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There are few better places to spend your summer days than along the Yarra - Birrarung River, but now locals can enjoy those stunning afternoon sunsets from within Afloat's brand-new infinity "Pool Club". *Find out more on page 11.*

Lord Mayor says promenade delays "really unacceptable", admits red stairs "look tired"

“*Lord Mayor Sally Capp has slammed Southgate redevelopment delays and admitted it was a "misstatement" to say Southbank Promenade works were finished.*”

Developer delays halting Southern Promenade upgrades have been slammed as "really unacceptable" by Cr Capp, who flagged the potential removal of the area's red stairs amphitheatre.

At a Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting held at Southbank in November, the busy strip was a significant topic of discussion as the Lord Mayor was also forced to admit the City of Melbourne had made a "misstatement" when declaring the promenade works complete.

Revitalisation works on the promenade, which has not had a major upgrade in more than 25 years, were originally planned to commence in early 2020 but were pushed back on numerous occasions before eventually starting in April 2022.

Continued on page 2.

WORDS BY *David Schout*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Montague Precinct vision finally unveiled

At long last, following nearly four years of delays, the state government has released the Montague Precinct plans for community feedback.

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees & Sean Car*
PLANNING

A bustling mix of "destination laneways" along with new public spaces and parks, including an "immersive" walking trail linking Port Melbourne to City Rd, are among priorities to drive "positive change" for Montague in the next 30 years.

On November 1, the state government finally released eagerly awaited implementation and development contributions plans for the 43-hectare precinct, marking a significant milestone in the future renewal of Fishermans Bend, which is forecast to accommodate 80,000 residents and 80,000 jobs by 2050.

The precinct plans are now open for public consultation and workshop participation until February 23, and will serve as a road map for the transformation of Montague, with details on how the area will adapt, transition, and change towards its 2050 vision over the next 10 years.

Fishermans Bend is Australia's largest-ever urban renewal project and is locally governed by the City of Melbourne (north of the Westgate Freeway) and the City of Port Phillip to the south.

Along with Montague, the area is made up of five precincts including Sandridge, Wirraway, Lorimer and the Employment Precinct, with the latter two situated with the City of Melbourne's municipal boundaries.

But Montague, which is serviced by the existing 109 and 96 tram routes,

has been developing at a much faster pace than its neighbouring precincts and is already largely complete with the new South Melbourne Primary School and adjoining Kirrip Park.

Among the key ideas for Montague, which is expected to house up to 23,000 residents, is the creation of new linear parks along Buckhurst, Johnson, Woodgate and Ferrars streets, while the "Montague North open space" could see a significant new reserve established on what is currently a car park at the corner of Munro and Montague streets.

Johnson St, between Munro St and Normanby Rd, will also be closed to make way for a new park, with other locations at Whiteman, Thistlethwaite, Gladstone and Woodgate streets also mooted for pocket parks.

The government will also investigate appropriate sites for a new sports and recreation hub in Montague North to form part of the district facility near North Port Oval, as well as an "arts and cultural" hub in the area between Buckhurst and Gladstone streets, west of Montague St.

The route 109 tram stop would also be upgraded in 2028 under the plans, which also flag "strategic cycling corridors" for Montague and Buckhurst streets. A range of safety upgrades and traffic treatments will also be investigated across the precinct, including an upgrade for the busy Montague and Buckhurst streets intersection.

Continued on page 7.

EVENTS, PAGE 05

A Southbank's Re-Love festival proves a hit



ARTS & CULTURE, PAGE 09

B Young deaf artist's "Gallery in the Sky"



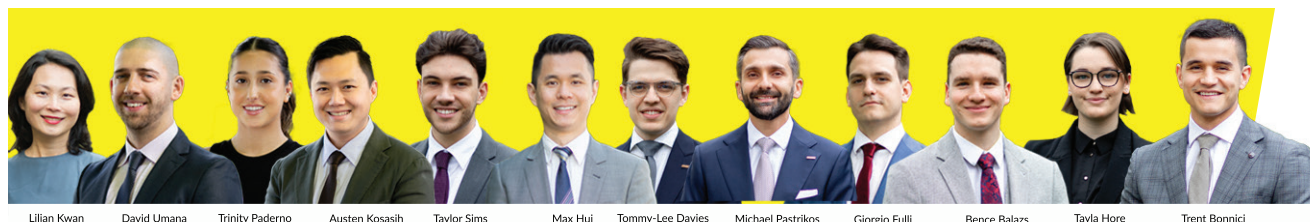
LOCAL NEWS, PAGE 12

C Council pledge to find gymnastics club a home



ARTS & CULTURE, PAGE 16

D Young artists celebrated at VCA Grad Show



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The deadline for the February edition is February 2.

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Lord Mayor says promenade delays “really unacceptable”, admits red stairs “look tired”

Continued from page 1.

Initial works between Princes Bridge and Evan Walker Bridge – including new seating, lighting and trees – have concluded, however the timing of upgrades to the remainder of the promenade remains uncertain.

The council plans to wait for the redevelopment of restaurant and shopping centre Southgate before commencing with stage two works.

However, Cr Capp revealed that discussions with Southgate’s management ESR Australia, which is yet to announce when it expects to begin its redevelopment, had revealed unsatisfactory outcomes.

“The remainder of Southbank Promenade upgrades between Evan Walker Bridge and Queensbridge St was paused for the redevelopment of Southgate works, due to resume following the developer indicating that they’re going to get on with their project. However, we have understood that those delays are really unacceptable,” Cr Capp said.

With no indication yet from the developer, stage two works on the promenade were likely to be several years away from completion.

Yarra River Business Association executive officer Tim Bracher said the delays required a proactive approach from the council, which could not simply wait and hope.

“We’re told that the rest of the promenade [work] is on hold, pending the completion of three key private developments, which sounds a very sensible approach until you realise with some background knowledge that those three developments could take up to a decade to finish,” Mr Bracher told councillors at the November 21 FMC meeting.

“Now, we just can’t wait that long on the promenade, given the importance of the precinct to Melbourne’s image.”

“Could I respectfully suggest that council takes a different approach? So instead of waiting for the private sector to determine when they are ready to proceed and finish, could we respectfully suggest that the council proceeds ASAP with the much-needed refurbishment of the promenade and then require any developer who needs to disturb that new promenade to reinstate exactly to the quality and standard?”

“So, in other words, instead of sitting around waiting for the private sector to get their act together, let’s get the public stuff done and then make the private sector pay for any disturbance they need to make on that promenade.”

However, the council has since told *Southbank News* that stage two works were proceeding as planned, and that no advancements had been made.



Lord Mayor says red stairs “look tired”, flags removal

The November 21 meeting held at The Opera Centre in Southbank (the last “community” FMC assembly before all meetings revert back to Town Hall from 2024) also saw Southbank’s infamous red stairs amphitheatre under the gun.

Mr Bracher argued the Queensbridge Square landmark was fast becoming an “eyesore”.

“It is rather unsightly for Melbourne’s key tourism precinct,” he said.

“It is symptomatic of the general marked decline in the presentation of the public realm in this precinct in the Yarra River precinct.”

Cr Capp agreed that the area was in need of revitalisation.

“Most of us [councillors] are in and around Southbank all the time so we’re very aware of the fact that the stairs and that precinct could do with some love,” the Lord Mayor said.

“The team have been doing things like repairing it when cladding seems to come away or repainting more recently, but ultimately that piece of infrastructure, the red stairs, look tired one way or another, even with a ‘zhoj’, they look tired.”

Cr Capp said she was in favour of removing the stairs altogether.

“I’d love to know how much it would cost just to take them away, and open it up so that, you know, we see the streetscape and it wouldn’t be such a barrier potentially. But I know from speaking to our CEO just now, that we’ve got some capacity to actually revisit plans for that area beyond repair [works].” ●

A spokesperson from ESR Australia did not say whether the prospect of footing the bill for future restoration works of the promenade, should the council opt to proceed with stage two works, had been raised as a possibility.

Cr Capp apologised for public statements indicating the promenade works were complete.

“It was a misstatement to say that we’d completed all of those works through to Queensbridge Square. It was really the fact that we completed the works to Evan Walker Bridge. Thank you for picking us up on those public statements,” the Lord Mayor said, after a submission from Southbank Residents’ Association president Tony Penna.

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City of Melbourne elections: who's staying, who's going?

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

It sounds a bit cliché to proclaim, “the next term of council could be the most important ever for the City of Melbourne”. After all, every new term of local government is as important as the last.

But it's not every council term during which one can say a once-in-a-generation pandemic occurred, causing Melbourne to be the victim of the world's longest lockdowns.

Remember the last council elections in 2020? Seems like a lifetime ago now, doesn't it? It was an election campaign dominated by virtual-only campaigning and “Meet the Candidates” events.

As we head into 2024, and find ourselves in what is already the final year of the current term at the City of Melbourne, councillor hopefuls will be relieved that we won't be seeing a mass return to Zoom.

While three years doesn't sound like a particularly long time, it is in politics when one considers the impacts the prolonged lockdowns have had on the city, with cost-of-living and housing crises hot on the pandemic's heels.



The word one could most aptly use to describe the current council term is “recovery”. All the focus has been placed on getting Melbourne back on its feet and helping it rediscover its mojo.



Given these immense challenges, compounded by consecutive budget deficits and a high-inflationary environment, it's hard to give the current group of councillors, led by the city's champion flag-bearer Lord Mayor Sally Capp, anything less than a safe pass mark.

Considering the widespread devastation and what appear to be generational changes to working patterns in the CBD, the fact the city has emerged as well as it has so quickly is a testament to the council's efforts.

But while some pre-pandemic trends have returned, and in some cases, increased, across the city, there are still so many areas of concern. One only has to look at the many pockets of the CBD during the week, Docklands generally and a disparately patronised Lygon St, to see that we still have a long way to go to “getting the buzz back”.

That's why one could reasonably argue that the next council term is, in fact, THE most important in ensuring the thriving Melbourne we all once knew not only returns but continues to find new ways of reinventing itself.

So, what could a new council look like?

It's hard to see Lord Mayor Sally Capp not running for a second term and she'll be tough to beat. While in the past she's hinted at being a one-term councillor following her initial by-election win in the wake of Robert Doyle's sudden departure, there is plenty of unfinished business.

Namely, her signature Greenline project will be central to her motivations for running again.

The project, which seeks to revitalise the entire stretch of the north bank of the Yarra/Birrarung, still has a long way to go in terms of securing the necessary funding from Commonwealth and state governments. The council is even considering selling Citywide to help tip in some cash, so her leadership will be required to help see it through.

There's always the question of who will run against her for Lord Mayor, but whether anyone will present a serious challenge is another.

Many are expecting former Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood to put his hat in the ring again, while *Southbank News* understands a prominent group of Melbourne business identities are already preparing to mount a challenge to overthrow Sally ... more on this in the new year!

Assuming Sally goes again, one expects Nick Reece will run alongside her as Deputy Lord Mayor once more. Whether Kevin Louey, the silent but influential councillor, will run in the number one spot on her council ticket again remains to be seen. It would be a remarkable fifth term serving on council if he did.

But it's fair to say Liberal Party member Roshena Campbell won't take the number two spot on the Team Capp ticket as she did in 2020. There's been a clear divide between Capp and Campbell during this council term on a number of issues including transport, climate policy and a safe injecting room in the CBD. The philosophical misalignment appears to be too great to reconcile.

After a failed byelection in the federal seat of Aston this year, and an earlier nomination for the seat of Casey in 2021, it's clear Roshena still has aspirations for Canberra with the Libs.

It's likely she could head up an unofficial Liberal Party ticket of her own at the next council election as a way of providing her with a platform for whatever her next federal tilt might be. Only time will tell!

The big change will come in the form of Greens councillor Rohan Leppert, who is understood not to be contesting for what would be a fourth term. This is a significant and irreplaceable loss for the council – his incredible knowledge and expertise will be missed.

This will likely see Olivia Ball moved up to the first spot on a Greens ticket, presenting an opportunity for a new Greens councillor to join her at Town Hall.

As for the rest of the current council, one would think the return of Davydd Griffiths will be nothing short of a formality on another Labor Party-endorsed ticket, while Elizabeth

Doidge will likely seek re-election again with the strong support of a union-backed ticket.

Docklands resident Jamal Hakim will also run again as an independent and is in a good position for re-election having built a positive profile and strengthening his electoral hand since last squeezing onto council in 2020.

Phillip Le Liu is also expected to run again, but having since resigned his Liberal Party membership, it's difficult to see a clear path to re-election for what would be a third council term. Who he decides to align himself with will be key, but one can never count him out.

That leaves Jason Chang, the councillor elected through Arron Wood's ticket. As proprietor of the business Calia, as seen at Emporium, his personal mandate was always to be a voice for small business.

But running a business alongside being a councillor seems to have weighed heavily on his ability to make a significant impact, so it's a question of whether the fire's still burning for a tilt in 2024. And, of course, who he runs with.

So, apart from the exit of Cr Leppert and uncertainty surrounding a handful of other positions, it's hard to see too much changing in 2024. But all councillors and other hopefuls will already be busy making their moves and mapping out pathways towards election, with plenty to contemplate over the Christmas break.

On that note, *Southbank News* wishes all our readers, advertisers, and supporters a wonderful and safe Christmas and New Year. As always, we look forward to bringing you more local news from the City of Melbourne in 2024. ●



Sean Car
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▲ New bluestone pavers on Dodds Street linear park (Picture: City of Melbourne).

Dodds Street park opening pushed back to March

WORDS BY *David Schout*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The conversion of roadway into public open space on Dodds Street is set to be completed in March, three months later than scheduled.

The City of Melbourne had previously flagged a pre-Christmas opening for the Dodds Street linear park, however it won't now meet this goal.

Recent works on the project, which will feature gathering spaces among new native grasslands and trees on Dodds St between Grant St and Southbank Boulevard, saw a section of bluestone paving completed at the northern end, which has now reopened to vehicles and is operating as a shared zone.

"We expect hard landscape works to be finished by March 2024," a recent project update stated, adding that the site will close from December 20 until January 8.

"Planting will be carried out in autumn as the weather cools, giving our plants and seeds the best chance of growing into a healthy, thriving landscape."

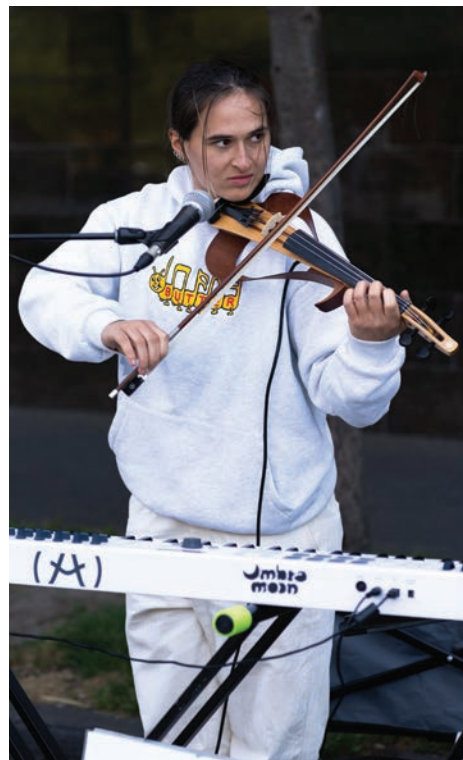
Speaking at the November 21 Future Melbourne Committee meeting held at The Opera Centre in Southbank, the council's director of parks and city greening David Callow said, "[It is] a significant new open space in an area that was previously a roadway ... it was bitumen and an urban heat island," he said.

