Moving to Melbourne was an exciting, but also scary kind of period," Cody said.

"Coming from a small, tight-knit community to the big, scary city – but it's been a really good experience."

While previously picking up photography as a hobby, taking "meaningless snapshots of the world", Cody's time at PSC has allowed him to pursue work with "a bit more intention".

"I try and consider what it is that I'm photographing and why I want to photograph it and to build bodies of work that are cohesive and mean something."

Skilled in both film and digital photography, Cody has recently become "more comfortable shooting with digital" through his studies, which has seen him short-listed for various awards through the Australian Photography Awards.

His passion for photojournalism and documentary-style photography has led him to explore themes based around "place and the people within the place", using portraiture and landscape photography to convey his ideas.

Cody's most recent project, titled *Once More for the Sun*, involved travelling four-and-a-half hours each way to photograph where his Dad grew up – a small, rural town with a population of around 200 people.

"My work tends to explore themes of identity and belonging, and the people and places that influence that," Cody told *Southbank News*. For his final year of study, Cody has focused on subject matter around Melbourne, as he has begun to establish a more settled lifestyle here in the city.

"It's been really refreshing forcing myself to photograph around Melbourne," Cody said. "The project predominantly includes portraiture of my friends and the places around me that have come to feel like home – it's kind of in response to the ever-evolving interpretation of home that we have, when we meet new people, or we find new places and they all of a sudden feel really homely."

Cody will exhibit his final project alongside his PSC cohort in an exhibition, titled *Solstice*, at BrightSpace gallery in St Kilda, opening on December 1.

"It's a really beautiful gallery space and we're very lucky to be exhibiting there," he said.

"I think it's going to really showcase the diversity and how much talent is in our cohort – it's really impressive to see how different everyone's style is and how refined everyone's work has become throughout the course."

While still finalising which works he will present, Cody will be exhibiting a series of images exploring his chosen theme, as well as putting together a photobook that will hang from the ceiling of the gallery space.

Much like any student nearing the end of their university degree, Cody is yet to decide where photography will take him after graduation.

However, he says studying at PSC has opened doors in the photography industry that he "didn't really ever think of being as jobs."

"I figure if I keep trying things out, I'll eventually figure out which ones I like," Cody said.

*Solstice* will open from 6pm on December 1 and run at the BrightSpace gallery until December 10. ●

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

The Home of Photography Education  
**PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIES COLLEGE**  
psc.edu.au



Image by Kim Dumayne

**PHOTOGRAPHY IS POWERFUL  
UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL AND DIVE INTO  
THIS FASCINATING VISUAL WORLD**

Open your career and creative future in 2024 with our Bachelor of Photography qualification

Learn with expert teachers

Get hands on experience

State of the art facilities in South Melbourne

Available on campus or online via real time zoom

FIND OUT MORE

✉ [study@psc.edu.au](mailto:study@psc.edu.au) or ☎ 9682 3191

**PSC.EDU.AU**  
✉ [study@psc.edu.au](mailto:study@psc.edu.au)

☎ 9682 3191



Photography Studies College (Melbourne)  
37-47 Thistlethwaite Street  
South Melbourne VIC 3205

Photography Studies College (Melbourne) is a division of Photography Holdings Pty. Ltd.  
ACN 005 525 306 | ABN 58 860 041 097  
CRICOS Provider No 002576 | TEQSA Provider No 12200 | RTO Code 0111

## A glittery, sequin-y New Year's Eve planned for Melbourne

EVENTS

The City of Melbourne is digging into the *Priscilla: Queen of the Desert* playbook for New Year's Eve 2023, promising a celebration like "no other" filled with glitz, glam and ... sequins.

Featuring a fireworks and laser show that will light up the city across 27 CBD rooftops, the council is encouraging Melburnians far and wide to embrace this year's theme, "All that sparkles".

Viewable from anywhere the city skyline can be seen – including from one of four "Celebration Zones" in the CBD – the midnight moment will be accompanied by a choreographed eight-minute soundtrack curated by Melbourne-based producer DJ Matt Radovich.

Family-friendly Celebration Zones will return to Docklands, Flagstaff Gardens, Treasury Gardens and Kings Domain, with young families and early birds able to enjoy a 9.30pm localised fireworks display.

According to Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Melbourne is "rolling out the sparkling red carpet" for a New Year's Eve celebration like no other.

"We're setting the tone for the evening with our 'All that sparkles' theme. For the first time we're lighting up Town Hall and the State Library with glittering projections, extending the New Year's Eve festivities all the way down Swanston St," the Lord Mayor said.

"We can't wait to see merrymakers show off their finest glittering outfits, dusting off their disco balls and filling our world-class hospitality venues for the best night of the year."

"The best of our city will be on full display – with spectacular live music events, free family-friendly activities, sparkling projections and our not-to-be-missed fireworks and laser show."

"If you can see the city skyline, you'll be able to marvel at our incredible fireworks and laser show."

Major hospitality venues including Arbory Bar & Eatery, Afloat, HER, Marvel Stadium, and Blossom Rooftop, will all be joining in on the fun.

More than half-a-million attendees are expected to join the city celebrations.

HQ group chief marketing officer Georgie Larkins said New Year's Eve was her team's "biggest and most colourful event of our summer season".

"It's the one time of year that our two river-side venues – Arbory Bar & Eatery and Afloat – join forces for one epic party along the Yarra. A colourful night of delicious, good and drink, dancing and music, there's no better place to say goodbye to the year that was," she said.

"We're excited to see the city come to life for another sparkling New Year's Eve." ●

**For more information:**  
[melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au)



▲ (Top) Staff celebrate the opening, (bottom left), the store presents a \$3000 cheque to Port Melbourne Primary School.

## Montague gets its first supermarket

BUSINESS

In a welcome sign of the new precinct's growth, supermarket giant Coles opened a new "Local" store in Montague last month.

The new Coles Local supermarket and Liquorland was unveiled on November 1 at the ground floor of the recently completed R Iconic building on Normanby Rd, offering "a great food and drink destination", "everyday specials" and "an artisan range" for local residents and nearby workers in South Melbourne and Port Melbourne.

