



Sally Capp bows out as Melbourne's Lord Mayor

Lord Mayor Sally Capp will resign at the end of June after announcing that she won't be recontesting at October's elections, spelling the end of an era for the City of Melbourne. Full story on page 7. Photo: Maria Vasileva.

EVENTS, PAGE 03

New festival comes to Southbank "offering a bit of everything"

EVENTS, PAGE 09

Imagination in Southbank event helps to shape the area's future

Melbourne Recital Centre to expand with new rooftop performance venue

“The Melbourne Recital Centre has received \$2 million to construct a “transformative” new public arts space on its rooftop, with breathtaking views of the expanding Melbourne Arts Precinct.”

WORDS BY
GEMMA GRANT



Minister for Creative Industries Colin Brooks with Ruth and Peter McMullin.

To be named “The Peter and Ruth McMullin Beacon” in recognition of the two long-term supporters, the flexible venue space will utilise the centre's rooftop area to allow for even more high-quality performances, events and functions.

Melbourne Recital Centre's CEO Sandra Willis expressed the centre's gratitude to the state government and the McMullins for their generous support.

“The Beacon will be a real destination within what is already an incredibly vibrant place to visit,” Ms Willis said.

Continued on page 5.



ARTS PRECINCT, PAGE 16

Josh Thomas returns to Southbank with *Let's Tidy Up*

For many of us, tidying up is part of our everyday routine. But for award-winning comedian Josh Thomas, who will perform at Arts Centre Melbourne in Southbank as part of the International Comedy Festival from April 9 to 21, “it's Everest”.



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Arts Centre Melbourne's heritage State Theatre closes its doors for major refurbishment

Art Centre Melbourne's heritage State Theatre has now closed for a major refurbishment through the Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation, following final performances of The Australian Ballet's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.

The upgrades to the State Theatre will introduce new lifts, aisles in the stalls and circle, and accessible seating in the stalls for the first time. When the upgrades are complete, audiences will experience greater comfort, and benefit from technology upgrades in sound and lighting, bringing this cultural icon into the 21st century.

Resident companies The Australian Ballet and Opera Australia will relocate performances to the heritage Regent Theatre and other alternative venues while the State Theatre is closed. These companies will return to the State Theatre for their 2027 performance seasons.

"This refurbishment will ensure this world-class venue will remain true to the architectural and design legacy, while being accessible to everyone and meeting contemporary standards for presenters and audiences," Arts Centre Melbourne CEO Karen Quinlan AM said.

While the State Theatre is closed, visitors can continue to enjoy other Arts Centre Melbourne venues – including the Fairfax Studio and the Playhouse in the Theatres Building, Hamer Hall and Sidney Myer Music Bowl.

In further exciting news for the MAPT, the project teams celebrated another milestone



Render of refurbished State Theatre courtesy of NH Architecture.



▲ Arts Centre Melbourne State Theatre auditorium. Photo: Mark Gambino.

at the construction site this month, with the installation of new piles now complete. The new piles are part of the foundations for Arts Centre Melbourne's expanded loading dock, new function space and studio, as well as the new deck that will support the Urban Garden. Around 350 new piles have now been installed.

Visit the MAPT website to stay up-to-date with project news and updates. ●

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New festival comes to Southbank offering a “bit of everything”

A series of new festivals celebrating sustainability and multiculturalism are coming to the Boyd Community Hub, starting on May 19.

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES



The first event will feature stalls of recycled and upcycled items, and homemade art and craft goods, as well as live music, cultural dance groups, food vendors, music, table tennis, children’s activities and more.

It follows the success of the Re-Love Festival held at the Boyd Community Hub last October as part of the Garage Sale Trail initiative where stalls of pre-loved treasures delighted bargain hunters and brought the community together.

The launch of the new festival, which will consist of three events to be held during the year, is being organised by the newly formed Active Southbank Community Association group (ASCA), which has a membership of 12 Southbank residents, all of whom are keen to promote sustainability.

“ASCA group has been talking about how to bring a ‘suitcase sale’, ‘multicultural diversity’ and ‘sustainability’ into Southbank since December 2023,” ASCA’s president Sophy Galbally said.

The new festival will be called the Festival

at Boyd (FAB), which Ms Galbally said would be taken “to the next level”.

A further two festivals are planned for August 18 and November 17.

“High-rise living can sometimes feel isolating due to the sheer number of people in close proximity,” Ms Galbally said.

“Festival At Boyd will offer opportunities for connections and building relationships and foster a sense of belonging. It will bring people together from diverse backgrounds with a sense of unity and solidarity.”

She added a quarterly event would ensure residents could book a stall, and “make some cash, donate their second-hand goods for another round and stop it going to landfill”.

“We wish to celebrate the diversity of our suburb, while also promoting a circular economy by advocating sustainable practices of recycling, reusing and repair,” she said.

“By participating in community events residents and businesses can be more engaged with local issues and initiatives and sharing ideas on projects that benefit the neighbourhood and enhance the overall well-being of Southbank residents.”

ASCA represents 10 nationalities and a diverse range of genders, ages, and abilities. The group is funded by the City of Melbourne, which provided a community inclusion grant of \$19,960 in December.

The group aims to embrace diversity while strengthening the community fabric and promoting inclusivity and mutual respect among members. ●



SOUTHBANKER

DJ Star set to perform at community festival

There’s something about the thrill of being a disc jockey that Alister Wong can’t explain.

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES



The Southbank product manager has been spinning records since the ‘90s and his energy today has never wavered.

“There’s kind of nothing really like playing to a big crowd and having them cheer to something you’re doing,” Alister, who goes by the name DJ Star, said.

“It’s very hard to describe the feeling – the hairs are standing up on your arms. You’re kind of really excited, and that type of buzz is something that is hard to replicate.”

While gigs have been a “little bit hard to get back into” since COVID, Alister plays as often as he can in pubs and clubs around Melbourne. He also does corporate functions, weddings, 21st birthdays, and parties.

“I guess being a seasoned operator, there’s plenty of people I’ve worked with over the years, so by word-of-mouth through other performers and stuff like that, I typically get work filling in...”

“My preference is what I call a rock star gig where you just turn up with your music and the venue has everything there already.”

But one event he said he was most looking forward to was performing at is the new Festival at Boyd on May 19, a community

event featuring stalls, arts and crafts, children’s activities and more at the Boyd Community Hub.

“I often find that events like this foster a little more engagement between people that you often see every day,” Alister said.

“I’m excited to do something local.”

He remains grateful for the opportunity to share his music with the world since he began his side hobby at the age of 17 with his passion to this day being R’n’B (*Return of the Mac* is his number one favourite song).

“I started with vinyl and in fact I still play records so I’m a bit of an old-school DJ,” he told *Southbank News*.

“I was kind of lucky when I first started, I was actually sponsored by all the record labels and used to play at all the big clubs in Melbourne.”

“Sony, Warner, Festival, BMG – all those guys used to give me white label sample records before the internet came along.”

When not DJing, Alister loves tinkering with his two motorbikes – one of which he “pimped my ride” over COVID. He also has a classic Porsche, which of course has the number plate “DJSTAR”.

Alister has been a Southbanker since 2007 and he won’t have it any other way.

“It’s like a cultural centre point for Melbourne. We’re constantly surrounded by international and local sporting events and festivals – that you can walk to!” ●



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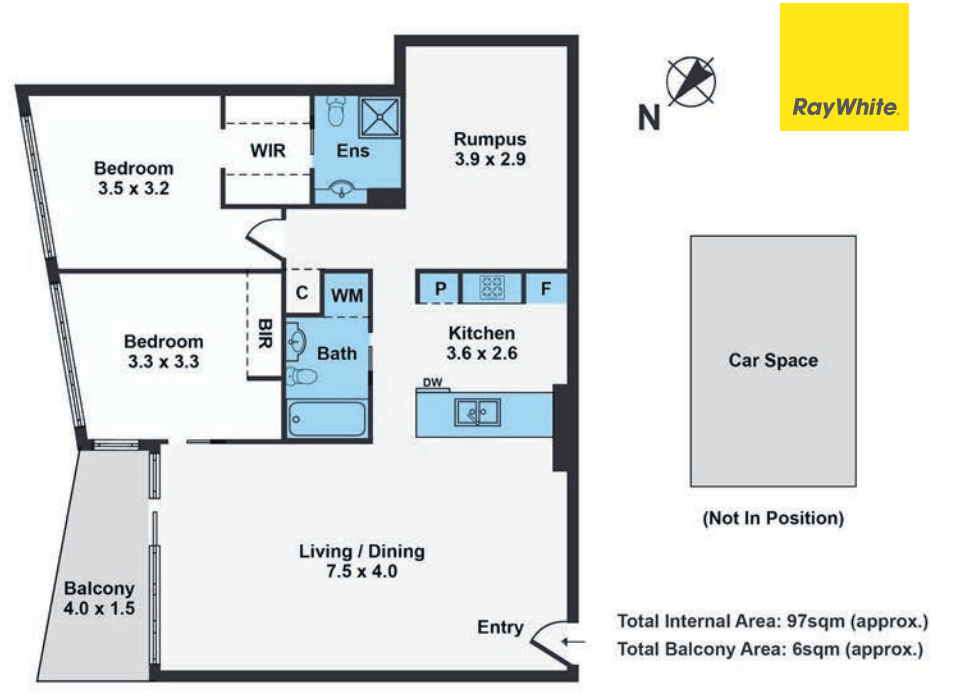
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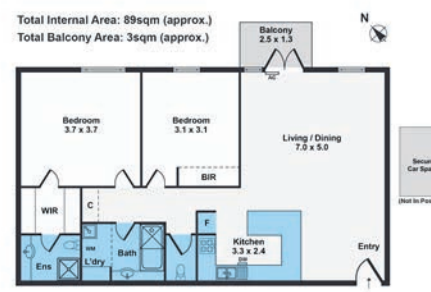
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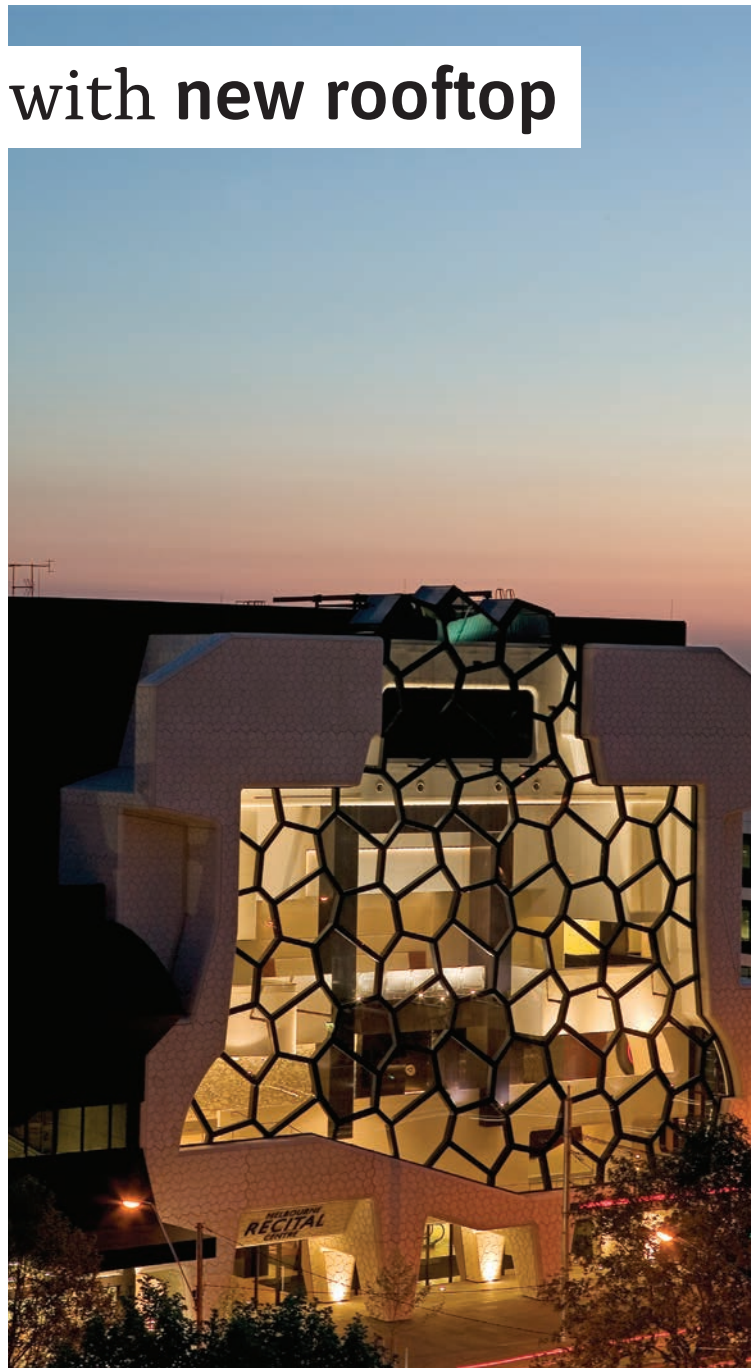
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Melbourne Recital Centre to expand with new rooftop performance venue



Continued from page 1.