"We'll see significant increases in tree canopy cover, biodiversity and that will be achieved through 35 new trees and 1300 square metres of new garden beds."

The project forms part of the Southbank Boulevard and Dodds Street Draft concept plan, which was endorsed by the council in 2017.

Its delayed completion comes after the \$44 million transformation of Southbank Boulevard was beset by hold-ups.

The council has said the linear park would "breathe new life" into what was an "under-explored part of the city" and would increase the number of visitors. ●



Southbank's inaugural Re-love Festival proves a hit with locals and visitors



Southbank's first pre-loved market has been hailed a resounding success with a range of stalls and activities bringing the community together.



WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Marcela Lehocka*
EVENTS

The event, held on Sunday, November 12 at the Boyd Community Hub, attracted a significant crowd with pre-loved treasures delighting bargain hunters.

From clothing and accessories to toys, household items, books, and antiques, there was something for everyone while children's face-painting and workshops, and music performances also kept crowds entertained.

Named the Re-love Festival, the day was part of the nation-wide Garage Sale Trail initiative,

which supports a sustainable way of living by allowing people to provide a new home to pre-loved items while fostering a strong sense of community.

Maria Tarrant of the Southbank Sustainability Group praised the event, saying "it would be great to see this on the annual calendar".

"Southbank's first Re-love Festival was a great opportunity for residents to recycle their loved but unneeded goods, as they bought and sold at the various stalls," she said.

"The fun event highlighted the importance of recycling in terms of reducing waste and giving household goods, furniture and toys a second life. Congrats to the City of Melbourne for sponsoring the event." ●

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Montague Precinct vision finally unveiled

Continued from page 1.

One of the “key moves” in the plans would see a swathe of new laneways created right across the area, predicting that Montague will be “famous for its network of destination laneways” by 2050.

Already looking ahead at ways to preserve, reimagine and extend these future laneways, the plans also moot a new trail linking Fennell Reserve to City Rd with an “immersive and meandering walking experience through Montague’s storied southern neighbourhood”.

Another highlight includes a proposed “Montague Walk”, “stitching together” Montague’s southern and northern neighbourhoods across the light rail stop from the precinct’s new civic centre at Buckhurst St, which will be transformed into a “vibrant main street”.

Fishermans Bend Development Board chair Meredith Sussex said the staged plans would deliver \$2.6 billion worth of essential local infrastructure in the urban renewal area.

“After an unbelievable amount of work by an unbelievable number of people, and COVID, the draft Fishermans Bend Development Contributions Plan has been released for public comment,” Ms Sussex said.

“The plan contains a number of innovative approaches to urban planning. Also released is the draft Montague Precinct Implementation Plan which has been developed as interest in Montague as a place to live and work is growing rapidly.”

“We are looking forward to the public feedback on both plans.”

Following public consultation, which closes February 23, an amendment to the Port Phillip Planning Scheme will be made to implement changes to the Fishermans Bend planning framework in the coming decade to help “transition the precinct towards its potential”.

However, with the implementation plan released after the planning framework was finalised by the state government in 2018, the delays have been criticised by residents and key stakeholders who argue it has meant planning was now occurring concurrently with booming private development in the precinct.

Resident Helen Robertson said her greatest concern was that the plans had no “additional infrastructure being implemented to support the residents” amid current rapid construction.

“I have complained to the council about the pile driving in Normanby Rd, which is causing cracks in our property, but nobody responds to our request for an engineering report to be done to identify potential instabilities in the land,” she said.

“Construction on both Normanby Rd and Gladstone St will see thousands of additional residents in the area, but no additional car parking or public transport exists. The rubbish that the construction sites and workers create goes unchecked, so we live in a garbage dump.”

Ms Robertson said this was on top of multiple robberies occurring in the area, with residents calling for additional lighting and CCTV cameras to be installed “but these requests have also had no positive feedback”.

City of Port Phillip Gateway Ward



▲ City of Port Phillip Cr Marcus Pearl has raised concerns with the Implementation Plan. Photo: Hanna Komissarova.



▲ A map from the Implementation Plan highlighting key projects, including new open space, laneways and cycling routes.

councillor Marcus Pearl shared the community’s anxiousness, saying the Montague Precinct Implementation Plan “has languished in bureaucratic limbo for over three years” and made “no explicit commitments addressing transportation or alleviating traffic congestion”.

“During this period, several major developments have either been completed or are currently under construction without a comprehensive plan in place to guide them,” Cr Pearl said.

“The current situation necessitates a hurried effort by the government and the Fishermans Bend taskforce to catch up, at a time when our state critically requires additional housing.”

“Among the pressing issues with the plan are the absence of a clear governance framework for the area, an ambiguous model of how developer contributions will be invested, and a lack of a transparent funding model for the future.”

Among the latest developments soon to begin construction is “The Canopy” at 272-280 Normanby Rd, with developer Gamuda Land

given approval to build a 20-storey building featuring retail shops, offices and 213 dwellings, including 12 apartments as affordable housing, as well as the 3000-square metre public park on Johnson St.

Anthropologist Dr Heather Threadgold, a consultant at Aboriginal urban design firm Murri: Yul, who has worked with Gamuda Land to create the public park, said it was a “great community-based project” with the opportunity to restore the natural landscape while incorporating Aboriginal and historic perspectives to pay homage to the site’s historical and environmental significance and layering.

Heart Gardening Project community group head Emma Cutting is also involved in the project, saying it is “very important that developers take intentional and consistent actions to increase and strengthen our communities, not just of humans but of flora, fauna and fungi”.

“It is exciting that Gamuda Land is keen to turn the park alongside The Canopy into a part of the Melbourne Pollinator Corridor and The



Heart Gardening Project and Gamuda have worked together positively in a few ways during the initial stages of design,” she said.

In other projects, a 40-level mixed-use tower is proposed to house 406 apartments at 249-251 Normanby Rd, which is currently under assessment by the state government, while construction is well under way for three mixed use towers of 26, 26 and 28 levels at 15-85 Gladstone St, South Melbourne by American-based developer Greystar.

Four mixed-use towers of 27, 29, 30 and 30 levels are also approved for 6-70 Buckhurst St, which will house 1004 apartments, as well as offices and retail shops, and 697 car spaces.

RMIT’s professor of urban planning and sustainability Sarah Bekessy told *Southbank News* massive high-rises were not the way forward towards sustainable high-density urban cities such as Montague.

“Fishermans Bend is a hugely important opportunity for Melbourne,” she said, but noted it had a “chequered history with the kind of unfortunate planning decisions that have hamstrung some of the innovation that is potential for the site”.

“The evidence is that if you’re going to plan really high-density environments for families, you’re better off keeping it to the mid-rise, six-storey level, and it can still be close to the street.”

“I think we need to be thinking about nature as a key part of the solution to some of the problems that Fishermans Bend is going to face in terms of cooling, reducing wind speed, creating a sense of place, and generating enchantment in a place, otherwise it’s going to be an urban jungle.” ●

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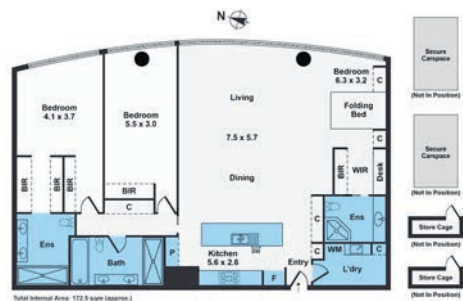
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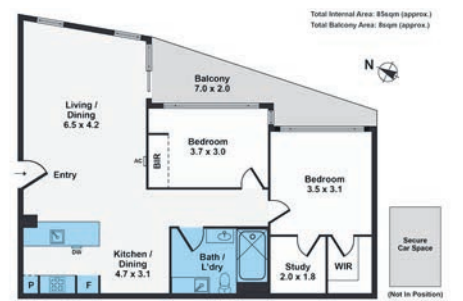
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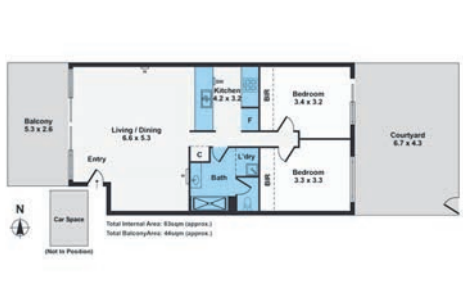
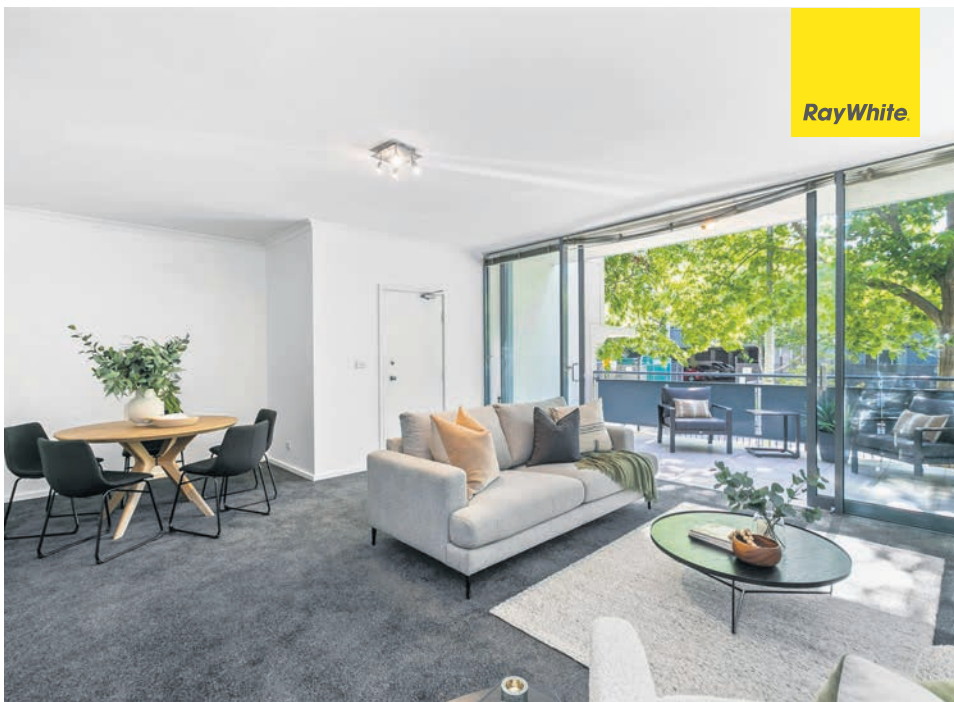
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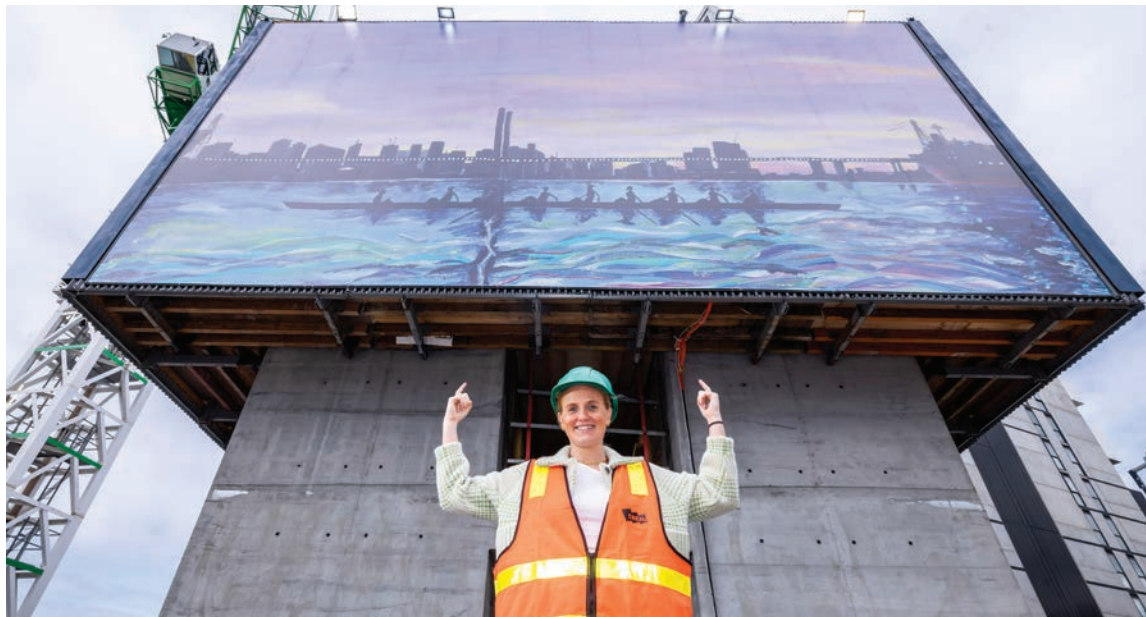
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Young deaf artist recognised with “Gallery in the Sky”

WORDS BY *Afraa Kori*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Marcela Lehocka*
ARTS & CULTURE

A budding deaf artist has been granted the opportunity of a lifetime, with her artwork depicting a scene on the Yarra-Birrarung River unveiled on a major construction site in Southbank and now on show for 12 months.

Twenty-year-old Shepparton artist Maggie Sandles was invited to participate in Crema Construction’s “Gallery in the Sky” initiative, which has seen her artwork enlarged to a 6.3-metre-high, 11.81-metre-long display.

Currently situated atop the 12th floor of the “Madison Grand” 344 City Rd by developer Gurner, the artwork will eventually rise up 40 floors over the course of construction, which is due for completion in the coming years.

“I have never been a part of something like this in the art world. It is an amazing opportunity,” Ms Sandles said.

“I recognise the opportunity is a large one and potentially a platform to share my journey with other kids. I aim to show even though disabilities can present challenges, it can also come with amazing opportunities that otherwise we wouldn’t get.”

In response to the theme “Living in Melbourne”, she said she combined her passions for art and sport, adding that the colours she selected for her oil painting represented the radiance of Melbourne at dawn.

“The theme of the piece was my interpretation of Melbourne. For me, rowing has a large impact on my childhood throughout my secondary education,” she said.

“I spent almost every day on the water, and I experienced some of the best and worst times. I made lifelong friendships and am very grateful for the lessons rowing taught me. I believe resilience and perseverance are two values I still carry in my life today, thanks to rowing.”

Ms Sandles said she was grateful and overwhelmed by the support she had received through Crema Constructions and from Deaf Children Australia, including family and

friends as part of the initiative.

“I have been fortunate enough to have had lots of positive feedback through social media and friends and family. I am really appreciative of everyone who likes the artwork and I hope that people are able to see my interpretation of Melbourne within the painting,” she said.

Crema Constructions general manager Adam Keenan Dunn said the initiative supported both the work of emerging local artists and a charity of their choice.

“We initially saw Maggie’s artwork when she won Deaf Children Australia’s inaugural national art competition last year and knew she would be a wonderful candidate for Gallery in the Sky, so we commissioned her to create a unique piece for the project,” he said.

“It’s wonderful to see Maggie’s beautiful artwork of a famous Melbourne scene, come to life in such epic proportions on one of our major construction sites.”

Ms Sandles will receive \$2500 for her commissioned artwork, while Crema Constructions will also donate to Deaf Children Australia.

Meanwhile, the young artist continues to strive for even bigger personal goals, and said she hoped to use her success to inspire others.