In-store features and products from speciality chefs, bakers and butchers include an almost five-metre case filled with Australia's best local and award-winning international cheeses; a selection of beef, pork, lamb, poultry and sausages from Meatsmith (Fitzroy, Brighton and St Kilda); fresh coffee with a vending station by DC Coffee; authentic and award-winning pizzas, fresh pasta, pasta sauces and lasagne from 400 Gradi; and a range of locally sourced fresh salads, soups and ready-made meals made in Moorabbin by Foxes Den.

Montague is one of four new mixed-use precincts as part of the urban renewal of Fishermans Bend, and the new supermarket, located at 259 Normanby Rd, South Melbourne, promises to be an important asset to this fast-growing community. ●

## Community voices pave the way for a better Southbank

*In the bustling heart of Melbourne, Southbank holds a community keen on carving out a brighter future for their neighbourhood.*

WORDS BY *City of Melbourne Cr Jamal Hakim*

Conversations among community members that formed part of the Southbank neighbourhood priorities highlight clear areas of focus. These include the need for more open spaces, enhanced road safety, and improved pedestrian safety.

The longing for more open spaces reflects the community's collective ideal for a greener, more active Southbank. The idea is to create welcoming parks and recreational spots where residents can unwind and enjoy the outdoors, amid the urban setting. This also reduces the noise pollution, improving the safety and well-being of residents and visitors.

Most recently, the City of Melbourne developed a new resource – Greening the City – to support apartment building residents to participate in greening initiatives, and Freshwater Place residential building received a small grant

to organise social activities around their community garden.

Importantly, the new Greening Melbourne Permit system was released. This will mean that community-led greening can happen on council-owned footpaths. I know that is something many residents have asked me about.

Finally, Dodds Street Linear Park is progressing on schedule and will mean a brand-new open park addition to Southbank. More open space is still needed so this is an area that requires continued effort.

Road safety has also emerged as a communal concern. The call is for better road infrastructure and traffic management systems that ensure a safer transit for both motorists and cyclists. It's about creating a peaceful coexistence on the roads that form the arteries of Southbank.

Work has been completed by Major Roads Projects Victoria for protected bike lanes from St Kilda Rd to Southbank Boulevard, and activities around bicycle and e-scooter safety have been ongoing.

This critical area of interest is the topic of the Transport Strategy 2030 and the City Road Master Plan, and their continued implementation through projects is critical and one to keep an eye on.

Pedestrian safety is another facet of the community's discourse, with a shared vision for safer, well-marked crossings and a culture of

respect between motorists and pedestrians. It's about making the streets of Southbank safe and enjoyable for everyone.

Most recently, pedestrian crossings were installed at Balston St, City Rd, and Kavanagh St. A consultation to identify pedestrian and road safety issues happened earlier in the year as part of the Southbank Pedestrian and Road Safety Study and safety information sessions were held on October 24 and November 1. Five key themes were identified, and this will inform works to improve pedestrian and road safety in Southbank going forward.

Southbank is a truly dynamic neighbourhood, and the collaborative spirit we are seeing is what will propel Southbank forward. As the community continues to engage in these meaningful dialogues, the pathway to a safer, greener, and friendlier Southbank means clearer pathways to actions that deliver for our community.

Keep up to date with the latest on Southbank Neighbourhood portal. ●

**Southbank Neighbourhood Portal:**



SOUTHBANK NEWS

# Wish your inbox was more local?



Scan the QR to sign up to our Newsletter







## Best places to eat and drink: November

*Make the most of the warmer weather and longer days. Whether it's pre-theatre snacks, a fiesta floating on the river or Sunday sessions at Fed Square, here are just a few to tide you over until summer.*

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*  
BUSINESS

### Victoria By Famer's Daughters Festive Sunday Sessions

Spearheaded by acclaimed chef, Alejandro Saravia, Victoria by Farmer's Daughters has teamed up with iconic gin distillers, Four Pillars, to present *Festive Sunday Sessions*.

With a nostalgia-loaded menu featuring free-range roast turkey and ham served with a Bloody Shiraz "mock cranberry" sauce; succulent fried chicken with Marie Rose aioli and charcoal-grilled lamb and grass-fed beef paired with a Christmas pudding spice BBQ sauce, their Christmas bottomless brunch will usher in the festive spirit (even if we are only in November).

Four Pillars Christmas Gin plays the leading role in a dominantly bubbly drinks menu, that includes the "Conversation Starter" with cherry syrup, sweet vermouth, soda and orange; "Jolly Spritz" with hazelnut liqueur, lemongrass, ginger syrup, lemon, cherry bitters and soda; and "Santa's Nightcap" with orange marmalade liqueur and chocolate bitters.

### Viva La Mexico at Afloat

Now in its eighth season on the banks of the Yarra, Afloat turns to rich and vibrant culture of Mexico for this year's iteration.

This year you'll find a stripped back menu. From the raw – ceviche snapper with red onion, jalapeno or agauchile rojo prawn, avocado, cucumber, and radish – to the warm – a choice of six different tacos, or larger plates like flank steak with ancho chilli butter, mole verde, and lemon to pescado de Mexico whole baby barramundi, salsa verde, torillas and lemon.

As always, wood-fired pizzas play their omnipresent role on the menu, propping up the 70m long offering.

For drinks, there's just about every combination of margarita you can think of, agave happy cocktails, spritzes, the annual Four Pillars x Afloat collaboration and a typical line-up local and international wines.



### Ludlow Bar & Dining Room is back after a spruce-up

A fresh new menu will capture the best of Southern European styles with a focus on grazing share plates with a couple of modern pub favourites with a Ludlow twist thrown into the mix.

Keeping its usually extensive wine list, solid selection of local and international beers and a master cocktail menu, you'll also find a range of quality spirits from far and wide.

Also under the Red Rock Venues umbrella, just a stone's throw from Ludlow is Hophaus, the host venue for Tanqueray Gin's Spring/Summer activation. ●

For more information:



For more information:  
[afloat.melbourne](http://afloat.melbourne)  
[redrockvenues.com.au](http://redrockvenues.com.au)



▲ Louise Howlett is excited to bring her 3D project called *the Secret of the Raft* to life.

Photo: Marcela Lechocka.

## Southbank teacher Louise Howlett brings historical painting to life

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
ARTS & CULTURE

A Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School (VCASS) teacher is one step closer to bringing her ambitious 3D theatrics project to life after undertaking a coveted artist-in-residency programme in France.