"This extraordinary investment will allow us to significantly enhance Melbourne Recital Centre's patron experience, engagement with the community, reach new audiences and contribute to the growing wider impact of the Melbourne Arts Precinct."

Philanthropists Peter McMullin AM and Ruth McMullin have previously donated to other major cultural projects in the city, such as the Science Gallery at The University of Melbourne and the Melbourne International Comedy Festival.

Mr McMullin said they were proud to support a project which would be "integral to

strengthening Melbourne's vibrant arts scene".

"The role of philanthropy at times can be overlooked, however public and private partnerships are crucial to make magic happen. We are delighted to contribute to Melbourne Recital Centre's future evolution through The Beacon project," Mr McMullin said.

Minister for Creative Industries Colin Brooks MP said the project would provide another drawcard to Melbourne's Arts Precinct.

"In the last 15 years, Melbourne Recital Centre has built a global reputation as one of the best places in the world to experience music. This project would not be possible without the incredible generosity of Peter and Ruth

McMullin, and we are proud to partner with them to bring The Beacon to life," Minister Brooks said. "This space will add a new dimension to Melbourne Recital Centre's program, creating a new hub for music lovers, a new view of Melbourne, and a dynamic place to showcase Victoria's incredible creative talent."

The Beacon will join the award-winning Melbourne Recital Centre's two acoustically renowned performance spaces, Elisabeth Murdoch Hall and Primrose Potter Salon, to continue championing the best local and international artists and ensembles.

Construction of The Beacon is set to begin in 2025, with opening currently scheduled for 2026. ●



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TEN WAYS TO CONNECT WITH YOUR NEIGHBOURS, PLUS UP TO \$150 TO MAKE IT HAPPEN



Whether you're new to your neighbourhood and want to make friends or have been in your area for a while, many people still want the same thing: to feel more connected to neighbours.

But how do you make it happen?

Here are 10 ways to make meaningful connections with people who live in your area. During March and April, the City of Melbourne is offering up to \$150 to help you put on an activity which promotes community connection in your neighbourhood.

Have a look at the ideas below, then head to your Neighbourhood Portal to apply.

Set up a walking group

Solo walks are nice but sometimes it's even better to walk with other people. Together, you might discover something new about your neighbourhood.

Ask your neighbours to help with a clean-up day

Roll up your sleeves and help beautify your neighbourhood. Hosting a litter clean up activity is a great way to make a difference, have fun and bring local people together.

Start a reading party

Do you like the idea of book clubs but never have time to read? How about a reading party where people mingle, read in silence, and chat about books afterwards?

Organise a picnic with pups

Do you and your dog enjoy socialising with other humans and pups? Why not organise a picnic or a morning tea to get together.

Try a board game social

Making conversation with someone new can be awkward but when there's a fun game in between you and that someone, it can be easier.

Ask your neighbours for a day out

Going to events together is a great way to spend time with friends and meet new people. There are plenty of free or low-cost events all year around.

Plan a potluck meal

Do you enjoy trying something new to delight your taste buds? Is there talk about there being amazing cooks in your building or neighbourhood? This is your calling to organise a potluck meal.

Organise a storytelling night

Through stories, we make sense of the world and connect with each other. Why not host a storytelling event and honour the stories we carry.

Start a neighbourhood tools and skills library

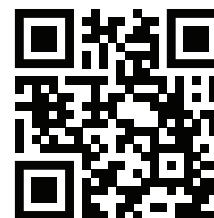
Got a collection of tools that could be used more? Do people in your area have knowledge and skills? Build a community ready to trade these, creating a neighbourhood tools and skills library.

Host a neighbours day in the park

What better way to meet your neighbours than a low-key picnic or barbecue in the park? Choose a park then put a call-out on social media or a local noticeboard.



There's so many ways to connect with your neighbours. Head to your Neighbourhood Portal at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/neighbourhoods to apply for a voucher and to contact your Neighbourhood Partner by 30 April.



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Discover your Neighbourhood Portal

Visit the Southbank Neighbourhood Portal for local news and events relevant to your area. Whether you live, work, study or play in the neighbourhood, we can support you with opportunities to better connect with Southbank and your neighbours.



Explore City of Melbourne's Neighbourhood portals at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/southbank



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Sally Capp bows out on her terms



Sally Capp, the Lord Mayor who brought a new lease of life, energy, and dynamism to the role at a time when it was needed more than ever, ended weeks of speculation on March 28, announcing she would be resigning come the end of June.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



It marks the end of an era for the City of Melbourne during what many could reasonably argue have been six of its most challenging years, marred by sexual scandal, a once-in-a-generation pandemic, and now, a major cost-of-living crisis.

Cr Capp's decision not to recontest at October's local government elections comes as a surprise to many. With plenty of unfinished business at Town Hall, namely her signature Greenline project, there's certainly no shortage of city-shaping challenges she could have sunk her teeth into during another four-year term.

However, to those following council affairs and who know her best, the news will perhaps come as less of a shock given it's that famous energy, or "buzz", that her leadership has become renowned for since coming into the role in 2018.

It's been a hallmark of her approach to Lord Mayor that has at times been noticeably lacking since the start of the new year, as the strain of the past six years and the weight of this decision perhaps began to take its toll.

"I have given everything to this role," Cr Capp said on March 28. "I love this job – it is an honour and privilege to represent the people of Melbourne."

"As you know, I like to work at full pace, full-time, and I believe that anyone

contesting the election must be all-in for a full term."

"I have decided that at 56, having spent my 50s so far at Town Hall, it's time for me to seek new opportunities to propel me into my next decade."

"To ensure good governance and transparency", Cr Capp said she would work with councillors and the CEO on an orderly transition plan during her final three months before handing over the reins to her current deputy Nicholas Reece.

However, while her resignation may have been expected by some more than others, the timing of her announcement on an otherwise usually quiet Thursday leading into the Easter break certainly caught many off-guard.

To her growing share of critics, Cr Capp's resignation has been viewed as a cut-and-run job at a time when the city is still struggling post-COVID, leaving behind a council in debt and without clear vision.

But in the eyes of her supporters, she has led Melbourne through its most tumultuous period, and given the extraordinary impacts of the pandemic which resulted in the world's longest lockdowns, the city has recovered remarkably well on her watch.

"Despite this [lockdowns], together we have driven the revitalisation of this magnificent city – emerging as Australia's largest city, the world's third most liveable, and the fourth best student city globally," Cr Capp said upon announcing her resignation.

"We have seen record breaking crowds at every major event recently, driving up foot traffic and boosting business across the city."

"I know hardship is still a reality for many business owners and residents, but the upward trajectory is undeniable. We are once again the driver of Victoria's economy and a major contributor on the national stage."

Politics can be a harsh, ruthless and, at times, thankless affair – a fact that Cr Capp, who had never been a politician prior to her Lord Mayoralty, was forced to learn fast

after swapping the private sector for public service.

Those who denounce her leadership say the city has become an unpleasant, dangerous and graffiti-plagued experience, thanks in part to a "woke" agenda where bike lanes, social equality and climate are prioritised over "roads, rates, and rubbish".

This is despite the council having tripled its investment in city cleaning during her tenure, delivering the largest events program in the country, and investing more money in infrastructure projects than ever before.

In the words of Midnight Oil, politics is notorious for having "a short memory". To Cr Capp's plaudits, the context in which she thrust herself into the city's top job, and the ensuing circumstances that followed, have been anything but smooth sailing.

We can't forget the cultural ruin that was Town Hall in 2018 following allegations of sexual misconduct made by multiple councillors against former Lord Mayor Robert Doyle. In Sally's own words, the council was "was in dire need of leadership when I was elected".

Given the "significant internal and external issues" at the time, the manner in which she helped the City of Melbourne quickly rebuild its image amid the battle to make Town Hall a safer workplace for women cannot be understated.

This will undoubtedly go down as a major part of her legacy as Lord Mayor – one largely attributed to her exceptional communication and public speaking skills. When it came to championing all things Melbourne, few have done it better.

She also boasted a tremendous work ethic and, in many ways, brought the role of Lord Mayor back to the grassroots by being as ever-present at resident and community group meetings as at major events and sod turnings.

Another significant part of her legacy is being the first woman directly elected as Lord Mayor of Melbourne, and she is just the



third woman to serve in the role. Providing inspiration for more women and girls to pursue a political career was something she said she took great pride in.

"I've spent a lot of time during my tenure speaking with groups of people, but especially women who are interested in putting their hand up for public office," she said.

"It takes quite a lot of courage just to put your hand up and campaign, and I really hope that with my encouragement more women will consider running for public office. It's an honour and a privilege."

And finally, and perhaps most significantly, she will also go down in history as the Lord Mayor to have steered Melbourne through the COVID pandemic and drive its recovery out it.

Just over two years since lockdowns finally lifted, the impacts of their devastation still reverberate right across the city. In Cr Capp's own words, the "rhythm of the city has changed", and unfortunately, there are no quick fixes to some of these challenges.

But she thanked the current "Team Melbourne" for providing a solid bedrock for future councils to continue the "upwards trajectory" for Melbourne, saying she was "so proud of our achievements as a council over the past six years."

"I want to acknowledge the City of Melbourne team and Melbourne's residents, traders and stakeholders across industries that are so critical to this city. Your passion has been evident to me every day and has shaped a council program focused on what our city needs and how we can make a positive difference together," she said.

While only time will tell whether Greenline, her pet project that she took to the 2020 election, will succeed without her leadership to see it all the way along the north bank of the Yarra-Birrarung, she claimed that she was happy to "set it free".

She said she was confident that it, along with renewing the Queen Victoria Market precinct, homelessness housing initiative Make Room, and the Power Melbourne battery scheme – projects she listed among her personal highlights – would "flourish" without her.

"These are projects with full endorsement of the council, of great popularity and support across community and the private sector, and as the saying goes, 'when you love something, set it free', and I am setting those projects free. I'm sure that they will flourish," Cr Capp said.

And notwithstanding "plenty to do before I leave, including delivering the final annual plan and budget of this council term," Sally Capp calls time on a memorable journey as Lord Mayor of Melbourne, having done it her way all along.

Thank you, Sally, for your dedication to Melbourne. ●

Sean Car

EDITOR

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Greens preselect lead City of Melbourne councillor candidates

The Greens have preselected current councillor and Carlton resident Dr Olivia Ball as its lead candidate ahead of the City of Melbourne elections in October, with West Melbourne resident Karl Hessian revealed as its second candidate on the ballot.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



▲ Karl Hessian and Cr Dr Olivia Ball.
Photo: Julian Meehan.

With current sitting Greens Cr Rohan Leppert not recontesting for what would have been a fourth consecutive term on council, many had expected that Cr Dr Ball would be elevated to the number one position on the Greens ticket.

With the Greens having been historically successful in getting two councillors elected to the City of Melbourne, Cr Leppert's departure has opened the door for a likely new face to join Cr Dr Ball in 2024.

That person is Karl Hessian – a resident of West Melbourne who works in IT in the early childhood education and care sector who

hopes to translate his interest in local government and commitment to the community by winning a seat on council.

Cr Dr Ball told *Southbank News* that she was honoured to have been chosen to lead the party's ticket and was looking forward to working with the rest of her team to "increase the Greens' representation on council".

"The role of city governments in this time of climate and biodiversity emergency, and an acute housing affordability crisis, is more important than ever," Cr Dr Ball said. "Melbourne could be among the great sustainable cities of the world, so we are asking Melburnians to elect a Greener council in October."

"Due to the youth and mobility of the inner city, this will be the first local election in which many people living in the City of Melbourne will be eligible to vote. My message to everyone is make sure you are enrolled at your current address now so you can have your say."

The Greens will hold further preselections to determine its candidates for Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor, and other council seats in the months ahead, with

preselections conducted by ballot of all members residing in the City of Melbourne.