“Through the collaboration with Crema Constructions and Deaf Children Australia, I have definitely been encouraged to explore more with my art and how I can express my creativity,” she said.

“However, my main goal now is focused towards paratriathlon. I am aiming towards the Paralympics in 2024. So, while this is my main focus, I believe that art will remain as a creative outlet.”

“My disability presents a lot of daily challenges, however, with the support of family and friends as well as goals I have set out for myself such as the Paralympics, I find it is easy to enjoy every day as it comes.”

“As a paraathlete and an ambassador for Deaf Children Australia and Usher Kids Australia, I hope I am able to show that if you want something, the universe has a way of making it happen.” ●

Council looks to secure new open space in Southbank west

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne has identified Southbank’s western end around Clarendon St as the most acutely in need of new open space.

As part of its 2021-22 budget, the council allocated \$20 million towards “new Southbank open space”, while a further \$5 million was planned for the 2022-23 financial year, to redress the critical shortage of green space in the area.

The council says it is continuing to progress work on a multi-purpose recreation area in the northern Kings Ways undercroft space as part of the City Road Master Plan, which will be located right in the heart of Southbank opposite Boyd Community Hub.

But *Southbank News* understands the council continues to explore opportunities with landholders to invest its \$25 million west of Kings Way around the City Rd/Clarendon St area, having identified that part of Southbank as the area in most need of new open space.

Resident Jenny Fletcher, who lives at Tiara Towers on Haig St, went as far as suggesting the “perfect” site to councillors at the November 21 Future Melbourne Committee meeting held in Southbank.

Ms Fletcher identified the vacant block of land at the corner of Haig and Clarendon streets, formerly home to a warehouse that was engulfed in flames in July, as “a great opportunity” for a new park.

“There is a corner property that is begging to be bought from the developers and their permits have long expired,” Ms Fletcher said. “It is perfect. It has sun. It’s fantastic.”

It’s understood the council hopes to make an announcement on a new open space project in Southbank west in the new year.

It follows speculation that the council had enquired about purchasing land at Melbourne Square at the corner of Kavanagh and Balston streets, where a temporary basketball court is currently being constructed for the community.

While *Southbank News* understands that the council did make representations to the site’s owner OSK Property regarding a potential purchase, a City of Melbourne spokesperson confirmed that it was “not considering acquiring the site on a permanent basis.”

“The City of Melbourne has identified Melbourne Square as a site for a pop-up play court in Southbank and is working closely with developer OSK to deliver this facility for the community,” a council spokesperson said.

“We’re working with OSK to determine when the court will open to the community.”

The spokesperson added that “due to the court’s location in a high-density residential area”, it had requested “a range of noise mitigation measures such as ‘silent’ backboards, court materials with noise mitigation properties and limited hours of operation.”

It follows recent meetings between council officers, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece and the local community aimed at addressing potential impacts to neighbouring amenity before the court’s opening.

Community group Southbank3006 secretary and Victoria Tower resident Trisha Avery said a small group of adjacent owners’ corporations had formed to work directly with the council to ensure concerns regarding noise and security were heard.

“The Epic apartment building and Victoria Tower, as well the Marco Building and the West Tower of Melbourne Square, are directly affected by any noise, times of use and access and safety concerns by the new play facility at Melbourne Square right on Kavanagh St,” Ms Avery said.

She added that while she was very grateful to Cr Nicholas Reece, who had been “instrumental in getting us access to the right people”, the group was “less than happy” with current information it was receiving from the council.

“There seems to be confusion over who the council is negotiating with,” she said. “No detail is forthcoming on exactly what sound mitigation will be provided. We are still getting the same message as we had at our first meeting in May of this year.” ●



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A LOOK AT OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD



Adel Fazel on Southbank Promenade

Southbank social group bringing hundreds of people together

When Southbank resident Adel Fazel set up a social group two years ago, he had no idea it would prove so popular with locals.

A software engineer by day, Adel was organising up to five meet-ups a week at one point but has now settled on two each week. The meet-ups range from walks through Southbank and neighbouring areas, trips to the theatre or to see comedy, dance classes and badminton lessons.

"I originally started the group as a way to meet people. If I had an idea such as I want to go on a bike ride, I thought why not advertise it and see who else wants to come," Adel said.

As well as helping Adel experience a range of diverse activities with others, he said the group - which he named Southbank Socials - has helped his confidence.

"I would say Southbank Socials has changed me - before I was socially awkward and now I have lots of friends and it has given me skills to talk to people. I enjoy chatting to different people," Adel said.

"I advertise the activities on the online platform, Meetup. For the Southbank walks, we meet outside the National Gallery Victoria at 7pm on Wednesdays. We do a different walk every week. We've done Fawkner Park, Albert Park, Fitzroy Gardens, and Docklands. We do a minimum of 5km and have walked up to 15km before."

Adel said the group has not only broadened his friendship circle, but the types of people he meets.

"I get to meet people from all over the world. One Chinese lady I met doing the walks ended up teaching me how to drive before I got my professional lessons and now we go to the same dancing class as well. Another Italian guy and I share a love for coffee, so I also invited him to the same dance class," Adel said.

Growing up in Iran, Adel moved to Brisbane to study 13 years ago. He arrived in Melbourne in 2018 via stints living on the Gold Coast and in Sydney.

"I'm not sure I can ever move out of Southbank now. After moving around the world so much I think Southbank is my final destination," Adel said.

"I like the proximity to everything that I need, and that it's within walking distance of top-quality gyms, cycling, and excellent sports facilities. Of course, there's a bit of noise living here but I manage it."

Adel's three brothers and parents have all followed him to Melbourne.

"My family all now live in Southbank too, in apartments which are within five minutes of each other. They have come along to a few of the meet-ups which is great as it forces them to speak English," Adel said.

As well as being a great connector, Adel is also a highly optimistic person and is positive about the future of the group.

"I'd like to plan a barbecue meet up soon, for all the different people I've met along the years. I've learned a lot from doing these meet ups and see it as personal growth. Who knows, maybe it will become an occupation or side hustle one day," Adel said.

Connect with Southbank Socials on Meetup [meetup.com/en-AU/melbourne-social-walks-and-talk/events/](https://www.meetup.com/en-AU/melbourne-social-walks-and-talk/events/)

OUT AND ABOUT IN SOUTHBANK

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

- Southbank3006 will host a Christmas party at Boyd Community Hub on 9 December. There will be live music, a doggy parade, food trucks, ice-cream, face painting, entertainment, kids' crafts, prizes, Santa and more.
- While there, why not check out what Boyd has to offer? There's the library, yoga, Zumba, trivia nights, craft, and community spaces for hire. See the noticeboard in the foyer for more.
- Buxton Contemporary Art Museum on the corner of Southbank Boulevard and Dodds Street is free for everyone. Check out the new exhibition, Nadine Christensen: Around.
- Did you know that Albert Park Lake is on Southbank's doorstep? It takes less than 20 minutes by tram route 12 from Boyd Community Hub. Enjoy the picnic areas, walking track, and dog off-lead areas.
- Connected Neighbourhood Small Grants are open all year. Grants of up to \$2000 are available to support your ideas to make Southbank a liveable neighbourhood. Reach out to your neighbourhood partner.
- Have your say on the Miles and Dodds Reserve pocket park consultation, which is open on Participate Melbourne until 17 December.
- Have you ever wondered how tall a new building in Southbank will be? Southbank Neighbourhood Portal has useful information that can answer your questions. Head to the 'Live' icon on the homepage, then click on the 'Construction and development' dropdown where you'd find the Development Activity Model.

Want to connect with your neighbourhood? Contact your Southbank neighbourhood partner, Ash Lee, at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/southbank

Meet your Neighbourhood Partner

Passionate about our area, Neighbourhood Partners are here to respond to community needs in a localised way.

Whether a resident, business owner or visitor to our neighbourhood, get in touch to see how we can support you.



Explore City of Melbourne's 10 Neighbourhood Portals to contact your partner and find events and information in your area at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/southbank



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Dip into the festive season at Afloat



There are few better places to spend your summer days than along the Yarra-Birrarung River in the heart of Melbourne, but there's only one spot you can enjoy the stunning atmosphere while taking a dip.



BUSINESS

No, we're not talking about cooling off in the river itself (as tempting as that may be on those scorching hot days), but instead of the sparkling waters and vibrant surrounds of the newly-opened Afloat Pool Club, at Melbourne's favourite floating restaurant and bar, Afloat.

Locals needn't look any further for summer outings than this brand-new pool area, complete with an eight-metre-long, Italian-tiled swimming pool, two four-metre palm trees, a Tulum-inspired agave bar, and a standalone taco hut.

This latest edition of the popular Afloat venue, brought to you by the team behind its iconic neighbours Arbory Bar & Eatery, is themed "Viva Mexico" (hence, the taco hut) and has relocated its pool from east to west to allow for infinity edge afternoon sunsets.

Afloat's Georgie Larkins said the return of the swimming pool officially marked the start of the venue's summer season.

"With the arrival of warm weather, we're



so excited to welcome guests back for another summer of fun by the pool. This year is particularly exciting as the area is more spacious and comes with a handful of fun new features," she said.

The taco hut, equipped with a grill and hot top, will offer a rotating selection of special tacos, with a hanging chalkboard menu changing from week to week.

You might find corn tortillas loaded with grilled, locally grown cactus and tender beef, crunchy crickets with avocado and tomatillo salsa, or a classic Al Pastor, packed with slices of pork shoulder, pineapple, chilli, onion, and coriander.

Over at the agave bar, you'll find a selection of 60-odd agave products, ranging from tequila, mezcal, sotol and raicilla. The list will evolve throughout the summer, with rotating special

pours and limited-edition cocktails from Don Julio, Patron and El Christiano.

Just like all good beach clubs, the Afloat Pool Club has been completed with textured furnishings, poolside lounges and double day beds, making it the ideal spot to kick back with a sundowner in hand and enjoy an inner-city summer of escape and relaxation.

Afloat Pool Club opening times may vary from week to week. Follow @afloat_melbourne on Instagram to keep up to date on opening hours.

Coinciding with the arrival of the pool is an exciting schedule of ticketed events, including Afloat's famous New Year's Eve and New Year's Day poolside parties. Expect the drinks to be flowing, the tunes to be blaring and the entertainment to be some of Melbourne's best.

Perhaps most exciting, on New Year's Eve,

Afloat and Arbory Bar & Eatery will join forces, saying goodbye to the year that was with a "Tulum Jungle Party" across the two venues.

Inspired by the electric parties held in tropical jungles on Mexico's Yucatán coast, expect an exotic night of eating, drinking, dancing, and music. There'll be uninterrupted views of the fireworks, along with new performances from The Huxleys and Discordia, and tunes from some of Melbourne's best DJs, including Mafia, Mu-Gen and Anyo.

Tickets to Afloat and Arbory Bar & Eatery's NYE party can be purchased online. ●

For more information:
afloat.melbourne/whats-on

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the SOUTHBANK directory

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- LE BAJO MILKBAR**
A friendly community milk bar that bakes its own bread & roasts its own coffee. Le Bajo is a strange mix of vintage Australian goods, delicious Japanese sandwiches, pastries and quality coffee.
- MÖRK CHOCOLATE**
Mörk Chocolate are makers of specialty, ethically sourced hot chocolate in Melbourne. Inspired by Melbourne's coffee culture – which is considered by many to be the best in the world – they have made it their mission to bring specialty hot chocolate onto the scene.

SOUTHBANK NEWS

December 2023, Issue 136

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Council pledges to find a home for the Fishermen's Bend Gymnastics Club

The City of Port Phillip has thrown its support behind the Fishermen's Bend Gymnastics Club (FBGC), saying it will embark on a wide-ranging search to find its members a permanent home.

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
LOCAL NEWS

The not-for-profit club has existed in the community for 70 years and is the only dedicated gymnastics club in the City of Port Phillip, providing a platform for young gymnasts to chase their dreams.

But with the club having to move several times in recent years amid skyrocketing rents and with its lease due to end in 2025 at its current Port Melbourne warehouse that's earmarked to be turned into apartment buildings, members are worried about their future.

They are now urgently seeking to lock in a long-term venue to ensure the longevity of the much-loved club, which prides itself on its inclusiveness and accessibility, as well as the way it offers subsidised fees and classes for marginalised, vulnerable, and disadvantaged children.

In October, the club lodged a 1350-signature petition with the City of Port Phillip, which called on the council and state government to co-fund a space and invest in facilities for its members.

In response, councillors voted unanimously



"Hopefully they decide on a long-term home for us; something that will take us through for decades to come," she said, adding their ideal space would be 1000 square metres or bigger.

Ms Moore said the club had continued to grow in membership numbers, with their current location being a commercially owned warehouse in Salmon St, with FBGC subletting a section to the Port Phillip Community Group to help the club stay afloat. The council is subsidising the rent paid by the Port Phillip Community Group.

According to the council, there is a continual challenge for the council to provide opportunities for participation growth across many sports with "sports grounds are at, or over capacity".

Mayor Heather Cunsolo said the FBGC was a "fantastic community organisation" that "brings many people through its doors", and fully supported their search to find a permanent home.

She said many vertical towers were going up in Fishermans Bend – an industrial precinct in South Melbourne and Port Melbourne with plans to build schools, parks, roads, and public transport – and suggested there may be "the ability to insert a level of something other than residential or a grocery store, perhaps maybe a gymnastics facility".

Cr Marcus Pearl said, "the community benefit they provide is substantial, the value they provide their members goes well beyond their doors, and this is a good first step in starting to work out a long-term future for them".

Ms Moore said if any generous organisation or private owner had a space available that their club could use they would be grateful for the opportunity to have a discussion.

To contact the club, visit fbgc.org.au or call 0478104486. ●

Mo doubt about it: local agent raises funds for men's health

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*
LOCAL NEWS

There were thick mos, there were thin mos, there were handle-bars, and there were beards.

Local real estate agency Ray White Southbank has smashed its Movember fundraising target, and in the process, earned much needed funds for men's mental and physical health.

"We are proud to share that we exceeded our goal of \$2000 and raised \$2420 in support of Movember," Ray White's head of department, property management Alex Mees said.

"The whole team proudly got involved as we received donations from family, friends, contractors, renters and clients and the greater Southbank and CBD community."

"We loved collaborating with the City of Melbourne team and look forward to re-sprouting the mos in 2024."

While a final fundraising figure for Australia is yet to be determined, it is expected Australians will have raised more than \$30 million as part of this year's Movember campaign. ●

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Greenline master plan finalised, but completion pushed back to 2030

The four-kilometre Northbank renewal won't be finished by 2028 as had been hoped.

WORDS BY *David Schout*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne's Greenline project won't be finished until at least 2030, a finalised master plan has revealed.

Since first releasing plans in May 2021 for the \$316 million path, which will run for four kilometres along the Yarra River's north bank from Birrarung Marr to the Bolte Bridge, the council had calculated a 2028 completion.

However, forecasts have been pushed back, and could be delayed further due to "available funding, annual budget and service delivery priorities".

Councillors were expected to endorse the final blueprint for Greenline at the December 5 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

Shovels will first hit the ground for Greenline in April 2024, when "site one" works commence at Birrarung Marr's river promenade.

However, from there works won't proceed in a linear, east-to-west fashion on Greenline's five precincts: (from east) Birrarung Marr, The Falls, River Park, Maritime, and Salt Water Wharf.