Louise Howlett, a French teacher and theatre-maker, has been working on a project called *the Secret of the Raft* since 2016, which combines cutting-edge technology, immersive storytelling, and visual effects to create a unique theatrical experience.

Her project, which she said had been her pride of joy, is inspired by the story behind *The Raft of the Medusa* painting created by French Romantic painter Théodore Géricault in 1818-19, which depicts the aftermath of a shipwreck, the *Medusa*, when it was navigating the African coast in 1816.

With limited lifeboats, about 147 people were set adrift on a makeshift raft, resulting in a harrowing 13-day ordeal with only 15 people surviving.

"One of my aims was to really try to breathe life into a painting, which, to some, may seem like an antiquated masterpiece, but it actually tells an incredible story," Ms Howlett said.

"*The Raft of the Medusa* is still a highly relevant painting that emphasises the importance of caring for one another and valuing our shared humanity, especially in the uncertain times we face today."

The project, which has been possible thanks to a collaboration with RMIT University's School of Design, is entering its final stages with the work expected to be staged next year, which Ms Howlett also hoped to share in an international tour.

Such has been her innovative approach to the project, which uses 3D projection mapping, installation, and live performance,



that Ms Howlett was bestowed an "Odyssee artist-in-residency programme" by the French Ministry of Culture, which supports artists, researchers and professionals who wish to develop projects within the network of cultural meeting centres in France.

The honour saw her stay in Rochefort for four weeks in May, a city in the southwest of France located at a port on the banks of the River Charente, which allowed her time to focus on researching her project and connect with local artists.

"It was a fantastic experience. I was able to research all the history behind the shipwreck including the opportunity to look at authentic documents and the survivors' uniforms, which they normally don't bring out for visitors," she said.

"I also spoke to a number of historians, visited museums, and met with the local theatre company, in which we performed one of the scenes from the play, without all the multimedia, next to the river where the ship sailed."

Expressing her excitement of being selected for the coveted residency programme, she said it was a "great honour, as it positions me among just four Australians who have ever received this distinction".

Ms Howlett has also been nominated for the 2023 French-Australian Excellence Awards in the Woman of the Year category. The awards recognise those who have distinguished themselves in the fields of solidarity, entrepreneurship, research and innovation, sport and culture and sustainable development. ●



# Every Sunday 9am Worship

Check our website for updates

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

# Southbanker

## MSO's principal conductor toasts 20-year milestone



“Celebrating 20 years conducting with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (MSO), principal conductor Benjamin Northey reflects on his incredible musical journey with MSO that's made him ‘the conductor I am today.’”

Mr Northey has been “soaking in music” ever since he was a kid, and took up conducting when he was at university after being encouraged by his teacher and highly respected conductor, John Hopkins.

“It wasn't something that I always wanted to do, but sometimes when somebody believes in you, they convince you to believe in yourself,” Mr Northey said.

“Within a couple years of studying and conducting with him, I'd won the National Conducting Competition and I got into a really good conducting school in Finland – it was during that time of study where I first worked with the MSO, and they've been allowing me to develop in that role ever since.”

Mr Northey's career spans an incredible 20 years of impressive, conducting highlights. As well as working with the MSO, he is also the chief conductor of the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra (CSO).

An ARIA Awards, Air Music Awards, and Art Music Awards winner, he was voted *Limelight* magazine's Australian Artist of the Year in 2018 for his unwavering commitment to the profession.

Despite his success, Mr Northey says that the first concert he ever led with MSO is still his favourite conducting memory, and an experience he'll “never forget”.

“I've been very touched by all of the tributes that I've had from people who've expressed their gratefulness for the work that we've done together over the years, and that goes back at them as well,” he told *Southbank News*.

“To hear young musicians say that they first worked with me in their youth orchestra back in the early 2000s and they're now members of the orchestra; that's something really special when you realise the impact you can have on people coming through into the profession.”

While many people may think that conducting is a “power role”, where the conductor is up-front

and dictating all aspects of a performance, Mr Northey describes it as more of a “collaborative role”.

“I'd love people to understand how fun conducting is,” he said.

“I wish everybody could have the chance to stand in front of an orchestra and conduct their favourite piece – whether it's the beginning of *Star Wars* or Beethoven's *Fifth Symphony*; these really iconic moments are so much fun.”

Mr Northey will wrap up the 2023 season with MSO at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl in December, paying tribute to iconic pop artist, George Michael, in a one-night-only performance.

He will be accompanied on stage by “an incredible line-up of collaborators”, including Natalie Bassingthwaite, David Campbell, Emma Donovan, Brendan Maclean,

Adam Thompson, Jade MacRae, Gary Pinto and Carmen Smith.

Mr Northey will return to his role in 2024 across various performances, such as an American jazz-inspired show at Arts Centre Melbourne's Hamer Hall in April.

“I always look forward to working with the orchestra,” Mr Northey said.

“The MSO is a pillar of Australian culture and a pillar of Melbourne culture – it's an example of why Melbourne is so highly respected as a city for the arts in the suburb of Southbank, and all of the institutions that are based there.” ●

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

WORDS BY *Georgie Atkins*

### SOUTHBANK SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

## Sustainable events this November

*The next Southbank Sustainability Group (SSG) event is a workshop focused on the role of herbs in health and wellbeing. In this interactive workshop, you will learn more about the medicinal uses of common culinary herbs and be introduced to the array of herbs growing in the community garden in front of the Boyd Community Hub.*

Come along and learn how to identify, harvest, and preserve common garden herbs. This workshop is supported through a grant from the City of Melbourne.

The workshop is on Saturday, November 11 between 11.30am and 1pm in the Assembly Hall at the Boyd Community Hub. While the event is free it is essential that you book via Eventbrite:



It is not too early to start planning for a more sustainable holiday season. The upcoming Re-love Festival to be held on Sunday, November 12 between 9am and 2pm at the Boyd Community Hub provides a perfect opportunity to buy preloved goods at the second-hand market – perfect for Christmas presents. There will also be kids' activities, workshops, and music.

Our last event for the year also provides an opportunity to learn how to make sustainable Christmas cards and decorations. The workshop will be held on Saturday, December 2, between 11.30am and 1pm in the Assembly Hall at the Boyd Community Hub.

Come and learn how to make and decorate seed paper to create gorgeous gift cards or Christmas tree decorations that can be planted in pots or in a garden. Learn about pollinators, biodiversity, and the importance of rewilding urban spaces.