Cr Dr Ball said she was pleased that the "outstanding" Mr Hessian would be joining her for the upcoming election campaign.

"I could not be more pleased that Karl has been chosen to join me on the Greens ticket in October," she said.

"He is a profoundly decent human being, broad-minded, capable, and hard-working, with an uncanny interest in local government and a passion for his community. I know he will make an outstanding councillor."

Karl Hessian will be well-known to many in the North and West Melbourne community for his decades of community action and leadership, including as chair of the board of the local neighbourhood house, chair of the committee of management of a community-run childcare centre, and his active engagement with the council on local issues.

"I am deeply honoured to have been chosen to fill the vacancy created by Olivia's promotion to lead candidate. Both Rohan [Leppert] and former councillor Dr Cathy Oke have made extraordinary

contributions to this city and have set a high bar for what electors can and should expect from their representatives," Mr Hessian said. "If elected, I look forward to working with Olivia to connect the work of city government with local communities, that we may tackle the significant challenges facing the city together."

"I have a deep understanding of how the City of Melbourne operates and I have the skills and experience to hit the ground running if elected."

Greens announce first candidates for City of Port Phillip elections

Three Greens candidates have also been revealed ahead of the City of Port Phillip's elections, with local resident Earl James to run in the new South Melbourne ward.

Following changes to the *Local Government Act 2020*, Port Phillip will now be split into nine wards, which include dedicated Montague and Port Melbourne wards.

While the Greens have yet to announce all nine of its candidates, Earl James is so far joined by Liliana Carranza (Elwood Ward) and former Deputy Mayor Tim Baxter (St Kilda Ward). ●

Man charged following Southbank collision

Major Collision Investigation Unit detectives have charged a 26-year-old man following a fatal collision in Southbank last year.

It's alleged an MG ZS rear-ended a truck on the exit ramp from the West Gate Freeway about 11.35am on November 24.

The passenger in the car, a 25-year-old Darley woman, died at the scene.

The drivers of both the MG and truck sustained minor injuries and were taken to hospital.

The MG driver, from Darley, was charged on March 16 with dangerous driving causing death and careless driving.

He was bailed to appear in Melbourne Magistrates' Court on Wednesday, March 20. ●

Seven arrested in new operation targeting commercial burglaries

A new police operation targeting commercial burglaries in the Fishermans Bend and Southbank areas has seen seven people arrested during February and March.

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES



Operation Pilot, which is coordinated by Melbourne East Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT), is a joint response with general duties police, the dog squad and air wing.

They have been targeting a series of commercial burglaries of premises in and around Todd Rd, Fishermans Bend, where more than \$150,000 worth of damage was

caused to sites, along with copper theft.

The arrests were made after seven people were caught allegedly trying to flee commercial sites.

"The success of this coordinated response shows the good work community, and police can play together in delivering great outcomes," Victoria Police said. "Operation Pilot will be on going, and NPT will continue to investigate a number of scrap metal and copper thefts in the area."

The operation was launched in conjunction with Southbank stakeholders, Knight Facilities Management, Development Victoria and Leonardo Australia Pty Ltd.

Anyone with information in relation to commercial scrap metal and copper thefts in and around the local area are urged to contact Crime Stoppers on **1800 333 000**. ●

Derryn Hinch exits the race for Lord Mayor

Broadcast legend and former senator Derryn Hinch has withdrawn his bid to become the City of Melbourne's next Lord Mayor just weeks after announcing his candidacy.

Mr Hinch took to social media saying he could not afford the campaign cost of \$250,000 to \$500,000.

"Money I don't have and wouldn't expect to raise. The Justice Party cost me a lot. Would have loved to have given it a shot. Sorry," Mr Hinch posted on X on March 27.

"This is a sad practical post. I am withdrawing as a candidate for Lord Mayor of Melbourne." ●

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Shaping the future of Southbank through social imagination

A unique pilot project aimed exploring the power of social imagination in a time of a climate crisis has brought the Southbank community together to share their ideas for the future.

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES



More than 50 residents, along with business owners, students, activists, academics, and City of Melbourne councillors, including Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece, gathered for the experiment and to talk about their plans for Southbank at a March 7 event called Imagination in Southbank.

The project is an initiative of the Centre for Public Impact Australia (CPI) and Aotearoa New Zealand, a not-for-profit that provides research to improve the effectiveness of public services and government to better respond to complex challenges.

The organisation partnered with the City of Melbourne and Hinterland Labs to experiment how social imagination could help bring a "sense of civic agency and possibility to the complex challenge of the climate crisis" while also focusing on a sense of community belonging.

Attendees at the event, which was hosted at the Malthouse Theatre, heard from the CPI team and project participants who explored ways of creating "futures we can be proud to pass on to future generations".

"The event was an exploration of how the practice of social imagination and ideas around belonging can create more expansive thinking around climate action," the event's organiser and senior program manager and project lead at the CPI Keira Lowther said.

"Social imagination encourages people to dream about the kind of world they would be proud to pass on to future generations and to consider their role in creating it."

Ms Lowther said Cr Jamal Hakim interviewed participants who "described their experiences of the project and the ideas that either took shape or gathered pace during that time".

The audience also heard about developments including the new Festival at Boyd, Gardens of Australia, and the Community Gallery at Southgate.

The event celebrated a program of work that involved five full day workshops, held



▲ Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece addresses the audience on March 7.

in September and October last year, with additional support from CPI and RMIT Master of Design students, to develop and realise ideas in the months that followed.

"The event brought people who were involved or otherwise interested in what we had been doing together," Ms Lowther said.

The project also responded to Southbank as being one of Australia's most densely populated areas.

While the CPI acknowledged Southbank was home to a rich hospitality sector and one of Australia's most vibrant arts precincts, "many people who live and work in Southbank report feeling disconnected and lonely and express a desire to feel a greater sense of belonging to place and community".

"Perhaps responding to this, and building a deeper sense of belonging, to each other, to Southbank and to the planet, we might be able to shape the conditions for a deeper sense of agency and imaginative power for more care-fuelled action in these areas," the CPI said.

Anyone interested in engaging in a social imagination practice in their community or workplace can contact keira@centrefor-publicimpact.org ●

For more information:
social-imagination.com.au





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Built-to-rent complex nears completion

Construction of an 18-storey build-to-rent apartment building in Southbank is on track for completion this year.

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES



The project Novus on Sturt will deliver 163 homes comprising a mix of studios, one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments at 153 Sturt St.

Construction, which is being undertaken by Hamilton Marino, is gathering pace with the project set to achieve a “topping out” phase in April, signifying the completion of building’s structural phase.

Overall, the project is on track to be completed by the third quarter of 2024. It’s being developed by Novus in partnership with M&G Real Estate on behalf of the M&G Asia Property Fund.

Once complete, the Rothelowman-designed building will have a heated pool and deck, a gym and studio space, pet park

and pet wash, an entertaining lounge and private dining room.

There will also be co-working and meeting rooms, a library, and games room, as well as a kitchen garden, barbeque, and outdoor terrace.

Novus CEO Adam Hirst said the project would be its first operational asset, and with registrations of interest “flooding in already, we’re excited to see how the market embraces our offering”.

He said pre-leasing would begin in the middle of the year and coincide with the opening of their on-site display apartments.

“We’re excited to be pioneering a new way to live through our superior approach to renting one that we’re confident our residents won’t find anywhere else.”

“We’re on a mission to build homes for 10,000 people – empowering residents to experience a lifestyle underpinned by a focus on wellbeing, convenience and exceptional service.”

The build-to-rent model involves a building being constructed by a developer who keeps the building when it’s complete and leases the apartments to renters.

Novus said residents would enjoy “luxury, convenience, wellness and security”. ●

Greenline “set free” by Lord Mayor after councillor raises questions about costs

Outgoing Lord Mayor Sally Capp says she is confident her signature Greenline project will “flourish” despite announcing she would not be recontesting October’s local government elections.

WORDS BY
DAVID SCHOUT & SEAN CAR



project is delivered in the most cost-effective manner possible,” Cr Campbell said.

“There is no doubt that all levels of government are facing cost blow-outs when it comes to project delivery, but we’ve got an obligation at the City of Melbourne to make sure that every dollar that is spent on this project, ratepayers in the City of Melbourne feel they are receiving value for it.”

Lord Mayor Sally Capp, who made Greenline a key part of her 2018 by-election and 2020 general election strategy, admitted she was “impatient for the delivery of this project”, but said, “I also know it’s going to absolutely be worth the wait”.

“I think persistence is an absolute hallmark of city-shaping projects like this as we saw with others, like the development of Southbank into the premier hospitality and entertainment precinct that it is now, [and] as we saw also with Federation Square.”

Cr Capp’s comments came after it was revealed a Greenline “Partnership and Funding Strategy” would not come before councillors until mid-2024.

The strategy is seen as crucial for the future of Greenline, given the council has so far struggled to attract investment from the state and federal governments.

From the outset the council has sought \$100 million commitments from each of these two levels to fund the project, however, has received just a \$20 million pledge from Federal Labor (which was still to reach the council) almost two years ago.

The Victorian Government was yet to show any appetite to fund what Cr Capp has called a “city-shaping project”, and those at Town Hall will be eagerly awaiting details of the May 7 budget.

After announcing she would be stepping down as Lord Mayor at the end of June on March 28, questions have already emerged about whether the future of Greenline without her own political capital to see it through.

But in referencing Greenline, as well as a range of other major projects that she has been central to during her time as Lord Mayor, she said she was confident it would “flourish”.

“These are projects with full endorsement of the council, of great popularity and support across community and the private sector, and as the saying goes, ‘when you love something, set it free’, and I am setting those projects free. I’m sure that they will flourish,” she said.

It was initially expected that the strategy would arrive concurrently with the Greenline Masterplan endorsed late last year, however that did not eventuate.

But the council was buoyed by the news in late March that the Greenline Project masterplan was named a winner at the 2024 Australian Urban Design Awards for revitalising an “essential part of the city”.

The council said it expects site one works at Birrarung Marr to be completed by the end of the year. ●

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Supporting Local Business
Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation



Gender equality is on the agenda

I'm incredibly proud to be part of a Labor government with a strong commitment to gender equality.

WORDS BY
JOSH BURNS
FEDERAL MP FOR MACNAMARA

We are focused on driving action in five areas; ending gender-based violence, unpaid and paid care, economic equality and security, health, and leadership, representation and decision-making.

On a weekly basis, I have the pleasure of speaking with women in our community who are making a difference in their workplaces and for our community.

These conversations are both inspiring and eye-opening, shedding light on the challenges and triumphs that women face in their daily lives. While it's heartening to see the progress we've made towards gender equality, it's also a stark reminder that there's still more work to be done.

The economic lives of men and women are often very different.

Women, on average, continue to earn less than their male counterparts for the same work. This wage disparity not only undermines the financial stability of women but also damages the overall economic health of our nation.

When women are paid less, they have less to invest in their families, less to save for the future, and less to contribute to the broader economy.

The economic challenges faced by women are not limited to the workplace.

Women are more likely to bear the

burden of unpaid care work, often juggling their professional responsibilities with caregiving duties at home. This imbalance not only worsens gender inequality but also limits women's opportunities for career advancement and economic security.

Taking time out of paid work to care for children is a normal part of working life for both parents for many in our community. But the data is clear, women are taking more time out of the workforce to raise their children, and are retiring, on average, with 25 per cent less super than men.

The Albanese government has already expanded paid parental leave to six months for both parents, and now we are going to pay superannuation on paid parental leave.

Women should not be struggling to balance their caregiving responsibilities with their financial security, and they shouldn't have to sacrifice their own career aspirations.

These important reforms will make sure that women retire with the dignity and stability they deserve.

Not only are we doing what matters to help close the super gap, but we have brought in crucial policy to end the gender pay gap, which is now the lowest it has ever been.

The Minister for Women Katy Gallagher recently announced that businesses with 500 employees or more will be required to meet new gender equality targets if they want to secure government contracts. These targets will focus on the gender makeup of boards, equal pay, flexible working arrangements and efforts to address sexual and gender-based violence.