It is anticipated that the next works, from late 2025, will take place at River Park (including Batman Park) before works jump back and recommence on the Birrarung Marr precinct, at Federation Wharf and Flinders Walk, from late 2026.

Southbank News has previously reported concerns on the future of floating bar Afloat (by Arbory Bar & Eatery) at Flinders Walk, with artist's impressions depicting a raised footpath which, if implemented, would impact the floating bar's ability to operate.

The master plan's timeline then indicated that the Docklands section of Greenline, the Maritime and Salt Water Wharf precincts, from Spencer Street Bridge to the Bolte, won't begin until around 2028.

Greenline remains broadly popular with the wider community, and 70 per cent of respondents in recent engagement rated four or above (out of five) the master plan's vision for a revitalisation of the Yarra River's north bank.

The master plan paints a bleak picture of the river's northern side from the CBD to Docklands, and why the project is needed for Melbourne.

"Currently, the north bank suffers from disjointed and limited pedestrian and active transport navigation, with narrow and poorly connected paths, steep slopes, uneven pavements and inadequate amenities," it states.

"It lacks cultural diversity, ecological value and sustained social and civic engagement."

The master plan reiterates the "woven line" concept for the project and having five precincts of "interconnected spaces".

Significant questions remain, however, on how the council plans to fund Greenline.

Two years since releasing "game-changing" plans that Lord Mayor Sally Capp likened to the renewal of Federation Square and Southbank Promenade, funding support (or indications of future support) has been scant.



▲ Works along Greenline towards Docklands have been pushed back.

The council is relying on substantial help from the state and federal governments to fund the \$316 million project and wants a \$100 million contribution from both.

The state government to date has refused to comment on whether it would support Greenline, and did not allocate the project any funding in its May budget.

However, it is yet to receive a cent of funding on top of the \$97 million itself has budgeted until 2027.

The state government to date has refused to comment on whether it would support Greenline, and did not allocate the project any funding in its May budget.

At the federal election, Labor pledged \$20 million to the project as part of a "Priority Community Infrastructure" grant program, which was "currently undergoing the required processes prior to funding being confirmed" according to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts.

Even when this funding lands as expected, the council will have only received 10 per cent of the \$200 million it needs from upper levels of government.

Economic analysis by consultancy group Ernst & Young revealed in September 2022 showed that Greenline would more than pay for itself and would deliver more than \$3 of value for every dollar spent.

The business case predicted the project would create \$740 million worth of economic and community benefits, and at the time Cr Capp said the analysis would be essential to securing crucial additional funding.

"[It] helps set us all up for success, as we continue to work with key stakeholders on the delivery of Greenline, particularly in relation to our discussions with state and federal governments," she said.

However, this was yet to arrive.

The fragmentation of controlling authorities and land owners along the river, including VicTrack, the Victorian Government, CityLink, the Melbourne Arts Precinct Corporation and Development Victoria, meant Greenline had to jump through a significant number of hoops before it gets off the ground.

"We're continuing to progress our visionary Greenline project, achieving a major milestone with the delivery of our master plan," Acting Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said prior to the December 5 meeting.

"The master plan will guide our work to transform the north bank of the Yarra River-Birrarung, which will become an iconic meeting place for all Melburnians, deliver thousands of jobs, attract visitors, and generate millions of dollars in economic benefits."

"I want to thank every community member and stakeholder who took time to provide feedback on our draft master plan. Your views are integral to help us embrace all opportunities that the Greenline project presents for Melbourne, now and into the future." ●

Southbank man with OMCG links charged with drug offences

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
CRIME

A Southbank man has been arrested after a Victoria Police Taskforce conducted several firearm prohibition order checks on outlaw motorcycle gang (OMCG) members.

Detectives from the anti-bike Echo taskforce seized what is alleged to be a small quantity of cocaine and steroids after searching a Southbank address on November 23.

A 35-year-old Southbank man was arrested and charged with drug offences, committing an indictable offence while on bail and contravening a conduct condition while on bail.

He was remanded in custody to appear at Melbourne Magistrates' Court on February 8, 2024.

The arrest comes after the Echo Taskforce conducted compliance searches conducted on Finks OMCG members who are subject to firearm prohibition orders including at properties in Southbank, Berwick, Ascot Vale, Metung, Lucknow and Ringwood.



▲ Police arrest a Southbank man on Fanning St. Photo: Victoria Police.

The operation formed part of an ongoing investigation by Taskforce Lunar into organised crime syndicates, including the Finks OMCG, linked to illicit tobacco.

Victoria Police Crime Command acting commander Jason Kelly said there had been an "immense focus" on illicit tobacco and associated offending in Victoria, "particularly in relation to the reckless and dangerous arson attacks and firearms-related violence".

"We will continue to conduct these operations across Victoria and also work closely with other states to disrupt this criminal activity and hold those involved to account," he said. ●



Burglary on St Kilda Rd

CRIME

Victoria PolicePort Phillip Crime Investigation Unit detectives are appealing for public assistance following a burglary and theft in Melbourne.

Investigators have been told a man and a woman entered an apartment block on St Kilda Rd at around 10.30pm on November 20.

Once inside the building the pair made their way to the underground car park where they allegedly broke into a vehicle and stole cash, cards, a mobile phone, designer sunglasses and a distinctive European-style licence plate VAF-558.

The pair then left the building.

The stolen cards were then used at a nearby service station and fast-food restaurant.

The first offender is perceived to be male, 30 to 35 years-old, 162 centimetres tall with a solid build and olive complexion.

He was wearing a grey Nike hooded top, black shoes and has a distinctive tattoo on his left calf.

The second offender is perceived to be female, 30 to 35 years-old with a medium build and olive complexion.

She was wearing a grey hooded top, denim shorts with white sneakers and has a tattoo over her left eye.

Investigators have released CCTV footage and images of a man and a woman they believe may be able to assist with their enquiries.

Anyone with information or CCTV footage is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or make a report online at crimestoppersvic.com.au. ●

SAISON
By Saison Ephemere

Saison Melbourne

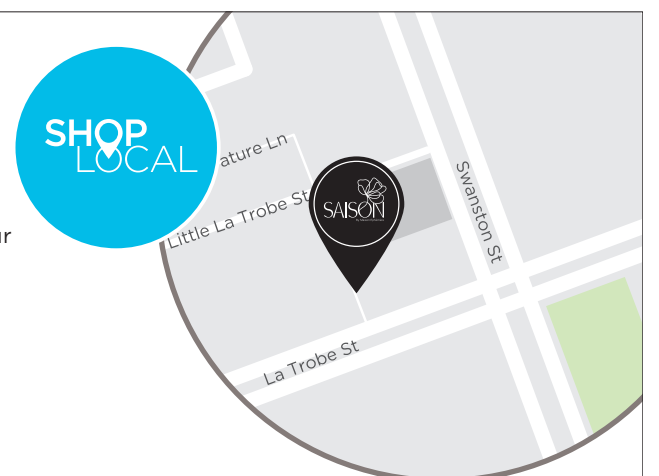
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CITY SET TO 'SLEIGH'

THIS CHRISTMAS



Enjoy free festivities as part of the City of Melbourne's Christmas Festival



Christmas is the most magical time of the year and the city is the place to discover all the fun and festivities.

And the best part – most of the fun is free.

It's because we want everyone to be able to have an affordable day out in the city and enjoy the Christmas activities on offer.

This year's Christmas Festival is set to be our best yet with a spectacular new laser show on the Yarra River – Birrarung and a brand-new home for Santa's Workshop in Howey Place, transforming the laneway into

a Christmas wonderland perfect for a jolly good photo moment.

The inaugural Christmas River Show will illuminate Southbank each night of the Christmas Festival - dazzling Melburnians with water fountains, lasers, lights and projections to a soundtrack of festive favourites.

An array of Christmas decorations will also adorn the city, including showstopping projections, laneway theming, giant presents, and nutcrackers.

And if that's not enough, wrap up your Christmas list at the city's iconic strips, malls and arcades. Shop little laneways and markets to find the perfect present for everyone in your life.

Catch up with loved ones in the city this Christmas to feast under festive lights or celebrate the sparkle season from rooftops.

Highlights of the festival include:

- Mesmerising Christmas projections – illuminating Melbourne Town Hall and State Library Victoria.

- A pop-up Christmas-themed roller rink – keeping the free festive fun rolling into Carlton's Argyle Square. Entry is free, with optional \$10 skate hire.
- The new-look Christmas Cinema – screening iconic festive films at the stunning Capitol Theatre.
- A festival maze in Docklands – inviting Melburnians to win their way through a full-sized labyrinth of giant presents and interactive games.
- Festive thrills and classic carnival treats – as the Christmas Carnival returns to the banks of the Yarra.
- The Listies Ruin Xmas – the acclaimed comedic duo returns to put the slay into sleighbells with an uproarious take on the holiday pantomime.
- The return of the Christmas Quest and Treasure Hunt – the ultimate Christmas-themed scavenger hunts with plenty of prizes to be won.

All attractions are free, except the Listies Ruin Christmas and the

Christmas Cinema. Proceeds from these events will go to the Good Giving appeal for Make Room – a City of Melbourne project creating new pathways out of homelessness.

The Christmas Festival is supported by major partners including the Victorian Government, Fed Square and World Vision.

For more information, visit whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au and search for Christmas.



Our Make Room project will provide supported accommodation and pathways to long-term housing for rough sleepers. We thank people like Helen Matthews, pictured with Lord Mayor Sally Capp, who has experienced the hardships of homelessness, for helping us deliver this important service.

PAY IT FORWARD THIS FESTIVE SEASON

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

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

We believe all Melburnians deserve access to safe and affordable housing.

That's why the City of Melbourne is working to reduce homelessness in the city through our housing project, Make Room.

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

The Make Room development will deliver 50 studio apartments, housing and homelessness services and other wraparound support. Residents will stay for up to 12 months, or until they can find long-term secure housing.

The design and service model have been informed through people with lived experience and support the needs of residents from different backgrounds. It will offer care and support services, with specialist health, housing and support staff located on-site.

HOW YOUR DONATION WILL HELP

This is a project that will change people's lives. By giving to Make Room, you are helping to give our most vulnerable community members a safe and secure roof over their head.

Donate at lmcf.org.au/makeroom

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Your City of Melbourne community update

SIX WAYS TO CELEBRATE NEW YEAR'S EVE

Melbourne is rolling out the sparkling red carpet for a New Year's Eve celebration like no other.



Get ready to don your sequins and glitter as the city sparkles for the annual New Year's Eve spectacular.

The City of Melbourne will host a massive city-wide midnight celebration with a special 'all that sparkles' theme.

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

For the first time, Melbourne's iconic buildings and streets will be drenched in sparkles for the occasion - with trees across the city lit up, glittery projections across Town Hall and the State Library, late-night busking performances

and free sparkly New Year's Eve hats available at Celebration Zones.

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

1. Be dazzled by a fireworks and laser extravaganza that will light up the city across 27 CBD rooftops. You can watch the fireworks from anywhere you can see the city skyline.
2. Head to our family-friendly Celebration Zones at Docklands, Flagstaff Gardens, Treasury Gardens and Kings Domain for live music, dance workshops, light installations, food trucks and a 9.30pm localised fireworks display.
3. Revellers can also savor the celebrations at renowned city

hospitality venues, with special events taking place at Arbory Bar & Eatery, Afloat, HER, Marvel Stadium, Blossom Rooftop and many more.

4. See superstars Marina Prior and John Foreman host the Aussie Pops Orchestra's New Year's Eve Gala extravaganza at Arts Centre Melbourne.
5. Settle in at Sidney Myer Music Bowl to watch some of the world's best live acts, brought to you by the Heaps Good live music festival.

Stay home and tune in to the official New Year's Eve live broadcast on Channel 9 from 11pm.

With half a million people expected to attend, safety remains our number

one priority. A detailed safety plan will be in place to ensure the wellbeing of everyone celebrating in the city, in partnership with Victoria Police and emergency service providers.

Plan early, book into one of the city's world-class hospitality venues or attend a Celebration Zone, as large crowds are expected to close a number of roads.

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

For more information, visit nye.melbourne.vic.gov.au

Keep your cool this summer

Melburnians are urged to prepare for a hot and dry El Nino summer and reminded of the dangers posed by heatwaves in our city.

By 2050, Melbourne will experience an average of 16 days a year over 35 degrees.

The City of Melbourne is working to reduce the threat of extreme urban heat for vulnerable people.

Our goal is that Melbourne provides places of respite for residents,

workers and visitors during extreme heat events.

We have already started acting to:

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

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

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

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



ANNUAL REPORT OUT NOW

Find out how the City of Melbourne supported the city and the community in the 2022-23 Annual Report, available to read online now at melbourne.vic.gov.au/annualreport

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

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Arts Precinct



Young artists celebrated at VCA's 2023 Grad Show

A landmark event in the Melbourne arts calendar, the 2023 Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) Grad Show, exhibited the works of more than 140 graduating students across the campus between November 24 to November 30.

WORDS BY *Georgie Atkins*

Graduands from Photography, Sculpture, Painting, and Drawing and Printmaking, as well as Honours and Master's students, were celebrated in the annual exhibition, with the show's opening night on November 24 attracting "at least 3000 people" to the Southbank precinct. "It's been a great year for the show," VCA's head of art, Simone Slee said. "Last year was the first year we had a live opening and reflecting back, it felt more feverish; this year felt very grounded and generous and celebratory, it was a really joyous night." Despite VCA offering students specialisation in either photography, sculpture, painting, or drawing and printmaking as part of their visual arts program, Ms Slee said that the university's focus on contemporary art had allowed students to broaden their practice, both throughout the course and in the show.