Keep an eye out on our Facebook page in the coming weeks for more details about this event and the Eventbrite link so you can register to attend.

It has been a busy month in the community garden.

The first of the tomato plants have gone in as have more herbs such as basil and parsley.

The broad beans are flowering so we can expect to see the beans in a few weeks.

Sadly, many of the strawberry plants have been stolen, however, there is plenty of fruit on

the plants that remain.

With summer coming we are looking for more volunteers to help with the watering. Simply email us and let us know you are interested, and we can add you to the roster.

#### About the group

SSG is a solutions-focussed community group of Southbank residents working to bring positive change in sustainability practices. Reach us at

[southbanksustainability@gmail.com](mailto: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 November 11 and 25 between 10am and noon. ●



WORDS BY *Maria Tarrant*

# Council street safety review misses the mark



*If you missed it, Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) in collaboration with City of Melbourne, hosted a forum for the council to announce new pedestrian road safety projects.*



The community road safety survey from earlier this year was apparently used to inform the need for these projects. There were seven new projects announced (highlighted in red in image):

- Coventry and Wells streets: zebra crossings and road humps (eight comments)
- Kavanagh St: Coroners Court "wombat" crossing (three comments)
- Grant St: zebra crossings and road humps (five comments)
- Dodds and Coventry streets: zebra crossings and road humps (three comments)
- Hancock and Clarke streets: kerb extensions and road humps (one comment)
- Wadey and Wells streets: zebra crossing and road humps (three comments)
- Dorcas St and Kings Way: pedestrian crossing (five comments)

While I commend the council for conducting the community road safety survey and subsequently identifying projects to improve our safety, I question their underlying methodology and logic with determining the decided projects.

Nearly 1200 community comments were received during the survey period from March to April 2023. Well done to our community for getting involved and providing this valuable feedback.

These comments were placed on a heat map to visually highlight the areas of concern. This map can be seen on Participate Melbourne – Road Safety Southbank.



Of particular note with extensive comments were:

- Kavanagh and Power streets intersection
- City Rd and Power S intersection
- Balston St between City Rd and Kavanagh St
- Southbank Promenade
- City Rd and Moray St
- City Rd and Clarke St
- Sturt and Miles streets
- Kings Way, Sturt and Coventry streets intersection

One of these high comment areas was addressed earlier this year (a month after the survey) being Balston St between City Rd and Kavanagh St with the installation of zebra crossings.

The fact this was addressed so quickly after the survey would have had very little, if anything, to do with the survey as to get such a project under way would inherently take months if not years to be scheduled. SRA was asking for zebra crossings on those roads well before the COVID pandemic, so we believe our initial lobbying was the start of this outcome.

A number of the other high comment areas are outside the remit of the council and are roads managed by VicRoads, such as Power St, City Rd and Kings Way.

In any case, the safety issues with those

roads are no secret to the council and we can only hope it is actively lobbying the state government for greater attention on these roads/intersections.

However, there was still Southbank Promenade, Sturt St and Clarke St which were within the scope of the City of Melbourne, and Clarke St was a hotly discussed street by the attendees at the forum.

Within the scope of the presentation there was no mention of Sturt St or Southbank Promenade. It wasn't until my summing up at the end of their presentation that I mentioned the very items highlighted in the heat map as being of significant concern to the community have not been addressed.

I specifically highlighted Sturt St as these comments were motivated by the dangers of the VCA students needing to cross that busy road. We were then informed this section of Sturt St would be upgraded by Yarra Trams with their planned upgrade for that stop (no timeframe known). This was a great, and important, piece of information to alleviate community concern, yet it was somehow overlooked in their presentation.

Likewise for Southbank Promenade. I have a whole lot more to say on this, but I won't do that here – I will make that the topic of my December column.

The reason I am questioning the methodology and logic of the decided projects is that the number of community comments attributed to each of the selected projects is no more than eight.

I have placed the number of comments received next to the projects above in brackets at the end. You will note one of the projects only received one comment while the largest number was eight with the average being four. The Clarke St/City Rd intersection received 30 comments, with most of them being calls for a pedestrian crossing for the southern side of Clarke St (Woolworths Metro corner).

Clarke St is within the Jurisdiction of the City of Melbourne and clearly has significant safety issues. The presenter mentioned several times the council needs to get "bang for their buck" for the work they do with the limited budget (I believe he said around \$400,000).

In my view, bang for their buck would be doing a project where the community has told the council loud and clear there is a problem. A pedestrian crossing on Clarke St would be no different to the pedestrian crossing recently installed on Balston St, just off City Rd, so this is not reliant on VicRoads' involvement.

I am at a loss to understand how the council concluded projects with one to eight comments were more worthy than a project with 30 safety comments. From a safety perspective, bang for their buck would be to install a pedestrian crossing on Clarke St instead of the collective of the other seven projects, however I suspect the cost would be less, so perhaps we could get more than one project?

Sadly, with community feedback results leading to outcomes such as this, it will only lead to scepticism and cynicism in the future with community confidence eroded.

The City of Melbourne needs to do better. SRA will keep lobbying for better outcomes. ●



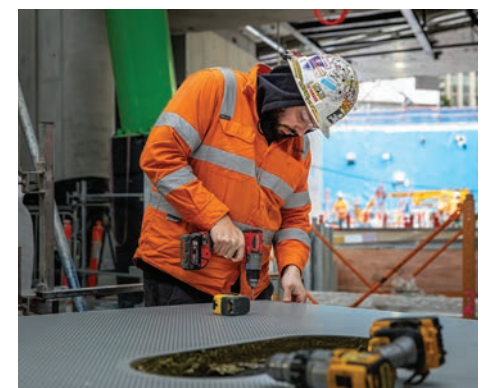
**Tony Penna**  
PRESIDENT  
PRESIDENT@SOUTHBANKRESIDENTS.ORG.AU



## METRO TUNNEL

# Anzac Station on the move

*Work on St Kilda Rd's Anzac Station is progressing in line with the Metro Tunnel's 2025 opening date, with architectural fit-out well under way and installation of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing equipment continuing.*



The station concourse is taking shape with lights, stairs, lifts, and escalators now installed, while crews have almost finished installing platform pavers. The station's Victorian-first platform screen doors have all been installed.