There is more to do, but for the first time in 10 years; gender equality is on the agenda, and progress is being achieved. ●



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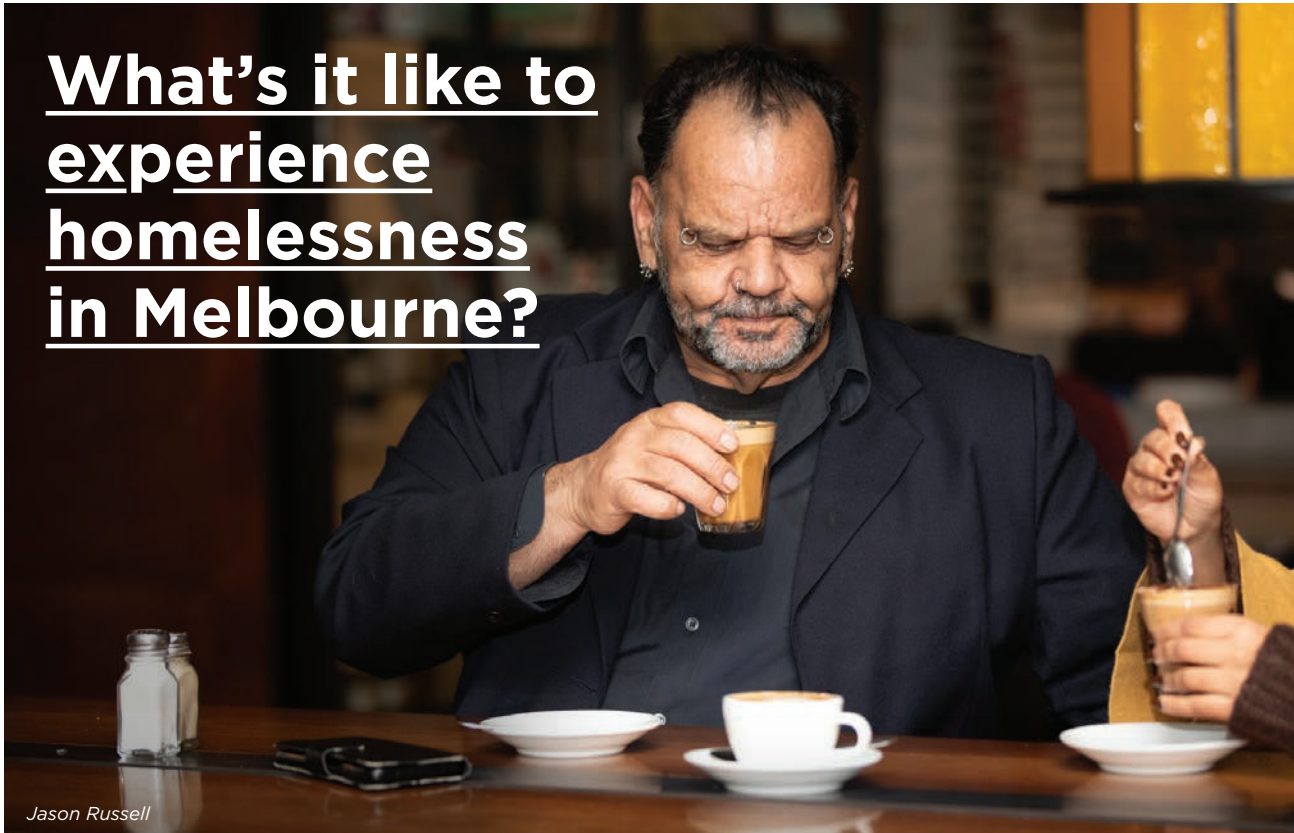
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Melbourne, Australia



acca

What's it like to experience homelessness in Melbourne?



Jason Russell

Hear Jason's story as we launch our draft City of Melbourne Homelessness Strategy to help end homelessness.

The rituals that helped Jason Russell survive on the streets of inner-city Melbourne for nearly two decades are hard to shake.

In the abandoned inner-city factory where he took shelter for years, Jason learnt to leave no trace of himself. Nothing that could be linked back to him.

"I was hard wired to living in a squat," Jason said.

Even though he moved into permanent housing two years ago, he still can't bring himself to hang photos on the walls.

And he still wrestles with the idea of keeping a "bug-out bag" handy, in case he needs to run at any moment.

"When I first got the keys to the new place, I was terrified. I slept in the lounge room. I didn't know there was a bedroom. I wouldn't cook in the kitchen.

"Now my place is like an Airbnb. I could put my wallet in my pocket and walk out the door and nobody would know it was me living here, apart from the diggeridoo ... that might be a giveaway!"

Inside an "18-year bad day"

In his former life on the northern coast of NSW, Jason was a firefighter and a family man with a wife and three kids. A proud member of the Birabri Nation.

Things started to unravel when an underlying mental health condition worsened, leading to an honourable discharge from NSW Fire and Rescue.

"As a firefighter we know how to stabilise a body ... but an injury to the

mind, I didn't know or understand it. Everything fell to pieces. My career, my world, my family life."

Jason left his community behind, thinking this would help him escape his "demons".

After roaming the country for a decade, he eventually found the anonymity he craved in inner-city Melbourne.

Ever since, he's been unlearning the compound stresses of what he describes as an "18-year bad day".

While Jason lurched from squat to crisis accommodation to transitional housing and back again, his instincts as a first responder never left him.

"I wanted to see how the homeless in the city were faring."

Jason volunteered at soup kitchens and drop-in centres. He got to know the workers, the agencies. He made friends among those who were also experiencing homelessness.

He began to notice discrepancies between what he saw on the streets and the statistics on homelessness quoted in the media.

"So I started to walk through the city, counting heads. I wanted to remove the variables on who was counted and who wasn't."

Jason's efforts and insights caught the attention of the sector.

Through the Council to Homeless Persons, he started advising the homelessness sector on ways to improve the collection and sharing of data.

"Knowing what it meant to be homeless has made me such a great advocate."

Helping others while waiting for housing

As Jason waited to have his housing needs prioritised on a growing waiting list for permanent housing, he also campaigned for caseworkers to act as "emissaries" for their clients.

A good caseworker, he argued, can spare people the trauma of having to tell their stories over again each time they present at a homelessness service.

Jason has a knack for sharing insights that resonate with first responders. Together, they find ways to better connect with people experiencing homelessness.

Two years ago, Jason finally got the keys to a new house in a suburb that put some distance between him and the squats where demons still lurked.

"I'm housed in a beautiful property. I know that home is where the heart is. I passionately want to make this my home. Is it 'home sweet home'? Not yet. I'm working on that."



HELP END HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness is something that people experience - it is not who they are.

We're working to end homelessness in Melbourne by securing affordable and sustainable housing for all.

Join us in being part of the solution. Have your say on our draft Homelessness Strategy at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/homes-melbourne by Sunday 7 April.

LORD MAYOR'S SMALL BUSINESS AWARDS OPEN



Lord Mayor Sally Capp with David Zhou of Oriental Tea House who's been serving Chinese fare for 20 years.

Small businesses are key to our city's economic growth and liveability and Melbourne is full of fantastic success stories.

Do you know a small business that's been running in the City of Melbourne for more than 10 years, or deserves acknowledgement for their contribution to the city? Encourage them to apply for the Lord Mayor's Small Business Awards.

These awards also recognise outstanding organisations in the Small Business of the Year Award and the Small Business Innovation Award.

Apply by 29 April at melbourne.vic.gov.au/smallbusinessawards

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Park ranger Isaac Dodd with some of his colleagues

A WILD LIFE: PARK RANGERS RESCUE ROOS AND REPTILES

A roo on the hop in Carlton. A blue-tongue lizard basking in a laneway. Ducklings in distress. Our park rangers have seen it all and know just what to do. So – before you step in – give the experts a call.

Our park rangers do important work – helping visitors, keeping our parks safe and protecting the City of Melbourne’s urban ecosystems through a range of programs.

The team members have diverse experience in fields including conservation, environmental science, outdoor education, and wildlife rescue and rehabilitation.



Isaac with the sedated kangaroo

It’s just as well the rangers are multi-skilled, because they often have some wild encounters. Like tailing a lost young kangaroo that was reported to be hopping up Lygon Street, as ranger Isaac Dodd explains.

“I was driving the ranger ute, snaking my way up through Carlton following reports of the roo,” Isaac said.

“He’d ended up in an apartment block backyard, highly distressed, cornered in by a resident’s dogs, trying to dig under a pool fence. I was first on the scene.”

Ranger Isaac helped remove the dogs to calm the kangaroo down, and called in reinforcements from Vets for Compassion, Wildlife Victoria, Victoria Police and other agencies. Meanwhile, residents helped hold up a roo net.

The vet team arrived and swiftly darted the kangaroo, sedating him for an in-field assessment, while another local helped by acting as a makeshift stand for an IV bag.

“It was a real team effort, with so many people and agencies working together. Thankfully the vets found the kangaroo was in great health, just overheating from the stress,” Isaac said.

“Once he’d cooled down, he was released to join up with a mob of roos out at Plenty Gorge. A volunteer patiently stayed with him throughout a three-hour nap, then after a groggy wake-up he hopped away to join his new family.

“It was a perfect outcome, even if it left him with a nasty hangover.”

Wild animals that are sick, injured, displaced or orphaned may need our help, but Isaac encourages you to think carefully and get an expert’s advice before you capture or move a creature.



The kangaroo waking up at Plenty Gorge



Many native Australian birds – like lorikeets and magpies – fledge on the ground, so they might look like they’re in distress. But removing them from their parents’ sight could be the wrong choice.

“Some birds fledge on the ground. After leaving the nest they can spend a few weeks unable to fly, building their strength and learning ‘how to bird’ while their parents protect and feed them from overhead,” Isaac said.

“Often these young fledglings can be hard to differentiate from their parents.”

Escaped pets can also cause a fuss in the middle of the city, like when Isaac received a report of a blue-tongued lizard in one of our iconic laneways.

“Although blue-tongues are native to Melbourne, this one had the colours of a Queensland and was precariously basking in a busy CBD laneway,” Isaac said.

“He was very comfortable being handled, indicating he was an escaped or released pet. We contacted Reptiles Victoria and the team ensured he went to a special rehab and rehoming program.”

Our rangers’ other adventures include fishing a group of ducklings out of a deep drain with a long pool net and caring for a concussed sacred kingfisher before releasing the bird at Ron Barassi Park in Docklands.

HOW TO CARE FOR LOCAL WILDLIFE

Call an expert before taking action

If you spot an animal in trouble, report it to Wildlife Victoria by visiting wildlifevictoria.org.au or call their 24-hour hotline on 8400 7300. They’ll call in our park rangers to help if needed.

Understand natural behaviours

Get to know local species to recognise natural behaviours, like birds that fledge on the ground.

Don’t feed wildlife

Human food isn’t meant for animals. For example, ducks can’t digest bread – it causes severe illness. Animals who are fed can also become dependent and forget how to find their own food.

Keep your cats indoors

Cats are by far the biggest killers of local wildlife.

Leave water out for wildlife when it’s hot

Not all creatures can balance on the rim of a bowl, so add a rock for smaller creatures like lizards to drink from, and sticks so they can easily climb out.

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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“Gaps” in the Montague Precinct Implementation Plan: City of Port Phillip

The City of Port Phillip has raised concerns over the state government’s draft Montague Precinct Implementation Plan (MPIP), stating that it contains “several gaps and issues” that need to be addressed.

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES



Councillors endorsed the council’s submission to the draft MPIP at their March 20 meeting, which outlines the vision for the precinct and sets out how the area will adapt, transition, and change towards its 2050 vision over the next 10 years.

It is part of the state government’s Fishermans Bend framework, Australia’s largest-ever urban renewal project which is locally governed by the City of Melbourne (north of the Westgate Freeway) and the City of Port Phillip to the south.

Fishermans Bend is forecast to accommodate 80,000 residents and 80,000 jobs by 2050.

Along with Montague, the area is made up of five precincts including Sandridge, Wirraway, Lorimer and the Employment Precinct,

with the latter two situated within the City of Melbourne’s municipal boundaries.

The years-long delay of the draft MPIP was finally released last December for public consultation, which closed in February. The next step will see the government review all submissions before

finalising the MPIP and “consider approval pathway options” in the middle of 2024.

Among the projects featured in the draft MPIP are proposed public spaces and parks, upgrade of the route 109 tram stop, a bustling mix of “destination laneways”, a secondary community

hub co-located at the Montague Continuing Education Centre, and a transformation of Normanby Rd into an active street.

However, the City of Port Phillip has identified several shortcomings in the MPIP they believe need to be resolved, noting “the greatest concern is the lack of detail, clarity and rigour”.

“The plan requires further work to resolve key issues including document aim and structure; infrastructure funding and delivery; direction of the street and laneway network; flooding and water management; planning controls; and public transport integration,” a council report stated.