"What you'll see with contemporary art is that everyone makes all kinds of things, despite the discipline, for example, a program may be photography, however you will see sculptures and paintings," she told *Southbank News*. "Everyone seems to have developed their own singular voice which is really exciting, and what you want in an art school. You want people to be able to find their own voice and to start that trajectory for their art careers." The show's opening night unveiled several "show-stopping moments", including James Brett's "umbrella fountain". Engineered by James, the work saw guests taking on the meaning of "show-stopping" in its most literal sense, with crowds of people pausing to marvel at the installation's construction. "One thing that's noticeable with this year's

exhibition is that there's a different kind of scale than we've seen in the last few years, particularly coming out of the COVID years where it was much more internal and smaller scale," Ms Slee said. "Now there's a very strong sense of ambition – the works are larger, they're uncompromising." Amina Briggs' mural work was another large-scale piece included in the show, exploring the "crippling effects of colonisation" as part of her Master's degree in painting. "When I make art, I usually do it from my own perspective and the things that affect me," Ms Briggs said. "The blue people are a recurring figure in my work – they're doing the dishes and other water-related tasks to try and regain a sense of control over the situation, but at the same time,

their pride won't let them admit that they're also affected by colonisation." Yixuan Zhao is also a Master's student in painting, exploring the idea of beauty through her work, drawing inspiration from the "aesthetics of classical paintings". "I feel a sense of relief when I paint, it's like a form of meditation," Ms Zhao said. "When I'm painting, it brings me inner peace and separates me from the physical world." As well as presenting an opportunity for friends and family of students to come and see their work, the show also supports students by awarding various monetary prizes and offering artist-run initiatives to kick-start their careers post-study, in addition to works being available to purchase. "We will launch more formally in the New Year, the 2023 VCA Art Catalogue – an online website featuring all of this year's graduates' art practice to allow us to have a much more national and international reach," Ms Slee said. "It's also a great conduit where we've found that students have been getting shows in all sorts of places, for example, in New York and London – this is just one of the fabulous things that can happen for our graduates once they complete their degree with us." In the heart of the Arts Precinct, the VCA Grad Show is a pivotal steppingstone for young artists to launch their professional careers. "I think what we saw the other night was really reflective of the whole community approach to making art – it was really special," Ms Slee said. ●



Recital Centre unveils 2024 program to celebrate its 15th year

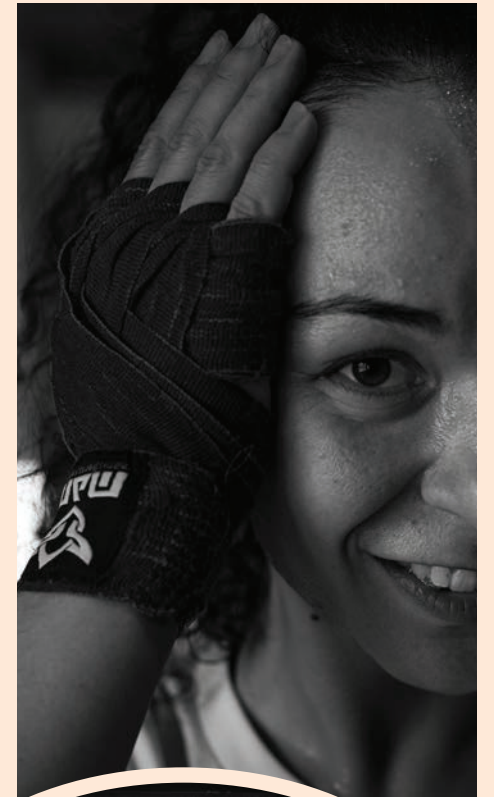
WORDS BY *Georgie Atkins*

Melbourne Recital Centre (MRC) will celebrate its 15th birthday in 2024 with a magnificent line-up of performances throughout the year. The season will see the launch of MRC's highly anticipated Classical and Contemporary program, with a broad range of Melbourne-based and international artists taking to the stage in both the "intimate" setting of the Primrose Potter Salon, as well as the visually and acoustically "impressive" Elisabeth Murdoch Hall. "2024 continues to build on the broad line-up of artists from Melbourne, Australia and around the world that Melbourne audiences are drawn to here at the heart of the Arts Precinct," director of programming Marshall McGuire said. "We want to generate a sense of 'wow' from all our audiences as they experience music in these fine spaces." The program of featured artists in 2024 is one that MRC is "proud to present", including classical and contemporary performers such as Paul Lewis, Arooj Aftab, Courtney Barnett, Michael Rother, Blind Boys of Alabama, Nobuyuki Tsuji, Lydia Lunch, Beth Orton, Genesis Baroque, Goldner Quartet, Mostly Mozart, and many more.

MRC will also offer programs for families, as well as various free events, installations, and post-concert talks. "We're playing around with some ideas to present concerts in different ways," Mr McGuire told *Southbank News*. "Matching up more artists in the same evening, encouraging more conversations between audiences and artists with our Free Music program as well as post-concert chats, and activating our spaces inside and out with more activities that we hope will delight and inspire you." Having been a pillar of Melbourne's Arts Precinct since opening its doors in 2009, MRC's 15th birthday celebration represents a significant milestone for the Southbank community and the arts industry more broadly. "Southbank continues to be such a vibrant, creative and important part of Melbourne, and our place on the corner allows us to be visible and vibrant all year round," Mr McGuire said. "We want everyone living in [postcode] 3006 to consider us their living room, to pop in to Blondie for food and drink, to experience our beautiful visual art in our foyers, and to feel free to just sit quietly and contemplate the world, as well as experience the widest range of music you can experience in Melbourne, all on your doorstep." melbournerecital.com.au ●



AIDEN SHEARER



Young photographer turns pastime to passion

What started out as just a lockdown hobby has now become a university pursuit for Aiden Shearer, who has just completed his first year of a Bachelor's degree in photography at Photography Studies College (PSC).

WORDS BY *Georgie Atkins*

While it takes most people years of study to discover their passion, Aiden's career in photography has already begun at just 18 years old. "There was nothing to do in lockdown and my dad had a camera, so I just picked it up one day," he said. "I used to skate a lot with my friends so I would bring my camera and take photos – turns out I was alright at it, so I carried it through the rest of high school." Aiden's interest in photojournalism and street photography has allowed him to explore various themes across his work that he is "personally connected to". Despite living in Melbourne's eastern suburbs since 2015, Aiden's Indonesian background and feelings associated with the immigrant experience have been a source of inspiration for his first major project, titled *Queer Combat Collec-*

tive, after his local sports group. "I grew up being in martial arts my whole childhood and I still do it now, and I'm a supporter of the queer community," Aiden told *Southbank News*. "The project was about when immigrants move to a new country and there's always things that you do in this new, foreign country that connects you back to your original home country." For Aiden, the *Queer Combat Collective* space has been the "perfect group" to not only feel at home in Melbourne, but also to feel connected to his upbringing in Indonesia. A trip back home is on the cards next year, which he hopes will give him the opportunity to delve deeper into street photography. "I want to document things that are nostalgic to me and take portraits of my family, and also of the streets in Indonesia," he said.

Although he plans to defer next year, Aiden is keen to come back to PSC to complete his second year and tick off some milestone "firsts". "I'd like to have my own book one day, and I want to have my work in an exhibition – those are my little mini goals," he said. "PSC was absolutely the best choice for me, I know a lot of people who went to uni and the course just wasn't for them or the uni wasn't for them, but I really love it – I love the people and the teachers and the whole environment." ●

For more information:
aidenshearer.com
 Instagram: @byshearer

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“We need action now”: Push to improve access to overdose-reversing drug

A spike in overdose deaths and a “looming threat” of fentanyl has experts and councillors pushing for a life-saving drug to be made readily available.

WORDS BY *David Schout*
HEALTH

The City of Melbourne has called for an overdose-reversing drug to be made readily available to prevent a growing number of “avoidable” deaths in the local area.

As an “emergency response” to recent data that showed two people died each month because of heroin-involved overdoses in the municipality in 2022, councillors unanimously backed a motion to improve access to the life-saving drug naloxone.

At the November 21 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, the motion presented by Cr Dr Olivia Ball urged the state government to act quickly on the issue and committed to hosting a roundtable of experts to identify the benefits of the medicine.

Described as a “life-saving” medicine, naloxone reverses opioid overdoses “almost instantly”

and is seen as a safe, easy-to-administer drug.

It is currently only available in approved pharmacies, whereas other states around Australia have more extensive supply sites.

Experts addressed councillors at the meeting and argued there were little to no downsides to making the drug freely available.

“It doesn’t require a prescription and is easy for anyone to use – it’s a simple nasal spray administered into one nostril and that will save a life,” Deputy Director of the Monash Addiction Research Centre in Melbourne, Professor Suzanne Nielsen, said.

“Extensive research shows that someone who witnesses an overdose, a lay person, can save a life if they have naloxone available, but naloxone can’t help if people can’t access it.”

Dr Dean Membrey, an addiction medicine specialist and general practitioner for community health organisation cohealth, told councillors naloxone had already made a sizeable impact.

“It has been amazing to witness our community’s response to take-home naloxone. It has saved lives, created a sense of empowerment in a community that often feels disempowered, and has reduced the strain on emergency services,” Dr Membrey said.

“For a period prior to COVID we had a tally-board of lives saved by our patient cohort and this reached triple-digits. While on

International Overdose Awareness Day there is always a sombre atmosphere as we remember the people we’ve lost, there is also now a glimmer of optimism and gratitude as we think of the people who are still with us due to take-home naloxone.”

However, he said the take-up rate of naloxone was not where it needed to be.

The recently released Coroners Court data now puts Melbourne (24 deaths in 2022) as having a higher heroin-involved fatality rate than any municipality in Victoria, overtaking Yarra and Brimbank council areas.

Dr Membrey said barriers to naloxone use meant people “continued to die unnecessarily”, and likened providing readily available naloxone in places where locals typically experience overdoses to providing cardiac defibrillators to those experiencing a heart attack.

The cohealth GP said the invention was crucial given an expected rise in use of fentanyl, a cheaper synthetic opioid far stronger than heroin that has proven catastrophic in North America and is expected to eventually arrive in Australia.

“[It’s] particularly important given the looming threat of fentanyl, which is likely to cause a significantly higher overdose rate than what we are accustomed to. However even without significant amounts of fentanyl on our streets, currently people continue to die of preventable

causes of death right here in our community,” Dr Membrey said.

Victoria Police officers are currently not authorised to carry naloxone, which the motion noted was “a problem” given they are often first responders on the scene of an overdose, and it was urged they undertake a local pilot similar to what Western Australia Police had recently undertaken.

During this trial, 16 WA officers administered naloxone at least once during a 12-month period, and on each occasion the police intervention was successful, and no-one died.

Despite this, Police Association secretary Wayne Gatt was wary when asked about officers carrying the medicine.

“What we want to be careful about is that police aren’t administering drugs,” he said.

However, experts have argued that there should be few concerns, and that even if not administered properly naloxone did not pose as harmful.

Cr Dr Ball reiterated the low-risk nature of the drug, and argued the recent spike in deaths must trigger an “emergency response”.

“As the government of this municipality, we must respond,” she said.

“[Naloxone] cannot be used to get high, it is not addictive, it reverses the use of heroin and it’s harmless if given to someone who has not taken heroin.” ●

MELBOURNE ARTS PRECINCT CORPORATION

Making the most of the Melbourne Arts Precinct this summer

Stretching from Fed Square across Princes Bridge and Southbank, the Melbourne Arts Precinct is home to many of Melbourne’s iconic arts and cultural institutions.



These include Arts Centre Melbourne, National Gallery of Victoria, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Malthouse Theatre, Melbourne Recital Centre, Melbourne Theatre Company, Buxton Contemporary Gallery and more.

The precinct has one of the highest concentrations of arts, cultural and creative organisations anywhere in the world – and presents up to 3000 performances and exhibitions in a typical year.

This summer Southbank residents will have access to hundreds of these performances and exhibitions right at your doorstep!

Throughout December, Fed Square will light up for Christmas Square, featuring the spectacular 17.5m LED Christmas tree, a nightly light show, choir performances, film screenings, and a free and sustainable Christmas gift-wrapping service.

The festive spirit continues at Arts Centre Melbourne with Vision Australia’s *Carols by Candlelight* at Sidney Myer Music Bowl, followed by a curated calendar of performances, and shows including a summer circus extravaganza. From January 4 to 14, *Circus 1903* brings unmissable grandeur, death-defying acts and mindboggling human endeavour from around the globe to the State Theatre stage.

Melbourne Recital Centre celebrates the season with the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra presenting *Noël! Noël!* filled with festive classics and *Sing of Christmas* performed by the Australian Boys Choral Institute. Melbourne Theatre Company’s 2024 season kicks off in

January with a funny and heartwarming play about adolescence featuring six legends of stage and screen playing teenagers on their last day of school.

Summer in the precinct also promises a stellar season of art experiences, including the return of the *NGV Triennial*. In the first week of December, join artists, designers, curators, and commentators in a full program of talks, conversations, tours and more to celebrate the exhibition’s opening week. For those wanting to experience more, *Triennial EXTRA* from January 19 to 28 offers an after-hours experience featuring free music, DJs, talks, performance, art, and more.

At ACMI, the spectacular *Marshmallow Laser Feast: Works of Nature* showcases four major digital artworks on a grand scale plus evocative works on paper from London-based collective Marshmallow Laser Feast. When visiting Fed Square this summer, be sure to check out the newly upgraded Koorie Heritage Trust which reopens from December 9 coinciding with the annual Koorie Art Show.

In the heart of the Arts Precinct, the Buxton Contemporary art museum presents a free painting and installation exhibition *Around*, the first major survey of more than 80 works by Melbourne-based artist Nadine Christensen.

For a complete guide to what’s on in the Arts Precinct this summer, scan the QR code:



While visiting precinct venues, you will notice changes in the area as the works progress for the Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation. As works progress in the precinct, updated traffic and pedestrian access is in place.

There is hoarding and wayfinding signage to show the updated pedestrian pathways, and traffic management will be onsite during construction hours.

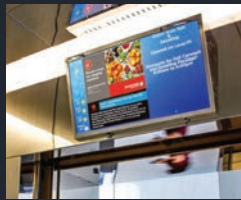
Construction works for the project will close over Christmas and resume in January 2024. ●

For more information:
artsprecinct.melbourne

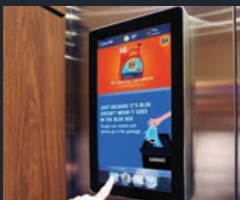
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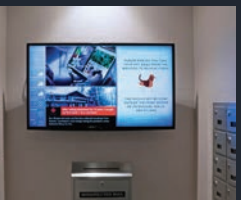
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STUDENT Q&A

ARTS



Get to know a student's experience studying at The University of Melbourne's Faculty of Fine Arts and Music. Sara Barbagallo is studying for a Bachelor of Music at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Maria Vasileva*

What is one of your favourite memories playing the violin?

One memory I always look back on is my first Australian Youth Orchestra National Music Camp. I was so nervous, having just met new people, but I instantly felt a connection.

I quickly learned how alike we all were. It was exhilarating to perform with others who were just as enthusiastic and passionate about music as I was. Since then, I have always been pursuing that same energy that is created in a performance. This was a main factor which led to me choosing to pursue music at university.

You are concertmaster of the University's Symphony Orchestra – how do you prepare for a big event?

I listen to many recordings of the repertoire and study my part in detail, making sure I know the piece well enough to be able to lead effectively. The technical aspects (bowings, fingerings, phrasing, etc.) are considered and it's very useful liaising with conductor Richard Davis to discuss any issues or specifications he may have. Then it's down to practice, both on my own but more importantly with the orchestra. Sectionals with the tutor are very valuable, as is working with the other section leaders for

consistency. So, I guess the preparation for a big event is mostly in the lead-up. Concert day is really just a matter of leading attentively and diligently to express the conductor's intention. Most importantly, it's about enjoying the musical experience.

The Australian World Orchestra (AWO) has recently visited the University – how did you work with them?

Melbourne University hosted the AWO as it prepared for its Australian performances. I have been selected as their academy player for 2023, which involves rehearsing and performing with them Gustav Mahler's 9th Symphony at Melbourne's Hamer Hall and the Sydney Opera House. The students at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music also had the opportunity to participate in masterclasses with members of the orchestra. This valuable experience is something that will enrich students as we continue our journey as young musicians.

What did this visit by the AWO mean to you as a student?

The AWO is made up of some of the best musicians in the world. Getting to work so closely with them for a week was so inspiring for me, as I dream to be a professional musician like them one day. To be part of the amazing sound that they make is mind-blowing. I focused on learning as much as I could.

How do you feel working with the AWO on their visit helped to prepare you for working as a professional musician?

This experience will allow me to see what it is like working with other professional musicians, how they do things, how they interact, how they prepare for a big event.

What are some of the professional benefits and opportunities you've received being a student at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music?

I am grateful for so many opportunities the University has provided including, The Mimir Chamber Music Festival in Texas, The Australian Chamber Orchestra workshops in Sydney, and a three-concert Symphony Orchestra tour in Melbourne, Singapore and Malaysia. There are also frequent masterclasses with many musicians including the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Australian String Quartet and Gewandhaus Orchestra. As a result, I have been offered professional opportunities, all playing a part developing my professional career. My string quartet is regularly called upon for various concerts and functions.