Crews have poured concrete for the internal walls and stairs at the station entrance in the Shrine of Remembrance grounds and are finalising construction of the slab roof at the Albert Rd entrance.

Anzac Station will provide a direct train connection to St Kilda Rd's business precinct for the first time, freeing up space in the St Kilda Rd tram corridor – the busiest tram corridor in

the world.

Meanwhile, South Yarra residents are re-acquainting themselves with two key public spaces that have reopened after being closed for several years for Metro Tunnel work.

Lovers Walk – a well-known pedestrian walkway that runs along the train line on the southern side of Toorak Rd – and nearby William Street Bridge were closed to the public in 2018 and 2019 respectively, to allow crews to build the Metro Tunnel's eastern entrance.

Since reopening late last month, both have re-emerged as popular cut-throughs, connecting

pedestrians and local traffic on busy Toorak Rd to Chapel St and Arthur St.

William St, between Toorak Rd and Arthur St, has also reopened to traffic after being closed to allow trucks and equipment to be safely brought onto the site.

The William Street Bridge has been rebuilt and is now longer to accommodate a wider rail corridor for trains to enter and exit the Metro Tunnel when it opens in 2025 – a year ahead of schedule.

The revamped bridge also includes wider footpaths leading to Lovers Walk and new

seating, offering the perfect viewing point for train spotters.

Lovers Walk has been widened and improved with new landscaping and lighting to make it safer for pedestrians.

The opening of these public spaces comes just weeks after two new pocket parks opened in the vicinity of the Metro Tunnel's eastern entrance in Arthur and William streets.

Meanwhile, crews are putting the finishing touches on South Yarra Siding Reserve, which is expected to open to the public in the coming months. ●

## New partnership boosts cancer support services

WORDS BY *Afraa Kori*  
COMMUNITY

Young people impacted by cancer can expect a brighter future thanks to a new partnership between Southbank's Langham Hotel and My Room Children's Cancer Charity.

The Langham, Melbourne is joining forces with The Room, which is recognised and respected for its work in improving the lives of young cancer patients.

My Room Children's Cancer Charity is a volunteer-led organisation passionately dedicated to supporting children and families affected by cancer, with a primary focus on childhood cancer.

Langham Melbourne said the collaboration showed its unwavering commitment to making a positive impact within the community.

The partnership will offer several services, which include Fountain of Hope Coin Donations, Afternoon Tea Fundraiser, and gift donations.

It aims to raise funds and awareness for My Room's noble cause and Langham Hotel's commitment to making a difference in the lives of children suffering from cancer.

Langham Melbourne and My Room rely on donors to support programs that aid families, provide clinical care, and support research and trials.

My Room Children's Cancer Charity CEO Margaret Zita applauded The Langham for its willingness to collaborate and elevate the importance of cancer support services.

"We are truly grateful to The Langham, Melbourne for joining hands with us in the fight against childhood cancer. This partnership will undoubtedly make a significant difference in the lives of young cancer patients and their families, and we look forward to achieving key milestones together as we work towards a 100 per cent cure rate for all childhood cancers," Ms Zita said.

The Langham's marketing regional director Andre Jacques said partnerships were a powerful force for bringing communities closer.

"At The Langham, Melbourne, we believe in the power of community and are deeply committed to supporting dedicated charities," he said. ●

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

SOUTHBANK3006

## Southbank of your imagination

“

*What would a Southbank of your imagination look like?*

”

Maybe it would have streets that value pedestrian safety over traffic? Perhaps cars would drive slower, mindful that they are passing through a neighbourhood.

Or, perhaps this Southbank of your imagination wouldn't have trucks carrying animals, hay, petrol, and jet fuel detouring through its heart.

How about community gardens filling blank spaces aside footpaths, instead of crushed rock?

Myself and 16 other community members who live or work in Southbank pondered this question and more through *Imagination in Southbank* – a collaborative experiment to generate achievable goals that create belonging and a more regenerative future for our community.

This project, inspired by successful models in the UK and USA, is the first of its kind in Australia and was a collaboration of Centre for Public Impact, the City of Melbourne and Hinterland.

Participants were selected from an open application process and comprised a fair cross section of Southbank's demographics, representation from groups already working towards the project's goals and three City of Melbourne employees, one being our Southbank Neighbourhood Partner, Ash Lee.

Participants volunteered their time, rolled up their sleeves and dug deep for five eight-hour days to imagine possibilities addressing two questions:

- How do we improve a sense of belonging in Southbank?
- How do we respond to a changing climate and stay connected to nature in the midst of urban density?

Leaders took us through exercises, journaling, conversations, brainstorming, and group collaboration. We identified what we believe are Southbank's core values, encompassing everything from diversity and inclusion to climate and sustainability, and then imagined a future we would wish for future generations.



▲ *Caption Arrow pointing up.*

Remember those ideas I mentioned earlier? We took them bigger.

What if Southbank was a car-less post code? Streets became green and devoted to public spaces.

What if our entire community ran off batteries fed by solar panels affixed to every building rooftop? Perhaps balconies could be converted into container vegetable gardens and produce shared at co-op markets throughout the neighbourhood.

Then we put our proverbial imaginative feet back on the ground and got to work boiling down big ideas into achievable ones. One of our "teachers" – author Jon Alexander (*Citizens: Why the Key to Fixing Everything is All of Us*) – shared, when you're overwhelmed with how to change something, start with what's strong, not wrong.

My colleagues from the workshop and I are working on initiatives that build upon Southbank's strengths, making connections and laying the groundwork to turn glimmers of imagination into reality.

Stay tuned as this is just the beginning of *Imagination in Southbank*.

**For more information:**  
[imaginationssouthbank.org](http://imaginationssouthbank.org)

### Upcoming Southbank3006 events

**A Walking Tour of the Birrarung Marr:** By Koorie Heritage Trust for Southbank3006 members. Spaces are limited for this free event. Sunday, November 26 11am to noon.

**A Very Merry Friend-mas:** This is a free community event for all Southbankers that is sure to get you in the holiday spirit. There will be live music, face painting, kids' crafts, pet parade, prizes, food trucks and so much more. **Saturday, December 9, 11am to 3pm.** ●



**For more information:**  
[southbank3006.com](http://southbank3006.com)



*MaryKay Rauma*  
SOUTHBANK3006  
COMMUNITY@SOUTHBANK3006.COM

## 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

## WE LIVE HERE

## OWNERS' CORPORATION LAW

## Greens pressure on short-stay levy

*The Victorian Greens have written to the Treasurer Tim Pallas saying they will oppose Victoria's proposed short-stay levy unless they get substantial changes to the state government's new housing policy.*

We Live Here regards the proposed levy, which could be as little as \$10 on some properties, as a negligible nano measure that is openly revenue-focused rather than regulatory.