“As structured, the MPIP takes the form of a design document rather than a precinct implementation plan with clear frameworks and resolved actions,” it said.

“Without clear implementation direction there will be conflict between stakeholders at the permit application stage and in the design and construction of infrastructure.”

The council’s submission did acknowledge that the draft MPIP “presents an inspiring and graphically impressive view of what Montague could look like in the future,” including an activity centre, which is “critical in making Montague a place of its own”.

But its summary of recommendations included an open space framework map setting with “clarity” needed regarding a proposed

classification and funding of each open space; an integrated water management approach including the prioritisation of flood safety and mitigation measures; and that the planning scheme is “not clearly defined”.

“Council requests the receipt and review of all Making Montague supporting material prior to finalisation of the MPIP for the upcoming planning scheme amendment,” the report noted.

The submission also noted concerns that the MPIP was largely “focused on streetscape character and the public realm but does not provide necessary details to deliver workable street and laneway designs”.

The council has also sought involvement in aligning the government’s infrastructure funding strategy including development contributions plan and MPIP processes and outcomes, noting that council has made a separate submission to the Fishermans Bend Development Contributions Plan process.

City of Port Phillip Mayor Heather Cunsolo said development “definitely has started” in Fishermans Bend “but what we’re not seeing is the rest of the infrastructure”.

“It’s good to have a plan ... but that implementation, the residents are there now and more of them are coming quickly. This has to keep moving so I’m pleased that we put in the submission.” ●

Experiencing more at the Melbourne Recital Centre

Melbourne Recital Centre (MRC) is celebrating 15 years of ground-breaking performances with a range of new membership offers to get you “closer to the music and musicians you love.”

WORDS BY
JACK HAYES



Since 2009, MRC has evolved from a largely classical music venue to an all-encompassing home for performances of any genre; classical, electronic, and everywhere in between.

Memberships range from as little as \$5 per year for a Student Membership; \$50 per year for a Music Lover Membership; \$200

per year for a Premium Membership; and now, to celebrate their milestone birthday, a \$15 yearly 3006 Locals Membership.

Melbourne Recital Centre visitor experience manager Jessie Upton told *Southbank News*, the centre was a space intentionally designed to be one to “sit, pause and be immersed in what you are listening to,

regardless of genre.”

“We might have started as a largely classical music venue, but we have shifted, changed and grown to welcome amazing artists and performances from a huge range of genres,” they said.

“Our neighbours are very important to us. We want them to experience and enjoy the space, whether you are coming to a show, a tour or even just popping in during the day it’s a venue that is for them and we want to extend that welcome with this new offer.”

“So many forms of music have different rituals associated with them or different ways of thinking about performance – because we have such a depth of programming, we can have two completely different genres performing at the same time but in different performance spaces and have everyone meeting and mingling in the foyer together, because they are all there to see live music – that’s quite unique.”

According to Jessie, MRC’s diverse

membership range was designed to be more accessible for people not just to enjoy their performances, but also to be more connected and get to know each other.

“Genres in music are not tied to age. You can be of any age and love any genre of music,” they said. “We see that in our audiences and have a very diverse age range across all of our programming.”

“What it means to be accessible for people is that it needs to be attainable, and we need to remove barriers whether that be with our affordable programming or the incredibly diverse range of genres we display.”

“We champion the artistry of the music and put that at the centre of everything we do.”

Along with all membership information, you can also find details on the return of the centre’s widely popular venue tours online.

melbournerecital.com.au/connect/membership ●



Ginger Olive

A redefined casual dining spot located just off Flinders Lane, Ginger Olive offers contemporary fusion and multi-cuisine, specialising in BBQ, ribs, steaks, and grills.

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www.gingerolive.com.au

Supporting business



CYP-BS00405

First glimpse at new South Melbourne Police Station

The state government has released the first designs for a new state-of-the-art police station for South Melbourne.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



The new and upgraded 24-hour station at the corner of 142 Dorcas St will provide modern facilities for Victoria Police, featuring modern custody and interview rooms, large training rooms and secure parking for police vehicles.

A tender for the \$52 million construction will be released in the coming months, inviting builders to enter a formal submission to build the new station.

The station is part of the government's record investment of \$4.5 billion to deliver more than 3600 new sworn police officers, as well as state-of-the-art intelligence systems, infrastructure, and new technology.

Since 2014 the government has delivered more than \$423 million

to build 19 new police stations and upgrade 15 more across Victoria.

Victorian MP for Albert Park Nina Taylor said the investments were all "about making sure Victoria Police has all the resources they need to keep the community safe."

"We're delivering modern police stations equipped with future-proofed design features, so our police have the facilities they need now and into the future," Ms Taylor said.

The Beacon Cove Neighbourhood Association (BCNA) president Tim Norman said the announcement of a new police station in South Melbourne was a "timely reminder of the value of local policing and the need to balance cost efficiency with the benefit of a local police presence".

"The BCNA has been concerned about the deterioration of the existing South Melbourne Police Station and that the local police area is headquartered on Chapel St in St Kilda, some distance from Port Melbourne," he said.

He added the new police station would also establish a stronger police presence near the growth areas of Port Melbourne and Fishermans Bend. ●



YARRA RIVER BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

What a changing world we live in

It's fundamental that today's business keeps up with change.

We have witnessed first-hand what economic power is wielded by a contemporary music phenomenon like Taylor Swift. Since then, we have had the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival, which after a few years absence returned to the Yarra River precinct with many excellent events. The Grand Prix's record attendance also had a larger than normal knock-on effect for many of our businesses. February and March has been an eye-opener, even for our businesses who are used to large business and sporting events.

Another example of a much different kind was the viral effect of the "spilt milk" incident on the river in late January. While not condoning the action in any sense, the 20 million views it received on Tik Tok once again shows the almost instantaneous marketing power of social media. While businesses can spend small fortunes on paid messaging, it is often the weird and crazy



that attracts the eyeballs.

Overall, it has been a summer season of mixed results for Southbank businesses. The variable weather affected patronage in a major way, although most tourism and hospitality businesses seem to have recorded at least as good or slightly better results than last summer overall.

If you compare the level of activation on the river with what we had 10 years ago, the change is astounding. Life on the waterway before Afloat, Yarra Botanicals and the

self-hire boats was a very subdued affair. Our river cruise operators still provide an excellent tour offering, complete with quality narrations, but it is clear that younger people appreciate the ability to gather together a group of family or friends, and captain their own vessel for an hour or two.

The Business Association is really looking forward to the autumn months, not just because it is the best time in Melbourne to enjoy the river precinct, but the quality of autumn light makes for some great photography.

We have commissioned an international photographer to do a complete update of our precinct imagery because so much of the skyline has changed in recent years, as well as the new on-water activity that I mentioned above.

Also, the flow of amazing images that come to us via social media, particularly Instagram, never ceases to impress. Follow [yarrarivermelbourne](#) on Instagram or Facebook to keep up with the seasonally changing face of the river and its environs.

During early March we held our first

"President's Table" luncheon, where we got to know the CEO of City of Melbourne Alison Leighton. This is a new concept of more personal business networking that enables our members to get to know in a more meaningful way key people who influence and shape our precinct.

The May 17 lunch with Parks Victoria senior leaders, including the CEO Matthew Jackson, will provide our board and members the opportunity to discuss management of the Lower Yarra, and any issues on your mind pertaining to vessel traffic and recreation users.

As always, if you do business in Southbank, on or around the river, we urge you to join the Yarra River Business Association. Simply head to [yarrariver.melbourne/join](#) ●

Jeremy Vincent

PRESIDENT

[yarrariver.melbourne](#)



Your Federal MP for Southbank.

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

[joshburns.com.au](#)

josh.burns.mp@aph.gov.au ✉

(03) 9534 8126 ☎

219 Barkly St, St Kilda VIC 3182 📍

JOSH BURNS MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MACNAMARA

📱 🌐 📺 📺 joshburnsmp



Josh Thomas returns to Melbourne with *Let's Tidy Up*

For many of us, tidying up is part of our everyday routine. But for award-winning comedian Josh Thomas, "it's Everest".

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



One of Australia's most well-known personalities, Josh Thomas has not only been a part of the comedy scene since age 17, but has also starred in, written and produced hit TV shows, *Please Like Me* and *Everything's Gonna Be Okay*.

Fresh from a stint living in LA and a break from stand-up comedy that he "didn't tell anybody" about, Josh is back on home soil with his new live show *Let's Tidy Up* (co-written with acclaimed playwright Lally Katz), running at Arts Centre Melbourne from April 9 to 21.

"*Let's Tidy Up* is about this one time two years ago when I had to tidy the house," Josh told *Southbank News*.

While coming to terms with moving to a new country as well as being diagnosed with autism and ADHD at 33 years of age, the show dives into Josh's life at a time where he was forced to "start everything again".

"I talk about me moving to LA, trying to fall in love, making friends, and having to look after my house," he said. "As I was being diagnosed, they

were telling me that these things were going to be things that I'm not going to be very good at doing, and I was trying to figure out if I can be okay at them."

If the show's interstate run so far is anything to go by, audiences can expect a night filled with side-splitting laughter as they get to know the beloved Aussie icon on a whole new level.

"I've really been enjoying doing stand-up, I actually don't do it often. I've done one tiny tour in the last decade, but this is a big tour – this will be more than 100 shows," Josh said.

"It's just quite fun to go out there and play around and make your little jokes. When you make TV shows, you have to have so many conversations every single day with so many people – there's a lot of opinions."

"In stand-up comedy, I just get to think of things to say and then I go and say them. Either it's fun and I say it again, or it isn't fun, and I don't say it again. I love that it's so straightforward."

Performing as part of the Melbourne International Comedy Festival (MICF), Josh is looking forward to returning to Melbourne audiences.

"It's so nice to be at the Arts Centre, it's like a real theatre. I can't tell you how excited I am to be in the Playhouse."

Let's Tidy Up runs from April 9 to 21 at Arts Centre Melbourne. ●



THE LUME Melbourne presents: *Leonardo da Vinci – 500 Years of Genius*

In a tribute to the ingenuity and brilliance of Leonardo da Vinci, THE LUME's latest multi-sensory experience invites viewers to step into a world "500 years in the making".

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS

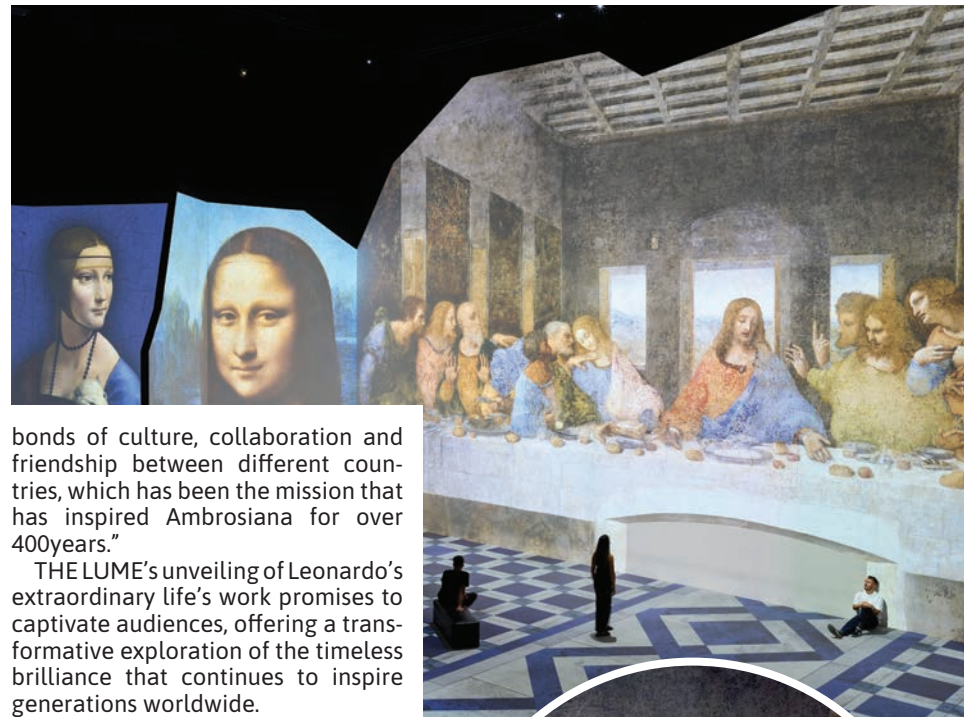


Leonardo da Vinci – 500 Years of Genius features original manuscripts and sketches from the *Codex Atlanticus*, marking its first-ever display in Australia following more than a decade of collaboration with Biblioteca Ambrosiana in Milan.