You're currently in your final year of the Bachelor of Music – what are some of your goals for the near future?

I plan to finish my honours at the University of Melbourne and continue to be involved in as many musical opportunities as possible. Orchestral and chamber music are of particular interest to me as it's what I enjoy the most. Because of this I plan to audition for casual positions in orchestras and continue performing chamber concerts with my string quartet. ●

New-look outdoor stage returns for summer at the Malthouse Theatre

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
EVENTS

A reinvigorated outdoor stage at the Malthouse Theatre is set to enthral audiences when the popular live entertainment experience returns in February with a line-up of stellar acts.

The premier outdoor stage, which reopens for a third consecutive summer season, has undergone a major revamp thanks to the state government's support and a Sidney Myer Fund head of the 2024 season.

Completed in November, the upgrade includes an abundance of outdoor seating, as well as a refurbishment to the bar and foyer, allowing for audiences to be treated to locally produced wines available from the Malthouse Bar, as well as Greek snacks from its new resident cafe Koyzina.

The new-look outdoor stage has also made it

easier to install and dismantle each season and to better support performers.

This includes courtyard resurfacing, an outdoor tech desk, electrical work, lighting and stage footings, along with upgrades to the Malthouse workshop to allow for a green room for the outdoor stage.

Malthouse artistic director and co-CEO Matthew Lutton said the upgrades would make for an "unforgettable summer of brilliant music, theatre and podcast entertainment".

"We're looking forward to audiences experiencing stellar acts, in a truly one-of-a-kind setting, under the night sky," he said.

"The program will feature some of the country's most exciting comedians including Reuben Kaye, Rhys Nicholson, Em Rusciano and music from Eliza Hull, and Snarkicircuslindyband."

The outdoor stage program also features acts by writer Clementine Ford and musician Libby O'Donovan in "love Sermon", as well as TV



personality Osher Günsberg who will perform his inaugural live podcast recording, featuring an interview with leading health and fitness expert Sam Wood.

The program runs until March 2. ●

For more information:
malthousetheatre.com.au



Christmas Day

10am Festival Eucharist with Bach cantata
Und es waren Hirten in derselben Gegend (BWV248/ii)
the second cantata of the Christmas Oratorio for 4 soloists, choir, strings, 2 oboes including 2 oboes da caccia, 2 flutes and continuo
St Johns Bach Choir and Orchestra directed by Graham Lieschke

Christmas Eve

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

Every Sunday

9am Worship
Check our website for updates

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

BUSINESS

Celebrate the festive season at Paper Republic

As we near Christmas, and festive fever hits the world, there are few better shopping experiences than taking a walk down Bourke Street Mall.

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*



Paper Republic specialises in hand-crafted, bespoke diaries and calendars, stocking brands like Cavallini & Co., Blue Island Press and Paper Blanks, and for this festive season, they are offering free gift wrapping for all in store or online purchases.

“I love the internationality of Christmas in Australia. Whether you have friends or family interstate, or the other side of the city, or even the other side of the world, the appreciation for every type of Christmas in Australia is wonderful,” Ms Oehms said.

“We cater to whatever Christmas means to someone. It’s a personal thing, especially in a country like ours that is so diverse and so multicultural, not everyone has the same definition of Christmas. It’s so important to appreciate and celebrate that ... we bring it together really well. It’s a celebration of what brings joy to people.”

To complement its instore experience, Paper Republic has just launched a new and improved website which will give these products the best spotlight possible for those people that might not be able to visit instore.

The New Year will see plenty of new products on the shelves, expanding on their Australian made range, while importing some of the best products from across the globe like Italian leather journals, stationery, and cards. ●

For more information:
paperrepublic.com.au

OSK Property launches Melbourne Square’s newest edition: BLVD

OSK Property, the team behind the Melbourne Square precinct, has officially launched its newest residential tower, BLVD, “designed to engage and enhance the senses.”



WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

A packed launch party in October saw speeches from key OSK personnel, including group managing director Ong Ju Yan, deputy group managing director Ong Ju Xing, OSK Property’s CEO, Woon Chong Boon, and sales and marketing director Ivy Chen, as well as live music, entertainment, and a live cooking demonstration from the team behind the award-winning farm-to-table culinary institution, O.MY restaurant.

According to OSK Property, 45 per cent of BLVD residences have already sold since the project was soft-launched in mid-April.

“Besides celebrating the launch of BLVD, the event was also to celebrate our partnerships with our business partners and key stakeholders in Melbourne Square, namely our channel partners, our financial partners, our project partners, and very importantly our joint-venture partner, EPF,” Mr Woon said.

BLVD brings together 591 residences across 73 storeys, private

dining areas, two state-of-the-art gyms, a 25-metre indoor pool, entertainment spaces and a co-working area.

The tower will also be one of the first residential projects in Australia to pursue WELL Certification, meaning it has been designed to support the health and wellbeing of its residents.

BLVD’s carbon-neutral operation-enabled residences, gas-free design, EV charging, Zen garden, abundance of natural light and focus on fresh air, all contribute to the certification.

Along with the launch of a new residential tower, OSK Property has earmarked early February for the opening of Southbank’s newest basketball court.

The two temporary half courts will come as welcome relief for locals who have been without basketball facilities since the demolition of the Boyd and Queensbridge courts, which made way for the construction of residential towers. ●

For more information:
melbournesquare.com.au

FEDERAL MP

Macnamara, it’s been a big year

As we approach the festive season, I wanted to reflect on some of the work and achievements we have made this year.

WORDS BY *Josh Burns – MP for Macnamara*



One of our first acts in government last year was to legislate our 2030 emissions reductions targets.

But we didn’t stop there.

This year we legislated the reformed Safeguard Mechanism, an essential step towards net zero. These reforms will reduce emissions by 200 million tonnes, the equivalent of taking two thirds of Australia’s cars off the road between now and 2030.

We worked closely with the crossbench, business leaders, climate groups and the community because we know that protecting our environment is above politics.

Ten years of climate inaction and division impacted us all. By taking serious action on climate change, we are also harnessing the economic opportunities which come with the transition to clean energy.

We are reforming our environmental laws to protect our environment, and in the most recent budget we prioritised establishing Environment Protection Australia, an independent national environment protection agency.

We know that housing affordability is

impacting families, businesses, and communities. These challenges did not occur overnight and cannot be solved overnight either.

However, we are moving in the right direction, with the single biggest investment to support social and affordable rental housing in more than a decade.

We committed to an ambitious housing reform agenda, which will boost the supply of all housing – more public and social housing, more affordable housing, and more homes to rent, benefitting every Australian, especially our more vulnerable communities.

Four-thousand of these new homes will help support women and children fleeing domestic violence and older women at risk of homelessness.

More housing services will become available to veterans. We also committed funding towards the maintenance and improvements of housing in remote Indigenous communities.

Our plan for gender equality is paying off. In March this year, we passed legislation to publish gender pay gaps of employers with 100 or more workers. Increasing transparency of gender equality in the workplace will ensure

that employers are held to account – helping us accelerate action to close the gender pay gap.

One of my personal highlights of the year was watching the entire country get behind the Matildas, witnessing them change the future of Australian sport.

As girls and boys across the country cheered them on, we were committed to ensuring that momentum was not lost.

We announced the \$200 million Play Our Way program to promote equal access and participation for women and girls through supporting grassroots initiatives and community clubs.

Last, but certainly not least, we have committed to supporting our creative industries.

Arts, culture, and music is more than a passion or a hobby. So many members of our local community work in the creative industries, and even more Australians benefit daily from their art. At the beginning of this year we launched the national cultural policy “revive” – the first significant framework of its kind in nearly a decade.

Macnamara, and Southbank in particular, is one of our country’s biggest cultural hubs so I was proud to see this game-changing policy launched locally.

It has been a big year. There is much more we have done, and much more we must do.

As we head into 2024, I know we will continue speaking with our incredible community and deliver policies that really make a difference.

It is a privilege to represent the people of Macnamara, and I wish all of you a happy holiday, in all the different ways you celebrate. ●

SOUTHBANK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Weighing in on the promenade

As mentioned in my October column, I'd like to discuss Southbank Promenade this month.

In early 2020 at a City of Melbourne Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting, a resolution was passed for refurbishment of a portion of Southbank Promenade.

Stage one began in April 2022 and was "supposedly" completed in July 2023.

The council has made a number of announcements spruiking that this stage of the renewal is now complete. However, Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) is somewhat bewildered with what was proposed versus what has been delivered.

While some significant works have been incorporated, notably the eastern end alongside Hamer Hall and adjoining Evan Walker Bridge, many key features have somehow been overlooked.

The plans outlined the removal of the bluestone retainer walls and realigning the stairs to run east-west thereby improving sightlines to the river and opening up the space. These works have not been incorporated.

As for lighting upgrades, nearly all of the old lighting still remains apart from five new lights along Hamer Hall. The only new seating provided is in the refurbished areas alongside Hamer Hall and Evan Walker Bridge, yet the plans proposed new seating along the entirety which were to be a key feature for interrupting the ride path of cyclists to encourage alertness and slower speeds.

The balustrades were considered non-compliant and a special council meeting was convened to consider the heritage concerns with which these contributed to, however, in light of the significant community feedback regarding this issue, it was deemed a non-issue and the refurbishment should continue as originally proposed.

And, perhaps most significantly, new bluestone paving along the promenade; there is only a splash of new bluestone at the revamped Hamer Hall end and near Evan Walker Bridge.

However, at the Southbank FMC meeting last month I raised the issue of the bluestone paving and the Lord Mayor conceded the council media release announcing the completion of stage one was a "misstatement" and agreed the paving hadn't been completed along the length of the promenade.

While I was relieved this had finally been realised, I was gob-smacked that such an oversight could have been conveyed in their community messaging considering the number of hands/departments public statements need to pass through before they are released.

I couldn't help but feel this highlighted that many of the council officers were out of touch with what was actually happening on the ground with their projects and merely assumed



the promulgated plans were actually delivered – far from it in this case.

In the community pedestrian and road safety survey run by council earlier this year a significant area of concern, with many comments, was the promenade. A key component of the refurbishment promulgated by council was the opportunity to address these well-known safety concerns. Widening the promenade at Hamer Hall by four metres certainly doesn't address this. In fact, by offering more space it will potentially only exacerbate it. The solutions proposed by council have thus far not been incorporated or discussed further.

According to council, the remaining stages up to and including Queensbridge Square are postponed until the completion of the proposed Southgate development. I am at a loss to understand the impacts the Southgate development will have on the promenade from Evan Walker Bridge to Queensbridge Square. It is quite some distance from Southgate.

At this stage there is no confirmed Southgate development start date, so what happens if it never starts? How long do we need to wait for the upgrade of the promenade?

The promenade is tired and out-dated. Compared to the waterfronts of other major cities, Melbourne is left behind. Yet this is a high tourist area, probably the busiest in the city, and it is left looking shoddy and poorly maintained. The council needs to keep to what they proposed and get on with upgrading and maintaining this important part of our community.

The SRA committee would like to wish our entire community a very happy festive season and we look forward to engaging with you in 2024 which will be a big and exciting year for us as we create a new milestone with the launch of our community app. ●



Tony Penna
PRESIDENT
PRESIDENT@SOUTHBANKRESIDENTS.ORG.AU



YARRA RIVER BUSINESS ASSOCIATION



Addressing the sad state of our river promenade



This Christmas marks the point when I think we can say that the destructive COVID years are (fingers crossed!) now in the rear vision mirror.



Southbank business has bounced back remarkably well, although Monday to Thursday patronage is still a challenge for many, with the corporate sector still only about 50 per cent at work in the office towers.

Even with household economic challenges, our food and beverage sector is still holding up well, though the top end might be starting to feel the pinch. Who knows what 2024 will bring, but at least this year I am writing with a little more optimism and confidence than during the past three years.

It is covered elsewhere in this edition, but the general condition of Southbank Promenade is raising its head as the major issue for 2024. It's looking shabby and really showing 30 years of wear and tear.

The Red Stairs in Queensbridge Square is fast becoming an eyesore but take a look under your feet across the whole promenade and you will see signs of neglect.

The City of Melbourne Lord Mayor Sally Capp and CEO Alison Leighton gave us some hope at the November Future Melbourne Committee meeting held in Southbank. There was agreement that Queensbridge Square needed "some love", as the Lord Mayor put it.

There was also a commitment of sorts to take a holistic look at Queensbridge Square.

Since 2006 YRBA has been advocating to the council that Queensbridge Square doesn't work particularly well either as an events space or as a place of rest and recreation for workers and visitors.

The square needs a complete re-think and revamp, to convert it from a windswept sheet of concrete into a comfortable place of relaxation, but still with the ability to host small to medium events.

What we're particularly concerned about along the promenade is the council's seeming reliance on contributions from the proposed private sector developments to fund the maintenance of the public realm.

Southbank Promenade is awaiting the start of three major developments. Each of these developments have not even started and, therefore, it could be a decade before they are completed, if not longer.

We have put to the council that rather than waiting for the open space contributions from these developments, it should refurbish the public realm to a high standard, befitting Melbourne's tourist hub, and then, if the new developments need to disrupt the pavement, the developer must reinstate the promenade to the same level of quality.

It's a problem of being such a popular precinct, but Melbourne's image among its visitors is now at stake. While we applaud the council's Greenline initiative for Northbank, we trust it will not be at the expense of cyclical maintenance and the refurbishment of Southbank. ●



Jeremy Vincent
PRESIDENT
YARRA RIVER BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

SOUTHBANK NEWS

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METRO TUNNEL



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas around Metro Tunnel

You better watch out, you better not cry! The Metro Tunnel Project is coming to town for Christmas with a host of festive activities across Melbourne's CBD.

Roving performers will entertain passers-by next to City Square every Friday in December before Christmas, between 5.30pm and 6.30pm, including the energetic Trash Puppets and fun-loving Punk Emus.

A new artwork by Gunnai/Waradjurie artist Robert Michael Young, on display along the

Metro Tunnel's site fence at City Square, offers a unique Australian twist on the Christmas classic, *12 Days of Christmas*.

You'll see galahs giggling, dingos dancing and koalas cuddling in the exciting mural as you stroll down Swanston St.

The age-old Christmas carol offered the perfect structure for a visual artwork that reflects Christmas in Australia, said Young.

"I like the simplicity of this song and its meaning," he said.

"It's important for me to create artworks that represent life and play and culture."

If you want to immerse yourself in another Aussie-themed Christmas artwork, this time with a touch of quirky humour, head to Scott Alley to see *The Little Things*.

The large-scale artwork created by Tonia Composto – also known as Lemon Chicken Por Favor – offers a snapshot of the joys and differences of Christmas in Australia. Prawn on the barbie, anyone?

"It's the little things in Australia that make Christmas unique," Composto said.

If you feel inspired to get creative, Composto is hosting a series of one-hour doodling workshops at Metro Tunnel HQ (125-133 Swanston St) on December 9 and 16 from 10.30am. You'll learn how to turn a humble doodle into a work of art, which you can take home to gift to your loved ones.

The events are part of the Metro Tunnel's Creative Program, which aims to bring colour and life to Melbourne's CBD while construction

on this major project is under way. For more information head to bigbuild.vic.gov.au/projects/metro-tunnel/community/events.

While the streets of Melbourne are filled with all things Christmas, deep underground work on the Metro Tunnel's five new underground stations is progressing at pace.