The Greens are seeking rent controls, regulation of the short-stay industry including 90-day caps, and other social housing policy changes. The party has given the government three months to "negotiate in good faith" to avoid the housing Bill failing.

The government's Housing Statement says 29,000 entire homes are listed on short-stay platforms. The government's statement explains why they want a levy:

"These are places that cannot be used for longer-term accommodation or rented out on fixed term agreements – so it makes sense that they should provide some benefit toward the places that can."

Yes, there it is, documented in the government's own words – the short-stay levy is a cash cow.

The government needs those 29,000 houses to remain on Airbnb or Stayz.

Imagine for a moment that a small short-stay levy could influence a significant number of landlords to convert back to long-term rentals, which is risibly unlikely – the whole funding model for Homes Victoria would collapse.

Financially, one must admit the idea behind the levy is brilliant – a cash bonanza from a tiny little levy that everyone will forget about eventually. Simultaneously, without any other action to solve the short-stay chaos, it is politically inexcusable.

We Live Here hopes the Greens' pressure on the government will get results.

### New leadership must mend the legacy

After eight years of inaction under Mr Andrews, Victorians have a new leader. Can we expect any legislative change?

The never-reviewed, never-amended "short-stay Bill" was embedded in the *Owners' Corporation Act 2006* despite enormous community opposition. Residents' complaints have been assiduously ignored for nearly a decade.

The short-stay party Bill was either a case of "drafted to fail" or "failed in the drafting" – in other words, insidious or incompetent.

Under Jacinta Allan's leadership the government has an opportunity to make some real change. Now is the time for the state government to redress the harm caused by political inertia of the past few years.

For example, a St Kilda resident recently lost their VCAT case against continual drunken abusive incidents at short stays. With the disgraceful behaviour alternating between apartments, it is virtually impossible to take successful action against a single lot.

Premier, let's learn from other places like New York – Victoria can do better.

Just for a start, we need day caps and self-determination for owners' corporations. And whatever is enacted, regulations must be fair, realistic and enforceable.

We Live Here looks forward to meeting with the new Premier and having meaningful dialogue – and outcomes.

### Campaign donations

As a not-for-profit organisation, donations from individuals and buildings keep our campaigns going. To register or to donate, visit [welfarehere.net](http://welfarehere.net) ●



Barbara Francis & Rus Littleton  
CAMPAIGN@WELIVEHERE.NET



## VCAT determines that monies paid by an insurer to an OC for a lot owner's claim are held "on trust"

*A VCAT decision released last month confirmed the position that any lot owner in a building may file a claim against the owners' corporation's (OC's) policy of insurance.*

Furthermore, if the insurer accepts the claim, the money must be paid to the OC's account, but must not be withheld by the OC or be subjected to arbitrary pre-conditions before payment is made.

In the decision of *Powell v Owners' Corporation 537738Y*, Ms Powell brought a claim for flooding of her lot which the insurer eventually accepted after a protracted complaint to the Australian Financial Complaints Authority (AFCA) and paid the OC the sum of \$240,000.

However, the OC refused to transfer the funds to Ms Powell, until she took steps to prove she was imminently about to repair her lot first.

The VCAT disagreed with the OC's conduct, and made orders that Ms Powell be paid straight away.

The OC is however, entitled to deduct the policy excess before transferring the funds to the relevant lot owner by virtue of the new Section

23A of the *Owners' Corporation Act 2006* amendments passed in 2021.

In some towers in metropolitan Melbourne, burst water pipe claims can carry a policy excess of \$10,000 and sometimes \$20,000 per claim.

Policies of insurance such as the one under which the Insurance Monies were paid out are arranged by an OC to cover both its common property and the property of the lot owners. Such policies are paid for by the lot owners and are for their benefit. In arranging them to cover the lot owners' properties, the OC acts as the agent of the lot owners. Since the OC is the contracting party, it is to the OC that the insurer should make payment after a successful claim by a lot owner.

Accordingly, the insurance monies were received and are held by the OC as the agent of the lot owner.

It is well-established that an agent, who holds funds paid to it for the benefit of a principal, holds those funds as a fiduciary and that the funds will be held in trust on behalf of the principal and paid out at the principal's request. ●



Tom Bacon

TOM BACON IS THE PRINCIPAL LAWYER OF STRATA TITLE LAWYERS.

TOM@STRATATITLELAWYERS.COM.AU

10 YEARS ON

## Looking back at Southbank News - 10 Years On

NOVEMBER 2013 | ISSUE 25 |

SOUTHBANK NEWS

## High praise for Eureka promo

*The World Federation of Great Towers has bestowed Southbank's Eureka Skydeck with the "Innovative Promotional Award" for its incredible stunt celebrating the world premiere of King Kong live on stage earlier this year.*



The Skydeck, which staged a stunt welcoming King Kong to Melbourne by suspending a replica gorilla hand outside the tower clutching onto a stuntwoman, received the award at a ceremony in Berlin in September. The Eureka Skydeck competed against 44 other famous international towers including the Empire State Building and Eiffel Tower for the coveted prize.

Located on level 88 of Eureka Tower, the Skydeck is the highest public viewing platform in the Southern Hemisphere providing the ideal location to launch the musical. The \$200,000 media stunt garnered more than \$1.5 million in domestic and international media coverage subsequently increasing Eureka Skydeck sales by \$430,000 during the months of July and August this year.

With more than 300 hours and 14 consulting groups involved in bringing the idea to life,

Eureka Skydeck general manager John Forman highlighted the incredible risk that surrounded the planning of the stunt.

"The stunt was well planned but there were many risk factors," he said. "The weather had to be perfect, the rigging safe and the stunt-double brave. If there was one element that didn't meet the strict criteria, the stunt was off."

Extending beyond the reach of the initial unveiling, the replica gorilla hand was positioned inside Eureka Skydeck after the stunt, allowing guests to enjoy the King Kong experience for themselves.