The exhibition will also include meticulously crafted replicas of Leonardo's machine inventions, the world's only exact 360-degree replica of the *Mona Lisa* alongside the unveiling of 25 secrets about the iconic painting, and state-of-the-art AI and VR technologies.

"The Veneranda Biblioteca Ambrosiana is very pleased to bring pages of the *Codex Atlanticus* to Australia for the first time in history, including original drawings by Leonardo da Vinci, thanks to the initiative of our major institutional partner THE LUME Melbourne," director of the Biblioteca Ambrosiana Monsignor Alberto Rocca said.

"The precious artistic and technological legacy of the most celebrated Italian genius continues to produce



bonds of culture, collaboration and friendship between different countries, which has been the mission that has inspired Ambrosiana for over 400 years."

THE LUME's unveiling of Leonardo's extraordinary life's work promises to captivate audiences, offering a transformative exploration of the timeless brilliance that continues to inspire generations worldwide.

"The story of this polymath is extraordinary when one pauses to reflect," founder of THE LUME Melbourne Bruce Peterson said.

"Leonardo, arguably the greatest creative genius the world has ever known, astonishes us with the vastness of his curiosity and expertise – from artist and scientist to engineer, sculptor, musician, event producer, geologist, botanist – and beyond." ●



For more information:
thelumemelbourne.com





 **PHOTOGRAPHY
STUDIES COLLEGE**

LORIEN SHANNON

Lorien Shannon: “I feel like I’ve found my place”

Lorien Shannon is exactly where she’s “meant to be”, immersed in the world of Photography Studies College (PSC) where she is currently undertaking the second half of her Bachelor in Photography as a full-time student.

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



With a lifelong involvement in photography stemming from her experience as a fashion and property stylist and inspired by her grandfather, Lorien’s journey into study was a natural next step.

Although she briefly attended PSC over two decades ago before life led her to Sydney and motherhood, the need to return came as an obvious sign when an ad for PSC appeared on her Instagram.

“I love everything about this place; I love the teachers, I love the learning, I love having access to this incredible studio,” Lorien told *Southbank News*.

“I feel like I’ve found my place. I’m 50, so it’s taken me a while to get there but I feel like I found my thing.”

While Lorien’s photographic style varies, portraiture is often at the forefront.

“I love the stories of people, I’m right into psychology and sociology so anything that

attaches itself to that I really love,” she said.

The project she is currently working on explores a more “artistic side” to her work.

“What I’m doing at the moment is in regard to conspiracy theories and the decay that they cause when you have a family member that’s fallen into those rabbit holes, and the decay that it causes to relationships,” Lorien said.

“I’m destroying images with chemicals, fire, and water, layering archival images over photos that I’ve taken, and loads of layering on Photoshop. It’s a pretty emotional ride, but also quite cathartic doing this to images and seeing what I can make from them – it’s different than anything I’ve ever done before.”

Through her association with PSC, Lorien has not only honed her technical skills but also cultivated the confidence to share her creations with the world.

“I won an award at the CCP Summer Salon, which was pretty surprising – I was not expecting that at all,” she said.

“I’m just trying to get the courage up really to enter competitions.” ●



[instagram.com/lorienschannon](https://www.instagram.com/lorienschannon)

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CAPTURED

Image by Bob Raaymakers

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Find out more



Population hits 15,000

You only have to look around Southbank to understand its residential population is growing quickly and the Australian Bureau of Statistics released some new findings to confirm that fact last month.

The statistics show our population grew by 2100 between July 2012 and June 2013, putting our overall population figure at 15,600.

The increase of 15.2 per cent makes Southbank the fifth fastest growing suburb in Victoria.

Our neighbours are growing quickly too, with Docklands listed as fourth fastest and Melbourne's CBD as the fastest. New towers are being built all the time to accommodate for this growth. Central Equity's "The Wrap" is almost complete, while Schiavello's "Prima Pearl" is getting closer.

Southbank also recorded the second highest growth in population density over the 12-month period, up by 670 people per square metre. ●

It's autumn!

Wow! What happened to summer?

WORDS BY
FAYE MCDONALD

Autumn has arrived in Melbourne with lots of autumn colours and leaves everywhere. It has been a wonderful start to autumn at the Southbank Sustainability Group (SSG) gardens at Boyd Community Hub.

Southbank continues to be a very diverse community. We get plenty of questions from residents wanting to learn more about our vegies and herbs. Enthusiastic residents come up with valuable suggestions and inputs which make our gardening experience very enriching.

We met on the first Saturday of March and planted new seeds: lettuce, silverbeet, rocket, bok choy.

In planted herbs we have now included Thai basil and Vietnamese mint on request of the community. Visitors to our gardens continue enjoying chamomile, rosemary, sage, basil and all our herbs.

The highlight of our gardens for the first weeks of the year were the lovely sunflowers. They blossomed and spread great cheer, attracted admirers from our community and also interstate visitors staying at Southbank during recent Melbourne events. These plants had matured and so for next season our gardening group harvested the seeds and saved them. Look out for them in from December to February 2025.

The tomatoes were harvested, and recipes exchanged for green tomatoes to be converted into chutneys and pickles. Our strawberry plants did yield a few strawberries, saved from young ones and the garden slugs.

An organic jam making day was hosted by one of our dedicated team members Cheryl. Lookout for the recipes in our SSG socials (Facebook and Instagram).

The extreme heatwave during the Labour Day weekend created some anxiety for our group about the health of our young plants due to heat stress. Our dedicated senior volunteers Henry, May and Huguette tended to them with great care and watered during cooler times of day.

At our March 16 meet-up we were thrilled to see most of our new plants thriving having survived the heatwave thanks to the



care by these volunteers. The selection of resilient species during our planting will be prioritised so that they are adaptable to weather extremes.

SSG has been approached by some of our Southbank residents to take up nature strip gardening, for which we are in talks with the City of Melbourne. We await the guidelines from the council's urban gardens team.

In the meantime, we have organised a few workshops in coming months to address topics such as food sustainability, food security and nature strip gardening to attract pollinators.

Our younger SSG team volunteers have been ideating and contributing lots of new ideas/research questions on sustainability during our post gardening coffee session. We love the energy and enthusiasm they bring to the table.

Our April upcoming event

Australian Native Edibles Workshop at Boyd Community Hub – April 13. Admission is free and registration is required via Eventbrite.



About the Group

SSG is a solution-focused community group of Southbank residents, working to bring positive change in sustainability practices. ●

For more information:
[facebook.com/southbank-sustainabilitygroup](https://www.facebook.com/southbank-sustainabilitygroup) or email southbanksustainability@gmail.com



Connect with your local community

The CBD facebook community Hub is a free online space to connect with fellow CBD 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



If you're a local resident search "CBD Community Hub" on Facebook



METRO TUNNEL

Two lanes for St Kilda Rd for the first time in six years



St Kilda Rd has reopened to two lanes of traffic in both directions around the new Anzac Station for the first time since 2018.

Crews are now shifting their focus to testing high-capacity signalling, running trains and putting Victorian-first platform screen doors through their paces, ahead of the Metro Tunnel opening to passengers in 2025.

St Kilda Road was reduced to one lane between Dorcas St and Toorak Rd to allow for Metro Tunnel construction.

Since then, crews have built and dismantled a giant green shed used to contain noise and dust and realigned the St Kilda Rd tram and car lanes as construction on the station continued.



Separated bike lanes have also been installed, improving safety for the 3500 cyclists that ride along the busy arterial every day.

Anzac Station will provide a direct rail connection to St Kilda Rd for the first time and relieve pressure on local trams and roads.

Extra-large tram platforms at Melbourne's first direct tram-train interchange will accommodate up to four trams at any one time to cater for large crowds for events such as Anzac Day and the Grand Prix.

Minor work will continue along St Kilda Rd with final line marking to be completed as construction begins to wind down.

Test trains are continuing to be run through the project's twin nine-kilometre tunnels and enormous progress is being made on the five stations with key architectural features, lights and seating installed.

The comprehensive testing phase



includes tests to check the new signalling, lifts, escalators, security systems, passenger information and the Victorian-first platform screen doors are all working effectively together.

There will be a one-week closure of St Kilda Rd southbound between Dorcas St and Toorak Rd in April to allow for tram tracks to be built for Domain Rd.

The Metro Tunnel will connect the busy Sunbury and Cranbourne/Pakenham lines via a new tunnel under the city, creating an end-to-end rail line from the north-west to the south-east, freeing up space in the City Loop to run more trains on other lines. ●

SOUTHBANK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Power St safety woes continue

Sadly, once again a truck has taken out the newly installed fencing on the corner of Power St and City Rd. The incident happened on Monday March 25 about 8pm. Luckily, no one was injured.

I have seen video footage showing this truck's rear trailer significantly mount the curb and take down the pedestrian safety barrier. Fortunately, no-one was injured this time. However, there was a real possibility that once again someone or several could have been seriously injured, or worse.

When is this intersection going to be addressed properly?

When discussing the original proposed intersection works with the Department of Transport, I suggested it might be beneficial to install a fence which, at the time, was quickly rejected as they felt it wouldn't last long. This essentially told me they too didn't have complete confidence with their



▲ An image from the video captured by a resident of a truck collecting the pedestrian safety barrier at the corner of Power St and City Rd on March 25.

"Clearly the answer is that trucks should not be using Power St and City Rd – a solution which SRA will keep advocating for."

proposed solution. It then surprised me when a few months ago they installed the fence and sadly I agreed with them and didn't expect it to last too long.

Once the intersection upgrade was complete, I continued to see trucks and their trailers mount the curb, but admittedly nowhere near as often or as far back as they had in the past. Clearly the upgrade has provided some relief with a wider turning circle, but still not enough.

Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) has reached out to the project team in the

Department of Transport again to see what more can be done for this intersection and whether they have any intention to reinstall the fence.

Clearly the answer is that trucks should not be using Power St and City Rd – a solution which SRA will keep advocating for.

But we also wonder how much the City of Melbourne is still advocating for at this intersection or if they have accepted that the last upgrade was sufficient.

On another note and in some good news, you may recall my November 2023 column where I was critical of the council's community road safety survey and that somehow feedback was overlooked when considering a proposed pedestrian crossing on Clarke St on the south side of City Rd.

SRA has been dogged in its determination to highlight those shortcomings to the council and we have recently learned that our protests have been heard. We have received advice that the Department of Transport has given in-principle support to install a

wombat (raised) pedestrian crossing at that location.

The detailed designs are being finalised and it is anticipated to be included in the 2024/25 budget.

We will continue to apply pressure on this important project to ensure that it is completed. The results of the survey were telling with this intersection receiving some of the highest comments, yet projects that only received not even a handful of responses (some only received one response) were selected. It bewildered us how this project could have been overlooked yet not addressed in the council's presentation.

SRA is still looking for a volunteer in our community who would be prepared to assist us with our social media. If you think this might be you, please don't be afraid to reach out: info@southbankresidents.org.au ●

Tony Penna
PRESIDENT





QUESTION:
What brings you to Southbank?

Faces of Southbank



KRISTOPH
I'm from LA visiting friends.



MARICEL
I'm from the Philippines, my partner is showing me Australia.



FABIAN
I'm on a school excursion visiting the Ian Potter Gallery.



EDDIE
Showing my friend from America the city.



OWNERS' CORPORATION LAW

Building dispute resolution centre not in the business of resolving disputes lately

Domestic Building Dispute Resolution Victoria (DBDRV) was set up by the state government to provide homeowners with access to a free service to resolve building disputes without having to first go to the courts or tribunals and endure the high costs and long-time frames associated with those jurisdictions.

However, just like a number of other government departments that have suffered from a staff cleanout and pay freezes in recent years, the DBDRV is struggling with its caseload and a shortage of qualified conciliators to perform the role.

The conciliation model which the DBDRV uses is most effective: once an application is lodged by a homeowner or owners' corporation (OC) in respect of building defects, a case officer will contact the builder against whom the complaint is made and conduct their own enquiries about whether a negotiated solution could resolve the issues.