At Anzac Station the station concourse is taking shape with lights, stairs, lifts, and escalators now installed, while crews have almost finished installing platform pavers. The entrances in the Shrine of Remembrance grounds and Albert Road Reserve are also well advanced.

Test trains are now running at a maximum speed of 80km/h through the tunnel – the same speed they will travel at when the project opens in 2025. ●

SOUTHBANK SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

Another year of green gains for Southbank

“
It has been a busy year for Southbank Sustainability Group (SSG).
”

WORDS BY *Maria Tarrant*



Over the year we had a series of sustainability-themed events, worked with the three-year-old kindergarten children and their teachers at OAC South Melbourne to turn over and replenish their old vegetable garden beds, and run a range of activities with children's play groups at the Boyd Community Hub.

We continued our fortnightly meet-ups to plant and maintained the garden beds at Boyd, successfully planting and growing a range of vegetables and herbs that members of the Southbank community can harvest and eat.

We have been delighted to hear from fellow Southbankers who have told us how much they enjoy watching the Boyd Hub Community Garden over the different seasons and how much they have appreciated being able to harvest something fresh from the garden during the year.

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

Many residents in Southbank are new to the area and often new to the

country. It has been pleasing to hear from our new members this year that they have found the fortnightly Saturday meet-ups a relaxed and easy way to meet fellow residents and make new friendships while gardening and discussing sustainability issues.

Our meet-ups in December will be on the 9th and the 23rd, while our January 2024 meet ups will be on the 6th and 20th. So come and join us anytime between 10am and noon in the garden at the Boyd Community Hub.

With the year fast coming to an end, bringing with it various events and celebrations. You may be thinking about how to make them more sustainable. This is an ideal time to ask yourself can you reduce, reuse, repair or recycle as you participate in various events and celebrations.



For example, if you need to buy gifts, look for gifts made from recycled materials and locally sourced; you can visit the many local Op Shops as a source of goods to be repurposed. Also, look for alternatives to battery operated toys. Such an approach is not only good for the environment but can be a lot less expensive.

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

About the group

Southbank Sustainability Group is a solutions-focused community group of Southbank residents working to bring positive change in sustainability practices. ●

Reach us at:

southbanksustainability@gmail.com or Facebook

Wishing you all, dear readers, a fabulous festive season

The committee of Southbank3006 would like to thank all our members, Southbank News readers and the community of Southbank for your support for our activism and events in 2023.

We particularly want to thank our amazingly supportive major sponsor, DGtek Pineapple Net.

And, we are delighted to thank Melbourne Inner City Management (MICM) as a new platinum sponsor of the Southbank "A Very Merry Friend-Mas" event.

Our work this year has been so well received by you. We informed the community of vital information that has had a direct result in increasing the liveability and amenity of all Southbankers. This included:

- Creating a new park at the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA) forecourt on Sturt St. This is a result of our direct lobbying with our local state member (and a Southbank resident) Nina Taylor MP, and the Deputy Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Cr Nicholas Reece. And we thank them very much. The work will start in 2024.
- Presenting a community forum and discussion session, with traffic engineers of the City of Melbourne, focusing on pedestrian and road safety.
- Our ongoing work with both the state government and the City of Melbourne, lobbying for greater focus on traffic management, particularly the Power St/ Kavanagh St/City Rd, intersections.
- And, of course, our significant leadership in creating a new way of thinking about low-traffic neighbourhoods.
- We brought you a community event with Victoria Police, that focused on understanding how to combat bike theft and to ensure your bike is registered.
- The International Dark Skies Association's presentation on light pollution, in Southbank and how to combat it.
- The Strata Community Association Victoria came to talk about strata reform in Victoria and how it affects both owners and renters.
- We were so thrilled in 2023 to have developed a relationship with the Victorian Koorie Heritage Trust. This provided opportunities to connect with and understand more about our First Nations sisters' and brothers' Aboriginality and identity. And just this month we were taken on a local informative Indigenous walk with the Koorie Heritage Trust.



To top off an incredibly successful 2023, we have our annual **Merry Friend-Mas, at Boyd Park between 11am-3pm on Sunday, December 10 with music, family activities, fabulous food, dancing, our famous dog-parade, and The Salvation Army.**

And you might ask, how have we done all this work? Well, we have a brilliant and hard-working committee of Southbank volunteers. Allow me to introduce you to:

- David Hamilton (president)
- Jannine Pattison (deputy president)
- MaryKay Rauma (marketing and communications)
- Steven Timmerman (treasurer)
- James Avery (event manager)
- Michael Hossen
- And, myself, Trisha Avery (secretary and public officer)

The whole committee would like to invite you to join us for an exciting 2024. Please sign up as a member – it is free.

We will not only keep you informed of all the amazing events in 2024, but also provide you with information about all the areas of advocacy we are working towards.

If you would like to get more involved by volunteering your time, please get in touch. We are on Facebook and Instagram or via our website southbank3006.com.

We wish you all a peaceful, restful, and thoughtful festive season and look forward to engaging with you in 2024. ●



Trisha Avery
SECRETARY
COMMUNITY@SOUTHBANK3006.COM

Women's health in Victoria – making real change

Women and girls make up more than half of our population, yet their health has been overlooked and underdiagnosed for too long.

Endometriosis

We'll deliver an extra 10,800 extra laparoscopy surgeries for the diagnosis and treatment of endometriosis and associated condition over four years. These initiatives build on existing work across the state supporting women's health including:

Victoria's first women's heart clinic

The Women's Heart Clinic located at The Alfred is Victoria's first women's heart clinic and only the second in Australia to be established.

A state-wide healthcare initiative of Alfred Health, this clinic was established in recognition of the often-underdiagnosed heart conditions that occur in women and, therefore, aims to increase awareness and education among the community and healthcare workers about women's cardiovascular risk and heart disease.

WREN – the women's recovery network

This transformative mental health service – the result of a partnership between Alfred Health, Ramsay Mental Health and Goulburn Valley Health – will support more than 750 Victorian women each year with a range of complex conditions, including those who have experienced trauma and sexual abuse, eating disorders and women experiencing perinatal mental health issues.

Featuring 24 acute inpatient mental health places at Ramsay Clinic Albert Rd, Melbourne, the Wren service model was co-designed in consultation with women with lived experience and will help ease pressure on the public system by delivering care for public patients in a private setting.

The Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System heard that many women face gender-based harm or abuse in the mental health system and recommended a specific service for women, ensuring gender and sexual safety for women in acute inpatient settings. ●

WORDS BY *Nina Taylor*
STATE MP FOR ALBERT PARK

Women often experience barriers when trying to access the services they need to support their physical and mental health.

Gender equality contributes to better health. Healthcare is a right, not a privilege. Every girl and woman deserve access to care regardless of their background or circumstances.

We are dedicated to improving women's healthcare in Victoria by setting a new standard for comprehensive, accessible, inclusive, high-quality services.

To bridge the gap in women's healthcare, our Victorian Government is leading the delivery of the \$153.9 million package to change the way women's health issues are treated. This includes 20 new comprehensive women's health clinics, expanding our sexual and reproductive health hub network, supporting the establishment of a Women's Health Research Institute and scholarships to ensure our wonderful healthcare workers have the skills and tools they need to support Victorian women.

Pain management

In an Australian first, we'll also launch an inquiry into women's pain management, to examine systemic issues and find solutions, chaired by a panel of experts who will hear directly from women from a range of backgrounds and their experience accessing treatment.

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

From housing crisis to hope?

Now that Victoria has both a new Premier and a new Minister for Consumer Affairs, can we dare to hope or dream there will be some meaningful changes during the first term of this new government?

When the previous Premier Daniel Andrews took office in December 2014, the focus was on boosting tourism; the rights and liveability of residents were ignored.

The rise of short-stay accommodation over the past eight years has reduced the availability of long-term rental properties, particularly in sought-after urban and tourist-centric regions.

A short-stay property levy of 7.5 per cent announced in the Victorian Government's Housing Statement and released just days before Mr Andrews resigned, is scheduled to come into effect only in January 2025!

The micro-levy is so small that it will do nothing to address the housing crisis. The Housing Statement states explicitly that the short-stay levy is purely a fund-raising device without any aspirations whatsoever for behavioural change. Collecting only \$70 million per year, it will take decades for the program to deliver any meaningful volume of housing stock.

Let's learn from a decade of global experience. For example, New York has provided a model for managing the short-stay industry to balance competing interests. Like most major tourist destinations, New York's regulations include mandatory registration of short-stay operators.

We Live Here looks forward to dialogue with the incoming Minister for Consumer Affairs,

Ms Gabrielle Williams, about these issues and the plethora of established solutions.

The 2024 agenda

We want the government to review the legislative framework – with full community consultation in Victoria (anyone could be forgiven for thinking that the current legislation was drafted over a couple of caramel macchiatos at the Airbnb headquarters in San Francisco).

Below are two Acts affecting owners' corporations need urgent attention:

The Owners' Corporation (Short Stay Accommodation) Act 2018

The government promised a review by February 2021 – that promise was broken. About 50 cases have been to VCAT, costing OCs thousands in legal fees, without a single case being successful. The threshold is just far too high. Currently this worthless Bill is incorporated into the main *Owners' Corporations Act*.

Owners' Corporations and Other Acts Amendment Act 2021

This patchwork act incorporates the unreviewed *Short Stay Accommodation Act 2018* and the amendments to the OC Act dated December 1, 2021. It's a hot mess.

The legislation is passed its use-by date and even the state government has promised to repeal the Act "between 2023 and 2027". At the going ratio of promises to action, that could mean sometime after 2035. ●



Barbara Francis & Rus Littleton
CAMPAIGN@WELIVEHERE.NET



OWNERS' CORPORATION LAW

Got a remedial works contract coming up? Who's the super?

During COVID, a number of owners' corporations (OCs) deferred major remedial works projects that were due to be undertaken.

These projects were deferred for a number of reasons – mainly due to the COVID lockdown, work from home constraints, and also concerns about cashflow, it was difficult to pass on special levies and fees to owners who were already struggling to pay their bills. There was also a general concern about lack of builder availability and scarcity of construction supplies.

Fast forward three years to today and now we are finding that a number of OCs are just about ready to push the start button on these same remedial works projects.

However, during the past three years, the cost of construction has increased by 21 per cent in Victoria (according to new data published by WT Partnership in November). On top of that, there has been a number of small and medium companies that have gone into administration which reduces the competitiveness of the market overall and leads to further prices increased.

Insurers in the construction sector have also increased policy premiums year on year by around eight per cent over the past four years, and with a new and expanded Victorian Building Authority keeping a closer eye over builders, there is less opportunity to implement a more basic scope of works for a cheaper price.

What all of this means is that OCs have disadvantaged themselves massively by not undertaking these remedial works at an earlier opportunity.

What I am seeing from several OCs is that committees are electing to save costs and cut corners by not appointing a project manager or superintendent to oversee the works. This is a mistake, and, in my view, the superintendent is almost a must if the works involved are going to exceed \$500,000.

A good superintendent will oversee the contractor and will be onsite every week. They will assess all progress claims, perform inspections, advise and assist on access issues, and will act as the conduit between the committee, building manager and the contractors.

Importantly, the superintendent will assess on behalf of both parties as to whether the contractor gets to vary the contract due to latent and unexpected problems (or whether the risk was known, and the contractor ought to have known of the potential for the problem).

The superintendent will assess whether the contractor will be penalised or their fees deducted for finishing late, or for taking too long to do the works.

All of this work is well and truly justified and is not something which a building manager or a retired committee member can do, as they are not qualified to do so.

A good superintendent will save you thousands, get the job done quicker, and ensure the quality is high. It is definitely not a cost to compromise on. ●



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10 YEARS ON

Looking back at Southbank News - 10 Years On

DEC 2013 / JAN 2014 | ISSUE 26 |

SOUTHBANK LOCAL NEWS

Street transformed in "Dodds St Reboot"

Dodds St underwent a transformation in November, as part of the "Dodds St ReBoot".



The "reboot" was an initiative of CoDesign Studio which, in conjunction with Arts Victoria, attempted to activate the street space for the use of local residents, workers and students.

The four-day street "reboot" included creating a public space, providing greenery, better conditions for cyclists and pedestrians and providing more food options.

Helen Rowe from CoDesign said the ideas had come from a public consultation.

"Earlier in the year CoDesign's team asked locals what they'd like to see happen on Dodds St and at Dodds Street ReBoot we aimed to prototype these ideas," Ms Rowe explained.

She said the street was already blocked off to traffic so it was the perfect space.

"The basic idea of the project is that this space is under-utilised – it's already blocked off to traffic – and Southbank could do with some more street life and community space," Ms Rowe said.

"We thought it would be a great space to temporarily reclaim and see how else it could be used as well as finding out what people think of it," she added.

Ms Rowe went on to say the experiment was a great success and locals responded very

positively to it.

"We had a really great reception from locals – both talking to residents as well as students and people who live nearby," Ms Rowe said. "They saw it as a way to meet other locals, great for letting kids play on the street, especially doing chalk drawings! Even just providing seats and a bit of greenery was appreciated," she added.

Mr Rowe said she hoped the momentum from this first reboot could lead to more activation projects in the future.

"We're going to pull together the pictures and feedback from the event and provide this to the local arts precinct stakeholders and the City of Melbourne," she explained.

"We hope that what we've achieved demonstrates that Dodds St could be used differently that this 'reboot' creates momentum for more creative uses of the street into the future." ●

Southbank News in 2023: a year in review

“

Take a step back in time as we feature some of the image highlights from every edition of Southbank News over the course of 2023...

”



▲ February: Construction starts on the controversial Boyd Village development.



▲ May: Pet's Corner - "Southbank's Guardian Angel".



▲ April: New basketball court announced for Southbank.



▲ March: Southbank News launches new Q&Arts series with the Victorian College of the Arts.



▲ June: Local outrage over hooping at ACCA forecourt.



▲ July: Drilling works get under way on Greenline project at Birrarung Marr.



▲ September: Queensbridge Building launched.



▲ August: New public artwork unveiled in the Montague Precinct.



▲ October: Gymnastics Club rallies to find a permanent home in Fishermans Bend.



▲ November: Ray White Southbank gets behind Movember.

Quiz



1. According to the 2021 ABS census, what percentage of City of Melbourne residents were born overseas?
2. What first has opened within the Montague Precinct?
3. Which TV series starred Kiefer Sutherland as Jack Bauer?
4. True or false: 60 per cent of clothes are made with plastic-based materials?
5. Herman Melville wrote which famous maritime book?
6. James Earl Jones (pictured) voiced which famous Star Wars character?
7. Which local estate agents raised funds as part of this year's Movember campaign?
8. How many times faster does sound travel through water than air?
9. Katsudon is a dish from which country?
10. Who is the CEO of Food and Wine Victoria?
11. Opening on December 3, what is the name of the NGV's major summer exhibition?
12. Emily West from South Melbourne Primary was chosen as an ambassador for what event?