"The real win for us is the positive feedback we have been receiving from the general public," Mr Forman said.

Guests still have the opportunity to enjoy the King Kong Experience at Eureka Skydeck until next February. ●

### THE MOST EXCLUSIVE ESCORT AGENCY

# Paramour

OF COLLINS STREET

- Dinner Companions
- Social Escorts
- Sensual Ladies



CITY CENTRE  
Melbourne's exclusive entertainment service.  
Highly recommended for our interstate and overseas visitors

### Paramour's GRAND RE-OPENING

Be with the best girls in Melbourne give us a call to pre-organise for opening day due to overwhelming demand

CITY CENTRE GIRLS

# 9654 6011

[rsvp@paramour.com.au](mailto:rsvp@paramour.com.au)

CBD - 5 MINUTES TO YOUR DOOR

たくさんの美しい女性  
日本語を話します



# What's on: November 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](http://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.



FEDERATION SQUARE CAR PARK

**MELBOURNE MEN'S SHED**

An inclusive workshop space with suitable for the retired apartment dweller, CBD workers, female members, artists, students and guests.  
[melbournemensshed.org](http://melbournemensshed.org)



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/SouthbankSustainability Group](https://facebook.com/SouthbankSustainabilityGroup)



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 6PM

**Alex Raineri - The Firebird**

A solo recital of blistering pianism and vivid colour. Award-winning artist Alex Raineri returns with a solo recital of blistering pianism and vivid colour.

Primrose Potter Salon, Melbourne  
Recital Centre - [melbournerecital.com.au](http://melbournerecital.com.au)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5 - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 11.30AM - 3.30PM

**FESTIVE SUNDAY SESSIONS**

It's time to get festive at Victoria by Farmer's Daughters! We are once again teaming up with local gin icons Four Pillars to bring you a special season of Sunday Sessions on our Terrace: [victoriarestaurant.com.au/whats-on/-fourpillarsxmasgin](http://victoriarestaurant.com.au/whats-on/-fourpillarsxmasgin)



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 6PM

**TRISTAN LEE - BETWEEN HEART & HEAD**

Conflicts of human nature unleashed through captivating Romantic piano masterpieces.

Primrose Potter Salon, Melbourne  
Recital Centre - [melbournerecital.com.au](http://melbournerecital.com.au)



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 7PM

**CLAIRE PATTI TRIO WITH TONY GOULD - DREAMS & IMAGININGS**

A special musical collaboration that channels joy, optimism, dreams and imagination.

Primrose Potter Salon, Melbourne  
Recital Centre - [melbournerecital.com.au](http://melbournerecital.com.au)

## THE NEW-LOOK 2023 SOUTHBANK DIRECTORY

For where to shop, eat, stay and play, head to [southbankdirectory.com.au](http://southbankdirectory.com.au).

To list your business or for advertising enquiries,

Contact: [jack@hyperlocalnews.com.au](mailto:jack@hyperlocalnews.com.au)



## Business Directory

### Church

**St Johns**  
Southgate

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

### Functions

**Facilities hire Beautiful venue for weddings and memorial services Concert venue with excellent acoustic and comfortable seating Spacious function room Meeting rooms Kitchen**

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

### Physiotherapy

**Elite Sports Physiotherapy**

Sports & Spinal Physiotherapy  
Remedial Massage  
Clinical Pilates  
Post-Surgical Rehabilitation  
Free Injury Assessments  
WorkCover/TAC Claims

Mezzanine Level, 13-15/1 Freshwater Place, Southbank  
PHONE: 8640 0328 WEB: [www.elitesportsphysio.com.au](http://www.elitesportsphysio.com.au)

### Real Estate

Ray White Southbank | Port Phillip  
111 Clarendon Street, Southbank 3006  
P: (03) 8102 0200  
[www.raywhitesouthbank.com.au](http://www.raywhitesouthbank.com.au)

# SOUTHBANK NEWS

Talk to Southbank News owner Sean Car  
t 0460 896 115 e [sean@hyperlocalnews.com.au](mailto:sean@hyperlocalnews.com.au)  
about how to customise your campaign to our audience every month.

# Here today, gone tomorrow.

**RayWhite**

## Scan the QR code

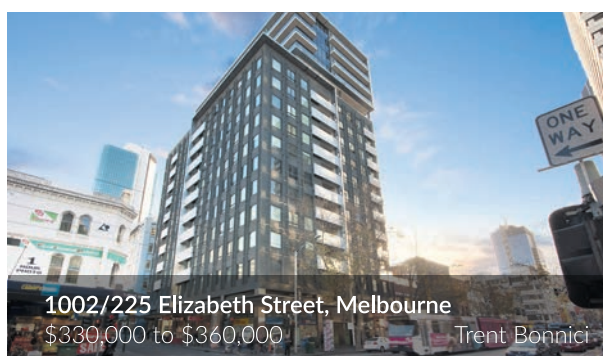


Call us on 8102 0200 or email us via [southbank.vic@raywhite.com](mailto:southbank.vic@raywhite.com) to book an appraisal for sale or rental. Visit [raywhitesouthbank.com.au](http://raywhitesouthbank.com.au) for more details.



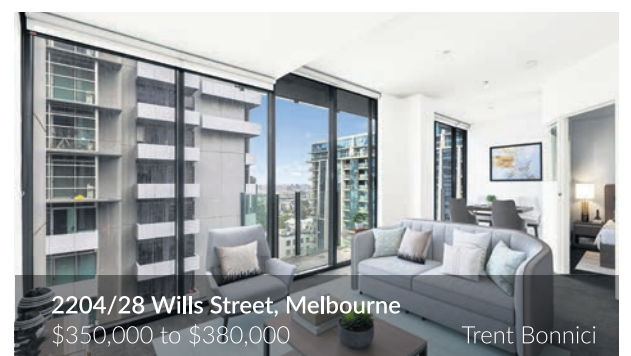
1005/77 Queens Road, Melbourne  
\$645,000 to \$695,000

Max Hui



1002/225 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne  
\$330,000 to \$360,000