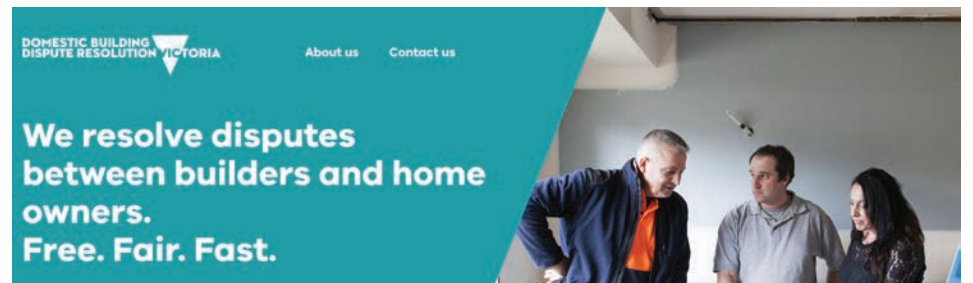
Once an opportunity has been made for site visits, testing and experts to provide reports, the DBDRV will appoint a conciliator and will host a conciliation to hear the dispute and engage in a structured round of settlement discussions with the aim of resolving the dispute with a simple written agreement, usually for the builder to return to site and carry out repairs.

If no resolution has been reached, then a certificate gets issued by the DBDRV which allows either party to then file a claim in a court or tribunal.

Certainly, for many OCs, it is exceedingly difficult to pass a resolution (51 per cent of lot owners) or a special resolution (75 per cent of lot owners) to file legal proceedings. This is required under the *Owners Corporation Act 2006*. For a building of more than 200 apartments, it is almost impossible to pass these resolutions.

Over the past 24 months, the DBDRV has increasingly decided not to accept applications from OCs and have instead elected simply to provide them with a certificate of conciliation to allow the OC to file at court or VCAT.

The justifications for doing so are often spurious – sometimes the answer will be



that the matter looks complicated, or costly. Other times the DBDRV will say that a Council Building Notice complicates the process of conciliation.

In truth, none are proper justifications for the DBDRV failing to do its job, which is to attempt to resolve a building dispute. It doesn't matter if it is too hard, or too expensive or too technical. It doesn't matter if it involves cladding, or other complex weatherproofing and structural elements of the building. There is rarely a building dispute that is not technical.

The plain reality of the matter is that for many homeowners, the DBDRV's practice of closing its file without attempting resolution is blocking access to resolving disputes

by failing to enforce the builder to conciliate and negotiate.

This is forcing OCs to instead engage in the tribunal and court processes which are incredibly expensive and time consuming (two years at least to get a hearing date).

Pretty ironic, and pretty poor form from a department whose sole purpose and role is to conciliate and resolve disputes. ●

Tom Bacon
STRATA TITLE LAWYERS
TOM@STRATATITLELAWYERS.



NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING



Police targeting e-scooters

Melbourne Highway Patrol recently conducted Operation Trident targeting vulnerable road users, and particularly e-scooters.

The operation was conducted on February 27 over various locations across the CBD including Southbank due to the high numbers of e-scooter trips and riders. The following penalty notices were issued for the following offences:

- Red light e-scooter (one);

- unlicensed driving (two);
- failure to wear bicycle helmet (three);
- failure to wear bicycle helmet on e-scooter (10);
- use mobile phone while driving or riding an e-scooter (30);
- and other (seven).

A total of 53 traffic infringement notices were issued to those who were flouting the road rules.

With Easter having just passed, the extra-long weekend and school holidays saw many people travel around the state or interstate in vehicles.

Operation Nexus was a state-wide policing operation that began at midnight on Thursday,

March 28 and concluded at midnight on Monday, April 1. Operation Nexus was conducted across every local government area of the state during the five-day period of enforcement.

A key focus of Operation Nexus is to maintain visible and active presence on Victorian roads to act as a deterrent against unsafe road behaviour. The operation targets rural road, impaired driving, vulnerable road users and speed.

Senior Sergeant Jay McDonald and I can be contacted via email. We are happy to be supplied

feedback or answer any questions relating to Southbank. ●



Snr Sgt Alex O'Toole
COMMANDER - SOUTHBANK POLICE STATION
SOUTHBANK-UNI-OIC@POLICE.VIC.GOV.AU

What are human pollinators and why does Southbank need them?

Southbank is full of gleaming buildings filled with amenities that sell apartments and attract renters. But what attention is paid to life after sales are finalised and leases are signed?

The truth is fancy gyms and theatre rooms are enhancements that do little to connect high-rise communities or enhance the quality of life for residents in meaningful ways.

These communities hold the powerful potential of community-building, connection of ideas and shared purpose – a combination integral to creating change on a large scale such as needed in Southbank. Each Southbank vertical village is an untapped resource, an orchard, if you will, of budding trees just waiting for the pollination necessary to bear fruit.

The missing link required to tap into community potential in Southbank are human pollinators – individuals whose responsibility is to listen, share and connect residents within and across each tower community with the purpose of connecting humans behind critical initiatives.

Initiatives such as creation of a neighbourhood master plan that prioritises humans over traffic, the consideration of quality of life for residents over development, and addressing mitigation of Southbank's

carbon footprint, the nation's most densely populated suburb, in lieu of Australia's target to double emissions reductions by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050.

Currently, the closest thing to a human pollinator that Southbank offers its residents are event planners. For a nominal annual fee, residents benefit from a person devoted to planning events and "coaching" individuals how to run clubs catering to a gamut of interests anywhere from wine and tea tasting to painting and board games.

The human pollinator (HP) role would do more than merely connect residents through events, but work to foster connection, combat loneliness, and encourage problem solving at a community level. HPs would be responsible for communicating and collaborating with HPs from other buildings as well as our City of Melbourne neighbourhood partner to build community strength and resiliency several ways:

Introductions: HPs are listeners and connectors. It's their job to get to know their building communities on a personal level, identify problems or needs, and connect people to each other to generate solutions.

Better together: HPs will connect people with common goals to one another. The result is twofold: people will no longer feel frustration in facing a problem or issue alone, and the cohesiveness of tackling issues together will empower problem solving with local, state, and federal leaders.

Less tenant turnover: people who feel more connected to their community are more deeply invested in where they live and may be less inclined to move. A more permanent population builds strength and stability – this is better for residents, property managers and the community.

Support and crisis management: strong connections within a community help forge support networks that help individuals and families more effectively cope and share resources during times of crisis.

Combating loneliness: perhaps the most powerful objective of the HP is to address the growing problem of loneliness. According to the organisation Ending Loneliness Together (endingloneliness.com.au), one in three Australians feel lonely and 69 per cent of Australians recognise loneliness is a serious issue for our communities. Men and women are equally lonely with young and middle-aged people reporting the highest levels of loneliness.

The stigma associated with loneliness prevents people from talking about it and seeking the connections they yearn for. Yet loneliness is a known risk factor for poor health, compromised wellbeing, and lower workplace productivity. Combating loneliness lies at the heart of HP's purpose.

So how do we make this happen? As renters and owners, it is up to us to ask that attention to connectedness and community-building in vertical villages be prioritised



just as much as other building amenities. Imagine the advertisement for a new apartment building touting a gym, pool, theatre room, public common areas and a dedicated full-time HP. My hope is that the future of high-rise living in Southbank values community-building, mental wellness, and human connection just as much as fancy amenities.

What are your thoughts? Please join Southbank3006 for free at Southbank3006.com and let us know if you'd like to be a part of presenting this concept to Southbank's owners' corporation chairs and management companies. ●

MaryKay Rauma

COMMUNICATIONS

COMMUNITY@
SOUTHBANK3006.COM



APARTMENT LIVING

Living in a world of apartments is complex, ask your question

Inside every building is a story but one told from many different perspectives. Life within apartment living is complex. Join us as we answer your questions so we can all understand that world a little bit better.

WORDS BY
PATRICK LENNON
COMMERCIAL FACILITY SERVICES

Q: How are maintenance requests prioritised and addressed? And what is the process for reporting maintenance issues or concerns in buildings?

A: Whether it be a facility or strata manager, responsibility for maintenance requests are typically prioritised based on urgency and potential impact on residents' safety or comfort. Residents can report maintenance issues through a designated channel, such as an online portal, via email, phone or in person. The management team alongside the elected committee then assesses the reported issues and coordinates with relevant contractors or service providers to address them accordingly.

Q: When are management meetings held, and how can residents participate?

A: Generally, there are two types of meetings, an annual general meeting (AGM) and committee meetings. Typically, an AGM is conducted once a year and no more than 18 months apart. At this meeting the important administrative issues are usually on the agenda including the election of a committee of owners, adopting budgets, disclosing insurance details and discussing strata management contracts. More regular meetings are then held by the elected committee which can be anything from weekly, monthly, or quarterly, but ultimately their timing is at the discretion of that committee. It's during these meetings that the everyday

running of the building is discussed and actioned such as quotations, maintenance and payment of contractors. The agenda items determine which of the meetings they be submitted to, but good practice suggests everyday matters be limited to committee meetings and serious matters to the AGM.

Q: Why in some instances within apartment buildings is the reference to a "body corporate" used, while others reference "owners' corporation"?

A: Prior to 2007, body corporate was the sole terminology used. From 2008 when the *Owners' Corporation Act 2006* came into effect the terminology changed to owners' corporation (OC). Interestingly, today the terminology is used interchangeably, especially because many of the management companies established in 2007 and prior use body corporate somewhere in their name. While the correct terminology is OC, in practice both refer to the same thing.

True story: As a facilities manager life is a rollercoaster of chaos and comedy. One minute you're rushing to contain a flood caused by a rogue sprinkler head, listening to residents vent their frustrations. The next, you're reviewing CCTV footage of someone dressed as an elf, diving headfirst into the rubbish bins in a pre-Christmas frenzy. It's a whirlwind of absurdity, where every day brings a new plot twist in the sitcom of apartment living. From plumbing mishaps to festive dumpster diving, the adventures never cease.

Have a question you'd like answered? Submit yours to admin@commercialfs.net. **au** and stay tuned to future editions. ●

Pet's Corner



Loving the city life

They may be different in size but Chubby the Cavoodle and his Husky mate named Caesar are totally inseparable.

The duo was recently spotted out during their walk out the front of the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre at South Wharf with their owner Neeraj Bhagwatula.

"Caesar is a big boy, but he got used to Chubby pretty quickly," he said.

Neeraj and his wife moved from Canberra to Melbourne with five-year-old Caesar three years ago. They then bought one-year-old Chubby when in Queensland just over six months ago.

"We had access to yards and a fair few dog parks, so he [Caesar] was totally living his life, but we moved to Melbourne and he took to it," Neeraj laughed.

"He's quite accustomed to the city life. He goes on nice long walks twice a day, about three hours in total."

And added the energetic Chubby will always be up for long walks too because he "doesn't want to be left alone". ●



Quiz



1. What is the capital of Norway?
2. Who were this year's Moomba Monarchs?
3. According to the City of Melbourne's Southbank portal, what is the biggest issue for Southbankers?
4. By which name was Audrey Kathleen Ruston better known?
5. Which actor played Private Ryan in the film *Saving Private Ryan*?
6. Who is the former broadcaster and senator vowing to 'make Melbourne proud again' as part of their candidacy for Lord Mayor?
7. The smallest known deer in the world, the Pudu, lives on which continent?
8. Brandon Flowers (pictured) is the lead singer of which band?
9. The restoration of what 135-year-old piece of Southbank infrastructure has just begun?
10. Which car manufacturer shares its name with an ancient Persian god?
11. Labelled 'completely negligent', the National Trust have been slammed for their maintenance of what historical landmark?
12. Where in Southbank will you find new artwork *Chamber Dance* by Melbourne-based artist Zoë Croggon located as part of PHOTO 2024?