QUIZ SOLUTIONS

1. 55 per cent
2. Its first supermarket
3. 24
4. True
5. *Moby-Dick*
6. Darth Vader
7. Kay White Southbank
8. Four times
9. Japan
10. Anthea Loucas Boshu
11. *Triennial 12*
12. World Teachers' Day

5x5

No. 031

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

B		D		Y
	E		I	
A		O		A
	I		E	
S		E		S

SOLUTIONS

BADLY, EERIE, AROMA, RIVER, SEEDS

PUZZLES AND PAGINATION
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Sudoku

No. 030

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

EASY

		4	8	5	6		9	
					2			
2	1		9	4	8			
6			3		2		4	
		2			7			
5		9		1				8
		7	5		8		3	6
			2					
	6		1	9	3	5		

HARD

		5	9					2
		9			4		3	
1	6			8				
2			6					8
	1	3			6	2		
9				2				4
				6			7	3
	3		4			8		
6				9	4			

SOLUTIONS

EASY

4	6	8	1	9	6	4	5	2
9	5	2	3	7	8	1	4	6
1	2	7	4	1	4	2	2	5
8	9	6	8	4	8	9	6	3
5	7	9	4	2	7	1	4	8
6	1	5	7	8	9	2	3	4
4	8	7	3	1	3	7	6	2
8	4	2	6	7	2	8	5	9
3	7	3	4	8	5	6	1	9

HARD

1	5	4	9	6	3	7	8	2	9
6	9	8	5	8	2	2	8	6	7
3	7	2	2	1	4	1	4	1	3
4	7	1	4	1	4	1	4	1	3
8	6	3	5	2	2	7	1	4	8
4	1	4	1	4	1	4	1	4	8
5	2	2	6	7	6	8	3	3	4
8	6	3	8	9	2	7	6	1	8
7	5	2	2	8	5	6	1	9	2
8	7	6	2	2	1	4	5	3	6
3	4	5	9	7	6	1	8	2	9

Wordfind

Theme: Travel

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

L	T	T	R	O	E	S	H	I	P	Y
U	A	R	P	I	L	O	T	A	A	A
G	O	O	M	K	C	U	R	T	S	W
G	B	P	V	O	Y	A	G	E	S	H
A	Y	S	B	I	C	Y	C	L	E	G
G	E	S	F	A	R	O	A	D	N	I
E	N	A	L	P	O	R	E	A	G	H
R	R	P	Y	T	T	I	C	K	E	T
F	U	E	L	A	O	E	V	I	R	D
O	O	U	N	X	M	T	R	A	I	N
D	J	S	U	I	T	C	A	S	E	S

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| AEROPLANE | PASSENGER |
| BICYCLE | PASSPORT |
| BOAT | PILOT |
| CAR | ROAD |
| DRIVE | SHIP |
| FLY | SUITCASES |
| FUEL | TAXI |
| HIGHWAY | TICKET |
| JOURNEY | TRAIN |
| LUGGAGE | TRUCK |
| MOTORCYCLE | VOYAGE |

Secret message: Roam around

Crossword

No. 030

ACROSS

- 1 Parisian lady (11)
- 7 Male sheep (3)
- 9 Wielding (11)
- 10 Rule (3)
- 11 Happening in a way not expected (6)
- 12 Flower merchants (8)
- 14 Indifference (6)
- 15 Implicate (8)
- 18 Individuality (8)
- 20 Look at (6)
- 22 Basic understanding of maths (8)
- 24 Swiss city (6)
- 26 Weapon (3)
- 27 Meeting (11)
- 28 Indian state (3)
- 29 Infamously (11)

DOWN

- 1 Lie (11)
- 2 Dry up (9)
- 3 Water creature (7)
- 4 Wimp (4)
- 5 Greater part of a country (8)
- 6 African country (7)
- 7 Actor's parts (5)
- 8 Cat noise (3)
- 13 Persistently (11)
- 16 Inelegant (9)
- 17 Slow cooking vessel (8)
- 19 Region (7)
- 21 Modern music genre (7)
- 23 Japanese cartoon style (5)
- 25 Row (4)
- 26 Concert (3)

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
9												10		
11								12						13
14								15					16	
								17						
18				19						20	21			
22		23								24				
26						27								
28						29								

SOLUTION

A	T	S	N	O	I	R	O	L	O	N	A	V	O	G
T	S	E	M	E	O	I	S	A	I	S	I			
I	N	S	H	M	I	O	J	V						
S	L	G	I	K	H	V	A							
V	A	E	N	E	G	A	C	O	E	R	N	E	N	
F	O	T												
O	H	V	A	D	E	R								
V	R													
T	R													
T	R													
T	S	I	S	I	N	O	I	S						
E	B	N	S	J	F	U								
M	A	L	G	N	I	S	I	G	N	H	V	A		
E	O													
V	R	E	A	V	O	A	V							
R	A	V	O	M	H	O	N							

Codeword

No. 030

Q	6	7	9	11	5	3	4	1		24	7	15	
6		1				21		3		3		10	
3	17	7	10	22		16	22	12	3	5	5	13	
4		10		10		4				23		3	
T	16	22	14	10		9	15	6	9	7	3	8	
6				1		13		4		10			
22	13	5		T	7	9		2	3	6	4	T	5
		10		8		6		18				16	
23	3	8	9	13	10	4		3	19	6	15	16	
3		20				7		15		8		5	
T	15	16	8	8	7	5		16	17	T	15	3	
9		4		16		10				15		18	
23	7	T		3	22	4	16	5	7	3	9	5	

SOLUTIONS

P	R	E	X	W	Z	V	G	M	H	F	O	J
20	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22
15	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16

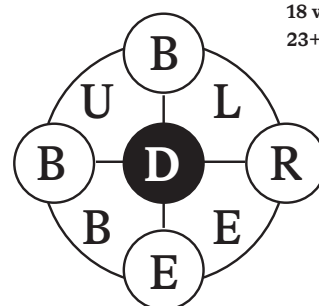
1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

9-Letter

No. 030

Today's Focus:
13 words: Good
18 words: Very good
23+ words: Excellent

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



SOLUTIONS

Reference:
Collins Concise
English Dictionary

bled, bleed, blubbed, BLUBBERED, bled, bred, breed, bubbled, burbled, butred, deer, dele, drub, duel, ebbled, elder, elude, eluder, lured, lubbed, ruled, rube, rued, ruled

What's on: December 2023 - January 2024



FEBRUARY 2024

MALTHOUSE OUTDOOR STAGE

Melbourne's cultural heartbeat is getting ready to pulse as the Malthouse Outdoor Stage announces its triumphant return for its third consecutive summer season, commencing in February 2024.

SUNDAYS, 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



SATURDAYS, 10AM - 12PM

SOUTHBANK SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

Join a group of green sustainability enthusiasts who meet fortnightly each month. Specific dates can be found at:

facebook.com/SouthbankSustainabilityGroup



DECEMBER 2, 10AM - 3PM

A Very Koorie Krismas @ FED SQUARE

Experience Christmas, Koorie style, with free workshops for kids, First Nations performances, and even a visit from Koorie Klaus.

fedsquare.com/events/koorie-krismas

SUNDAYS UNTIL 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



NOVEMBER 24 - DECEMBER 25

MELBOURNE CHRISTMAS WALK

Discover dazzling Christmas decorations with a self-guided walk throughout the city. Choose a day walk for a fun family activity or explore at night to really see the city sparkle. Pick up a map from the Melbourne Visitor Hub at Town Hall or the Melbourne Visitor Booth on Bourke St.



NOVEMBER 25 - DECEMBER 31

FESTIVE SQUARE @ FED SQUARE

Explore larger-than-life decorations and twinkling lights, including the iconic 16.5-metre LED Christmas tree with a festive soundscape and nightly light show.

fedsquare.com/events



THE NEW-LOOK 2023 SOUTHBANK DIRECTORY

For where to shop, eat, stay and play, head to southbankdirectory.com.au.
To list your business or for advertising enquiries, Contact: jack@hyperlocalnews.com.au

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Telephone 9682 4995
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

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www.stjohnssouthgate.com.au

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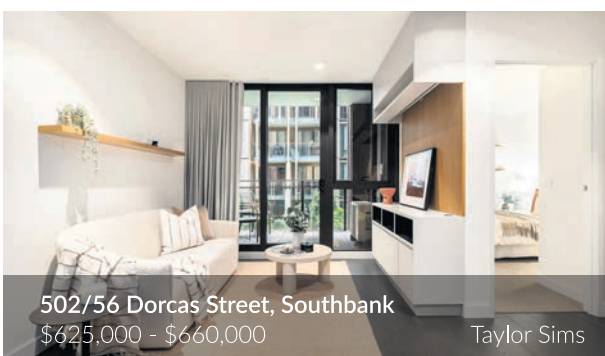
Here today, gone tomorrow.

RayWhite

Scan the QR code

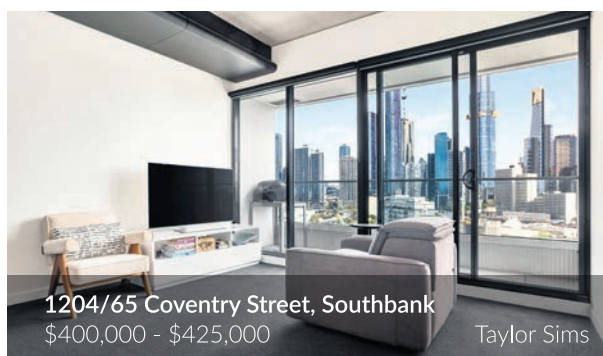


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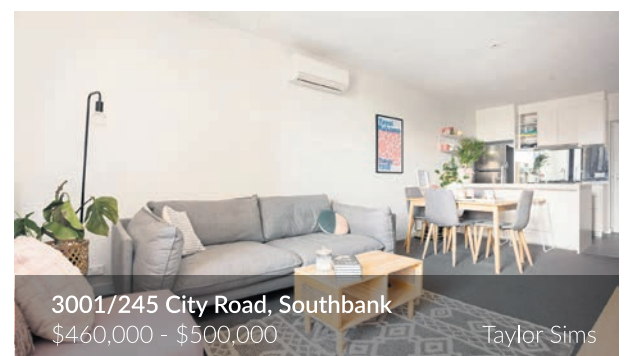
502/56 Dorcas Street, Southbank
\$625,000 - \$660,000

Taylor Sims



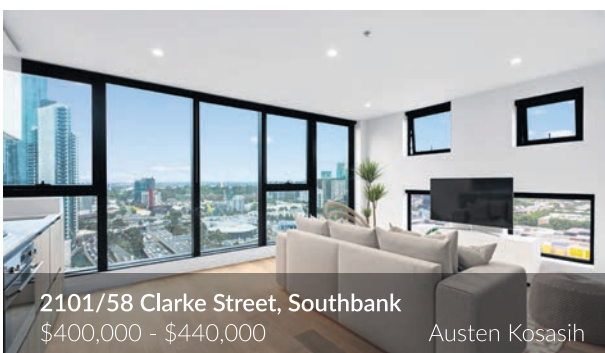
1204/65 Coventry Street, Southbank
\$400,000 - \$425,000

Taylor Sims



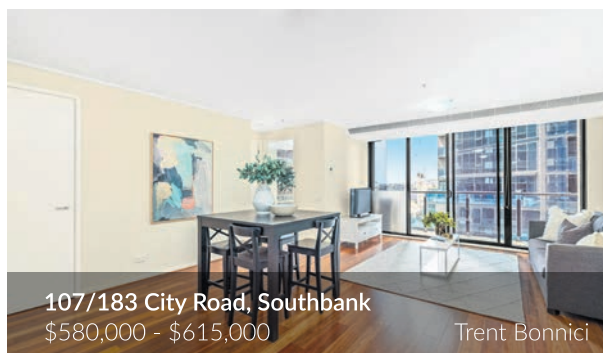
3001/245 City Road, Southbank
\$460,000 - \$500,000

Taylor Sims



2101/58 Clarke Street, Southbank
\$400,000 - \$440,000

Austen Kosasih



107/183 City Road, Southbank
\$580,000 - \$615,000

Trent Bonnici



3810/70 Southbank Boulevard, Southbank
\$410,000 - \$450,000

Max Hui



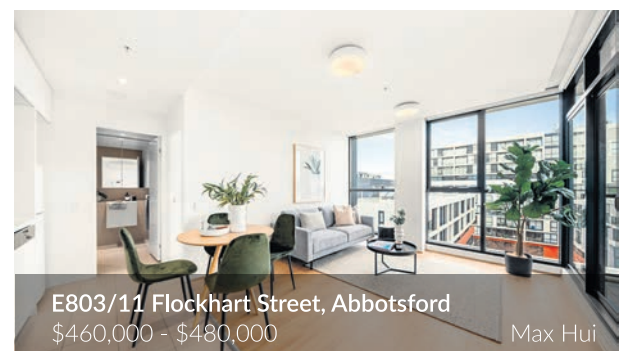
1913/39 Coventry Street, Southbank
\$500,000 - \$550,000

Max Hui



811/478a St Kilda Road, Melbourne
\$640,000 - \$680,000

Tommy-Lee Davies



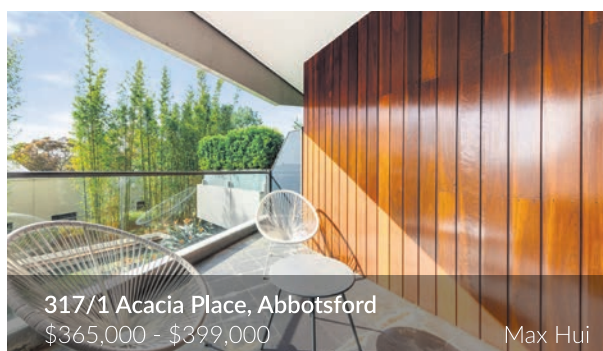
E803/11 Flockhart Street, Abbotsford
\$460,000 - \$480,000

Max Hui



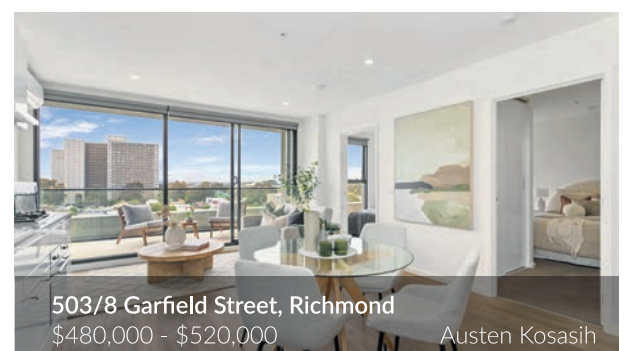
B305/8 Grosvenor Street, Abbotsford
\$445,000

Max Hui



317/1 Acacia Place, Abbotsford
\$365,000 - \$399,000

Max Hui



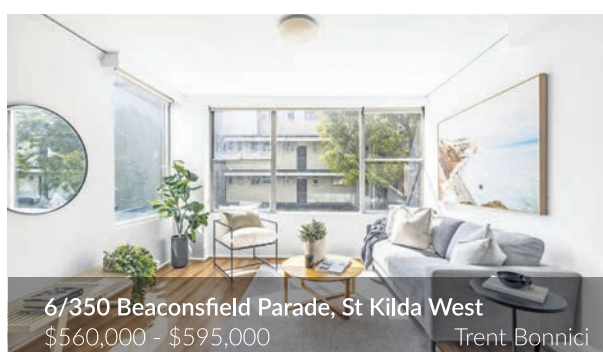
503/8 Garfield Street, Richmond
\$480,000 - \$520,000

Austen Kosasih



9/35 Fitzgerald Street, South Yarra
\$390,000 - \$425,000

Austen Kosasih



6/350 Beaconsfield Parade, St Kilda West
\$560,000 - \$595,000

Trent Bonnici



Michael Pastrokos: 0404 282 864

Max Hui: 0430 238 021

Tommy-Lee Davies: 0416 823 173

Austen Kosasih: 0422 396 900

Taylor Sims: 0403 485 210

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