Trent Bonnici



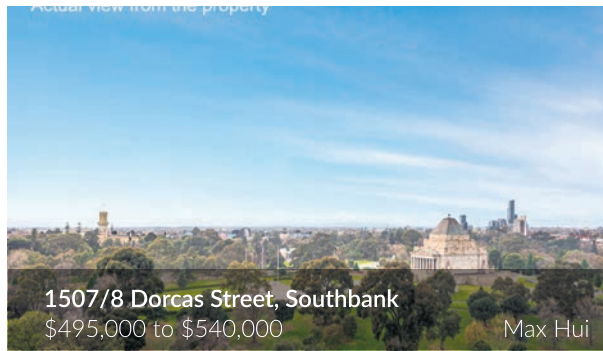
2204/28 Wills Street, Melbourne  
\$350,000 to \$380,000

Trent Bonnici



4404/24 Jane Bell Lane, Melbourne  
\$665,000 to \$730,000

Max Hui



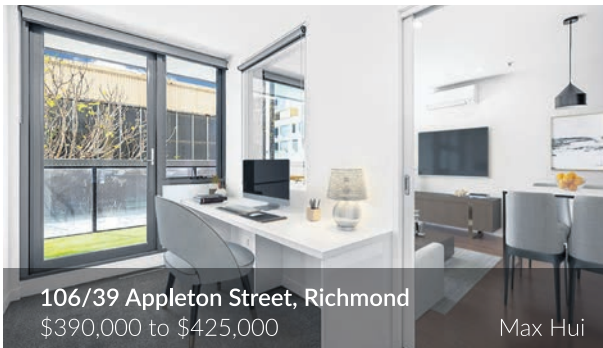
1507/8 Dorcas Street, Southbank  
\$495,000 to \$540,000

Max Hui



206/60 Waverley Road, Malvern East  
\$320,000 to \$350,000

Austen Kosasih



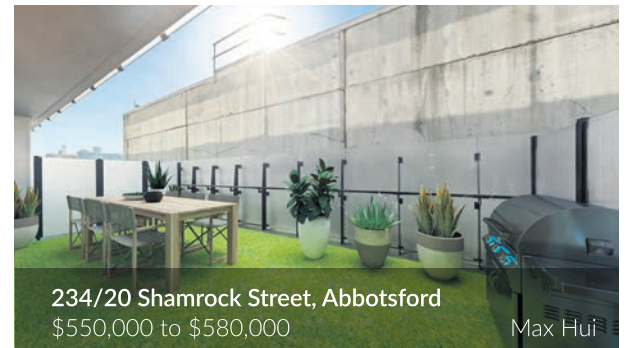
106/39 Appleton Street, Richmond  
\$390,000 to \$425,000

Max Hui



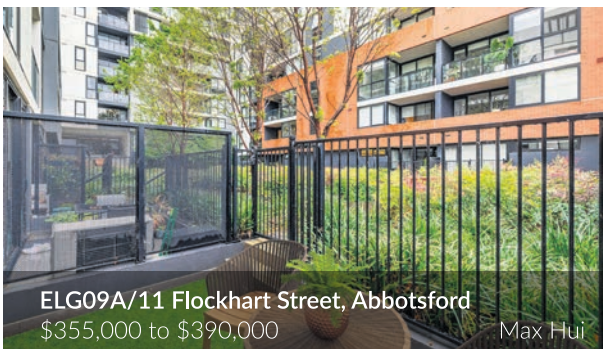
203/20 Shamrock Street, Abbotsford  
\$425,000 to \$455,000

Max Hui



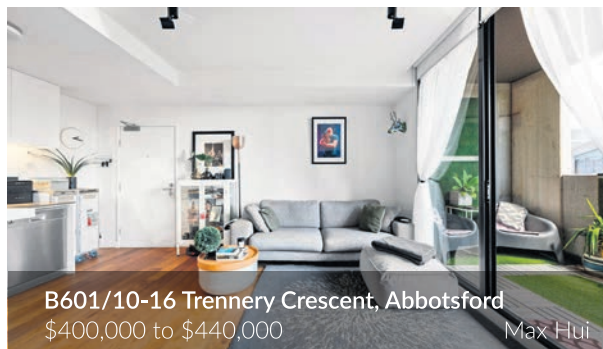
234/20 Shamrock Street, Abbotsford  
\$550,000 to \$580,000

Max Hui



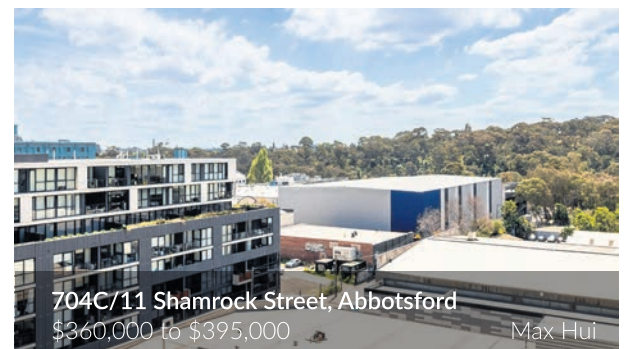
ELG09A/11 Flockhart Street, Abbotsford  
\$355,000 to \$390,000

Max Hui



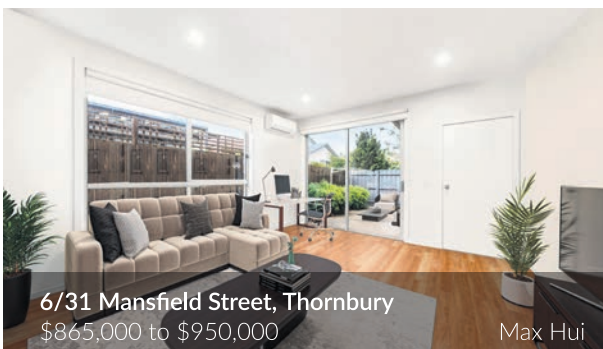
B601/10-16 Trennery Crescent, Abbotsford  
\$400,000 to \$440,000

Max Hui



704C/11 Shamrock Street, Abbotsford  
\$360,000 to \$395,000

Max Hui



6/31 Mansfield Street, Thornbury  
\$865,000 to \$950,000

Max Hui



108/1213 Centre Road, Oakleigh South  
\$420,000 to \$460,000

Max Hui



Michael Patrikos: 0404 282 864

Max Hui: 0430 238 021

Tommy-Lee Davies: 0416 823 173

Austen Kosasih: 0422 396 900

Taylor Sims: 0403 485 210

Trent Bonnici: 0402 670 441

[raywhitesouthbank.com.au](http://raywhitesouthbank.com.au)