QUIZ SOLUTIONS

1. Oslo 2. Emma Memma and hoarding under the Arts Centre Spire
3. The Polly Woodside 12. Displayed on
4. Derryn Hinch 7. South America
5. Audrey Hepburn 5. Matt Damon
6. Peter Heller 3. Pedestrian safety
7. The Killers 9. Princes Bridge 10. Mazda
8. The Polly Woodside 12. Displayed on
9. Princes Bridge 10. Mazda
10. Mazda
11. The National Trust
12. Chamber Dance

5x5

No. 035

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

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S		E		Y

SOLUTIONS

SPARS, CUBIC, AROMA, NEVER, SEEDY

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April, 2024

Sudoku

No. 034

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

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

HARD

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

SOLUTIONS

EASY

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

HARD

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

Wordfind

Theme: Reptiles

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

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

- | | |
|------------|----------|
| ALLIGATOR | MONITOR |
| BOA | PYTHON |
| CHAMELEON | SNAKE |
| COPPERHEAD | TIGER |
| CROCODILE | TORTOISE |
| DRAGON | TUATARA |
| IGUANA | TURTLE |
| LIZARD | VENOMOUS |

Secret message: Cold-blooded beings

Crossword

No. 034

ACROSS

- 1 Crumbled (9)
- 6 Celestial being (5)
- 9 Tall structure (5)
- 10 Cue and ball game (9)
- 11 Maltreatment (5)
- 12 Lifeless (9)
- 13 Utmost (7)
- 14 Football (6)
- 17 Conquer (6)
- 20 Defamation (7)
- 23 Express regret (9)
- 25 Beget (5)
- 26 Lab worker (9)
- 27 Christmas song (5)
- 28 Hate (5)
- 29 Nice guy (9)

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
9						10								
11						12								
13								14		15				
														16
	17	18				19		20				21		
22														
23				24						25				
26										27				
28								29						

DOWN

- | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|----|---|----|-------------------------|
| 1 | Quaint houses (8) | 6 | Evidence of being elsewhere (5) | 18 | Terminate (7) |
| 2 | Legal case (7) | 7 | Rubbish (7) | 19 | Elevating (7) |
| 3 | Harmony (9) | 8 | Inferior (6) | 20 | Add sugar (7) |
| 4 | Lofty (7) | 15 | Traditional (9) | 21 | Explanatory drawing (7) |
| 5 | Australian currency units (7) | 16 | Founding Father of the US, Benjamin - (8) | 22 | Sickness (6) |
| | | | | 24 | Possessor (5) |

SOLUTION

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

Codeword

No. 034

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

SOLUTIONS

X	Y	G	N	J	A	O	T	K	B	W	O	R
9	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
C	D	P	H	M	L	F	S	V	U	Z	E	I
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13

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

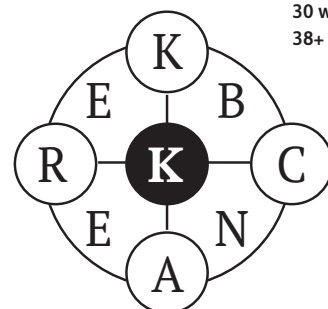
9-Letter

No. 034

Today's Focus:

- 22 words: Good
- 30 words: Very good
- 38+ 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

aker, back, backer, bake, baker, bank, banker, bark, beak, beaker, beck, berk, bracken, brake, break, BREAKNECK, cake, canker, cark, craze, crank, creek, creek, karee, keck, keen, knee, knack, knacker, knar, knee, kraken, mark, neck, rack, rake, rank, reek, reek, reek

WHAT'S ON
April



Autumn is here and we welcome another huge month in Southbank's event calendar. Keep up to date with everything happening in postcode 3006.



RIFI: JEAN JULLIAN FOR KIDS
The children's gallery at the NGV is transformed into an underwater world inspired by art, having fun and caring for the environment – a sea adventure that welcomes the youngest and oldest of visitors.
NGV International, 180 St Kilda Rd
UNTIL APRIL 14, 10AM - 5PM



NGV TRIENNIAL
NGV Triennial 2023 is a powerful and moving snapshot of the world today as captured through the work of 100 artists, designers, and collectives at the forefront of global contemporary practice.
NGV International, 180 St Kilda Rd
UNTIL APRIL 7, 10AM - 5PM



MERCEDES BENZ CLUB VICTORIA
The Mercedes-Benz Car Club of Victoria is holding a display of vehicles both historical and modern, covering the history of Mercedes-Benz from the first, built by Karl Benz in 1886, to the latest electric version.
Queensbridge Square, Southbank
SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 10AM - 3PM



JACK QUARTET – STRING CREATURES + UP LATE
Join JACK Quartet on the Elisabeth Murdoch Hall stage for two unmissable performances: *STRING CREATURES + UP LATE*
Melbourne Recital Centre
Corner Southbank Blvd and Sturt St
melbournerecital.com.au/events/2024
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 7PM AND 9.30PM



FOLK BITZ TRIO
An intimate, stripped-back set of lush three-part harmonies and confessional songwriting. Immerse yourself in the "gorgeous harmonies and confessional songwriting" (*Rolling Stone*)
Melbourne Recital Centre
Corner Southbank Blvd and Sturt St
SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 7PM



ANDREA LAM – SAD PIANO
A soul-restoring evening of sublime piano. Hailed as a "real talent" by the *Wall Street Journal*, Australian pianist Andrea Lam makes a stunning return to the stage.
Melbourne Recital Centre
Corner Southbank Blvd and Sturt St
THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 7PM



ORCHESTRA VICTORIA: THE EIGHT SEASONS
Join the musicians of Orchestra Victoria as they explore two extraordinary interpretations of nature's beauty and the seasons that shape our world.
Melbourne Recital Centre
Corner Southbank Blvd and Sturt St
THURSDAY, MAY 2, 7.30PM - 9



ACCA FAMILY ART DAY: LAURE PROUVOST
Join Australian Centre for Contemporary Art Education for its free, drop-in program for children and families to enjoy art-making in the galleries, inspired by the current exhibition, *Laure Prouvost: Oui Move in You*.
111 Sturt St, Southbank
SATURDAY, MAY 4, 11AM - 2PM



MELBOURNE CONVERSATIONS: GREENLINE
Join Lord Mayor Sally Capp and other members of the Greenline advisory team as an expert panel discusses the design and economic considerations of the landmark civic project's master plan.
The Edge, Federation Square
TUESDAY, APRIL 16



STUDY PHOTOGRAPHY PART TIME IN THE EVENING OR DAY
Learn skills with likeminded people: Landscape; street; still life; creative expression; digital workflow, for all ages and skill levels. Register for an info session.
psc.edu.au
STARTING JULY 31 (EVENING) AND AUG 2 (DAY)



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FREE weekly one-on-one hour sessions and monthly group workshops with trained "Lively Tech Helpers". Bookings essential.
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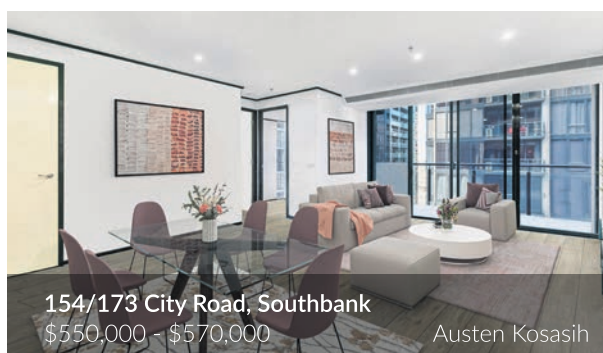
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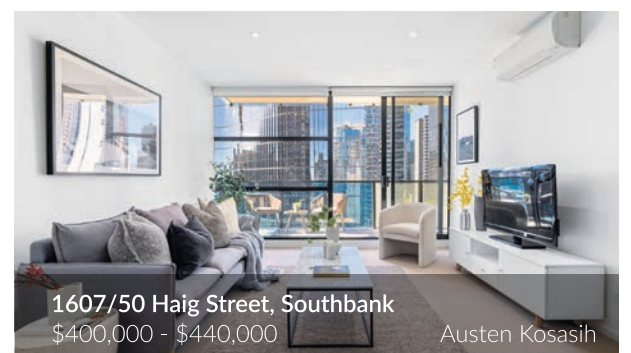
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1410/45 Clarke Street, Southbank
\$650,000 - \$700,000
Tommy-Lee Davies



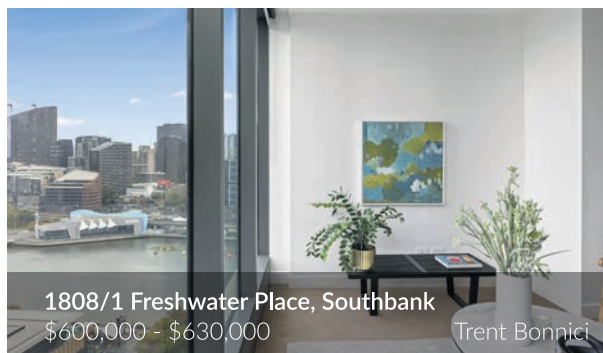
154/173 City Road, Southbank
\$550,000 - \$570,000
Austen Kosasih



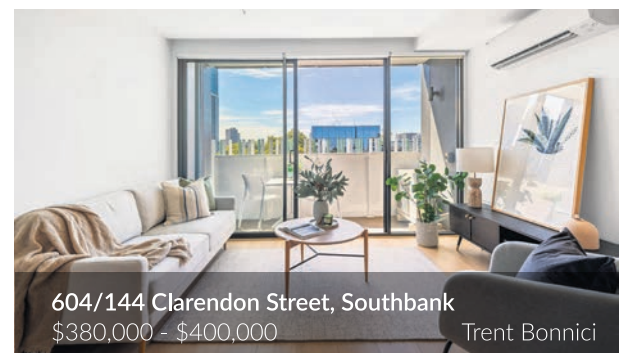
1607/50 Haig Street, Southbank
\$400,000 - \$440,000
Austen Kosasih



1607/163 City Road, Southbank
\$590,000 - \$645,000
Max Hui



1808/1 Freshwater Place, Southbank
\$600,000 - \$630,000
Trent Bonnici



604/144 Clarendon Street, Southbank
\$380,000 - \$400,000
Trent Bonnici



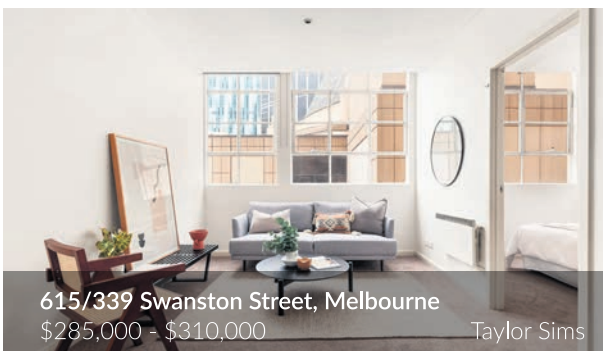
2401/151 City Road, Southbank
\$880,000 - \$968,000
Max Hui



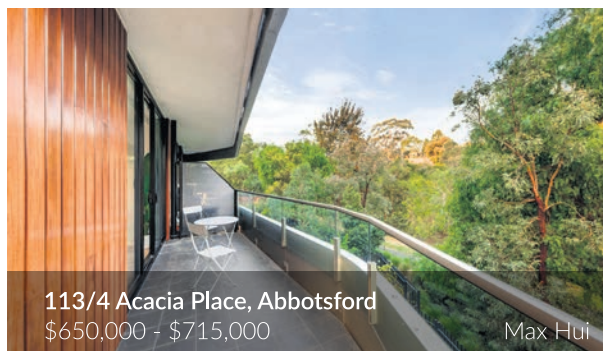
405/211 Dorcas Street, South Melbourne
\$525,000 - \$575,000
Taylor Sims



210/70 Queens Road, Melbourne
\$475,000 - \$510,000
Tommy-Lee Davies



615/339 Swanston Street, Melbourne
\$285,000 - \$310,000
Taylor Sims



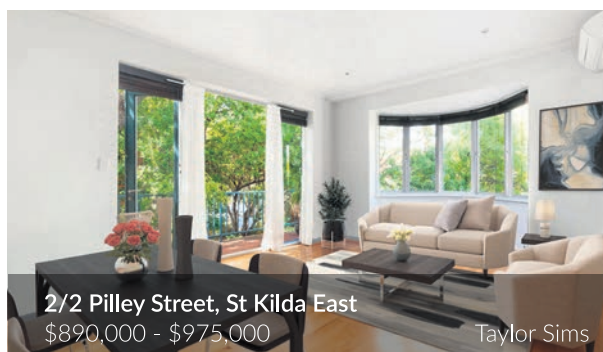
113/4 Acacia Place, Abbotsford
\$650,000 - \$715,000
Max Hui



B313/8 Grosvenor Street, Abbotsford
\$380,000 - \$400,000
Max Hui



105/11 David Street, Richmond
\$580,000 - \$620,000
Austen Kosasih



2/2 Pilley Street, St Kilda East
\$890,000 - \$975,000
Taylor Sims

Michael Pastrikos: 0404 282 864
Max Hui: 0430 238 021
Tommy-Lee Davies: 0416 823 173
Austen Kosasih: 0422 396 900
Taylor Sims: 0403 485 210
Trent Bonnici: 0402 670 441

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